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Pawan Kalyan Ramps Up Focus Amid Rising Competition with Lokesh in TDP-Jana Sena Alliance

TPN Bureau | January 22

Amravati: Once seen as a part-time politician balancing films and rallies, Jana Sena Party chief and Panchayat Raj Minister Pawan Kalyan is undergoing a dramatic transformation. After winning the 2024 elections, he completed his pending movie commitments and now dedicates full attention to his portfolios and party work.

This shift comes amid reports of pending files in his department, where Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu ranked him low twice. Fans expressed disappointment, but insiders

clarify it's not inefficiency rather, a backlog overload shared with Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav.

Pawan has decided to spend four days a week at the Secretariat to clear files personally. Additionally, he plans weekly visits to districts for party outreach, delighting Jana Sena cadres who hail his renewed vigor. Political analysts point to intensifying competition with TDP general secretary Nara Lokesh as a key driver. Despite no official cabinet post, Lokesh wields significant influence, shadowing his father CM Naidu in key decisions. Minister T.G. Bharat has twice publicly endorsed Lokesh as the "future

CM," a bold claim unlikely without top leadership nod. Meanwhile, Pawan repeatedly emphasizes "Chandrababu for CM for 15 years," fueling speculation about alliance dynamics. Lokesh grabs headlines with high-profile moves: securing Google's data center for Andhra Pradesh, Davos visits to attract investments, and closeness to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Pawan's response? A self-reinvention to showcase administrative prowess. His rural-focused Panchayat Raj initiatives resonate deeply with village voters, creating strong grassroots impact. Yet, Pawan's unmatched mass appeal and crowd-pulling power

er remain unrivaled—no one matches his star power from three decades in cinema. Lokesh, however, enjoys edge among educated urban middle-class and NDA supporters, where loyalties are split. In TDP, Lokesh is mentally fixed as Naidu's successor; cheers would greet him as CM. Jana Sena loyalists dismiss comparisons, insisting Pawan stands alone. Coalition-wide, full backing for Lokesh as CM remains elusive. As time passes, this healthy rivalry will intensify, analysts predict. By next year, it could redefine power equations in the NDA government, with both leaders vying to prove their mettle ahead of future polls.



Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh Eyes Social Media Ban for Minors, Inspired by Australia, at Davos Summit

TPN Bureau | January 22:

Davos, Switzerland: Andhra Pradesh Minister for Information Technology, Electronics, and Communications Nara Lokesh has announced that the state government is considering strict regulations on social media use for children under 16, drawing inspiration from Australia's recent nationwide ban implemented in December.

Speaking at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Lokesh emphasized the need for protective measures amid growing concerns over young users' vulnerability to online content. Lokesh, part of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's delegation focused on attracting investments, addressed a Bloomberg session where he highlighted the risks posed by social media platforms.

"Youth under a certain age should not be on such platforms because they cannot fully comprehend the content they are exposed to," he stated. "There-

fore, a strong, legal framework may be necessary. We are thinking along those lines." This proposal aligns with global trends, as Australia became the first country to enforce a blanket prohibition on social media for those under 16, aiming to shield minors from cyberbullying, misinformation, and addictive algorithms.

The minister's remarks come as Andhra Pradesh pushes for digital reforms alongside economic growth. Naidu and Lokesh's Davos visit underscores the state's aggressive investment drive, with discussions on infrastructure, IT hubs, and skill development. Lokesh also held a bilateral meeting with Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, who is attending the summit separately.

Sharing a post on his social media accounts, Lokesh detailed their constructive talks on education reforms, IT growth, and skill enhancement. "We discussed educational reforms, IT development, and skill-building in both states," Lokesh

posted. "I believe, with mutual cooperation, the two Telugu states will grow the fastest in the country."

While we compete for investments as separate states, we are working together to become number one in India. "This inter-state collaboration signals a maturing political dynamic between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, despite historical rivalries post-2014 bifurcation. Both leaders stressed synergy over competition, positioning the Telugu-speaking regions as India's emerging growth engines.

Lokesh's social media initiative, if implemented, could set a precedent for other Indian states, potentially involving age verification tech and parental controls, though enforcement challenges remain.

Experts welcome the move but caution on balancing child safety with digital access. As Davos wraps up, Andhra Pradesh eyes concrete investment deals to fuel its vision of a tech-driven future.

Advertisement for Kisan Drones featuring logos of Andhra Pradesh Drones Corporation and NCHER, text in Telugu, and images of a drone in a field.

Tragic Army Vehicle Crash in Jammu & Kashmir's Doda District Claims 10 Lives

TPN Bureau | January 22

Doda, Jammu & Kashmir: In a heart-wrenching incident, a bullet-proof vehicle carrying Indian Army personnel plunged into a deep gorge in the rugged terrain of Doda district, killing at least 10 soldiers and injuring several others. The accident occurred on the Bhaderwah-Chamba road near the Khanni mountain area, highlighting the perilous challenges faced by security forces in the region's treacherous mountainous landscape.

Officials confirmed that the vehicle, en route for routine security operations, lost control and tumbled into the valley around midday. Preliminary reports indicate that 17 army personnel were aboard the armored vehicle at the time of the mishap. The steep drop and rough terrain complicated immediate access, but rescue teams swung into action without delay. The Indian Army, in coordination with local police and emergency services, launched a swift joint rescue operation.

Helicopters were deployed to airlift the injured, while ground

teams navigated the difficult slopes to recover the deceased. The injured soldiers were promptly transported to the Military Hospital in Udhampur for urgent medical attention. As of late afternoon, medical authorities reported that several victims were in critical condition, undergoing surgery for multiple injuries including fractures and internal trauma.

Eyewitnesses described a scene of chaos amid the remote Himalayan foothills. "We heard a loud crash echoing through the valley, followed by shouts for help," said a local shepherd who alerted authorities. The Bhaderwah-Chamba road, a vital artery connecting remote border areas, is notorious for its narrow, winding paths prone to landslides and poor visibility, especially during winter when snow and fog reduce traction.

This tragedy comes amid heightened security deployments in Jammu & Kashmir, where the Army continues counter-terrorism operations in forested and high-altitude zones. Doda district, part of the Chenab Valley, has seen sporadic militant activity, making patrolling routes like this one critical yet hazardous.

Army spokesperson Colonel RK Singh expressed profound grief, stating, "We mourn the loss of our brave soldiers who selflessly serve the nation. An investigation into the cause of the accident is underway, with mechanical failure and road conditions under scrutiny." Political leaders across the spectrum offered condolences.

Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah called it a "senseless loss," vowing support for the bereaved families. Union Home Minister Amit Shah directed all agencies to expedite relief efforts and ensure top care for the wounded. The Indian Army has a storied history of resilience in such unforgiving terrains, but accidents like this underscore the human cost of duty.

Tributes poured in on social media, with #RIPJawan trending as citizens honored the fallen heroes. Rescue operations continue into the evening, with officials promising a thorough probe to prevent future mishaps.

The nation stands in solidarity with the Army, remembering the ultimate sacrifice of those who guard its frontiers.



Pawan Kalyan Inaugurates Key Road Project After Darshan at Kotappakonda Temple

TPN Bureau | January 22, 2026

Narasaraopet, Andhra Pradesh: Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan visited the revered Kotappakonda Trikoteswara Swamy temple in Narasaraopet, blending spiritual reverence with developmental initiatives. Arriving by helicopter amid tight security, Kalyan was warmly welcomed by local officials, temple authorities, and public representatives, marking a significant moment for the region's devotees and residents.

The actor-turned-politician, known for his Janasena Party's pivotal role in the state's NDA government, headed straight to the temple



atop Kotappakonda hill. The site, a major pilgrimage center in Palnadu district, draws lakhs of devotees annually for its ancient Trikoteswara Swamy shrine, dedicated to Lord Shiva. Special poojas were performed in the deputy CM's honor, with priests conducting rituals amid chants

of "Jai Shri Ram" and traditional Vedic hymns. Kalyan offered prayers for the state's prosperity, emphasizing the role of faith in public service during a brief interaction with temple staff. Post-darshan, Kalyan turned to infrastructure development, inaugurating the newly constructed Ko-

tappakonda-Kothapalem road, a 20-km stretch built at a cost of 5 crores under the state government's rural connectivity drive. The project, funded through the Andhra Pradesh Road and Infrastructure Development Corporation (APRIDC), addresses long-standing connectivity issues in

the hilly terrain. Previously plagued by potholes and landslides, the upgraded black-topped road now features drainage systems, safety barriers, and signage, slashing travel time between the temple and nearby villages by over 30 minutes. Speaking at the event, Kalyan highlight-

ed the YSRCP-NDA coalition's commitment to Amaravati's growth and rural Andhra Pradesh. "Temples like Kotappakonda are our cultural heartbeat, and roads like this are the arteries connecting our people to progress," he said. He announced plans for further enhancements, including

solar-powered lighting and eco-friendly pathways to boost tourism. Local MLA and district officials praised the initiative, noting it would benefit over 50,000 pilgrims and farmers in surrounding mandals. The visit underscores Kalyan's hands-on approach to governance, aligning spiritual out-

reach with tangible welfare. As Andhra Pradesh pushes for balanced development post-bifurcation, such projects signal renewed focus on Palnadu's infrastructure. Kalyan departed after interacting with locals, promising more schemes for irrigation and education in the region.

Another Amrit Bharat Express Allocated to Telugu States, Linking Charlapalli to Thiruvananthapuram

TPN Bureau | January 22, 2026

Guntur: In a boost for rail connectivity in South India, the Railway Ministry has allocated a new Amrit Bharat Express train to Telangana, running between Charlapalli Junction and Thiruvananthapuram. The decision promises enhanced travel options for passengers across Telugu states, with stops in key stations of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to flag off the train from Thiru-



vananthapuram on Friday morning. The super-fast service will depart

Thiruvananthapuram at 10:45 AM and arrive at Charlapalli the next day

at 4:30 PM, covering approximately 1,800 kilometers in under 30 hours.

In Telangana, it will halt at Nalgonda and Miryalaguda, while in Andhra Pradesh, stops include Sattenapalli, Guntur, Tenali, Bapatla, Ongole, Nellore, and Renigunta.

This route is expected to benefit commuters traveling between Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana for business, education, and tourism. Union Minister G Kishan Reddy expressed gratitude to PM Modi for the allocation, highlighting it as a key step in improving rail infrastructure for the region.

"This new Amrit Bharat Express will provide modern amenities and faster connectivity to southern destinations," Reddy posted on social media. Amrit Bharat Express trains, introduced by the central government, are designed for long-distance travel with passenger-friendly features like non-AC chair car coaches, swivel seats, rotatable chairs for families, and ample luggage space. They prioritize affordability and comfort for middle-class travelers heading to distant regions. This

marks the second such train for Telangana. The existing Charlapalli-Muzaffarpur Amrit Bharat Express already operates successfully, departing Charlapalli at 4:05 AM daily. It passes through Kazipet, Peddapalli, Ramagundam, and Sirpur Kagaznagar in Telangana before entering Maharashtra, reaching Muzaffarpur in Bihar the next evening at 4:00 PM. Since its launch, it has gained popularity among migrants and students connecting the Deccan Plateau to northern In-

dia. Railway officials note that these trains align with the Modi government's push for Vande Bharat and Amrit Bharat networks, aiming to cover 5,000 kilometers by 2026. Enhanced stops in Guntur and Nellore will ease congestion on existing routes like the Chennai-Kolkata corridor. Passengers in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana welcome the development amid growing demand for efficient public transport. Bookings for the new service open soon via IRCTC.

Andhra Pradesh Agriculture Director Reviews e-Crop App, Promotes Drone Services in Guntur Field Visit

TPN Bureau | January 22, 2026

Pedakakani (Guntur): In a hands-on demonstration of digital farming tools, Director of Agriculture Dr. Manazir Jeeleeni Samoon, IAS, inspected the upgraded e-Crop App's Digital Crop Survey (DCS) process today in a maize field at Pedakakani village, Guntur district.

The visit focused on real-time tracking and farmer verification systems under the Rabi 2025-26 season, emphasizing Andhra Pradesh's push towards tech-driven agriculture. Accompanied by Mandal Agriculture Officer K. Ramanakumar, Dr. Samoon reviewed the modernized e-Crop Web and Mobile Application on the farm of Sri Ala Malleswara Rao.

He closely examined the three-stage SMS alert mechanism designed to streamline crop registration: Field visits and initial registration by Rythu Seva Kendra (RSK) Assistants. Instant SMS notifications post-booking, including crop details and a verification web link. Farmer confirmation via the link, fol-



lowed by e-KYC completion and a success SMS. Verifying these alerts on Rao's phone, the Director ensured seamless data upload and farmer accessibility. This system aims to enhance transparency and efficiency in crop surveys across the state. Engaging with local farmers like Pendyala Srikanth, Bezawada Raghavarao, Akula Saibabu, and Punarao, Dr. Samoon discussed cultivation best practices.

Farmers raised requests for subsidized agricultural machinery, to which he responded positively, assuring provision in the coming days. He confirmed universal adoption of unique Andhra Pradesh Farmer Registry (APFR) IDs and

proper crediting of Anadata Sukhibhava and PM-KISAN benefits. Addressing fertilizer concerns, the Director probed availability, supply, and pricing for the Rabi season. He warned against urea overuse, stressing soil health and adherence to recommended dosages to prevent crop damage. A highlight was the promotion of "Kisan Drones" – an app mirroring cab-booking convenience for drone services statewide.

"Farmers can avail these from anywhere via the Play Store or QR code scan," Dr. Samoon said, underscoring the ubiquity of drone technology for precision agriculture like spraying and monitoring.



TTD Chairman Assures Grand Rathasapthami Celebrations at Tirumala on January 25

TPN Bureau | January 22, 2026

Tirumala: Preparations for the Rathasapthami festivities at the sanctum sanctorum of Lord Venkateswara in Tirumala on January 25 are complete, assured Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Chairman B.R. Naidu. Speaking at a media conference held at Annamayya Bhavan in Tirumala, Naidu, joined by EO Anil Kumar Singhal, Additional EO Venkayya

Chowdary, and board members, detailed the elaborate arrangements to ensure a seamless and divine experience for devotees.

On Rathasapthami day, Malayappa Swamy will grace devotees atop seven celestial vehicles. The celebrations kick off at 5:30 AM with the Suryaprabha Vahana Seva and conclude at night with the Chandraprabha Vahana Seva. "We successfully conducted

Vaikuntha Dwaram darshans and Brahmotsavams with grandeur. Similarly, we will celebrate Rathasapthami in full splendor," Naidu declared.

Anticipating heavy crowds, TTD has suspended Sarvadarshanam (SSO) token issuance in Tirupati from January 24 to 26. To feed the influx of pilgrims, annarasadam distribution is set up across four madaveedhis, with 3,700 Seva volunteers serving 14 varieties of dish-

es. Security is bolstered with 1,260 police personnel and 1,200 vigilance staff. AP-SRTC will operate 2,300 special bus trips to facilitate smooth transport.

Adding vibrancy, 56 kalabrandams will perform captivating cultural programs and exhibitions ahead of the vahana processions. Naidu estimated around 2.50 lakh devotees will attend the festivities. Earlier, Naidu personally inspected the four madaveedhis in Tirumala alongside TTD officials.

He held discussions with vigilance authorities and devotee amenities and issued several directives to enhance convenience and safety. The Rathasapthami festival, marking the sun god's birthday, holds immense spiritual significance, drawing thousands seeking blessings for health and prosperity.



Visakhapatnam Railway Station Introduces India's First Robot Cop for Enhanced Security

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Visakhapatnam: In a groundbreaking move for passenger safety, the Visakhapatnam Railway Station has deployed India's first Robot Cop under the Railway Protection Force (RPF). Named "Arjun," the robot was inaugurated today by RPF Inspector General Alok Bohra and Waltair Division DRM Lalith Bohra. This marks the inaugural use of robotic services in the Indian Railways system, positioning Visakhapatnam as a pioneer in modernizing railway security.

The ceremony, held at the bustling station, highlighted the robot's advanced capabilities. Programmed to re-

spond instantly to emergencies or suspicious activities, Arjun patrols platforms, detects anomalies via AI-driven cameras and sensors, and alerts RPF personnel in real-time. Beyond security, it offers multilingual guidance for passengers, including directions, train updates, and lost-and-found assistance.

