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### Landless Poor to Receive Rs. 6,000 in Bank Accounts on Dec 28

**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad:** Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka has announced a major relief initiative for landless poor families in Telangana. As part of the Congress government's election promises, Rs. 12,000 per year will be provided to landless individuals, deposited in two installments. The first installment of Rs. 6,000 will be credited on December 28, 2024.

The Deputy CM also criticized the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) for what he called "false propaganda" regarding the state's financial health. He assured the public that the Congress government is managing state finances responsibly despite inherited debt burdens.

#### Key Highlights:

- First Installment on December 28:** Bhatti confirmed that Rs. 6,000 will be deposited into the bank accounts of eligible landless people this month, fulfilling a key election promise.

- BRS Mismanagement Alleged:** He accused the previous BRS government of poor fiscal management, stating that Congress has paid off Rs. 66,722 crore of debt in just 10 months while implementing various welfare schemes.

- Farmer Support:** Bhatti mentioned ongoing initiatives such as a Rs. 500 bonus for small farmers, free electricity, and a loan waiver program amounting to Rs. 21,000 crore. However, he acknowledged that some farmers are still awaiting full loan waiver benefits.

The opposition has raised questions about the implementation of these welfare programs, alleging favoritism in loan waivers and expressing concerns about the sustainability of the debt repayment strategy. Bhatti, however, dismissed these claims and said Congress is open to a detailed discussion in the Assembly about state finances.

The new financial aid scheme for the landless poor is expected to benefit thousands, though exact beneficiary numbers remain unclear. Despite financial challenges, Bhatti reiterated the government's commitment to welfare measures aimed at supporting the state's underprivileged.

# Is Bandi Sanjay Set to Return as Telangana BJP Chief?



**Avinash | TPN, December :** The Telangana BJP appears to be recalibrating its leadership strategy as reports suggest that Kishan Reddy could soon be replaced as the party's state president. Sources indicate that the BJP high command is considering reinstating Bandi Sanjay, who previously led the Telangana BJP until 18 months ago.

Despite securing only eight MLA seats in the recent Assembly elections, the BJP performed strongly in the parliamentary elections, winning eight MP seats. The shift in leadership could be a calculated move to sustain this momentum, especially with the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) elections around the corner.

Kishan Reddy, known for his composed demeanor, has been perceived as less effective in countering the

aggressive political styles of leaders like Revanth Reddy and KCR. In contrast, Bandi Sanjay, known for his vocal and combative nature, is seen as a leader capable of energizing the party's grassroots and challenging political rivals.

Bandi Sanjay's appeal also stems from his BC community background and his roots in North Telangana, where the BJP has traditionally held sway. With the party reportedly planning to project a BC leader as its chief ministerial candidate, Sanjay's return could align with this strategy.

If these reports materialize, Bandi Sanjay's leadership is expected to inject renewed vigor into the Telangana BJP ahead of the GHMC elections. An official announcement on the leadership change is anticipated in January.

## KCR's Possible US Visit Sparks Speculation

**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad:** BRS chief and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) is reportedly planning a visit to the United States, sparking significant discussions within political circles. Notably, during his decade-long tenure as CM, KCR undertook only two international trips—to China and Singapore—making him one of the least-traveled chief ministers in foreign affairs.



Sources within the party suggest that KCR's visit to the US is likely to happen in the coming weeks, though the schedule remains unconfirmed. Speculation is rife that KCR's trip might be personal, with whispers suggesting he plans to visit his grandson, Himanshu, who is pursuing education in the US. Party insiders hint that KCR may take this opportunity to spend quality time with his family, possibly alongside his wife, Shobha.

Adding intrigue to the visit are reports that KCR might meet Prabhakar Rao, a key figure linked to the controversial phone-tapping case. Prabhakar Rao,

who fled to the US after being named as the primary accused in the case, has since obtained a green card, reportedly through family ties in America. Sources indicate that Prabhakar Rao may not return to India for another four years due to his immigration status.

The political implications of KCR's US trip remain unclear, with party leaders downplaying the visit as a personal matter. However, given the timing and ongoing controversies, the trip has sparked curiosity and speculation about its broader significance.

## KTR Slams Revanth Reddy Over Arrest Threat to L&T Official



**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad :** BRS Working President KT Rama Rao lashed out at Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy over his controversial statement about ordering the arrest of L&T CFO R. Shankar Ram. The remarks were made after the CFO reportedly linked the Congress government's free bus rides for women to a decline in metro rail commuters, sparking backlash from Hyderabad's business circles.

Speaking during a national debate organized by a Hindi news channel in Delhi, the Chief Minister revealed that he instructed the police to imprison the L&T official for making such comments. The statement has raised concerns within the industrial fraternity. Condemning the remarks, KTR questioned the Chief Minister's intent and the message being sent to the business commu-

nity. "Which Chief Minister, in his right mind, would openly and callously threaten the CFO of a reputed organisation like L&T with jail time simply for voicing an opinion on a government scheme that impacted their organisation?" KTR asked. He further accused Revanth Reddy of adopting a "disruptive strategy" influenced by Congress Lok Sabha leader Rahul Gandhi, potentially discouraging investments in the state.

KTR also mocked the Chief Minister, suggesting that his own experience of being jailed after a cash-for-votes scandal seemed to motivate his threats.

The comments have sparked widespread discussion, with business leaders and political analysts questioning the implications for Telangana's investment climate.

### P2 Stampede

## Victim's Daughter's Heartbreaking Words

**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad :** The tragic stampede at Sandhya Theatre during the Pushpa 2 benefit show on December 4 has left an indelible impact on many. The tragic loss of Revathi, a mother who died in the chaos, has left her family shattered. Her son, Sri Tej, is still fighting for his life in a private hospital, while her husband struggles to cope with the loss of his wife and the uncertainty surrounding their son's health.

Amidst this heartbreak, Revathi's daughter, Shanvika, has shared a poignant mes-

sage that is resonating with many across social media. In a heartbreaking video that has gone viral, Shanvika, still in disbelief, expresses her belief that her mother has gone to another town and will soon return. "I miss her so much," she says, her voice filled with confusion. "She always used to encourage me to study and take care of my brother."

Shanvika's pain is palpable as she recalls how her mother used to care for her and her brother, feeding them every day. She explains that she has not been going to

school, waiting for her mother's puja to be completed and for her brother to return home. The video captures the innocence of a child caught in the tragic aftermath of a senseless incident, making it even more emotional for viewers.

This heart-wrenching moment has touched the hearts of many, serving as a reminder of the personal toll that such tragedies take on innocent families. Shanvika's words, now widely shared, have sparked an outpouring of sympathy and concern from across the community.





## Telangana Health Minister Warns Doctors Against Medical Negligence

**TPN Correspondent Telangana:** Telangana Health Minister C. Damodar Raja Narasimha has issued a stern warning to doctors against medical negligence, emphasizing the need for quality healthcare services, particularly in government hospitals in industrial areas like Jayashankar Bhupalpally. Addressing hospital staff during a visit on Saturday, the minister highlighted the large influx of patients from neighboring districts like Peddapally and stressed the importance of meeting their medical needs. "Strict action will be taken against any negligence," he warned.

As part of his visit, the minister laid foundation stones for a new ECG center and a four-story hospital building worth ₹13 crore. Additionally, he inaugurated a new ambulance and announced the approval of two primary and two community hospitals for the district.

### The minister also outlined broader efforts to strengthen healthcare across Telangana:

- Infrastructure Expansion: 400 sub-centers and 130 primary health centers established.



Staff Recruitment: 8,000 medical staff positions filled, including 441 surgeons and food inspectors.

- Improved Services: Regular reporting on non-communicable disease clinics and AYUSH services.
- Drug Availability: Ensured consistent availability of medicines and proper equipment in hospitals.

Narasimha directed officials to address issues at government hospitals in Khammam and Warangal districts. "Rectify all shortcomings and ensure seamless medical services," he instructed, reiterating the government's commitment to enhancing healthcare facilities across Telangana.

## The Issues in the Mohan Babu Family Refuse to Die Down



**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad :** The ongoing dispute within the Mohan Babu family took a dramatic turn on Sunday, as actor Manchu Manoj visited the Pahadishareef police station, alleging an attempt to harm him and his family by his elder brother, Manchu Vishnu, and his associates.

malfunctioned later that evening, leading to dangerous electrical fluctuations. He expressed concern for the safety of his entire family, including his elderly mother, his nine-month-old daughter, and his uncle and aunt, who had come to visit from the village.

Manoj's statement to the police claimed that on Saturday night, Vishnu, accompanied by individuals identified as Raj Kondurgu, Kiran Vijay Reddy, and a group of bouncers, entered his residence under the pretext of delivering a birthday cake for their mother. However, Manoj accused his elder brother and his group of deliberately tampering with the household generators by mixing diesel with sugar, which he described as a malicious attempt to cause catastrophic failure.

In his statement, Manoj claimed that Vishnu and his team escalated the situation by forcibly removing the last loyal staff member from the house, leaving his family vulnerable and exposed. "This is not an isolated incident but part of an escalating pattern of threats and hostility," Manoj added, emphasizing that despite prior warnings from law enforcement, these actions continued without regard for the safety of his family.

Manoj further alleged that, as a result of the sabotage, the generators

This latest development adds to the ongoing tensions within the Manchu family, which has been in the spotlight for personal and professional disputes in recent months.

## Cold Wave Sweeps Telangana: Hyderabad Shivers at 9.7°C



Tandra also experienced severe cold, with temperatures hovering between 6.4°C and 6.6°C.

Hyderabad and surrounding districts faced intense chilly weather as well. The BHEL area in Sangareddy district reported a single-digit temperature of 9.6°C, while the University of Hyderabad and Serilingampally in Rangareddy recorded 9.7°C.

Other regions in the state also felt the cold wave. Moula Ali in Medchal-Malkajgiri and Shankarpalli in Rangareddy registered 11.3°C, while Islampur in Tupran mandal of Medak district recorded 11.4°C. Shadnagar and Kapra municipality experienced temperatures of 12°C and 12.8°C, respectively.

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) had earlier issued a cold wave warning for Adilabad and Kumram Bheem Asifabad districts. The icy conditions are expected to persist in these regions, bringing further chill to the northern parts of Telangana.

**TPN Correspondent, Telangana :** Cold wave conditions gripped Telangana, with the lowest minimum temperature of 6.3°C recorded in Jainad and Bheemipoor mandals of Adilabad district. Nearby areas like Pochara, Boraj, and

## Pushpa 2 Premiere Stampede: Sritej Remains Critical

**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad:** Sritej, the young boy injured during the stampede at Sandhya Theatre, RTC Crossroads, during the premiere screening of Pushpa 2, remains in critical condition at the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) of KIMS Cuddles, Secunderabad.



According to a health bulletin released on Sunday by Dr. Chetan R. Mundada and Dr. Vishnu Tej Pudi, Sritej is on ventilator support. While his vital parameters are stable and he is tolerating feeds, he continues to experience intermittent fever spikes, altered sensorium, and frequent dystonic movements.

life of his mother, Revathi, during the movie's premiere, has sparked widespread outrage, with activists like Manda Krishna Madiga demanding accountability and support for the affected family.

The doctors emphasized that his neurological status is being closely monitored as he fights for recovery. The incident, which claimed the

The tragedy has brought attention to crowd management failures and the lack of adequate safety measures at high-profile events.

## Telangana Takes the Lead in Energy Efficiency and Conservation

**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad :** The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power, Government of India, has called for a nationwide movement to combat climate change and environmental degradation. Emphasizing the urgency of addressing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, deforestation, and pollution, BEE urged governments, industries, and citizens to act collectively.

Experts highlighted the importance of limiting the global temperature rise to 1.5°C, as outlined in the Paris Agreement. Since the energy sector accounts for nearly 75% of all GHG emissions, transitioning to clean energy, improving energy efficiency, effective water management, and afforestation have become critical strategies for mitigating climate impacts.

In line with National Energy Conservation Week (December 14–20, 2024), Telangana has taken significant steps to lead by example. V. Aneela, MD of TGREDCO, and representatives from BEE met with Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Principal Secretary for Energy and Finance, Telangana, in Hyderabad to discuss the state's energy efficiency initiatives.

### State's Commitment to Energy Efficiency and Green Energy

The Principal Secretary expressed gratitude to BEE and EESL, a joint venture of Central PSUs under the Ministry of Power, for their support in promoting energy efficiency and cost-effective power solutions in Telangana. He emphasized the state's commitment to 24/7 high-quality power supply, with a special focus on industrial power at global standards to boost economic growth and attract investments.

Guided by Chief Minister Sri A. Revanth Reddy and closely

monitored by Deputy Chief Minister Sri Bhatti Vikramarka, Telangana aims to achieve ambitious renewable energy targets of 20 GW by 2030 and 40 GW by 2035.

### Focus on Schoolchildren and Women's Empowerment

To instill energy conservation habits among students, the Telangana Energy Department has established over 165 energy clubs in schools with financial support from BEE. The department is also working with self-help groups to promote sustainable energy practices among women.

The release of the Energy Conservation Calendar 2025 by the Deputy Chief Minister underscores the state's prioritization of energy efficiency, which contributes over 40% toward addressing climate change.

