



## Weather Forecast

| HYDERABAD          | VIJAYAWADA         | TIRUPATHI          |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| TEMPERATURE        | TEMPERATURE        | TEMPERATURE        |
| H 28° C<br>L 22° C | H 29° C<br>L 24° C | H 26° C<br>L 24° C |

# Bhu Bharati Bill Introduced

**Bhu Bharati: A Comprehensive Solution to Land Issues**  
**Public Consultations and Expert Feedback Shape New Bill**  
**Key Features: Revenue Reforms and Transparent Dispute Resolution**

TPN , Hyderabad : Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy has introduced the much-awaited Bhu Bharati Bill in the Telangana Assembly, fulfilling the government's promise to replace the controversial Dharani portal. The new bill aims to provide comprehensive security to landowners and address long-standing land-related issues in the state.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Ponguleti declared, "As promised, we have thrown Dharani into the Bay of Bengal. The Bhu Bharati Act is designed to protect landowners and resolve issues stemming from the Dharani system, which created problems for lakhs of people over the past three years."

The minister highlighted that 18.26 lakh acres of land categorized under Part B of Dharani as both private and government land will now be addressed through the Bhu Bharati Act. He added, "The ROR ACT-2020 caused significant hardships, and the new legislation has been crafted to ensure complete security for landowners, especially for properties in rural areas." The act also introduces solutions for village kanthas (common village lands) and provides clarity on land titles for houses in rural regions.

### Bhudar: A Game-Changer for Land Records

In a significant announcement, Minister Ponguleti revealed the introduction of Bhudar, a unique identification system for land records modeled on Aadhaar. "Bhudar will include all details related to



land ownership and ensure transparency and security. After consulting stakeholders from all 33 districts and studying similar laws in 18 states, we have designed a robust system," the minister stated.

The Bhu Bharati system will be managed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC). Minister Ponguleti emphasized that past mistakes from Dharani have been rectified, and the bill incorporates feedback from MLAs, intellectuals, and public consultations held across the state.

#### Key Features of the Bhu Bharati Bill :

1. Abolishment of the Dharani portal to resolve public grievances.
2. Appointment of revenue officers in ev-

- ery village for effective management.
3. Establishment of a tribunal to handle land dispute appeals.
4. Re-purification of the 33 existing modules into 6 efficient modules.

Minister Ponguleti also credited BRS MLA Harish Rao for his written suggestions, which were included in the bill. "The draft bill was open for public feedback for 40 days, and inputs from MLAs and experts were incorporated," he said.

The government hopes that the Bhu Bharati Act will mark a new era of transparency, efficiency, and fairness in land administration, addressing the challenges posed by the Dharani system.



## Harish Rao and Minister Komati Reddy Clash in Assembly

**Komati Reddy's Allegations Spark Heated Exchange**  
**Harish Rao's Retort Intensifies Assembly Tensions**  
**Speaker's Intervention Restores Order Amid Chaos**

TPN, Hyderabad : Tensions flared in the Telangana Assembly during the fourth day of the session as a heated exchange erupted between Minister Harish Rao and Minister Komati Reddy Venkat Reddy over allegations related to road construction and commissions.

The dispute began when Komati Reddy Venkat Reddy accused Harish Rao of amassing Rs. 10,000 crores as the son-in-law of his uncle and alleged that Rao had taken commissions in the Kaleshwaram project. These remarks drew sharp criticism from Harish Rao, who, in a fiery rebuttal, accused Komati Reddy of making such claims under the influence of alcohol.

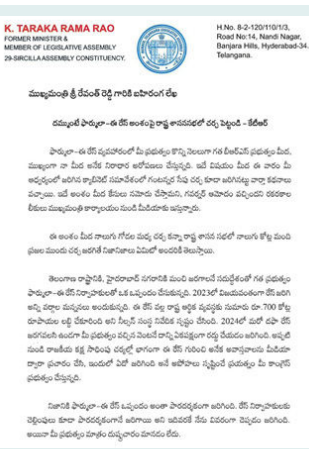
The remarks led to an uproar in the Assembly, with Congress MLAs strongly objecting to Harish Rao's accusations. The situation escalated as members from both parties exchanged heated words, resulting in a chaotic atmosphere.

#### Speaker Intervenes to Restore Order

Amidst the turmoil, the Speaker intervened and took the decisive step of ordering the removal of the objectionable remarks made by both sides from the Assembly records. The move helped de-escalate the situation and brought the session back to order.

This confrontation highlights the ongoing tensions between the ruling and opposition parties in Telangana, with both sides accusing each other of corruption and impropriety.

## KTR Demands Debate on Formula-E



TPN , Telangana: KTR Slams Congress for Spreading Misinformation on Formula-E Race Transparency of Formula-E Agreement Defended by KTR KTR Calls for Public Debate in Legislative Assembly to Unveil the Truth K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), working president of the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS), has issued a strong challenge to Telangana Chief Minister Shri Revanath Reddy to hold a public debate on the Formula-E race issue in the state legislature.

In a letter to the Chief Minister, KTR expressed

concern over the ongoing baseless allegations made by the Congress government against the previous BRS administration regarding the Formula-E race. KTR pointed out that there had been a discussion in the Cabinet earlier this week, but he insisted that the matter should be debated openly in the state legislature, where it could be addressed in front of the people of Telangana. He stated, "If this issue is discussed in front of four crore people in the state legislature, the truth will be revealed."

KTR clarified that the agreement entered into by the previous BRS government with the organizers of the Formula-E race was done with the good intention of benefiting Telangana and Hyderabad. He referenced a Nielsen report, which estimated that the race had boosted the state economy by around Rs. 700 crore. However, after the Congress government assumed power, KTR noted that the planned 2024 race was unilaterally canceled, and misinformation began to spread.



## Lagacharla Case: 25 Accused Get Bail

TPN , Hyderabad: Former MLA and BRS leader Patnam Narender Reddy, along with 24 others, has been granted bail by the Nampally court in the sensational Lagacharla farmers' attack case.

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## CM Demands JPC Probe into Adani Issue

**Nationwide Protests Reach Telangana**  
**CM Revanath Reddy Calls for JPC Probe into Adani Controversy**  
**BRS Leaders Questioned on Their Stance**  
**Deputy CM Bhatti Slams Modi Government's Cronyism**



TPN , Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanath Reddy, along with senior Congress leaders, staged a sit-in protest in front of Raj Bhavan, demanding answers from the central government on the Adani controversy and the Manipur crisis. The protest was part of the nationwide "Chalo Raj Bhavan" campaign called by the All India Congress Committee (AICC).

