



**Weather Forecast**

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

# EXIT POLLS PREDICT EXIT OF KEJRIWAL

- 'AAP-da' For Arvind Kejriwal?
- Delhi Exit Polls Predict Rout
- For Congress - Another Wipeout? with zero to three seats expected.
- AAP projected to win between 15 and 37 seats, while BJP could secure 38-60.



**TPN Correspondent | New Delhi**  
Exit polls for the 2025 Delhi Assembly elections indicate a major setback for Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), with most surveys predicting a shift in voter preference towards the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Out of seven exit polls, six suggest a BJP victory, while only one gives AAP a slim chance of crossing the halfway mark. According to Matrize, AAP could secure up to 37 seats, just two above the majority mark of 35 in the 70-member assembly. However, other surveys predict a different outcome, with four agencies estimating AAP's seat tally between 15 and 35, while BJP is projected to win between 38 and 40-plus seats. People's Pulse exit poll has forecasted a BJP sweep with 51-60 seats. The aggregate of these polls suggests 26 seats for AAP and 43 for BJP. Congress, which once held sway in Delhi politics, remains on the margins. The highest seat projection for

the party is three, while some exit polls predict zero seats. While exit polls are not always accurate, they had correctly predicted AAP's victories in the last two elections, albeit underestimating the party's final seat count. This time, however, the mood appears different. The BJP's campaign focused heavily on corruption allegations against AAP, which had risen to power on an anti-corruption plank. Over the past two years, several AAP leaders, including Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and former Deputy CM Manish Sisodia, have faced legal troubles and jail time over multiple corruption cases. **Congress Faces Another Wipeout** For Congress, the exit polls signal another dismal performance. Most surveys predict the party securing zero to two seats. Matrize and People's Insight suggest Congress may

SOURCE	AAP	BJP+	Congress
MATRIZE	25-37	33-45	0-1
PEOPLE'S PULSE	10-20	51-60	0
PEOPLE'S INSIGHT	15-30	40-50	0-1
P-MARQ	18-32	38-48	0-1
CHANAKYA STRATEGIES	20-35	37-45	2-3
JANMAT SURVEY	22-34	39-47	0-2
AGGREGATE (AVG.)	26	43	1
KK SURVEY	40	+26	0

Source: Regional and National Channels | Health Warning: Exit polls are not always accurate.

win just one seat, while People's Pulse indicates a complete washout. Chanakya Strategies offers the most optimistic prediction for the party, estimating 2-3 seats—the highest among all agencies. As Delhi awaits the official election results, the exit polls suggest a significant political shift, potentially ending AAP's decade-long dominance in the capital.

## Telangana High Court Extends Relief to Harish Rao



TPN Correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 06

The Telangana High Court has granted temporary relief to former minister and BRS MLA Harish Rao by extending its order preventing his arrest until February 12. The court, which had previously issued interim orders, reiterated on Wednesday that he should not be arrested until the next hearing. The case has been adjourned to February 12 for further proceedings. Harish Rao had filed a petition in the High Court seeking to quash the phone tapping case registered against him at Panjagutta Police Station. The court, after hearing the petition, extended the interim relief granted earlier. The phone tapping case has become a significant legal and political issue, with Harish Rao challenging its validity. The court's decision to extend the interim orders provides him temporary respite, while the final verdict remains pending.

## Congress Issues Notice, Mallanna Hits Back

- Showcause Notice Triggers Internal Rift
- Mallanna Rejects Congress Warning
- Caste Census Debate Heats Up
- Congress Takes Disciplinary Action
- Mallanna Defends His Stand
- Party Divided Over Caste Survey



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## MALLANNA MAY BECOME GAME CHANGER IN TELANGANA POLITICS

### Mallanna vs Congress

- BC Survey Controversy
- Reddy Community Targeted
- Survey Report Burnt
- Call for BC Unity
- Congress Faces Backlash
- Mallanna's Political Ambitions



TPN - KISHORE KATTA

Hyderabad, Feb 06 : MLC Teenmaar Mallanna has stirred a major political storm in Telangana by opposing the Backward Classes (BC) survey initiated by the Congress government. His recent remarks and actions, including publicly burning the survey report, have intensified tensions within the party and drawn strong reactions from BC organizations, Congress leaders, and ministers.

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## Caste Census: A Landmark for Telangana



- Nation Watches Telangana's Survey
- Govt Commits to Social Justice
- Data to Shape Policy Decisions
- Survey Conducted Scientifically

TPN Correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 06

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu stated that the entire country is looking towards Telangana after the successful completion of the caste census survey and its introduction in the Assembly. Addressing a media conference at the State Secretariat on Wednesday, he reiterated the government's commitment to social justice and assured that the caste census data would be utilized in policymaking. He criticized misinformation campaigns that

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## Rs 1 Crore Cash Prize for Cricketer G. Trisha



TPN Correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 06

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has announced a cash reward of Rs. 1 crore for cricketer G. Trisha, a standout player in the recently held Under-19 Women's Cricket World Cup. Trisha, who met the Chief Minister at his Jubilee Hills residence on Wednesday, was congratulated for her exceptional performance in the tournament. The Chief Minister expressed his wishes for Trisha's continued success in cricket, hoping she would bring more accolades to the country.

In addition to the reward for Trisha, CM Revanth Reddy also announced Rs. 10 lakh each for Dhruvi Kesari, another member of the Under-19 World Cup team from Telangana, as well as for the team's Head Coach Nausheen and Trainer Shalini, both of whom will receive Rs. 10 lakh as well. Minister P. Srinivasa Reddy, Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari, Government Advisor Vem Narender Reddy, SATs Chairman Shivsena Reddy, and CM Secretary Shanwaz Qasim were among those present at the occasion.

# Reddy Sets Strict Guidelines for HAM Road Projects

- Speeding Up Construction of Key Roads
- Faster Progress on HAM Roads Ordered
- Focus on Quality and Safety in Roadworks
- Urgent Road Upgrades for Public Benefit

TPN Correspondent  
Hyderabad, Feb 06

Telangana's Minister for Roads and Buildings, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, conducted a review meeting with R&B officials at the Secretariat, focusing on the construction of roads under the Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) scheme. During the session, the minister emphasized the urgency of expediting road construction and adhering to government guidelines to ensure the quality of infrastructure. Minister Reddy instructed officials to prioritize the construction of missing link roads connecting mandals to district centers and district centers to the state capital. He also emphasized the need for road upgradation in three



key sections and the identification of consultants for the preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPR). The minister insisted that consultants should focus on roads that are in the worst condition, as these are causing problems for the public. He underlined the importance of following guidelines for the construction of roads, dividers, lighting, road expansion, and paved shoulders. Reddy further stressed that every engineer must thoroughly inspect the work to ensure road quality, as contractors will be responsible for maintaining the roads for 15 years.

He also gave directions to identify dirt roads and prioritize their conversion into BT roads, particularly those with forest permits. The minister was firm in his stance against poor quality work, warning that any substandard construction would lead to immediate cancellation of the project. Rejecting the consultants' requests for extended timelines, Reddy pointed out the danger of delayed road construction, which could lead to accidents. He ordered swift action, aiming for work to commence within two to three months, with approvals from the R&B department. Additionally, the review included instructions for the swift initiation of repair work on over 1690 km of roads in 82 constituencies. The meeting also highlighted promotions for AEEs, DEEs, and other officials by the end of the month, ensuring a streamlined process for road construction and maintenance.

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# KTR Criticizes Rahul Gandhi, Calls Him 'Election Gandhi'

TPN Correspondent  
Hyderabad, Feb 06

KTR launched a sharp attack on Rahul Gandhi, mocking him by suggesting he change his name to "Election Gandhi." Taking to Twitter, KTR accused Rahul Gandhi and Revanth Reddy of indulging in political theatrics, particularly regarding the BC declaration. KTR claimed that the recent assembly sessions exposed the Congress party's failure to deliver on its promise of 42% reservation for BCs. He labeled the Congress administration



as a "destructive government" and called their assurances mere "political jumlas." Furious with the lack of action, KTR emphasized the absence of clarity in the Congress government's intentions, accusing them of misleading the public.

# BJP MP Laxman Criticizes Congress Caste Census

TPN Correspondent  
Hyderabad, Feb 06

BJP MP Laxman has strongly criticized the Congress government's caste census report in Telangana, calling it riddled with errors and far from factual. He described the report as "digging a mountain to catch a mouse," emphasizing that the percentage of BCs (Backward Classes) was intentionally reduced. Laxman believes this move is aimed at politically suppressing BCs, reflecting Congress's mindset. Laxman pointed out that the report divides Hindu BCs and Muslim BCs, showing 12% of the Muslim population, but only 2% as Muslim BCs and Muslim OCs (Other Castes). He accused Congress of attempting to appease Muslims at the expense of BC rights, alleging that the rights of BCs

are being tied to Muslims for political gain.

He further criticized the 50-seat reservation for BCs in the Greater Hyderabad elections, arguing that giving only 18 of these seats to BCs while reserving the rest for Muslims was unjust. Laxman also referred to previous actions by Congress, including the decision by former CM Rajasekhara Reddy to classify 14 Muslim castes as BCs, which he claims diverted BC rights to Muslims. He also recalled Sonia Gandhi's decision to reduce BC reservations across India, which was later struck down by the courts. Laxman concluded by asserting that the Congress party's approach to caste reservations is both unfair and politically motivated.



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## MALLANNA MAY BECOME GAME CHANGER IN TELANGANA POLITICS

Mallanna's Stand  
Against BC Survey

Mallanna has been vocal against the BC survey, alleging that it is an attempt to under-report the BC population in the state. He claims that the survey is flawed and designed to benefit the Reddy community while suppressing BC numbers. At a recent BC rally in Warangal, Mallanna made scathing remarks against the Reddy community, calling on BCs to unite against them and fight for their rights under his leadership.

During a live session, Mallanna dramatically burned the BC survey report, urging BC communities to do the same. He labeled the survey as a "drama orchestrated by the Reddy leadership" and accused the Congress government of betraying BCs. His statements have since gone viral, fueling political debates across the state.

Internal Conflict  
Within Congress

Despite being elected as an MLC with Congress support, Mallanna has increasingly turned against his own party. Ministers and senior Congress leaders are furious over his remarks and are preparing to lodge complaints with the party high command. Warangal West MLA Naini Rajender Reddy openly criticized Mallanna, questioning how he sought support from the Reddy community during elections but is now targeting them.

Mallanna's rebellion has put the Congress leadership in a difficult position. The party had undertaken the BC survey

as a key initiative to ensure fair representation for BCs, but Mallanna's opposition has created divisions. The Congress OBC Cell, which is celebrating the survey, finds itself in direct conflict with Mallanna's stance.

BC Organizations  
Rally Behind  
Mallanna

Several BC organizations have come out in support of Mallanna, echoing his concerns about the survey's accuracy. Dr. Bala Srinivas Patel, President of TMKEWA (Telangana Munnurukaapu Government Employees Welfare Association), criticized the survey, stating that many BC families were left out and that the reported BC population was suspiciously low compared to past surveys.

Mallanna's Political  
Ambitions

Political analysts believe Mallanna is positioning himself as a key leader for BCs, similar to how KCR built the Telangana movement. With the weakening influence of veteran BC leaders like R. Krishnaiah, Mallanna appears to be consolidating BC support. There are speculations that if Congress expels him, he may launch a new political party focused on BC empowerment.

As tensions rise, all eyes are on how the Congress high command will handle the situation. Mallanna's actions have not only challenged the party's authority but have also reshaped the political discourse in Telangana.

## Congress Issues Notice, Mallanna Hits Back

TPN Correspondent  
Hyderabad, Feb 06

The Congress Disciplinary Committee on Wednesday issued a showcause notice to party MLC Teenmar Mallanna over his controversial remarks on the caste enumeration survey. The notice accused Mallanna of using objectionable language to criticize the survey and burning the caste enumeration form. He has been asked to provide an explanation for his actions.

Caste Enumeration Done  
Scientifically: Mahesh Kumar  
Goud

TPCC Chief and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud defended the caste enumeration process, stating that it was conducted in a scientific manner. He emphasized that Telangana has over 56% Backward Classes (BCs) and accused BRS leaders of misleading BC organizations. Goud warned that disciplinary action would be taken against any party leader who crossed the line, regardless of their position. "Even if it is an MLC or MP, action will be taken if discipline is violated," he said. He also mentioned that the Congress party meeting scheduled for tomorrow would address various issues, including this controversy.

He further asserted that the caste census and Scheduled Caste (SC) classification were long-standing demands of BCs and SCs, which have been fulfilled under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's leadership. He criticized opposition parties for making baseless allegations instead of providing constructive suggestions.

Teenmar Mallanna Hits Back at  
Congress Leadership

Reacting strongly to the showcause notice, Mallanna lashed out at the Congress leadership, questioning their authority. "Who are you to give me notices? Is this your uncle's land?" he remarked.

Mallanna declared that the Congress party belongs to BCs and accused the leadership of trying to dominate them. He warned that BCs would not remain silent if they faced injustice. Criticizing the caste survey, he claimed it was not comprehensive but rather an "upper caste survey" orchestrated by Jana Reddy to protect EWS reservations.

The controversy has sparked intense debate within the Congress party, highlighting internal divisions over the caste census.

## Caste Census: A Landmark for Telangana

sought to hinder the census and expressed gratitude to the people for rejecting false propaganda and supporting the survey. The Deputy CM emphasized that the caste census, which had been awaited for decades, was conducted transparently and scientifically.

Bhatti Vikramarka highlighted the meticulous planning behind the survey. A cabinet decision led to a comprehensive house-to-house sur-

vey, with a government order issued on October 10, 2024. A sub-committee, chaired by Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, was formed on October 19 to oversee the process. The state was divided into 94,261 enumeration blocks, with over one lakh trained enumerators and supervisors deployed.

He described the survey as an "X-ray" of social conditions in Telangana and affirmed the government's com-

mitment to addressing the needs of backward classes. Those who missed the census will have another opportunity to provide their details. He announced that a media briefing would soon be held to present the findings in detail.

Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari, Principal Secretary Sandeep Kumar Sultania, and Hyderabad Collector Anudeep attended the press meet.

## Telangana TET Results Released: 31.21% Candidates Qualify

TPN Correspondent  
Hyderabad, Feb 06

The Telangana Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) results have been released. Education Secretary Yogita announced the results, revealing that 1,35,802 candidates appeared for the exams conducted from January 2 to 20. Out of these, 42,384 candidates successfully qualified, marking a pass percentage of 31.21%, officials said. The Telangana TET exam consists of two papers. Candidates aspiring to teach classes 1 to 5 take Paper-1, while those aiming for classes 6 to 8 appear for Paper-2. The marks ob-



tained in TET play a crucial role in the recruitment process for teacher jobs.

In a significant move, the Telangana government has announced that TET will now be conducted annually, ensuring regular opportunities for aspiring teachers.

## Defector MLAs Plan Delhi Visit Amid Legal Uncertainty

TPN Correspondent  
Hyderabad, Feb 06

Defector MLAs met with Telangana state government advisor Vem Narendar Reddy on Wednesday morning at Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender's residence. Reports suggest that they are planning to travel to Delhi to discuss their legal strategy.



Following Supreme Court directives, the Telangana Assembly Speaker's office has issued notices to these MLAs under the Defection Act. In response, they convened at Nagender's house to deliberate on their next course of action, including possible legal steps. They are also evaluating how to respond to the Supreme Court regarding the notices issued by the Assembly Secretary. KTR to Meet Supreme Court Lawyers in Delhi  
BRS working president and former

minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) is set to visit Delhi on Thursday to consult Supreme Court lawyers regarding the disqualification petition of defected MLAs. He is expected to stay in the capital for three days.

The Supreme Court has directed the Assembly Speaker to issue notices to eight MLAs who won on the BRS ticket but later joined the Congress. With the notices already issued, KTR is confident that the court will rule in favor of disqualification. He has urged the party cadre to prepare for possible by-elections.

## Decide Your Stand Seethakka to Teenmar Mallanna

TPN Correspondent  
Hyderabad, Feb 06

A heated debate erupted in the Telangana Assembly on Tuesday over the Caste Census report, with sharp exchanges between ruling and opposition members. The controversy intensified after BRS working president and former minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) made remarks that put the ruling Congress in a tough position.

Congress MLC Teenmar Mallanna, also known as Chintapandu Naveen, had earlier called for the burning of the Caste Census report, alleging discrepancies. A video of him setting fire to the report has since gone viral on social media, drawing criticism from within his own party.

Reacting strongly, Minister Seethakka condemned the act, stating that burning the Caste Census report was unacceptable. She reminded Mallanna that the party had worked hard for his victory and urged him to clarify his stance within the Congress. "Naveen should decide whether he is in the party or not," she remarked.



Seethakka also countered BRS MLAs' allegations regarding errors in the caste census. She accused Talasani Srinivas Yadav and Padma Rao of not participating in the survey and argued that those who did not take part had no moral authority to criticize it. The minister emphasized that the Congress government made history by conducting the Caste Census for the first time in India, calling it a guiding framework for the nation.

## Teenmar Mallanna May Quit Congress, Says Nayini Rajender Reddy

TPN Correspondent  
Hyderabad, Feb 06

Congress MLA Nayini Rajender Reddy made strong remarks, suggesting that MLC Teenmar Mallanna may leave the Congress party if he is unhappy with its policies. Speaking to the media, Rajender Reddy criticized Mallanna, stating that while he has the right to speak about his caste, he does not have the right to insult others.

"If he doesn't like the party's stance, he is free to leave and speak outside," Rajender Reddy asserted. He also reminded Mallanna about their past affiliations and questioned his recent actions.

Teenmar Mallanna has been vocal in opposing the caste census survey conducted by the Congress government. His decision to publicly burn the caste census report has sparked controversy, with several Congress leaders demanding his dismissal from the party. The incident has intensified internal party

tensions, as Congress leaders are divided over the issue. While some support the caste census as a historic initiative, others, like Mallanna, have strongly opposed it. The party leadership is yet to take a final decision on Mallanna's stance and his future within Congress.



## Etala Rajender Denies Rumors of Rejoining BRS



TPN Correspondent  
Hyderabad, Feb 06

BJP MP Etala Rajender has dismissed as false propaganda the rumors that BRS chief K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) called him to rejoin the party. The speculation, widely circulated on social media, claimed that KCR had invited Etala to work together again.

Responding to these reports, Etala firmly denied them, stating that such misinformation was being spread by those who dislike him. He criticized "psychos and sadists" on social media for deliberately propagating lies and warned of legal action against those responsible.

Etala asserted that switching parties is not a casual decision, emphasizing that he and his colleagues are responsible politicians. He reiterated that his primary goal is to bring the BJP to power in Telangana in the upcoming elections.

He also criticized the caste census conducted by the Congress government, claiming that it lacks scientific accuracy. He further alleged that the previous BRS government's comprehensive family survey was also flawed. According to him, the Congress is misleading the public under the pretext of the caste census, engaging in diversionary politics that serve no real benefit to the people.

Etala recalled his past involvement in student movements and his background in social welfare hostels. He reaffirmed his commitment to students' rights and asserted that he engages in politics with sincerity and dedication.

## Revanth Misleading BCs, Says Srinivas Goud



TPN Correspondent  
Hyderabad, Feb 06

BRS leader and former minister Srinivas Goud launched a scathing attack on the Congress government and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy over the caste census survey. Speaking to the media at Telangana Bhavan on Wednesday, he accused the government of manipulating the survey to undermine the Backward Classes (BCs).

Goud alleged that the caste census bill was introduced in the Assembly solely to defame the BC community. He criticized the Congress government for conducting the survey hastily and questioned how the cabinet reached conclusions without proper discussions. He also pointed out that the cabinet did not officially approve 42% reservation for BCs and accused the government of misleading the public.

He further claimed that the BC population was intentionally shown as lower in the survey report, raising doubts about the government's intentions. Goud also expressed concerns that the Congress was attempting to create a divide between BCs and Muslims.

Drawing a parallel to Sri Lanka's political unrest, he warned that people would eventually revolt against Revanth Reddy's administration. He demanded that BCs in Telangana receive reservations similar to those in Tamil Nadu.

Additionally, he accused the government of using the Assembly to deceive BCs and emphasized that the Supreme Court's verdict on SC classification was being implemented. Goud concluded by stating that the Congress government had stalled Telangana's progress within just 18 months of coming to power.

## BRS Leader Gangula Challenges Revanth Reddy on Caste Census



TPN Correspondent  
Hyderabad, Feb 06

Former minister and BRS leader Gangula Kamalakar made sensational comments on the caste census report presented in the Telangana Assembly, calling it "bogus" and alleging that the Congress government had deliberately misrepresented the BC population. Speaking at a media conference at Telangana Bhavan, he accused the Congress of historically neglecting Backward Classes (BCs) and continuing the trend with this report.

Kamalakar claimed that the Congress government manipulated figures, reducing the BC population by nearly 10 percent. According to him, the total state population should have grown by 13 percent over the past decade, reaching 4.25 crore, but the caste census reported only 3.75 crore. He alleged that about 50 lakh BCs were unaccounted for and that, excluding Muslims, the BC population should be over 56 percent, whereas the report falsely stated 46 percent.

He criticized Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Uttam Kumar Reddy for trying to "bulldoze" opposition voices in the Assembly, questioning whether they expected the BRS to remain silent like "sheep." Kamalakar demanded a resurvey to correct the discrepancies, insisting that a proper count would show the BC population at 56 percent. Challenging the government, he stated, "If you truly care about BCs, increase their count from 46 percent to 56 percent. If you do that, we will honor Revanth Reddy with a shawl."

## TPCC Chief Calls for Celebrations on Historic Caste Census

TPN Correspondent  
Hyderabad, Feb 06

TPCC Chief B. Mahesh Kumar Goud has hailed the Telangana Congress Government's historic decisions in the Legislative Assembly regarding the Caste Census and SC Classification, calling for celebrations across all villages, mandals, and constituency centers in the state. Goud emphasized that the BC caste census, long awaited by many, and the decisions related to the classification of SCs, would be remembered as significant milestones in history.

He noted that these decisions would empower two vital sections of society—BCs and SCs—who have long awaited action on these fronts. Goud expressed his gratitude to CM Revanth Reddy, Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka, Sub-Committee Chairman N. Mahesh Kumar Goud, and others, including Uttam Kumar Reddy, Co-Chairman Damodar Ra-



janarasimha, and Member Ministers Sridhar Babu, Ponnam Prabhakar, Seethakkala, and MP Mallu Ravi for their efforts in pushing these initiatives.

Goud urged Congress ranks to organize large-scale celebrations involving party workers, leaders, and the BC and SC communities. In another development, Sub-Committee Chairman and Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy will present a PowerPoint presentation on the BC Caste Census in the Assembly Committee Hall, which will be attended by key leaders and ministers.

## Konda Surekha Questions BRS on Caste Survey and BC Representation

TPN Correspondent  
Hyderabad, Feb 06

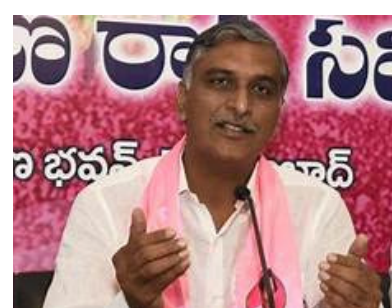
Konda Surekha, a former leader, raised concerns over the BRS government's handling of the caste survey, questioning why the findings were not tabled in the Legislative Assembly. She referred to Rahul Gandhi's promise during the padayatra to conduct a caste census but criticized the lack of follow-through from the BRS on the matter.

Surekha pointed out that if the BRS survey had truly been conducted, it should have been presented in the Assembly for review and approval. She also raised the issue of BC representation, questioning whether posts for BCs were allocated according to the survey results.

Further, she urged BC leaders to stay vigilant and not fall prey to political manipulations. While acknowledging the possibility of mistakes in the survey, Surekha stressed that BC leaders should be proactive in identifying and correcting them, rather than allowing injustice to continue. She appealed to them as a fellow member of the BC community to ensure fairness and transparency.



## Harish Rao Criticizes Congress for Delayed Salaries to Hospital Staff



TPN Correspondent  
Hyderabad, Feb 06

Former minister and BRS leader Harish Rao criticized the Congress government for failing to pay the salaries of small hospital employees for three months. On Wednesday, several staff members from hospitals, including Nampally Area Hospital, protested under the Telangana Medical Union's banner, demanding immediate payment for their pending salaries.

Harish Rao posted videos of the protests on Twitter and raised serious concerns about the non-payment of wages to TVVP hospital employees across the state. He accused the Congress

government of neglecting frontline workers, who play a crucial role in patient care, by allowing them to protest for their rightful salaries. He emphasized that these workers, who depend on their earnings for daily needs such as education and rent, were suffering due to the government's failure to address the issue.

Rao also questioned why action had not been taken against contractors who were not paying employees as per the agreed terms and not depositing their provident fund (PF) contributions. He expressed disappointment that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, who has campaigned for timely salary payments, was not addressing the plight of these employees.

Rao demanded that the government immediately release the pending salaries, ensure timely payments each month, and prevent contractors from cutting wages.



## Case Registered Against Actor Venu Thottempudi in Hyderabad

- Legal Trouble for Actor Venu Thottempudi
- Dispute Over Hydroelectric Project Leads to Criminal Case
- Actor Named in Contract Violation Allegations
- Police Register Case Following Court Directive

TPN Correspondent  
Hyderabad, Feb 06

CCS police have registered a case against renowned Telugu film actor Venu Thottempudi and four others following a directive from the Second Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate of Nampally. The case pertains to an alleged contract violation involving Progressive Construction Company, in which Venu is a representative. The dispute dates back to a hydroelectric project in Uttarakhand, awarded to Progressive Construction by the Tehri Hydro Development Corporation (THDC). Rithvik Projects and Swathi Constructions, based in Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, were subcontractors for this project. However, when Swathi Constructions withdrew midway, Rithvik continued the work from 2002.

Subsequently, a dispute arose between Progressive and THDC, leading to legal proceedings in the Delhi High Court. Amid these developments, Venu and Progressive's management allegedly terminated their agreement with Rithvik. Ravi Krishna, MD of Rithvik Projects, had previously filed



Venu Thottempudi, who debuted in Telugu cinema with *Swayamvaram*, gained fame through hits like *Kalyana Ramudu* and *Pellam Oorelithe*. After a long hiatus, he recently returned to the screen with *Rama Rao On Duty*.

a complaint against Progressive, accusing the company of violating their contract. Acting on the court's orders, Hyderabad police registered a case against Venu and Progressive Construction managers Bhaskara Rao, Hemalatha, Sriyani, and MD Pathuri Praveen. Venu Thottempudi, who debuted in Telugu cinema with *Swayamvaram*, gained fame through hits like *Kalyana Ramudu* and *Pellam Oorelithe*. After a long hiatus, he recently returned to the screen with *Rama Rao On Duty*.

## Three Laborers Die in Cellar Excavation Tragedy at LB Nagar

TPN Correspondent  
Hyderabad, Feb 06

witnessed a tragic incident in LB Nagar, where three laborers lost their lives due to a mishap during cellar excavation. The accident occurred when mounds of earth suddenly collapsed, burying the workers underneath. According to reports, four laborers from Bihar were engaged in the excavation work when the soil, which was slightly damp, gave way unexpectedly. Three of them were killed on the spot, while one sustained serious injuries and was rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment.

Authorities arrived at the scene promptly, and the police have registered a case to investigate the circumstances leading to the accident. Officials are examining whether safety protocols were followed



at the construction site.

The tragic incident has raised concerns about labor safety measures in construction activities, especially during

excavation work. Further investigations are underway to determine responsibility and prevent such mishaps in the future.

## Former Sarpanches Protest at Telangana Secretariat Over Pending Bills



TPN Correspondent  
Hyderabad, Feb 06

A tense situation unfolded at the Telangana Secretariat as former sarpanches staged a protest demanding the release of their pending bills. Under the banner

of the Telangana Sarpanch Association, a large number of former village heads gathered this morning, attempting to stage a dharna.