### Key Energy Efficiency Initiatives in Telangana

1. Energy Efficiency Financing Platform (EEFP)
    - As part of the National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE), a committee comprising eight leading financial institutions (banks and NBFCs) has been formed to facilitate energy efficiency projects. TGREDCO has conducted two Investment Bazaar events in the state to attract investors.
  2. Media Campaigns for Awareness
    - o Broadcasted jingles on energy conservation through All India Radio.
    - o Advertised energy-efficient appliances and electric vehicles on television.
    - o Promoted energy-saving tips and measures through interior panels in Hyderabad Metro trains.
- With these initiatives, Telangana is paving the way for a sustainable future by integrating energy efficiency and renewable energy into its development strategy.





## KTR Criticises Congress for Telangana's Economic Downturn

**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad:** BRS working president KT Rama Rao has slammed the Congress government in Telangana, accusing it of causing the State's economic decline due to "inexperience, incompetence, and corruption." Speaking on Sunday, Rama Rao pointed out that Telangana, which had witnessed robust growth during K Chandrashekhara Rao's decade-long leadership, is now regressing in key sectors under the Congress regime.

Citing the Transport department's revenue as an indicator, he highlighted that Telangana is the only southern State to record a decline in revenue and vehicle registrations. Neighboring States have shown growth ranging from 8% to 32% in these metrics, while Telangana's numbers have fallen, reflecting what he termed as economic mismanagement.

"Declining registrations of heavy vehicles indicate shrinking purchasing power among people and worsening economic conditions," Rama Rao said. He noted that Telangana's revenue from April to November 2024 stood at Rs 4,389 crore, slightly lower than Rs 4,392 crore during the same period in 2023-24. He further accused the Congress regime of focusing on political vendettas at the expense of governance. Rama Rao called on the government to prioritise economic stability and restore the progressive momentum achieved under the BRS administration.

## BRS MLC Kavitha Defies Govt Order, Lays Foundation for Telangana Thalli Statue

**TPN Correspondent, Jagtial:** BRS MLC K Kavitha laid the foundation stone for a new Telangana Thalli statue in Jagtial district on Sunday, December 15. The statue, standing 22 feet tall, is seen as a party version of the symbol of Telangana's identity and self-respect. Kavitha's actions came in defiance of a recent Government Order issued by Telangana's chief secretary, A. Santhi Kumari, which prohibited any alterations or distortions of the Telangana Thalli image. The government's directive has made it clear that any attempts to change the portrayal of the statue or make derogatory comments about it would lead to strict legal action.

Speaking at the ceremony, Kavitha accused the Congress-led government under Revanth Reddy's leadership of showing disrespect for the Telangana Thalli. She stated, "The Congress government has no intention of honoring Telangana Thalli. We are committed to spreading the Telangana Thalli movement in every village across the state."

The BRS MLC further emphasized that the party would not be deterred by government orders or notifications, stating that the party remains steadfast in its commitment to safeguarding Telangana Thalli, which she called a symbol of courage and inspiration. Kavitha also affirmed the BRS's intent to protect Bathukamma, an



important cultural festival, as part of Telangana Thalli's legacy.

The controversy surrounding the Telangana Thalli statue intensified following the unveiling of a new statue by the Telangana government on December 9 at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat. The new design features a simple depiction of a Telangana woman in a green saree holding maize in her left hand and displaying the Abhaya Mudra, symbolizing pro-



tection and peace. The Telangana government has stated that this design aims to reflect the state's agrarian roots and inclusivity.

The BRS, however, criticized the new statue, claiming it undermines Telangana's identity and disregards the sentiments of those who fought for the state's formation. This ongoing feud between the Congress and BRS over the representation of Telangana Thalli has escalated with both parties accusing each other of distorting the state's culture and history.

## BRS Slams TPCC President Over Misguided Criticism

**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad:** BRS MLA KP Vivekananda has launched a strong attack on TPCC president A Mahesh Kumar Goud, accusing him of misdirecting criticism at BRS chief and Leader of Opposition K Chandrashekhara Rao instead of holding Congress leader Revanth Reddy accountable for the party's shortcomings. Vivekananda described Goud as a "dummy president" under the control of the Chief Minister and criticized his recent open letter to Chandrashekhara Rao as an attempt to shield Revanth Reddy's failures.

Speaking to the media at Telangana Bhavan on Sunday, Vivekananda expressed disappointment with Mahesh Kumar Goud for using the letter to defend Revanth Reddy rather than addressing the Congress party's unfulfilled promises. He also challenged the TPCC president to ensure the complete implementation of the crop loan waiver, a key promise made by the Congress party.

Vivekananda questioned why Mahesh Kumar Goud and other Congress leaders had not pressed Revanth Reddy on the party's unfulfilled guarantees, including the six guarantees that remain unimplemented, such as the full crop loan waiver and the Mahalakshmi scheme. He pointed out that previous PCC presidents did not hesitate to criticize



their party's governance when necessary.

The BRS MLA also refuted Goud's claims about loans obtained under the BRS government, asserting that these funds were used to advance the state's development and improve the lives of Telangana's people. He contrasted this with the Congress government's failure to deliver meaningful progress during its one-year tenure, despite borrowing substantial amounts.

Former MLA Balka Suman joined the criticism, accusing Revanth Reddy of destroying Congress with his double standards and inaction on critical issues like the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme and farmer suicides. He dismissed Mahesh Kumar Goud's letter as "scrap paper" and demanded that he address the Congress government's neglect of Telangana's cultural heritage, including the removal of Bathukamma from the original design of Telangana Thalli.

Suman also slammed the Revanth Reddy government for its inexperience, mismanagement, and spread of misinformation. He assured that BRS would continue its fight for the welfare of the people of Telangana.

## Mahesh Kumar Goud Slams KCR, Calls BRS Rule 'A Decade of Betrayal'



**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad:** Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) chief Mahesh Kumar Goud launched a scathing attack on BRS leader and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao (KCR), accusing him of pushing the state backward during his decade-long rule. In an open letter, Goud criticized KCR's governance, alleging false promises, corruption, and neglect of public aspirations.

"Your party leaders are spreading fake propaganda, unable to digest the progress being made by the Congress government. You ruled with sentiment, leaving people in tears during your tenure," Goud wrote, accusing KCR of betraying the slogan of "water, funds, and jobs" that fueled the Telangana movement.

He alleged that KCR's government prioritized family interests over public welfare. "You promised a job for every household, yet only your family benefited. The Kaleshwaram project has turned into an ATM for you and your followers," Goud charged, further accusing KCR of plunging a surplus state into debt exceeding ₹7 lakh crore.

Goud also criticized KCR's son-in-law, Finance Minister Harish Rao, for exploiting youth during the Telangana movement and alleged corruption in projects like Musi river rejuvenation.

Highlighting Congress's efforts, Goud said, "We filled over 54,000 jobs within a year, setting a national record. Stop making baseless accusations against our government and focus on acknowledging your failures."

He accused KCR of sidelining Telangana's cultural icons, neglecting the aspirations of the people, and perpetuating "family rule" at the expense of democratic values. "The people will not forget the anarchy you committed," Goud asserted, demanding that KCR rein in his family members, including KTR, Harish Rao, and Kavitha.

The Congress leader concluded by urging KCR to recognize the state's evolving political landscape under Congress leadership and refrain from divisive politics.

## Key Issues to be Discussed in Telangana Assembly

### New Zoo Park Near Hyderabad, Rural Infrastructure, and More

**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad:** The fourth session of the third Telangana Legislative Assembly, set to begin on December 16, will address a wide range of issues impacting the state's development. One of the main topics on the agenda is the establishment of a new zoo park near Hyderabad. The government plans to provide updates on the development timeline and its role in complementing the existing zoo in the city. The new park is intended to promote wildlife conservation and eco-tourism, contributing to the state's tourism sector. Discussions will focus on the strategic planning for the park, its location, and its potential to boost tourism and provide an immersive wildlife experience.



of outsourcing employees. The assembly will also discuss the government's allocation of funds to ensure the effective operation of new municipalities, and members will seek clarity on the timeline for clearing long-pending payments owed to gram panchayats, sarpanches, and local representatives. These delayed payments have raised significant concerns among local authorities, and the government will be pressed for a resolution.

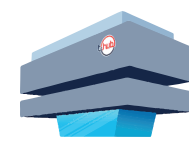
The issue of water pollution in the Mudiredy Pally tank, allegedly caused by the Aurobindo Pharma Company, will also be a focus. Reports have surfaced that the company has been releasing polluted water into the tank,

causing crop damage and public health concerns. The Industrial and Commerce Minister will address these allegations, outline the government's response to tackle water pollution, and discuss measures to safeguard both public health and the environment.

The assembly will also discuss the progress of industrial infrastructure development in Telangana. The Industrial Minister will provide updates on new Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGIIC) parks, including their locations and land acquisition processes. These parks are part of the government's strategy to attract investment and foster industrial growth in the state.

In addition, tourism development will be a key topic, with the government planning to promote temple tourism, eco-tourism, and health tourism. The establishment of the new zoo park will tie into these efforts, as the park is expected to become a significant eco-tourism destination. The government will share its strategies for utilizing these tourism models to showcase Telangana's cultural heritage and natural beauty, aiming to attract both domestic and international visitors.

The assembly will also address ongoing issues like the controversial detention policy for BE students at Osmania University and the closure of belt shops. Members will seek clarity on the government's approach to balancing public health concerns with revenue generation from liquor sales.



# Bondada Raghavendra Rao Supports Scholarship Program for Poor Students

MLA Mandali Buddhaprasad Distributes Scholarships



**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad :** In a heartening gesture to support the education of poor students, Bondada Engineering Limited Chairman Bondada Raghavendra Rao has financially supported a scholarship distribution program organized by the Royal Service Trust in Avaniigadda. The event, attended by MLA Mandali Buddhaprasad, saw the distribution of Rs. 4.6 lakh to 62 meritorious students, with the trust benefiting from the continued patronage of Raghavendra Rao.

The scholarship program, which took place under the chairmanship of Seethalam Rambabu, was attended by several key figures, including MEO TVS Ramdas, Royal Service Trust General Secretary Thota Padmanabha

Rao, Indian Red Cross Society District Chairman Dr. Thota Sriranga Satya Balaji, and Trust Treasurer Ankem Ramasai Prasad.

Speaking at the event, MLA Mandali Buddhaprasad emphasized the need for students to utilize financial assistance wisely to achieve their dreams and bright futures. He commended Raghavendra Rao for his continuous support to the community, especially for empowering students from rural areas to excel academically.

Bondada Raghavendra Rao shared his personal journey, advising the students that success comes from a combination of commitment, character, and hard work. He en-

couraged them to overcome the challenges they might face in their academic journey, stressing the importance of focusing on their studies and utilizing every opportunity.

MEO TVS Ramdas also inspired the students by urging them to overcome obstacles, common in rural areas, with determination and perseverance. The event concluded on a high note, with 61 students receiving a total of Rs. 4.20 lakh for their educational pursuits, leaving them and their parents filled with gratitude for the support provided by Bondada Raghavendra Rao and the Royal Service Trust.



## Mohan Babu Apologizes to Assaulted Journalist

**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad :** Veteran actor Mohan Babu tendered an unconditional apology to TV9 video journalist Ranjith on Sunday, December 15, following an incident where the actor assaulted the journalist with a microphone. The altercation occurred last week when Ranjith, accompanied by Mohan Babu's estranged son Manchu Manoj, attempted to enter the actor's residence at Jalpally. Ranjith sustained injuries in the incident, underwent surgery, and is currently recovering in a city hospital.

On Sunday, Mohan Babu visited Ranjith at the hospital to express regret over his actions. Earlier, the actor's elder son, Manchu Vishnu, had also issued an apology to the media.

The Pahadishareef police registered a case against Mohan Babu for attempted murder. However, no further legal proceedings have been initiated in the case so far.

This incident comes amid an ongoing property dispute involving the actor, his son Manchu Manoj, and Manoj's wife.

## Connect Supreme Business Meet and Calendar Launch a Resounding Success

**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, Dec:** The Connect Supreme Business Meet, held on December 15, 2024, at the newly renovated Blue Basil AC Conference Hall in Himayatnagar, Hyderabad, turned out to be a resounding success. The event, which lasted from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM, saw active participation and received positive feedback from all members in attendance. The unique essence of Connect Supreme was on full display, underscoring the spirit of mutual cooperation and camaraderie among the participants.

The meet kicked off with an informal session where attendees had the opportunity to mingle over tea, coffee, and biscuits, creating a relaxed environment for networking. A special recognition was given to the first 10 visitors, who were honored as early



birds, further encouraging engagement and interaction among members.

The event saw prominent participation from key leaders including Krishna Dharmapuri, President; Satish Kumar Yelgo, Secretary; and Saroja Koduri, Treasurer, who are integral to the leadership of Connect Supreme. The group, inspired by the vision of K. Sai Baba Konduru, the founder and chairman of Connect Supreme, comprises members from various sectors, each contributing to the organization's success.

In addition to the business discussions, the event marked the launch of the much-anticipated Connect Supreme calendar, symbolizing the group's ongoing initiatives and milestones. This calendar serves not only as a functional tool for planning but also as a reminder of the collaborative achievements and aspirations of the members of Connect Supreme.

The successful organization of this event reinforced the strong network that Connect Supreme has built, with members coming together to foster collaboration, share insights, and drive mutual growth. The meeting concluded on a positive note, with members eager to continue working together and supporting each other's endeavors in the coming year.