Congress leaders. The rally began at Necklace Road and culminated at Raj Bhavan, with Congress leaders chanting slogans like "Modi and Adani Ek Hai."

#### CM Revanath Reddy Criticizes Modi and Adani

Speaking to the media, CM Revanath Reddy accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and industrialist Gautam Adani of tarnishing India's reputation. He questioned Modi's silence on the allegations against Adani and demanded a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) inquiry.

"The Congress is fighting to protect the country's honor, while Modi and Adani are bringing shame," he said. Reddy warned that the protests would escalate to Rashtrapati Bhavan if the central government continued to remain silent. He also criticized the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) leaders, including KCR, Harish Rao, and KTR, asking, "Are you on the side of the people or Adani?"

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## CM Demands JPC Probe into Adani Issue



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### Deputy CM Bhatti Slams Crony Capitalism

Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka echoed similar sentiments, accusing the central government of looting public wealth for the benefit of crony capitalists. "The Congress policy is clear: the people's wealth should go back to the people. Rahul Gandhi is fighting against this exploitation," he said. Vikramarka also demanded accountability for the alleged corruption in Adani's companies and a response from PM Modi on the Manipur issue. The rally, led by TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, marked the first time Revanth Reddy protested as Chief Minister holding the Congress flag, signaling a robust stance against the BJP-led central government.

## KTR Demands

*continued from P-1*

He emphasized that the entire agreement, including payments to race organizers, was transparent, and criticized the Congress government for continuing to spread falsehoods. KTR concluded by demanding a legislative debate, asserting that this would allow the truth to emerge.

## Lagacharla Case

*continued from P-1*

Reddy, the prime accused (A1), was arrested alongside Suresh and 24 other individuals, who were also remanded.

The court granted bail to Patnam Narendra Reddy on a surety of Rs. 50,000, while the remaining 24, including Suresh, were granted bail on a surety of Rs. 20,000 each. The incident had drawn widespread attention across Telangana, highlighting tensions between farmers and political leaders. The Nampally court's decision comes after bail petitions were filed on behalf of all 26 accused in the case.

This development marks a significant turn in the case, with legal proceedings likely to continue as investigations progress.

## Congress Initiated 'Doopadeepa' Program: Minister Surekha



**TPN , Hyderabad:** Telangana Forests, Environment, and Endowments Minister Konda Surekha, speaking in the Legislative Council on Wednesday, asserted that the \*Doopadeepa Naivedyam\* program was introduced by the Congress government. She highlighted that Rs. 4,000 is allocated per month for \*Doopadeepa Naivedyam\* and Rs. 6,000 as an honorarium for temple priests, totaling Rs. 10,000 monthly per temple.

Minister Surekha criticized the BRS government for neglecting the program during its decade in power. She elaborated that under Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy's leadership, Rs. 2,500 per month was allocated to 1,205 temples for the program. This continued until 2015, when the amount was increased to Rs. 6,000. Presently, Rs. 6.27 crore is disbursed monthly as honorarium to 6,541 temples.

The Minister assured that eligible temples would be included under the Endowments Department. Steps are being taken to survey temple lands to prevent encroachments, with directives already issued for district-level surveys.

In a significant announcement, temples earning over Rs. 20 lakh annually will contribute 3% of their income towards priests' welfare. She also revealed plans to integrate the Brahmin Parishad into the Endowments Department and establish a governing body for Yadagirigutta, similar to TTD.

She emphasized development initiatives for temples like Keesaragutta, Vemulawada, Jogulamba, Bhadrachalam, and Basara.

## Kishan Reddy Questions Revanth's Protest

**Kishan Reddy Questions Revanth Reddy's Credibility  
Rahul Gandhi Accused of Tarnishing India's Image  
Congress Criticized for Divisive Politics  
Calls for Evidence on Adani Allegations**

**TPN , Telangana:** Union Minister Kishan Reddy labeled Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's recent protest in front of the Raj Bhawan as "strange" and questioned his credibility on the Adani issue. Speaking to the media in Delhi, Kishan Reddy alleged that the Congress party is losing public trust due to its missteps over the last decade.

He accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of tarnishing India's image by aligning with global figures like George Soros and criticized his handling of national politics. Kishan Reddy demanded answers from Revanth Reddy regarding allegations of a Rs. 100 crore deal involving Adani, questioning Congress' ability to back its claims with evidence.

"The Congress lacks the capacity to remain consistent in its statements," Reddy

asserted, accusing the party of engaging in divisive politics. He also targeted Rahul Gandhi, stating that his "half-baked understanding" of contemporary politics reflects poorly on the Congress' ability to lead.

Drawing parallels, Kishan Reddy remarked, "Revanth Reddy's actions are akin to a skunk's behavior," accusing the Congress of resorting to mudslinging out of desperation after electoral defeats in Maharashtra and Haryana. He suggested that the party's inability to accept its losses is fueling baseless accusations against the government.

He further criticized Rahul Gandhi's leadership, describing him as ignorant and incapable of steering the Congress toward constructive politics. "If Congress continues to make baseless allegations without



evidence, they risk losing any remaining credibility," he added.

The Union Minister concluded by urging Congress leaders, including Revanth Reddy, to provide clear answers to the public instead of indulging in protests and accusations.

## Kaleshwaram Withstood Floods: Rajath Kumar

**Medigadda Barrage Subsidence Linked to Operational Errors  
Kaleshwaram Barrages Withstood Floods from 2019 to 2022  
Government's Financial Responsibility for Project Loans Highlighted**



**TPN , Hyderabad:** Former IAS officer Rajath Kumar attributed the subsidence of the Medigadda Barrage to improper gate operations during his recent media interaction. He emphasized that errors by officials in managing the barrage could lead to the wastage of public funds.

Rajath Kumar highlighted that the barrages of the Kaleshwaram project successfully withstood three consecutive years of floods, from 2019 to 2022, without any significant defects. "The barrages functioned effectively during this period, and bills and payments to contractors were made in accordance with the rules," he stated.

He asserted that any damage to the barrage should be attributed to the field-level officials of Operations

and Maintenance ENC, who are responsible for its upkeep. Rajath Kumar refrained from commenting on the National Dam Safety Authority's (NDSA) observations regarding the incident.