The police, anticipating the protest, were heavily deployed and arrested several

demonstrators, removing them from the premises. The former sarpanches expressed their frustration, stating that even after 13 months since their tenure ended, their pending dues remain unpaid.

In a dramatic demonstration of their plight, the protestors wrapped ropes around their necks, symbolizing their desperation. They lamented that despite repeated petitions to the Chief Minister, ministers, and officials, no action had been taken.

A particularly emotional moment occurred when a female former sarpanch broke down in tears, highlighting the severe financial distress many of them are facing. The protest underscores growing tensions over the delayed payments, with the former sarpanches

## Yadava Community Protests at Nampally BJP Office

TPN Correspondent  
Hyderabad, Feb 06

witnessed a strong protest by Yadava community members outside the BJP office in Nampally on Wednesday morning. The demonstrators raised slogans, expressing their dissatisfaction over the party's failure to allocate leadership positions to their community.

The protestors were particularly upset that the recently announced list of BJP district presidents did not include a single Yadava representative. They also alleged that the BJP had ignored their community in the previous Assembly and Parliament elections.



Frustrated by the perceived neglect, the Yadava community members staged a large-scale protest, demanding fair representation in party positions. The agitation highlights growing discontent within the community regarding political inclusivity.

## O U Students Protest Over Exam Fee Denial Due to Low Attendance



TPN Correspondent  
Hyderabad, Feb 06

Tensions escalated at Osmania University (OU) as students staged a protest against the administration's decision to deny them the opportunity to pay examination fees due to insufficient attendance. The protesting students demanded that those with less than 75% attendance be allowed to write exams by paying the fee immediately.

Students sat on the main road inside the OU campus, blocking traffic and raising slogans against the authorities. Several student union leaders joined the agitation, urging the university administration to reconsider its decision.

The protesters argued that preventing students from writing exams due to attendance shortages was unjust and called for an immediate resolution. They demanded that the university respond swiftly and allow fee collection to prevent further disruptions. Authorities have yet to issue an official response, while students continue to press for their demands.

## Mala Student JAC Burns Effigy of CM Revanth Over SC Classification

TPN Correspondent  
Hyderabad, Feb 06

Tensions flared at Osmania University as Telangana Mala Student JAC leader Madasu Rahul led a protest against the state government's SC classification. Alleging that the classification was unfair, he and his supporters burnt an effigy of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy at ARS College on Monday. Rahul criticized the Congress government, stating that the new classification has negatively impacted the Mala community. He declared February 4, 2025, as a "Black Day" for Malas, accusing the government of betraying them. He further alleged that CM Revanth Reddy and Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka had metaphorically "slit the throat of Malas with a wet cloth" through their policies.

Speaking at Osmania University, Rahul condemned the government for making SC classification decisions without consulting representatives from the Mala and Madiga communities or forming a house committee in the Assembly. The protest saw participation from Bhim Mission of India Working President Mandala Bhaskar and AMSA OU President Nama Saidu, who also voiced their dissatisfaction with the government's actions.



## MLA Demands Immediate Implementation of SC Classification



TPN Correspondent  
Hyderabad, Feb 06

BRS MLA Madhavaram Krishna Rao and Corporator Jupally Satyanarayana have demanded the immediate implementation of the SC classification in Telangana. Expressing their support for the Thousand Voices, One Lakh Dappula program, they criticized the Congress government for delaying the process.

Speaking at the event, MLA Madhavaram Krishna Rao recalled that former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao had taken proactive steps to implement SC classification. He highlighted that during the BRS government, KCR had organized an all-party meeting to discuss the issue and later submitted a petition to the central government for approval.

He further stated that the central government had approved the SC classification, yet the Revanth Reddy-led Congress government has failed to implement it even after a year in power. Accusing the current administration of negligence, he demanded that the government clarify whether the classification bill will ever be enforced.

The delay in implementation has sparked frustration among various sections of the SC community, with leaders urging the state government to take immediate action

## Mastan Sai Tests Positive for Drugs

-Shocking Details Emerge in Remand Report



TPN Correspondent  
Hyderabad, Feb 06

Shocking revelations have surfaced in the remand report of Mastan Sai. He and his friend Khaja have tested positive for drug consumption, leading the police to invoke the NDPS Act against him. The report states that Mastan Sai, under the influence of drugs, went to Lavanya's house and engaged in a violent altercation. Actor Raj Tarun had previously

intervened to resolve disputes between Mastan Sai and Lavanya. Reports indicate that Raj Tarun had deleted Lavanya's videos from Mastan Sai's laptop. However, Mastan Sai had already copied them to other devices and allegedly attempted to kill Lavanya multiple times. According to the investigation, Mastan Sai had been blackmailing Lavanya over a hard disk containing her private videos. On January 30, he went to her residence

with the intent to harm her. Further, in October 2022, he secretly installed a CCTV camera in his house and recorded Lavanya changing clothes. A month later, he drugged her at a party and filmed her in an intoxicated state. When Lavanya confided in her friends, tensions escalated, and Mastan Sai threatened to leak the videos if she reported him to the police. Authorities are continuing their investigation, and further legal action is expected.

## Farmers Block Land Survey for Kodangal Lift Irrigation Scheme



TPN Correspondent  
Kodangal, Feb 06

Tensions erupted as farmers obstructed officials attempting to conduct a land survey for the Kodangal lift irrigation scheme. The farmers voiced strong objections, questioning why the survey was being carried out without prior notice and why boundaries were being drawn without their knowledge or consent.

The villagers and farmers expressed frustration over the lack of communication from the authorities, emphasizing that it was unreasonable for officials to proceed with the survey without providing any prior information. The situation became tense during the survey in Bapur, which was part of the Narayanpet-Kodangal lift irrigation scheme. A heated argument ensued between the officials and the locals, further escalating the conflict. In the end, the surveyors were forced to leave without completing their work. The incident highlights ongoing concerns among farmers regarding transparency and consultation in the implementation of the irrigation project. Authorities have yet to release complete details about the situation, but it remains a point of contention in the area.

## Huge Drug Seizure in Hyderabad: Three Foreigners Arrested

TPN Correspondent  
Hyderabad, Feb 06

In a major crackdown on drug trafficking, the Hyderabad Narcotic Enforcement Wing (HYDERABAD NEC), along with the Langerhouse and Humayun Nagar police, conducted a joint operation today, resulting in the arrest of three foreigners involved in the illegal sale of drugs.

During the operation, the police seized 1,300 grams of MDMA, a banned drug, with an estimated market value of Rs. 1.60 crore. The police also confiscated three mobile phones from the arrested individuals. This action is part of the Congress government's ongoing efforts to make the state drug-free. The government has issued strict orders to the police to take immediate action against anyone caught selling drugs. As part of these measures, extensive checks are being carried out at bus stands, railway stations, airports, and major city intersections. Authorities are determined to clamp down on the trafficking of marijuana and other illegal drugs, with multiple cases being registered to prevent further illegal activity. This significant drug seizure highlights the commitment to tackling the drug menace in the state and ensuring the safety and well-being of the public.



## Beneficiaries Protest for Double Bedroom Houses in Bhainsa Town

TPN Correspondent  
Nirmal, Feb 06

Beneficiaries of the double bedroom housing scheme staged a protest at the IB intersection in Bhainsa town, Nirmal district, blocking vehicles on both sides of the road. The protestors expressed their frustration, stating that despite being selected for houses through a draw under the previous government, they had not been allotted homes. Furthermore, even after the change in government, they were still waiting for their houses. Upon receiving information about the protest, RDO Komal Reddy arrived at the scene and intervened to call off the protest. The beneficiaries demanded immediate action, urging that the double bedroom houses be provided without further delay. RDO Komal Reddy reassured the protestors, stating that the double bedroom houses would be allocated by the end of March. He explained that while there was still some sanitation work pending in the houses, funds had already been sanctioned, and the process would be completed as soon as possible.



## Farmers Struggle to Obtain Urea in Sircilla Amidst Yasangi Cultivation

TPN Correspondent  
Sircilla, Feb 06

Farmers in Sircilla district are facing severe difficulties due to a shortage of urea, as they prepare for Yasangi cultivation. Despite having made all the necessary arrangements for planting seeds and some farmers already completing paddy sowing, the lack of urea is causing significant delays and distress.

At the fertilizer center in Peddalingapur village, Illantakunta mandal, farmers stood in long queues for hours, hoping to secure the much-needed fertilizer. However, many are still struggling to get their supply. Farmers have voiced their frustration, stating that the government has failed to address this critical issue despite their repeated pleas.



The shortage of urea has left farmers worried about the impact on their crops and the timely completion of sowing. They are urging the government to take immediate action and ensure that the necessary fertilizers are made available to avoid further setbacks in the ongoing farming season.

## Water Shortage in Palakurthi Constituency

Farmers' Plea for Immediate Action



TPN Correspondent  
Mahabubabad, Feb 06

Water shortage in the Palakurthi constituency has left farmers in deep distress. In Karkala village of Thorrur mandal, the Bayanna stream has completely dried up, leading to severe water scarcity for agricultural activities. Farmers, who rely heavily on this stream for irrigation, are struggling to salvage their crops.

A woman farmer expressed her concern, saying that the situation has become dire, with crops drying up and no water available to save them. She noted that during the previous government under former CM KCR, there was always sufficient water, even in May.

Despite repeated pleas to Congress MLA Yashaswini Reddy regarding the water crisis, farmers claim that their concerns have gone unheard. They are expressing frustration, stating that they have invested heavily, even pledging gold, but are now facing crop failure due to the lack of water.

Farmers are urgently requesting the government to release water into the Bayanna stream to prevent further loss and to avoid extreme measures like suicide due to mounting pressures. The situation has raised serious concerns about the state's commitment to addressing farmers' needs and ensuring adequate water resources for agriculture.

## Lavanya Releases More Videos Exposing Mastan Sai's Drug Parties

TPN Correspondent  
Hyderabad, Feb 06

The controversy surrounding Mastan Sai continues to gain attention in the Telugu states. In a new development, Lavanya has released additional video evidence related to the case.

The videos reportedly show footage from a drug party held at Mastan Sai's residence, where he allegedly organized gatherings involving drugs and alcohol. According to the evidence, several individuals from the film industry also attended these parties. Lavanya has handed over photos and videos from the event to the police, further strengthening the case against Mastan Sai.

The visuals confirm that Mastan Sai used banned substances, including ganja, drugs, and Papistra Darshan. The videos also show



a large group of young men and women consuming drugs together. However, Lavanya has not disclosed the exact date of the party. With this latest revelation, the case is expected to take a new turn as authorities investigate further.

## Harish Rao Condemns Arrest of Former Minister Sunitha Lakshma Reddy

TPN Correspondent  
Hyderabad, Feb 06

Senior BRS leader and former minister T. Harish Rao has strongly condemned the arrest of Narsapur MLA and former minister Sunitha Lakshma Reddy. She, along with party leaders and activists, was detained while supporting local farmers and residents protesting against the proposed GHMC dumping yard in Nallavalli and Pyaranagar villages of Sangareddy district.

Harish Rao criticized the government's decision, calling it an attempt to suppress public opinion. He questioned why the government was ignoring the concerns of the locals and resorting to midnight arrests. He also ob-



jected to the imposition of Section 144 in the affected villages, describing it as an "undeclared emergency." Rao accused the Congress-led government of stifling democratic rights and acting in an authoritarian manner under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's leadership. BRS has demanded the immediate release of Sunitha Lakshma Reddy, along with detained party leaders and activists, and the withdrawal of the dumping yard project. Meanwhile, protests by villagers continue, with locals expressing outrage over the government's alleged disregard for court orders and public welfare.

## Mattampalli Tank Embankment in Minister Uttam's Area



TPN Correspondent  
Huzurnagar, Feb 06

The Mattampalli tank embankment, constructed just four months ago in Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy's constituency, has reportedly deteriorated, raising concerns over its quality. The embankment, initially damaged by floods in August last year, was rebuilt under the Minister's orders. However, within a few months, the embankment has sustained significant damage, with cracks appearing throughout.

Local sources suggest that the embankment construction was managed by the local Sagar Cement Factory, a company allegedly favored by local Congress leaders. The embankment's poor quality has drawn sharp criticism from opposition parties, who have questioned the ruling party's handling of the project. There are also allegations that local Congress leaders received a Rs. 2 crore bill for the construction work done by the Sagar Cement Factory.

Opposition leaders are accusing the government of mismanaging public funds and compromising on the quality of essential infrastructure. The issue has sparked public outcry, with residents and political figures calling for accountability and an immediate investigation into the construction practices.