## Old City Metro Land Acquisition Gains Pace: 900 Properties Notified



**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad :** The Hyderabad Metro Rail (HMR) is accelerating land acquisition for the 7.5-kilometer MGBS-Chandrayangutta Old City metro route, with requisitions issued for 900 of the 1100 identified properties. HMR Managing Director NVS Reddy assured that all religious and historical structures along the route will be safeguarded with advanced engineering solutions.

Compensation awards for 200 affected properties are set to be finalized by the end of December. Preliminary notifications have been issued for 800 properties, and declarations for 400 properties have already been completed. The demolition process will commence after compensation disbursement, paving the way for smoother metro construction.

The project, prioritized by Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, aims to enhance the Old City's connectivity and attract economic opportunities. The district collector and HMR officials are closely monitoring the land acquisition progress. The Old City Corridor VI, an extension of the green line, connects MGBS to Chandrayangutta via Darulshifa, Shalibanda, and Falaknuma. Despite stations being located 500 meters away from landmarks like the Charminar and Salarjung Museum, these names have been retained for their historical significance. Road widening efforts are underway, with plans to expand roads to 100 feet and station areas to 120 feet, ensuring efficient metro infrastructure.

The Hyderabad Metro's Phase II corridors, approved in September, include 116.2 kilometers of new routes, underscoring the government's commitment to boosting urban transit in the city.

## Hyderabad Sees Rise in Flu Cases as Temperatures Drop

**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad :** The recent drop in temperatures across Hyderabad and its neighboring districts has led to a significant surge in seasonal flu cases. Over the past week, clinics, private nursing homes, Basthi Dawakhana, and outpatient wings of major hospitals, including Fever Hospital, Gandhi Hospital, and Osmania General Hospital (OGH), have been seeing a steady influx of patients with flu-like symptoms. Common symptoms of these viral fevers include fever (sometimes high), body aches, headaches, fatigue, weakness, runny nose or total nasal congestion, and lethargy. These cases are primarily linked to upper respiratory tract infections, with influen-

za being the most prevalent. In addition to flu cases, the temperature drop has also resulted in a rise in asthma attacks among chronic patients. According to the Allergy and Asthma Network of India (AANI), winter weather can lead to a 40 percent increase in allergy and asthma cases. Experts explain that colder air can tighten the airways, triggering more severe and unpredictable asthmatic attacks. Winter is also known to exacerbate allergies, with house dust mites and mold contributing to allergic reactions, especially in vulnerable individuals.

Family physicians and general practitioners from private clinics have reported a 50 to 60

percent rise in respiratory infections this season, with common complaints including cold, cough, fever, and shortness of breath. Healthcare professionals are advising individuals with co-morbid conditions, such as chronic heart conditions, kidney ailments, liver diseases, and high blood pressure, to consider vaccination under medical guidance to help protect themselves from seasonal infections.

As the temperature continues to fluctuate, health experts are urging the public to take preventive measures, including maintaining good hygiene, staying warm, and seeking medical attention if symptoms worsen.

## Police Erect Barricades Around Annapurna Studios Ahead of Bigg Boss Finale



**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad:** The Hyderabad police have heightened security around Akkineni Nagarjuna's Annapurna Studios in Jubilee Hills, erecting barricades on all sides of the seven-acre premises. The measure comes as the final episode of Bigg Boss Telugu Season 8, hosted at the studio, is scheduled to air on Sunday.

Movement restrictions have been imposed on vehicles from Indira Nagar and Krishna Nagar to Annapurna Studios. The Jubilee Hills police have im-

plemented these steps to manage the anticipated surge of fans arriving for the grand finale of the popular reality show.

Officials have also issued stern warnings to the Bigg Boss organizers, stating that they would be held accountable for any disruptions during the event.

The precautionary measures follow the recent controversy surrounding actor Allu Arjun. During the premiere of his film Pushpa-2 at Sandhya Theater, an

unexpected visit by the star caused a massive crowd to gather, leading to a tragic stampede. The incident resulted in the death of a woman and critical injuries to a child.

Cases were registered against Allu Arjun and the theater management, and the actor was arrested by the Chikkadapalli police on Friday. Given these developments, the police are taking no chances to ensure the safety and smooth conduct of the Bigg Boss finale.

## Revanth Sarkar Kicks Off Intensive Survey for Indiramma House Beneficiaries



**TPN Correspondent, Telangana :** As part of the Congress government's commitment to fulfilling its promises to the people, a special survey has been initiated to identify beneficiaries for the Indiramma House Scheme in Telangana. This initiative aims to provide homes to the homeless, and officials are using a newly developed mobile app to conduct the survey across the state.

signed to ensure that each applicant's information is thoroughly reviewed. Applicants are notified a day before the survey team visits their homes, where officials check the details and gather necessary documentation. This effort will continue at full speed to meet the government's deadline of completing the survey by the end of December.

In total, officials are targeting to survey 80,54,554 applicants across the state, with each surveyor responsible for at least 20 applications. For every 500 applications, a surveyor has been appointed to collect data and upload it to the app, ensuring a smooth and systematic process.

The first phase of the survey focuses on landowners, with the government granting houses to those who have land to build on. Surveyors are documenting key details such as photos of the applicants, their vacant land, and their current living conditions. This data is being entered into the app to streamline the beneficiary identification process.

The survey is a crucial step toward providing homes to deserving families, and the government's swift action is aimed at ensuring that the Indiramma House Scheme's objectives are met within the stipulated time frame.

The survey process, already underway in all districts, is de-

## Woman Harasses SI for Marriage, Leads to His Suicide



**TPN Correspondent, Mulugu :** The tragic suicide of Sub-Inspector Rudrarapu Harish from Vajedu, Mulugu district, has been traced to harassment by a woman, leading to her arrest on Satur-

day. The police investigation revealed that Harish, who took his own life on December 2, was pressured by the woman to marry her despite his refusals.

Harish, 26, was found dead by gunshot at a resort near Mallekatta Varadhi in Vajedu mandal. His service revolver was found beside him. Initial suspicions led authorities to Banothu Anasurya, alias Anusha, a 26-year-old admin staff from Chilukuru mandal, Suryapet district. She had developed a relationship with Harish after they met through a wrong call seven months ago. The two frequently communicated, and Anusha began pressuring Harish to marry her.

Despite Harish's refusal, Anusha continued to harass him, even threatening that she would die if he didn't marry her. Police said that Harish, fearing repercussions of the harassment and possible public disclosure of their relation-

ship, succumbed to the emotional toll and took his life.

Anusha, who had previously been involved in a similar situation with another man, was arrested and has been remanded. Police investigations revealed that she had harassed Harish for months and used emotional manipulation to force his compliance. The case has been registered, and further investigation continues.

In the midst of their troubling relationship, Anusha reportedly visited Vajedu during weekends while studying in Hyderabad, and the pair had discussed marriage. Harish, however, discovered that she had a history of similar behavior with other men, which led him to refuse her marriage proposal. This refusal reportedly triggered the harassment, ultimately culminating in Harish's tragic death.

## Schoolgirls Dance to Song Praising Revanth Reddy, Sparks Controversy

**TPN Correspondent, Jagtial :** A dance performance by schoolgirls at a government-run institution has ignited a political controversy in Telangana. The incident occurred at the BC Welfare Residential School for Women in Laxmipur, Jagtial, during the launch of a common diet program on Saturday.

As part of the cultural festivities organized for the event, four girl students performed a dance to the song "Anna Revanthu," which praises Telangana Congress leader Revanth Reddy. The performance took place in front of local MLA Dr. Sanjay Kumar, who attended the event as the chief guest.

The dance has drawn sharp criticism from local leaders of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), who have accused the school authorities of promoting political favoritism. They questioned how such a performance could take place in a government institution, alleging that the event was orchestrated to express political bias.

The controversy has fueled a debate about the role of edu-



cational institutions in political activities, with BRS leaders demanding accountability from the school staff.

## Harish Rao Highlights Gaddar's Role in Telangana Movement



**TPN Correspondent, Siddipet :** Former Minister T Harish Rao paid tribute to balladeer Gaddar's pivotal role in the second phase of the Telangana movement during a book launch event organized by the Gaddar Foundation in Siddipet on Sunday.

Speaking at the event, Harish Rao revealed that Gaddar had declined a request from Praja Sangala Ikya Karyacharana Samithi to contest against BRS founder and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao (KCR) in the Karimnagar Lok Sabha elections. Gaddar had also urged the Samithi not to field candidates against BRS MLAs and MPs who resigned in 2008, demanding Telangana's statehood.

"Gaddar promised to campaign for these leaders if needed, as he believed that KCR's leadership was crucial for achieving a separate Telangana," Rao noted.

Recalling a narrow loss in the Dub-

bak elections, Harish Rao mentioned that BRS MLA Soilpeta Ramalinga Reddy had lost by just 3,000 votes due to the Samithi's candidate. Gaddar had expressed that the defeat could have been avoided had the Samithi refrained from contesting.

Rao highlighted Gaddar's unwavering support for the Telangana movement under KCR's leadership and shared how Gaddar had influenced decisions like enhancing salaries for sanitation workers and building lift irrigation for Matiga Cheruvu in Toopran, his native place.

The former minister praised the Gaddar Foundation for preserving the balladeer's legacy through his songs and assured that a statue of Gaddar would be installed at an appropriate location in Siddipet. Prominent attendees included Gaddar's son Suryam, writer Sida Reddy, MLC Deshpathi Srinivas, and former MLA Rasamai Balakishan.

## Group-II Candidates Protest Against MNR College Over Cloakroom Charges



**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad :** Group-II examination candidates on Sunday protested against the MNR Medical College management for charging Rs.50 to Rs.100 per candidate to store their mobile phones, bags, and other belongings in the cloakroom. The candidates refused to pay, questioning the management's responsibility to safeguard their belongings.

The Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC) had assigned 1,183 candidates to the college for the exam. The candidates alleged that the college management was earning over Rs.2 lakh per exam-

ination by charging at least Rs.100 per student for the service.

Upon learning about the issue, Additional Collector Chandrashekhara visited the examination center and directed the management to cease collecting charges and refund the amount already taken. He emphasized that it was the management's duty to ensure the safe custody of candidates' belongings during the examination.

The incident has raised concerns about transparency and accountability in handling facilities for competitive examination candidates.

## Telangana Ranks Fourth in India for Diabetes Cases, Alarming Surge in the State

**TPN Correspondent, Telangana :** The rise of diabetes in India is becoming a pressing health issue, and recent statistics have revealed a shocking rise in Telangana. The state has ranked fourth in the country for the highest number of diabetes sufferers, according to the latest data presented in the Lok Sabha. The study found that 14 percent of people who underwent diabetes screenings in Telangana were diagnosed with the condition. While Tamil Nadu leads the country with 80.9 million diabetic patients, followed by Maharashtra with over 40 million and Karnataka with 28 million, Telangana is home to 24.5 lakh diabetics, placing it in

the fourth position. This surge is especially concerning in Hyderabad and its surrounding areas, where urbanization and unhealthy eating habits, including a rise in junk food consumption, are contributing to the spread of the disease even in rural areas.

The National Family Health Survey (2019-2021) highlighted that 13.8 percent of men and 10.2 percent of women in Telangana are diabetic. The growing prevalence of diabetes is raising alarms among health experts, urging increased awareness and preventive measures to address this rising health crisis.

## Allu Arjun Should Give ₹1 Crore to the Victim's Family

**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad:** A tragic stampede at Sandhya Theater during the Pushpa-2 premiere claimed the life of a woman named Revathi and left her son Sriteja critically injured. The incident has sparked outrage, with MRPS founding president Manda Krishna Madiga demanding accountability and compensation. Visiting Sriteja at KIMS Hospital, where he is undergoing treatment, Manda Krishna interacted with the boy's family and medical staff. He urged actor Allu Arjun to provide Rs 1 crore to the victim's family and cover the educational expenses of Sriteja's sister.

"Our association, along with other film personalities, should extend support to the bereaved family. It's also essential to take action against the police for their failure to prevent the stampede," he said.

Expressing disappointment, Manda Krishna criticized the lack of visits from film industry members and leaders to the injured boy. He called for collective responsibility to ensure justice and support for the affected family.

The incident has raised concerns over safety measures at cinema events, prompting calls for stricter regulations to prevent such tragedies.





# Nalanda's Revival: A Path to Global Knowledge and Harmony

The revival of Nalanda University is not just a return to its ancient legacy but a transformative vision aimed at addressing contemporary global challenges. In today's world, marked by geopolitical instability, climate crises, and societal divisions, Nalanda's focus on holistic education, collaboration, and peace offers a timely blueprint for the future. It aspires to nurture innovative thinkers who can confront these issues with wisdom, creativity, and harmony—values once upheld by Nalanda.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has played a pivotal role in reinvigorating the Nalanda vision, showcasing its importance on global platforms like the G20 summit. At the Red Fort in 2023, Modi emphasized the need for a robust education system, stating that the spirit of Nalanda should influence India's new education policy. He sees Nalanda not just as an institution but as a symbol of India's aspirations for global leadership in knowledge and innovation.

Nalanda's revival is deeply symbolic, reflecting India's ambition to reclaim its intellectual and cultural leadership. As Modi has expressed, Nalanda represents more than just a historical name; it embodies pride, wisdom, and the belief that knowledge, once gained, cannot be erased, even in times of crisis.