Addressing concerns about financial accountability, Rajath Kumar noted that the government would need to repay loans taken by the corporation until sufficient revenue is generated. The commission chief appreciated Rajath Kumar's detailed explanation regarding the situation. The Medigadda Barrage, part of the prestigious Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project, has been under scrutiny following the subsidence incident, raising questions about operational practices and accountability within the project's management.

## Bhu Bharathi - 2024 ROR Act

# Key Features and Highlights

**TPN , Hyderabad :** Telangana State Revenue, Housing, and Information Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy introduced the much-anticipated **Bhu Bharathi - 2024 ROR Act** in the Legislative Assembly, promising transformative reforms in land rights and administration. The act aims to secure the land rights of Telangana's citizens while addressing the shortcomings of the previous Dharani Act.

Minister Ponguleti expressed his pride in introducing such a significant reform, recalling the success of the 1971 ROR Act under the Congress government, which served the public for nearly five decades. He criticized the Dharani Act, calling it a hasty decision that caused widespread problems and neglected the rights of landowners.

### Experiencers and Pattadars: A Secure Future

The Minister highlighted that individuals with land passbooks before 2014, known as experiencers, were adversely affected by the Dharani system. The Bhu Bharathi Act aims to restore their security by providing a fair platform for pattadars and experiencers to claim and protect their land rights.

### Special Features of Bhu Bharathi - 2024

**1. Reduced Complexity:** Dharani had 33 modules, creating confusion and inefficiency. Bhu Bharathi simplifies this to six modules for better usability.  
**2.Improved Land Records:** Manual records will now be preserved alongside computer records to prevent tampering. The previous single-column system is expanded to 11 columns, making data more



detailed and transparent.

**3. Enhanced Transparency:** Locked land details in Dharani will now be made accessible for public view. Citizens can report encroachments on government land directly through Bhu Bharathi.

**4. Land Reclamation and Protection:** Encroached lands from revenue, endowment, waqf, bhoodan, and forest categories will be identified and reclaimed. Reclaimed lands will be distributed to the poor.

**5. Real-Time Updates:** Applicants will receive mobile updates about their land applications.

**6. Encroachment Audits:** Data from revenue offices and sub-registrars before 2014 will be compared with Dharani records to identify encroached lands.

**Roadmap for Implementation Rules in Three Months:** Unlike Dharani,

where rules were delayed for years, Bhu Bharathi's regulations will be framed within three months.

**Village-Level Revenue Conferences:** Officials and public representatives will resolve issues locally and on a war footing.

**Unified Law :** Efforts are underway to consolidate all land-related laws into a single, comprehensive act.

Minister Ponguleti confidently stated that the Bhu Bharathi Act is designed to endure for at least a century, ensuring fairness, transparency, and security for all Telangana citizens. He criticized the previous ROR law of 2020, calling it a failure that caused immense hardship.

"This government believes in solutions guided by the people, unlike the previous administration that imposed laws shrouded in corruption," he concluded.



## Who Will Pay the EMIs of Hydra and Musi Victims?" – Kavitha



**TPN , Hyderabad :** Kalvakuntla Kavitha voiced strong criticism over the Telangana government's handling of the Hydra and Musi rehabilitation issues, questioning, "Who will pay the EMIs of Hydra and Musi victims?" Speaking at the Assembly media point, the MLC accused Minister Sridhar Babu of providing misleading answers in the council and misinforming the Assembly on the Musi River project.

Kavitha alleged that Sridhar Babu denied seeking World Bank funding for the Musi project, yet presented evidence contradicting his claim. She revealed a report submitted to the World Bank on September 19, 2024, which included a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the Musi project. Kavitha criticized the Minister for denying the existence of the DPR and demanded clarity on why the government was making conflicting statements.

She also reminded the public that during KCR's tenure, the World Bank was not allowed into Telangana, contrasting it with the Congress government's approach of welcoming the institution with open arms. Kavitha urged the government to provide transparency on its actions and questioned whose interests were being served by involving external agencies like the World Bank.

## Rakesh Reddy Predicts BJP Leadership Change



**TPN , Telangana:** In a recent conversation in the Assembly lobby, Armour MLA Paidi Rakesh Reddy shared his insights on the political landscape in Telangana, particularly regarding the BJP's position in the state. Rakesh Reddy stated that the BJP is weak in the combined districts of Nalgonda, Khammam, and Warangal. He urged party leaders to take charge of these districts, promising to win 50 percent of the seats in the upcoming elections.

Rakesh Reddy also spoke about the future of BJP leadership in Telangana, suggesting that a new president would be appointed after Sankranthi. He indicated that current BJP leader Bandi Sanjay, who is now a Union Minister, would not be in the race for state president.

Further, he highlighted the growing influence of Southern Telangana leaders over Northern Telangana, predicting that this shift would lead to a rebellion in the future. In an unrelated remark, Rakesh Reddy criticized the calling of Komatireddy Venkata Reddy and Harish Rao "thieves," stressing that seniors should set a better example for newly elected members of the Assembly. He lamented the prevalence of harsh language in politics, calling for more respectful behavior.

## Rajasingh Focuses on Hindu Nation Goal



**TPN , Telangana:** BJP MLA Rajasingh recently shared his thoughts on his political priorities and the ongoing issue of the Osmania Hospital construction. Rajasingh stated that he is not interested in the post of BJP

state president, as it would limit his ability to advocate for Hinduism. He emphasized that his primary goal is to work towards making India a Hindu nation, stressing his commitment to the cause of Hinduism.

On the topic of Osmania Hospital, Rajasingh expressed concerns about the construction plans on Gosha Mahal ground, deeming it inappropriate. He pointed out that there is three acres of vacant land within the Osmania Hospital premises, where locals believe a new hospital should be built...

## 3,039 New Jobs in Telangana RTC: Minister Ponnam

**TPN , Hyderabad :** In a significant announcement for job seekers in Telangana, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar revealed that 3,039 new positions will soon be created in the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (RTC). This recruitment drive aims to strengthen the workforce and enhance public transport services across the state.

The Minister also announced plans to establish link roads connecting district centers in Telangana. He highlighted a specific initiative to link RTC bus services to important pilgrimage sites like Vemulawada, Dharmapuri, and Kondagattu, ensuring improved accessi-

bility for devotees and tourists.