"Arjun symbolizes our commitment to leveraging technology for safer travels," said IG Alok Bohra during the launch. Visakhapatnam Railway Station, a vital hub in north Andhra Pradesh, handles hundreds of trains daily and sees thousands of commuters. Its strategic importance amplifies the need for robust security measures amid rising

footfall.

Railway officials have long invested in upgrades like CCTV networks, escalators, and waiting lounges. The Robot Cop introduction builds on these efforts, promising proactive threat mitigation and improved services. Passengers welcomed the innovation with enthusiasm. "It's reassuring to see tech stepping in for our safety feels like the future has arrived," said Rajesh Kumar, a frequent traveler from Vijayawada.

Another commuter, Lakshmi Devi, added, "With Arjun around, women and families can travel worry-free." Early trials demonstrated the robot navigating crowded areas efficiently, scan-



ning for unattended bags, and even providing COVID-19 protocol reminders. This deployment aligns with Indian Railways' push toward smart infrastructure under initiatives like Amrit Bharat Stations.

Chittoor Authorities Crack Down on YSRCP-Era Road Project

TPN Bureau | January 22, 2026

Chittoor: In a major move against alleged corruption during the previous YSRCP regime, officials at the Chittoor Collectorate are taking stringent action on substandard works executed with NTR Trust Beneficiary (NTB) funds. Twelve Roads and Buildings (R&B) department officials, including six Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs), four Deputy Executive Engineers (DEEs), and two Executive Engineers (EEs), face suspension recommendations following a vigilance probe.

Special Principal Secretary for the department, MT Krishna Babu, issued directives on Wednesday to serve show-cause notices, review their explanations, and proceed with further disciplinary measures. The irregularities surfaced in projects across Punganuru, Palamaneru, and Pileru constituencies, where works violated quality norms and tender rules. Last month on December 18, actions were al-

ready initiated against 11 R&B officials and staff for similar lapses.

Notably, even quality control (QC) wing employees, tasked with ensuring standards, have been implicated, highlighting systemic oversight failures. At the heart of the controversy is a 126.10 crore joint venture contract awarded to Raghav Constructions, linked to the family of Punganuru YSRCP leader and close aide of former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy.

The firm partnered with a local YSRCP leader's family entity for road expansion and bridge construction across eight stretches in unified Chittoor district: Devadoddi-Lakkanapalle, Puttalapattukonda, Puttalapattukonda, Puttalapattu-Ramapuram, Choudipalle-Boyakonda, Nagalapuram-Chinna Panduru, Damalacheruvu-Nendragram, Sri Kalahasti-Musalipeta, and Sullurupeta-Santaveluru. Critics had long alleged inflated estimates and favoritism, claiming the contract was secured



through "carrot and stick" tactics despite higher bids. The alliance government, upon assuming power, ordered a vigilance inquiry into the quality complaints. The probe confirmed use of inferior concrete and unnecessary materials to inflate bills, recommending recovery of 38.95 lakh from contractors.

It held the 12 officials accountable for approving shoddy work and falsified bills under NTB funds meant for public welfare. "This is part of our commit-

ment to transparency and accountability," a senior R&B official told Eenadu and NewsToday at the Chittoor Collectorate. "No one will be spared, regardless of political affiliations." The developments echo broader scrutiny of YSRCP-era infrastructure projects across Andhra Pradesh, where substandard execution has led to multiple probes and recoveries.

Opposition YSRCP leaders dismissed the actions as "political vendetta," urging an independent audit. However, authorities em-

phasized that evidence from site inspections and material tests leaves no room for leniency. The 12 officials have been asked to submit explanations within a week, with suspensions likely if responses are unsatisfactory.

This case underscores ongoing efforts to reclaim public funds and restore infrastructure integrity in the region. As investigations deepen, more revelations could emerge, potentially implicating higher-ups.

TDP Leader Slams YSRCP for Smearing CM Chandrababu's Davos Visit, Highlights Investment Push



TPN Bureau | January 22, 2026

Tirupati: Shop Chairman Ravi Naidu sharply condemned YSRCP leaders for spreading malicious propaganda against Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh's ongoing Davos visit. Speaking to reporters at Tirupati Press Club on Thursday, Naidu accused the opposition of undermining the state's growth ambitions out of petty politics.

Naidu emphasized that Naidu's primary goal is to attract investments in cutting-edge sectors like green energy, green ammonia, green hydrogen, artificial intelligence (AI), quantum computing, and biotechnology. "These initiatives will drive Andhra Pradesh's development and create jobs for the youth," he said, positioning the Davos trip as a strate-

gic move to position the state on the global investment map.

He launched a pointed attack on former IT Minister Guduvada Amarnath, claiming the YSRCP regime under YS Jagan Mohan Reddy failed to bring even a single industry to the state during its tenure. In contrast, Naidu praised Chandrababu's track record—first in united Andhra Pradesh and later in bifurcated Andhra—where he successfully lured IT firms and laid the foundation for industrial growth.

"Chandrababu Naidu built the ecosystem that propelled our IT sector forward," Naidu asserted. Turning to the YSRCP's five-year rule (2019-2024), Naidu alleged it was marred by "murder politics, destruction, arrests, threats, and loot." He claimed investments worth Rs 10 lakh crore fled the state due to

policy instability and governance failures. "Instead of progress, Jagan's era chased away opportunities," he remarked.

Naidu highlighted Chandrababu's previous term (2014-2019), during which the TDP government generated 5.13 lakh jobs, underscoring a commitment to employment. He urged the public to support the current NDA government's vision for sustainable growth over divisive tactics. The remarks come amid heightened political rhetoric, with Naidu's Davos engagements focusing on pitching Andhra's investor-friendly policies at the World Economic Forum. YSRCP has yet to respond to these allegations. Ravi Naidu's press meet reflects TDP's aggressive counter-narrative ahead of key assembly sessions, aiming to reclaim credit for economic revival.

Pawan Kalyan Hails Jana Sena Cadres as Sentinels Protecting Amaravati, Slams Smear Campaigns

TPN Bureau | January 22, 2026

Amaravati: Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party president Pawan Kalyan on Thursday praised the unwavering vigilance of the party's "jan sainiks" (people's soldiers), brave women, and leaders who are steadfastly safeguarding Amaravati from the evil eyes of destructive forces. Speaking at a meeting with senior Jana Sena leaders here, he commended their relentless efforts amid ongoing challenges.

The gathering focused on party organizational matters, where Pawan provided clear directions to cadres on strengthening the grassroots structure. In his address, he expressed strong outrage over recent attempts by hired speakers and certain media outlets to tarnish the party's image.

"These elements are conspiring to drag personal disputes, financial transactions, and caste differences into the party's narrative," Pawan charged, urging leaders to remain vigilant. He specifically highlighted malicious efforts to fabricate scandals involving extramarital affairs and pin them



on Jana Sena.

"Such baseless propaganda is not just an attack on individuals but a deliberate ploy to undermine public service," he asserted. Pawan called for a firm, collective condemnation of these tactics, emphasizing that they distract from the greater good of public welfare. Reaffirming the party's commitment, the Deputy CM declared that Jana Sena's journey remains unstoppable, guided solely by constitutional values and selfless public service.

"We will not deviate from our path, no matter the hurdles," he said, invoking the spirit of resilience that defines the party's ethos. Pawan extended heartfelt gratitude to every Jana Sena worker standing as a pillar of support—like a shadow that never leaves. Their dedication, he noted, has been crucial in protecting key initiatives, including Amaravati's development amid political turbulence.

This comes at a time when Andhra Pradesh's capital region faces heightened scrutiny over land disputes, infrastructure projects, and governance under the NDA alliance. The meeting underscores Jana Sena's internal consolidation strategy as the party plays a pivotal role in the state government.

Pawan's remarks also signal a proactive stance against disinformation, especially with upcoming electoral cycles on the horizon. Party sources indicate more such organizational meets are planned to boost morale and counter opposition narratives. Jana Sena's rise under Pawan's leadership has been marked by its focus on anti-corruption, farmer welfare, and urban development.

Recent controversies, including protests over Amaravati's three-capital proposal reversal, have tested the alliance, but Pawan's speech reinforces unity and

Vijayasai Reddy Appears Before ED in AP Liquor Scam Probe Amid Money Laundering Allegations

TPN Bureau | January 22, 2026

Hyderabad: Former Rajya Sabha MP and YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leader V. Vijayasai Reddy appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) here today for questioning in the high-profile Andhra Pradesh liquor scam case. Reddy arrived at the ED's zonal office in Hyderabad around 10 AM, marking a significant development in the ongoing investigation into alleged irregularities in the state's liquor trade during the previous YSRCP regime.

The ED has issued multiple summons to Reddy in recent weeks, accusing him of involvement in money laundering linked to the multi-crore scam. Investigations allege that private players manipulated liquor tenders and licenses between 2019 and 2024, generating illicit proceeds estimated at over 3,500 crore.

These funds were purportedly laundered through shell companies, hawala networks, and benami properties across Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and beyond. Reddy, a close aide to former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, has been named in the chargesheet for his alleged role in facilitating these deals.

This is not Reddy's first brush with the probe. He previously deposed before a Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted by the Andhra Pradesh government under Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. During those sessions, Reddy reportedly disclosed details about tender processes and financial transactions, though he denied any wrongdoing.

Sources indicate today's ED interrogation, lasting over four hours, focused on specific bank transactions, property deals in Amaravati and Vijayawa-



da, and his connections to key accused like Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy and others. The liquor policy scam has rocked Andhra Pradesh politics since the TDP-led coalition came to power in 2024.

The ED's parallel probe under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) complements the state ACB's FIRs, with over 20 arrests made so far. Crit-

ics from YSRCP claim it's a vendetta by the NDA government, while TDP leaders hail it as a crackdown on corruption. Reddy exited the ED office without commenting to waiting media but issued a statement via X (formerly Twitter), calling the summons "politically motivated" and vowing full cooperation. "Truth will prevail,"

he posted. The ED is expected to summon more YSRCP figures soon, intensifying scrutiny on the party's financial dealings. As Andhra Pradesh gears up for potential by-elections and local body polls, this case could reshape political alliances in the state. The coming days will reveal if Reddy's revelations lead to bigger breakthroughs.

TDP MLC Anuradha Slams Jagan's Padayatra: 'People Won't Trust Even If He Crawls on body'

TPN Bureau | January 22, 2026

Amaravati: Telugu Desam Party (TDP) MLC Panchumarthi Anuradha launched a scathing attack on former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, dismissing his ongoing padayatra as futile. Speaking at a public meeting here today, Anuradha declared that no amount of symbolic marches not even with "porlu dandalu" (a reference to cultural processions) would win back public trust.

"Jagan's padayatra isn't fooling anyone; even if he marches with porlu dandals, people won't believe him," she asserted. Anuradha accused the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) of a tyrannical five-year rule that left Andhra Pradesh in ruins. "People are still reeling from YSRCP's oppressive governance."

For five years in power, their leaders sucked the state dry like leeches," she said, painting a grim picture of unfulfilled promises and eco-

nomics mismanagement. She specifically targeted Jagan for failing to deliver on election pledges made during his 2019 campaign, questioning how he could now face the public.

"Jagan gave promises he never kept—how does he dare step into the people's midst now?" Her remarks come amid Jagan's renewed padayatra across Andhra Pradesh, a strategy reminiscent of his 2017-2019 marches that propelled YSRCP to

power. Critics like Anuradha argue it's a desperate bid to reclaim relevance after the party's humiliating defeat in the 2024 elections, where the TDP-led NDA alliance swept to victory under N. Chandrababu Naidu.

Anuradha emphasized public yearning for stable governance. "The people want the coalition's steady administration for the state's development," she stated, highlighting TDP's focus on infrastructure, welfare schemes, and Amaravati's revival as the capital. She pointed to ongoing projects like the Amaravati Master Plan and irrigation initiatives as proof of NDA's commitment, contrasting them with YSRCP's alleged "arachaaka palana" (dictatorial rule).

The event drew hundreds of TDP supporters in Amaravati, a re-

gion central to the state's political battles. Anuradha's speech underscores escalating pre-election rhetoric, with TDP positioning itself as the champion of progress against YSRCP's "betrayals." As Andhra Pradesh gears up for potential bypolls and local body elections, such exchanges signal a polarized landscape.

Political analysts note that Jagan's padayatra aims to reconnect with rural voters disillusioned by three-capital flip-flops and debt accumulation under YSRCP. However, TDP's narrative of accountability resonates in urban centers like Amaravati, where development delays remain a flashpoint.

TDP leaders plan more such rallies to counter Jagan's outreach, betting on governance records to sway voters.



AP Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha Meets Inspirational Constable Jayashanti Over Breakfast in Vijayawada

Vijayawada: In a heartwarming gesture that underscores appreciation for grassroots heroism, Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha met Constable Jayashanti, a traffic police officer from Rangampeta, over breakfast on Thursday morning. The meeting, held at the minister's residence, celebrated Jayashanti's recent act of extraordinary duty that went viral on social media.

dettered by the chaos, the constable not only rescued the infant cradling it safely in her arms but also managed to regulate the bustling traffic single-handedly until reinforcements arrived. Videos of the incident, showing her balancing maternal care with professional responsibility, quickly spread across platforms, earning widespread praise for her composure and compassion. Learning of the feat two days ago, Minister Anitha personally called Jayashanti to congratulate her. During their conversation, the constable expressed her desire to meet the minister in



person. True to her responsive style, Anitha promptly invited her over, turning a simple phone call into a memorable encounter. The duo shared a modest breakfast, where the minister inquired about Jayashanti's family welfare, job challenges, and personal aspirations. "I am overjoyed to meet you, Madam Min-

ister. This is a dream come true," Jayashanti said, her eyes lighting up with gratitude. She shared how the minister's recognition had boosted her morale amid the demanding nature of police work. Anitha, known for her hands-on approach to public welfare, responded warmly: "Officers like Jayashanti are the

true backbone of our force. Her actions reflect the spirit of service that Andhra Pradesh police embody. We will ensure her family's well-being and consider ways to support such dedicated personnel." The meeting highlights Anitha's commitment to frontline workers, especially women in uniform, at a

time when Andhra Pradesh is ramping up policing reforms under Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's leadership. Since assuming office, the Home Minister has prioritized welfare schemes for police families, including health insurance expansions and housing support. Jayashanti's story

aligns perfectly with these initiatives, serving as a real-world example of the 'service above self' ethos the government promotes. Hailing from Rangampeta in East Godavari district, Jayashanti joined the Andhra Pradesh Police as a constable after years of rigorous training. Colleagues describe her as reliable and empathetic, often going beyond the call of duty in community policing. Her recent heroics have inspired fellow officers, with Vijayawada Police Commissioner A. Ravi Sankar commending her on social media: "Jayashanti ma'am sets a gold standard for all of us.

"This interaction comes amid ongoing efforts to enhance traffic management and public safety in urban hubs like Vijayawada, where congestion remains a challenge. Anitha's breakfast meet not only boosted Jayashanti's spirits but also sent a strong message to the force: dedication will be recognized and rewarded. As Andhra Pradesh pushes for modernized policing with tech integrations like AI traffic cams, stories like Jayashanti's remind us that human touch remains irreplaceable. The minister assured continued support, potentially fast-tracking family aid requests.

Vijayawada Kanaka Durga Temple Issues Urgent Alert on Fraudulent Calls Duping Devotees



TPN Bureau | January 22, 2026

Vijayawada: Cybercriminals are exploiting devotees' faith in a brazen new scam targeting the iconic Kanaka Durga Temple in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. Posing as temple officials, fraudsters are making unsolicited calls promising to deliver "Amma Vari Patthu Cheeralu" (special silk sarees blessed by Goddess Kanaka Durga) directly to homes, perform personalized pujas, or offer VIP darshan passes.

Victims are coerced into sharing bank details or making immediate UPI transfers, only to lose thousands of rupees. The temple's Executive Officer (EO), D. Mallika, confirmed the surge in complaints during a press briefing today. "These imposters use spoofed numbers mimicking official temple contacts and speak in fluent Telugu to build trust," she said.

"They claim the services are part of spe-

cial rituals ahead of upcoming festivals like Ugadi or Brahmotsavam, urging quick payments for 'limited-time blessings'." Reports indicate over 50 cases in the past week alone, with losses ranging from 5,000 to 50,000 per victim, primarily affecting elderly devotees and rural residents from Krishna and Guntur districts. Andhra Pradesh police and the temple administration have ramped up vigilance.