Today's world faces numerous challenges—intellectual fragmentation,



conflicts, and a focus on material gain over knowledge. Yet, Nalanda's emphasis on intellectual curiosity, cultural competence, and universal truths remains more relevant than ever. It offers a unique educational model that promotes dialogue and mutual understanding, essential for tackling issues such as cultural misunderstandings and geopolitical conflicts.

Since the opening of its new campus in Bihar, Nalanda University has attracted students from around

the world, particularly from developing countries. This growing interest underscores the global appeal of Nalanda's inclusive, interdisciplinary approach to education.

In a world struggling to maintain peace and cooperation, Nalanda stands as a beacon of knowledge and cultural harmony. By combining ancient wisdom with contemporary learning, it holds immense potential to shape future global leaders, fostering innovation, peace, and prosperity.

## INDIA Bloc's Future Hinges on Unity and a Clear Agenda, Not Just Anti-BJP Sentiment



The survival of the INDIA (Indian National Democratic Inclusive Alliance) bloc may depend on more than just opposition to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). While anti-BJP sentiment has held the alliance together so far, it's becoming increasingly clear that this unity will not endure unless the constituent parties can come together on a common agenda and vision for India.

The recent electoral setbacks in Haryana and the dismal performance in Maharashtra have left many within the alliance questioning the Congress Party's leadership. The first to voice these concerns was Trinamool Congress (TMC) chief Mamata Banerjee, who has repeatedly expressed her desire to lead the alliance. Banerjee, the Chief Minister of West Bengal, has found support from key allies within the INDIA bloc, such as the Samajwadi Party, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) faction led by Sharad

Pawar, and the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), headed by former Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav. Historically, RJD and Congress have shared a close relationship, with RJD often supporting Congress at the Centre.

However, what makes these concerns particularly significant is the involvement of Lalu Prasad Yadav, a longtime ally of the Congress. Since the formation of RJD in the 1990s, it has consistently backed Congress at the national level, often directly or indirectly. The shift in the party's stance, now questioning Congress's leadership within the alliance, marks a significant turning point. This indicates a growing frustration within the INDIA bloc, with many of its key players beginning to doubt whether Congress, under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi, can truly challenge the BJP.

The primary issue now is the lack of a unified ideology among the al-

liance members. Anti-BJP rhetoric alone is no longer sufficient to hold the coalition together, particularly when the parties involved have differing visions for India's future. Without a coherent, unified agenda, the INDIA bloc risks falling apart in the face of mounting electoral challenges and growing internal divisions.

The constituents of the INDIA bloc must decide whether they are willing to forge a cohesive narrative that resonates with the electorate or whether they will remain focused solely on opposing the BJP. Without a clear and unified direction, the alliance's future looks uncertain, and the party vying for leadership will need to offer more than just anti-incumbency to make a lasting impact. The next few months will be crucial in determining whether the INDIA bloc can overcome its internal divisions and craft a vision for India that can compete with the BJP's firmly entrenched dominance.



## AMU's Responsibility: Addressing Anti-India and Anti-Hindu Sentiments

Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) is once again at the center of controversy, this time over offensive remarks allegedly made by Bangladeshi students on social media. What initially began as a few isolated posts has quickly escalated into a major crisis. These posts, which insulted Indian women, disparaged ISKCON as a "radical Hindutva organization," and mocked cultural practices in Uttar Pradesh, have ignited a wave of outrage.

Such comments are not just inflammatory but strike at the core of India's pluralistic values, challenging the ethos of mutual respect and harmony that universities should foster. The remarks have particularly incensed Hindu students, who view them as part of a broader pattern of anti-India and anti-Hindu rhetoric. This pattern, they argue, has been allowed to fester, partly due to the inaction or even tacit approval of university authorities.

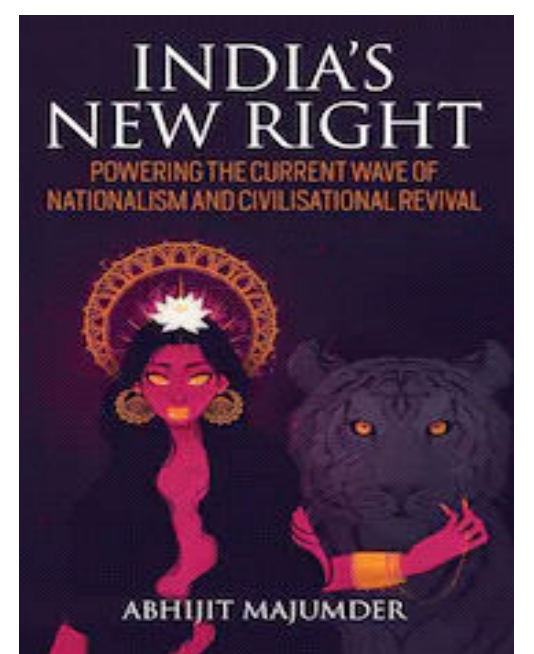
For AMU, an institution that receives taxpayer funding, to harbor students who engage in such divisive, hateful discourse is not only a betrayal of its own principles but also an affront to the values upheld by the nation. Universities, by nature, should be spaces of learning, growth, and inclusivity—places where diverse voices come together to build mutual understanding and respect. However, when such institutions fail to hold their students accountable for spreading hate and intolerance, they not only compromise their own credibility but also damage the larger social fabric.

The situation at AMU calls for urgent action. It is crucial for the university administration to take a firm stand against any form of hate speech or divisive rhetoric, ensuring that all students, regardless of their background, feel safe and respected. This is not just about maintaining discipline but about upholding the values of unity and respect that are fundamental to India's identity. By doing so, AMU can demonstrate its commitment to fostering an environment of mutual respect and contribute to the greater good of society.

## Understanding India's New Right: Nationalism and Civilisational Revival

The rise of the Right in India, as explored in Abhijit Majumder's book *India's New Right: Powering the Current Wave of Nationalism and Civilisational Revival*, calls for a deeper understanding of how nationalism and civilisational revival have emerged in the country. This shift, according to Majumder, is more the result of individual efforts than governmental or societal changes. While the book provides an insightful exploration of the forces behind this rise, two chapters in particular, *\*Nationalism and Mission Northeast\** and *\*Bharat's Queer and Conservative\**, stand out for their critical examination of India's evolving political landscape. The terms "Left" and "Right" are often misused, and their meanings can be distorted in contemporary discourse. In the context of India, these labels can be problematic, as they stem from the French Revolution of 1789, where seating arrangements in the National Assembly determined who was seen as supporting or opposing the monarchy. Over time, the Left became associated with liberal values and progressivism, while the Right became synonymous with conservatism and traditionalism. However, this simplistic dichotomy falls short in the Indian context.

Majumder argues that India does not have a "Right wing" in the Western sense. He points out that many in India's nationalist, dharmic, or Indic movements reject a pure laissez-faire economy, one that advocates minimal government interference in markets. These nationalists are not opposed to progressive values like alternative sexualities or a woman's right to choose



early-stage abortion. They are anti-Left in their opposition to a system that they believe has undermined India's ancient wisdom, culture, and civilization. However, they are also not easily defined by the conventional political spectrum.

The term "Right wing" in the book, Majumder acknowledges, is a convenient shorthand that does not entirely capture the complexity of the movement in India. The nationalists or dharmics, as they are sometimes called, are not solely motivated by the desire to preserve traditional values. Their vision transcends narrow definitions of nationalism and incorporates the broader concept of universalism. While they may identify as nationalists, their ideology is rooted in India's spiritual, cultural, and philosophical traditions, which go beyond mere political boundaries.

# Will end Naxalism in Chhattisgarh by March 2026: Amit Shah

TPN CORRESPONDENT RAIPUR  
DECEMBER.16

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday reaffirmed the government's commitment to eliminate Maoism from Chhattisgarh by March 31, 2026, lauding the Chhattisgarh Police's efforts in combating Left-wing extremism over the past year.

Speaking at an event to mark the President's Colour Award to the Chhattisgarh Police, Shah appealed to Maoists to return to the mainstream and take advantage of the state government's surrender policy.

"I have been in touch with Chhattisgarh Police for years regarding anti-naxal operations, and I can confidently say that they are one of the most courageous forces in the country, fighting naxals and improving the lives of citizens," Shah stated.

The Union Minister praised the police for their remarkable achievements over the past year, including neutralizing 287 extremists, arresting nearly 1,000, and facilitating 837 surrenders. He also highlighted that the top 14 Maoist leaders were killed during this period. Notably, the number of fatalities among security forces and civilians dropped below 100 for the first time in four decades, a significant milestone.

Shah emphasized that the motto of "Viksit Chhattisgarh, Viksit Bastar"



would receive fresh momentum from the Chhattisgarh Police, who earned the President's Colour Award even before completing 25 years, an exceptional feat for any armed force.

Reflecting on the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Shah noted that fatalities among security forces had decreased by 73% and civilian deaths by 70% over the past decade compared to earlier years.

The Home Minister also mentioned the state's political journey, recalling how,

after the creation of Chhattisgarh in 2000, the people elected a BJP government for 15 years. He assured the citizens that the government would successfully eliminate Maoist activity in the state by the 2026 deadline.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai congratulated the police on the prestigious award and highlighted the government's welfare initiatives, including 15,000 houses for surrendered Maoists under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, along with financial and educational benefits for their families.

## Maharashtra CM Fadnavis Criticizes Opposition's EVM Allegations, Defends Constitution

TPN CORRESPONDENT NAGPUR  
DECEMBER.16

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday criticized opposition parties for allegedly not believing in the Constitution, particularly regarding their claims about the integrity of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). Fadnavis, who was welcomed by party workers and supporters in Nagpur, made the remarks after arriving in his hometown following his swearing-in ceremony as Chief Minister for the third time on December 5.

Speaking to reporters at Nagpur airport, Fadnavis expressed his happiness at returning to his "janmabhoomi" (birthplace) and "karmabhoomi" (workplace). He described Nagpur as his family and welcomed the support from his local community. He also remarked that his return to the position of Chief Minister followed the resounding victory of the Mahayuti alliance in the November 20 Maharashtra elections, where they won 230 out of 288 seats, securing a clear mandate.

Fadnavis responded to allegations from the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), which had secured only 46 seats, regarding irregularities in the use of EVMs. He dismissed their claims as baseless and said that their disappoint-



ment stemmed from their failure to win the election. According to Fadnavis, these parties lacked trust in democracy, the Election Commission, and the institutions that support the nation's democratic processes.

He further criticized the opposition's position, stating that while they expressed doubts about the electoral process, they seemed to place their faith in other institutions like the Supreme Court, Reserve Bank of India, and the Comptroller and Auditor General. Fadnavis emphasized that if they trusted these institutions, they should also have faith in the Constitution, which was framed by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar.

In conclusion, Fadnavis urged the opposition to respect democratic processes and not undermine the credibility of the institutions that uphold India's Constitution and democracy.



## PM Modi Invokes Nehru to Distract Nation's Attention from His Own 'Failures': Congress

TPN CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI  
DECEMBER.16

The Congress party has responded sharply to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent remarks, accusing him of using Jawaharlal Nehru to distract the nation from his own failures. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh criticized Modi for what he called an "obsession" with Nehru, claiming that the prime minister invokes the first prime minister of India to divert attention from his government's challenges and shortcomings.

Ramesh's comments came a day after Modi criticized the Congress during a debate on the 75-year journey of India's Constitution. The prime minister had accused the Congress of repeatedly undermining the Constitution in its pursuit of power, asserting that his government's actions since 2014 have strengthened India in line with the Constitution's vision.

In his response, Ramesh quoted French philosopher Voltaire, saying, "If God did not exist, it would be necessary to invent him," and applied it to Modi's obsession with Nehru. "If Nehru had not existed, it would have been necessary to invent him," Ramesh said, mocking the prime minister's frequent references to Nehru. He went on to argue that Nehru is used by Modi to cover up his own administration's failures and to avoid addressing pressing issues facing the country today.

Ramesh also alleged that Modi's focus on Nehru serves to ignore India's achievements before May 2014, suggesting that the current government seeks to erase or diminish the nation's legacy prior to Modi's tenure.

## Yogi Adityanath Defends Dhankhar, Yadav, Slams Opposition

TPN CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI  
DECEMBER.16

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has criticized the Opposition for moving impeachment notices against Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar and Allahabad High Court Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav, accusing them of targeting those who speak the truth. Speaking at the World Hindu Economic Forum 2024 in Mumbai, Adityanath claimed that anyone who voices the truth, especially when it challenges the established narrative, faces such threats.

Adityanath specifically addressed the Opposition's push for the impeachment of Justice Yadav, following his remarks on the need for a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) during a Vishwa Hindu Parishad event in December 2024. The Chief Minister supported Yadav's stance, arguing that discussions around the UCC and the need for ending discrimination between majority and minority communities should be welcomed. He criticized the Congress for its "double standards," asserting that the party has always attempted to stifle the truth while claiming to uphold the Constitution.