## Farmer Commits Suicide Due to Crop Failure in Kumurambheem District



TPN Correspondent  
Kumurambheem, Feb 06

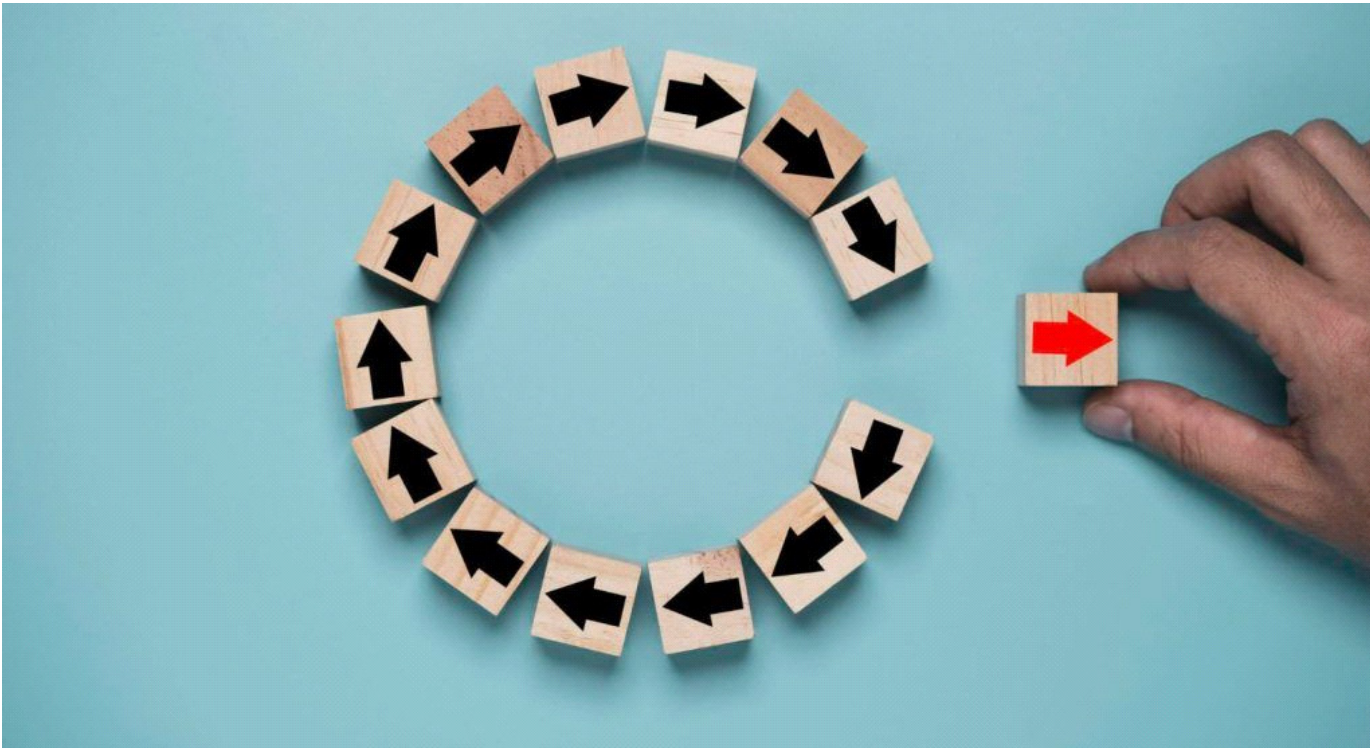
The ongoing farmer suicides in Telangana continue to highlight the severe agricultural distress. In a tragic incident, Kumuram Poshayya, a 55-year-old farmer from Bondaguda in Asifabad mandal, took his own life by consuming pesticide. The incident came to light on Wednesday morning.

Poshayya had cultivated cotton on his 10-acre farm. Sources suggest that the farmer was severely depressed after his cotton crop dried up and failed to yield any produce. The financial strain from the failed crop, coupled with the lack of a farmer's assurance scheme and mounting debts, reportedly drove him to take this extreme step.

Family members of the deceased are left in deep sorrow, with the community rallying around them in grief. The incident has once again raised concerns about the state of farmers in Telangana, particularly in rural areas where crop failures and insufficient support have been leading to increasing distress among agricultural workers.

The state government's failure to address these issues adequately has sparked protests and calls for better financial assistance, better crop insurance schemes, and more effective agricultural support.

# CHANGE3|CHANGE



In the intricate tapestry of life, change takes on the role of a gentle breeze, softly nudging us forward on our journey. Imagine change as a trusted friend, always there to guide us through the twists and turns of our existence. Can you feel its presence? It's like a comforting hand on our shoulder, encouraging us to step beyond our comfort zones and explore the vast landscape of possibilities that lie ahead. No one is stopping us from changing; it's our comfort zone that often holds us back, along with the weight of old experiences that tether us to the past. Old experiences can act as anchors, keeping us rooted in familiar patterns and preventing us from venturing into the unknown. They whisper tales of caution, reminding us of past failures or discomforts, and urging us to stay within the confines of what we already know. But change is like a river, flowing ever forward, and to resist its current is to stagnate. It's in those moments of uncertainty that we truly discover our strength and re-

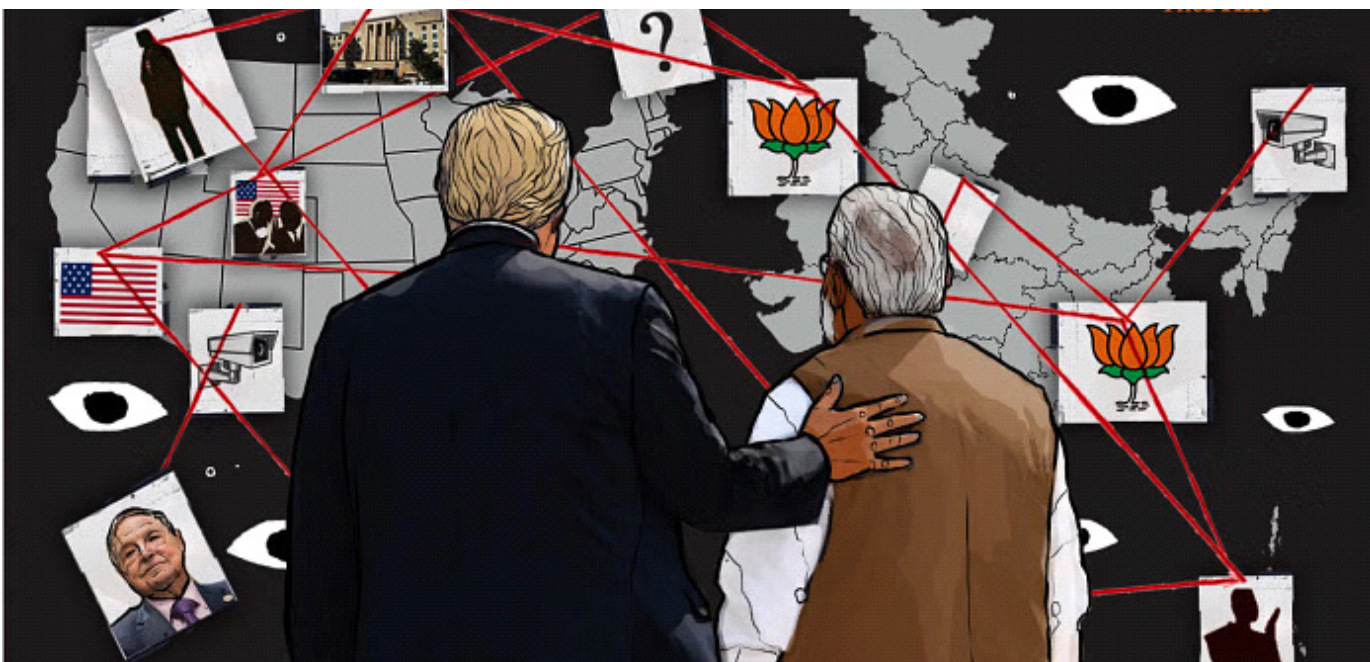


**Sandeep Sagar Kola**

silience. Yet, amidst the excitement of change, there's often a hint of apprehension – a whisper of doubt that lingers in the corners of our minds. Yet, like a reassuring voice, change reminds us that growth lies on the other side of fear. It beckons us to release the shackles of the past and embrace the possibilities of the present and fu-

ture. Think of change as a caterpillar undergoing its miraculous transformation into a butterfly. It's a journey of growth and renewal, a reminder that even in our darkest moments, there's always the promise of something beautiful waiting to emerge. Yet, despite its transformative power, some shy away from change, clinging to the safety of what's familiar. But oh, the wonders that await those who dare to embrace it! Like a seed bursting through the soil to reach for the sun, change opens up a world of opportunity and possibility. Those who welcome change with open arms are like captains navigating the seas of life. They may face storms along the way, but they also discover hidden treasures and uncharted territories beyond the horizon. So let's embrace change as a cherished companion on our journey – a friend or a colleague who challenges us, inspires us, and ultimately leads us to our fullest potential. Together, let's dance to the rhythm of change, knowing that with each step forward, we're one step closer to realizing our dreams.

## The Deep State and the Great Game: Echoes of Power and Espionage



In 1900, Rudyard Kipling wrote *\*Kim\**, placing the titular character at the heart of the Great Game, the covert struggle for control and influence between the British Empire and Tsarist Russia in Central Asia. Set in the late 19th century, the novel explores the complexities of espionage and political intrigue, following Kimball O'Hara, an Irish orphan in Lahore, who becomes embroiled in the shadowy world of spies. Kim befriends a Tibetan lama and is eventually recruited by Mahbub Ali, a Pashtun horse trader working for the British Secret Service, to gather intelligence in Afghanistan and Tibet.

Though the so-called Great Game is often viewed as a period of strategic competition, with British imperialists fearing Russian expansion in Central Asia, the reality of this geopolitical struggle is debated by historians. The British Empire, particularly through figures like

Viceroy George Curzon, depicted Tsarist Russia as a looming threat to British interests in India. National papers, including *The Civil and Military Gazette* in Lahore and *The Statesman* in Calcutta, reflected this sentiment, supporting the narrative of Russian encroachment. However, a century later, many historians question the extent and authenticity of the Great Game, suggesting that the geopolitical tensions may have been exaggerated to justify British military and diplomatic endeavors.

The concept of the "deep state" bears striking similarities to the Great Game, both involving shadowy power structures and covert agendas. While the Great Game revolved around imperial interests in Central Asia, the modern discourse surrounding the deep state focuses on the hidden forces that supposedly control or influence national policy and international relations.

Whether or not the deep state truly exists, operates in every country, or connects through global networks like the dark web remains unclear. The idea often becomes a matter of ideological debate rather than empirical analysis.

Some individuals, like former intelligence officers AS Dulat and Asad Durrani, have presented themselves as central figures within the deep state. In their 2018 book *\*The Spy Chronicles: RAW, ISI and the Illusion of Peace\**, they discuss their roles in the tense relationship between India and Pakistan. However, their self-appointed stature as arbiters of this complex geopolitical relationship has drawn heavy criticism. Much like the figures in Kipling's *\*Kim\**, those who claim insider knowledge of shadowy power structures may shape the narrative, but the true extent and influence of these forces remain open to interpretation.

## US Navy Successfully Tests High-Energy Laser Weapon, HELIOS



The US Navy has achieved a major milestone in its efforts to incorporate cost-effective laser weaponry into its arsenal. In 2024, the Navy successfully tested its High-Energy Laser with Integrated Optical Dazzler and Surveillance (HELIOS) system aboard the Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS Preble, marking a significant step towards enhancing the US military's defense capabilities against emerging threats.

HELIOS, developed by Lockheed Martin, is a high-powered laser weapon designed to counter a range of threats, including drones, fast attack boats, and missiles. The system is versatile, offering two modes of attack: Hard Kill, which directly destroys a target, and Soft Kill, which disrupts electronic components to disable enemy systems. According to Lockheed Martin, HELIOS is characterized by its "deep magazine, low cost per kill, speed-of-light delivery, and precision response," with the ability to generate over 60 kilowatts of directed energy, potentially reaching 120 kilowatts with future upgrades.

The successful test saw HELIOS engage an aerial drone, validating its operational capabilities in a real-world setting. While the exact location and date of the test remain classified, a photo included in the Pentagon's annual Director, Operational Test and Evaluation (DOT&E) report captured the moment the laser engaged its target. This test was designed to assess the system's functionality, perfor-

mance, and overall capability.

HELIOS is particularly important because it provides a more affordable alternative to traditional missile defense systems, which rely on costly ammunition. In regions like the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, where Iranian-backed Houthi rebels have launched drone and missile attacks against US and allied warships, the need for advanced defensive technology is increasingly urgent. Vice Adm. Brendan McLane pointed out that directed-energy weapons, such as HELIOS, could effectively counter asymmetric threats posed by groups like the Houthis.

Despite the success of this test, there are still challenges to overcome. One major hurdle is the power supply required to support high-energy lasers aboard ships. Additionally, environmental conditions such as fog, wind, and other weather factors could impact the performance of the laser. Another challenge is integrating HELIOS with existing defense systems on naval vessels.

The Department of Defense has invested \$1 billion annually into high-energy lasers, and while progress has been slow, the success of HELIOS represents a significant step toward expanding directed-energy weapons in the Navy's arsenal. The ability to disable drones and missiles affordably could fundamentally change naval warfare, reducing reliance on expensive interceptors while providing more efficient defense systems.

## Delhi Assembly Polls 2024: A Three-Way Battle Between AAP, Congress, and BJP

The upcoming Delhi Assembly elections are set to be a fierce three-way contest between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and the Indian National Congress (INC). As the first of two crucial state assembly elections this year, the political atmosphere in the national capital is charged with high stakes and intense rivalry.

Delhi votes...



AAP, led by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, has decided to contest the elections independently, fueling speculation about a possible rift within the opposition alliance, I.N.D.I.A. The party's focus remains on local governance issues, with Kejriwal pushing for demands like reservations for Delhi's Jat community, aiming to garner support from this crucial vote bank. Kejriwal's strategy of playing on regional identity and local concerns is expected to be central to his campaign in the face of strong opposition.

On the other hand, the BJP is banking on issues like the alleged liquor excise policy scam and ongoing pollution problems in Delhi to gain political mileage. The party hopes to capitalize on these issues to secure an edge over AAP, who has been under scrutiny for its handling of both matters. The BJP's national leadership, including figures like Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari, are expected to focus heavily on these local grievances, portraying the AAP as failing in its governance duties.

Meanwhile, Congress, which has struggled to make significant inroads in Delhi in recent years, is attempting to assert it-

self in this election. While the party has distanced itself from any formal alliance with AAP or BJP, it has not hesitated to attack its erstwhile partners. Congress aims to make a comeback by targeting both the AAP and the BJP for their handling of governance issues in the capital, including the state of the economy and social welfare.

With multiple contenders in the fray, the Delhi Assembly election promises to be a high-octane contest, as AAP defends its reign, BJP seeks to capitalize on local issues, and Congress looks to revive its fortunes in the national capital. As the campaign intensifies, all eyes will be on the outcome, which could significantly impact the political dynamics in Delhi and the wider region. Stay tuned to the latest developments, analysis, and updates on Deccan Herald for comprehensive coverage of the election race.

# Hat-trick of zeros for Congress in Delhi? Exit polls suggest no revival for party

- People's Pulse predicts a strong BJP lead, while Matrize sees a close contest.
- Mind Brink and Wee Preside project AAP ahead with 44-52 seats.
- Final results will be revealed when votes are counted on February 8.