Prabhakar noted that while the RTC had 55,000 employees at the time of Telangana's formation, the current workforce stands at only 40,000. To modernize the fleet, RTC buses that have been in service for over 15 years will be scrapped, paving the way for newer, more efficient vehicles.

This announcement signals a dual focus on job creation and improving public transport infrastructure in the state, addressing both employment and connectivity needs.



## Jagga Reddy Fires Back at Harish Rao in Assembly

**TPN , Hyderabad:** In a heated debate in the Telangana Assembly, TPCC Working President Jagga Reddy took a jibe at Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) after Minister Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy accused the BRS government of misappropriating funds in the Kaleshwaram project and failing to build proper roads.

In response to these allegations, Finance Minister Harish Rao suggested conducting drunken driving tests near the Assembly, implying some members were speaking

irrationally. Jagga Reddy fired back, stating, "If drunken driving tests are conducted, KCR will never return to the Assembly," satirically referring to the CM's absence in recent sessions.

Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy demanded an apology from Harish Rao, but Jagga Reddy's remark continued to fuel the debate. The exchange highlighted the ongoing tension between Congress and BRS leaders, with both sides accusing each other of corruption and inefficiency.



## Harish Rao Questions Revanth Reddy-Adani Ties



**TPN , Telangana:** Former Minister Harish Rao recently criticized Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, accusing him of hypocrisy over his stance on industrialist Adani. Speaking to the media at the Assembly, Rao likened Revanth Reddy's actions to a "circus," claiming that his public opposition to Adani contradicts his involvement with the business tycoon. He questioned why Revanth Reddy's government had not canceled the 12,400 crore contract with Adani, a deal Rao claimed was still active.

Rao further pointed out that while Re-

vanth Reddy criticized Adani during the Raj Bhavan siege, his government continued to permit Adani's cement factory in Ramannapet. Rao accused the CM of acting as an "agent" for Adani and tarnishing the image of both Telangana and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi by "rolling out the red carpet" for the tycoon.

Rao demanded that the Telangana Legislative Assembly hold a discussion on the relationship between Revanth Reddy and Adani, challenging the CM to explain his actions regarding Adani's controversial dealings in the state.

## DMRL X Road to Aramghar Closed for Bridge Work

**TPN , Hyderabad:** The Hyderabad city traffic police have issued an advisory announcing the closure of the Inner Ring Road from DMRL X Road to Aramghar between 11 pm on Thursday, December 19, and 6 am on Friday, December 20. This closure is due to the construction of a foot-over bridge near DRDO, close to Rakshapuram.

During this period, traffic diversions will be in place:

- Traffic from Aramghar and Katedan towards Santoshnagar and Sagar Ring Road will be diverted at Katedan and Aramghar X roads to Bahadurpura Zoon-park Road.
- Traffic from Sagar Ring Road and Santoshnagar towards Katedan and Aramghar will be diverted at Manda Mallamma Junction towards Balapur Airport Road, Pahadi Shareef, and MBNR X Road.
- Traffic from Srisaillam Highway towards Sagar Road will be diverted towards Balapur Airport Road and Manda Mallamma Junction.
- Traffic from Falaknuma towards DMRL X Roads will be diverted at MBNR X Roads towards Srisaillam Road and Balapur Airport Road.

The traffic police have urged citizens to stay updated via their official social media and contact the helpline at 9010203626 for emergencies.

## JPC Formed for Jamili Elections, Priyanka Gandhi Included in Committee



**TPN , Delhi:** The central government has formed a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to examine the proposal for Jamili elections, where both the Lok Sabha and state assembly elections would be held simultaneously. The JPC consists of 31 members, with 21 from the Lok Sabha and 10 from the Rajya Sabha. Notably, Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi, who recently won from Wayanad, is part of the committee.

Among the members from the Lok Sabha are CM Ramesh, Vallabhaneni Balasouri from the Telugu states, as well as prominent leaders such as PP Chowdhury, Bansuri Swaraj, Purushottambhai Rupala, Anurag Singh Thakur, and Sambit Patra. Other members include Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Manish Tiwari, Supriya Sule, and Kalyan Banerjee.

The central government has introduced a bill in the House for simultaneous elections, and the JPC will carefully examine these proposals as part of the decision-making process. The members from the Rajya Sabha are yet to be officially named.

## Bhatti Vikramarka Pledges Transparency in Dues Payment

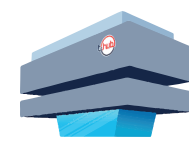


**TPN , Telangana:** Representatives of the Private Medical and Nursing College Owners Union recently met with Telangana's Deputy Chief Minister, Bhatti Vikramarka, at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar State Secretariat. During the meeting, college owners discussed the long-pending scholarship and dues issues, with some institutions demanding payment that has been overdue for nearly two years.

Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka assured the college representatives that the process for paying the pending scholarship dues would begin soon. He emphasized that payments would be made transparently and without any room for extortion, reassuring the college owners that there was no cause for concern. He also acknowledged that the failure of the previous government to clear these dues had placed an unnecessary burden on the public government.

Bhatti Vikramarka stated that his government was committed to streamlining the payment process and addressing the issues left unresolved by the previous administration. "The public government is moving forward with the goal of strengthening the education system," he added. The Deputy CM reiterated the government's focus on providing quality education and ensuring that the financial support needed for students' education is timely and transparent.

Among those who met with Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka were college union representatives Mohan Reddy, Srinivas, Dr. Sandhya Aparna Reddy, and others, who expressed their concerns and received reassurances regarding the settlement of pending dues.



# BRS MLAs Arrive in Assembly Dressed as Auto Drivers



**TPN , Hyderabad :** In a symbolic gesture of solidarity with auto drivers, BRS MLAs attended the Telangana Assembly session dressed in khaki uniforms, the traditional attire of auto drivers. They even arrived at the Assembly in auto-rickshaws, drawing attention to the struggles faced by this community.

The MLAs criticized the Telangana state government for failing to fulfill its promise of providing Rs. 12,000 annually to auto drivers. They demanded the immediate disbursement of the amount, urging the government to ensure that no more auto drivers are forced into despair.

This demonstration follows a protest by auto drivers who attended the Assembly in black shirts the previous day, highlighting their plight. BRS MLAs pointed out that 93 auto drivers have committed suicide so far, a tragic indicator of the financial and emotional distress within the profession.

The legislators also reminded the House that they had submitted a list of auto drivers who had committed suicide during earlier sessions, emphasizing the need for urgent action. Through their unique protest, BRS MLAs reaffirmed their commitment to advocating for the welfare of auto drivers and addressing their challenges.