"The Opposition targets anyone who

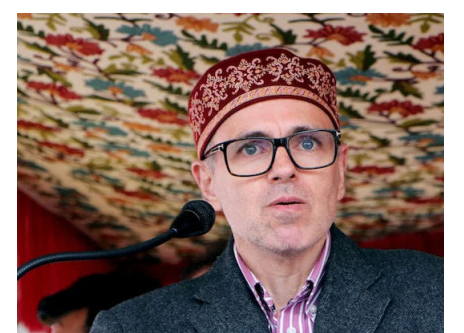


speaks the truth, but they conveniently forget their own double standards when it comes to the Constitution," Adityanath said. He also expressed his support for Vice-President Dhankhar, asserting that the Rajya Sabha Chairman is simply fulfilling his duties. "The Opposition is concerned about a farmer's son reaching such a prestigious position," he said, referring to Dhankhar's rise.

Adityanath also stressed the importance of exposing those who seek to suppress the truth. He alleged that the Opposition seeks to undermine India's cultural legacy, pointing to their denial of the existence of Lord

Ram. He reaffirmed that the Sanatan religion, a core part of India's heritage, has never sought to impose its supremacy, contrasting it with rulers who forced control through violence in history.

On economic matters, Adityanath praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for elevating India to the fifth-largest economy in just 10 years. He projected that India would become the third-largest economy by 2027. The UP Chief Minister further boasted that Uttar Pradesh, now the second-largest state economy in India, is on track to reach a USD 1 trillion economy.



## Stop whining about EVMs, accept poll results: Omar Abdullah to Congress

TPN CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER.16

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has strongly criticized the Congress party for raising concerns about Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) after election losses, calling for a more consistent approach to accepting poll results. In an exclusive interview on Friday, Abdullah said that parties cannot celebrate EVM victories when they win, only to dismiss them when results do not go in their favor.

"If you celebrate victories when you secure over a hundred Members of Parliament using the same EVMs, you can't then suddenly turn around and say the system is flawed when you lose," Abdullah remarked. He further emphasized that such inconsistency undermines the credibility of the election process.

Though his stance echoed BJP's defense of the voting system, Abdullah distanced himself from partisan views, stating, "No, it's just that... what's right is right." He clarified that his criticism was based on principles, not political loyalty.

Abdullah also took the opportunity to defend his independent thinking on various issues, pointing to his support for projects like the Central Vista redevelopment in Delhi, which has been contentious for some. "Contrary to what others believe, I think the Central Vista project is a good thing. The old Parliament building had outlived its utility, and we needed a new one," he said.

## AAP Replies To BJP's Dare: Arvind Kejriwal, Atishi To Fight Current Seats

TPN CORRESPONDENT DELHI  
DECEMBER.16

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and senior leader Atishi are set to contest the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections, with Kejriwal running from his current New Delhi constituency, and Atishi contesting from Kalkaji. Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has officially released its fourth and final list of candidates, finalizing the party's candidates for all 70 seats in the Delhi Assembly.

Kejriwal, along with ministers Saurabh Bharadwaj (Greater Kailash) and Gopal Rai (Babarpur), will contest from their current constituencies. In



a statement, Kejriwal expressed confidence in AAP's campaign, claiming that the BJP has no vision or plan for Delhi, other than attacking him. He criticized the BJP for lacking a Chief Ministerial candidate and stated that they only had a single agenda: "remove Kejriwal." Kejriwal empha-

sized that AAP has a proven track record over the past ten years, with a strong team and clear development plans for Delhi's future.

This final list also addresses the BJP's claims regarding AAP candidates fearing defeat. BJP Delhi Chief Virendra Sachdeva had accused AAP's leaders, such as former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, of avoiding certain constituencies. He specifically mentioned Sisodia's shift from Patparganj to Jangpura, suggesting that AAP leaders were afraid of losing. In response, Kejriwal and Atishi have committed to their current seats, signaling their readiness to face the challenge.



# Donald Trump Picks Truth Social CEO Devin Nunes As Intelligence Board Head

WASHINGTON DC: US President-elect Donald Trump has announced two key appointments as he prepares for his second term in office. On Saturday, Trump named Devin Nunes, a former Republican congressman from California, to serve as the chairman of the President's Intelligence Advisory Board (PIAB). Nunes, who previously chaired the House Intelligence Committee during the early years of Trump's first term, is also known for his role in leading investigations into Russian interference in the 2016 US election.

Trump praised Nunes for his experience and commitment, stating that Nunes would provide "independent assessments" of the U.S. Intelligence Community's activities. Trump highlighted Nunes' role in exposing what he referred to as the "Russia, Russia, Russia Hoax," a reference to Nunes' controversial 2018 memo alleging FBI bias in its investigation of the Trump campaign's Russian ties. Despite this new role, Nunes will continue to serve as the CEO of Truth Social, Trump's social media platform.

The PIAB, created in the mid-20th century, serves as an independent advisory body offering assessments on the effectiveness and propriety of the U.S. intelligence communi-



ty's operations. Trump emphasized that the board would include "distinguished citizens from outside of the Federal Government."

In another move, Trump appointed Richard Grenell, a staunch ally, as a presidential envoy for special missions. Grenell, who served as US ambassador to Germany and was the first openly gay cabinet member when appointed as acting director of national intelligence, will focus on critical global issues, including Venezuela and North Korea. Grenell,

a vocal supporter of Trump, had been a contender for Secretary of State but the position ultimately went to Marco Rubio.

These appointments follow Trump's earlier nomination of Kash Patel, another loyalist, as FBI director. Patel, a former Pentagon official known for his views on the "deep state," worked with Nunes and Grenell on the 2018 memo. With these moves, Trump solidifies his inner circle as he prepares for his January 20 inauguration.

## Bangladesh Inquiry Commission Links Ex-PM Hasina to Enforced Disappearances



DHAKA: A five-member inquiry commission in Bangladesh has implicated former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a provisional report on enforced disappearances, estimating over 3,500 cases linked to the practice. The report, titled "Unfolding the Truth," was submitted by the Commission for Inquiry on Enforced Disappearance to Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus on Saturday. It claims that Hasina was involved as a key orchestrator in these incidents, citing evidence of her role in directing such activities.

The commission also named several high-ranking individuals as involved, including Major General (ret'd) Tarique Ahmed Siddique, former director-general of the National Telecommunication Monitoring Centre, and sacked Major General Ziaul Ahsan. Senior police officers, Monirul Islam and Mohammad Harun-Or-Rashid, along with other officials, were also implicated. Many of these individuals are believed to be abroad since Hasina's government was ousted on August 5 following a student-led uprising.

The report describes a "systematic design" by which enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings went undetected, with perpetrators often unaware of the victims' identities. The commission also highlighted the role of Bangladesh's elite anti-crime unit, the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), which draws personnel from the Army, Navy, Air Force, and regular police forces. RAB and other law enforcement agencies allegedly collaborated in detaining, torturing, and holding victims in secret detention centers.

As part of its findings, the commission recommended the abolition of RAB and the revision of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 2009. Sajjad Hossain, a rights activist and commission member, stated that 1,676 complaints of enforced disappearances had been filed, with 758 cases investigated so far. Of these, 200 victims remain missing, while many others were falsely listed as arrested.

The commission, led by retired Supreme Court judge Mainul Islam Chowdhury, also revealed the existence of eight secret detention centers in Dhaka and surrounding areas. The commission plans to release a further interim report in March and aims to complete its investigation within a year.

During a press conference, Yunus expressed full support for the commission's efforts, acknowledging the significance of its work. The commission continues to examine interviews from victims, including former military officers and opposition activists who were targeted under Hasina's regime.

## Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake Begins First Overseas Visit to India



COLOMBO: Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake will embark on a three-day visit to India from Sunday, marking his first overseas trip since assuming office. This visit, scheduled from December 15-17, will include high-level meetings with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Pres-

ident Droupadi Murmu.

Accompanied by Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath and Deputy Minister of Finance Anil Jayantha Fernando, Dissanayake's visit aims to strengthen the bilateral ties between Sri Lanka and India. The Ministry of External

Affairs (MEA) highlighted that the discussions are expected to cover a range of issues, including maritime security cooperation.

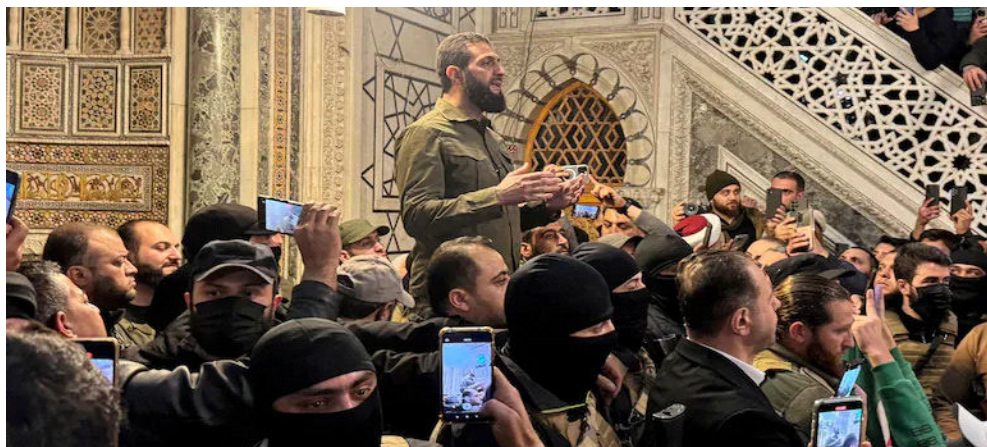
This visit, which is Dissanayake's first since taking office on September 23, follows a series of diplomatic engagements. Dissanayake will also attend a business event in New Delhi focused on enhancing investment and commercial links between the two nations. Additionally, he is set to visit Bodh Gaya, a significant Buddhist site, during his trip.

The invitation for the visit was extended by India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who had visited Colombo shortly after Dissanayake's victory. Jaishankar was the first foreign dignitary to visit Sri Lanka after the National People's Power (NPP) government assumed power in the country.

The visit had been delayed until after Sri Lanka's parliamentary elections in November, where the NPP secured a historic win, gaining absolute control of the 225-member Parliament. Dissanayake's diplomatic engagement with India is seen as an important step in furthering the relationship between the two neighboring countries.

## US in Contact with Syria's New Rulers Amid Shifting Dynamics: Antony Blinken

DAMASCUS: The United States confirmed on Saturday that it has made contact with Syria's new rulers, the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) rebels, following the group's recent victory over President Bashar al-Assad. Despite designating HTS as a terrorist organization in 2018, Secretary of State Antony Blinken disclosed that the U.S. had been in "direct contact" with the group, though he did not specify the nature of these interactions.



This development comes as Syria undergoes a dramatic shift in power. HTS, an Islamist-led faction rooted in Syria's branch of al-Qaeda, recently played a key role in toppling Assad's government. The rebel group's victory has led to discussions on the country's future. A diplomatic meeting held in Aqaba, Jordan, involved the U.S., Turkey, the European Union, and Arab nations, all of which expressed support for a united and peaceful Syria. They advocated for a Syrian-led transition, urging the creation of an inclusive, non-sectarian government based on human rights.

Turkey, a significant player in Syria's ongoing conflict, reopened its embassy in Damascus after a 12-year hiatus. This move signals Ankara's shift in strategy and its ongoing relationship with HTS, which has held considerable influence in Syria's

northwest.

While HTS leaders have sought to moderate their rhetoric, the group remains deeply controversial, especially given its al-Qaeda connections. However, HTS now asserts that it intends to protect the rights of all Syrians and enforce the rule of law. Blinken, while hopeful for a peaceful transition, emphasized that actions, not just words, will determine how the U.S. engages with the new Syrian leadership. He noted that U.S. sanctions could be reassessed based on the group's conduct moving forward.

The situation in Syria remains volatile, with the country grappling with humanitarian crises, economic hardships, and the aftermath of over a decade of war. Meanwhile, Israel continues to carry out military strikes across Syria, heightening regional tensions. Despite the uncertain future, Syrians have expressed relief at the fall of Assad's regime and are now focused on rebuilding their war-torn country.

## Lost Syrian Military Supply Route After Bashar al-Assad's Fall: Hezbollah Chief

BEIRUT: Hezbollah's deputy leader, Naim Qassem, confirmed on Saturday that the Lebanese militant group has lost its critical military supply route through Syria following a major shift in the region. This development came after anti-Assad rebel forces seized key territories, including the border with Iraq, cutting off the route that Hezbollah has long used to receive weapons and supplies from Iran. The loss of this supply line comes after a sweeping offensive by rebel fighters, culminating in the fall of President Bashar al-Assad's government.

Hezbollah had relied on Syria as a transit route for arms and military equipment coming from Iran through Iraq. However, after rebels captured the border with Iraq on December 6 and took Damascus two days later, this vital supply route was severed. Despite this setback, Qassem downplayed the impact, calling it a minor detail in Hezbollah's broader operations. He suggested that the loss was temporary and that "a new regime could come, and this route could return to normal." He also indicated that the group could find alternative ways to maintain its military supply lines.

Hezbollah's involvement in Syria began in 2013 when it intervened on behalf of Assad's government to fight rebel forces. However, with Assad's government now replaced by a transitional caretaker regime led by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, a former al-Qaeda affiliate, Qassem acknowledged the uncertainty surrounding the future political



landscape.

Hezbollah's leadership expressed cautious optimism regarding the new ruling party, stating that the group cannot fully judge these new forces until they stabilize and take clear positions. One key hope for Hezbollah is that the new government will continue to see Israel as an enemy, rather than seeking normalization of relations with the Israeli state. This stance, Qassem emphasized, would play a crucial role in shaping Hezbollah's relationship with Syria moving forward.