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

As the exit polls pour in for the Delhi Assembly elections, the Congress party is staring at yet another electoral disaster, with most projections suggesting a third consecutive wipeout. According to six exit polls, two have predicted that Congress could fail to secure any seats in the Delhi Assembly, continuing its struggle to regain political relevance in the national capital.

The Congress's decline in Delhi began in 2015 when it lost all 70 seats, a result that was replicated in 2020. Once a formidable force under the leadership of Sheila Dikshit, the party has seen its influence erode significantly, with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) dominating the political scene. This trend is expected to persist, according to the latest exit polls, all of which predict a poor showing for Congress.

Exit poll projections for Congress vary slightly, but the consensus remains bleak. Matrize, JVC, and Pmarq predict 0-1 seat for the party, while People's Pulse and WeePreside forecast zero seats. Mind Brink, the only poll showing a glimmer of hope for Congress,



predicts one seat. If these predictions hold true, Congress will once again fail to make its presence felt in the Delhi Assembly. In contrast, the exit polls have painted a more optimistic picture for the BJP and AAP. Three exit polls suggest that the BJP, after a 27-year

hiatus, may stage a major comeback in the city, with seat projections ranging from 39 to 60. However, two exit polls, Mind Brink and WeePreside, predict a third consecutive term for AAP, with the party securing between 44 and 52 seats.

## TTD Takes Action Against Employees for Non-Hindu Practices

TPN Correspondent | Chennai

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD), the administrative body overseeing the famous Tirupati temple, has taken significant action against 18 employees for allegedly engaging in non-Hindu religious practices, despite having taken an oath to uphold the Hindu faith upon joining the institution. These employees have been barred from participating in any religious activities or events related to the temple, which is one of the holiest sites for Hindus.



The TTD board, committed to maintaining the spiritual sanctity of the temple and its activities, has issued orders to transfer these employees to roles outside the religious operations of the temple. This could involve redeploying them to various government departments or offering them an option for Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS).

TTD Chairman BR Naidu emphasized that the Tirumala temple must remain a symbol of Hindu faith and that the integrity of religious practices must be preserved. According to a statement from the board, the employees in question have been accused of participating in non-Hindu religious practices, which, according to the board, adversely affects the sentiments of millions of Hindu devotees. Their involvement in Hindu religious events like fairs, festivals, and functions, while adhering to non-Hindu practices, has been deemed inappropriate and detrimental to the sanctity of the temple's rituals.

## Sikkim CM Dismisses Merger Rumors with Darjeeling, Stresses Article 371F Protection

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Amid growing rumors about a potential merger between Sikkim and Darjeeling, Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang has firmly denied these claims, labeling them as false. Following a session in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly, the Chief Minister stated that Sikkim's special status under Article 371F of the Indian Constitution would continue to safeguard the state's autonomy.

"This is well-known to every Sikkimese. Even those spreading these rumors have been asked about the merger and they have confirmed it will never happen. It is not possible. The opposition lacks real issues to address, and so they resort to such baseless claims," he asserted.

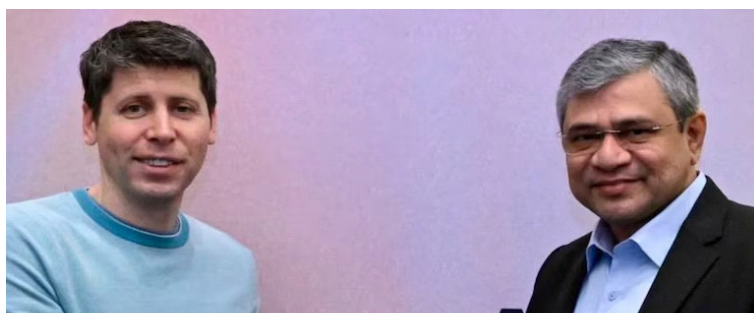
On Tuesday, during the foundation day celebration of the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM), Mr. Tamang reiterated his stance, saying, "There is no merger between Sikkim



and Darjeeling. We are protected by Article

371F. No state can take over Sikkim, and no region can merge with us. Sikkim has its own identity, just as Darjeeling has its own."

The Chief Minister also clarified that the upcoming delegation traveling to New Delhi on February 10 to demand tribal status for 12 marginalized communities would not include representatives from Darjeeling hills. This, he explained, is in contrast to previous delegations, such as the Limboo Tamang tribal status demand in the early 2000s, which did include Darjeeling representation. "The meeting was initially scheduled in Kolkata, as the committee's chairman is from there. However, we decided to change the venue to New Delhi due to our infrastructure at Sikkim House. The Legislative meeting that finalized this decision did not include representatives from Darjeeling," Tamang said. He clarified that only Sikkimese communities would be represented in the upcoming meeting with the concerned ministry.



## India's AI Ambitions: Minister Vaishnaw Meets OpenAI's Sam Altman for Key Talks

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

As the global artificial intelligence (AI) race intensifies, India has outlined a comprehensive strategy to build an entire AI ecosystem, from hardware to software applications. Union Minister for Electronics and IT, Ashwini Vaishnaw, recently met OpenAI's Co-founder and CEO Sam Altman in New Delhi, where the two discussed India's AI roadmap and the potential for collaboration between OpenAI and India in this sector. Vaishnaw took to social media, highlighting that Altman was impressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to democratize technology and make AI more accessible.

During the meeting, Vaishnaw shared India's plan to develop a full AI stack, including GPUs, models, and applications, and OpenAI expressed willingness to collaborate in these areas. The Minister emphasized that PM Modi's vision for AI aligns with OpenAI's goals, with both parties recognizing the importance of harnessing AI for the benefit of the public. Altman, who oversees the development of the popular AI models like ChatGPT, acknowledged India's significant role in the AI space, calling it the second largest market for OpenAI. He further emphasized that while AI models remain expensive, they are within reach, and India has the potential to become a leader in AI technology.



## Himanta Sarma Inaugurates Redeveloped Kerbside At Guwahati Airport

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated the newly redeveloped kerbside at Terminal 1 (T1) of Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International (LGBI) Airport, marking a significant upgrade to the airport's infrastructure. The inauguration was attended by key stakeholders from the LGBI Airport ecosystem, highlighting the airport's commitment to enhancing passenger experience.

This redevelopment aims to provide a safer, more secure, and enjoyable travel experience for passengers. The upgrades include an expanded passenger movement area, now increased by 700 sqm to better accommodate the rising number of travelers. In addition, the number of departure gates has risen from five to seven, which will reduce wait times for passengers. These gates now feature a total of 14 entry lanes, streamlining the entry and exit processes.

To further improve accessibility, two new entry points have been added, and the airport has optimized the traffic flow with segregation lanes, including FastTag-enabled entry and exit points. A safe and convenient walking path with a zebra crossing has also been created from the parking area to the terminal for pedestrian safety.

The revamped kerbside area offers a traffic-free lane, providing a more streamlined and pleasant experience for passengers. Retail and food outlets along the kerbside have been thoughtfully curated, allowing travelers to shop and dine in a vibrant atmosphere that operates 24/7, 365 days a year.

The upgraded terminal is part of Guwahati International Airport Limited's (GIAL) broader vision to modernize and improve passenger facilities. "As the Gateway to the Northeast, the refurbished T1 will help foster economic growth, educational development, and job creation in the region," said a GIAL spokesperson.

## BJP Confident of Victory in Delhi Assembly Elections, Predicts Over 50 Seats

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

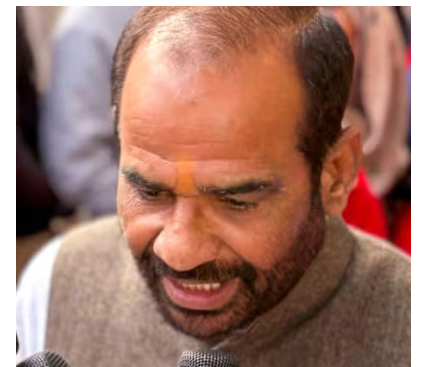
Following the release of exit poll predictions showing a clear majority for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the Delhi Assembly elections, Ramesh Bidhuri, BJP's candidate from Kalkaji, expressed strong confidence in his party's victory. He attributed the projected success to what he described as a "Modi wave" and emphasized that the BJP would surpass the 50-seat mark in the Assembly.

The exit polls came soon after the voting concluded across all 70 constituencies in Delhi on February 5, with the majority indicating a BJP-led government in the national capital. "This is Modi wave. The people of Delhi want development just like there has been development across the rest of the country under PM Narendra Modi. The hard work put in by our party workers and the guidance and strategy of our leaders have reaped fruit," Bidhuri said to ANI, reiterating his belief that the BJP's seat count will exceed projections.

Bidhuri's remarks followed the exit poll projections that placed the BJP in a commanding position, with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) trailing behind. In a video shared by ANI, he confidently stated, "I don't believe in these exit polls, the number of our seats will rise further. BJP will cross the 50-seat mark."

Similarly, Parvesh Verma, BJP's candidate from New Delhi, echoed this optimism, stating, "It is certain that Lotus will bloom on 8th February. We will give good governance, clean Yamuna, and employment in Delhi. Arvind Kejriwal is confident that he is losing."

The exit polls from multiple pollsters suggested a clear victory for the BJP. The Matrize Exit Poll forecasted that the BJP would secure between 35 and 40 seats, while the AAP was expected to win between 32 and 37 seats. Congress was predicted to win 0-1 seat.



# Elon Musk Given 'Read-Only' Access to Treasury Payments Data

US Treasury confirms access amid concerns over government efficiency reforms.

- Team can view but not alter Treasury payment data as part of a cost-cutting review.
- Democratic lawmakers demand an investigation, citing legal and ethical concerns.
- Lawsuits filed to block Musk's team from accessing taxpayer information.

TPN Correspondent | Washington

Elon Musk, the world's wealthiest individual, has been granted "read-only" access to the US Treasury Department's highly sensitive payment system, which manages trillions of dollars in transactions, including Social Security, Medicare payouts, and federal salaries. The move has raised concerns among Democratic lawmakers, prompting calls for an investigation into the decision.

Musk, who is leading the federal cost-cutting initiative under the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), reportedly pushed for his team to gain access to the Treasury's payment system as part of his efforts to streamline government operations. His request was approved by Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, allowing Musk's IT executive Tom Krause to lead the team with access to the payment system.

In response to growing concerns, Senators Elizabeth Warren and Ron Wyden sent a letter to the congressional watchdog agency, urging an investigation into how Musk and his team were granted access. The Democratic lawmakers have expressed apprehension over the ethical and legal implications of allowing private individuals, such as Musk, to view government financial data.

The Treasury Department clarified in a letter to Congress that the access granted to Musk's team is "read-only," which



means they can view the data but cannot alter it. The department emphasized that this type of access is similar to the permissions granted to auditors reviewing Treasury systems.

Despite this assurance, Democratic lawmakers and labor unions have voiced their opposition to Musk's involvement in the Treasury's operations. Some groups have filed lawsuits against DOGE, arguing that it is illegal for Musk or his team to access personal taxpayer information, demanding that a federal judge block this access.

In a post on X, Musk defended the move, stating that "the only way to stop fraud

and waste of taxpayer money is to follow the payment flows and pause suspicious transactions for review." Musk's cost-cutting initiative has faced increasing resistance, with critics raising concerns over the potential misuse of sensitive government data.

The decision to grant Musk's team access to the Treasury's payment system came after a career official was placed on administrative leave for refusing to approve the request, leading to their eventual retirement. This development has intensified the debate over the government's transparency and the role of private entities in reviewing public financial data.

## India A Very Important Market For AI, Can Be A Leading Force: Sam Altman



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

India is on the brink of making significant strides in artificial intelligence (AI), with Sam Altman, Co-founder and CEO of OpenAI, recognizing the country as one of the most important markets for AI. Speaking at an event attended by Union Minister for Railways and Electronics and IT, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Altman shared that India is the second biggest market globally for OpenAI.

The event comes as OpenAI has announced a monumental \$500 billion project called 'Stargate' aimed at building new AI infrastructure in the US over the next four years, alongside major partners like SoftBank, Oracle, and MGX. Altman emphasized that India, with its immense potential, should be a leader in the AI space, particularly in large language models (LLMs).

Altman also addressed his previous comments on India's ability to develop large language models, clarifying that his statement had been "taken out of context." He affirmed that India's growth in AI is possible, acknowledging that while AI models are still expensive, they are becoming more accessible.

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw spoke about India's ambition to make significant innovations in AI, similar to the success of missions like Chandrayaan. He highlighted the country's drive to bring AI solutions that reduce costs, making them more accessible to entrepreneurs, researchers, and students. In line with this vision, the Indian government is working towards launching an indigenous AI model within the next six months. This model aims to be not only safe and secure but also affordable, positioning India as a leading global player in ethical AI solutions.

The IndiaAI initiative is rapidly progressing, with efforts underway to customize AI solutions that address the unique needs of the Indian context, including Indian languages. Scientists, researchers, and developers are currently working on foundational models, and the AI computation facility has already been equipped with 10,000 GPUs. Additional GPUs are set to be added to further enhance the model's capacity.

## As China Slaps US With Retaliatory Tariffs, The Trade War Begins

TPN Correspondent | Washington DC

Trade tensions between the United States and China have reached new heights, as China retaliates with counter-tariffs on US imports in response to President Donald Trump's 10% tariff on Chinese goods. The intensification of this trade war has reignited concerns about the impact on the global economy. China's Finance Ministry has condemned the US tariffs, claiming that they violate World Trade Organization (WTO) rules.

In a strongly worded statement, China warned that it may be forced to take additional countermeasures, asserting that there are "no winners in a trade war." China's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Fu Cong, criticized the US decision, calling it an "unwarranted increase" and affirming that it breaches international trade norms.

To counter the US tariffs, China has imposed its own set of retaliatory measures. These include a 15% tariff on US coal and liquefied natural gas exports, as well as a 10% tariff on crude oil, agricultural machinery, and large-displacement cars. These new tariffs are set to take effect on February 10. Additionally, China has implemented export controls on rare metals, such as tungsten, tellurium, ruthenium, and molybdenum, citing national security concerns.