## Hydra Commissioner Vows Action on Illegal Structures



**TPN , Hyderabad:** Hydra Commissioner Ranganath made a significant statement regarding the demolition of illegal structures, emphasizing that buildings with revoked permissions will be considered illegal and demolished. Speaking to the media, Ranganath clarified that any structure that received permission in the past but had that permission canceled will be treated as illegal. However, he assured that buildings authorized before Hydra's involvement would not be demolished.

Ranganath highlighted that residential houses built without permission would not be demolished as long as they are occupied, with plans for regularization to be completed by July 2024. In contrast, commercial and business buildings constructed without proper permissions within Full Tank Level (FTL) areas must face demolition. He criticized individuals attempting to exploit land for personal gain, warning that Hydra would take serious action against such land grabbers.

Addressing the demolitions carried out in Mallampet Kotwal Cheruvu and Aminpur, Ranganath stated that these buildings were not illegal structures. He emphasized the transparency in the FTL marking process and assured that Hydra prioritizes complaints from colony welfare associations and the public. He also noted that demolitions had been carried out in 12 tanks, and the government has been informed about the restoration efforts.

Ranganath confirmed that Hydra is proceeding in alignment with court judgments and government directives. He assured that any identified shortcomings would be corrected, and Hydra would continue its work in a systematic and legal manner. Additionally, Hydra has successfully acquired 200 acres of government land in the past five months to aid its efforts in reclaiming encroached areas.

## Actor Prasad Arrested for Misconduct with Actress

**TPN , Hyderabad:** Jubilee Hills police have arrested actor Prasad for misbehaving with an actress during the filming of a web series in Silent Valley. The incident occurred under the jurisdiction of Jubilee Hills police station.

According to the actress, Prasad made inappropriate comments about her body parts and threatened her after she expressed her displeasure with his behavior. When she confronted him, he verbally abused her and dismissed her concerns, saying, "Do whatever you want." Prasad further taunted the



actress and threatened to file a police complaint against her. Distressed by the incident, the actress lodged a formal complaint with the Jubilee Hills police. Based on the complaint, a case was filed against Prasad under sections 75(2), 79, and 351 B.N.S. He was arrested and subsequently produced before the court.

The police have taken swift action to address the allegations, highlighting the importance of protecting individuals from harassment in the entertainment industry.

## 4 Cases Registered Over Social Media Posts



**TPN , Hyderabad :** Tollywood star Allu Arjun faces further legal troubles as four cases have been registered against social media posts following his arrest. The Congress Party lodged complaints against objectionable posts shared by Revanth Reddy, prompting Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police to take swift action.

The cases were filed under Sections 352 and 353(1)(b) of the IT Act, along with other provisions under BNS. Copies of the complaints and related evidence have since gone viral on social media.

This development follows the recent case involving Allu Arjun at Sandhya Theater, which led to his arrest. The new allegations and subsequent cases have intensified public and media attention on the situation, adding to the star's legal challenges.

Further investigations are underway to address the cyber complaints and assess the involvement of those accused.

## Allu Aravind Visits Sri Tej at KIMS Hospital

**TPN , Hyderabad:** Film producer Allu Aravind recently visited Sri Tej, the young boy injured during the stampede at the premiere of \*Pushpa-2\* on December 4. The tragic incident occurred while Allu Arjun was watching \*Sandhya 70MM\* at RTC Cross Road, leading to a stampede that resulted in the death of a woman. Sri Tej, the woman's son, was severely injured and is currently receiving treatment at KIMS Hospital in Secunderabad.

with Sri Tej's family and inquired about his health from the attending doctors. According to a health bulletin issued by doctors Chetan and Vishnu Tej, Sri Tej's condition remains critical. He is currently on a ventilator in the ICU, as his brain is not receiving adequate oxygen. The doctors confirmed that Sri Tej is being continuously monitored and is currently being fed through a tube. Allu Aravind expressed his support and concern for the young boy and his family during this difficult time.

During his visit, Allu Aravind spoke



## Laxmiguda Demolitions Spark Outrage Over MLA's Property

**TPN , Hyderabad:** The ongoing demolition drive in Laxmiguda, Mailardevpally, aimed at clearing encroachments along footpaths, has sparked controversy and public anger. The demolitions, conducted under GHMC's supervision, have been met with heavy police presence, but many locals are upset over alleged bias in enforcement.

Witnesses say that when approached by residents, MLA Goud reportedly stated he would allow the demolition of his house if all other encroachments were also removed. However, after dismissing their concerns, the demolition resumed, further fueling tensions.

Residents are accusing Congress MLA Prakash Goud of hypocrisy, claiming that his house, which is reportedly built on a road, has been spared from demolition. "If the rules are being followed, why is the MLA's house left untouched? Shouldn't it be demolished too?" one lo-

This situation has raised questions about transparency and equal enforcement of demolition rules, with many demanding fair treatment for all, regardless of political influence. The controversy is growing as the demolition drive continues.



## YouTuber Arrested for Throwing Money Bundles on ORR in Hyderabad



**TPN , Hyderabad:** A 30-year-old YouTuber, Bhanuchander alias Anchor Chandu, was arrested by the Ghatkesar police for throwing bundles of Rs 200 notes on the Outer Ring Road (ORR), causing public chaos and a traffic jam. The YouTuber, a resident of Balanagar, posted a video challenging viewers to retrieve the money thrown along the roadside near ORR exit number 9. The viral video attracted crowds, resulting in a significant traffic disruption and raising safety concerns.

The ORR patrolling team intervened to control the situation. The police filed a case under Section 125, 292 BNS, and Section 8(1b) of the National Highway Act. This follows a similar incident on August 24, where another YouTuber and Instagram influencer was arrested for throwing money on busy streets, causing traffic chaos. Both stunts, intended to boost social media clout, have drawn widespread condemnation online.



## Brawl Breaks Out in Karimnagar Assembly Over Gurukul Issues

**TPN , Karimnagar:** A war of words erupted in the Telangana Assembly today during a short discussion on issues related to gurukuls and government schools. Ministers Ponnam Prabhakar and former minister Gangula Kamalakar, representing Seethakka, engaged in a heated exchange.