Vijayawada Police Commissioner A. Chaitanya Kumar warned, "Do not respond to unsolicited calls or share OTPs. Verify all requests through official channels." The temple has issued a public advisory: Services like saree bookings, special pujas, and accommodations are available exclusively via the official website (kanakadurgatemple.org) or the "Mana Mitra" WhatsApp chatbot (link available on the site). No legitimate temple service de-

mands advance payments over phone. This scam highlights a rising trend of cyber frauds preying on religious sentiments across India. Similar rackets have targeted Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams and Sabarimala in recent months, with the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) reporting a 30% spike in faith-based scams last year. Experts attribute this to AI-generated voices and deepfake caller IDs, making calls eerily authentic. Devotees are urged to report suspicious calls to 1930 (national cyber helpline) or Vijayawada police (0866-2562565). Use only verified apps for bookings. Educate family members, especially seniors. Temple authorities plan awareness campaigns via social media and local cable networks. "Bhakti should bring peace, not peril," EO Mallika emphasized. "Stay cautious, stay blessed." As Maha Kumbhabhishekam approaches

Manipal Hospital Vijayawada Launches T-Shirt and Poster for Manipal Run for Cure 2026



TPN Bureau | January 22, 2026

Vijayawada: Manipal Hospital Vijayawada, a frontrunner in healthcare services across Andhra Pradesh, unveiled the official T-shirt and poster for the "Manipal Run for Cure 2026" today. This vibrant awareness run seeks to champion a cancer-free future by spotlighting prevention, early detection, and healthy lifestyles.

The ceremonial unveiling took place at the hospital premises, graced by Mr. Harish Kumar Gupta, IPS, Director General of Police (DGP), Andhra Pradesh. Joining him were Mr. J. Ramanjaneya Reddy, Hospital Director at Manipal Hospital Vijayawada, and Dr. Rama Krishna, Consultant in Radiation Oncology.

Mr. Gupta praised the initiative, stating, "Events like this unite communities against cancer, fostering resilience and hope in our fight for public health." Organized ahead of World Cancer Day 2026 on February 4, the run underscores the growing burden of cancer in India. According to recent data from the

Indian Council of Medical Research, Andhra Pradesh reports over 50,000 new cancer cases annually, with breast, lung, and oral cancers leading the statistics. Early detection remains key, as timely interventions boost survival rates by up to 90% for many types. Scheduled for Sunday, February 1, 2026, the event kicks off

at 5:00 AM from Indira Gandhi Stadium on MG Road, Vijayawada. Open to participants of all ages and fitness levels, it features 5K and 10K categories to encourage widespread involvement. Runners will don the event's signature T-shirt, symbolizing solidarity in the battle against cancer. Dr. Rama Krishna emphasized, "Cancer is pre-

ventable in many cases through simple steps like balanced diets, regular screenings, and avoiding tobacco. This run isn't just a race it's a movement to empower lives." Mr. Reddy added that the hospital aims to register over 5,000 participants, building on last year's success.

Registrations are live now, with nominal fees supporting cancer awareness programs. Interested individuals can call +91 93929 11288 or 0864 566 9966 for details. Online registration is available via the hospi-

tal's website. Manipal Hospital Vijayawada continues its legacy of community health drives, aligning with state initiatives like the Andhra Pradesh Cancer Control Program. As Vijayawada gears up, the run promises to inspire healthier habits and collective action toward a cancer-free tomorrow.

Vijayawada West Bypass Set for March Completion, No Toll Until Full Operations: NHA

TPN Bureau | January 22, 2026

Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh: In a major relief for commuters navigating the bustling streets of Vijayawada, National Highways Authority of India (NHA) officials have confirmed that the Vijayawada West Bypass road project will be fully operational by March 2026. One lane of the bypass is already open to traffic, but toll collection will remain suspended until both lanes are completed, ensuring no financial burden on travelers in the interim.

The announcement comes amid ongoing efforts to decongest Vijayawada, a key commercial hub in Andhra Pradesh connecting coastal and central regions. Stretching approximately 15 kilometers, the West Bypass aims to divert heavy vehicles and long-haul traffic away from the city's crowded inner roads, particularly around the vital NH-16

corridor. Officials emphasized that toll gates will only activate post full commissioning, prioritizing public convenience during the final construction phase. "This is a people-first approach," said an NHA spokesperson during a media briefing in Vijayawada. "While one side is functional, we won't impose tolls until the entire bypass is ready. This temporary waiver will ease the load on daily commuters and freight operators." The project, part of the broader Bharatmala Pariyojana initiative, faced delays due to land acquisition challenges and monsoon disruptions but is now accelerating toward its revised timeline. Earlier projections pointed to an April finish, but intensified works have brought it forward to March. Once complete, the bypass promises transformative benefits for the region. Vijayawada's chronic traffic snarls often exacerbated by



trucks heading to ports like Machilipatnam and Krishnapatnam will see a sharp decline. Travel time between Vijayawada and neighboring areas like Guntur and Eluru could shrink by up to 30-45 minutes, boosting economic activity and reducing fuel costs for motorists. Local businesses, especially in logistics and agriculture, stand to gain immensely, aligning with Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's vision for seamless connectivity under the state's infrastructure push. Residents welcomed the news with optimism. "It's

a game-changer for us daily travelers," said K. Ramesh, a truck driver from nearby Pedavegi. "No toll now means more savings, and less time stuck in city jams." NHA has urged caution on the partially open stretch, with speed limits enforced and safety barriers being installed. With Andhra Pradesh ramping up highway projects amid its capital region developments around Amaravati, the West Bypass underscores the state's commitment to modern transport networks. Officials eye full inauguration by early March, paving the way

APSRTC Announces Major Expansion: 1050 Electric Buses to Revolutionize Passenger Travel Soon

TPN Bureau | January 22, 2026

Vijayawada | Amravati, Andhra Pradesh: In a boost for eco-friendly public transport, the Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) has revealed plans to procure 1,050 new electric buses within the next six months. This ambitious initiative comes amid surging passenger numbers, largely driven by the hugely popular 'Stree Shakti' scheme offering free bus travel to women across the state.

The announcement highlights APSRTC's commitment to modernizing its fleet while supporting sustainable mobility. Officials confirmed that these state-of-the-art electric vehicles (EVs) will be deployed strategically, including for the upcoming Godavari Pushkaralu festival. The grand event, expected to draw millions of pilgrims to the Godavari

riverbanks, will benefit from enhanced connectivity without any last-minute hitches like vehicle shortages. "Passenger footfall has skyrocketed since the launch of free travel for women under Stree Shakti," said an APSRTC spokesperson. "To meet this demand and reduce our carbon footprint, we're fast-tracking the acquisition of 1,050 electric buses. Charging infrastructure will be ready at depots statewide, ensuring seamless operations. "Launched in 2024, the Stree Shakti scheme has transformed daily commutes for lakhs of women, covering ordinary and express services. Daily ridership has jumped by over 30%, putting pressure on the existing fleet of around 11,000 buses. The new EVs, sourced from leading manufacturers, promise zero-emission rides, lower operating costs, and improved pas-



senger comfort with features like air-conditioning, GPS tracking, and real-time ETAs via the APSRTC app. APSRTC is investing heavily in green infrastructure. Dedicated charging stations at major depots in Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Guntur, and Ongole will support the rollout. "This isn't just about numbers; it's about sustainable growth," added the spokesperson. "The electric buses will cut fuel expenses by 60% and align with the state's net-zero goals by 2040." The timing is perfect for Godavari Push-

karalu, a 12-yearly celestial event fostering cultural and spiritual fervor. Special shuttle services from key districts to Rajahmundry and other ghats will use the new fleet, ensuring smooth pilgrim movement. No disruptions are anticipated, quelling earlier concerns over logistics. This move positions Andhra Pradesh as a leader in electric mobility among Indian states. With central government incentives under the FAME-III scheme, APSRTC anticipates completing procurement by mid-2026.

Tragic Midnight Collision in Nandyal: Bus Bursts into Flames After Tyre Burst, Three Dead

TPN Bureau | January 22, 2026

Nandyal, Andhra Pradesh: A horrific road accident near Sirivelu Metta in Nandyal district claimed three lives and injured over 10 passengers early Wednesday morning. A private bus en route from Nellore to Hyderabad lost control after a tyre burst, smashed through the road divider, and collided head-on with an oncoming container lorry. The impact triggered a massive fire that engulfed the bus, turning it into a fireball.

According to police reports, the incident occurred around 2 AM in Sirivelu mandal of Nandyal district. The ARBVCVR Private Travels bus was carrying 36 passengers when disas-

ter struck. The tyre burst caused the driver to lose control, propelling the vehicle across the divider into the path of the lorry. The bus driver, lorry driver, and lorry cleaner perished on the spot. Their bodies were charred beyond recognition, complicating identification efforts. Eyewitnesses described a chaotic scene as flames rapidly spread. A passing DCM vehicle driver heroically stopped and smashed the bus windows, allowing passengers to escape. Many jumped through the windows, sustaining minor injuries. Over 10 passengers received treatment for cuts, bruises, and smoke inhalation at Nandyal Government Hospital.



All passengers escaped with their lives thanks to the quick actions, though their luggage was completely gutted by the blaze. The lorry also caught fire and was extensively damaged. Local police

rushed to the site upon receiving information, securing the area and coordinating rescue operations. Fire tenders were deployed to douse the flames. The accident has disrupted traffic on the

busy Nellore-Hyderabad highway, with authorities diverting vehicles. In a statement from Nandyal Gandhi Chowk on Thursday, State Minister for Law and Minority Welfare, NMD Farooq, expressed

profound shock over the tragedy. "A comprehensive investigation will be conducted to ascertain the causes and prevent recurrences," he assured. Farooq extended condolences to the families

of the deceased—the bus driver, lorry driver, and cleaner and confirmed that the government is providing immediate advanced medical care to the injured. He praised the bus cleaner for bravely

aiding passengers during the crisis, calling it an act of courage that saved lives. "This is a heartbreaking loss. We will take stringent measures to ensure such incidents do not repeat, including stricter vehicle checks and driver training," the minister added. Preliminary investigations point to the tyre burst as the trigger, but mechanical failure, speeding, and poor road conditions are under scrutiny. Road safety advocates have renewed calls for better infrastructure on national highways in Andhra Pradesh, citing frequent accidents in Nandyal and Allagadda regions. Police have registered a case and are awaiting post-mortem reports.

Eluru MP Launches 'Question Yours, Voice Mine' Initiative to Address Local Grievances

TPN Bureau | January 22, 2026

Eluru Urban: In a bold move to bridge the gap between citizens and governance, Eluru Lok Sabha MP Putta Mahesh Kumar has launched an innovative public outreach program titled 'Prashna Meedi. Gonthu Nadi' (Question Yours, Voice Mine).

The initiative invites residents of the Eluru parliamentary constituency to share their long-standing local issues via WhatsApp, promising to escalate selected concerns directly to the Central government's attention in Parliament.

Speaking at the program's inauguration, MP Kumar emphasized the frustration many face with unresolved chronic problems. "Are the people in your area grappling with persistent issues? Have repeated pleas to leaders and officials fallen on



deaf ears? If you want these problems highlighted in Parliament, send them to our WhatsApp numbers.

I will personally take them to the Central government's notice," he assured, urging proactive participation. Residents can now forward their grievances ranging from infrastructure deficits and urban development delays to public welfare gaps to

the dedicated numbers: 96181 94377 and 98855 19299.

The MP outlined a transparent selection process: the best questions will be hand-picked and raised on behalf of the public during the upcoming Parliament sessions. To add an engaging twist, those whose queries are chosen will receive special invitations to visit Parliament for a day, sit-

ting in the visitors' gallery as their voices echo in the national legislature.

This citizen-centric campaign aligns with growing demands for accountable representation in Andhra Pradesh, where local issues like road repairs, water supply disruptions, and public transport woes often linger despite electoral promises. Eluru, a key constituency

blending urban and rural challenges, stands to benefit significantly.

MP Kumar, known for his focus on regional development, highlighted the program's potential to amplify unheard voices. "Parliament is not just for debates; it's a platform for real solutions. Your question could spark change," he added. Local leaders and residents have welcomed the effort.

"It's refreshing to see an MP empowering people directly," said a community organizer from Eluru Urban. As the program kicks off, expectations are high for tangible outcomes, especially with Parliament sessions on the horizon.

The initiative reflects a broader trend of MPs leveraging digital tools for grassroots engagement, potentially setting a model for other constituencies in Andhra Pradesh.

Record Hundi Haul at Konaseema Tirumala: 2.05 Crore in 34 Days Signals Devotee Faith and Transparent Governance

TPN Bureau | January 22, 2026

Vadapalli, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema District: The Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Vadapalli, fondly called Konaseema Tirumala, has once again grabbed statewide attention with a staggering hundi collection of 2,05,51,004 over the past 34 days. Revealed during Wednesday's meticulously conducted hundi counting, this record haul stands as a testament to unwavering devotee trust and the temple's transparent administration.

Temple Executive Officer (EO) and Deputy Commissioner Nalla Surya Chakradhar Rao announced the figures, crediting devotees' faith. Breakdown includes 1,46,07,768 in cash from the main Sri Venkateswara Swamy and Sri Visweswara Swamy temple hundis, and 59,43,236 from an-

naprasadam (free meal) hundis. Devotees also offered 26 grams of gold, 1,200 kg of silver, and 87 foreign currency notes from 14 countries, underscoring the temple's global appeal. The counting process, supervised by A.V. Durga Bhavani (Assistant Commissioner and EO, Draksharamam Devasthanam), featured auditors S.T.P.T.

Srinivas (Rajamahendravaram) and M. Satyanarayana (EO Grade-III, Velicheru Group Temples). Banks like Andhra Pradesh Grameena Bank (Lakshmi Polavaram) and Canara Bank (Ravulapalem) provided support. Attendees included dharma-kartas such as Pen-dyala Bhavani, Chin-ta-palli Satyanarayana, Tam-mana Sai Prasad, Shish-ta Surya Kutum-barao, and Masakapalli Trimurtulu, along

with archakas, vedic scholars, villagers, temple staff, media, and police.

Temple Chairman Mudunuri Venkataraju (Gabbarsingh) joined EO Rao in expressing delight. "Devotees' trust is our strength," Rao stated. "These funds will enhance Swami's services and pilgrim facilities. Development works will proceed transparently and swiftly.

"This achievement highlights competent leadership under Rao, fostering discipline and devotee confidence, propelling the temple toward growth. A stark contrast to the Past Unlike earlier eras, where allegations of official embezzlement and opaque counting including switched-off CCTV cameras eroded trust, today's process gleams with transparency.



Minister Kondapalli Srinivas Lays Foundation for Rs 1.5 Crore BT Road in Vizianagaram, Boosts Rural Infrastructure



Vizianagaram, January 22, 2026: Andhra Pradesh Minister for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises, Rural Poverty Eradication, NRI Empowerment, and Relations, Kondapalli Srinivas, inaugurated the construction of a 1.5 crore Bituminous Top (BT) road from Ravivalasa to Ramavaram in Gantayada Mandal, Gajapathinagar constituency, Vizianagaram district.

Breaking a coconut to mark the foundation stone laying on Thursday, the minister emphasized the coalition government's commitment to transforming rural areas through robust infrastructure development.

Speaking at the event in Ravivalasa village, Minister Srinivas

stated that the previous YSRCP government had kept rural regions at arm's length from progress, but the NDA coalition administration is now bringing development directly to the people. "The coalition government is according top priority to providing minimum basic facilities in rural areas," he said.

"We're constructing rural roads on a massive scale, along with CC drains, goshalas, and crematorium developments under the MGNREGS. "The new BT road will connect Ravivalasa to Ramavaram via Chenchuvanicheruvu and Tummanayudu Cheruvu, enhancing connectivity and easing transportation for villagers.

This initiative, executed by the Panchayat

Raj department, is part of a broader push to strengthen rural infrastructure across the state. Praising the leadership driving these efforts, Srinivas extended thanks to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, and young leader Nara Lokesh.

"It's because of their vision that such large-scale development programs are taking off," he noted. The government is investing heavily to change people's lifestyles, aiming to build a "Healthy and Wealthy Andhra Pradesh. "The minister reiterated that rural development remains a cornerstone of the coalition's agenda, ensuring funds flow promptly for roads, sanitation, and community



facilities. This project underscores the NDA's focus on bridging urban-rural divides, fostering economic growth, and eradicating poverty at the grassroots level. The event saw participation from Agriculture Market Committee Chairman Gopalraju, former Mandal Presidents Kon-

dapalli Kondalaravu, TDP Mandal President Kondapalli Bhaskar Naidu, senior officials, NDA leaders, and local villagers.

