



# POINT

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## Weather Forecast

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

## Key Decisions by CRDA Authority for Amaravati Development



TPN Correspondent  
Amaravati, Dec-11:

The Andhra Pradesh government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, has made significant strides in advancing the construction of Amaravati, the state's capital. The CRDA (Capital Region Development Authority) recently approved construction projects worth Rs 20,292 crore as part of its ongoing development plans. In a media conference, Minister

Ponguru Narayana highlighted the approval of several crucial projects, including the construction of layouts and trunk roads worth Rs 8,821 crore. This includes Rs 3,807 crore for roads in land pooling layouts and Rs 4,521 crore for trunk roads. In addition, Rs 492 crore has been allocated to complete the bungalows for judges and ministers. The total amount for approved works so far has reached Rs 20,292 crore. The construction work for Amaravati faced significant delays un-

der the YSRCP government, causing a 45% rise in costs. The prices for road construction, buildings, and gravel have increased due to the halt in work. Despite these challenges, Minister Narayana reassured that the construction would be completed in three years, as per the plan laid out by CM Naidu. The government has also announced efforts to bring back the Singapore government to help accelerate Amaravati's development. The CM's decision aims to

restore the previous momentum and bring in the necessary expertise for the capital's growth. Additionally, the government has finalized tenders for works worth Rs 41,000 crore between 2014-2019, with Rs 5,000 crore already completed. Tenders for more works will be called by December 15, and the bidding process will be completed by the end of the month. The latest developments reflect the government's commitment to completing Amaravati's capital construction in a timely manner.

- The CRDA Authority approved Rs 20,292 crore for Amaravati's construction projects.
- Construction costs have risen by 45% due to delays under the YSRCP rule.
- Tenders for ongoing works worth Rs 41,000 crore will be called by December 15.
- Efforts are underway to bring back the Singapore government for Amaravati development.



## Death Threats to Pawan Kalyan: Suspect Arrested

TPN Correspondent  
Amaravati, Dec-11:

On Monday, a shocking report revealed that Pawan Kalyan's office had received a phone call in which a man issued death threats to the Deputy Chief Minister. The caller also used abusive language during the conversation.

Upon receiving the complaint, the AP police were immediately alerted and began an investigation. Suspect who made the threatening phone calls was arrested.

The accused, identified as Mallikarjuna Rao from Labbipet, was reportedly intoxicated when he made the call. He is currently in police custody and is being interrogated. Further investigation revealed that the same phone number was also used to threaten Home Minister Anitha.

The police are treating the case with utmost seriousness, and efforts are underway to uncover all the details behind the threats.



## Jagan's Vaastu Fix: Blaming Luck for Setbacks?

TPN Correspondent  
Amaravati, Dec-11:

YCP leader YS Jagan Mohan Reddy seems to attribute his party's humiliating defeat in the general elections and the reopening of cases against him to potential "Vaastu Dosham" at his Tadepalli residence. Recent modifications at his residence appear to align with this belief. According to Vaastu Shastra principles, significant changes are being made to the metal fencing surrounding his home, with sections removed on the South to allow air flow, and parts of the fencing on the East and Northeast sides taken down as advised by pandits. This is not the first time such changes have been carried out; earlier this year, after the elections, similar adjustments were made. The ongoing alterations have caught attention on social media, sparking discussions within political circles. Critics are questioning whether Jagan is focusing on Vaastu changes rather than addressing his political failures and connecting with the public to rectify his mistakes.

## Mohan Babu Releases Audio Addressing Son Manoj

TPN Correspondent  
Hyderabad, Dec-11:

Movie actor Mohan Babu has released an audio message directed at his youngest son, Manchu Manoj. In the recording, he expresses his sorrow over Manoj's behavior, particularly his drinking problem, and states that he is going down a dangerous path. He also mentions that he is deeply hurt by his wife's words. What Mohan Babu said in the audio:

"Manoj, I raised you with a lot of love. I spent a lot on your education. You hurt me deeply after hearing your wife's words. Yes, we had a fight, which happens in every family. But why are you turning violent at home? You're even beating the people who work for us. This is a great sin! The house in Jalpalli is my hard-earned money. You have no claim to it. You're addicted to alcohol and going down a wrong path," he said.

Mohan Babu responded angrily, stating that Manoj had defamed him by going public with the issue. He asked whether his assets should be divided equally among his children or if he should donate them. "It's my choice. If I want, I will give it to my children, or I'll donate it. My father did not give me any property; I earned it myself. Manoj entered my house illegally and laid hands on my people. That's why I'm asking for police protection,"



he added. "You can take your daughter"

Mohan Babu told Manoj that he could take his daughter with him. He also said that even if Manoj left her with him, he would take care of her. "If you want, I'll hand over your child in the presence of the police," he said. He mentioned that Manoj's mother had been admitted to the hospital due to the incidents happening at their house and assured that there was nothing wrong happening at their educational institutions.

### Police Involvement at Mohan Babu's House

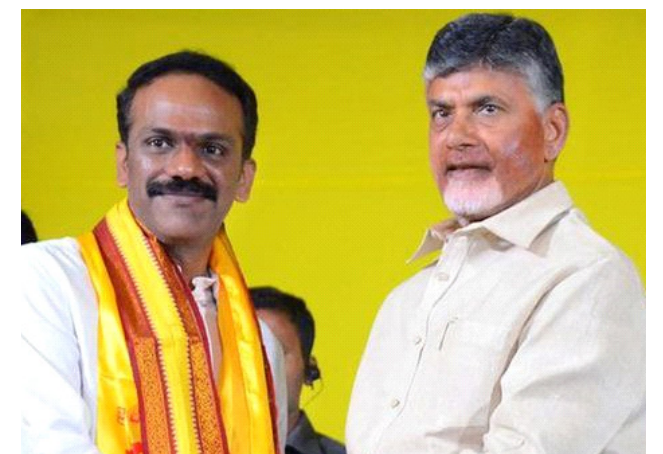
Reports indicate that the police have taken control of Mohan Babu's house in Jalpalli. It is also reported that the Rachakonda police have recommended the seizure of guns and licenses from both Mohan Babu and Manchu Vishnu.

### Tension at Mohan Babu's House

Earlier, Manoj and Mounika

met with senior police officials before arriving at their house in Jalpalli. However, security personnel blocked their entry, and the gates were not opened. As a result, Manoj and his wife sat in the car for a long time. After a while, Manoj went to the gate and argued with the security personnel, pushing the gates open to enter, claiming that his seven-month-old baby was inside. The police then sent the bouncers of both parties away. It seems that the police eventually took control of the house, removing the bouncers from both sides.

The unfolding conflict not only threatens the family's unity but also risks overshadowing its rich legacy in the entertainment industry. As the police investigate the complaints, the dispute serves as a reminder of how personal and financial conflicts can disrupt even the most celebrated families, highlighting the complexities of managing personal relationships alongside professional and public responsibilities.



## MLC for Vangaveeti Radha?

TPN Correspondent  
Amaravati, Dec-11:

Vangaveeti Radha, a key leader in the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), may soon be rewarded for his unwavering loyalty to the party with an MLC post from the NDA alliance.

Radha, who joined TDP in 2019 after feeling betrayed by YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, has been a steadfast supporter of the party despite not securing an MLA or MP ticket from his desired Vijayawada constituency. His commitment to the party has remained strong, and he has been actively engaged with party cadres, playing a crucial role in vote polarization.

As a prominent leader from the Kapu community, Radha significantly influenced the community's votes in the recent elections, often holding meetings and rallying support for the NDA. His efforts were instrumental in uniting the Kapu community behind the alliance, avoiding the split that hurt both TDP and JSP in the 2019 elections.

Radha has a good relationship with Pawan Kalyan and shares common goals with him, further strengthening his position within the alliance. Reports suggest that Radha could soon receive an MLC nomination as a reward for his hard work and loyalty, with discussions already taking place with TDP leader Chandrababu Naidu.

Despite not receiving any official posts or tickets, Radha has remained loyal and dedicated to the party without ever voicing dissent. His steadfastness is now likely to pay off, as an MLC nomination seems imminent, marking a new high in his political career.

# Minister Narayana Announces Removal of Garbage Tax

## Highlights Waste-to-Energy Projects



TPN CORRESPONDENT  
Andhra Pradesh, Dec - 11

Minister Narayana announced a significant decision to remove the garbage tax after the coalition government took power. Addressing the media, Minister Narayana stated that the funds allocated for the Amruth scheme could not be utilized due to the YSRCP government's failure to provide the required matching grant. During his inspection of the Jindal Power Plant under the GMC, Minister Narayana highlighted the progress made under the previous TDP government. He explained that, between 2014 and 2019, extensive

studies were conducted to establish plants for generating electricity from waste. He noted that garbage from seven municipalities and one corporation is currently being transported to the plant, which is converting 2,500 metric tons of waste into electricity. The Minister also revealed plans to set up similar plants in Kakinada and Nellore soon. Minister Narayana criticized the YSRCP government for not setting up any waste-to-energy plants and instead imposing a garbage tax. "We have removed the garbage tax and amended the law to ensure that it is no longer a burden on the people," he said. He also pointed out that

the cost of treating a ton of garbage is Rs. 500, but the YSRCP government has failed to use the funds allocated under the Amruth scheme. Swachhandra Corporation Chairman, Kommareddy Pattabhi Ram, praised the efforts of CM Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Narayana for bringing the Jindal plant to fruition. He emphasized that the plant operates without causing inconvenience to the surrounding areas and that plans are in place to establish similar plants in every district. He also criticized the YSRCP government for mismanaging waste disposal and pledged to make Andhra Pradesh a model state for solid waste treatment.



## Undavalli Arun Kumar's Letter to Pawan Kalyan

TPN CORRESPONDENT  
Andhra Pradesh, Dec - 11

Former Rajahmundry MP Undavalli Arun Kumar has penned a significant letter to Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, urging him to address the long-standing issues of injustice faced by the state. In the letter, Undavalli expressed his concerns about the central government's failure to do justice to Andhra Pradesh, despite the repeated statements made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Parliament regarding the injustice faced by the state. Undavalli, writing as a well-wisher, emphasized the importance of the current political alignment between CM Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, and the BJP at the center. He pointed out that this is an opportune time to correct the wrongs done to Andhra Pradesh, as the state has been deprived of its rightful share and due benefits since its bifurcation.

He further proposed that notices be issued in both Houses of Parliament to debate the manner in which the state's division took place and the resulting injustice faced by the people of Andhra Pradesh. Undavalli also urged Pawan Kalyan to take steps to bring the issue of state division, which has been pending in the Supreme Court for an extended period, to a swift resolution. In his letter, Undavalli's call for unity among the leaders and a strong push for justice for the state is clear, stressing the need to address these long-pending issues before it is too late.

## Gollapadu Village Sarpanch Joins Janasena Party



TPN CORRESPONDENT  
Sattenapalli, Dec - 11

Amaravati, Dec-11: In a significant political development, Smt. Gopu Appamma, the Sarpanch of Gollapadu village in Muppala Mandal, Sattenapalli constituency, has joined the Jana Sena Party from YSRCP. The official joining ceremony took place on Tuesday at the party's central office, where party General Secretary Sri Konidela Nagababu warmly welcomed her into the fold by covering her with a party scarf.

The event was attended by notable leaders including Legislative Council member Sri Pidugu Hariprasad, party Program Man-

agement Committee Chairman Sri Kalyanam Siva Srinivas, state spokesperson Smt. Pagadala Sivaparvathi, and others.

Smt. Sivaparvathi, in her address, expressed confidence that Smt. Gopu Appamma's entry into Jana Sena would strengthen the party in the region. She emphasized the importance of grassroots leadership in shaping the future of Andhra Pradesh and highlighted the party's commitment to addressing the needs of the common people. The addition of Smt. Gopu Appamma to the Jana Sena ranks is seen as a boost to the party's presence in the Sattenapalli constituency, where local leadership is crucial for the upcoming elections.

## Deepam-2 Scheme is a Ray of Light for the Poor

Minister Nadendla Manohar Highlights Success of Deepam-2 Scheme

Deepam 2.0 Dashboard as on 10-12-2024

LPG Cylinders Booked (No Of Cylinders) <b>80,37,908</b>	LPG Cylinders Delivered (No Of Cylinders) <b>62,30,874</b>	Subsidy Released (No Of Beneficiaries) <b>59,84,514</b>	Subsidy Credited (No Of Beneficiaries) <b>58,30,485</b>
Subsidy Amount Released (in Rs.) <b>4,76,15,09,919</b>	Subsidy Amount Credited (in Rs.) <b>4,63,81,81,400</b> (97.41 %)	Subsidy Failed (No Of Beneficiaries) <b>6,771</b>	Subsidy Failed Amount (in Rs.) <b>53,91,306</b> (0.11 %)

TPN CORRESPONDENT  
Andhra Pradesh, Dec - 11

In a remarkable achievement under the Prati Inta Deepam scheme, also known as Deepam-2, a total of 80.37 lakh gas cylinders were booked in just 42 days, and 62.30 lakh cylinders were delivered to 58.30 lakh beneficiaries across the state. The scheme has been a game-changer for the living standards of economically disadvantaged families. As of now, Rs. 463.81 crore has been deposited in the beneficiaries' accounts to support the distribution of free cylinders.

State Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs Minister Nadend-

la Manohar emphasized that the coalition government has honored its promise to provide three free gas cylinders per year to every eligible family. He stated that the scheme, which was launched by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu on November 1, aims to alleviate the burden on poor families and improve their quality of life. In the first phase, 59.84 lakh people had successfully booked their cylinders, with delivery rates in urban areas promising delivery within 24 hours and rural areas within 48 hours. Following the delivery, the full payment made in advance for the gas cylinders is refunded to the beneficiaries within 48 hours.

Minister Manohar highlighted that the state government had allocated Rs. 2,684 crore for the Deepam-2 scheme, with Rs. 894 crore already handed over to petroleum companies for execution. The scheme, which will cover 1.55 crore gas card holders in the state, ensures that poor families have access to clean cooking fuel and can register for the program until March 31, 2025.

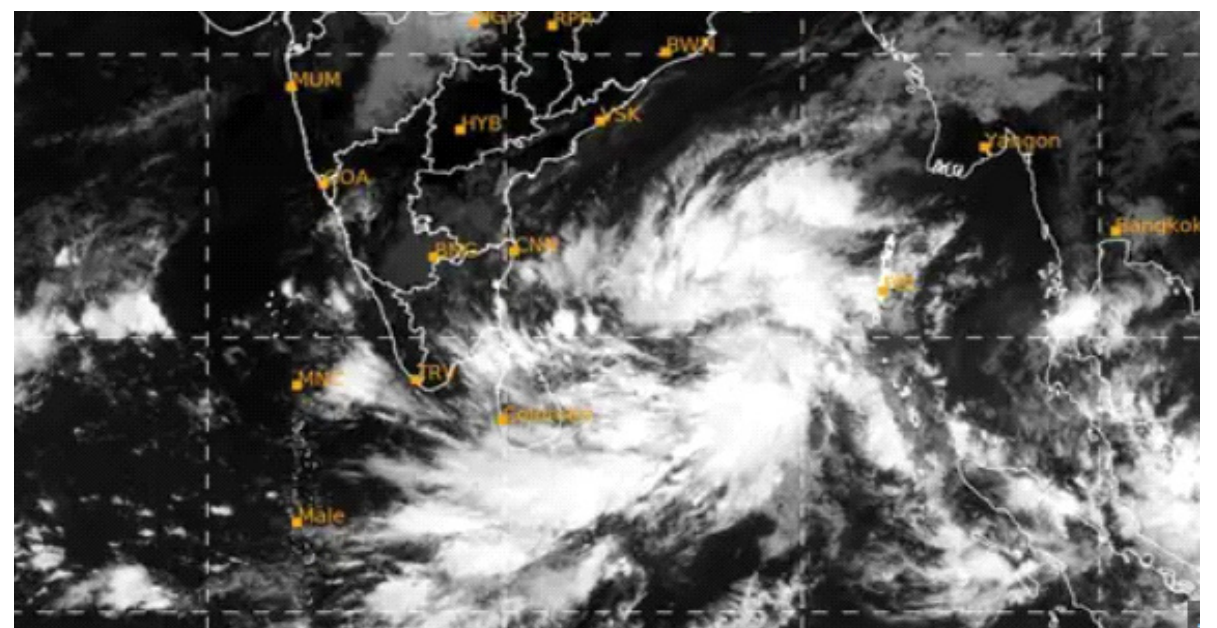
Eligibility for receiving free gas cylinders includes having a valid LPG connection, a rice card, and an Aadhaar card linked to the rice card. For any missing information, beneficiaries can reach out to the toll-free number 1967 for registration assistance.

## Severe Low Pressure in Bay of Bengal, Rains Expected in AP

TPN CORRESPONDENT  
Andhra Pradesh, Dec - 11

A severe low pressure system in the Bay of Bengal has intensified and is now moving towards the west-northwest. The Andhra Pradesh Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) has confirmed that the low pressure, which is situated in the southeast Bay of Bengal, will continue to move closer to the Sri Lanka-Tamil Nadu coasts in the next 24 hours. As a result of this system's influence, light to moderate rains are expected in several districts of Andhra Pradesh. On December

11, rainfall is likely in areas including Nellore, Anamaya, Chittoor, and Tirupati. Light rains may also occur at isolated locations in Eluru, Krishna, Bapatla, Prakasam, Palnadu, Guntur, and NTR districts. On December 12, moderate to heavy rains are anticipated in Nellore, Tirupati, Chittoor, Anamaya, Sri Sathya Sai, and YSR districts. Light rains may continue in Prakasam, Palnadu, Nandyal, Kurnool, and Bapatla districts. The APSDMA has advised the public to stay alert and take necessary precautions, as the low pressure system is expected to bring significant rainfall over the coming days.





## Home Minister Anitha Questions Jail Officials Over Alleged Irregularities

TPN CORRESPONDENT  
 Andhra Pradesh, Dec - 11

Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha has expressed strong disapproval of irregularities in the Vijayawada district jail, particularly regarding the purchase of TVs and refrigerators during the remand of former Director of Mines, Venkata Reddy. Minister Anitha questioned the jail authorities over the installation of new appliances during Venkata Reddy's time as a remand prisoner. "Why were TVs and refrigerators bought and installed in the jail? Who authorized these purchases?"

At whose instigation was this done?" she demanded, warning the officials against



letting corruption influence their duties. Speaking to the media, the minister confirmed that an investigation has been initiated into these allegations. "We are examining whether these items were indented in advance or procured suddenly. The probe will conclude within three days, and strict action will be taken against those responsible," she assured. This inquiry underscores the government's commitment to ensuring transparency and accountability within the prison system. Minister Anitha emphasized that such actions would not be tolerated and reiterated her resolve to address corruption and favoritism in state institutions.

## MLC Anuradha Accuses YSRCP Leaders of Massive Land Grabbing

TPN CORRESPONDENT

Andhra Pradesh, Dec - 11

TDP MLC and Legislative Council Chief Whip Panchumarthy Anuradha has strongly criticized YSRCP leaders, alleging large-scale land grabbing during their tenure. Addressing the media on Tuesday, she stated that over the past five years, YSRCP members, including MLAs and ministers, had seized thousands of acres of land across the state, targeting government, endowment, assigned, wakf, and Lidcap lands. Anuradha revealed that the coalition government received 1.74 lakh complaints in the last five months, with 68,000 specifically related to land grabbing. She labeled Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy as the head of the YSRCP "land mafia," alleging that key leaders like Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy, Vijayasai Reddy, Y.V. Subba Reddy, and Peddiredy Mithun Reddy orchestrated these activities.

She highlighted specific cases, claiming that 4,000



acres of Kakinada port lands were acquired for a mere ₹12 crores using intimidation. Anuradha also accused Mithun Reddy of seizing 1,000 acres belonging to a zamindar in Chittoor district and burning records at the Madanapalle sub-registrar office to hide evidence. Further allegations included the Pinnelli Brothers acquiring lands worth ₹1,000 crores in Palnadu and the Kethiredy Brothers encroaching on solar lands in Anantapur district. Women ministers Roja and Ushasree Charan were also accused of involvement in land grabs, with Anuradha asserting that they were "no less culpable."

She warned that if Vijayasai Reddy continued to target TDP leader Chandrababu Naidu, the party would respond strongly. Anuradha's sharp remarks highlighted the TDP's stance against the alleged corruption and irregularities under YSRCP leadership.

## Is Jagan Really Insane... - Minister Vasamsetti Subhash



TPN CORRESPONDENT  
 Andhra Pradesh, Dec - 11

Labour Minister Vasamsetti Subhash launched a scathing attack on the previous government, accusing it of failing to effectively implement the Disha Act. Speaking to the media on Tuesday, he criticized the former administration for merely passing a resolution in the Assembly and applauding it, without taking concrete steps to enforce the law.

Subhash questioned whether the Disha Act had truly been effective during the YSRCP regime. He raised concerns about the inability to complete investigations within seven days and file charge sheets within 14 days, as stipulated under the Act. "Not a single case was investigated or taken to trial," he claimed.

The minister also commented on statements by former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, alleging that his remarks against Chandrababu Naidu and others cast doubts on his mental stability. "Jagan called himself a glutton and boasted of reducing his opponents to 11 seats. Such comments raise serious concerns about his state of mind," Subhash remarked.

Minister Subhash accused the previous government of widespread corruption, particularly in the labour and health sectors. He claimed that funds meant for labour welfare were misused, citing that out of 3,593 insurance applications in 2021-22, only 953 were approved. He alleged misuse of funds through unnecessary medical camps and corruption in providing medicines.

On workplace safety, Subhash criticized the former administration for negligence, stating that only 4 out of 70 available companies were engaged for factory safety audits, leading to falsified reports. He emphasized that new regulations now require auditing companies to have at least 25 years of experience to ensure credibility.

Subhash assured that his government is committed to worker safety, healthcare, and welfare, mentioning initiatives like the construction of ESI hospitals in Yelamanchili and Amaravati. He urged people not to be misled by "ignorant words" and affirmed the government's focus on transparency and integrity.

## Relief for Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy in TDP Office Attack Case

TPN CORRESPONDENT

Andhra Pradesh, Dec - 11

Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy, a senior leader of the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), received interim relief from the Andhra Pradesh High Court in connection with the TDP office attack case. The court directed the police not to take any hasty action against Sajjala for the next two weeks.

Sajjala had approached the High Court seeking anticipatory bail, alleging harassment following the coalition government's assumption of power. She argued that cases were being filed under stringent sections



that bypass the provision for issuing 41A notices, typically required for arresting individuals.

During the hearing, the High Court reviewed arguments from both sides before extending its previous orders for an additional two weeks. The court emphasized the need for a fair investigation without undue haste and scheduled the next hearing for a later date.

This development offers temporary relief to Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy, who remains a key figure in the ongoing political and legal battles in the state.

## Botsa Satyanarayana Criticizes Govt, Calls for Movement on Key Issues

TPN CORRESPONDENT

Andhra Pradesh, Dec - 11

Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council, Botsa Satyanarayana, has accused the coalition government of neglecting critical issues affecting farmers, students, and the general public. Speaking at a press conference, he highlighted several grievances and urged widespread participation in the YSR Congress Party's upcoming movement. Botsa alleged that the government is failing to support farmers, neglecting fee reimbursement for students, and burdening citizens with exorbitant electricity charges.

"The burden of electricity charges worth thousands of crores has been passed on to the people under this government. Democracy is being mocked, and positions are being sold, including in Kakinada," he stated. Contrasting this with the YSR Congress regime, Botsa claimed that ₹45,000 crores were allocated to discoms during their tenure to alleviate electricity-related burdens. He questioned the coalition government's accountability, asking, "Where has the



₹60,000 crores borrowed by this government been spent? Only one LPG cylinder is being given this year, and pensions have been increased by just ₹1,000." Botsa called for farmers, electricity consumers, and students to actively participate in the YSR Congress Party's movement, asserting that the party is committed to addressing their issues. He emphasized that the struggle would focus on seeking solutions for pressing concerns while holding the current government accountable for its alleged mismanagement.

## Former MLA Y. Vishweshwar Reddy Calls for Protest on Farmers' Issues



TPN CORRESPONDENT

Andhra Pradesh, Dec - 11

Former MLA Y. Vishweshwar Reddy criticized the coalition government for its alleged apathy toward the agricultural sector. Speaking at a press conference, he accused the administration of neglecting farmers and abandoning agriculture as if it were not their responsibility.

"Farmers have been left completely at the mercy of nature and market forces. This government has shown no accountability in addressing

their problems," Reddy stated. He called upon party workers and the public to join a state-wide dharna on December 13 to protest the government's handling of farmers' issues. The protest aims to draw attention to the plight of the farming community and demand meaningful support and solutions from the administration. Reddy's remarks underscore growing discontent over the government's agricultural policies, as multiple leaders and organizations rally to advocate for farmers' rights and welfare.

## Former MP Rangaiah Demands Swift Action on Rayalaseema Projects and Farmer Support

TPN CORRESPONDENT

Andhra Pradesh, Dec - 11

Former MP Talari Rangaiah has called for urgent government action to address the concerns of farmers and expedite the completion of pending projects in the Rayalaseema region. Speaking at a press conference, he criticized the coalition government for neglecting its promises and failing to support the farming community effectively. Rangaiah emphasized the need for swift completion of infrastructure projects in Rayalaseema to aid regional development and provide much-needed financial assistance

to farmers involved in these projects. "Farmers must be given the money they are owed for the projects they are tied to. It is also the government's responsibility to ensure a fair support price for farmers who are continuing agriculture despite the challenges posed by low rainfall," he stated.

He accused the coalition government of coming to power on the strength of unfulfilled promises, which he said have left the people and farmers of the state in distress. "The government has ignored its assurances, leaving the farmers to fend for themselves in difficult conditions," he added.

Rangaiah announced plans to raise farmers' voices and protest against the government's inaction. "We will shout slogans and organize protests until the people receive the benefits they deserve," he declared.

The former MP's statements come amid increasing discontent among farmers and political leaders, who are demanding accountability and immediate measures to address the challenges faced by the agricultural community in Andhra Pradesh. The call for expedited project completion and support prices has struck a chord with many in the region, further amplifying the demand for action.