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, speaking on behalf of the government, highlighted the 50 percent increase in diet charges at Seethakka gurukuls and the formation of Amma Adarsh committees. He added that urgent repairs and improvements were being made in 21,941 schools and 495 KGBVs under the committees' supervision.

However, Gangula Kamalakar, in his response, criticized the government for neglecting the educational system. He questioned why the minister did not mention key issues concerning Shailaja, Bhavani, and Lilavati, which were of significant concern to students. Kamalakar also accused the Congress government of failing to prioritize the education sector,

stating that while cases were filed for deaths involving celebrities, there had been no such action for incidents at gurukuls.

Minister Ponnam fired back, accusing Kamalakar of failing to pay the rent for the gurukuls since 2014. He expressed frustration at Kamalakar's remarks, adding that he was speaking out of turn. In response, Kamalakar lashed out, claiming that Ponnam, who was new to the house, didn't understand the rules and had switched parties multiple times. Kamalakar also criticized Ponnam for not contesting elections from Karimnagar, calling him a political opportunist.

Ponnam Prabhakar challenged Kamalakar to contest against him in the next elections if he had the courage. Minister Seethakka reminded the assembly that KTR and Harish Rao had also contested elections from different constituencies. The altercation highlighted ongoing tensions between political figures over the handling of the state's educational system.



## Folk Singer Shruti Dies by Suicide Amid Alleged Dowry Harassment

**TPN , Nizamabad:** Folk singer Shruti, a resident of Thimmapur in Nizamabad district, tragically died by suicide today. According to reports, Shruti, who had married Dayakar from Peerlapalli village in Siddipet district just 20 days ago, faced harassment from her husband and in-laws for dowry.

Shruti had met Dayakar on Instagram, and their brief marriage quickly turned troubled due to the alleged dowry demands. Sources claim that the constant harassment led to her taking the extreme step. However, Shruti's relatives are disputing the claim of suicide, alleging foul play and suggesting that she may have been murdered, with her death being staged as a suicide.

Shruti had gained fame for her performances on HMTV's Maata Pata program, where her folk songs earned her a dedicated following. Despite her untimely death, her songs continue to resonate with her fans. Shruti's relatives are demanding a thorough investigation into her death, suspecting foul play. Authorities are looking into the matter to determine the cause and circumstances of her tragic demise.



## CPI(M) Leader Targets BJP Over Constitutional Rights



**TPN , Khammam:** CPI(M) Polit Bureau member B.V. Raghavulu sharply criticized the BJP-led central government during the 22nd Congress of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) in Sattupalli town, Khammam district. He accused the BJP of undermining constitutional values, promoting communalism, and damaging democracy.

Raghavulu alleged that the BJP is attempting to introduce laws that harm the country and destroy constitutional rights. He claimed the party is pushing for a "communal constitution" while neglecting farmers by enforcing policies like the controversial farm laws. "The BJP is robbing the nation for corporate powers, with coal mines like those in Sat-

tupalli being handed over to Adani," he said.

Highlighting the dangers of Jamili (simultaneous) elections, Raghavulu argued that it is a ploy to weaken democracy and eliminate regional parties. "This is a calculated strategy by the BJP to consolidate power and dominate Delhi elections," he added.

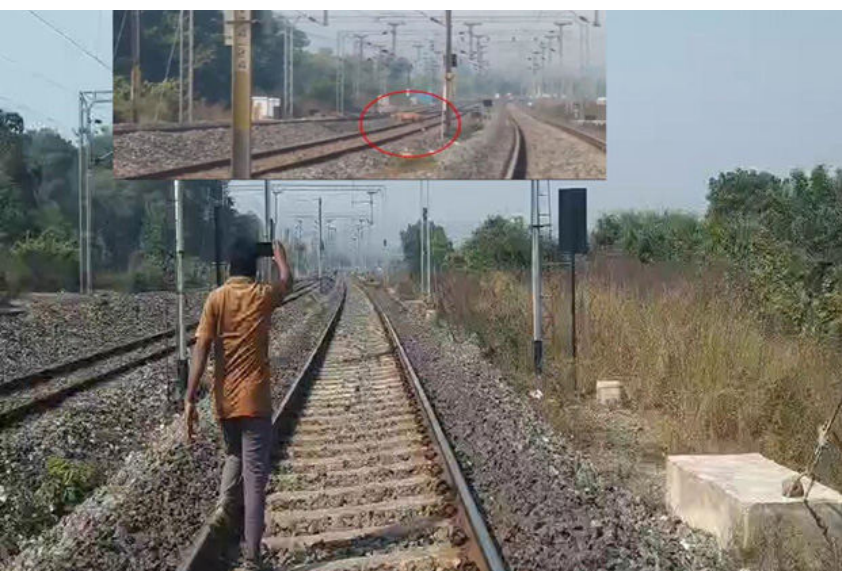
Raghavulu also condemned the BJP's alleged efforts to divide society along religious lines, warning that such actions could lead to a Syria-like situation in India. He urged all citizens to unite against these divisive policies, emphasizing that protecting the Constitution and democracy is the CPI(M)'s primary goal.

## TG TET 2024 Exam Schedule Released

**TPN , Hyderabad:** The Telangana School Education Department has announced the schedule for the TG TET 2024 exams, set to take place from January 2 to 20, 2024. The exams will be conducted in 20 sessions over ten days, with two sessions held each day. Session-1 will run from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM, and Session-2 will take place from 2:00 PM to 4:30 PM.

Paper-1 exams are scheduled for January 8, 9, 10, and 18, while Paper-2 exams will be held on January 2, 5, 11, 12, 19, and 20. The Social Studies (Paper-2) exam will be held in both the morning and afternoon sessions on January 2. On January 5, Social Studies (Paper-2) will take place in the morning, while Mathematics and Science (Paper-2) will be held in the afternoon.

## Tiger Crosses Railway Tracks in Komuram Bheem District



**TPN , Komuram Bheem Asifabad:** A large tiger has been spotted crossing railway tracks near Makadi in Komuram Bheem Asifabad district, instilling fear among locals. The sighting of the tiger has raised concerns, as it follows a series of recent tiger encounters in the region.

Tigers have increasingly ventured into human settlements in the Telugu states, particularly in areas like Tirupati, Nallamalla Forest, Adilabad, Komuram Bheem Asifabad, and Mancherial. The sighting of this tiger crossing the tracks at Makadi left residents terrified. The recent movements of tigers in the joint Adilabad district have left many sleepless.