With initiatives like this gaining momentum, rural Andhra Pradesh is poised for significant upliftment under the coalition regime.

Kurnool High Court Bench Confirmed, Ministers Collaborate on Proposal: TG Bharat

TPN Bureau | January 11, 2026

Kurnool: Andhra Pradesh Industries, Commerce, and Food Processing Minister TG Bharat today assured that the establishment of a High Court bench in Kurnool is now certain. Speaking at a Sankranti celebration organized by local advocates here on Sunday, the minister revealed ongoing discussions with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh on this long-pending demand.

"We are actively coordinating with the CM and Lokesh to finalize the details," Bharat stated, emphasizing that proposals for setting up the bench in one of the A, B, or C camps in Kurnool will soon be submitted to the higher authorities. In a significant announcement, he added that alongside the High Court bench, a new Collectorate building will also be constructed to bolster administrative infrastructure in the region. This develop-

ment is expected to enhance judicial access for residents of Rayalaseema, reducing the burden on the main High Court in Amaravati. The event, attended by Government Pleader Yalamanchi Balaji, several Public Prosecutors (PPs), and a large gathering of advocates, turned into a platform for addressing key local issues. Bharat reaffirmed his commitment to resolving advocates' longstanding problems, promising proactive intervention.

Stern Warning to YSRCP Leaders on Tirumala Sacrilege In a fiery address, Minister Bharat urged YSRCP leaders to immediately cease petty antics targeting the sacred Tirumala hills. He accused the opposition party of staging a drama with liquor bottles to tarnish the current TDP-led government's image, a ploy that has now been exposed through advanced technology.

"Using technology, we've uncovered their liquor bottle stash—they never imagined it

would come to light like this," Bharat remarked, slamming the YSRCP's tactics as desperate mudslinging. Despite securing only 11 seats in the recent Assembly elections, he lamented, YSRCP leaders show no inclination to change or connect with the people. "They're not interested in getting closer to the public; they persist with these false antics," he said, expressing frustration. Bharat made it clear that the government will not tolerate such disruptive actions. "Our administration is committed to safeguarding Tirumala's sanctity," he asserted, highlighting ongoing efforts to protect the holy site's purity. The remarks come amid heightened political tensions in Andhra Pradesh, where the ruling TDP-Jana Sena-BJP alliance continues to push governance reforms while countering opposition narratives. Kurnool, a key Rayalaseema district, has long advocated for decentralized judicial facili-

Are National Memories Short—or Selective? India–Bangladesh Ties at a Crossroads

Are national memories short, selective, or a complicated mix of both? Recent developments in India–Bangladesh relations suggest that historical gratitude and shared sacrifices often yield to contemporary political compulsions. The suspension of non-business visa services on both sides, Dhaka's increasingly visible engagement with Pakistan, and even sporting decisions—such as Bangladeshi cricketer Mustafizur Rahman signing with the Pakistan Super League after being dropped from the Indian Premier League—point to a relationship under unprecedented strain.

That these developments follow closely on the heels of India's External Affairs Minister visiting Dhaka to attend the funeral of former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia makes the diplomatic chill appear even more unpropitious. Bangladesh's subsequent request to shift the IPL T20 series away from India, citing security concerns for its players, was predictable—but also revealing. Sports, once a stabilising bridge between the two countries, has now been absorbed into a widening political and diplomatic rift.

Perhaps the most striking aspect of this moment is the apparent fading of memories of the 1971 Liberation War—a defining chapter in the shared histories of India and Bangladesh. India's military, diplomatic, and humanitarian support during Bangladesh's war of independence from Pakistan has long been the moral cornerstone of bilateral ties. Yet today, Bangladesh appears to have decisively moved on from the trauma of genocide, political repression, and marginalisation inflicted by Pakistani rulers on erstwhile East Pakistan. The question is not whether nations should remain bound by history forever, but whether selective forgetting is shaping contemporary policy choices.

Growing Ties with Pakistan

India and Bangladesh have been on a sticky wicket since August 2024, when Sheikh Hasina—New Delhi's most trusted interlocutor in Dhaka—was forced to step down amid mass protests. Her exit created a political vacuum that Pakistan was quick to exploit. Islamabad's renewed



outreach to Dhaka has been swift and strategic. When India restricted imports of jute and textile products through land routes, Pakistan offered Bangladesh access to Karachi port. Discussions around potential Bangladeshi purchases of Pakistani fighter jets have surfaced. Direct flights between Dhaka and Karachi are expected to commence soon.

Ironically, Sheikh Hasina often spoke of restoring pre-1965 connectivity between India and what was then East Pakistan. Today, it is Islamabad attempting to revive the historical Bangladesh–Pakistan relationship, albeit under radically altered geopolitical circumstances. While pragmatism dictates that Bangladesh diversify its external partnerships, the symbolism of this pivot—especially amid strained ties with India—is hard to ignore.

Violence Against Minorities: A Persistent Trigger

The most immediate and emotive trigger for India's

current posture has been renewed violence against minorities in Bangladesh. The killing of youth leader Osman Sharif Hadi sparked widespread unrest, with mobs attacking secular institutions, torching media houses, and brutally targeting Hindu communities. The incident became an opportune moment for extremist elements to advance long-standing agendas. The interim government led by Mohammed Yunus appeared hesitant and slow to respond, allowing violence to spiral.

Violence against Hindus in Bangladesh is not a new phenomenon. The critical question is whether a strong political message from India can deter such behaviour or ensure minority safety. History offers mixed lessons. In October 2001, following the BNP's electoral victory, Bangladesh witnessed one of the worst single-day assaults on Hindus. India quietly sent an emissary, and although bilateral relations remained strained during the BNP's five-year tenure, the scale of

violence noticeably declined through discreet diplomacy.

After 2009, minorities were widely perceived to be safer due to Sheikh Hasina's close association with Hindu communities and her insistence on minority representation within the police and local administration, particularly in rural areas. Yet even during her rule, an estimated 600 Hindus continued to leave Bangladesh annually, underscoring the persistence of structural insecurity.

India's Political Signalling—and Its Limits

Given the current impasse, can the hardening of positions on both sides realistically improve minority safety? Expecting decisive action from an interim government seemingly in exit mode—especially with parliamentary elections just weeks away—appears unrealistic. India's decision to declare Bangladesh a non-family posting for its diplomats is a sharp political signal, but one that risks unintended consequences. Securitising Bangladesh

feeds hardliners on both sides of the border. Those seeking to postpone elections, weaken pluralism, and reconfigure Bangladesh's democratic framework now find greater space in this climate of mutual distrust. India's longstanding call for inclusive elections—implicitly meaning the participation of the Awami League—has been reiterated, but its influence appears diminished.

Even during Hasina's tenure, allegations of one-sided elections frequently surfaced. India, however, consistently categorised these concerns as Bangladesh's internal matter. That principled distance now complicates New Delhi's current advocacy for inclusivity.

Electoral Uncertainty and New Political Actors

Bangladesh's election campaign has officially begun, but the political landscape is unlike any seen since 1991. The absence of Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia—who dominated Bangladeshi politics for over three decades—has created unprecedented

uncertainty. While Tariq Rahman's return last month is expected to boost the BNP's prospects, his prolonged absence from frontline politics raises questions about his ability to navigate Dhaka's complex political terrain.

More significantly, the Jamaat-e-Islami appears to be regaining ground. Its student wing's sweeping victories in key university elections signal growing influence among younger voters. The newly formed National Citizen Party, born out of the July movement, has chosen to ally with Jamaat—a controversial decision that has already fractured its leadership, with several prominent women leaders opting to contest independently.

Swing Voters and the Anti-India Mood

Since the restoration of democracy in 1991, Bangladeshi politics has largely revolved around a stable AL–BNP duopoly. This election, however, may hinge on swing voters, particularly those aged 18–38, who constitute nearly 40 per-

cent of the electorate. Among this demographic, anti-India sentiment runs high.

Sheikh Hasina remains a polarising figure. Her media interviews from Delhi, questioning Bangladesh's political trajectory, have further inflamed public opinion. India's decision to allow Awami League leaders to hold public meetings on its soil has also been interpreted in Dhaka as undue interference, reinforcing nationalist backlash.

Bilateral Disengagement and Its Costs

India's disenchantment with Bangladesh began with the formation of the Yunus-led interim government and deepened amid persistent law-and-order breakdowns since August 2024. Over the past 16 months, every bilateral step forward has been followed by two steps back. Connectivity corridors painstakingly built over years have been dismantled through reciprocal measures. Bilateral trade—once nearing USD 20 billion—has plummeted. The suspension of nearly 1.5 million Indian visas annually has hit ordinary Bangladeshis hardest, particularly those reliant on Indian medical services.

Historically, India and Bangladesh weathered disagreements with an underlying commitment to make the relationship work. That intent now appears weakened. Continued disengagement risks long-term damage that will be difficult to reverse.

Conclusion: Seeing the Woods, Not Just the Trees

Large sections of Indian and Bangladeshi societies still favour moderation and cooperation. Unfortunately, it is personality-driven politics, ideological bias, and short-term tactical thinking that dominate the narrative today. National memories may indeed be selective, but strategic amnesia carries costs.

Delhi and Dhaka must recalibrate their lenses—recognising historical bonds without being hostage to them, while resisting the temptation to let present grievances define the future. Losing sight of the larger regional and human stakes may prove far more damaging than any single diplomatic setback. The challenge is not to remember everything, but to remember what truly matters.

Revanth Rhetoric: Telangana First, Everything Next

“Telangana First, Everything else next” is not just a slogan for Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. In my view, it truly reflects how he thinks and acts. As someone who closely watched the Telangana movement from the ground level, I can say this with confidence. I worked with many activists in Karimnagar and took part in protests, road blockades, and strikes. Over the years, I began to feel that many Chief Ministers enjoy power more than responsibility. But watching Revanth Reddy today gives me a very different feeling. Step by step, his actions show commitment. When he speaks in the Assembly, it does not sound like routine political talk. His words carry emotion, honesty, and responsibility. During the discussion on Krishna river waters, one promise he made touched every Telanganite. He clearly said that as long as he is Chief Minister, he will not allow even a small mistake that harms Telangana. In today's politics, such a clear promise is very rare.

What stood out for me was that his words did not seem meant for applause. They felt sincere and heartfelt. Saying openly that the state comes before the party is not easy, especially for a Congress Chief Minister. It needs courage, con-

fidence, and deep belief in the future of the state. With this one stand, Revanth Reddy earned respect not only from party workers but also from ordinary people across Telangana. His speech showed that his full focus is on Telangana's development. He spoke like a leader carrying the hopes, pain, and future of the people on his shoulders. As someone who has worked for BC rights for nearly 15 years as an activist, journalist, and lawyer, his words gave me real satisfaction. It is very rare to hear a Chief Minister say clearly that his life is for the state. He also reminded the Assembly of a basic truth: water is the lifeline of the Telangana movement. Without water, there is no farming, no jobs, and no future. He made it very clear that there will be no compromise on Telangana's rightful share in Krishna waters. He explained the facts simply. Earlier, 811 TMC of Krishna water was given to undivided Andhra Pradesh. After bifurcation, Telangana should have received nearly 71 percent based on catchment area. But the previous government agreed to only 299 TMC. Because of that one decision, Andhra Pradesh got 512 TMC. That single signature caused long-term damage to Telangana. Revanth Reddy



placed these mistakes before the Assembly step by step. By agreeing to just 299 TMC, Telangana became weak both legally and morally. That is why today the Krishna River Management Board says it cannot

give more water. These are not allegations. These are recorded facts. Importantly, Revanth Reddy did not stop at criticism. He spoke about action. He said projects like the Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation Scheme have al-

ready been stopped. He made it clear that the fight for Telangana's rightful share is a legal and justice-based fight, not a political drama.

He also spoke honestly about the Palamuru–Rangareddy

Lift Irrigation Project. He pointed out how designs were changed without Cabinet approval, how costs rose from ₹32,500 crore to ₹84,000 crore, and how unnecessary pumps were added. He said these decisions helped contractors, not farmers. Even after spending so much money, the project is still incomplete, which is deeply painful. Today, Andhra Pradesh uses more than 13 TMC of water every day, while Telangana struggles even for its small share. This did not happen in one day. It is the result of wrong decisions and political selfishness by previous rulers. For years, no one even raised a strong voice for Telangana's water rights. When these truths came out in the Assembly, the opposition walked out. They had no answers. Revanth Reddy invited the opposition leader for a respectful debate, but instead of facing facts, they avoided the issue with personal attacks. But records, files, and data never lie. At the same time, the present government, especially under the leadership of Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, is strongly and honestly presenting Telangana's case. Even leaders from Andhra Pradesh are now admitting that Telangana's argu-

ment is strong. Some may call this approach aggressive. Some may call it confrontation. I see it as courage. The damage done to Telangana's water rights in the past is very serious, and history will judge it harshly. Correcting that injustice is the responsibility of this generation. Revanth Reddy's fight is not for party politics. It is for protecting Telangana's lifeline. This struggle is not for today's headlines, but for tomorrow's farmers, future generations, and the dignity of Telangana. A government that is ready to fight without fear, without compromise, and without forgetting why Telangana was formed—and a Chief Minister like Revanth Reddy leading it—is exactly what this decade needs.



Sagar Vanaparthi, Policy Analyst.

New BJP President Nitin Nabin Sets West Bengal Poll Strategy, Targets TMC on Governance and Law and Order

Newly appointed Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) national president Nitin Nabin has moved swiftly to outline his priorities, convening his first major organisational meeting with West Bengal leaders and election-focused workers to chalk out a comprehensive roadmap for the upcoming assembly elections. The closed-door meeting was aimed at sharpening the party's campaign strategy and intensifying its attack on the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC).

According to sources familiar with the deliberations, the discussions were tightly focused on highlighting what the BJP describes as governance failures under the TMC government over the past 15 years. The leadership stressed the need for a constituency-wise campaign that directly holds local TMC legislators accountable for conditions in their respective areas.

Economic distress in West Bengal was positioned at the core of the BJP's campaign narrative. Party leaders pointed out that despite the state's abundance of natural and human resources, its per capita income remains among the lowest in the country. The leadership underlined the importance of conveying this contrast to voters, portraying it as a result of policy paralysis, corruption and administrative mismanagement.

Healthcare infrastructure featured prominently in the discussions. BJP leaders cited what they described as the near collapse of primary health centres, an acute shortage of doctors in government hospitals, lack of medicines and unhygienic conditions. These shortcomings, the meeting noted, have generated



strong resentment at the grassroots, particularly in rural and semi-urban regions, and should be highlighted through sustained local outreach.

The state of education was also flagged as a major concern, with the leadership alleging a steady decline in standards and limited opportunities for students. Women's safety emerged as another key issue, with the party asserting that crimes against women have increased and that administrative responses have been inadequate. Leaders agreed that the issue resonates across social and demographic groups and should be addressed with consistency and sensitivity.

Concerns related to migrant labourers, unemployment and law and order were also dis-

cussed. The BJP reiterated its charge that West Bengal is witnessing a breakdown of law and order, often describing the situation as "jungle raj." The party further accused the TMC of minority appeasement politics, arguing that it has widened social divisions and weakened governance.

On political messaging, the BJP decided to foreground its promise to identify and remove illegal infiltrators, an issue the leadership believes has traction in border districts as well as urban centres. A key organisational decision taken under Nabin's leadership is the preparation of detailed chargesheets for every assembly constituency, listing alleged local-level failures of the TMC government.

These chargesheets will be released publicly at rallies and followed by door-to-door campaigns to ensure they reach households, with the aim of directly targeting sitting MLAs. The party believes there is visible anger against several local legislators and hopes to channel this sentiment into votes by localising accountability.

The meeting also finalised the slogan "Paltano darkar, chaye BJP sarkar" as the central campaign theme. First articulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Malda, the slogan will be amplified through rallies, outreach programmes and a campaign song, framing the election as a clear call for change.

Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma Critiques Gandhi Family, Outlines Development Agenda at Davos



Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma made his Davos debut with pointed remarks targeting the Congress party and the Gandhi family, while also discussing his vision for Assam's growth. During an interaction with NDTV Editor-in-Chief Rahul Kanwal at the Swiss World Economic Forum, Sarma alleged a rift between senior Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

Sarma, a former Congress member, claimed that Priyanka Gandhi's appointment as head of an election committee in Assam reflected Rahul Gandhi's reluctance to allow her influence in Kerala, where she is a sitting MP from Wayanad. "He doesn't want Priyanka in Kerala. I was in Congress for 22 years and have inside information," Sarma said, asserting that her transfer to Assam was meant to avoid disrupting the Kerala party leadership. He also labelled the Gandhis as the

"world's biggest flop family," contrasting their privilege with his own family's modest upbringing.

On allegations concerning Assam Congress president Gaurav Gogoi, Sarma denied any personal rivalry, stating his responsibility was to report potential links with "an enemy country" to the central government. He reiterated accusations of ties between Gogoi, his wife, and the Pakistani intelligence agency ISI, stressing that such matters went beyond corruption and involved national security. "If you catch a spy, will you not expose him?" he quipped, referencing the Hindi spy thriller *Dhurandhar*.

Beyond politics, Sarma outlined a development-oriented agenda for Assam. Highlighting the state's strategic location and potential, he emphasised diversifying the economy beyond hydrocarbons and leveraging emerging sectors such as semiconductors. "India is diverse. If development is

concentrated only in one part, the country risks collapse," he said, noting that Assam is one of the fastest-growing large states despite geographic and infrastructural challenges.

The chief minister also touched upon identity and demographic concerns, underscoring the importance of balancing growth with the preservation of Assamese culture. "In Assam, national security and the identity of the Assamese people are paramount. Demographic changes are a huge concern. We are fighting for both our identity and development," he said.

Sarma's comments at Davos reflect a dual approach: criticising Congress leadership while projecting Assam as a state with growth potential and strategic importance. His remarks combine political messaging ahead of upcoming elections with a vision of economic transformation and security-conscious governance.

I-PAC Under Scrutiny Over Rs 13.5 Crore Loan from Dissolved Haryana Firm

Political consultancy firm Indian Political Action Committee (I-PAC) is facing questions after its financial filings revealed it received an unsecured loan of Rs 13.5 crore in 2021 from a firm reportedly based in Rohtak, Haryana, that had ceased to exist years earlier. The lender was named in I-PAC's disclosures as Ramsetu Infrastructure India (P) Limited, but official records from the Registrar of Companies show no entity by that exact name. Only a similarly named company, Ramsetu Infrastructure India Private Limited, appears in government records.

Ramsetu Infrastructure India Private Limited was incorporated on December 18, 2013, as a non-government private company in real estate, with an authorised share capital of Rs 5 lakh. Its directors were listed as Vijendar and Vikram. However, the company was struck off on August 18, 2018, under Section 248(1) of the Companies Act, 2013, after failing to commence business



or comply with statutory requirements for two consecutive financial years.

Despite the strike-off, I-PAC's filings indicate it received the loan in 2021, nearly three years after the company's dissolution. Attempts to reach the listed contact number yielded no clarity: a person identified as Mukesh from Yamuna Nagar denied any association with the company or knowledge of why his number was linked to it.

Further examination of public records shows that individuals previously associated with the dissolved company have denied any connection to I-PAC or involvement in providing loans. This raises questions about the loan's source and the accuracy of the organisation's disclosures.

I-PAC's financial statements show that part of the Rs 13.5 crore has been repaid, though a substantial portion remains

outstanding. The consultancy has not provided a detailed public explanation regarding the operational status or identity of the lending entity.

The revelations, first reported by *The Indian Express*, have sparked scrutiny from corporate observers and analysts. The gap between I-PAC's financial reporting and official corporate records has led to concerns over transparency and accountability, particularly given the size of the loan and the firm's role in political campaigns.

As questions mount, I-PAC faces growing pressure to clarify the circumstances of the loan, including the legitimacy of the lending firm and how the funds were handled. The incident underscores the importance of accurate disclosures in political consultancy finances, especially when large sums are involved, and raises broader concerns about compliance and regulatory oversight in corporate transactions linked to politically connected organisations.

NGT Launches Suo Motu Probe After Noida Engineer Drowns in Waterlogged Trench

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has initiated suo motu proceedings following the tragic death of 27-year-old software engineer Yuvraj Mehta, who drowned in a heavily waterlogged trench at a commercial site in Noida. The incident occurred in the early hours of January 17, claiming the life of Mehta, a resident of Tata Eureka Park in Sector 150, while he was returning home from Gurugram through dense fog.

Reports indicate that Mehta's SUV veered off the road, struck a boundary wall, and plunged into a deep pit, estimated at around 70 feet. Despite remaining trapped for nearly 90 minutes and making desperate calls to his father, he succumbed to drowning, asphyxiation, and cardiac failure.

Investigations revealed that the site had accumulated rainwater and untreated wastewater over a decade, effectively forming a stagnant pond. A stormwater management plan, proposed by the Irrigation De-



partment in 2015, including the installation of a head regulator to manage water flow, was never implemented. The lack of proper signage, barricades, and visibility during foggy winter nights transformed the trench into a deadly hazard.

The NGT has flagged environmental violations, including improper wastewater discharge, untreated stormwater accumulation, and the failure to address persistent waterlogging. In its proceedings, the tri-

bunal has impleaded the Noida Authority, Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board, Irrigation Department of Uttar Pradesh, Principal Secretary (Environment), and the District Magistrate of Gautam Budh Nagar as respondents.

All authorities have been directed to file affidavits explaining the causes of waterlogging, compliance with environmental regulations, the status of the 2015 stormwater plan, and measures to prevent recur-

rence. Responses must be submitted at least a week prior to the next hearing, scheduled for April 10.

The case comes amid widespread public outrage. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath ordered a Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe. The CEO of Noida Authority, Lokesh M, was removed, and the CEO of the real estate firm involved has been arrested, with multiple FIRs filed.

The NGT's move underscores that such preventable tragedies, rooted in environmental and regulatory negligence, fall squarely under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

The matter will proceed as an original application before the tribunal, with the potential for directives on remedial measures, compensation for the victim's family, and long-term infrastructure improvements to avert similar incidents in the future.

Chandigarh Mayoral Polls: Congress and AAP Explore Strategic Tie to Block BJP



Ahead of the Chandigarh mayoral election scheduled for January 29, the Congress and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) appear to be keeping the door open for a potential "strategic understanding" aimed at preventing the BJP from retaining the mayor's post. While both parties have engaged in recent sharp exchanges, senior Congress leaders indicated that discussions with AAP are ongoing, though no formal alliance has been announced.

Chandigarh Congress President Harmohinder Singh Lucky confirmed the talks, saying, "No formal alliance with AAP as of now, but talks are on to block BJP." He added that a high-level meeting with the party's senior leadership will soon be held to finalise strategies for the upcoming polls.

Tensions between the two opposition parties flared earlier this month when AAP's Chandigarh in-

charge Jarnail Singh accused the Congress of having a tacit understanding with the BJP for power-sharing. Lucky strongly rebutted the claim, pointing to AAP's role in the 2024 municipal setup, where the mayor was from AAP but the senior deputy mayor and deputy mayor positions went to the BJP.

The election arithmetic is delicately balanced in the 35-member Municipal Corporation House. Currently, the BJP holds 18 councillor seats following the defection of two AAP councillors in late December. AAP has 11 councillors, while Congress has six. With the Congress MP's ex-officio vote included, a united Opposition could potentially match the BJP tally at 18. A simple majority of 19 votes is required to win the mayor's post, assuming all 36 votes are cast.

This year's election also introduces a procedural

shift. Voting for the mayor, senior deputy mayor, and deputy mayor will be conducted via an open show of hands instead of a secret ballot, a move designed to enhance transparency after controversies in previous polls.

Meanwhile, suspense continues over candidate announcements, with both BJP and Opposition keeping their choices under wraps amid concerns about potential councillor backlash. Analysts suggest that the outcome will hinge on whether Congress and AAP can successfully coordinate their strategies to consolidate opposition votes.

As the city prepares for the vote, political observers note that this mayoral election could set the tone for broader electoral dynamics in Chandigarh, highlighting the strategic calculations parties must navigate in a closely contested municipal setup.

Trump Announces 'Board of Peace' at Davos, Expands Vision Beyond Gaza Conflict



US President Donald Trump on Tuesday formally announced the launch of the first charter of his proposed 'Board of Peace', a new international body aimed at resolving global conflicts, during an event on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland. The initiative, which reportedly carries a \$1 billion price tag for permanent membership, has drawn attention for both its ambitious scope and the high-profile leaders associated with it.

Originally conceived as a mechanism to oversee post-war reconstruction and governance in Gaza following the Israel-Palestine conflict, the Board of Peace has since evolved into a broader platform intended to address international disputes worldwide. Trump said the board would initially focus on stabilising Gaza before expanding its mandate to other global flashpoints.

Several heads of government and senior leaders were present at the Davos event to lend support to the initiative. Among them were Argentina President Javier

Milei, Indonesia President Prabowo Subianto, Paraguay President Santiago Peña, Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, and Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev. The presence of leaders from diverse regions underscored Trump's claim of growing international interest in the body.

In his opening remarks, Trump said that "everybody wants to be a part of the Board of Peace" and emphasised that the initiative would work alongside existing global institutions. "I think the combination of the Board of Peace with the kind of people we have here, coupled with the United Nations, can be something very, very unique for the world," he said. Trump has previously described the body as potentially the "most prestigious board ever formed."

The US President expressed confidence that progress in Gaza would pave the way for the board's expansion. "Once this board is completely formed, we can

do pretty much whatever we want to do," he said, adding that success in Gaza could allow the board to intervene in other conflicts.

Trump claimed that the war in Gaza is "really coming to an end," though he acknowledged that lingering issues remain. He warned that Hamas must disarm or face severe consequences and reiterated his demand for the return of the remaining hostage bodies to Israel. "They have to give up their weapons, and if they don't do that, it's going to be the end of them," he said.

The US President also repeated his assertion that he has helped settle eight global conflicts in the past and suggested that the Russia-Ukraine war could be resolved soon. "Another one's coming pretty soon," Trump said, without providing details.

India has not yet confirmed whether it will join the Board of Peace. According to a PTI report, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is among several global leaders invited by Trump, though New Delhi is still evaluating the proposal.

Trump Administration Eyes Regime Change in Cuba After Venezuela Success, Report Says



Buoyed by what it views as a major foreign policy success in Venezuela, the administration of US President Donald Trump is now reportedly turning its attention to Cuba, with officials exploring ways to push for a change in the island nation's long-standing communist leadership. According to a report by The Wall Street Journal, the White House is actively seeking Cuban government insiders who could help negotiate the removal of the current regime before the end of the year.

The report said the Trump administration does not yet have a fully developed plan to dismantle the communist government that has ruled Cuba for nearly seven decades. However, US officials believe President Miguel Díaz-Canel's grip on power has weakened significantly following the ouster of Venezuelan

leader Nicolás Maduro, Cuba's closest regional ally and economic benefactor.

Cuba's economy, already strained by years of US sanctions, is now facing severe pressure after the collapse of Venezuelan support. Havana has long relied on subsidised oil from Caracas in exchange for medical, intelligence, and security assistance. Nearly three dozen Cuban agents protecting Maduro were reportedly killed during the US-led operation that resulted in his capture, with their bodies repatriated to Cuba last week during a ceremony attended by former President Raúl Castro and Díaz-Canel.

US intelligence assessments cited in the report suggest that Cuba is facing acute shortages of fuel, food, and medicine, along with widespread power outages. Officials believe the country could

run out of fuel within weeks, potentially paralyzing the economy. As part of its strategy, Washington is reportedly working to block any further Venezuelan oil shipments to Cuba and targeting Havana's overseas medical missions—its main source of hard currency—through visa restrictions on officials linked to the programme.

Despite the worsening economic and humanitarian situation, Cuba continues to maintain close ties with US adversaries such as Russia and Iran, raising concerns in Washington about security and intelligence cooperation in the region.

According to The Wall Street Journal, US officials view the operation against Maduro as a potential template for Cuba. In meetings with Cuban exile groups and civil society organisations in Miami and Washington, officials

have focused on identifying figures within the Cuban government willing to negotiate an "off-ramp" for the current leadership. Trump has publicly warned Havana to "make a deal before it is too late," while signalling that no further oil or financial support would be permitted.

The State Department has framed its approach as a matter of national security, saying the US wants Cuba to be "competently run by a democratic government" and to reject hosting hostile foreign military or intelligence forces. At the same time, the administration has said it is open to negotiations that could allow senior leaders, including Raúl Castro and Díaz-Canel, to exit power peacefully.

Cuban officials have dismissed Washington's rhetoric. Deputy Foreign Minister Car-

los Fernández de Cossío called the threats "clear miscalculations," while Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez accused the US of politicising humanitarian aid, even as Washington sent \$3 million in disaster relief following Hurricane Melissa.

Analysts caution that replicating the Venezuelan model in Cuba may prove difficult. Unlike Venezuela, Cuba lacks an organised opposition or functioning civil society, making internal regime change far more challenging. Former US officials have warned that destabilising the island could trigger a humanitarian crisis without a clear successor government.

Nevertheless, Trump has privately suggested that ending the Castro-era system would secure his legacy, accomplishing what previous US administrations failed to achieve during the Cold War.

Tarique Rahman Launches BNP Campaign in Sylhet Ahead of February 12 Bangladesh Elections



Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Chairman Tarique Rahman formally launched his party's election campaign on Thursday with a large rally at the Alia Madrasa ground in Sylhet, marking his first major political mobilisation ahead of the February 12 national elections. The rally was held about 242 kilometres north-east of the capital Dhaka and drew thousands of supporters.

Rahman, the son of former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, is widely viewed as a leading contender for the prime minister's post. His return to frontline politics has energised the BNP, which is seeking to reclaim power after years in opposition. Rahman returned to Bangladesh in December 2025 after spending 17 years in exile in the United Kingdom. The Sylhet rally was his first trip outside Dhaka since his return.

Addressing the gathering, Rahman focused on domestic economic issues, including unemployment, farmers' hardships and the controversial "family card" initiative. He also spoke on region-

al foreign policy, launching a veiled attack on ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, accusing her of surrendering Bangladesh's interests to "other countries." Reiterating a slogan he has used previously, Rahman declared, "Not Dilli, not Pindi — Bangladesh before everything," a phrase widely interpreted as signalling distance from both India and Pakistan.

Rahman also criticised the Jamaat-e-Islami, accusing the party of siding with Pakistan during the 1971 Liberation War and attempting to mislead voters with what he described as false promises. Following the Sylhet rally, the BNP chief is scheduled to address seven more campaign meetings across Moulvibazar, Habiganj, Brahmanbaria, Kishoreganj, Narsingdi and Arahazar in Narayanganj.

The elections are being held after a two-year gap following the political upheaval that led to Sheikh Hasina's removal from office despite her victory in the 2024 polls. An interim government led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus has

since been overseeing the country, with the upcoming vote expected to restore an elected administration.

The Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh has also launched its election campaign, holding a rally in Dhaka's Mirpur area, which falls under Jamaat chief Shafiqur Rahman's Dhaka-15 constituency. Leaders from Jamaat and its 10-party alliance addressed supporters at the event.

In addition to electing a new government, voters will also take part in a referendum on the proposed July National Charter, a reform document backed by the interim government. Signed by 25 of Bangladesh's 52 registered political parties, the charter seeks to introduce institutional reforms aimed at curbing authoritarianism. The Awami League has opposed the charter, while several other parties declined to endorse it.

Supporters argue that a referendum is necessary to make the charter legally binding and part of the constitution — a change that would ultimately require parliamentary approval.

Karachi Mall Fire Death Toll Rises to 61; Rescue Efforts Continue Amid Safety Concerns

At least 61 people have been confirmed dead after a devastating fire tore through Gul Shopping Plaza in Karachi over the weekend, making it the city's deadliest blaze in more than a decade, authorities said. Among the victims were at least 30 people who died inside a single shop located on the mezzanine floor of the building, highlighting the scale of the tragedy.

The fire broke out on January 17 in the basement of the three-storey commercial complex in Karachi's densely populated Saddar area. The mall housed more than 1,200 shops and was packed with shoppers due to the ongoing wedding season, a factor officials say contributed to the high number of casualties. Firefighters battled the blaze for nearly 36 hours before it was fully extinguished.

Search and rescue operations are still underway, with officials warning that the death toll could rise further. Authorities fear that more bodies may be trapped beneath debris after parts of the structure collapsed due to the intense fire. Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab announced that the Sindh provincial government will provide compensation of 10 million Pakistani rupees (around \$35,000) to the families of each victim.