The loss of the supply route and the uncertain political future in Syria highlight the shifting dynamics in the Middle East, with Hezbollah facing new challenges in maintaining its military influence in the region.





## Stock Market Outlook: Bullish Trends, No Decisive Direction This Week

Domestic stock markets are expected to remain bullish within a rangebound pattern this week, with no clear or decisive direction anticipated. Last week, the indices ended flat until Thursday, experiencing extreme volatility on Friday. However, the markets recovered from heavy losses to make unexpected gains. Key positive factors contributing to this volatility include improving international conditions, stable crude oil prices, and the return of foreign institutional investors (FIIs). The consumer durables, IT, tourism, metal, and real estate sectors saw good performance, while media, energy, PSU bank, oil and gas, and pharma stocks saw losses.



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ing after the release of the last quarter's results.

### Bharat Dynamics Limited

Bharat Dynamics shares saw a turnaround after disappointing results in June. The defense sector rebounded and increased demand helped the stock surpass the Rs. 1200 resistance level.



### Bajaj Finserv

After 40 sessions of downtrend, Bajaj Finserv shares have gained momentum since December. The stock has been closing with consecutive gains after finding support at Rs. 1550.



While the stock market may remain rangebound this week, investors can still find opportunities in certain stocks showing momentum. Crisil, Bharti Airtel, Indian Hotels, Bharat Dynamics, and Bajaj Finserv are among the stocks to consider based on technical analysis and market trends.

### Stock Picks for the Week:

#### Crisil

Crisil shares have shown strong momentum, outperforming the Nifty. The stock has surpassed a one-and-a-half-year resistance and is sustaining higher levels. Last Friday, it closed at Rs. 5817 with a gain of 5.27%.



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#### Bharti Airtel

Bharti Airtel shares have gained traction due to rising average revenue per user (ARPU) and FIIs investing in the telecom sector. The stock is showing momentum, with increasing trading and delivery volumes. It has risen by 8% in the last two sessions.



#### Indian Hotels

Indian Hotels shares are benefiting from the wedding season and year-end festivities, as well as strong EPS and sales growth. The stock has been outperforming the Nifty, with delivery volumes sharply increas-



## India's Economic Outlook: Moderate Growth with Fiscal Consolidation and Inflation Control



CareEdge Ratings projects India's GDP growth to moderate but remain robust at 6.5% for the current financial year, with an expected slight increase to 6.7% in 2025-26. Despite global uncertainties, the agency believes India's economy will maintain stability in 2025, supported by fiscal consolidation efforts and improving domestic conditions.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised India's growth forecast to 6.6%, down from 7.2%, indicating caution amid global challenges. Sachin Gupta, Chief Rating Officer at CareEdge Ratings, noted that while businesses remain hesitant to make long-term investments, a recovery in private capital expenditure is expected in 2025, aided by anticipated monetary policy easing.

Rajani Sinha, Chief Economist at CareEdge Ratings, pointed to several factors that impacted growth in the first half of 2024-25, including reduced public capital expenditure, a prolonged monsoon, and weakening urban demand. However, Sinha remains optimistic for a rebound in the second half of FY25, driven by increased consumption, government capex, and strong agricultural production. Additionally, the services sector is expected to continue supporting economic

growth.

On the inflation front, CareEdge Ratings expects moderation in the coming quarters. Food inflation is anticipated to ease, supported by a strong kharif harvest and favorable conditions for rabi sowing. The agency projects an average CPI inflation of 4.8% for 2024-25 and 4.5% for 2025-26. Core inflation is expected to remain stable, averaging 3.5% in 2024-25 and 4.3% in 2025-26. Meanwhile, WPI inflation is projected at 2.5% in 2024-25 and 3% in 2025-26.

Regarding government finances, CareEdge Ratings expects net revenue collections to meet the budgeted targets, with weak corporate tax collections offset by strong income tax receipts. However, the Centre's capital expenditure is likely to fall short of target by Rs 1.5 trillion, leading to a fiscal deficit projection of 4.8% of GDP, slightly lower than the budgeted 4.9%.

In currency matters, the ratings agency anticipates the rupee to remain stable, trading around 84 by the end of 2024-25, and between 84-86 by the end of 2025-26, supported by manageable CAD and high forex reserves, though global factors like a strong dollar could exert some pressure.

## India's Russian Oil Imports Decline as Discounts Shrink

India's imports of Russian crude oil dropped to their lowest level since June 2022 in November, following a reduction in discounts offered by Moscow. Despite the decrease, Russia remains India's largest oil supplier, ahead of Iraq and Saudi Arabia, according to the latest monthly report by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA).

Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, India became the second-largest buyer of Russian crude, with purchases soaring from less than 1% of total imports to nearly 40%. This surge was largely due to significant discounts on Russian crude, driven by the price cap imposed by the G7 nations and the European Union, alongside their refusal to buy Russian oil.

However, CREA reported that India's Russian crude imports plummeted by 55% in November compared to the previous month, marking the steepest decline since mid-2022. Despite this, Russia remained the largest oil supplier to India, followed by Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

China, the largest buyer of Russian crude, accounted for 47% of Russia's total crude exports, with India taking 37%, according to CREA. In November, the discount on Russia's Urals grade crude increased by 17%, averaging \$6.01 per barrel, compared to Brent crude. Discounts for other grades, such as ESPO and Sokol, also narrowed, reflecting shifts in pricing dynamics.

Besides oil, India also imported smaller quantities of coal from Russia. Between December 2022 and November 2024, China purchased 46% of Russia's coal exports, with India accounting for 17%.



Overall, India's total import volume of crude oil fell by 11% in November, with the most significant drop coming from Russian oil, which dropped by 55%. Despite this, India continues to import over 85% of its crude oil needs, primarily for refining into fuels like petrol and diesel.

The Group of Seven (G7), the EU, and Australia imposed sanctions and a \$60 per barrel price cap on Russian oil in December 2022, significantly impacting Russian revenues. Although Russia has adapted by seeking new markets and using "shadow" tankers to circumvent the cap, CREA estimates the price cap has cost Russia approximately €14.6 billion in lost revenues since its introduction.

## India Sets Ambitious Coal Production Target for FY26

The Union government has set a coal production target of 1,193.39 million tonnes (MT) for the financial year 2025-26, marking a 10.5% increase from the target of 1,080 MT for the current fiscal year (2024-25). This increase in target highlights India's commitment to ramping up coal production to meet the growing energy demands of the country.

Of the 1,193.39 MT target for FY26, at least 915 MT is expected to come from Coal India Ltd (CIL) and its subsidiaries, while 203.39 MT is to be sourced from captive-commercial coal mines. The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) is expected to produce 75 MT. This ambitious goal aims to ensure a steady supply of coal, vital for India's energy needs as the country's electricity demand continues to rise.

For FY25, India's coal production target is set at 1,080 MT, with CIL's contribution pegged at 838 MT. However, production may fall short of the target due to disruptions caused by heavy rainfall in key coal-producing regions in August and September. CIL is projected to have a shortfall of approximately 15 MT, with Chairman PM Prasad stating that CIL



expects to deliver around 822-823 MT, falling 15-16 MT short due to various challenges like land acquisition and environmental clearances.

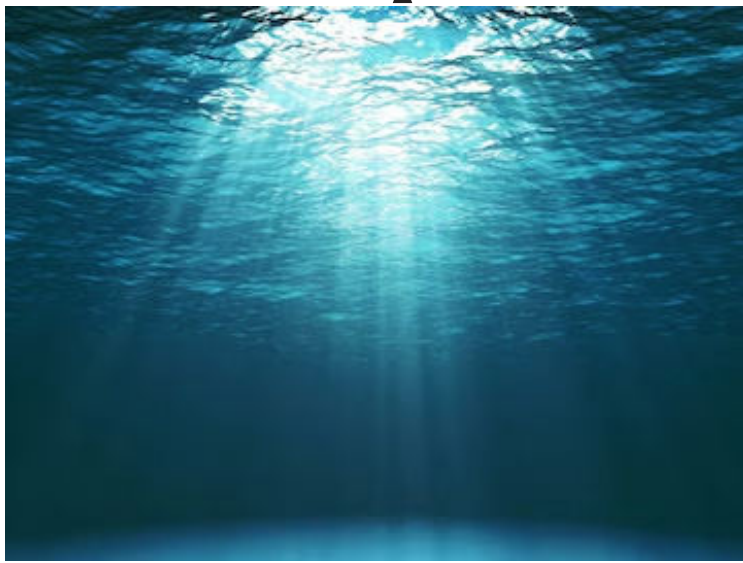
India's coal-fired generation capacity is expanding as electricity demand continues to surge, with peak demand reaching 250 GW in May 2024. Officials predict the demand will climb to 384 GW by 2031-32, further underscoring the need for robust coal production.

The Ministry of Coal reassured that there is no coal shortage in India, stating that most of the coal requirements are met through domestic production. In 2023-2024, India produced 997.83 MT of coal, up 11.71% from the previous year. To further boost production, the government has launched the 11th round of commercial coal mine auctions, offering 27 blocks. So far, 96 blocks have been auctioned, with nine already in production.



## Scientists Discover Alien-Like Predator in the Deep Ocean

In a groundbreaking discovery, scientists have identified a new species of amphipod in the Atacama Trench, one of the deepest areas of the ocean. Named *Dulcibella camanchaca*, this remarkable creature has been described as having alien-like features, sparking interest and intrigue among researchers. The discovery was made during a 2023 expedition led by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, in collaboration with the Universidad de Concepción.



The Atacama Trench, located near the coast of South America, reaches a depth of about 7,902 meters (25,928 feet), making it one of the ocean's most mysterious and least-explored regions. Scientists embarked on this research trip to study the trench's unique ecosystem and uncover the secrets hidden in its extreme depths. Equipped with cutting-edge technology, including remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) and specialized lander systems, the team was able to explore the trench and collect valuable data about its inhabitants.

The new species, *Dulcibella camanchaca*, takes its name from the term "camanchaca," which means "darkness" in the Andean language. This name is a fitting tribute to the creature's habitat, where light barely reaches and the environment is shrouded in perpetual darkness. The amphipod's unusual features have drawn comparisons to alien

organisms, given its unique appearance and the harsh, unexplored conditions of the trench.

During the expedition, scientists used baits to attract deep-sea creatures, hoping to capture rare footage and specimens from the trench's deep, cold waters. The discovery of *Dulcibella camanchaca* adds to our understanding of the diverse and resilient life forms that can survive in such extreme conditions, highlighting the mysteries that still lie beneath the surface of our planet's oceans.

This exciting find opens the door for further exploration of the Atacama Trench and similar deep-sea environments, offering a glimpse into the fascinating world of creatures adapted to the most inhospitable parts of Earth.

## Students Left Heartbroken After Vicar Tells Them Santa Claus Isn't Real

In a recent incident at Lee-on-the-Solent Junior School in Hampshire, UK, Christmas was ruined for several pupils after the local vicar, Rev. Dr. Paul Chamberlain, made an upsetting remark about Santa Claus. The children, who had eagerly awaited the festive season, were left sobbing when the vicar told them that Santa Claus wasn't real, shattering their long-held belief in the mythical figure.



The incident occurred during a religious education lesson aimed at teaching the students about Christmas traditions and the birth of Jesus. However, things took an unexpected turn when Rev. Chamberlain made a comment that caught the children off guard. According to the pupils, he said, "You're all year six, now let's be real, Santa isn't real," and proceeded to explain that their parents were the ones who bought their presents and ate the cookies left for Santa.

One child described the moment, saying there was shock and disbelief in the room, as many of the students had not yet realized the truth. The revelation led to several children bursting into tears, and the mood of the class was dramatically affected. In an attempt to mend the situation, the school issued "believe" badges and personalized baubles, but the damage had already been done.

Following the incident, a formal complaint was lodged by parents, prompting the school to take action. The Diocese of Portsmouth, which oversees the vicar, released a statement acknowledging the mistake. Rev. Chamberlain admitted that his comments were a "judgment error" and offered a sincere apology to the school, parents, and children. The headteacher also sent a letter to parents explaining the situation and expressing regret over the vicar's comments.

The school and the diocese are now working together to restore the Christmas spirit among the students, ensuring that the festive season can be enjoyed without further disruption.

## Tesla's Humanoid Robot 'Optimus' Takes on Slopes in Latest Walking Challenge

Tesla's humanoid robot, Optimus, has taken another significant step in its development, learning to walk on slopes. A recently shared video has gone viral, capturing the robot's attempts to navigate uneven terrain, stumbling and almost falling in the process. The video, posted by Tesla Motors on Instagram, features the caption, "To walk like a human, you must first learn to stumble like a human."

Optimus, which is the brainchild of Tesla CEO Elon Musk, is designed to mimic human movements and actions, and this latest challenge highlights its ongoing evolution. In the video, the robot is seen struggling to walk up and down

a slope, illustrating the complexity of human-like mobility. The momentary stumbles and near falls demonstrate the learning process that Optimus is undergoing, aiming to achieve more natural, human-like movement in real-world environments.

The development of Optimus marks a significant milestone in the field of robotics, showcasing Tesla's ambition to bring humanoid robots closer to everyday life. The video has generated significant buzz on social media, sparking conversations about the potential future applications of humanoid robots and the challenges they may face as they continue to learn and adapt.