## Krishna Tarang 2024 Youth Festival Inaugurated in Vijayawada

TPN CORRESPONDENT  
Vijayawada, Dec - 11

The Krishna Tarang-2024 Inter-College Youth Festival was inaugurated on Tuesday at Kakaraparthy, Kothapet, Vijayawada, amidst the excitement of students. The event, hosted by Krishna University and Bhavanarayana College (KBN), will run until December 12, providing a platform for students to showcase their talents.

State Mines and Excise Minister Kollu Ravindra attended the inaugural ceremony, addressing the youth and emphasizing the importance of such festivals in fostering talent. He expressed the state government's commitment to providing a golden future for youth, in line with the vision of the Hon'ble Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister.

Minister Ravindra highlighted the state's focus on skill development to create sustainable employment opportunities. He mentioned the launch of the skills census, which records the abilities of youth and tailors training programs to meet the demands of modern industries, including cutting-edge fields like Artificial Intelligence (AI). He further emphasized that the state government is prioritizing initiatives like Swarnandhra @ 2047 to drive Andhra Pradesh's development.



The minister also shared the success of the recent mega parent-teacher meeting, a first-of-its-kind initiative across the state. He encouraged the youth to set clear goals and work diligently towards them, ensuring their success.

The program was attended by AP Maritime Board Chairman Damacharla Satya, Krishna University Vice Chancellor (in-charge) R. Srinivasa Rao, Rector M. V. Basaveshwara Rao, and other prominent figures, who also participated in the celebrations. The festival aims to inspire students and further develop their skills for future success.

## Innovations by Youth Contributing to Technological Development

MLC P. Ashok Babu at Polytech Fest-2024

TPN CORRESPONDENT  
NTR District, Dec- 11

MLC P. Ashok Babu emphasized the importance of youth-driven innovations in contributing to future technological advancements. He made these remarks during his visit to the Regional Polytech Fest-2024 at Vijayawada Government Polytechnic College on Tuesday.

Ashok Babu congratulated the students for showcasing about 125 innovations created by youth from 15 polytechnic colleges in the joint Krishna district. He praised the students for implementing modern technologies and creating projects aligned with the evolving technological landscape. He said it is a matter of pride that these innovations reflect the thinking power of today's youth and their ability to adapt to changing times.

The MLC highlighted the government's commitment to technological development, noting that both the central and state governments are prioritizing technology. He shared that the government is focused on providing employment opportunities through skill development programs such as SeedApp and MSME initiatives. He emphasized that the current government's target is to provide 20 lakh jobs for disadvantaged youth,



with 50% of these being technology-related.

Ashok Babu also encouraged the youth to explore technology and seize opportunities, as such initiatives would significantly contribute to their future careers. He noted that events like the Polytech Fest-2024 play a crucial role in honing practical skills related to real-time technologies. The event was attended by Polytechnic College Principal M. Vijayasarithi, Senior Instructor M. Madhasudhan Rao, and other department heads, along with faculty, students, and staff from various polytechnic colleges in Krishna and NTR districts.

## District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi Held a Coordination Meeting With Key Dist officials

CM Chandrababu to Inaugurate Swarnandhra @2047 Program on December 13



TPN CORRESPONDENT  
Vijayawada, Dec - 11

The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Nara Chandrababu Naidu, is set to inaugurate the state's ambitious Swarnandhra @ 2047 program on December 13 at the Indira Gandhi Stadium in Vijayawada. Around 25,000 people, including students from Krishna, Guntur, and NTR districts, are expected to attend the event.

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi held a coordination meeting with key district officials, including Joint Collector, Municipal Commissioner, and DCP, to ensure the smooth execution of the event. The Collector emphasized the importance of efficient planning to make the program a success.

Dr. Lakshmi shared that 500 buses will be arranged for attendees, and transport officials have been instructed to manage vehicle mobilization. He also directed the R&B officials to supervise the construction of venue barricades and ensure that a

fitness certificate is issued. Police authorities have been asked to manage parking and security to avoid traffic disruptions. In addition to the main event, exhibitions on 10 different themes will be organized. Arrangements for temporary toilets, sanitation, and drinking water supply will be managed by municipal and RWS officials. The District Horticulture Officer will oversee the decoration of the venue.

Dr. Lakshmi further clarified that the District Joint Collector will serve as the nodal officer for the event, with the Municipal Commissioner being in charge of the program's overall execution. Any issues arising during preparations are to be immediately addressed to ensure the success of the inauguration. The meeting was attended by Joint Collector Nidhi Meena, Municipal Commissioner HM Dhyanchandra, DCP Gauthami Shalini, and other district-level officials.

## YSRCP to Organize Statewide Movement on Farmers' Issues on December 13



TPN CORRESPONDENT  
Tadepalli, Dec - 11

The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) has announced a statewide movement on December 13 to address farmers' concerns in the state. In preparation for the event, YSRCP leaders released an official poster at the party's central office in Tadepalli.

The movement aims to highlight key challenges faced by farmers, including issues related to crop insurance, procurement, irrigation, and input subsidies. YSRCP leaders stated that the initiative reflects the party's commitment to stand-

ing by the farming community and resolving their grievances. The poster release event in Tadepalli was attended by prominent leaders, who emphasized that the movement would serve as a platform to raise awareness and demand actionable solutions for farmers' welfare. This event is expected to mobilize widespread participation from party members and the farming community across Andhra Pradesh, reinforcing the YSRCP's focus on agricultural development and farmer empowerment.

## Accused Arrested in Guntur for Rape in the Name of Friendship

TPN CORRESPONDENT  
Guntur, Dec - 11

Tadepalli Circle Inspector (CI) B. Kalyan Raju has successfully arrested an accused, Temparla Rama Rao, who had been on the run after allegedly raping a woman under the guise of friendship. The arrest was made within 24 hours of the crime being reported.

The victim, a 40-year-old married woman from Kothur Pyari Company in Tadepalli, filed a complaint against Rama Rao, a 30-year-old man, accusing him of raping her repeatedly when no one else was present at her home. She revealed that Rama Rao, who had been visiting her under the pretext of friendship, took advantage of her vulnerability and sexually assaulted her on multiple occasions.

According to Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) CH Muralikrishna, the crime was reported promptly, and the accused was arrested near Tadepalli with the help of CI B. Kalyan Raju's team. DSP MN Bhargavi, who conducted the medical examination of the victim, confirmed the occurrence of rape. CI B. Kalyan Raju expressed his concern over such incidents oc-



curing in the area and emphasized that people are increasingly being deceived in the name of love and friendship. He also praised his staff for their swift action in apprehending the accused within a day of the crime being reported. The accused has been taken into custody and further investigation is underway.

## Excise Commissioner Nishat Kumar Conducts Surprise Inspections Across Key Locations

TPN CORRESPONDENT  
NTR District, Dec - 11

State Excise Commissioner Nishat Kumar, along with Director of Enforcement (Excise) Rahul Dev Sharma, conducted surprise inspections at multiple locations to ensure strict adherence to excise regulations and prevent any illegal activities. During the visit, Commissioner Nishat Kumar emphasized that the transportation of liquor without the proper taxes will not be tolerated under any circumstances. He reassured the public that steps will be taken to curb the sale of liquor at inflated prices, in compliance with the established rules.

The surprise inspections began at the Garikapadu Excise Check-Post, where the officials closely examined the CCTV cameras installed at the check-post to assess their functionality. Following this, they visited the excise station in Jaggayyapet, where the crime records were thoroughly reviewed. The team expressed satisfaction with the management and upkeep of the records at the station.



Additionally, the officials inspected the Centini Distillery in Gandepalli, NTR district, where they reviewed the different chemicals used in the production of Indian Made Liquor (IML). Special focus was given to the procedures related to the addition of neutral alcohol and the bottling processes, ensuring that all steps were in compliance with excise regulations.

These inspections are part of the state government's continued efforts to monitor and enforce strict rules in the excise sector.

## Public Petitions Received by Arava Sridhar at Janavani Program

Dalit Land Occupation and Illegal Actions

TPN CORRESPONDENT  
Mangalagiri, Dec - 11

In a significant development, a victim has approached the Janavani (public grievance system) to report the alleged illegal occupation of Dalit land and the unauthorized change of title under the Land Titling Act. The victim claims that YCP leaders in the region have forcefully occupied Dalit land and manipulated the ownership details, leading to public outcry over the injustice. The victim seeks urgent intervention from the authorities to restore the rightful ownership.

In another troubling incident, a hospital in Thiruvur has been forcibly closed down, reportedly due to its interference with illegal mining operations in the area. The closure of the facility, which served the local community, has raised concerns about the increasing influence of illegal activities in the region, with many locals expressing their dismay at the lack of government action to address these issues.

On Tuesday, Government Whip and Railway Kodur MLA, Sri Arava Sridhar, received numerous petitions from the public, highlighting the ongoing issues. Citizens voiced their frustrations regarding the illegal land occupation, the closure of the hospital, and the growing presence of illegal mining. The public has demanded immediate action to resolve these matters and ensure that the rights of the local residents are protected. Sri Arava Sridhar assured the public that he would personally review the petitions and take steps to address the grievances. He emphasized the government's commitment to ensuring justice for the affected communities and promised to investigate these incidents thoroughly.





## APOILFED Chairman Gandhi Babji Addresses Farmers' Concerns at Eluru



**TPN Correspondent , Eluru :** Visakhapatnam District President and Pendurthi Constituency In-charge, Gandhi Babji, visited the oil factory in Lakshmipuram village of Pedavegi Mandal in Eluru district On Tuesday. Babji, who also serves as the Chairman of the APOILFED, was accompanied by leaders from oil associations and oil farmers, highlighting his continuous support for the agricultural community, particularly for oil farmers in the region.

During the visit, Gandhi Babji took the opportunity to address the concerns of the farmers present, emphasizing the importance of their contribution to the state's agricultural economy. He acknowledged the struggles faced by farmers, particularly in terms of



rising input costs, lack of timely government support, and fluctuating market prices. Babji assured the farmers that he would continue

to raise these issues at the government level, ensuring that their voices are heard and that their hardships are addressed.

In his address, Babji also underscored the crucial role of the government in supporting farmers. He called for stronger measures, including subsidies on agricultural inputs, better access to financial support, and ensuring fair pricing for oil crops. Babji expressed confidence that the government would prioritize these concerns, recognizing that a prosperous farming community is vital for the overall development of the state.

## Major Road Accident on Chennai-Bengaluru Highway Leaves Several Injured



**TPN CORRESPONDENT, Andhra Pradesh:** A major road accident occurred early this morning on the Chennai-Bengaluru highway when a lorry collided with a private company bus. The crash led to a pedestrian falling under the bus, while over 10 passengers sustained serious injuries.

The accident, which took place in the early hours, caused significant damage to both the bus and the lorry. Emergency services rushed to the scene, providing immediate medical aid to the injured individuals.

Authorities are investigating the cause of the crash and have urged drivers to exercise caution on the highway, as traffic has been temporarily disrupted. The condition of the injured passengers remains critical, and efforts are ongoing to ensure they receive appropriate treatment.

## Janasena Party Holds Secret Meeting in Mandavalli to Discuss Nominated Posts

**TPN CORRESPONDENT, Kaikaluru :** A secret meeting of the Janasena Party was held in Mandavalli, within the Kaikaluru constituency, to discuss key organizational matters. The meeting focused on the allocation of nominated posts, specifically related to the market yard water associations, cooperative banks, hospital development, and the endowment department.

As per the suggestion of Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, a resolution was passed during the meeting to allocate 35% of nominated posts in each constituency to the Janasena Party. In line with this resolution, several names were discussed and forwarded to the party high command for approval.

Key leaders of the Janasena Party participated in the meeting, which was seen as a significant step in strengthening the party's organizational structure and preparing for future political challenges. The decisions taken during this meeting are expected to have a lasting impact on the party's influence in local governance and administration.



## Home Minister Anita Gets Relief from High Court in Cheque Bounce Case



**TPN CORRESPONDENT, Visakhapatnam :** Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Anita has received relief from the High Court, which dismissed a case pending in the Visakhapatnam court regarding a cheque bounce incident. The case, involving a loan taken by Anita from Srinivas Rao in 2015, was dismissed after both parties reached a compromise.

The case stemmed from a loan of Rs. 70 lakhs that Anita took from Srinivas Rao in 2015. In 2018, she issued a cheque to Srinivas in relation to the loan. However, when the cheque bounced due to insufficient funds, Srinivas filed a case in the Visakhapatnam court, leading to the ongoing legal battle.

Both Anita and the complainant, Srinivas, appeared in court via video conference. During the hearing, they informed the court that they had reached a settlement. As a result, the High Court dismissed the case, providing relief to the Home Minister. This development marks the conclusion of a legal matter that had been pending in the Visakhapatnam court for some time.

## 17-Year-Old Girl Kidnapped in Gudivada, Police Investigating Case

**TPN CORRESPONDENT, Gudivada:** A 17-year-old girl, Priyanka, has been missing for four days, and her whereabouts remain unknown. The police are investigating the case, which has raised concerns among her family and the community.