In a surprising move, China has also launched an anti-trust investigation into Google, accusing the tech giant of monopolistic practices. This probe is seen as a strategic response to the escalating trade conflict, with China's State Administration for Market Regulation alleging that Google violated the country's Anti-Monopoly Law.

The tariffs, which came into effect on Tuesday, are part of President Trump's broader strategy to pressure China into curbing the flow of illicit drugs, particularly fentanyl. The White House stated that the tariffs are intended to hold countries like China accountable for failing to halt illegal immigration and drug trafficking. However, China has countered by urging the US to address the issue from its own perspective and focus on the demand side of fentanyl rather than blaming other countries.



## Could Change History: Israel's Netanyahu On Trump's Gaza Take Over Plan

TPN Correspondent | Washington

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made headlines on Tuesday when he praised US President Donald Trump's proposal for the United States to take control over the Palestinian territory of Gaza. Speaking at a joint press conference held at the White House, Netanyahu described the plan as an idea that could "change history."

Netanyahu's remarks came as he responded to Trump's suggestions, which have raised eyebrows internationally. He emphasized the significance of the proposal, hinting at the potential transformative effect it could have on the region. While Netanyahu did not go into extensive detail, he stressed that it was a development that deserved serious consideration, acknowledging the gravity of the moment.

The idea, if implemented, would mark a dramatic shift in the longstanding geopolitical situation in Gaza and the broader Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Since the early 2000s, Gaza has been a flashpoint for tensions, with the Palestinian group Hamas controlling the area, leading to frequent conflicts and humanitarian concerns. The US plan, by potentially placing the region under American oversight, would be a historic departure from previous strategies and proposals surrounding the governance and future of the territory.

Netanyahu's statement hints at the evolving dynamics of Israeli politics and its relationship with the United States. Trump's administration has been a vocal supporter of Israel, and this latest proposal is seen by some as a further deepening of the bond between the two countries. However, the plan's implications could extend far beyond bilateral relations, affecting the broader Middle East peace process and the ongoing struggles of the Palestinian people.

The White House press conference, held at a critical time in the Middle East, signaled the possibility of a new direction in US foreign policy under Trump's leadership, particularly in relation to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. While the exact details of the plan remain unclear, Netanyahu's endorsement of it suggests that Israel may be open to significant changes in how the region is governed in the future.



## Tulsi Gabbard Clears Senate Intelligence Committee Vote for DNI Nomination

TPN Correspondent | Washington

Former U.S. Representative Tulsi Gabbard has passed a significant hurdle in her bid to become the next Director of National Intelligence (DNI), clearing the Senate Intelligence Committee vote. The vote, which was closely contested, passed 9-8 along party lines, bringing Gabbard one step closer to full Senate confirmation.

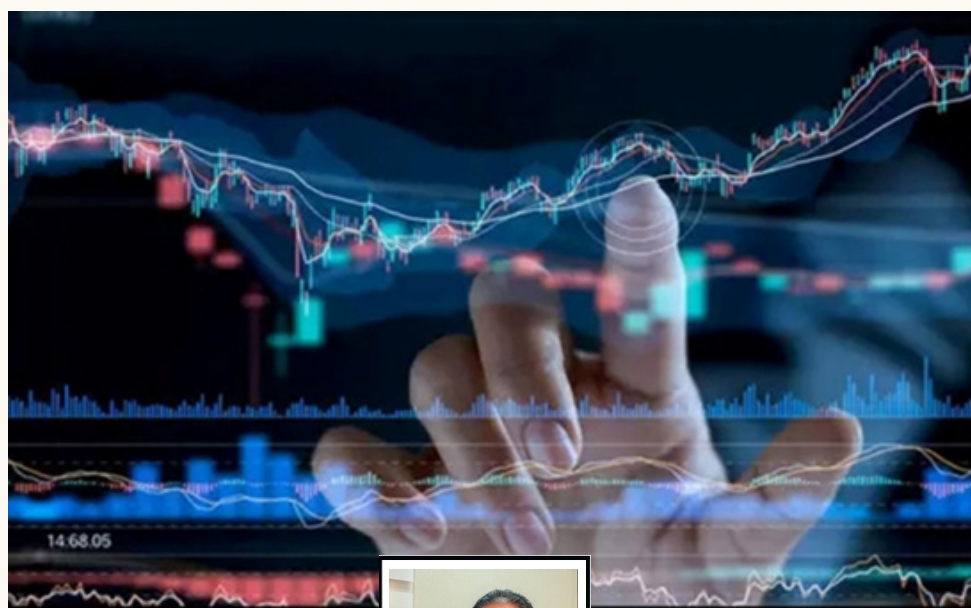
After the vote, Senate Intelligence Committee Chair Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) expressed his confidence in Gabbard's nomination, saying, "The Intelligence Committee just voted for Tulsi Gabbard's nomination to be the Director of National Intelligence favourably to the full United States Senate. We look forward to her confirmation and working with her to keep America safe." This marks a crucial moment in Gabbard's journey to leading the U.S. intelligence community, a position responsible for overseeing the nation's 17 intelligence agencies.

The vote came on the heels of an important announcement from Senator Todd Young (R-Ind.), a pivotal swing vote in the process. Young publicly declared his support for Gabbard, endorsing her nomination via social media. He praised her ability to engage with him on key issues, ensuring that U.S. intelligence professionals would be supported under her leadership and that policymakers would receive unbiased information. His endorsement played a significant role in tipping the balance in favor of Gabbard's nomination.

Gabbard, who served as a U.S. Representative from Hawaii from 2013 to 2021, has been a prominent figure in American politics. Known for her independent views, she has often taken a more non-interventionist stance on foreign policy and criticized U.S. military involvement abroad. Her nomination to lead the U.S. intelligence community has garnered attention for her unconventional political career and her potential to reshape how intelligence is gathered and analyzed at the highest levels of government.



# Markets End With Moderate Losses Amid Global Uncertainty



Domestic stock markets ended with moderate losses on Wednesday, taking a breather after heavy declines in the previous session. While the benchmark indices opened with gains, they lost momentum due to weak global cues, a record-low rupee, and selling pressure on FMCG stocks. Despite the short-term dip, market experts remain optimistic about a bullish trend in the medium term. At close, the Nifty settled at 23,696, down 42 points, while the Sensex lost 312 points to finish at 78,271. The BSE Sensex, which opened at 78,704, touched an intraday high of 78,735 before slipping to a low of 78,216. Sim-



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ilarly, the Nifty oscillated between 23,680 and 23,801 before closing lower. Meanwhile, the Nifty Bank index defied the trend, gaining 185 points to settle at 50,343. Out of the 50 Nifty stocks, 25 advanced while 25 declined. Top gainers included Hindalco, ITC Hotels, ONGC, Apollo Hospitals, and BPCL, while Asian Paints, Titan, Nestle India, Britannia, and Tata Consumer saw the biggest losses. FMCG, realty, and consumer durables stocks remained under pressure, while media, metal, PSU banks, and oil & gas sectors saw positive movement. On the NSE, market breadth was positive, with 1,969 stocks advancing, 857

declining, and 33 touching 52-week highs, compared to 34 stocks at 52-week lows. Swiggy's Q3 losses widened to ₹800 crore from ₹574 crore, while the rupee hit a fresh low of 87.46 against the US dollar. The Finance Ministry imposed a ban on DeepSeek and ChatGPT AI tools. In corporate earnings, Solar Industries reported a 55% surge in net profit to ₹315 crore, while Thangamayil's net profit jumped 72% to ₹28 crore. Several stocks, including Laurus Labs, JK Cement, Muthoot Finance, UPL, Bajaj Finance, and Essar F, hit 52-week highs. JM Financial anticipates Zomato and Jio Finance joining the Nifty50 index. Meanwhile, Page Industries saw a 35% rise in net profit to ₹205 crore, Arvind Passions' profit soared 60% to ₹30 crore, and Tega Industries' profit climbed from ₹35 crore to ₹54 crore. JB Chemfarm also posted a 21% increase in net profit, with revenue rising by 14%.

**REC Ltd:**  
The stock remained stable amid a volatile session, backed by strong financials and consistent government support for the power sector. Investors



are optimistic about REC's long-term growth, given its role in financing key infrastructure and energy projects. The company's strong loan book and improved asset quality have also strengthened investor sentiment.

**ONGC:**  
The oil and gas giant saw buying interest as global crude prices remained firm, boosting revenue expectations. Investors are optimistic about ONGC's deepwater exploration projects and rising domestic energy demand. The company's strong dividend yield and ongoing efforts to expand production capacity have further enhanced its appeal in the market.



**Naukri (Info Edge):**  
The job portal's stock gained traction as hiring activity improved across sectors. Increased recruitment in IT, BFSI, and startup ecosystems has bolstered revenue expectations for Info Edge. The company's diverse digital portfolio, including platforms like 99acres and Jeevansathi, also contributes to long-

term growth potential.

**Hindalco:**  
The aluminum major remained among the top gainers, supported by strong metal prices and improved demand from the construction and auto industries. The company's expansion plans, coupled with higher global aluminum consumption, are driving positive sentiment. Additionally, Hindalco's strategic partnerships in the renewable energy sector further boost its long-term prospects.



**IndusInd Bank:**  
The private lender's stock saw steady movement as investors remained confident in its asset quality and robust credit growth, particularly in retail and MSME segments. The bank's digital transformation efforts and focus on expanding its loan portfolio have further strengthened investor sentiment. Analysts anticipate stable growth ahead, supported by improving economic conditions and increasing corporate lending.



## India's Adani Wilmar bets on urban revival, quick grocery delivery to boost growth

Adani Wilmar, a leading player in India's food and edible oil industry, is forecasting a 10% growth in its sales volume for the next fiscal year. CEO Anshu Mallick shared this optimistic outlook with Reuters on Wednesday, citing the rise of 10-minute grocery delivery apps and the expected recovery in urban consumer spending, driven by recent tax cuts. The company anticipates that the personal income tax cuts announced by the Indian government will put more disposable income in the hands of consumers, ultimately driving demand. According to Mallick, a surge in disposable income typically leads to an increase in demand for high-quality food products, and Adani Wilmar expects its food business to grow by more than 20% by March 2026.

However, in the third quarter of the current fiscal year, the company saw only a modest 5% growth in its sales volume. This was despite the edible oil business, which produces the well-known 'Fortune' cooking oil brand, showing a 4% growth. Mallick emphasized that the company is focused on turning this around, with projections for a 6% growth in its edible oil business for the coming

year. This segment is expected to be a key driver in helping Adani Wilmar achieve its overall sales target of around 10% growth.

The 10-minute grocery delivery services, a growing trend in urban areas, are expected to further support this growth. The convenience and rapid delivery offered by these services have seen a surge in popularity, particularly in cities where consumers are increasingly looking for ways to shop quickly and efficiently.

With this combination of favorable consumer trends and tax policy changes, Adani Wilmar is positioning itself to benefit from increased demand for quality food and cooking products in the coming year. The company's optimistic sales forecast reflects confidence in the growing food sector and its ability to capture a larger share of the market amidst evolving consumer preferences and consumption patterns. As the fiscal year progresses, the company is closely watching the impact of these trends on its performance and will continue to adapt its strategies to maximize growth opportunities.

## SEBI Introduces New Rules for Algorithmic Trading and API Usage

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has introduced new regulations requiring stock exchanges to empanel algorithmic trading providers and establish guidelines for the use of application programming interfaces (APIs). These steps are part of SEBI's ongoing efforts to streamline the algorithmic trading environment and address the risks posed by existing regulatory gaps.

Algorithmic trading, or algo trading, involves executing trading orders through computer programs that follow predefined rules, enabling traders to place orders at speeds and frequencies far beyond human capabilities. This method is already widely used in India, particularly by institutional investors, but has previously lacked adequate regulatory oversight, leaving room for potential risks and irregularities.

To address these concerns, SEBI has mandated that all algorithmic trading providers must be empaneled by the stock exchanges. This means brokers can only partner with algo trading providers that meet the criteria set by the exchanges. Additionally, brokers must seek approval from the exchanges before implementing algorithmic trading strategies. They will also be required to establish mechanisms for handling grievances and ensuring

that prohibited activities, such as market manipulation, are monitored and avoided.

A significant development in the new regulations is the formation of a framework by the Brokers' Industry Standards Forum. The forum is tasked with developing a set of industry standards for algorithmic trading, which will be implemented before April 1, 2025. These standards will take effect from August 1, 2025, and will focus on improving transparency and accountability within the algo trading landscape.

These measures are designed to enhance investor protection by closing the loopholes that existed in previous regulations. SEBI's focus on enforcing stricter oversight and requiring exchanges to play a more active role in regulating algorithmic trading is expected to reduce market manipulation risks, improve trading transparency, and increase overall market efficiency.

As algorithmic trading continues to grow in India, these regulatory updates aim to strike a balance between innovation and investor protection, ensuring that the benefits of advanced trading technologies do not come at the expense of market integrity.



## Valentine's Week 2025: A Seven-Day Celebration of Love

Valentine's Day is fast approaching, and with it, the anticipation of a week full of love, joy, and affection. Starting on February 7, the world will celebrate Valentine's Week, a seven-day period dedicated to honoring the people who matter most in our lives. The week is not just about romantic love, but also about showing appreciation for friends, family, and even ourselves.

Valentine's Week begins on February 7 with Rose Day and leads up to Valentine's Day itself on February 14. Each day has its own special theme, providing a unique opportunity to express love and care through gestures, gifts, and words.

**February 7, Friday: Rose Day**  
The first day of the week is dedicated to giving roses, a timeless symbol of love and appreciation. People often present roses to their loved ones to express their admiration and affection, kicking off the celebrations with a colorful display of love.

**February 8, Saturday: Propose Day**  
Propose Day is all about taking the plunge and declaring your feelings. Whether it's proposing to a significant other or confessing your love to a crush, this day encourages romantic gestures and declarations of love.

**February 9, Sunday: Choco-**



**late Day**  
Sweet treats take center stage on Chocolate Day, with people gifting chocolates to their loved ones. Whether you buy a box of chocolates or make some yourself, this day is all about indulging in the sweetness of life and love.