In a disturbing turn, a tiger recently attacked and killed a young woman in Gannaram, Kagaznagar mandal, and the next day, it attacked a farmer in Dubbaguda. The tiger has also been targeting cattle, with a recent attack on a calf in Hudkili, Sirpur (T) mandal. The large tiger sighted near the Vempalli railway bridge and Makadi railway cabin adds to the growing concerns in the region.

## Atrocities in Sarvel Gurukul: Student Seriously Injured

**TPN , Hyderabad:** A tragic incident occurred at Sarvel Gurukul in Telangana, which is known for producing top-performing students. A girl student, tasked with cooking, was severely injured when hot copper scalded her, and she was immediately hospitalized.

Sarvel Gurukul, established in 1971 by the late PV Narasimha Rao in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district, has long been considered an exemplary institution. However, this incident raises serious concerns about the welfare of students in gurukuls. The incident highlights ongoing atrocities in these institutions, despite ongoing discussions in the assembly about their condition.

Opposition leaders, including Harish Rao, have expressed their outrage, criticizing the lack of action from the government to address the issues. "The situation is deteriorating, and the reputation of gurukuls is at risk. Immediate steps must be taken to improve conditions and ensure the well-being of students," Harish Rao tweeted. He also demanded that proper medical treatment be provided to the injured student.



## Two Faked Deaths in Telangana to Claim Rs 5L Rythu Bima Insurance

**TPN , Hyderabad:** In a shocking incident from Guttakindipally village in Medak district, two individuals have allegedly faked their deaths to claim a Rs 5 lakh payout under the Rythu Bima insurance scheme.

Pitla Srinu and Eligondi Mallesham are accused of fabricating their deaths and obtaining death certificates from the village panchayat secretary. Srinu, who was believed to have died in 2021, had his wife,

Jyothi, receive the death certificate. Similarly, Mallesham, who allegedly faked his death in 2023, had his wife, Shekhava, receive a death certificate from the same authority.

The fraud was uncovered after Bhargavi, an agricultural extension officer, conducted an inquiry following complaints about the case. Upon investigation, it was confirmed that both men had not passed away as claimed.

On December 14, Medak rural police were alerted, and upon visiting the village, they found the homes of the accused locked. The investigation revealed that the son of a former sarpanch was reportedly the mastermind behind the scheme.

Authorities have confirmed that legal action will be taken against the accused, and both individuals will be arrested for attempting to fraudulently claim insurance under the Rythu Bima scheme.

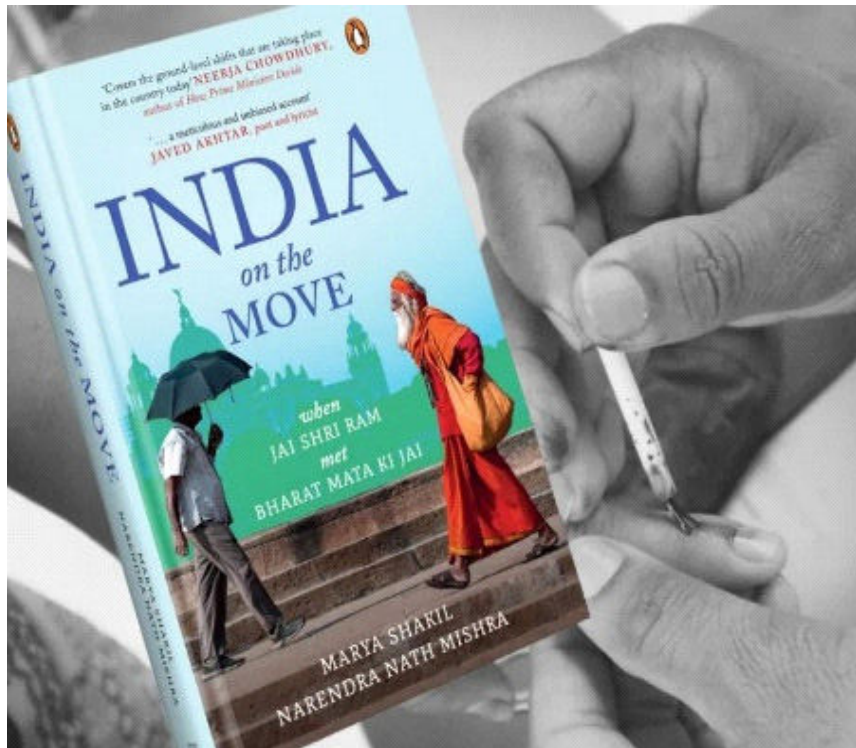


# India on the Move: A Deep Dive into the 2024 Lok Sabha Verdict

India on the Move by Marya Shakil and Narendra Nath Mishra offers a nuanced analysis of the complex 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The book explores the election results through diverse methods—WhatsApp group chats, long train journeys, conversations with political leaders, and much more. This honest attempt to understand the election's multi-layered nature stands out for its objectivity, providing insights into the events without imposing the authors' biases, a rare feat in today's polarized world.

The book captures the political landscape by focusing on key moments, like the role of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in the resurgence of nationalist discourse in India. The authors note how JNU's influence sowed seeds of discord among the youth, eventually shaping the country's political narrative. They also reflect on how the Covid-19 pandemic tested India's healthcare systems while amplifying existing prejudices. The pandemic, according to the authors, served as a catalyst for a larger ideological shift, where nationalism played a significant role, often intertwining with governance strategies.

The chapters in the book are filled with intriguing insights, including titles such as "When a Deadly Virus Meets Viral Nationalism", "Nationalism Goes Global", and "Popular Culture: The New Battleground". My personal favorite delves into the shifting political



narratives during the Covid-19 pandemic. The authors' observation that "the new plan of benevolent statesmanship linked with nationalism has now become an inevitable part of politics" offers a thought-provoking take on the evolving political climate.

In analyzing the 2024 election, the authors emphasize the multiplicity of the verdict. They highlight how the election seemed to reflect a series of state-level elections rather than a singular national result. For example, the outcome in West Bengal contrasted sharply with that in Bihar, while Uttar Pradesh offered surprises. Voters in Maharashtra, Jharkhand, and Rajasthan rewarded and punished parties

differently, showcasing the diverse political sentiments across the country.

A central theme of the book is the people's dissatisfaction with political parties taking them for granted. As a friend aptly put it after the election results, "Logon ne aukat dikha di" (people showed a mirror to all). The book argues that the 2024 verdict was not a simple mandate but a multi-layered one, representing a triumph of individualism and diverse political voices.