Penumudi Durga Rao, a watchman at an apartment near KTR Women's College in Gudivada, reported that his daughter Priyanka, a first-year student at VKR & VNB Polytechnic College, went to college on Saturday at 8:30 AM but did not return home that evening. Her sudden disappearance has left her family in shock and distress.

The family suspects Rahul (37), a moneylender who lives alone with his grandmother in the same apartment complex, may be involved. Rahul, who had been living separately from his wife and children, also went missing on the same day. The girl's parents filed a complaint at the Gudivada Two

Town Police Station, raising concerns about the possible connection between the two disappearances.

The police have been investigating the case since it was reported four days ago. However, the whereabouts of both Priyanka and Rahul are still unknown. Two Town Police personnel confirmed that efforts to locate them are ongoing.

The family is in deep grief as they await answers. The case has drawn the attention of the local community, and authorities have promised to continue their search for the missing individuals.

## Mohan Babu's Supporters Attack Media Representatives in Hyderabad

**TPN CORRESPONDENT, Hyderabad :** Tensions escalated in the Manchu family as Mohan Babu's supporters reportedly attacked media representatives outside his residence in Jal Palli. This incident occurred after Manchu Manoj and his wife arrived at Mohan Babu's house.



According to sources, the security personnel, including bouncers, blocked Manchu Manoj's vehicle at the gate. When media personnel attempted to enter the premises to cover the situation, Mohan Babu and his supporters allegedly launched an attack on them. Mohan Babu was accused of creating chaos, attacking media representatives, and snatching microphones. Several journalists sustained injuries during the incident. It is said that Mohan Babu was unable to control his anger, leading to a violent altercation with the media personnel.

Following the incident, both Mohan Babu and Manchu Manoj filed complaints against each other. Manoj accused Mohan Babu of attacking his wife and children, while Mohan Babu responded with his own allegations. The incident has raised concerns regarding the safety and treatment of media professionals during such events. Authorities are investigating the matter and taking necessary action based on the complaints filed.

## Women's Groups Mark Human Rights Day with Protest and Human Chain in Visakhapatnam

**TPN CORRESPONDENT, Visakhapatnam :** In observance of International Human Rights Day, women's groups in Visakhapatnam organized a demonstration and formed a human chain to raise awareness about women's rights. The event was held under the auspices of the Visakhapatnam district committees of AIDWA, DYFI, and SFI, with participants marching from the Gandhi statue at the GVMC to the Gurajada statue in the city.

During the demonstration, women raised slogans such as "Women's rights - human rights, our rights - our future," highlighting the importance of securing women's rights as fundamental human rights. Later, women leaders formed a human chain, de-

manding the government take stronger action to prevent violence against women, including murders and sexual harassment.

Prominent leaders who participated in the event included State President B. B. Prabhavathi, AIDWA District President and Secretaries B. Padma and Y. Satyavati, CITU District Secretary P. Mani, DYFI District President U. S. N. Raju, along with district leaders such as R. Varalakshmi, K. Mani, K. Kumari, B. Bharathi, K. Anuradha, Venkatalakshmi K. Santosham, B. Mamatha, and O. Vijaya.

The demonstration aimed to highlight the ongoing issues of violence against women and to call for stronger measures to ensure women's safety and rights.

## Anantapur Police Seize Rs. 65 Lakh Worth of Goan Liquor, Four Arrested

**TPN CORRESPONDENT, Anantapur :** The Provision and Excise Police in Anantapur District have made a significant drug bust, seizing Goan liquor worth Rs. 65 lakhs from a farmhouse near the railway gate in Rap-tadu. The authorities intercepted a group of individuals transporting the illegal liquor. Following a tip-off, the police launched a swift operation, leading to the arrest of four individuals involved in the illegal transport of alcohol. The police believe the liquor was being smuggled to various locations for unlawful sale.

The authorities are conducting further investigations to trace the source of the alcohol and the broader network behind the operation. The police have vowed to take stringent action against those involved in illegal liquor trade. This seizure is a part of the ongoing efforts by the Provision and Excise Police to clamp down on the illegal alcohol trade in the district. The police have commended the officers for their vigilance and commitment to maintaining law and order. The four arrested individuals have been taken into custody, and further legal proceedings are underway.



## The Hidden Toll of Air Pollution: A Personal Journey and National Crisis

Over a decade ago, my family made the bold decision to return to India, leaving behind the comfort of California. Despite the concerns of friends and family about the challenges of life back home—pollution, corruption, and the absence of amenities—I was resolute. I wanted my children to experience our rich culture, heritage, and be close to extended family. But what I did not foresee was how our return would expose us to a hidden crisis: the deadly levels of air pollution in India.

In the winter of 2012, I found myself in denial about the air quality in Delhi. What I once dismissed as fog was, in reality, a poisonous smog, filling our lungs with harmful toxins. As time passed, and after speaking to experts, I became acutely aware of the severity of the situation. Air pollution, I realized, was a silent killer affecting the health of every resident.

Over the past 12 years, I've learned more than I ever wanted to know about the devastating effects of pollution. My mother's death from lung cancer, triggered by air pollution, was a harsh reminder of the silent toll it takes on lives. I began advocating for clean air, urging others to take

action, but the issue is far from being addressed adequately. There are five critical things that people still fail to understand about this crisis.

First, there are no safe levels of air pollution. Whether it's the World Health Organization or other health bodies, experts agree that no exposure is without risk. Even lower pollution levels cause significant harm, contributing to diseases, disabilities, and premature deaths. Every year, 1.7 million people die due to air pollution, three times the number of deaths caused by COVID-19.

Second, air pollution is not a seasonal issue. While it may be more visible in winter, the air quality in India is consistently poor year-round. The pollution is often 10 times higher than WHO guidelines, and in the winter, it can reach 50 times the safe limit.

Third, over 90% of India breathes polluted air, not just the northern regions. Cities like Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Chennai are facing pollution levels comparable to Delhi. Even rural areas are not immune, with indoor pollution from biomass

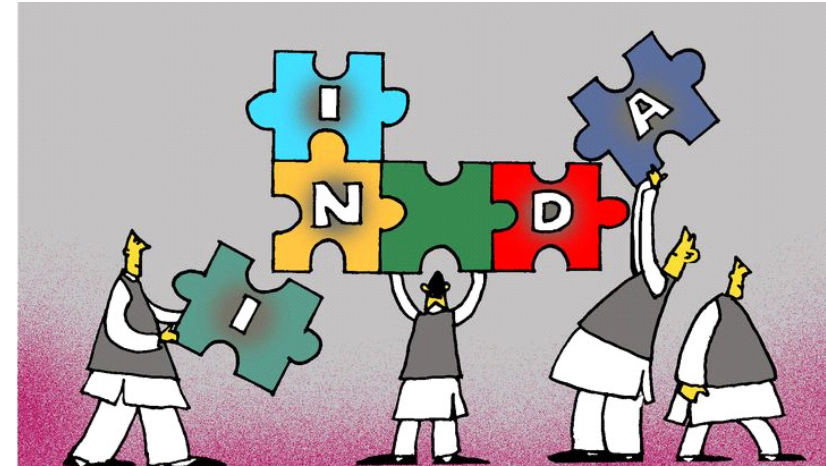
burning contributing to a significant portion of the overall pollution.

Fourth, the damage caused by air pollution goes beyond the respiratory system. It affects every organ, particularly the heart, and has been linked to an increase in heart attacks, strokes, and other cardiovascular diseases, especially among younger populations.

Finally, the harm caused by pollution is irreversible. The tiny PM2.5 particles we inhale remain in our bodies for life. The University of Chicago's Air Quality of Life Index shows that residents of Delhi could live 12 years longer if they breathed clean air.

Air pollution is not just an environmental issue; it's a social inequity, disproportionately affecting the poor and marginalized who lack access to healthcare and live in the most polluted areas. As India continues to prioritize economic growth, it must also address the development of a healthier, sustainable future for its citizens. This is the growth I want to see—one that ensures the well-being of all its people, including those like me, who chose to return to their homeland.

## Leadership Crisis Looms Over INDIA Alliance Amid Election Setbacks



Six months after a strong performance in the Lok Sabha elections, the Opposition's INDIA alliance is grappling with a leadership crisis. While the bloc registered victories in Jharkhand and Jammu & Kashmir Assembly elections, its poor showings in Haryana and Maharashtra have exposed growing fractures within the coalition. The Congress-led Maha Vikas Aghadi's crushing defeat in Maharashtra at the hands of the BJP-led Mahayuti has brought underlying tensions to the surface, leading to a wave of criticism.

The Congress party's disappointing results have significantly weakened its dominant position within the INDIA alliance, paving the way for Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to step into the fray. Mamata, dissatisfied with the functioning of the alliance, has signaled her interest in taking a leading role if given the chance. She has found backing from Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Sharad Pawar, who described her as a "prominent leader" of the nation, adding to her growing influence.

As tensions rise, it's evident that Rahul Gandhi's grip as the face of the opposition is weakening. While the Gandhi family continues to hold significant sway in the Congress, with Mallikarjun Kharge serving as both party president and chairperson of the INDIA bloc, there is growing dissatisfaction among the alliance's partners. The presence of three Gandhis in Parliament, with Priyanka Gandhi now joining her brother Rahul and their mother Sonia, has not been enough to inspire confidence within the bloc, with several allies voicing concerns about dynastic control.

The Congress must now reconsider its approach and be more accommodating to its partners. Overconfidence in Haryana, where the party sidelined fellow INDIA members, cost it dearly. Additionally, Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena party has exacerbated tensions by praising the demolishers of the Babri Masjid, igniting a backlash from the Samajwadi Party, which holds significant influence over the Muslim vote bank in Uttar Pradesh. For the INDIA alliance to remain intact and effectively challenge the BJP in the upcoming elections, mutual respect and cooperation are essential. If internal divisions are not addressed, the alliance could risk imploding, inadvertently strengthening the position of the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The clock is ticking, and the opposition needs to quickly resolve its leadership issue to mount a united challenge.

## Pakistan Military's Brutal Crackdown on PTI Protesters Amid Growing Authoritarianism

Pakistan's descent into an authoritarian hybrid regime has become more evident as protests intensify, signaling a grave threat to democratic governance and civil liberties in the country. The protests, sparked by Imran Khan's call for \*Haqeeqi Azaadi\* (True Freedom), began on November 24, 2024, with the aim of challenging the entrenched military-led political order. The movement, led by Khan and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), demands the release of

influence of the military in Pakistan's politics.

In response, the Pakistani military, under General Asim Muneer's leadership, has deployed harsh measures to quell the unrest. Reports of violent crackdowns have emerged, with numerous fatalities and many people still unaccounted for. The military, seeking to suppress public knowledge of its actions, has resorted to disinformation tactics, including branding demonstrators as "Afghan infiltrators" to delegitimize their cause. This rhetoric is a clear echo of Joseph Goebbels' propaganda strategy, which emphasized the importance of repeating false narratives to control public opinion.

The military's brutality in response to the protests highlights the increasing authoritarianism in Pakistan, where the hybrid regime—comprising both civilian and military elites—has consolidated power at the expense of democratic freedoms. The regime's efforts to distort the truth and suppress opposition are growing

more apparent, making it clear that the country's democratic future hangs in the balance. The PTI-led protests, despite being met with severe repression, signal the ongoing struggle for democratic rights and civil liberties in Pakistan. The government's use of force to stifle dissent only deepens the divide between the ruling establishment and the people. If these protests continue to be met with violent crackdowns, Pakistan risks further destabilization, with citizens increasingly alienated by a regime that seems unwilling to respect democratic principles or the will of the people.



political prisoners, the repeal of the 26th Constitutional Amendment, and the restoration of the "stolen mandate."

Thousands of demonstrators, defying a government ban, converged on Islamabad's D-Chowk, a politically significant site that lies within the Red Zone, home to key government institutions like the Parliament House, Supreme Court, and Prime Minister's Office. Despite the government's attempts to suppress the protest, the call for freedom resonated strongly with citizens, particularly those dissatisfied with the growing

## The Future of India: Doesn't Need More Babies Focus Should Be on Improving Quality of Life

In India, where over 51 million cases remain pending across all levels of the judiciary, the call for judicial reform has never been more urgent. The sheer backlog underscores the necessity for innovative solutions that can transform the system and deliver justice more swiftly. Among the most promising tools to address this crisis is Artificial Intelligence (AI), a technology that, when integrated thoughtfully, could revolutionize the judicial landscape.

AI has already demonstrated its potential across various sectors globally, and the judicial system is no exception. India's Supreme Court has taken notable steps towards technological advancement, yet there is a pressing need for more focused efforts in incorporating AI into the legal system. One key area where AI can be a game-changer is in court administration. AI can assist in categorizing cases, organizing files, and tracking case progress, thus streamlining workflows and improving efficiency. The cumbersome paperwork that currently burdens the system can also be digitized, allowing AI to help analyze and extract relevant information, reducing manual intervention.

Digitalization powered by AI is already transforming legal systems in countries like England, Wales, and Austria. By using AI for tasks such as case filing, defect detection, and real-time case monitoring, these countries have greatly improved the speed and transparency of their judicial processes. India could benefit from such innovations by adopting similar AI tools, which would make legal information more accessible to both courts and litigants.