Rescue officials said their efforts were se-



verely hampered by poor ventilation, heavy smoke, and rubble blocking access to parts of the building. Humayun Khan, chief fire officer at the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation, said it could take another 10 to 15 days to complete operations to locate all missing persons.

Hassan ul-Haseeb, spokesperson for the provincial rescue service, said narrow roads and large crowds of on-lookers obstructed emergency vehicles on the night of the fire. "Water tankers had difficulty reaching the site

because the entire road was blocked," he told Al Jazeera. He added that flammable materials such as plastic goods inside the plaza caused the fire to repeatedly reignite, prolonging firefighting efforts.

While people on the ground floor managed to escape using the building's multiple entry and exit points, many on the upper floors were unable to find their way out in time. Karachi Commissioner Syed Hassan Naqvi said preliminary findings indicate that the building's fire safety measures failed to

meet international standards. Senior lawyer Abid Mateen confirmed that at least three court cases regarding the building's safety and structural condition were already pending before the incident.

Police believe the fire may have been triggered by a short circuit, though experts say a detailed investigation is required. Urban researcher Namra Khalid noted that the key issue is not how the fire started, but why it spread so rapidly. "Such incidents reflect deeper structural and system-

ic failures that allow fires to grow at an unimaginable scale," she said.

The Gul Plaza inferno has drawn comparisons to Karachi's 2012 Baldia factory fire, which killed over 250 people. Despite being a city of more than 20 million residents, Karachi has only 35 fire stations, 57 fire trucks and six ladder trucks. Urban experts warn that if a relatively modern building like Gul Plaza could suffer such losses, much of the city remains dangerously vulnerable to similar disasters.

Markets Rebound After Three-Day Fall as Global Cues Lift Sentiment; Nifty Ends Above 25,280

After three consecutive sessions of losses, Indian equity benchmarks staged a strong rebound on January 22, supported by positive global cues following US President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw his proposed tariff threat against European partners. The easing of trade concerns boosted investor confidence, helping domestic markets recover from recent volatility.

The session began on a strong footing, with the Nifty opening above the 25,300 mark. Early buying momentum pushed the index past 25,400 during intraday trade. However, profit booking at higher levels erased most of the early gains by mid-session. Renewed buying interest in the latter half of the day helped the benchmarks recover and close firmly in positive territory. At the close, the Sensex rose 397.74 points, or 0.49 percent, to settle at 82,307.37, while the Nifty gained 132.40 points, or 0.53 percent, ending at 25,289.90.

The broader market outperformed the frontline indices, with the BSE Midcap and Smallcap indices advancing more than 1 percent each, reflecting selective buying in mid- and small-sized stocks. Among Nifty gainers, Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Bharat Electronics, Adani Ports, Adani Enterprises and Tata Steel led the rally. On the downside, SBI Life Insurance, Eternal, Eicher Motors, Titan Company and Max Healthcare ended



lower. Sectorally, barring realty and consumer durables, all indices closed in the green. FMCG, power, metal, media, PSU banks and pharma stocks recorded gains in the range of 1-2 percent. Stock-specific action remained in focus. Shares of Eternal slipped 2 percent despite reporting a sharp 73 percent jump in Q3 profit. Dr Reddy's Laboratories surged 5 percent after posting strong quarterly earnings. Waaree Energies rallied nearly 10 percent following a 115 percent jump in Q3 profit, while Bank of India gained 5 percent on improved financial performance. Bajaj Consumer Care hit the upper circuit, jumping 20 percent after reporting an

83 percent surge in profit. Despite the rebound, market breadth showed caution, with more than 260 stocks touching their 52-week lows. These included Aditya Birla Lifestyle Brands, Sapphire Foods, Devyani International, Kalyan Jewellers, Siemens Energy, Lodha Developers, Godrej Properties, Jubilant FoodWorks, Tejas Networks, Syngene International and Brigade Enterprises, among others.

Outlook for January 23

Technically, the Nifty displayed high volatility near recent lows around the 25,000 mark before bouncing back. The index formed a high-wave candle on

the daily chart, signalling heightened uncertainty. Importantly, Nifty reclaimed its crucial 200-day exponential moving average and closed above it for the second consecutive session.

While the near-term trend remains weak, a short-term bounce is unfolding. A sustained move above the 25,500 level could confirm a near-term bottom reversal. On the downside, any renewed weakness may drag the index back toward the 24,900-25,000 zone. The India VIX remains elevated at 13.35, indicating continued volatility. For the next session, resistance is seen in the 25,480-25,500 range, while immediate support lies near 25,125.

Franklin Templeton Launches Nationwide Financial Literacy Drive From Kanyakumari to Kashmir

Amid persistent market volatility that continues to keep investor sentiment on edge, Franklin Templeton India has launched a month-long nationwide investor awareness campaign aimed at strengthening financial literacy, particularly among women in smaller towns and underserved communities. The initiative was rolled out on Tuesday, with the fund house's India head, Avinash Satwalekar, embarking on an ambitious 4,000-kilometre journey from Kanyakumari to Kashmir.

Titled 'Change the Soch - Kanyakumari to Kashmir Drive', the campaign seeks to encourage informed investing habits at a time when retail participation outside major urban centres remains uneven, despite the steady expansion of mutual fund penetration across the country. Franklin Templeton said the programme is designed to address the gap between rising awareness of financial products and actual long-term investment behaviour among households.

The 30-day initiative also marks Franklin Templeton's three decades of presence in In-



dia. Over the course of the campaign, Satwalekar will travel across 21 cities, stopping every alternate day to conduct investor education sessions. These interactions are focused on helping individuals shift from a traditional savings-led mindset to a disciplined, long-term investment approach.

A key emphasis of the drive is on engaging women from diverse socio-economic backgrounds. According to the fund house, the sessions will reach women from farming and fishing communi-

ties, self-help groups, students and educators, small entrepreneurs, government employees, and even members of the armed forces. The objective is to empower women with financial knowledge that enables better decision-making at the household level.

"While urban centres have made meaningful advances in financial awareness, lakhs of women across Bharat—especially in Tier 2 and Tier 3 regions—remain underserved when it comes to access to financial knowledge and tools," Satwale-

kar said. He added that informed financial decision-making within households is essential for long-term economic resilience and inclusive growth, particularly in an environment of rising financial complexity and market uncertainty.

Franklin Templeton clarified that the initiative is purely educational in nature and does not involve discussions around specific mutual fund schemes, return projections, or product recommendations. The sessions will instead focus on basic financial concepts such as goal-based investing, risk awareness, and the importance of staying invested through market cycles.

The fund house believes that sustained investor education is critical to building confidence among first-time investors and ensuring that the growth of India's mutual fund industry is both broad-based and durable. By taking the message directly to communities across the country, Franklin Templeton aims to reinforce the idea that long-term wealth creation begins with awareness, discipline, and the right financial mindset.

IndiGo Q3 FY26 Profit Slumps 78% to ₹549.8 Crore on Labour Code Impact, December Disruptions

InterGlobe Aviation, the parent company of India's largest airline IndiGo, reported a sharp decline in profitability for the third quarter of FY26, weighed down by the impact of new labour regulations and severe operational disruptions in December 2025. The airline posted a consolidated net profit of ₹549.8 crore for the quarter ended December, marking a steep 77.5 percent drop from ₹2,448.8 crore reported in the corresponding period last year.

The company said profitability during the quarter was significantly affected by exceptional items linked to the implementation of India's new labour codes and large-scale flight cancellations and delays witnessed in early December. Excluding total exceptional losses amounting to 1,546.5 crore, IndiGo's net profit would have stood at ₹2,096.3 crore, representing a more modest 14 percent year-on-year decline.

Despite the hit to profits, IndiGo continued to deliver steady topline growth. Revenue from operations increased 6 percent year-on-year to ₹23,471.9 crore in Q3 FY26, supported by capacity expansion and sustained passenger demand. The airline, which commands nearly two-thirds of India's domestic aviation market, remains the country's dominant carrier by scale.

During the quarter, IndiGo's



capacity rose 11.2 percent year-on-year to 4,540 crore available seat kilometres (ASKs). However, passenger growth lagged capacity expansion, increasing just 2.8 percent year-on-year to 3,190 crore passengers. As a result, the airline's load factor declined by 2.4 percentage points to 84.6 percent. Yield also softened by 1.8 percent to ₹5.33, reflecting pricing pressure amid network adjustments.

On the cost front, fuel cost per available seat kilometre (CASK) declined 2.8 percent to ₹1.53, offering some relief. Nevertheless, overall costs during the quarter climbed nearly 10 percent year-on-year, driven by higher fuel expenses, which rose 8 percent, and employee-related costs following regulatory changes. IndiGo expects its capacity, measured in ASKs, to grow by around 10 percent in the fourth quarter of

FY26.

Operationally, the airline reported a technical dispatch reliability of 99.9 percent for the October-December period. Its on-time performance at six key metro airports stood at 76.6 percent, with a flight cancellation rate of 1.03 percent.

A major portion of the exceptional losses stemmed from the implementation of India's new labour codes, which came into effect on November 21. The new framework mandates a uniform definition of wages, requiring basic pay to account for at least 50 percent of total cost-to-company (CTC), thereby increasing statutory payouts. IndiGo reported a one-time exceptional loss of ₹969.3 crore related to the labour code transition.

The airline was also hit by widespread operational disruptions in early December follow-

ing the introduction of revised Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) norms. The new rules, which mandate longer rest hours and more humane rostering for crew, led to acute pilot shortages and network realignment challenges. The disruption reportedly impacted over 300,000 passengers and resulted in a one-time exceptional loss of ₹577.2 crore. Subsequently, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) imposed a ₹22 crore fine on IndiGo after the carrier cancelled 2,507 flights and delayed 1,852 flights between December 3 and 5.

Commenting on the performance, IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers said the company deeply regretted the inconvenience caused to customers during the December disruption. "We are grateful to our colleagues who worked tirelessly to stabilize operations and to the government and aviation authorities for their support," he said.

Elbers added that despite the challenges, the airline delivered strong revenue growth and carried nearly 32 million passengers during the quarter and about 124 million passengers in calendar year 2025. "Our long-term fundamentals remain strong, backed by an expanding fleet and network. We remain committed to reliability, operational excellence and an enhanced customer experience," he said.

Adani Energy Solutions Shares Rise Over 3% After Q3 Results; Revenue, EBITDA Hit Record Highs



Shares of Adani Energy Solutions climbed more than 3 percent on January 22 after the company announced its financial results for the October-December quarter (Q3) of the ongoing financial year 2025-26. The stock ended the session at ₹927.45 apiece, reflecting positive investor sentiment despite a marginal year-on-year decline in net profit.

For the quarter under review, Adani Energy Solutions reported a consolidated net profit of ₹552.31 crore, marking a nearly 2 percent decline compared to ₹561.78 crore recorded in the corresponding period last year. However, on a sequential basis, profit improved by over 3 percent from ₹533.97 crore posted in the previous quarter, indicating steady operational momentum.

Revenue from operations witnessed a strong performance, rising 15 percent year-on-year to ₹6,729.65 crore during the quarter. The growth was driven by robust execution in the company's transmission and smart metering businesses, along with stable performance in its distribution segment.

The Adani Group company also reported a record-high EBITDA of ₹2,210 crore for the quarter, registering a 20.7 percent year-on-year growth. According to the company, this improvement was supported by rapid expansion in the transmission network, increasing smart metering installations, and effective cost management. Cash profit surged around 23 percent year-on-year to ₹1,227 crore, reflecting strong underlying cash generation.

Adani Energy Solutions highlighted a healthy project pipeline going forward. The company said that its aggregate transmission projects under construction now stand at ₹77,787 crore. Additionally, the smart metering order book has reached 2.46 crore meters, translating into a revenue potential of ₹29,519 crore. The company further noted that the near-term tendering pipeline in the transmission sector remains strong at approximately ₹1 lakh crore, while the overall market opportunity for smart metering across India stands at nearly 103 million meters.

Commenting on the performance, Kandarp Patel, CEO of Adani Energy Solutions, said the company had delivered another strong quarter despite prevailing challenges. He attributed the progress to efficient on-ground execution, focused operations and maintenance, and disciplined capital management.

During the current financial year, the company has commissioned four transmission projects and achieved a milestone of installing approximately 92.5 lakh smart meters—the highest by any single player in the country—at a benchmark daily installation rate.

Looking ahead, Patel expressed confidence in the growth outlook across all business segments. He said the company expects a significant increase in asset capitalisation and anticipates strong momentum in bidding activity over the short to medium term, positioning Adani Energy Solutions for sustained expansion.

Bank Nifty Snaps Three-Day Losing Streak, Rises 0.6%; PSU Banks Outperform



The Nifty Bank index staged a recovery on January 22, snapping a three-session losing streak as broader equity markets traded firmly in positive territory. Buying interest in select banking stocks, particularly public sector lenders, supported the index's rebound amid an otherwise cautious market environment.

At around 2:52 pm, the Nifty Bank index was trading 0.60 percent higher at 59,155.45. IDFC First Bank emerged as the top gainer on the index, rising nearly 3 percent to trade at ₹83.81 per share. The stock is currently inching closer to its 52-week high of ₹87, reflecting renewed investor interest.

Several other banking heavyweights also contributed to the gains. Shares of Canara Bank, Bank of Baroda, and State Bank of India (SBI) climbed nearly 2 percent each. Federal Bank and Union Bank of India advanced over 1 percent, while Kotak Mahindra Bank, Axis Bank, and Punjab National Bank (PNB) posted gains of around 1 percent each.

Private lenders HDFC Bank and AU Small Finance Bank were also trading in the green, though with marginal gains. However, not all stocks participated in the rally. IndusInd Bank slipped more than 1 percent, bucking the broader trend. Meanwhile, Yes Bank and ICI-Bank were trading lower with modest losses.

The Nifty PSU Bank index outperformed the broader Bank Nifty, surging more than 2 percent during the session.

The rally in PSU banks was led by sharp gains in stocks such as Bank of India and Indian Bank, which jumped up to 5 percent, supported by improved sentiment and stock-specific triggers.

Bank Nifty: Technical Outlook
On the technical front, market experts continue to flag key support and resistance levels. According to Bajaj Broking, the 58,700-59,000 zone remains an important short-term support for the Bank Nifty. A decisive breakdown below 58,278 could accelerate further downside pressure. On the upside, immediate resistance is placed at 59,500, while the all-time high zone of 60,200-60,400 remains a major hurdle for the index.

Rajesh Bhosale, Equity Technical Analyst at Angel One, said that the Bank Nifty may find support around 58,500, followed by 58,300 if weakness persists. On the upside, resistance is expected near 59,100 and then at 59,500.

Echoing a cautious outlook, Akash Shah, Technical Research Analyst at Choice Equity Broking, noted that while Bank Nifty continues to show relative resilience, it remains below crucial resistance levels. He added that immediate support lies near the 58,500-58,600 range, and sustained upside may remain capped unless there is a visible improvement in earnings visibility and broader market confidence.

Overall, the short-term trend for Bank Nifty remains volatile, with market participants closely tracking support levels amid mixed cues.

Passengers on Aizawl–Guwahati Train Win Praise for Civic Sense, Spark National Reflection



Concerns over cleanliness in public spaces—especially on trains—remain a recurring topic of debate in India. Passenger trains often reflect the worst of civic behaviour, with littering treated casually and the responsibility of sanitation pushed entirely onto authorities. Amid these conversations, a viral video from the North East has once again drawn attention to how collective responsibility can make a tangible difference.

Shared on Instagram by the account @daily.passenger, the video shows passengers aboard the Aizawl–Guwahati train taking personal initiative to keep their surroundings clean. Instead of discarding waste on the floor or tracks, passengers were seen collecting garbage in small bags and hanging them neatly beside their seats. The act was quiet, organised, and entirely voluntary—without announcements, instructions, or enforcement from railway staff.

“People were tying their waste in small bags and hanging them neatly beside their seats. No announcements. No instructions from the railways. Just a habit,” read the caption accompanying the clip.

The post quickly struck a chord, prompting introspection among viewers across the country. The user who shared the video, identifying themselves as being from North India, reflected on how easy it is to blame poor infrastructure or government agencies for dirty public spaces while overlooking individual responsibility.

“Clean spaces do not stay clean because of authorities alone,” the caption continued. “They stay clean because people choose to care. There is so much to learn from Mizoram and the North East. Respect for public spaces is not a campaign—it is a way of life.”