Tesla's foray into robotics is part of the company's broader vision to integrate advanced technology into various sectors. With Optimus, the goal is not just to create a robot that can perform basic tasks but to develop a machine capable of learning and evolving in ways that replicate human actions, such as walking on varied surfaces like slopes.

As Optimus continues to progress, this viral video serves as a reminder of how robotics is advancing, and how the development of humanoid robots could change industries and everyday life in ways we are just beginning to imagine.



## OpenAI Unveils 'Projects' Feature for ChatGPT to Enhance Organization

OpenAI, the company behind ChatGPT, has been unveiling new features as part of its ongoing 'Shipmas' celebrations. One of the most anticipated additions is the "Projects" feature, designed to help users organize their work more effectively within the AI platform.

In a demo video, OpenAI showcased how Projects will appear in the left sidebar of ChatGPT. The feature allows users to create and manage different projects by customizing elements such as the project's title and the icon's color. This personalization ensures that each project is visually distinct and easy to navigate.

Beyond customization, the Projects feature also enables users to streamline their interactions with ChatGPT. Users can add files and instructions to a specific project, which helps ChatGPT tailor its responses more effectively. This could be particularly useful for individuals managing complex tasks or multiple ongoing projects, as it ensures the chatbot's responses are aligned with the unique context of each project.

Additionally, the feature allows users to import past conversations into existing projects. This integration ensures continuity and makes it easier to reference or build upon previous chats, enhancing the user experience when working on long-term



tasks or collaborative efforts.

The introduction of Projects is part of OpenAI's broader efforts to make ChatGPT more functional for a variety of use cases, from personal productivity to professional tasks. By organizing tasks into projects and customizing responses, users can enjoy a more efficient and tailored interaction with the AI, making it an even more powerful tool for daily use.

Overall, the Projects feature represents a significant step forward in making ChatGPT more versatile and user-friendly. As OpenAI continues to roll out new features, the company is setting the stage for an even more integrated and seamless experience for its growing user base.

## Wanderlust whale: Male humpback travels 13,000 km across 3 oceans; sets new record

In a remarkable feat, a male humpback whale has set a new record for the longest migration ever documented by swimming over 13,046 kilometers (8,106 miles) from South America to Africa. This unprecedented journey, meticulously tracked by researchers, has provided new insights into the migratory behavior and adaptability of these magnificent marine creatures. The study was published in *Royal Society Open Science* and reveals significant findings about whale migration patterns.



This journey marks the first time an adult male humpback whale has been observed traveling between the Pacific and Indian Oceans. Researchers tracked the whale's movements using the Happy Whale platform, co-founded by marine biologist Ted Cheeseman. The whale was initially spotted near Colombia in 2013 and seen again in the same region several years later. However, in 2022, it made a surprising appearance in the Indian Ocean near Zanzibar, off Africa's eastern coast.

Nearly double the usual migration distance, this whale's journey spans almost 8,106 miles (13,046 km), while typical humpback whale migrations are around 4,971 miles (8,000 km) one way. The extraordinary length of this migration has prompted researchers to question why the whale embarked on such an unusual route. Cheeseman speculated that the whale may have been motivated by factors

like competition for mates in Colombia or potential food shortages, which could have led it to explore new territories in Africa.

"These animals are distinct individuals, and they'll do surprising things," said Cheeseman. "These oceans are very much connected spaces, and whales travel beyond borders."

What makes this migration even more significant is that the whale moved between two distinct breeding populations in different oceans. Humpback whales typically return to the same breeding grounds each year, making this journey an exceptional leap between breeding areas. Researchers also raised concerns about how the whale will be received by the population in the Indian Ocean, which has faced the historical impact of 20th-century whaling.



## Mainz Shock Bayern Munich with 2-1 Victory as Leverkusen and Werder Bremen Win

Mainz secured a stunning 2-1 win over Bayern Munich on Saturday, with two goals from Jae-sung Lee handing the defending champions their first league loss under coach Vincent Kompany. Lee scored in both halves to give Mainz a historic victory over Bayern, who were missing key players due



to injuries, including Harry Kane, Manuel Neuer, Alphonso Davies, and Serge Gnabry. Despite dominating possession, Bayern struggled to convert chances, particularly in the first half.

Mainz capitalized just before halftime, when Lee pounced on a poor clearance by his South Korean teammate, Min-Jae Kim, to open the scoring. Bayern, knowing Bayer Leverkusen had won earlier in the day, came out flat after the break, lacking precision and energy. Mainz doubled their lead when Lee again found the net, this time finishing off a clever cross from Arminio Sieb. Leroy Sane gave Bayern a glimmer of hope with a late goal in the 87th minute, but Mainz held firm to secure a famous victory. The win moved Mainz up to sixth in the table, a remarkable improvement after battling relegation last season.

Meanwhile, Bayer Leverkusen continued their strong form with a 2-0 win at Augsburg, extending their winning streak to seven matches. Martin Terrier opened the scoring in the 14th minute, followed by Florian Wirtz, who added a second in the 40th minute to seal the comfortable victory.

In a controversial match, Union Berlin drew 1-1 at home against last-placed Bochum, with the game suspended for around 30 minutes after the visiting goalkeeper, Patrick Drewe, was hit by an object thrown from the crowd. Despite Bochum being reduced to 10 men after a red card, Union Berlin couldn't capitalize on the advantage. The match resumed with both teams passing the ball around until the final whistle.

In other action, Werder Bremen defeated St Pauli 2-0, while Borussia Mönchengladbach triumphed 4-1 over Holstein Kiel.

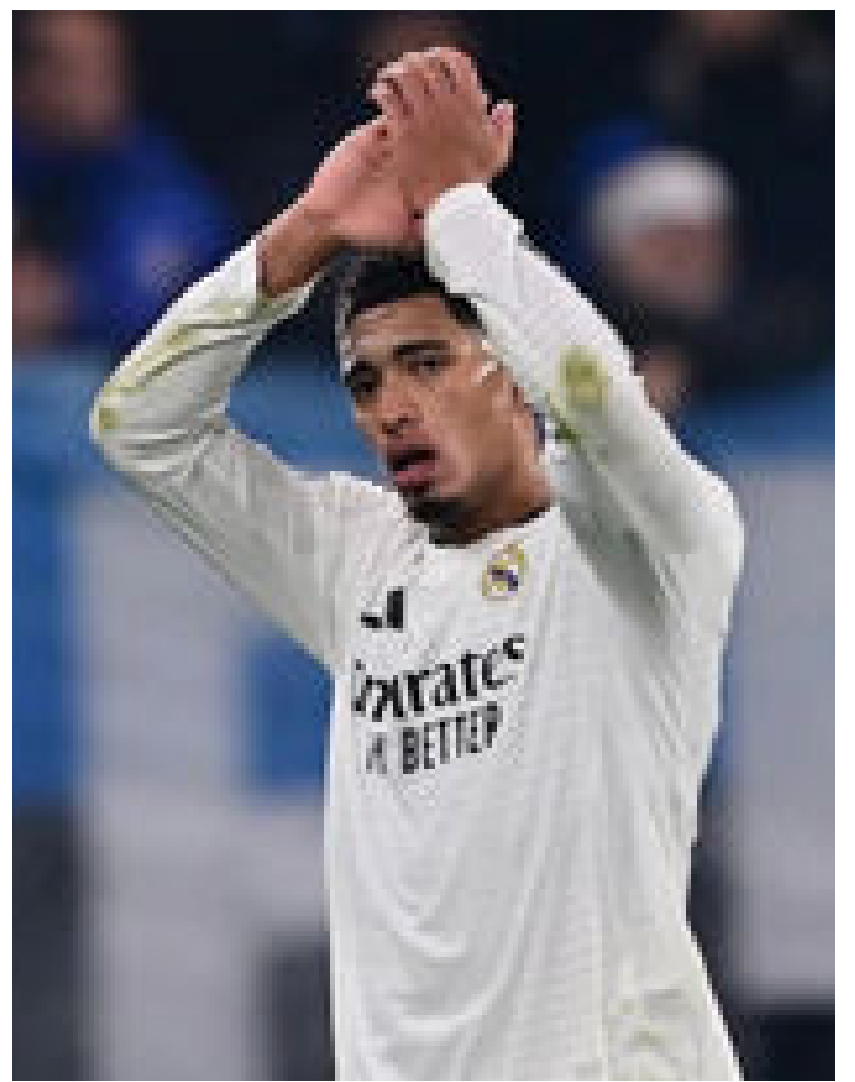
## Real Madrid Held to 3-3 Draw by Rayo Vallecano, Miss Chance to Top La Liga

Real Madrid squandered the opportunity to overtake Barcelona at the top of La Liga as they were held to a thrilling 3-3 draw by Rayo Vallecano on Saturday. The draw leaves Los Blancos on 37 points, still one behind Barcelona, who will play against Leganes on Sunday. Real Madrid, who were coming off a hard-fought 3-2 Champions League victory over Atalanta, were without the injured Kylian Mbappe for this crucial La Liga clash.

Rayo Vallecano shocked the visitors early, with Unai Lopez heading in Jorge de Frutos's perfect cross just four minutes into the match. Real Madrid struggled to find their rhythm, and Rayo continued to press, coming close again when de Frutos's shot sailed over the bar. The home side doubled their lead just before the half-hour mark when Abdul Mumin headed in another cross, putting Real on the back foot.

However, Real responded quickly, and Fede Valverde pulled one back with a stunning 25-yard strike in the 34th minute. Just before halftime, Jude Bellingham, who had been in excellent form, scored his sixth consecutive league goal, heading in a cross from Rodrygo to make it 2-2 at the break.

In the second half, Real Madrid pushed to complete their comeback. Arda Guler had a goal disallowed for offside, but two minutes later, Rodrygo put Real in the lead with a brilliant strike into the top corner. Despite the lead, Rayo Vallecano refused to back down, and Isi Palazon equalized shortly after, scoring with a long-range shot that caught Thibaut Courtois off guard.



The match ended 3-3, leaving Real Madrid frustrated as they missed out on the chance to leapfrog Barcelona. Real will now turn their attention to the Intercontinental Cup final against Pachuca in Qatar on Wednesday, while Barcelona will look to extend their lead when they face Leganes. Atletico Madrid, three points behind Barcelona with a game in hand, will also be in action on Sunday against Getafe.

## Australia End Day 2 at 405/7 in Third Test Against India

The second day's play of the third Test match in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy between Australia and India concluded with the hosts reaching 405/7 in their first innings at the Brisbane Cricket Ground. Australia had a productive day in the middle, with Travis Head and Steve Smith putting on strong individual performances. Head smashed 152 runs, while Smith contributed a solid 101 runs.

At stumps on day two, Alex Carey was still at the crease, on 45 runs, and Mitchell Starc was alongside him on 7. The two are hoping to extend Australia's score further on day three.

The Indian bowling attack was spearheaded by Jasprit Bumrah, who was exceptional, claiming five wickets and making significant inroads into the Australian batting lineup. Bumrah's spell was the highlight of the Indian bowling effort. Along with Bumrah, Mohammad Siraj and Nitish Kumar Reddy picked up a wicket each but could not make further breakthroughs to halt Australia's progress.

Australia's score of 405/7 after 101 overs has put them in a strong position heading into the third day of the match. The focus will now shift to India's efforts to clean up the remaining Australian wickets and limit their first-innings total. Australia's batters, particularly Head and Smith, showed



their experience, while Carey and Starc will aim to build on the foundation laid by their top-order colleagues.

The match remains in a critical phase, with Australia holding the upper hand but India hoping to make a late breakthrough. The third day promises to be another exciting chapter in this gripping Test series.

## Bumrah Breaks Kapil Dev's Record, Claims 12th Five-Wicket Haul in Test Cricket



Jasprit Bumrah, India's ace pacer, etched his name in the record books on Day 2 of the third Test against Australia at The Gabba, Brisbane. Bumrah delivered a stellar performance, taking 5 wickets for 72 runs, helping India stage a crucial comeback in the match after a marathon 152-run knock from Australia's Travis Head. By claiming five wickets in a single innings, Bumrah not only boosted India's chances but also surpassed a significant milestone.

With this achievement, Bumrah became the first Indian bowler to claim 12 five-wicket hauls in Test cricket, breaking the previous record of 7 held by legendary Kapil Dev. Bumrah's remarkable feat, which includes 8 of those five-wicket hauls in SENA countries (South Africa, England, New Zealand, and Australia), is a testament to his consistency and excellence in challenging conditions.

At the close of Day 2, Australia

finished at 405 for 7, with Alex Carey and Mitchell Starc at the crease. Travis Head and Steve Smith had earlier put Australia in a commanding position, with a mammoth partnership of 241 runs for the fourth wicket. Head scored a magnificent 152, while Smith contributed with a gritty 101. The pair had battled India out of contention for the day, despite Bumrah's heroics with the ball.

The rain forecasted over the next few days leaves India with little hope of winning, and the team is now looking at the possibility of a draw. India had an encouraging start with the ball, picking up three quick wickets in the first hour, but Head and Smith's solid batting stifled India's efforts. Bumrah's spell with the second new ball after tea helped India make some inroads into Australia's strong batting lineup.

As the match progresses, India will need more breakthroughs to stay in the contest.

## New Zealand Dominates Day 2 of Third Test, Extends Lead to 340 Runs Against England

England's hopes of completing a series clean sweep against New Zealand were dashed on Sunday as they struggled throughout Day 2 of the third Test in Hamilton. After being bowled out for just 143 runs, England now trails by a massive 340 runs, with New Zealand finishing the day at 136-3 in their second innings.