Beyond administrative tasks, AI holds great promise in assisting judicial decision-making. Legal research, often time-consuming and resource-heavy, can be expedited by AI systems that gather relevant case laws and precedents quickly. Furthermore, AI could aid in tasks like translation, transcription, and providing legal knowledge to litigants, making the system more accessible to a wider range of people.



However, while AI offers significant advantages, it is important to recognize its limitations. AI cannot replace human judgment, especially when it comes to adjudicating complex legal matters that require understanding of human nuances and ethics. The role of judges and judicial officers remains irreplaceable, and AI should only serve as a tool to assist, not substitute, human decision-making. Thus, a balance must be struck between technological assistance and the essential human element in the justice system. The Supreme Court's initiative, such as the "Supreme Court Portal for Assistance in Courts Efficiency" (SUPACE AI), represents a positive step toward incorporating AI specifically tailored for the Indian judicial system. SUPACE, designed to assist judges by collecting relevant facts, is an example of how AI can be utilized to support judicial functions without overstepping its role.

In conclusion, AI has the potential to be a vital ally in the pursuit of speedy and accessible justice in India. With continued investment in AI technology tailored for legal purposes, India's judicial system could see a significant reduction in case backlogs and improved justice delivery for its citizens.

# PM Modi Set to Visit Kuwait, Strengthening Bilateral Ties

TPN CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI DECEMBER.11

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is poised to visit Kuwait, marking the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to the Gulf country in over 43 years. The visit aims to enhance the close cooperation and strong partnership between India and Kuwait, which currently holds the presidency of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Last week, during his visit to New Delhi, Kuwait's Foreign Minister, Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya, extended an invitation to PM Modi to visit Kuwait at the earliest opportunity, which Modi graciously accepted. This invitation came during a delegation-level meeting with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar at the Hyderabad House, where Al-Yahya described India as a "very important partner" and hailed PM Modi as "one of the wisest persons" globally. He expressed confidence in India's leadership under Modi, which he believes has elevated the country's global standing.

Kuwait remains the only GCC member country that PM Modi has not yet visited since assuming office in 2014, with a proposed trip in 2022 postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In September, PM Modi met with Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, the Crown Prince of Kuwait, on the side-



lines of the 79th UN General Assembly in New York. The two leaders discussed the historical ties and people-to-people connections between their countries, with Modi emphasizing India's commitment to strengthening bilateral relations with Kuwait.

During discussions with the Kuwait Foreign Minister, PM Modi reiterated the importance of India-Kuwait relations and expressed confidence that Kuwait's presidency of the GCC would further

strengthen cooperation in the region. Both countries highlighted their joint efforts in energy and food security, with PM Modi thanking Kuwait for its continued support of India's large diaspora, which is the largest foreign community in the country. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the two nations to establish a joint committee for bilateral cooperation, reflecting their shared commitment to deepening ties and promoting stability and security in the region.

# "Ridiculous, BJP Scared": Priyanka Gandhi On Sonia Gandhi-George Soros Links

TPN CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI  
DECEMBER.11

The Congress party, facing sharp criticism from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) over alleged connections between former party president Sonia Gandhi and businessman George Soros, hit back strongly on Tuesday. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, a key Congress leader, dismissed the accusations as "ridiculous" and claimed they were part of a strategy to divert attention from more pressing issues.

Speaking to reporters, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra refuted the claims linking her mother, Sonia Gandhi, to Soros, labeling them as baseless. "It is the most ridiculous thing they could come up with. They are talking about something from 1994... no one has any record of it. No one knows what they are talking about," she said. She accused the BJP of trying to distract voters with unfounded allegations to avoid discussing the real issues at hand, particularly the Adani controversy, which has been a point of major contention in the political debate.



Priyanka Gandhi also took aim at the BJP for stalling Parliament proceedings, citing the chaotic scenes in the legislature, where the session was adjourned after protests from both sides. She argued that the ruling party was deliberately preventing discussions on important matters. "They don't want to discuss the Adani issue because they are scared. They know they cannot debate this because the truth will be revealed," she added. Additionally, she criticized Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his absence from Parliament, suggesting that his lack of participation was another attempt to evade accountability. This latest exchange underscores the intense political rivalry between the Congress and the BJP as both parties continue to target each other ahead of upcoming elections.

## Lalu Yadav Supports Mamata Banerjee as Leader of Opposition INDIA Bloc



TPN CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI  
DECEMBER.10

The push for Mamata Banerjee to lead the Opposition INDIA bloc has gained momentum, with Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) supremo Lalu Yadav throwing his support behind the West Bengal Chief Minister. On Tuesday, Lalu Yadav voiced his backing for Mamata Banerjee as the leader of the anti-BJP alliance, dismissing Congress' preference for Rahul Gandhi.

When questioned about Congress' stance, which favors Rahul Gandhi as the potential leader, Lalu remarked, "It does not matter what the Congress says, give it (the leadership) to Mamata," further solidifying his support for Banerjee's leadership. His comment came just days after Mamata Banerjee herself expressed her intention to take charge of the Opposition coalition. Lalu Yadav's endorsement of Mamata Banerjee as the leader of the INDIA bloc marks a significant boost to her position, as discussions around leadership within the alliance intensify. While Congress has reservations about Banerjee's leadership, particularly in favor of Rahul Gandhi, Lalu's statement underscores the growing momentum behind the Trinamool Congress leader's bid.

In addition to supporting Mamata's leadership, Lalu also exuded confidence in the INDIA alliance's chances in the 2025 Bihar elections. He expressed optimism about the RJD-led alliance's success, saying they would secure a victory. On the other hand, he made a pointed remark about Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's claim that the NDA would win 225 seats in the upcoming elections, suggesting Kumar first address his own issues before making such bold predictions.

## I have never met Adani, says Tamil Nadu CM Stalin raising pitch for JPC probe

TPN CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI  
DECEMBER.11

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin categorically denied allegations that he had met Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani, amid growing speculation about their alleged links. Responding to a query raised by G.K. Mani of the Paatali Makkal Katchi (PMK), a BJP ally, Stalin firmly stated, "Neither Adani met me, nor did I meet him. Do you need any more explanation on this?"

This statement put an end to rumors suggesting that Adani had met Stalin at his Chennai residence earlier this year to discuss power projects in the state. The controversy was further fueled by claims from opposition parties, particularly the PMK, alleging connections between the Tamil Nadu government and the Adani Group.

In response to these allegations, Electricity Minister V. Senthil Balaji had previously clarified in November that the Tamil Nadu government had no "business relationship" with the Adani Group, reinforcing Stalin's position. The Chief Minister further emphasized that the state electricity department had not entered into any agreements with Adani, asserting that no such meeting took place.



Turning the tables on the BJP and PMK, Stalin challenged them to address a more pressing issue. He questioned their stance on the demand by the Opposition bloc, I.N.D.I.A., for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the alleged irregularities surrounding the Adani Group. Stalin asked, "We have clarified the issue, but I want to ask PMK and BJP: MPs from the Opposition bloc are demanding a JPC probe into the allegations against Adani. Are they ready for such a probe? Will they answer?"

Stalin's remarks added pressure on the BJP and its allies, calling for transparency and accountability in light of ongoing concerns surrounding the Adani Group.

## Insisting On Belagavi's Merger With Maharashtra "Foolishness": Siddaramaiah

TPN CORRESPONDENT BELAGAVI  
DECEMBER.11

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has firmly rejected any claims for the merger of Belagavi with Maharashtra, calling such demands "sheer foolishness." Speaking to the media in Belagavi on Tuesday, Siddaramaiah reaffirmed that the Mahajan Commission Report on the issue was final and that any insistence on revisiting the matter was unnecessary.

Responding to Maharashtra politician Aaditya Thackeray's recent comments regarding the suppression of Marathi-speaking people in Belagavi, Siddaramaiah stated, "For us, the Mahajan Commission Report is final. Once the Mahajan Report has been accepted, the matter is settled." The Mahajan Commission, which settled the inter-state border dispute between Karnataka and Maharashtra, had already determined Belagavi's inclusion within Karnataka, and the matter should be considered resolved, according to the Chief Minister.

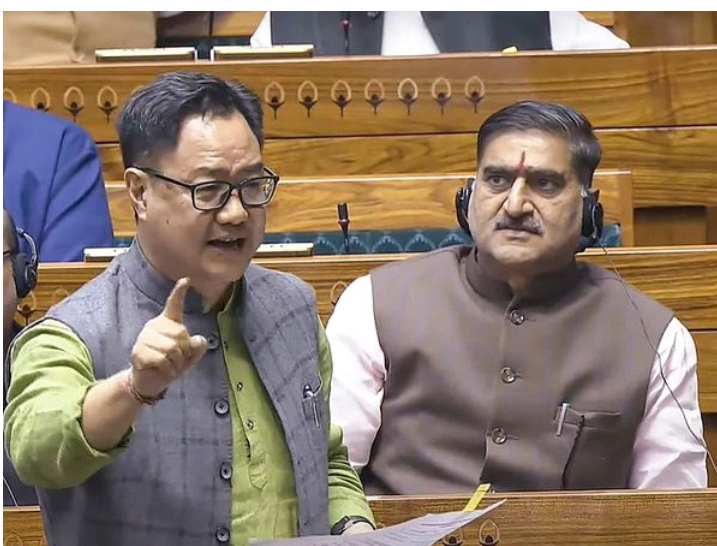


When asked about the possibility of violence from Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti (MES) members over the Belagavi issue, Siddaramaiah made it clear that the Karnataka government would not tolerate any such actions. He warned, "Whoever indulges in violence, we will not remain silent." The Belagavi border dispute has flared up periodically since the States Reorganisation Act of 1956, which set linguistic boundaries, but Karnataka has consistently maintained control over the region.

Siddaramaiah also addressed the ongoing reservation agitation by the Panchamasali Lingayat community, noting that while the government had invited community leaders for talks, they did not attend. He reiterated that while protests were a democratic right, the government did not oppose peaceful demonstrations.

In a separate statement, Siddaramaiah expressed his condolences over the passing of veteran leader S.M. Krishna, who served the state for over four decades in various political capacities. The Chief Minister praised Krishna as an efficient administrator and announced a three-day mourning period, with a state holiday on Wednesday.

# Notice for moving resolution to remove V-P Dhankhar regrettable: Rijju



TPN CORRESPONDENT DELHI  
DECEMBER.11

Union Minister Kiren Rijju on Tuesday expressed strong disapproval of the opposition INDIA bloc's move to submit a notice seeking the removal of Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, calling it "extremely regrettable." Rijju defended Dhankhar, who also serves as the chairperson of the Rajya Sabha, stating that the government is proud of his leadership and professionalism.

The INDIA bloc, consisting of several opposition parties, submitted a motion to bring a resolution in the Rajya Sabha for the removal of Dhankhar, accusing him of exhibiting

"partisan" behavior in his role as the Upper House chairperson. The opposition claimed that Dhankhar's conduct had been biased and aligned with the government's interests, undermining the impartiality expected of his office.

However, Rijju countered these allegations, asserting that Dhankhar has always maintained professionalism and impartiality while performing his duties. "He is extremely professional and impartial in his role," Rijju said, emphasizing that the vice-president has handled his responsibilities in a fair and unbiased manner.

The opposition parties, despite lacking the

requisite numbers to pass the motion in the 243-member Rajya Sabha, stated that the move was intended to send a strong message about their commitment to defending parliamentary democracy. A simple majority would be needed to remove Dhankhar if the motion were to be moved, but the opposition faces significant challenges in gathering enough support.

The ongoing dispute reflects the tension between the ruling government and opposition parties, especially regarding the conduct and leadership of the Rajya Sabha. While the government continues to stand by Dhankhar, the opposition is determined to hold him accountable, signaling further friction in the political landscape.



## Trump Threatens 25% Tariff on Canada and Mexico, Jabs at Trudeau

WASHINGTON: US President-elect Donald Trump has reignited tensions with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, calling him "Governor Justin Trudeau of the Great State of Canada" in a post on his social media platform, Truth Social. The latest jibe comes after Trump had earlier suggested "making Canada the 51st state of the US" and follows a recent dinner with Trudeau at Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida.

Trump's remarks come on the heels of his threat to impose a 25% tax on all products entering the US from Canada and Mexico unless both nations take stronger action to stem the flow of migrants and drugs. This move, if executed, would have significant economic implications for both neighboring countries, as trade between the US, Canada, and Mexico is integral to the North American economy.

On Truth Social, Trump wrote, "It was a pleasure to have dinner the other night with Governor Justin Trudeau of the Great State of Canada. I look forward to seeing the Governor again soon so that we may continue our in-depth talks on Tariffs and Trade, the results of which will be truly spectacular for all! DJT." This playful yet pointed comment adds fuel to the ongoing rhetoric surrounding trade tensions between the countries.

Trudeau, who has been vocal in his criticism of Trump's trade policies, responded to the tariff threat earlier this week. He warned that tariffs on all Canadian goods would significantly raise costs for American consumers, stating that Americans were beginning to recognize the "real reality" of such an economic move. Trudeau also made it clear that Canada would retaliate if Trump proceeds with the tariff imposition, escalating the already tense trade relations between the two nations. As Trump prepares to take office, the rhetoric surrounding his stance on trade continues to dominate conversations with international leaders, particularly in Canada and Mexico. With Trump's presidency set to begin, these ongoing trade negotiations will likely remain a focal point of US foreign policy.