As the video gained traction, social media users flooded the comments section with praise for the passengers and admiration for the civic culture displayed in the North East. Many expressed hope that such behaviour would inspire travellers across other regions of India.

“There is so much to learn for all of us from our fellow Indians of the North East,” wrote one user. Another added, “It’s not about the area, it’s about civic sense.”

Others echoed similar sentiments from different parts of the country. “I’m from Tamil Nadu. This is great to see. Hopefully it is followed across India,” commented one user, while urging that collected waste be disposed of responsibly rather than thrown onto railway tracks. Another user noted that such habits are often instilled early, saying, “We were taught since childhood to carry our waste and throw it only in a dustbin.”

The video serves as a quiet but powerful reminder that meaningful change begins not with rules or penalties, but with everyday choices—and that civic sense, once ingrained, speaks louder than any campaign.

Indian Techie Laid Off for Lagging Behind AI-Assisted Coders Sparks Debate on Speed vs Skill

A recent social media post by an Indian software developer has triggered widespread debate about the growing pressure on programmers to match the speed of colleagues using artificial intelligence (AI) tools for coding. The tech professional, who had over 2.6 years of experience, revealed that they were terminated during their probation period for not being “fast enough” compared to other developers relying heavily on AI.

In a now-viral Reddit post, the developer said their three-month probation had just ended when they were informed of the decision. According to the post, the company cited their inability to keep pace with peers who were using AI tools to generate code rapidly. The techie also shared that they struggled to fully understand the product being shipped within such a short timeframe and did not receive adequate guidance or feedback from senior team members or their manager.



“Others were writing code with the help of AI, and I was not able to match their speed,” the developer wrote. “I was not getting any real feedback from my manager, and by the time I started using AI tools myself, it was already too late.” The developer said they

tried compensating by working extra hours, including weekends, but still failed to meet expectations. The experience has taken a toll on their confidence, leading them to question their future in the tech industry. They also highlighted personal pressures, noting that

they are the sole earning member of their family and had chosen the job because it was remote, allowing them to live with their loved ones.

“I feel shattered. I can’t even solve problems on LeetCode that I used to manage during my college days,” the post read.

“I don’t know if this field is for me anymore.”

The post quickly drew widespread attention, with many users expressing empathy and offering advice. Several encouraged the developer to take a short break, regroup, and begin preparing for new opportunities. Others pushed back against the growing dependence on AI-generated code, warning that speed should not come at the cost of quality.

“A piece of code should be judged by its quality and performance, not how fast it was written,” one user commented. Another warned that unchecked reliance on AI could lead to security vulnerabilities and poorly maintained systems surfacing later in production environments.

The incident has reignited conversations around workplace expectations in the AI era, raising questions about whether companies are prioritising velocity over learning, mentorship, and long-term code quality.

Indian Man’s Viral Post Reveals Eight Hard Truths About Life in Australia

An Indian man who moved to Australia two years ago has gone viral on social media after sharing what he described as the “harsh truths” of living in the country. The Instagram post, shared by Divyesh Gondaliya, struck a chord with thousands of users for its candid portrayal of life Down Under—highlighting that while Australia offers opportunity and comfort, it also comes with emotional and practical challenges that are often glossed over online.

Gondaliya began by acknowledging that Australia is an incredible place with safety, order, and professional opportunities. However, he noted that starting life from scratch in a new country can be isolating, especially for migrants who leave behind close-knit families and long-standing social networks. According to him, Australia teaches resilience precisely because the emotional support system many Indians are accustomed to is largely absent.

In his post, Gondaliya

listed eight realities that stood out to him. While Australians are friendly and open to casual conversations in cafés, universities, or queues, building deep friendships can be difficult since most locals already have established circles from childhood. He also reflected on the contrast between India’s vibrant, people-filled lifestyle and Australia’s quieter pace, admitting that the peace can sometimes feel lonely.

Living alone, he said, fosters independence but also brings moments of emotional vulnerability, especially on nights when homesickness feels overwhelming. Gondaliya also addressed the curated image of Australia on social media—beaches, sunsets, and road trips—pointing out that behind the scenes are long work hours, tight budgets, and constant financial calculations.

Visa uncertainty was another major concern. As an international resident, Gondaliya said life often feels like it is lived in “temporary mode,” with future plans shaped



by immigration rules rather than personal choice. High living costs also featured prominently, with rent, groceries, and utilities requiring careful budgeting, despite the country’s high standard of living.

Interestingly, he noted that Australia’s winters can feel harsher than expected, not because of

extreme temperatures, but due to poorly insulated homes that leave residents feeling cold indoors. On a more positive note, Gondaliya highlighted Australia’s egalitarian work culture, where even police officers and managers interact with approachability and mutual respect.

The post has garnered over 3.1 lakh views, with users praising Gondaliya’s honesty. Many described his account as both “hard and great,” while others resonated deeply with the emotional trade-offs of migration. As one user put it, Australia offers much—but for some, it never quite feels like home.

70-Year-Old Man From Uttar Pradesh Goes Viral With First-Ever Vlog, Wins Hearts Online



Breaking age stereotypes and inspiring millions, a 70-year-old man from Uttar Pradesh has become an unlikely internet sensation after his first-ever vlog went viral on Instagram. Vinod Kumar Sharma, who had no prior experience with content creation, stunned social media users after his debut video amassed over 22 million views within days. At the time of writing, the video had crossed nearly 30 million views in just 72 hours, proving that it is never too late to try something new.

In the short yet heartfelt video, Sharma introduces himself with humility and honesty. “70 saal ki umr mein apna pehla vlog bana raha hoon,” he says, explaining that he is experimenting with vlogging as a way to spend his retirement years meaningfully. He openly admits that he does not know how to vlog but is eager to learn and stay engaged rather than remain idle.

“My name is Vinod Kumar Sharma. I am from Uttar Pradesh. I don’t know how to vlog, but I am trying to make videos to spend my time,” he says in Hindi. He further expresses hope that viewers would like his effort and encourage him to continue. His sincerity and unfiltered approach struck an emotional chord with viewers across age groups.

Apart from garnering massive views, the video also received over two

million likes and thousands of supportive comments. Many users said his innocence reminded them of their parents and grandparents. Comments such as “Age is just a number, uncle,” “Hum aapke saath hain,” and “Uncle ji, you made our hearts happy” flooded the post.

Others praised his willingness to learn at an age often associated with slowing down. “There is no age for learning. You proved it beautifully,” one user wrote. Another commented, “I will not stop until taunts turn into claps—this line gave me so much motivation.”

Following the viral success, Sharma’s Instagram following surged rapidly, crossing 64,000 followers as users rallied behind his journey. His growing popularity also caught the attention of celebrities. Actor Jay Bhanushali left a warm comment under the video, saying he was eagerly waiting for Sharma’s next vlog, while actor Anupam Kher also acknowledged his inspiring effort.

Sharma’s unexpected rise to fame has become a powerful reminder that authenticity still resonates in an era dominated by heavily edited and scripted social media content. His story stands as proof that passion, curiosity, and sincerity can transcend age—and that new beginnings are always possible, no matter the stage of life.

Viral Video of Youths Damaging Hotel Room Sparks Outrage Over Civic Behaviour



A video showing three young men creating a mess inside a hotel room has gone viral on social media, triggering widespread criticism for their irresponsible and uncivil behaviour. The clip, which has been circulating widely online, has reignited conversations around civic sense, accountability,

and respect for public and rented spaces.

In the video, the youths are seen jumping on a hotel bed while wearing shoes, visibly soiling the bedsheets, pillows, and blankets. As the clip progresses, the room appears increasingly untidy and damaged. The young men can be heard claiming

they are “fully utilising” the ₹500 they paid for the room, suggesting that the low cost justified their actions.

The video was shared on social media platform X by the handle Ghar Ke Kalesh, with a caption questioning the civic responsibility of the individuals involved. Accord-

ing to the post, the incident reportedly took place in Agra. The caption criticised the behaviour as an example of poor manners and disregard for property, sparking sharp reactions from viewers.

Soon after it was posted, the video gained significant traction, drawing thousands of views and comments. Many social media users condemned the actions of the youths, expressing concern over the damage caused to hotel property and calling for stricter accountability. Several users emphasised that paying for a room does not grant permission to misuse or destroy it.

“Showing such disregard for public and private spaces reflects a lack of basic civic sense. Education and awareness are clearly needed,” one user commented. Another demanded legal action, writing, “The hotel owner should file a police complaint for the destruction of property.”

Some users linked such incidents to broader social consequences. “This is exactly why owners hes-

itate to rent rooms to students or groups of young men,” one commenter observed. Another added, “This behaviour explains why students often struggle to find PG accommodations.”

Despite the strong public reaction, there has been no official statement from the hotel management or local authorities so far. It also remains unclear when the video was recorded or whether any action has been taken against the individuals involved.

Even in the absence of official confirmation, the video continues to circulate widely and has fuelled a broader discussion about responsible conduct while using shared or rented spaces. Many users stressed that respect for property is not optional, regardless of cost, and urged greater awareness about civic behaviour.

The incident serves as a reminder that personal actions in public or private spaces can have lasting consequences—not just for individuals, but for communities as a whole.

Bangladesh Pulls Out of T20 World Cup in India Over Security Concerns

Bangladesh on Thursday announced that it will not travel to India to participate in the T20 World Cup, set to begin on February 7, following the International Cricket Council's (ICC) rejection of their request to shift matches to another country. The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) reached the decision after a meeting between national team players and Youth and Sports Adviser Asif Nazrul.

The ICC had given Bangladesh a 24-hour ultimatum: either travel to India for the tournament or risk being replaced, asserting there was no credible threat to players, officials, or fans. Despite this, Bangladesh's sports adviser and players took a firm stand against the directive.

Speaking at a press conference, Asif Nazrul said, "While our cricketers have worked hard to qualify for the World Cup, the security risk regarding playing in India remains unchanged. This concern is not based on abstract analysis. We are not giving up hope yet; our team is ready. We expect the ICC to provide justice by considering our genuine security risks and allowing us to play in Sri Lanka."

The BCB has emphasized that it remains committed to participating in



the tournament, but not on Indian soil. The board also indicated it will continue discussions with the ICC to find an alternative solution. "We will continue to communicate with the ICC. We want to play the World Cup, but we won't play in India. We will keep fighting," said BCB President Aminul Islam Bulbul. He added that decisions in the ICC board meeting, including the

ouster of pacer Mustafizur Rahman from the IPL on BCCI instructions, highlighted broader governance issues.

Bangladesh is scheduled to play four matches in India—three in Kolkata and one in Mumbai. Concerns escalated after Mustafizur Rahman was withdrawn from the IPL under unspecified "developmental" all around," which the team views as a

precedent highlighting potential risks.

With Bangladesh opting out, the ICC is likely to replace them with Scotland for the tournament. The decision has sparked significant debate in cricketing circles, raising questions about player security, tournament governance, and the ICC's role in balancing logistical demands with national team concerns.

The standoff underscores a broader tension in international cricket between safety considerations and rigid scheduling. Bangladesh's withdrawal sends a strong message that player security cannot be overlooked, even in high-profile global tournaments, and sets a potential precedent for how cricket boards may negotiate in future events.

MS Dhoni Congratulates RCB on IPL 2025 Triumph, Praises Fans Despite CSK Allegiance



Legendary India captain MS Dhoni has congratulated Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) for clinching their first Indian Premier League (IPL) title in 2025, ending an 18-year wait. Dhoni, who leads Chennai Super Kings (CSK), five-time IPL champions, said he found it hard to imagine any team winning the trophy other than CSK, but lauded RCB's performance and fan support in a video that quickly went viral on social media.

"If I'm part of CSK, I can't imagine any other team winning the IPL. But it was long-awaited and they played very well. Big congratulations to them and I said it even then," Dhoni said at an event.

He reflected on the mindset of players competing in such a high-stakes tournament. "When you are a participant in the competition, you want your team to win. It doesn't always work in your favour, but what's also important is what we can learn from the other teams. That is crucial in a tournament like this," he added.

Dhoni also singled out RCB's loyal fanbase for praise, highlighting their unwavering support. "RCB fans have been brilliant. Every time there is a game, they come and support their team, even when the chips are down," he noted.

Dhoni holds the record as the most successful captain in IPL history, guiding CSK to 10 finals and winning five titles. Notably, CSK's second championship in 2011 came after a victory over RCB in the final. Prior to 2025, RCB had lost three IPL finals—2009, 2011, and 2016—but their perseverance finally paid off under the captaincy of Rajat Patidar, as they defeated Punjab Kings (PBKS) in the 2025 final.

RCB's journey to the title was marked by resilience, teamwork, and consistent performances throughout the season, reflecting the maturation of a team long considered unlucky in finals. Dhoni's comments underscore the competitive spirit of the IPL, where even legendary players can appreciate rival achievements while staying fiercely loyal to their own franchises.

Looking ahead, Dhoni is set to return for CSK in IPL 2026, aiming to add to his record-breaking captaincy tally. While his franchise will undoubtedly strive for another title, Dhoni's gracious recognition of RCB's landmark achievement highlights both sportsmanship and the passionate culture surrounding the IPL, where fans and players alike celebrate moments of triumph across team lines.

Pakistan's T20 Promo Takes Aim at India Ahead of Australia Series

Pakistan has sparked controversy with a new promotional video for their upcoming T20I series against Australia, featuring a veiled reference to the long-running 'handshake' row with India. The video comes in the wake of tensions following the Pahalgalam terror attacks, when Indian cricketers notably refused to shake hands with their Pakistani counterparts during several international fixtures. The standoff began during the Asia Cup 2025, where India and Pakistan faced each other three times. Skipper Suryakumar Yadav declined to shake hands with Salman Ali Agha both after the toss and at the conclusion of the matches, creating a diplomatic stir on the cricketing stage.

Pakistan's promo, primarily aimed at welcoming Australian fans, highlights hospitality, with Agha making a brief appearance to speak on friendly reception. However, it ends with a tongue-in-cheek jab: an Australian

tourist exiting a car is reminded, "Handshake bhool gaye aap, lagta hai padosiyon ke paas bhi ruke thay" (You forgot the handshake; it looks like you had an encounter with our neighbours). This playful remark clearly alludes to the earlier handshake controversy that saw Pakistan threaten to withdraw from the Asia Cup midway after a standoff with ICC match referee Andy Pycroft.

The three-match T20 series between Pakistan and Australia will take place at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore, with day-night fixtures scheduled for January 29 and 31, and February 1. These games serve as a lead-up to the ICC T20 World Cup, which will be held in India and Sri Lanka later this year. While Australia will play their World Cup group matches in India, Pakistan is set to compete in Sri Lanka.

This series marks the first time since April 2022 that Australia is touring Pakistan for a T20 series;



their last visit included a Test series and a white-ball series that year. The tour is significant in re-establishing cricketing ties after years of security concerns that limited international visits to Pakistan.

While the promo has drawn attention for its political undertones, the se-

ries itself is expected to be closely contested. Both Pakistan and Australia are using these matches to fine-tune their squads ahead of the World Cup, offering fans a glimpse of strategies and form ahead of the global tournament. The Pakistan Cricket Board has emphasized the spirit of the game, even as

the video underscores the lingering sensitivities surrounding Indo-Pak cricket relations.

As excitement builds, the Lahore fixtures promise not only competitive cricket but also a reminder of the sport's capacity to blend diplomacy, humour, and rivalry on a global stage.

Gavaskar Praises Varun Chakravarthy and India's All-Round Show in T20I Win Over New Zealand



Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar lauded Varun Chakravarthy's bowling and India's overall performance after the Men in Blue secured a commanding victory in the first T20I against New Zealand in Nagpur. The win marked an ideal start to India's final preparations ahead of the Men's T20 World Cup.

Batting first, India posted a formidable total of 238/7 in 20 overs. Opener Abhishek Sharma led the charge with a blistering 84 off just 35 balls, supported by quick-fire contributions from skipper Suryakumar Yadav, all-rounder Hardik Pandya, and Rinku Singh. New Zealand initially lost top-order batters Devon Conway and Rachin Ravindra in the powerplay, but Glenn Phillips and Mark Chapman staged a valiant recovery during their chase. Despite their efforts, India's bowlers struck at crucial moments, ultimately securing a 48-run win at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium on Wednesday.