New Zealand's response was led by Kane Williamson, who was unbeaten on 50, and Rachin Ravindra, who was on two. The pair shared a crucial 89-run partnership for the second wicket, which followed the departure of Tom Latham for 19. Will Young also played a solid hand, contributing 60 runs before being dismissed. England's captain, Ben Stokes, provided a late breakthrough, dismissing the night-watchman Will O'Rourke just before the close of play.

New Zealand's dominant performance with the bat contrasted sharply with



England's chaotic collapse in their first innings. After lunch, England lost their last eight wickets for just 66 runs. The collapse was triggered by O'Rourke's fiery spell, where he claimed three wickets, including the prized scalps of Harry Brook and Joe Root. Brook, who had been pivotal in England's victories in Christchurch and Wellington, was dismissed for a duck, and Root followed soon after

for 32, caught at point.

Mitchell Santner and Matt Henry continued to heap pressure on England, with Santner removing Ollie Pope (24) and Ben Stokes (27), while Henry took key wickets earlier in the innings. The final five wickets fell for just nine runs, leaving England in a dire position.

New Zealand, already ahead by 204 runs, chose not to enforce the follow-on, instead opting to extend their lead further in their second innings. England's batting troubles were compounded by Zak Crawley's continued struggles, as he was dismissed for 21, marking his fifth failure in as many innings in the series.

As Day 2 concluded, New Zealand had firmly established control of the match, with England facing an uphill battle to avoid defeat.



# Anushka Shetty's 'Ghaati' Set for April 2025 Release

Anushka Shetty is all set to return to the big screen with an exciting new action thriller, \*Ghaati\*, which has already generated significant buzz among moviegoers. With a compelling tagline, "Victim. Criminal. Legend," the film promises to showcase an intense and gripping storyline that keeps the audience at the edge of their seats. The film's first look and teaser have already created a lasting impression, and the recent glimpse has added to the growing anticipation.

Directed by the talented Krish Jagarlamudi, known for his powerful storytelling, \*Ghaati\* features a never-seen-before role for Anushka Shetty. The actress portrays a character that is intense, layered, and complex, unlike any of her previous portrayals. The director has crafted a role with depth,

and Anushka brings it to life with sheer conviction and strength. This film marks a significant shift in her career, as she delves into a bold and powerful role that is bound to captivate audiences.

To further heighten excitement, the makers have released a video revealing the release date of the movie, which is scheduled for April 18, 2025. The poster accompanying the announcement shows Anushka in a fierce avatar, clad in a saree with blood stains all over her body, adding a sense of mystery and intrigue to her character. This striking image has left fans eager to see what unfolds in the movie.

Despite the summer season being packed with multiple movie releases, \*Ghaati\* is expected to be one of the most anticipated

films, drawing significant attention from audiences across the country. Anushka Shetty, who gained Pan-India fame with the success of \*Baahubali\*, continues to be a beloved figure nationwide, and her new film is sure to attract fans from every corner of the country.

Produced by Rajeev Reddy and Sai Babu Jagarlamudi and presented by UV Creations, \*Ghaati\* promises a grand cinematic experience with stunning visuals, thanks to cinematographer Manojh Reddy Katasani, and an engaging soundtrack composed by Nagavelli Vidya Sagar. With its intense plot, powerful performances, and captivating visuals, \*Ghaati\* is poised to be a major hit when it hits theaters in April 2025.



## Lavanya Tripathi's New Film 'Sathi Leelavathi' Announced on Her Birthday

Lavanya Tripathi, who recently tied the knot with Mega Prince Varun Tej, is back in the limelight with an exciting new project. After her appearance in the Telugu web series \*Miss Perfect\*, Lavanya has now signed her first film post-marriage, which was officially announced on her birthday, December 15, 2024.

The new film is titled \*Sathi Leelavathi\*, a title that mirrors the 1995 Kamal Haasan classic. The project is directed by Tatineni Satya, known for his work on \*Bheemili Kabaddi Jattu\*. The announcement has generated a lot of buzz, with fans excited to see Lavanya in this fresh role.

Lavanya shared her excitement about the project on social media, stating, "Extremely excited to be a part of this project! The story caught my attention with its amazing write-up and the solid team behind it. I'm thrilled to begin this next

year. What a fantastic way to kick off the year!" Her enthusiasm has added to the anticipation surrounding the film, which promises to offer a compelling story and engaging performances.

The movie is being produced by Nagamohan Babu and Rajesh T, under the banners of Durga Devi Pictures and Trio Studios. The film's music will be composed by Mickey J Meyer, known for his memorable soundtracks, while the cinematography is being handled by Binendra Menon. The team behind \*Sathi Leelavathi\* seems to be putting together a strong combination of talent, further raising expectations for the film.

With a captivating story and an impressive crew, \*Sathi Leelavathi\* is set to be a major highlight for Lavanya Tripathi's fans in the coming year. Keep an eye out for more updates on this exciting project as it continues to develop.

## Pushpa 2: The Rule' Breaks Records, Grosses Over Rs. 100 Crore on 10th Day

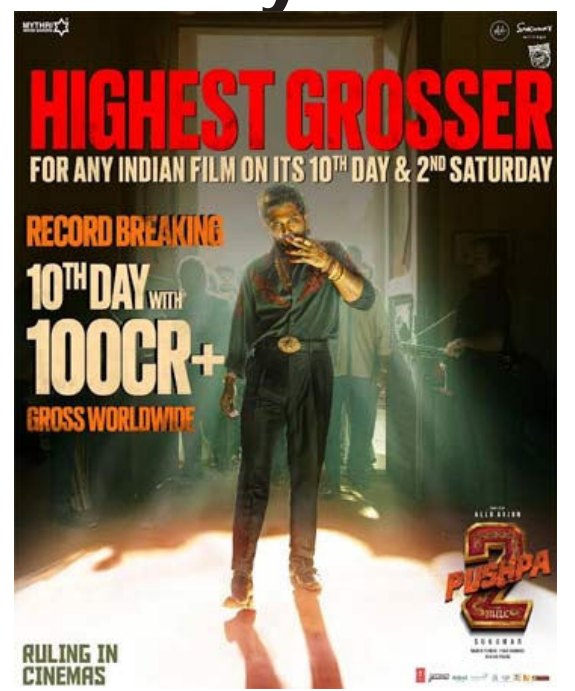
Allu Arjun's latest blockbuster, \*Pushpa 2: The Rule\*, continues to break records and dominate the box office. Directed by Sukumar, this pan-Indian action-packed drama has become a phenomenon, delivering exceptional performance on its 10th day of release, which also coincided with its second Saturday.

In an unprecedented achievement, \*Pushpa 2\* has now become the first Indian film to gross over Rs. 100 crore on its 10th day, surpassing the early box-office milestones of other major blockbusters like \*Jawan\*, \*Pathaan\*, \*Stree 2\*, \*Baahubali 2\*, and \*Gadar 2\*. This remarkable success underscores the immense popularity of the film and solidifies its place in cinematic history.

This major milestone also comes on a significant day, as it aligns with Allu Arjun's release from Chanchalguda Jail in Hyderabad. The

actor had been involved in a tragic incident at the Sandhya 70mm Theater in Hyderabad, where a stampede led to the unfortunate deaths of a woman and her child. Despite the challenging circumstances, the film's box-office performance remains unaffected, and \*Pushpa 2\* has continued to soar in terms of revenue and popularity.

Commercially, \*Pushpa 2\* has set new benchmarks for future films, proving that pan-Indian films with solid storytelling, action sequences, and captivating performances can draw immense attention and box-office success across the country. With \*Pushpa 2\* breaking new records, it will be interesting to see how upcoming releases challenge this massive achievement. The success of the film not only boosts Allu Arjun's stardom but also reaffirms the growing influence of South Indian cinema in the national film industry.

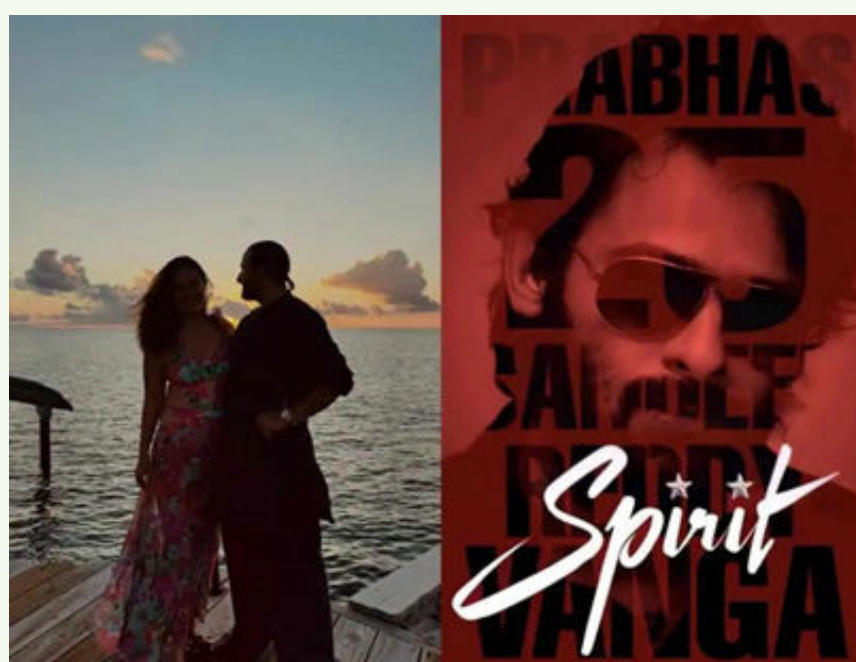


## Prabhas Leads Action Thriller Spirit with Kareena and Saif as Villains

Sandeep Reddy Vanga, the director behind massive hits like \*Kabir Singh\* and \*Animal\*, is all set to make his mark once again with his upcoming project, \*Spirit\*. This highly anticipated action-packed cop thriller stars Prabhas in the lead role, promising an engaging and intense cinematic experience for fans across the globe.

In \*Spirit\*, Prabhas plays a disgraced cop who embarks on a mission to dismantle a dangerous international crime syndicate. As his journey unfolds, the lines between justice and revenge begin to blur, setting the stage for an explosive battle that will leave audiences on the edge of their seats. This character promises to be a departure from Prabhas's previous roles, offering fans a fresh and thrilling experience with his intense portrayal of a cop determined to right the wrongs of his past.

Adding to the excitement surrounding the film, rumors have surfaced that Bollywood power couple Kareena Kapoor Khan



and Saif Ali Khan may play the antagonists. If confirmed, this would mark the first time the real-life couple appears together as villains on screen. Their dark and powerful roles are expected to bring a new level of intrigue and complexity to the story, providing a fresh twist to the narrative. The pairing of these two iconic actors as antagonists is sure to raise expectations and captivate audiences.

Mrunal Thakur, widely appreciated for

her roles in \*Sita Ramam\* and \*Super 30\*, is reportedly in talks to play the female lead opposite Prabhas. Thakur's inclusion in the cast promises to add emotional depth to the story, balancing the high-octane action with a compelling emotional storyline. Her character is expected to be crucial to the film's narrative, adding a layer of sensitivity to the otherwise intense plot.

\*Spirit\* will be produced by Bhushan Kumar's T-Series and is set to begin filming in early 2025. The film is scheduled for a grand release in 2026, aiming to redefine the cop-action genre in Indian cinema. Every character in

the film will have a meaningful role, ensuring that the story remains gripping and engaging from start to finish.

With a star-studded cast, a gripping storyline, and a promising director at the helm, fans are eagerly awaiting the release of \*Spirit\*. The film is expected to bring a unique blend of action, drama, and emotional intensity, marking a significant milestone in Indian cinema.

## Satya Dev's 'Zebra' Set for OTT Premiere on Aha

Satya Dev, a talented and passionate actor in the Telugu film industry, recently starred in the crime drama \*Zebra\*, directed by Eashvar Karthic. The film, which also features Daali Dhananjaya in a pivotal role, was released in theaters on November 22, 2024. Now, the much-anticipated movie is gearing up for its digital premiere on the streaming platform Aha on December 20, 2024.

For those with a Gold subscription, \*Zebra\* will be available 24 hours prior, offering early access to eager viewers. While the film received mixed reviews during its theatrical release, its OTT debut is

expected to reach a wider audience and generate new discussions, especially with the convenience of home viewing.

\*Zebra\* features a strong ensemble cast, including Sathyaraj, Priya Bhavani Shankar, Sunil, Sathya Akala, Jeniffer Piccinato, and Amrutha Iyengar, each contributing to the film's engaging narrative. The movie's gripping storyline, combined with the talent of the cast, makes it a noteworthy watch. Music for the film is composed by Ravi Basur, whose score adds intensity to the film's atmosphere. The movie was produced by SN Bala Sundaram, SN Red-

dy, and Dinesh Sundaram, underlining the collaboration of a skilled team behind the scenes.

With its OTT premiere approaching, \*Zebra\* is poised to attract a fresh wave of attention, allowing audiences to engage with the film on a new platform. The movie's digital release offers the opportunity for discussions and reviews to evolve, as more people get the chance to experience its thrilling crime drama. Fans of Satya Dev and crime thrillers alike are eagerly awaiting this digital release, which promises to make a strong impact in the OTT space.