## Biden Approves Limited Oil Lease Sale in Arctic Refuge, Stirring Environmental Concerns

WASHINGTON: In a controversial move, the Biden administration has approved a limited sale of oil and gas leases in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), sparking significant environmental concerns. The lease sale, scheduled for January 9, is set to take place just weeks before President Joe Biden's term concludes.

The decision opens the door for drilling in a portion of the pristine Arctic refuge, a move that has long been a point of contention between environmental advocates and energy interests. While the sale will include only a fraction of the land that was available for bidding in a 2017 lease sale under the Trump administration, it still marks a significant step toward potential oil exploration in one of America's most ecologically sensitive areas.



The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which President Donald Trump signed into law, mandated that two lease sales be held in ANWR by the end of 2024. While major oil companies bypassed the first sale, the Biden administration conducted a review of the leasing program before approving the second sale. As a result, seven leases from the initial sale were canceled, but the January auction will move forward, albeit on a smaller scale.

Environmental groups have expressed strong opposition to the lease sale, arguing that drilling in the Arctic refuge would pose irreversible damage to the delicate ecosystem and wildlife in the region. Critics contend that the oil industry's interest in the area is driven by short-term economic gains at the cost of long-term environmental degradation.

As Biden's presidency winds down, this decision has become a flashpoint in the ongoing debate over energy policy, climate change, and conservation. While the Biden administration had previously signaled its commitment to protecting public lands, this last-minute approval of the oil lease sale has left many questioning the administration's environmental legacy.

# Will Not Hesitate: Syria Rebel Leader's Big Warning To Assad's Men

NEW DELHI: Nabu Mohammed al-Jolani, also known as Ahmed al-Sharaa, the Syrian rebel leader who spearheaded the offensive that ended Bashar al-Assad's regime, has vowed to hold accountable those responsible for the widespread torture and human rights abuses that occurred under the previous government. In a statement posted on the rebels' Telegram channels, al-Jolani emphasized that the new government would pursue justice for those involved in the regime's atrocities.

Al-Jolani met with outgoing prime minister Mohammed al-Jalali to facilitate a smooth transfer of power and ensure that essential services continue for Syria's population. The rebel leader reaffirmed the commitment to accountability, stating that those involved in torture, murder, and other crimes would face justice. This comes after years of brutal repression by Assad's forces, which led to the deaths of around 500,000 Syrians and the displacement of millions.

The fall of Assad's regime marks a monumental shift for Syria. After a decade of violent suppression, where international allies Russia and Iran helped Assad maintain power, the situation changed as the Assad regime became increasingly vulnerable due to the ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza. As rebel forces advanced into Damascus, Assad fled, effectively ending a five-decade rule by his family.



For many, this moment represents a new beginning. Thousands of Syrians have gathered outside Saydnaya prison, notorious for its brutal treatment of detainees. An estimated 100,000 people are believed to have died in Syrian prisons during Assad's rule, with more than 30,000 of those deaths occurring in Saydnaya alone. Amnesty International described the prison as a "human slaughterhouse," where murder, torture, and enforced disappearances were widespread.

With Assad's departure, relatives of the missing prisoners, like Aida Taha, are des-

perately searching for their loved ones. Many former prisoners, who survived unimaginable suffering, now roam the streets of Damascus, marked by signs of torture and malnutrition.

As Syria moves forward, the international community is watching closely. While Germany and France have expressed willingness to cooperate with the new leadership, they emphasize the importance of human rights and protection for minorities. The UK and US have also outlined conditions, calling for a rejection of violence and terrorism.

## Netanyahu to Testify in Corruption Trial Amid Ongoing Gaza Conflict

TEL AVIV: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is set to testify for the first time in his long-running corruption trial, despite the ongoing war with Hamas. Under a court order, Netanyahu will begin his court appearances on Tuesday, after judges ruled that he must start testifying, setting the stage for his trial to proceed while the conflict continues.

Netanyahu, who has been charged with bribery, fraud, and breach of trust, will testify three times a week. His trial, which had been delayed due to the war in Gaza, centers around allegations that Netanyahu received gifts from millionaire friends and sought regulatory favors from media moguls in exchange for favorable coverage. He denies all charges, calling the investigations a politically motivated "witch hunt" aimed at undermining his leadership.



The legal proceedings had been postponed during the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, which began in October 2023. This war, which has gripped the nation, temporarily overshadowed Netanyahu's legal battles, as Israel united in the face of the Hamas attack. However, as the war continues, Netanyahu faces growing tensions

within his cabinet, especially with clashes between his ministers and the judiciary.

Netanyahu's trial has divided Israelis for years, especially as his government's efforts to curb the powers of the judiciary sparked political polarization. The prime minister's legal troubles were further compounded when the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant last month for Netanyahu and former defense chief Yoav Gallant, along with a Hamas leader, over alleged war crimes related to the Gaza conflict.

At 75, Netanyahu is Israel's longest-serving prime minister and the first sitting prime minister to face criminal charges. As he prepares to juggle the demands of leading the country through a war while defending himself in court, Israel's political landscape remains highly volatile.

## Xi Jinping Warns Against Tariff and Tech Wars with the US, Stresses China's Interests

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday cautioned that tariff wars, trade disputes, and technology battles between China and the United States would yield no winners. Xi's remarks came during a meeting with the heads of ten major international organizations, including the World Bank (WB), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the World Trade Organization (WTO), in which he highlighted the detrimental effects of such conflicts on global stability and economic principles.

"Tariff wars, trade wars, and technology wars run counter to historical trends and economic laws, and there will be no winners," Xi stated. He emphasized that such disputes would only harm both sides and warned that China would firmly safeguard its interests in the face of mounting pressures.

Xi also reiterated China's approach to its relationship with the United States. "China will always insist on focusing on its own affairs and resolutely safeguard its sovereignty, security, and development interests," he asserted, signaling Beijing's unwavering stance on issues related to its national sovereignty. At the same time, Xi made it clear that China would continue to pursue high-level opening-up policies, aiming to further integrate itself into the global economy.

These comments come amid rising ten-



sions between China and the U.S. as President-elect Donald Trump prepares to take office. During his election campaign, Trump threatened to impose steep tariffs on Chinese goods, with proposals for up to a 60% tariff on Chinese exports to the U.S. if trade imbalances are not addressed. Additionally, Trump warned of additional tariffs on China if it fails to curb the flow of fentanyl, a potent drug responsible for thousands of deaths in the U.S. each year.

While the specifics of Xi's communication with Trump remain unclear, the Chinese leader's statement reflects a commitment to navigating potential trade conflicts with the U.S. without compromising China's core interests. As Trump's presidency approaches, the future of U.S.-China relations remains uncertain, with both countries preparing for a period of heightened economic competition.



# Markets End Flat Amid Volatility

Sensex Closes at 81,510, Nifty at 24,610 as IT and Realty Gain

Domestic stock markets ended flat on Tuesday. The indices, which started off weak on mixed signals from international markets, plunged into heavy losses in the afternoon. Later, they rebounded on increased buying in heavyweights. The increase in investments in midcap shares is also a good sign. Shares in almost all sectors are gaining strength. IT and realty sectors gained the most. Pharma and energy, however, lost. Nifty settled at 24,610 and Sensex settled at 81,510.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 81,508 in the previous session, started at 81,575 today. It touched an intraday low of 81,182. It reached an intraday high of 81,726. It finally closed at 81,510, up 2 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 24,652 on Tuesday, touched a low of 24,510 and a high of 24,677. It closed at 24,610, down 8 points. The Bank Nifty rose 169 points to settle at 53,577.

In the Nifty50, 23 companies gained while 27 lost. Shriram Finance, Bajaj Finserv, HCL Tech, Wipro, and Infi were the top gainers. Bharti Airtel, Dr. Reddy's, Adani Ports, Adani Enterprises, and HDFC Life lost the most. Today, buying was seen in realty, IT, PSU bank, and finance sectors. Selling pressure was seen on shares of media, energy, infra, CPSE, tourism, defence, oil and gas sectors.

Market breadth on NSE was evenly balanced between buyers and sellers. Out of a total of 2885 stocks traded, 1438 ended in gains and 1367 ended in losses. Stocks of 124 companies hit 52-week highs and 17 stocks hit 52-week lows.

Rupee hits lifetime low against dollar. It weakened by 12 paise to settle at 84.85 against yesterday's 84.73. HSBC has given a buy rating to Emphasis. Triveni Engineering hits a 10-week high. Kansai Nerolac shares fell for the fifth consecutive day. Amber Enterprises shares lost for the seventh consecutive session. Ashoka Buildcon surged for the 9th consecutive session. This is the first time in five years that the index has risen for such a long time. IPOs worth Rs 1.5 lakh crore are expected to come in 2025. Gujarat Gas shares rose on news of increasing industrial gas prices. HDFC Bank hiked loan interest rates. IGL board approved one bonus share for each share. Torrent Power shares fell for the fifth consecutive session. Jefferies has given a buy rating to Godrej Properties with a target price of Rs 3850.

## Recommended Stocks:

**1. RBL Bank Limited (RBLBANK)**  
Improving asset quality and focus on retail



loans. Strong CASA ratio growth (low-cost deposits). Digital banking initiatives offer growth potential in retail banking. No promoter holding, which can impact long-term investor confidence. Lower profitability ratios compared to leading private banks. Suitable for contrarian investors looking for undervalued banking stocks with turnaround potential. Requires monitoring of NPAs and business growth.



**2. Shriram Finance Limited (SHRIRAMFIN)**

Market leader in commercial vehicle financing with a diversified portfolio. Strong growth in AUM (+20% YoY) and robust profitability (18% net profit growth in Q2 FY24). Expanding rural reach supports growth in under-penetrated markets. Exposure to rural markets can make it vulnerable to economic cycles. Competition in the NBFC space may put pressure on margins. Moderate P/E ratio (~10-12) and attractive dividend policies make it a solid pick for income-oriented investors. A stable and promising pick for long-term growth in the NBFC space, especially for investors targeting commercial and rural lending growth.



**3. Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited (CHOLAFIN)**

Diversified portfolio covering vehicle finance, home loans, and SME loans. Consistent performance with net profit and revenue growth (Q2 FY25 net profit grew 26% YoY). Strong ROE of ~15%, reflecting efficient use of capital.



High valuations (P/E ~30) may limit short-term upside. Sensitive to interest rate cycles and competition in housing finance. Premium valuation reflects its leadership and consistent performance. A strong candidate for long-term investors focused on vehicle and housing finance sectors.

**4. Olectra Greentech Limited (OLECTRA)**

Market leader in electric buses with contracts from state governments. Strong promoter holding (50%) and high ROCE (~34%). Positioned to benefit from EV adoption trends and government incentives. High valuation (P/E ~115) reflects significant growth expectations. Dependency on government contracts may limit revenue diversification. Overvalued based on current financials; suitable for high-risk, high-reward investors. Best suited for aggressive investors looking to capitalize on India's growing EV sector.



**5. Pidilite Industries Limited (PIDILITIND)**

Dominant market share with leading brands like Fevicol and Dr. Fixit. Resilient business model with strong rural and urban demand. Robust financials with consistent growth in net profit (18.8% YoY in Q2 FY24). High P/E ratio (~60) limits upside potential. Sensitive to raw material price volatility. Premium valuation reflects its strong brand equity and consistent growth. Ideal for conservative, long-term investors seeking steady returns from a well-established market leader.



# Tata Motors Shares Rise as Company Announces Up to 3% Price Hike



Tata Motors' stock saw a rise of over 1% to Rs 810 in early trading on December 10, following the company's announcement of a price hike of up to 3% across its vehicle range. This price increase, set to take effect from January 2025, will also impact electric vehicle models.

The price hike marks the third such increase this year, driven by factors including rising global commodity prices, high import duties on raw materials, and ongoing supply chain disruptions. Among the models most affected by the increase are Tata's popular Nexon and Punch, with base variants seeing price increases. The Nexon, which is currently priced at Rs 8.00 lakh (ex-showroom) for its base variant, will now cost Rs 8.24 lakh, while the Punch will increase from Rs 6.13 lakh to Rs 6.31 lakh for the base variant.

Despite the price hike, Tata Motors is navigating a challenging landscape in the automotive sector. The overall auto market has been grappling with a slowdown, leading many automakers to adjust sales strategies and offer higher discounts. However, Tata Motors has struggled in recent months, with its stock performing poorly compared to other major four-wheeler manufacturers, showing a decline of over 22% in the last three months.

This drop in stock performance comes amid a broader trend of rising input costs and weakened demand in the auto industry, which had previously seen a period of strong growth. Tata Motors, however, remains committed to adjusting its pricing to mitigate these challenges while continuing to offer competitive vehicles in an increasingly challenging market.

# S&P Global Projects Resilient Growth for Indian Economy in 2025

S&P Global Ratings has projected "resilient growth" for the Indian economy in 2025, highlighting strong urban consumption, steady service sector expansion, and ongoing infrastructure investment as key drivers. In its India outlook for 2025, the agency retained its growth forecast for the current fiscal year at 6.8%, followed by a growth rate of 6.9% in 2025-26.