**February 10, Monday: Teddy Day**  
Teddy Day is a celebration of comfort and warmth. Couples exchange cuddly teddy bears, which symbolize the tenderness and security found in their relationship. It's a simple but meaningful way to show affection and care.

**February 11, Tuesday: Promise Day**  
Promise Day is dedicated to reaffirming commitments and strengthening bonds. It's a day for making promises, whether big or small, to ensure the relationship continues to thrive and grow.

**February 12, Wednesday: Hug Day**  
On Hug Day, people celebrate the simple yet powerful gesture of a hug. A warm embrace can convey love, comfort, and support, bringing people closer together and nurturing their relationships.

**February 13, Thursday: Kiss Day**  
Kiss Day is an opportunity to express love through a kiss, a gesture that speaks volumes. It's a day to show appreciation and remind your partner of how special they are to you.

**February 14, Friday: Valentine's Day**  
The final day of the week is the grand celebration of love. Valentine's Day is marked by thoughtful gifts, heartfelt messages, and spending quality time with loved ones, making it the perfect conclusion to the week-long celebration of love.

## Google Pixel 9a Expected to Offer Attractive Freebies and Impressive Specs

Google is gearing up to unveil its budget-friendly Pixel 9a, slated to launch on March 19, marking the earliest release date in the Pixel A series history. The highly anticipated mid-range model is expected to come with some enticing offers and powerful features to attract buyers.



According to a recent leak from Android Headlines, Pixel 9a buyers could enjoy several premium subscriptions as part of their purchase. The freebies include six months of free Fit-bit Premium, three months of free YouTube Premium, and a three-month subscription to 100GB of Google One storage. These offers resemble those provided with the Pixel 9 series, although the Pixel 9a will not come with the 2TB+ AI plan for Google One, and users will need to pay extra for any Gemini Advanced features.

The Pixel 9a is expected to maintain the same Tensor G4 processor found in the flagship Pixel 9 series. The device is likely to feature a 6.3-inch Actua display with a peak brightness of 2,700 nits and Gorilla Glass 3 protection for durability. With 8GB of RAM and 256GB of internal storage, the Pixel 9a promises a smooth and spacious user experience. It is also expected to have an IP68 rating, ensuring dust and water resistance.

For photography, the Pixel 9a is rumored to include a dual-camera setup, consisting of a 48-megapixel primary camera and a 13-megapixel ultrawide camera. The phone is likely to be equipped with a robust 5,100mAh battery, supporting 23W wired and 7.5W wireless charging. Additionally, it is expected to feature an in-display fingerprint scanner for enhanced security and convenience.

## NASA Astronaut Shares Stunning Image of Burj Khalifa from Space

Imagine soaring high above Earth, gazing down at the shimmering city of Dubai, where one building stands out as a beacon of human achievement—the Burj Khalifa, the tallest man-made structure on the planet. Now, picture witnessing this architectural marvel from space. Thanks to NASA astronaut Don Pettit, this extraordinary view has been captured and shared with the world. Currently stationed aboard the International Space Station (ISS), Pettit recently shared a captivating night-time image of Dubai, with the Burj Khalifa standing tall like a dazzling jewel in the darkness.

The photo showcases the iconic skyscraper gleaming brilliantly against the backdrop of the Earth's vast, dark canvas, offering a perspective that few have the privilege to see. "Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building from space," Pettit wrote as a caption for the awe-inspiring shot. The image is part of his ongoing tradition of sharing breathtaking photographs from his vantage point in orbit. Over time, Pettit has delighted followers with numerous photos of our planet from space, each one offering a unique and stunning view of Earth's natural beauty and human-made won-

ders. This recent image is a testament to both the wonder of space exploration and the marvels of human ingenuity on the ground. From the quiet expanse of space, Pettit's photos offer a perspective that both humbles and amazes, reminding us of the incredible achievements we've made and the vastness of the world we call home. For many, this image of Burj Khalifa from space is a dream come true—a rare and breathtaking sight captured from the unique vantage of an astronaut, making it an unforgettable visual experience.

## Five More Cheetahs Released Into Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park

On Wednesday, five adult cheetahs were released into the wild at Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh, marking another significant step in India's ambitious cheetah reintroduction program. The release took place during a special event attended by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, organized by the state's Forest Department at the park in Sheopur.



The preparation for the cheetah release was meticulously carried out under the supervision of a steering committee and senior forest officials. This marks the second time adult cheetahs have been released into an open boma (enclosure) at KNP. With this release, a total of seven out of 12 adult cheetahs have now been successfully set free in the park, bringing the reintroduction project closer to its goal of restoring cheetah populations in India after their extinction over 70 years ago.

In an exciting development, five-year-old South African cheetah, Veera, gave birth to two healthy cubs just a day before the release, adding to the growing cheetah population at

Kuno. The first batch of cheetahs, consisting of eight individuals brought from Namibia, was released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 17, 2022. A second batch of 12 cheetahs from South Africa arrived on February 18, 2023.

The Chief Minister expressed optimism that the expanding cheetah population will not only boost wildlife conservation efforts but also positively impact Madhya Pradesh's tourism industry. "With the increase in cheetah numbers, tourism in Madhya Pradesh is getting a boost and opening new doors for employment," he

said. However, reports suggest that the third batch of 18 cheetahs, scheduled to be relocated from South Africa in February 2025, may face delays as authorities are waiting for updates on the progress of the cheetah population. The new batch is expected to be relocated to both Kuno National Park in Sheopur and Gandhi Sagar in Mandasaur.

India's Project Cheetah is part of a bold conservation effort to reintroduce the species to the country, with plans for further releases and support for their long-term survival.

## Woman Scammed of Rs 93,600 While Booking Hotel Through Fake Google Listing

In a recent online scam, a woman lost Rs 93,600 while attempting to book a hotel stay through a fraudulent Google listing. The incident occurred when content creator Shreya Mitra was planning a trip to Puri and searched for hotels online. She came across a listing for Mayfair Heritage Puri and, trusting its legitimacy, clicked on the first result that appeared on Google.



After finding the contact number, Mitra called to inquire about booking a stay, and the scammers provided pictures and details of the room, convincing her to proceed with the payment. They even sent her a fake invoice for the booking. However, when she requested an email confirmation, the fraudsters cited a system outage as an excuse and assured her the booking was secure.

The following day, she received another call from the scammers, instructing her to use Google Pay and enter a provided booking ID to receive confirmation. Sensing something was wrong, Mitra refused to com-

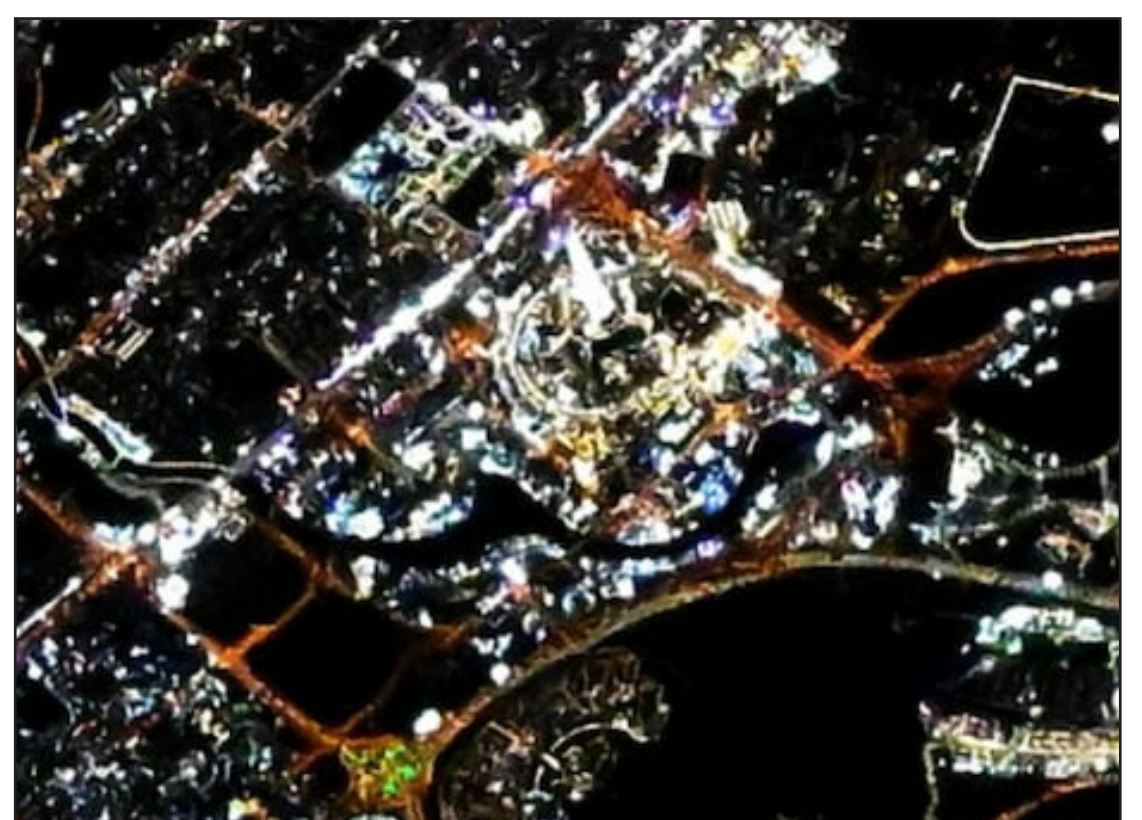
ply and insisted on an official email confirmation. The fraudsters abruptly ended the call, leaving her suspicious of the situation.

Realizing she had been scammed, Mitra took immediate action and searched for the official contact details of Mayfair Heritage Puri. Upon contacting the hotel, she confirmed that the listing she had used was indeed fake.

Mitra shared her experience on Instagram, urging others to be cautious and warning travelers,

especially those looking to book accommodations in the East, to avoid falling for similar scams. She highlighted that the scammers' phone number remains active, and they are using multiple bank accounts to carry out fraudulent transactions.

The fake Google listing has since been taken down by the Cybercrime department, but the incident serves as a reminder to always double-check online listings and verify contact details before making any payments.



## India vs England: Key Concerns for Rohit Sharma, Gautam Gambhir Ahead of ODI Series

As India enters the final phase of Champions Trophy 2025 preparations, the three-match ODI series against England, starting in Nagpur on Thursday, holds critical importance. Form and fitness of senior players, selection dilemmas, and bowling combinations remain areas of concern for head coach Gautam Gambhir and captain Rohit Sharma.

### Rohit and Kohli Under Scrutiny

Both Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli have faced criticism after a lackluster run in red-ball cricket. While they were the top two run-getters in the 2023 World Cup, their recent form has raised doubts. The duo played a three-match ODI series against Sri Lanka post-World Cup, but their Test form has been worrying. The upcoming England series is crucial as it serves as India's only preparation for the Champions Trophy.

### Wicketkeeper Dilemma: KL Rahul or Rishabh Pant?

The debate over who will take the wicket-keeper-batsman role continues. KL Rahul, who played a vital role in the 2023 World Cup, provides stability, while Rishabh Pant offers an aggressive X-factor in the middle order. If both are included, Shreyas Iyer might lose his place.

### Bowling Concerns and Injuries

- Jasprit Bumrah is unavailable due to a back problem.
- Mohammed Shami and Kuldeep Yadav re-



turn from injury, and their performance will be crucial.

- Varun Chakaravathy, India's mystery spinner, might get his ODI debut.
- The spin all-rounder's slot remains open between Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, and Washington Sundar.

### England's Struggles

England, having lost consecutive ODI series against Australia and West Indies, will look to bounce back. Joe Root returns, but Jamie Smith is likely to miss the first two ODIs due to injury.

With India eyeing a strong squad for the Champions Trophy, the upcoming series will be a crucial test for their top-order, bowling attack, and team balance.

## Rashid Khan Breaks T20 World Record, Becomes Highest Wicket-Taker in History

Afghanistan's Rashid Khan has etched his name in cricket history by surpassing Dwayne Bravo to become the highest wicket-taker in T20 cricket. Rashid achieved this feat during MI Cape Town's Qualifier One match against Paarl Royals in the SA20 league.

During the match, Rashid took 2/34 in four overs, dismissing Dunith Wellalage and Dinesh Karthik, as MI Cape Town successfully defended their total of 200 runs. This took Rashid's overall tally to 633 wickets in 461 matches, at an astonishing average of 18.07, with best figures of 6/17.

### Top 5 T20 Wicket-Takers

- Rashid Khan (Afghanistan) – 633 wickets in 461 matches
- Dwayne Bravo (West Indies) – 631 wickets in 556 matches
- Sunil Narine (West Indies) – 574 wickets in 536 matches
- Imran Tahir (South Africa) – 531 wickets in 428 matches
- Shakib Al Hasan (Bangladesh) – 492 wickets in 444 matches

### Match Recap

Paarl Royals won the toss and elected to field first. MI Cape Town's openers Ryan Rickelton (44 off 27) and Rassie van der Dussen (40 off 32) gave a solid start with an 87-run stand in 9.2 overs. A mini-collapse saw them stumble to 91/3, but late fireworks from George Linde (26 off 14), Dewald Brevis (44 off 30), and Delano Potgieter (32 off 17)\*\* powered them to 199/4. In response, Paarl Royals struggled, despite David Miller's fighting 45 off 26 balls and Dinesh Karthik's 31 off 28. Rashid Khan's historic landmark wicket came when he clean-bowled Wellal-



age, helping MI Cape Town restrict Royals and win comfortably.