Chakravarthy, like many bowlers in the high-scoring match, conceded runs but managed figures of 2/37 in four overs. Gavaskar described the spinner as looking slightly "rusty" but emphasized that an economy rate of 9.20 was reasonable given the batters' aggressive approach. He praised Chakravarthy's body language,

noting that the spinner remained composed even after being hit for a few sixes—a crucial indicator of confidence and mental resilience.

"Varun looked a little rusty, but that's understandable. He picked up two wickets and the economy rate, when the batters are going hell-bent for leather, was pretty decent as well," Gavaskar said on JioStar. "The important thing is that his body language was good. He walked back upright, wasn't fazed by being hit for a couple of sixes, and that's very encouraging for a player who sometimes shows self-doubt. He's a magician with the ball and bowls brilliantly. He just has to believe in the next over, and he delivers."

Gavaskar also highlighted India's all-round performance, calling the win a confidence booster ahead of the World Cup. "You win the first game; that's a ticked box for sure. Within that ticked box, there are smaller boxes to tick off, but starting a new campaign with a win is always positive. India did brilliantly to reach 238 and then bowled well. Yes, a few catches went down, but overall, the performance was very heartening," he added.

With this comprehensive display, India not only showcased their batting firepower but also demonstrated depth in bowling and fielding, setting the tone for a competitive T20 World Cup campaign.

Top Pakistan Cricketers Allegedly Caught in Ponzi Scheme, PCB Investigating



Several leading Pakistani cricketers, including former captain Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan, and pace ace Shaheen Shah Afridi, are reportedly victims of a Ponzi scheme that could cost them millions of rupees, according to sources familiar with the matter.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is understood to have taken notice and is reportedly investigating the financial scam.

Around a dozen current players, including Fakhar Zaman and Shadab Khan, as well as a former Test captain, allegedly invested substantial sums with

a Pakistani businessman who has since fled the country. The businessman, well-known to the players and previously involved in sponsorship deals for Pakistan Super League franchises, reportedly made profit payments in the early months, creating an impression of

one billion rupees, highlighting the scale of the financial impact. The PCB is reportedly assessing the situation to determine the extent of the losses and explore possible legal remedies to assist the affected players.

Ponzi schemes, which rely on funds from new investors to pay returns to earlier investors rather than generating legitimate profits, are notoriously risky. In this case, the early payments appear to have lulled the players into a false sense of security, making the eventual collapse more damaging.

The news has sent shockwaves through Pakistan cricket, raising questions about financial guidance and due diligence among professional athletes. With several high-profile players affected, the incident is likely to trigger stricter oversight measures by the PCB to prevent similar scams in the future and safeguard the financial interests of players.

Vishal-Sundar C's "Mogudu" Glimpse Out, Instantly Fires Up Expectations

Director Sundar C, celebrated for his mass-friendly narratives and consistent appeal in the Telugu market, is back with another high-energy commercial entertainer titled "Mogudu." This time, he joins hands with Versatile Star Vishal, promising a film that blends family emotions, humor, and action in equal measure. The project is being produced by A.C.S. Arun Kumar under the banners of Avni Cinemax Pvt. Ltd. and Benz Media Pvt. Ltd., with Khushbu Sundar presenting the film. Tamannaah Bhatia plays the female lead, while comedy favorite Yogi Babu appears in a pivotal role. Music duties are handled by Hiphop Tamizha.

With the shoot progressing briskly, the makers have already ignited excitement by unveiling the title along with an extended five-minute glimpse. Unlike typical promotional cuts packed with flashy visuals, the "Mogudu" glimpse dives straight into the narrative core, giving viewers a clear sense of character relationships and emotional beats. This bold move has paid off, as the video quickly went viral and sparked enthusiastic reactions across social media platforms.

The glimpse opens on a humorous note with Yogi Babu delivering a mock-serious, television-serial-style dialogue: "Being a man isn't enough... behaving like a real husband is what matters. Do you understand, mother-



in-law?" This instantly sets the tone for the film's playful yet pointed exploration of marital dynamics. What follows is a neatly constructed sequence where Yogi Babu's character enters Tamannaah's home, is momentarily dazzled by her presence, and then freezes upon meeting her husband—Vishal. The scene effortlessly blends comedy with a hint of tension, showcasing Sundar C's strength in balancing family drama and entertainment.

One of the biggest highlights of the glimpse is the husband-and-wife chemistry between Vishal and Tamannaah. Tamannaah shines as a strong, authoritative woman who doesn't mince words, while Vishal surprises with a

refreshing mix of domestic innocence and trademark action-hero intensity. His transition from doing household chores to taking on villains adds a satisfying mass appeal that fans will relish.

Positioned as Vishal's 36th film, "Mogudu" appears to tick all the right boxes of a commercial entertainer—family sentiment, humor, romance, and action. The extended first look has significantly raised expectations, and with the team promising sustained promotional content, anticipation is steadily building for the teaser and trailer. If the glimpse is any indication, "Mogudu" could well shape up to be a crowd-pleasing entertainer across audiences.

Vijay Deverakonda Launches Telugu Promo of Feel-Good Entertainer "Happy Raj"



After generating solid buzz with its cheerful title announcement, Happy Raj has taken its promotions a step further with the release of its official promo—and the response has been overwhelmingly positive. The Telugu promo was unveiled by Rowdy Star Vijay Deverakonda, whose association instantly amplified the film's reach and excitement. From the moment it dropped, the promo struck a joyful chord with audiences, earning enthusiastic reactions across social media platforms.

Produced by Jayavardhan under the Beyond Pictures banner, Happy Raj marks the production house's first venture and is envisioned as a wholesome entertainer that can be enjoyed by audiences of all age

groups. Written and directed by Maria Elanchezian, the film promises a feel-good cinematic experience rooted in warmth, optimism, and everyday joy. The promo delivers exactly that—offering a vibrant glimpse into a world that celebrates happiness in its simplest and purest form.

One of the major highlights of the promo is the refreshing and lively screen presence of GV Prakash Kumar, who plays the titular role of Raj. Known for his versatility, GV Prakash brings an infectious energy to the character, effortlessly drawing viewers into the film's positive universe. Paired opposite him is Sri Gouri Priya, whose natural charm complements the film's light-hearted tone. Together, they promise a relatable and endearing

on-screen dynamic. Audiences have particularly appreciated the promo's breezy treatment, colorful visuals, and uplifting vibe. In a time when viewers are increasingly seeking content that offers comfort and positivity, Happy Raj appears to hit the right note. Social media reactions highlight the promo's relatability and its promise of a joyful escape filled with laughter and heart.

Adding further excitement to the project is the return of evergreen actor Abbas to Tamil cinema, a comeback that has delighted fans and movie lovers alike. The supporting cast includes George Mariyam, Prarthana, Adhirchi Arun, Madurai Muthu, Sofa Boy Rasool, and others, each contributing to the film's lively ensemble.

On the technical front, Happy Raj boasts a strong crew. Cinematography is handled by Madhan Christopher, while Justin Prabhakaran's music adds soul and emotional depth to the narrative. Editing is by RK Selva, with art direction by Kumar Gangappa and costumes designed by Praveen Raja. The film is co-produced by Jaikanth Suresh, with Vishrath KL serving as executive producer.

With Vijay Deverakonda's launch giving it a major promotional push and the promo receiving such encouraging buzz, Happy Raj is shaping up to be a heartwarming entertainer that celebrates life, positivity, and happiness—just as its title promises.

Pawan Kalyan Creative Works Congratulates Team of Mega Blockbuster "Mana Shankara Varaprasad Garu"

Megastar Chiranjeevi has once again etched his name into box-office history with the mega blockbuster success of Mana Shankara Varaprasad Garu. Celebrating this remarkable achievement, Pawan Kalyan Creative Works has extended heartfelt congratulations to Chiranjeevi garu and the entire film unit, applauding the team for delivering one of the biggest hits of his illustrious career.

With a cinematic journey spanning over four decades, Megastar Chiranjeevi has consistently remained close to the hearts of audiences, creating trends and setting new benchmarks. With Mana Shankara Varaprasad Garu, he has once again proven his unparalleled stardom and enduring appeal. Directed by Anil Ravipudi, the film was produced by Sahu Garapati and Sushmita Konidela under the banners of Shine Screens and Gold Box Entertainments. Released as a Sankranti festive treat on January 12, the film also featured Victory Venkatesh in a special role, making it an added attraction for fans.

Designed to appeal not only to mega fans but to audiences across all age groups, Mana Shankara Varaprasad Garu has turned into a massive crowd-puller. The film has been showering cash at the box office,



@PKCWofl

Heartly congratulations to Megastar Chiranjeevi garu @KChiruTweets, and the entire team of #ManaShankaraVaraPrasaGaru on Mega Blockbuster success.

For over four decades, Chiranjeevi garu has remained close to the hearts of people, continuing to entertain with the same passion and energy through his acting, comedy, and dance. This is yet another successful film to his remarkable filmography.

A special mention to Director Anil Ravipudi garu @AnilRavipudi, for this another Sankranti blockbuster. It was truly delighted to see Megastar and Victory Venkatesh garu @VenkyMama, together on screen.

Music director #BheemaCeciroleo garu has delivered outstanding music that adds great energy to the film.

Special congratulations to the producers Sahu Garapati garu @Sahugarapati7, and Sushmita garu @Sushkonidela, for delivering a film that has strongly connected with audiences.

Best wishes also to #Nayanthara, @Shine_Screens and @GoldBoxEnt for

having already crossed an impressive ₹300 crore gross worldwide. This phenomenal performance has made it the biggest success in Chiranjeevi's long and celebrated filmography.

Marking this milestone, Pawan Kalyan Creative Works issued a congratulatory message praising the Megastar and the entire team. The statement highlighted how Chiranjeevi garu, even after four decades, continues to entertain audiences with the same passion, enthusiasm, and dedication through his acting, comedy, and dance. The banner described the film as yet another

glorious chapter in his extraordinary cinematic journey.

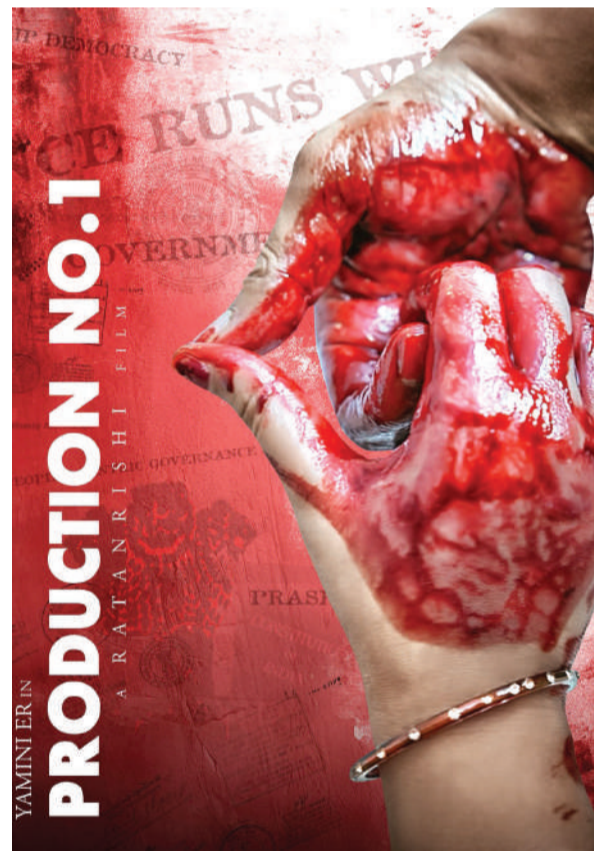
Special appreciation was also extended to director Anil Ravipudi for delivering another memorable Sankranti blockbuster. His ability to blend mass entertainment with family appeal was lauded, along with the delightful on-screen combination of Megastar Chiranjeevi and Victory Venkatesh, which gave audiences a truly memorable experience.

Music director Bheema Ceciroleo received praise for his energetic and engaging soundtrack, which added tre-

mendous value to the film's overall impact. Producers Sahu Garapati and Sushmita Konidela were also congratulated for backing a film that strongly connected with audiences.

Best wishes were further conveyed to Nayanthara, Shine Screens, Gold Box Entertainments, and the entire cast and crew for being part of this successful journey. Overall, Mana Shankara Varaprasad Garu continues its unstoppable run even after the festive season, with the film's mega blockbuster status drawing widespread appreciation from across the film industry.

Yamini ER Makes Big-Screen Debut as Lead in Ratan Rishi's Female-Centric Film



connecting with younger audiences while also exploring contemporary themes.

The film is said to revolve around a love story that reflects the realities of today's social system and evolving relationships. Unlike conventional romantic dramas, this project promises a grounded and socially relevant approach, blending emotional depth with realism. The recently released poster, unveiled with Sankranti festival wishes, offered the first glimpse into the film's tone and theme. It subtly hinted at the narrative's emotional core while positioning the story firmly within a present-day societal backdrop. The poster has been well received, generating positive responses and early buzz among film enthusiasts.

Adding strength to the cast, noted performers Kalakeya Prabhakar and Ajay Gosh have been roped in to play the antagonists. Both actors are known for their intense screen presence and strong character portray-

als, and their inclusion suggests that the film will have solid conflict and dramatic weight. Interestingly, the makers are also in discussions with a well-known hero from the 1990s to play the role of the heroine's father—a casting choice that could bring nostalgia and added credibility to the narrative.

The team has officially announced that the film's title will be revealed on February 14, a date symbolically tied to love, making it a fitting occasion for a love story rooted in contemporary realities. While details about the technical crew are yet to be disclosed, the makers have assured that more announcements will follow soon.

With a fresh face in the lead, a proven director at the helm, and a strong supporting cast, this untitled project is shaping up to be an interesting addition to the growing space of female-driven cinema. All eyes are now on the title reveal, which is expected to further elevate anticipation around the film.

Young and promising filmmaker Ratan Rishi is all set to return with a new and intriguing project, this time placing women at the center of

the narrative. Known for carving a distinct identity with his earlier films Uttara and Artiste, Ratan Rishi has announced his third directorial ven-

"Golla Ramavva" Premieres on ETV Win from January 25

"Golla Ramavva," a deeply moving and historically significant film inspired by the Telangana Armed Struggle, is set to premiere on ETV Win from January 25. Based on a powerful story written by former Prime Minister of India and Bharat Ratna awardee P. V. Narasimha Rao, the film promises to be a timeless cinematic tribute that resonates strongly with Telugu audiences. Veteran actress Talluri Rameshwari plays the titular role, delivering what is being described as a soulful and impactful performance.

Directed by Mullanpudi Vara, the film is produced jointly by Ram Vishwas Hanurkar and Raghavendra Varma (Bujji) under the banners of Suchetha Dream Works and Varma Dream Creations. The project has been mounted with a strong sense of responsibility toward history and storytelling. Adding further strength to the production is young and talented Azhar

Shaikh, who served as Executive Producer and also contributed lyrics, playing a key role in shaping the film's emotional depth.

"Golla Ramavva" narrates a heroic saga rooted in the struggles, sacrifices, and resilience of people during the Telangana Armed Struggle. Staying true to its literary and historical origins, the film blends emotion, courage, and realism, offering viewers an immersive experience that goes beyond conventional storytelling. The makers believe the film will strike a lasting chord with audiences and find a permanent place in the hearts of Telugu viewers.

The trailer launch event was held on a grand scale and witnessed the presence of several eminent personalities. P. V. Prabhakar Rao, son of P. V. Narasimha Rao, and his daughter, MLC Smt. Surabhi Vani Devi, graced the occasion, lending the event historical and emotional signifi-



cance. Renowned lyricists Kasarla Shyam and Maunasi Mallik, actor Rajeev Kanakala, "Razakar" director Yata Satyanarayana, and senior filmmaker Uday Bhaskar were also present and appreciated the team for bringing such an important story to the screen.

Speaking at the event, Smt. Surabhi Vani Devi expressed her happiness,

stating that "Golla Ramavva," one of her father's most powerful stories, has been adapted with great sincerity and respect. The film's team expressed pride in being associated with a project of such cultural and historical value. Notably, the same team earlier delivered "Maunam Nee Bhaasha" on ETV Win, which received an excellent response, further

raising expectations for this film.

With music by Sai Madhukar, cinematography by Gangamoni Shekhar, and editing by Raghavendra Varma, "Golla Ramavva" is poised to be a landmark OTT release. Premiering on ETV Win from January 25, the film stands as a heartfelt homage to history, bravery, and the indomitable spirit of Telangana.