According to Vishrut Rana, Economist at S&P Global Ratings, the Indian economy is expected to perform well in 2025, driven by the continued expansion of urban consumption and the service sector. Infrastructure investments are also expected to play a pivotal role in sustaining economic growth.

Rana also predicted a modest easing of monetary policy by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 2025, as inflationary pressures begin to subside. This comes after the RBI's decision last week to keep the benchmark interest rate unchanged at 6.5% while reducing the cash reserve ratio (CRR) by 50 basis points to infuse liquidity into the banking system.

Despite positive long-term growth projections, S&P noted that India's GDP growth for Q2 of fiscal year 2024 (June-September 2024)



was weaker than expected, registering only a 5.4% growth rate. This marks a slowdown compared to the 8.2% growth seen in fiscal year 2023-24.

In summary, S&P Global's outlook indicates a stable economic path for India in 2025, supported by key sectors like urban consumption and infrastructure development, while inflationary pressures are expected to ease, paving the way for potential monetary policy adjustments by the RBI.

# India's Inflation likely to have eased to 5.5% in Nov, industrial growth up at 3.6%

India's inflation is expected to have eased to 5.5% in November, down from a 14-month high of 6.2% in the previous month, according to a poll conducted by Moneycontrol among 16 economists. The expected decline in inflation is attributed to a sequential moderation in prices, which is likely to have kept food inflation in check.

Economists suggest that the moderation in headline inflation is primarily driven by easing food prices, which benefitted from favorable base effects and a softening in prices compared to previous months. "Headline inflation is expected to start cooling off on the back of easing food inflation that benefits from a favorable base as well as sequential softening," said Abhishek Upadhyay, Senior Economist at ICICI Securities Primary Dealership, who projected inflation at 5.5% for November.

Despite the overall cooling of inflation, experts caution that prices for essential commodities may remain elevated, keeping inflation above the 5% mark for the third consecutive month. The persistence of high prices for everyday goods continues to be a concern, even as broader inflation



shows signs of easing.

This moderation in inflation is significant for policymakers, as it comes after several months of elevated inflationary pressures. A lower inflation rate could provide the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) with more room to adjust monetary policy to support economic growth while keeping inflation within its target range.

Overall, while inflation is expected to moderate in November, the persistence of high prices for essential commodities means that inflation remains a key issue for India's economy in the near term.



## Chinese Woman Wins Rs 1.2 Lakh for Staying Calm Without Her Phone for 8 Hours

A Chinese woman has won 10,000 yuan (approximately Rs 1.2 lakh) in a unique competition that tested participants' ability to resist digital distractions and stay calm for eight hours without using a mobile phone. The contest, held on November 29 at a shopping mall in Chongqing, required contestants not only to avoid gadgets but also to maintain composure and mental endurance throughout the challenge.



The competition, which attracted over 100 applicants, selected 10 contestants who were confined to beds for the entire duration of the challenge. Participants were required to forgo their smartphones, tablets, and laptops, with only calling devices allowed in case of an emergency. Wrist straps monitored sleep quality and anxiety levels, ensuring contestants stayed alert and did not fall into deep sleep or exhibit excessive stress.

Dong, a sales manager who was nicknamed "Pyjama Sister" by social media users for wearing pyjamas to the event, emerged as the winner with an impressive score of 88.99 out of 100. She not only stayed in bed the longest but also showed the least anxiety, successfully avoiding deep sleep during the competition. Contestants were also restricted to five-minute toilet breaks, and meals and fluids had to be consumed in bed.

Dong's victory was attributed to her lifestyle, as she revealed that she rarely wastes time aimlessly scrolling through her phone and instead focuses on tutoring her child in her free time. This disciplined approach to managing time and avoiding digital distractions contributed to her success in the competition.

The event is part of a broader initiative in China to encourage citizens to reduce screen time and embrace healthier digital habits. Earlier this year, a PhD student made headlines for traveling across 24 provinces without using any electronic gadgets, further promoting the idea of disconnecting from technology.

## Google's Year in Search 2024: Top Trends and Most Searched Topics in India

Google has released its \*Year in Search 2024\* report, shedding light on the most notable search trends from users in India. The data reveals the topics that captured the attention of people across the country this year, ranging from sports and movies to memes and quirky language trends. Cricket dominated the search landscape, with major events such as the Indian Premier League (IPL) and the T20 World Cup topping the charts.



The Indian Premier League and T20 World Cup were the top two search terms this year, reflecting the immense popularity of cricket among Indian users. Fans eagerly followed both tournaments, and these events sparked widespread interest throughout the year. Additionally, the Indian Super League (ISL) also made its mark, securing the 10th spot among the most searched terms, showcasing the growing interest in football in India.

Movies were another major area of focus, with \*Stree 2\* and \*Kalki 2898 AD\* emerging as some of the most searched films. These movies generated significant buzz, and fans were actively looking up details, trailers, and updates. The search interest in these films highlights the strong connection between Indian audiences and the movie industry, particularly in the realm of popular franchises and anticipated releases.

In addition to sports and entertainment, political events also grabbed the attention of users.

The \*Election Results 2024\* was one of the most searched terms, reflecting the national interest in the political landscape of India this year. The \*Olympics 2024\* also ranked high, indicating the excitement and anticipation for the global sporting event.

The report also highlighted the rise of quirky and fun trends, such as memes and unique language terms, which gained popularity across social media platforms in India. These playful and humorous searches became an integral part of the online culture in 2024.

Google's \*Year in Search 2024\* gives a comprehensive look at the interests and priorities of Indian users, revealing how sports, entertainment, and cultural trends continue to shape the digital landscape in the country.

## McDonald's-Themed Amusement Park Comes To Life In Viral AI Video

Artificial intelligence-generated videos are creating a buzz across the internet, offering everything from hilarious voice-overs to jaw-dropping visuals. One such video has taken viewers by surprise with an incredibly realistic portrayal of a McDonald's-themed amusement park. While it may seem like a dream come true for food lovers, there's a twist – it's all AI-generated.

The video showcases a whimsical McDonald's wonderland, complete with an array of themed attractions. The first scene features a train ride designed to resemble a giant sandwich, offering a fun and unique twist on typical amusement park rides. Next, viewers are taken to a ride inspired by McDonald's famous fries, making the fast-food lover's fantasy come alive in an even more creative way. But that's not all – the video also introduces a water slide where riders float in burger-shaped inflatables. The level of detail and imagination in these AI-generated scenes is nothing short of impressive.

Of course, no McDonald's park would be complete without its iconic mascot, Ronald McDonald, who makes a cheerful cameo in the video. The ever-present giant yellow 'M' logo adds the perfect finishing touch, underscoring the fast-food giant's unmistakable branding. The video feels like a food lover's ultimate theme park experience, offering a visually stunning and fun environment that blends fast food with amusement park excitement.

The post accompanying the video reads, "If only McDonald's Park Xperience could come to life," which perfectly captures the whimsical nature of the concept. Although the video is fictional, it has sparked a lot of imagination, leaving fans wondering what it would be like if such a place truly existed.

AI-generated content continues to impress with its ability to blur the lines between fantasy and reality, and this McDonald's-themed amusement park video is a perfect example of its potential to create immersive, dreamlike experiences for viewers.



## Study Links Sweetened Beverages to Higher Risk of Cardiovascular Diseases

A large-scale Swedish study published on Monday revealed alarming findings about the health risks of consuming sweetened beverages, highlighting a significant link between sugary drinks and serious cardiovascular diseases, including stroke, heart failure, and atrial fibrillation. The study also suggested that excessive sugar intake could increase the risk of stroke or aneurysm, although moderate consumption of sugary treats might not pose the same threat. The research, published in \*Frontiers in Public Health\*, emphasized that drinking sweetened beverages is more harmful than consuming other forms of sugar.



Suzanne Janzi, a doctoral candidate at Lund University and lead author of the study, explained that sweetened beverages, which contain liquid sugars, often provide less satiety than solid foods. This means people are less likely to feel full after consuming sugary drinks, leading to potential overconsumption. Additionally, unlike treats that are typically consumed during special occasions or social events, sugary drinks are often consumed more frequently throughout the day, contributing to their health risks.

The study involved data from two major research projects, which tracked the health of 69,705 participants over 10 years. The team assessed the relationship between various sugar sources—such as honey, pastries, and sweetened beverages—and the risk of seven cardiovascular diseases, including two types

of stroke, heart attacks, heart failure, aortic aneurysms, atrial fibrillation, and aortic stenosis. During the follow-up period, 25,739 participants were diagnosed with cardiovascular diseases.

The findings revealed that high sugar intake raised the risk of ischemic stroke and abdominal aortic aneurysm, as well as heart failure in individuals with a normal BMI. Interestingly, the study found that the highest health risks were associated with the lowest intake of sugary treats, indicating that extremely low sugar intake may not necessarily benefit cardiovascular health.

However, Janzi cautioned that the study is observational and does not establish a direct cause-and-effect relationship. The research underlines the importance of moderating sugar consumption, particularly from sweetened beverages, to protect cardiovascular health.

## AI-trained robotic rat created by Chinese institute to study rodent behaviour

A Chinese research institute has unveiled an innovative AI-powered robotic rat, designed to mimic real rats in both appearance and behavior, with the goal of studying the social interactions of live rodents. The breakthrough was developed at the Beijing Institute of Technology, where researchers have created a robotic rat capable of both playful and aggressive actions, which allows scientists to observe its impact on the behavior of real rats.



Qing Shi, a researcher at the institute, explained, "The robotic rats have similar appearances and movements to animals, and even the same odor. It has become an important tool for exploring individual or collective rats' behavioral responses." This unique AI-trained robot replicates the physical characteristics of a real rat, making it a valuable tool for studying social behaviors like play and aggression that occur in natural rat colonies.

The robotic rat features a bionic spine, eyes, and two front arms that allow it to perform a variety of movements, such as touching, eating, and interacting with objects, just like its biological counterparts. The researchers specifically designed the arms for flexible movement, which closely resembles the agility and dexterity of a real rat. In place of hind legs, the robotic rat is equipped with wheels, enabling faster mobility and smoother movement, making it more adapt-

able when interacting with live rodents.

This robot has been designed to encourage genuine interactions with real rats, providing scientists with a novel method to study their behavior in social environments. The aim is to better understand how rats engage with each other, from friendly play to more aggressive actions, and how these interactions influence group dynamics.

As the study progresses, the robotic rat could play a key role in advancing behavioral research, offering new insights into animal social behavior and even aiding in the development of better AI systems that mimic natural movement and responses.

## Georgia Voll Joins Australia Squad for New Zealand Tour Following Impressive Debut

Georgia Voll has earned a spot in Australia's squad for their upcoming tour of New Zealand after an impressive start to her international career. The 21-year-old batswoman made an immediate impact in her debut series against India, scoring an unbeaten 46\* and a solid 101 in her first two international innings.



Voll's remarkable performances in the recent series have caught the attention of selectors, prompting her inclusion in the Australian team for the upcoming tour. Her debut century, in particular, showcased her potential and left a lasting impression, further solidifying her place in the squad.

Cricket Australia also announced the appointment of Gavan Twining, the current head coach of the NSW Breakers, as the full-time Assistant Coach for fielding and wicket-keeping. Twining, who will take

up the newly created role for the next two years, is expected to bring his expertise to the national team as Australia continues its preparations for key international matches.

The addition of Voll and Twining's appointment further strengthens Australia's squad as they look to continue their dominance on the global cricketing stage. Voll's form, combined with the leadership of experienced players, makes Australia a formidable side as they prepare for their New Zealand tour.

## Adam Gilchrist Reveals Motivation Behind Australia's Dominant 2nd Test Win Against India

Australia's legendary wicketkeeper-batter Adam Gilchrist believes that the criticism following their crushing 295-run loss in the first Test to India served as a major motivator for the team's emphatic 10-wicket win in the second Test. The victory, which leveled the five-match series at 1-1, showcased a remarkable turnaround in performance, with captain Pat Cummins leading the charge.

Gilchrist explained that the Australian team, especially Cummins, was visibly "stung" by the criticism they received after their lackluster showing in Perth. He noted that Cummins' aggressive celebrations after each wicket in the second Test reflected how much the win meant to the players. "You could see just through his celebrations that every wicket he took he was more aggressive. Not in a way that lost control, but clearly they'd been stung by a bit of criticism and were so disappointed with their performance in Perth," Gilchrist said on Fox Cricket.

The former Australian cricketer also likened Cummins' transformation to a "grease and oil change" after the team's poor performance in the first Test. "Cummins was outstanding. He looked like he needed a tune-up after Perth, and by the end of it, he was purring," Gilchrist added, praising the captain's leadership and determination.



In the pink-ball Test at Adelaide, Australia's pace trio of Cummins, Mitchell Starc, and Scott Boland dominated the Indian batting lineup, taking all 20 wickets. Remarkably, Nathan Lyon, Australia's leading spinner, bowled just one over in the match, highlighting the pace bowlers' superb coordination and teamwork. "The big three—Starc, Boland, Cummins—hunted as a pack and bowled as a unit. It was terrific to watch," Gilchrist said, emphasizing the excellent collective effort from the Australian bowlers.