### What's Next?

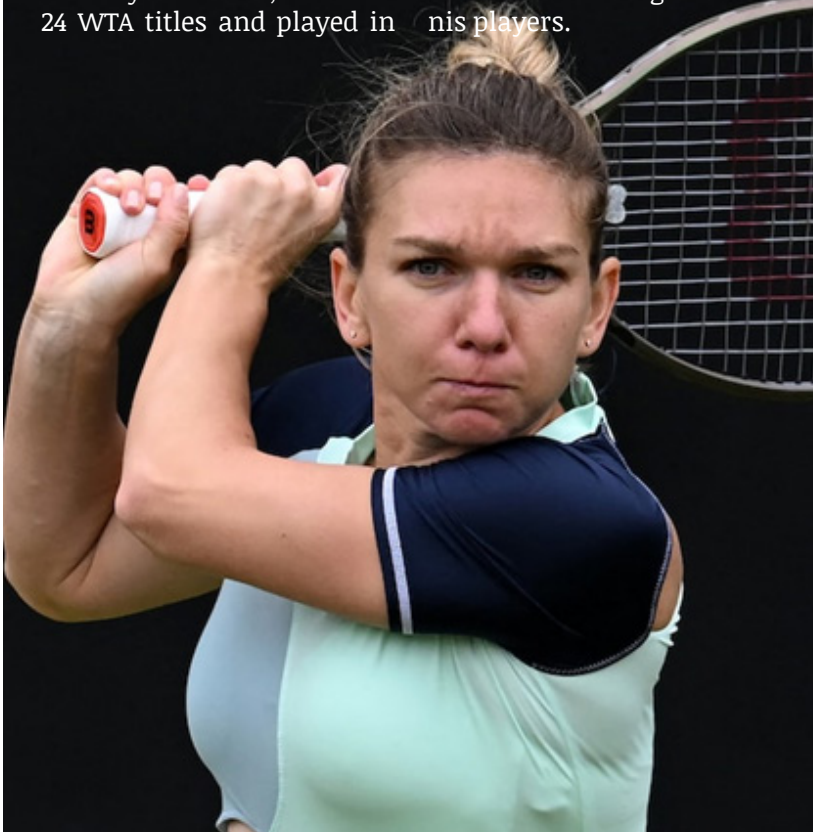
With this victory, MI Cape Town advances to the final at Wanderers on Saturday, while Paarl Royals will play in Qualifier 2 on Thursday for another shot at the title. Delano Potgieter was named Player of the Match for his all-round performance.

## Simona Halep Announces Retirement After Emotional Home Defeat

Former world number one Simona Halep has announced her retirement from professional tennis, following a 6-1, 6-1 first-round defeat at the WTA Cluj-Napoca tournament in Romania. The 33-year-old addressed her home crowd, revealing that her body could no longer keep up with the demands of the sport. "I don't know if it is with joy or sadness that I speak to you, but I made this decision with a clear conscience. My body no longer follows, but today I wanted to play and say my goodbyes on the court," Halep said to an emotional Romanian audience. A Storied Career Comes to an End

three other Grand Slam finals (French Open 2014, 2017; Australian Open 2018). Doping Controversy and Comeback Struggles Halep's career took a dramatic turn in 2022 when she tested positive for roxadustat, a banned substance. She was handed a four-year ban, later reduced to nine months after appealing to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). Despite maintaining her innocence, Halep struggled to regain form upon her return in March 2024.

Citing persistent knee and shoulder pain, she withdrew from the 2025 Australian Open qualifiers. Her loss at Cluj-Napoca marked the end of her career, as she struggled to reclaim the dominance that once made her a household name in women's tennis. With her farewell on home soil, Simona Halep leaves behind a remarkable legacy, inspiring future generations of Romanian and global tennis players.



## Ranji Trophy Quarterfinal: Mumbai vs Haryana Shifted to Eden Gardens

The Ranji Trophy quarterfinal clash between defending champions Mumbai and Haryana has been shifted from Lahli to Eden Gardens, Kolkata, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) confirmed. The quarterfinals will be five-day matches, scheduled from February 8 to 12. While the BCCI has not provided an official reason for the venue change, it is believed that receding winter conditions in northern India, particularly morning fog in Lahli, could have disrupted the match proceedings.

### Mumbai vs Haryana: A High-Stakes Clash

Mumbai, the most successful team in Ranji history with 42 titles, will have a star-studded lineup, including:

- Suryakumar Yadav (India's T20 captain)
- Ajinkya Rahane (Skipper)



- Shivam Dube (All-rounder)
  - Shardul Thakur (Pacer)
- Haryana, on the other hand, will be banking on its pace sensation Anshul Kamboj, who has been in brilliant form this season.

### Other Quarterfinal Fixtures

Apart from the Mumbai-Haryana clash, the other three Ranji Trophy quarterfinals will take place at the following venues:

- Saurashtra vs Gujarat – Rajkot
- Vidarbha vs Tamil Nadu – Nagpur
- Jammu & Kashmir vs Kerala – Pune

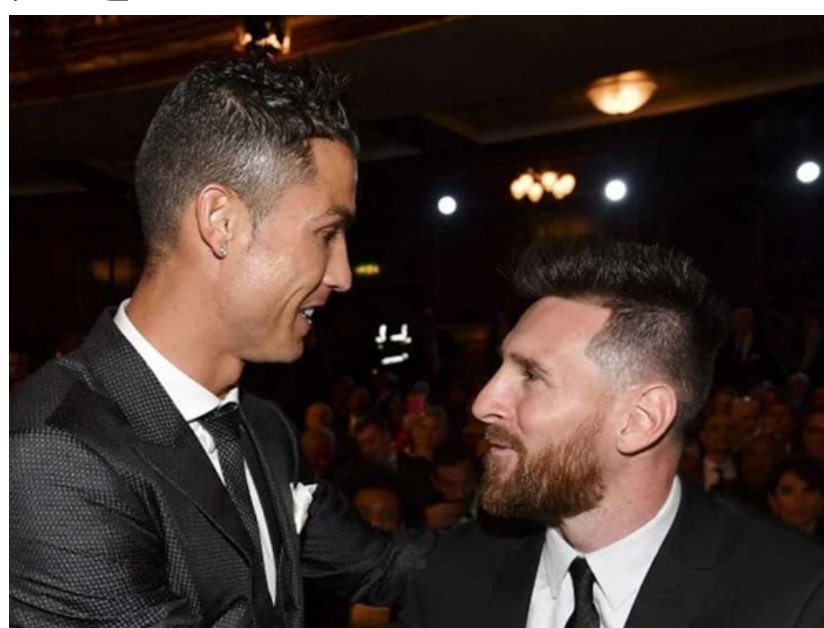
With the quarterfinals promising intense competition, fans can expect thrilling cricket as teams battle for a place in the semifinals.

## Cristiano Ronaldo on Ballon d'Or: "You Can't Win," Questions Award's Credibility

Football superstar Cristiano Ronaldo has spoken candidly about the Ballon d'Or awards, acknowledging that he used to feel frustrated when Lionel Messi won the prestigious honor more times than him. However, he now believes the award has lost its credibility, stating that Real Madrid's Vinicius Jr. deserved to win in 2024 over Manchester City's Rodri.

In an interview with Spanish outlet La Sexta, Ronaldo admitted that while he used to be angry when Messi edged him in the Ballon d'Or race, he has now come to terms with it.

"There is no credibility, Vinicius should be the Ballon d'Or winner. I have felt it many times and I felt angry. Over time I understood it, these are battles that you cannot win," said Ronaldo.



### Ronaldo: "I Am the Most Complete Player"

When asked about his position in football history, Ronaldo confidently declared himself the "most complete" player ever, despite fans debating between Messi, Pele, and Maradona.

"Taste is one thing, whether you prefer Messi, Pele, or Maradona, I hear it and I respect it. But to say that Cristiano isn't complete is a lie. I'm the most complete. I don't see anyone better than me, and I say that with all my heart," he stated.

At 39 years old, Ronaldo continues to play at the highest level

with Al Nassr in Saudi Arabia, proving his longevity in football. His comments have reignited discussions on the GOAT debate, with fans and pundits weighing in on his legacy compared to Messi's.

Despite winning the Ballon d'Or five times, Ronaldo trails Messi, who has won the award eight times, further intensifying the long-standing rivalry between the two legends.



## Marvel Unveils First Teaser for 'The Fantastic Four: First Steps' – Meet the New Superheroes

Marvel Studios has finally released the first teaser for its highly anticipated film, 'The Fantastic Four: First Steps', offering fans a glimpse into the retrofuturistic world of the iconic superhero team. The film is set to hit theatres in July this year and marks the grand introduction of the Fantastic Four into the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU).

The teaser opens with Reed Richards (Mr. Fantastic) and Sue Storm (Invisible Woman) walking a guest through their headquarters at the Baxter Building, while H.E.R.B.I.E. (the robotic assistant) and Ben Grimm (The Thing) prepare a meal.

One of the standout moments of the teaser is an emotional exchange between Reed and Sue as they reflect on their past transformations.

"Before we went up the first time, you couldn't turn invisible, Ben wasn't a rock, and Johnny never caught fire," says Reed. "Ben has always been a rock. Johnny is... Johnny. And I am right here. Whatever life throws at us, we'll face it together, as a family," Sue replies.

Other thrilling visuals include Johnny Storm (Human Torch) flying into outer space without a spacesuit, fire clouds over Manhattan, and John Malkovich in a mysterious role.



### Cast and Crew

The film stars Julia Garner as Shalla-Bal (a version of Silver Surfer) alongside Paul Walter-Hauser, Natasha Lyonne, and Sarah Niles. Directed by Matt Shakman (WandaVision) and written by Ric Pearson, Josh Friedman, Jeff Kaplan, and Ian Springer,

the film was shot overseas from July to November 2024.

Produced by Kevin Feige for Marvel Studios, 'The Fantastic Four: First Steps' is set in an alternate 1960s and promises to redefine the MCU's next chapter. Fans are eagerly awaiting the film's release this July.

## Asif Ali's Thriller Becomes Biggest Malayalam Hit of the Year! 6 Crore Budget, 75 Crore Box Office Collection

The Malayalam crime investigative thriller, starring Asif Ali and Anaswara Rajan, has become a massive box office success, earning over ₹75 crore despite a modest budget of ₹6-9 crore. Directed by Jofin T. Chacko and produced by Venu Kunnappilly, the film has emerged as the first blockbuster of 2025 in the

Malayalam film industry. Released on January 9, the film received immense appreciation for its gripping storyline and strong performances. The story follows police officer Vivek Gopinath, who is suspended but later assigned to a high-profile murder case. During his investigation, he discovers a connection to a 40-year-old homicide,

leading to shocking revelations.

The movie, which also features Siddique, Jagadeesh, Sai Kumar, and a special appearance by Mammooty, collected ₹50 crore in just 13 days and surpassed the ₹75 crore mark within 25 days.

Fans eagerly await its OTT release on SonyLIV later this month.



## Bada Naam Karenges OTT Release Date: When and Where to Watch it Online?



The highly anticipated series Bada Naam Karenges, produced by Rajshri Productions, is set to premiere on Sony LIV on February 7, 2025. Directed by Palash Vaswani, the series explores modern relationships, family

values, and ambition, making it a relatable watch for contemporary audiences. This marks Rajshri Productions' first OTT venture, bringing their signature storytelling style to the digital platform.

### When and Where to Watch Bada Naam Karenges?

The series will be exclusively available on Sony LIV from February 7, 2025. Subscribers of the platform can stream all episodes upon release.

### Plot and Trailer Details

The official trailer introduces a heartfelt story about love, family expectations, and dreams. The plot revolves around Rishabh and Surbhi, played by Ritik Ghanshani and Ayesha Kaduskar, as they balance their aspirations while respecting traditional values.

### Cast and Crew

The series features an ensemble cast, including Kanwaljeet Singh, Alka Amin, Rajesh Jais, Jameel Khan, Rajesh Tailang, and Anjana Sukhani. Directed by Palash Vaswani, with Sooraj Barjatya as the showrunner, the series promises a blending of emotions, drama, and romance in a fresh OTT format.

## Game Changer OTT Release: When and Where to Watch Ram Charan's Action Film Online



Ram Charan and Kiara Advani's highly anticipated political action thriller, Game Changer, is set to arrive on OTT after its theatrical release on January 10, 2025. Directed by S Shankar, the film made waves during its Sankranti release, drawing attention for its gripping storyline centered on political corruption and electoral reforms.

### When and Where to Watch Game Changer Online?

Amazon Prime Video India has officially announced that Game Changer will be available for streaming from February 7, 2025. The film will be accessible in Telugu, Tamil, and Malayalam, while the Hindi-dubbed version's release date is yet to be confirmed.

### Plot and Trailer

The teaser was unveiled at a grand event in Lucknow, attended by the film's team, including director Shankar, Ram Charan, and Kiara Advani. The movie follows Ram

Charan as an IAS officer who takes on corrupt politicians in a battle for justice and electoral transparency. The film blends high-energy action sequences with an intense political drama backdrop.

### Cast and Crew

Alongside Ram Charan and Kiara Advani, the movie features SJ Suryah, Prakash Raj, Sunil, Nassar, and Jayaram in pivotal roles. Produced by Dil Raju under Sri Venkateswara Creations, the music is composed by Thaman S.

### Box Office Performance and Reception

Game Changer opened with a ₹51.25 crore collection in India and grossed ₹130.1 crore domestically. While Ram Charan's performance received praise, the screenplay faced criticism. The film holds an IMDb rating of 6.1/10.

Fans who missed the theatrical release can now experience the action-packed Game Changer on Prime Video starting February 7, 2025.

## 'Dark' (Amazon Prime) Movie Review: A Thrilling Sci-Fi Horror Experience

The much-anticipated Tamil sci-fi horror thriller 'Black' has been released on Amazon Prime Video under the title 'Dark' in Telugu. Originally hitting theatres on October 11, 2024, the film gained widespread attention, grossing ₹50 crore worldwide against a modest ₹5 crore budget.

Directed by KG Balasubramani, 'Dark' seamlessly blends science fiction and supernatural horror. The story revolves around Vasanth (Jeeva) and Aranya (Priya Bhavani Shankar), who buy a luxurious villa near Chennai for a romantic getaway.

However, their dream vacation soon turns into a nightmare as they experience strange occurrences, eerie noises, and an unseen presence watching them. Their investigations lead them to a shocking mystery from 1964, connecting their fate to a gruesome double murder.

With stunning cinematography by Gokul Benoy, haunting music by Sam CS, and engaging performances, 'Dark' delivers a gripping thriller. Fans of sci-fi horror can now stream it on Amazon Prime Video.

Rating: \*\*\* (3/5)