With the series now tied, Australia heads into the next Test with renewed confidence, bolstered by their commanding win and the leadership of Pat Cummins.

## Manchester City's Struggles Leave Champions League Qualification in Doubt

Manchester City's season has taken a concerning turn, leaving them in a precarious position ahead of their crucial Champions League match against Juventus. The English champions have won just once in their last nine games across all competitions, as injuries and poor form from key players have led to their worst run under Pep Guardiola's management. Despite suffering a 4-1 defeat to Sporting Lisbon and an embarrassing 3-3 draw after leading 3-0 against Feyenoord, City still find themselves in a position to qualify from the new league-phase format.



Currently sitting 17th in the 36-team table, City need to finish in the top-24 to secure a spot in the playoff round, but direct qualification to the last 16 seems increasingly unlikely. With difficult away games against Paris Saint-Germain and Club Brugge remaining, their path to the knockout stages looks challenging.

This year, the Champions League holds even more significance for City, as their Premier League title defense is faltering. The club, which has won the last four English top-flight titles, is currently in fourth place, trailing Liverpool by eight points, with Jurgen Klopp's side also having a game in hand.

Guardiola admitted the season is proving to be a difficult one, emphasizing that the team must focus on surviving each match and accumulating points. Injuries have taken a toll on an aging squad, with key players like Rodri, John Stones, Nathan Ake, Mateo Kovacic, and Oscar Bobb sidelined. The absence of key figures such as Kevin De Bruyne, Ruben Dias, and Phil Foden has further depleted their ranks.

Midfielder Bernardo Silva voiced concerns about the team's limited depth, stating that with only 13 players available from a 20-man squad, it's hard to maintain form and consistency.

Guardiola acknowledged the team's physical challenges but urged the players to accept the situation and keep fighting.

City's focus now is on their remaining Champions League fixtures, where securing just one win from their final three games will almost certainly guarantee qualification. With Juventus struggling and on a four-match winless run, City may find the inspiration they need to bounce back, remembering their triumphant comeback in the 2022/23 season, when they lifted the treble after a tough winter.

## Gukesh and Ding Set for Thrilling Chess Championship Finish



The 2024 FIDE World Chess Championship is set for a thrilling conclusion as India's D. Gukesh and China's Ding Liren are tied at 6-6, with the first player to reach 7.5 points securing the prestigious crown. After a day of rest, the two will resume their battle on Wednesday, with the championship hanging in the balance.

Gukesh, at just 18 years old, is the youngest ever challenger for the World Chess Championship title. He had held a significant lead in the match but saw it slip away after a heartbreaking loss in the 12th round. This setback has added pressure, but the Indian Grandmaster is known for his composure and resilience, and he will be looking to bounce back in the final games.

Liren, 32, has also had his ups and downs throughout the match, with both players taking turns in the lead. Experts believe that Gukesh, having the white pieces in the 13th game, will adopt a more aggressive approach in a bid to regain the advantage. The match is poised for an exciting climax, with both players eager to claim the world title.

As the score stands at 6-6, nerves are expected to play a crucial role in the final stretch of this intense showdown. With the prestigious World Chess Championship on the line, both players will need to stay mentally strong and focused. The winner will be crowned champion, but the path to victory is far from clear, making every move in the remaining games a potential game-changer.

The defending champion, Ding

## Indian Batters Focus on Red-Ball Preparations Ahead of Brisbane Test

After suffering a humiliating 10-wicket defeat in the pink-ball Test, India's batters, led by Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, are focusing on refining their red-ball skills as they prepare for the next challenge in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. The team stayed back in Adelaide while Australia moved on to Brisbane for the third Test, dedicating their time to intense net sessions aimed at improving defensive techniques and judgment in leaving deliveries.

Rohit Sharma, struggling with poor form after scoring just 142 runs in his last 12 innings, worked hard to regain rhythm. Following the birth of his son, he faced both Indian spinners and pacers in an effort to bounce back. Rohit, who dropped to No. 6 in the order, faced two disappointing dismissals in Adelaide—one LBW to

a fuller delivery and the other bowled out by Pat Cummins.

Virat Kohli, who ended his 16-month century drought in Perth, was dismissed in the pink-ball Test after edging two deliveries—first to second slip, then to the wicketkeeper. However, he looked focused during the practice session, gradually finding his flow.

KL Rahul concentrated on improving his defensive technique, while Rishabh Pant played a few aggressive pick-up shots. Young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, who impressed with a brilliant 161

in India's dominant 295-run win in the opening Test, showcased his attacking style in the nets, displaying cheeky shots and stepping out to bowlers.

The bowling unit included Harshit Rana, Akash Deep, Yash Dayal, and spinners Ravindra Jadeja, Ravichandran Ashwin, and Washington Sundar, while the pace attack, including Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj, had a quieter day.

India will head to Brisbane on Wednesday, aiming to bounce back and level the series.





## Veera Dheera Soora 2 Teaser: Vikram's Intense Rural Action Saga Unveiled



The much-anticipated second part of *\*Veera Dheera Soora\** is set to hit theaters on January 2, 2025. With a fresh face in the lead, *\*Part 2\** stars the versatile Chiyaan Vikram, taking over from Vishnu Vishal, who starred in the first installment. Directed by SU Arun Kumar, the film promises to be a high-octane rural action drama that will keep audiences on the edge of their seats.

The teaser, recently unveiled by the makers, introduces Vikram as a family-oriented man with a mysterious past. Set against the picturesque rural backdrop of Tamil Nadu, the film explores the journey of Vikram's character, who leads a peaceful life as a loving husband and father. However, the serenity of his life is disrupted as we also learn about his involvement in a dangerous gangster network, adding a thrilling edge to the narrative. The teaser hints at intense action sequences, which are expected to be one of the major highlights of the film, catering to fans who enjoy mass-action cinema.

One of the most exciting elements of *\*Veera Dheera Soora Part 2\** is the face-off between Vikram and the antagonist, portrayed by SJ Suryah. Known for his powerful performances, Suryah plays a corrupt police officer, making the clash between the two characters the central conflict of the story. This intense rivalry between Vikram and Suryah promises to deliver dramatic moments filled with tension and emotion.

The film also features a significant role for National Award-winning Malayalam actor Suraj Venjaramoodu, adding more depth and intrigue to the narrative. Dushara Vijayan stars as the female lead, bringing an additional layer of charm to the film.

The music for *\*Veera Dheera Soora Part 2\** is composed by the talented GV Prakash Kumar, further enhancing the film's larger-than-life appeal. With a mix of gripping action, drama, and emotion, the film is shaping up to be a perfect treat for fans when it releases in January 2025.

## Game Changer Trailer Set for Release on December 28, 2024



Megapower Star Ram Charan is currently busy filming his highly anticipated project, *\*RC16\**, directed by Buchi Babu Sana. The movie's new schedule began recently and will continue for over a week. Following this, Charan is expected to head to the USA for the grand pre-release event of his upcoming film, *\*Game Changer\**, which is generating significant buzz among fans.

Directed by Shankar, *\*Game Changer\** is a political action drama made on a grand scale, promising an unforgettable cinematic experience. The film's massive scale and action-packed storyline have raised expectations, and fans are eagerly awaiting any updates. As part of the promotional efforts, the makers have planned a pre-release event on December 21, 2024, where they will unveil the fourth single, titled *\*Dhop\**.

Following the release of the song, fans can expect the *\*Game Changer\** theatrical trailer to be dropped a week later, on December 28, 2024. The trailer is

expected to provide a deeper look into the film's action-packed narrative, political intrigue, and high-octane sequences, which are set to be the film's highlights. The trailer launch is anticipated to be a grand affair, with an event likely to be held in Hyderabad.

Kiara Advani stars as the female lead, sharing the screen with Ram Charan in this high-profile film. The ensemble cast also includes talented actors such as Anjali, SJ Suryah, Srikanth, Jayaram, Sunil, and Naveen Chandra, who play crucial roles in the movie. The film is produced by the renowned producer Dil Raju, known for his successful productions in the industry.

As the release date for the trailer approaches, *\*Game Changer\** is poised to be a major hit, offering action, drama, and a political narrative that promises to captivate audiences worldwide. Fans are eagerly awaiting the trailer to see what the team has in store.

## Baby John Trailer: A Grand Reimagining of Theri with Varun Dhawan



*Baby John* the official re-make of Vijay's blockbuster film *\*Theri\**, is set to hit theaters with a grand release on the 25th of this month. The film stars Bollywood heartthrob Varun Dhawan in the titular role, which has already sparked significant excitement among audiences. Today, the makers dropped the highly-anticipated trailer, giving fans a glimpse of the action-packed, emotionally-charged narrative that promises to deliver a full-fledged entertainer.

Directed by Kalees and presented by the renowned filmmaker Atlee, *\*Baby John\** is designed to offer a balanced mix of action, drama, romance, and comedy. The trailer opens with Varun Dhawan portraying DCP Satya Verma IPS, a single father who is fiercely protective of his daughter. As the trailer unfolds, viewers are taken into a gripping flashback sequence where Satya is shown investigating rape cases, highlighting the film's dark and intense undertones.

The trailer also introduces

key characters, including Keerthy Suresh, Wamiqa Gabbi, and Sanya Malhotra, who are expected to play pivotal roles. A major highlight of the trailer is the cameo appearance by Salman Khan, which has already generated massive excitement. Even a brief glimpse of the superstar has fans buzzing with anticipation.

Jackie Shroff plays the film's antagonist, and his character is reportedly designed to be a strong, formidable villain. From the trailer, it's evident that the film stays true to the original storyline, while also adding new layers to make it suitable for the Bollywood audience. The intense action sequences and dramatic confrontations between Varun and Jackie's characters are expected to be key moments in the film.

With its gripping narrative, star-studded cast, and an exciting blend of various genres, *\*Baby John\** is all set to be a major hit. Fans can expect an exhilarating cinematic experience when it releases on December 25, 2024.

## Pushpa 2 Breaks Records with Jaw-Dropping Worldwide Collections

Allu Arjun and Sukumar's *\*Pushpa 2\** is making waves at the box office, shattering records across South India, North India, and international markets. The film is setting new benchmarks for box office collections, with its overwhelming success becoming a topic of discussion in trade circles. The movie's impressive performance in the first four days has left fans and industry experts stunned, as it continues to break records on a global scale.

The makers of *\*Pushpa 2\** have officially announced the staggering box office numbers for its opening days. On its opening day, the film grossed an incredible 294 crore worldwide. The momentum didn't slow down as it went on to collect 449 crores on the second day, and by the third day, it had crossed 621 crores. The weekend saw an even bigger surge, with *\*Pushpa 2\** raking in an astounding 200 crores on Sunday alone. In total, the film grossed an eye-popping 829 crores worldwide in just four

days.

The film's massive success has exceeded expectations, and trade analysts predict that *\*Pushpa 2\** will reach the coveted 1000 crore mark within its first week of release. The movie's widespread appeal and intense fan following, combined with its gripping storyline and Allu Arjun's stellar performance, have contributed to its record-breaking run at the box office.

As *\*Pushpa 2\** continues to dominate theaters, the film's success is being hailed as a landmark achievement in Indian cinema, further cementing Allu Arjun's status as one of the biggest stars in the industry. With the momentum showing no signs of slowing down, *\*Pushpa 2\** is poised to continue its box office dominance, rewriting records and setting new milestones in the coming days.



## Akshay Kumar's Bhooth Bangla: Horror and Comedy Await in First Look Poster

Akshay Kumar has just dropped an exciting update for his fans with the first-look poster of his upcoming horror-comedy film, *\*Bhooth Bangla\**. The actor shared the poster on Tuesday, giving fans a glimpse of his unique look for the movie. In the poster, Akshay is seen perched on a pillar near the gate of a bungalow, dressed in a white shirt, dhoti, and a blue vest. A red scarf adds a touch of flair to his outfit, and the lantern in his hand adds an intriguing element to the character.

Directed by the talented Priyadarshan, *\*Bhooth Bangla\** marks the reunion of Akshay Kumar and Priyadarshan, who have previously worked together in hit films like *\*Hera Pheri\**, *\*Garam Masala\**, *\*Bhagam Bhag\**, and *\*Bhool Bhulaiyaa\**. The film is slated for release on April 2, 2026, and Akshay has confirmed that the shoot began on December 6, 2024.

In a note accompanying the poster, Akshay Kumar expressed his excitement about collaborating with Priyadarshan once again,



writing, "Beyond excited to be on set with my favourite Priyadarshan as we begin the shoot of our horror comedy *\*Bhooth Bangla\** today. Yeh darr aur hasi ka double dose aapke liye ready hoga 2nd April, 2026 ko! Tab tak ke liye aapke best wishes chahiye [This double dose of fear and laughter will be ready for you on 2nd April, 2026! Until then, your best wishes are needed]."

In September, Priyadarshan spoke about reuniting with Akshay Kumar for *\*Bhooth Bangla\** at the IIFA Awards in Abu Dhabi. The director acknowledged their past successes together, stating that every film they've made has been a hit. He also mentioned the challenge of meeting audience expectations after 14 years, but expressed his hope that their collaboration would be successful once again.

With the chemistry between Akshay and Priyadarshan and the promise of a thrilling horror-comedy, *\*Bhooth Bangla\** is already generating significant anticipation.