This thoughtful analysis of the 2024 elections presents a compelling picture of a changing India, where multiple political narratives shape the country's future.



## Myanmar & Bangladesh in Flux: India's 'Act East Policy' Must First Look Closer East

India's "Act East Policy" has been a cornerstone of its foreign diplomacy for over a decade, with the goal of strengthening ties with Southeast Asia and the broader Indo-Pacific region. Initially coined as "Look East" before 2014, the policy was rebranded by the Modi government to signal India's proactive approach to deepening strategic, economic, and diplomatic engagements with ASEAN and neighboring countries.

One of the key successes of the Act East Policy has been the upgrading of India's relationship with ASEAN, which is now a strategic partnership. Since 2015, India's bilateral trade with ASEAN has nearly doubled, accompanied by a significant boost in exports and foreign direct investment (FDI) from ASEAN countries. Additionally, India's diplomatic presence and engagement in Southeast Asia have seen remarkable strides, solidifying the region's importance in India's foreign policy.

However, recent developments in Myanmar and Bangladesh have raised questions about the long-term viability of this policy. In Myanmar, the political instability caused by the military coup and the subsequent humanitarian crisis has created a volatile environment that challenges India's interests in the region. New Delhi's traditional

role as a diplomatic partner and stability provider is being tested as Myanmar's situation grows increasingly unpredictable. In Bangladesh, India has lost its strategic edge, with the new caretaker government under Muhammad Yunus showing a preference for closer ties with Pakistan, complicating India's diplomatic standing in its neighbor's affairs.

As India faces these challenges, the question arises whether it will continue to rely solely on diplomacy or be willing to leverage its hard power to secure its interests in the region. While India's approach has largely been one of soft power, trade, and diplomacy, the shifting dynamics in Myanmar and Bangladesh demand a reevaluation of its strategy. With both countries in flux, India may need to adopt a more nuanced approach, balancing its economic, political, and security interests while carefully navigating the evolving geopolitical landscape. In conclusion, while India's Act East Policy has certainly brought success in many areas, it must adapt to the complexities of the changing geopolitical situation closer to home, particularly in Myanmar and Bangladesh. The challenge for India lies in ensuring its influence in the region, whether through diplomacy or a more assertive foreign policy stance.

## One Nation, One Election Will Propel India Towards Viksit Bharat

The government's proposal to implement the "One Nation, One Election" initiative through the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth) Amendment Bill and the Union Territories Law Amendment Bill 2024 seeks to address one of the pressing challenges of Indian democracy. By aligning the schedules for national and state elections, this initiative aims to streamline the electoral process, reduce costs, and ensure greater citizen participation in the democratic system.

The projected cost for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections is estimated to exceed Rs 1 lakh crore, a figure that underlines the inefficiency of the current system, where elections are held frequently at different levels, causing significant financial and logistical burdens on the nation. Frequent elections not only disrupt the everyday functioning of the government and the economy but also place a strain on voters who are required to participate in multiple electoral processes within short intervals.

The "One Nation, One Election" proposal intends to address these issues by consolidating the electoral cycles. This would ensure that elections for the Lok Sabha and state assemblies are held simultaneously, thus reducing the administrative burden, saving substantial costs, and providing a more efficient and streamlined process. The move is expected to increase citizen participation, as the

frequency of elections would be reduced, leading to greater engagement with the democratic process. By aligning elections across the nation, the bill aims to strengthen democracy by focusing on people's welfare and their participation in shaping the country's future.

India has a long history of democratic practices, even in ancient times. Monarchies like the Cholas and Kalingas practiced forms of democracy long before the Western world embraced such ideas. The foundations of Indian democracy were laid by our forefathers, who built a system that ensures universal adult suffrage, a right that has empowered millions across the country. However, the frequent elections in recent decades have proved to be burdensome, both for citizens and the economy.

It is time to modernize the electoral system. The implementation of "One Nation, One Election" would mark a significant step towards realizing the vision of "Viksit Bharat", or a developed India. To make this transition successful, it is essential for the opposition to set aside their differences and collaborate with the government. Together, they can ensure the unanimous approval of this important bill, safeguarding the fundamental right to vote and enhancing the overall democratic process for every citizen in the country.



## The Evolving Debate on Fair Use in the Age of Generative AI

In the mid-1970s, Sony Corp introduced the Betamax video recorder, a groundbreaking technology that allowed users to record TV programs and watch them later. Although revolutionary, this innovation sparked controversy, particularly with media companies like Universal Studios, which sued Sony, arguing that the device would enable users to infringe upon copyright by recording and redistributing content.

The case ultimately reached the United States Supreme Court, and in 1984, the court ruled in favor of Sony. The court decided that the "time-shifting" feature of the Betamax recorder had substantial non-infringing uses, which qualified it for protection under the fair use doctrine. This landmark decision marked a victory for innovation, recognizing that new technologies should not be stifled by outdated copyright laws. However, it also left unresolved questions about how copyright law should evolve to address future technological advancements.

Fast forward to today, and a similar legal battle is unfolding in the realm of Generative Artificial Intelligence (Gen AI). AI models like OpenAI's ChatGPT, Google's Bard, Microsoft's Azure OpenAI, and Meta's LLaMA are revolutionizing industries by generating content based on vast datasets scraped from billions of pages of text, images, and other online content — often without permission from the original creators. This has raised a pressing question: does the fair use doctrine still apply in the age of AI, or is it due for a reexamination?

Across the globe, from the United States to the United Kingdom and India, courts are grappling with the limits of fair use, a prin-



ciple originally designed to allow limited use of copyrighted material for purposes like education, research, and criticism. In 2023, the New York Times filed a lawsuit against OpenAI and Microsoft, accusing them of using its copyrighted material without permission to train AI models that directly compete with its content. The newspaper argued that OpenAI's large language models (LLMs) are not "transformative" in nature and that they unfairly pull content from behind paywalls. Among the specific allegations, the NYT cited the unauthorized use of its Pulitzer Prize-winning investigation into predatory lending in New York's taxi industry.

As the legal landscape surrounding AI continues to evolve, the debate over fair use is intensifying. With rapid advancements in technology, there is growing concern about whether traditional copyright laws can keep pace, and if not, how they should adapt to protect creators' rights while fostering innovation.



# Sharad Pawar Meets PM Modi After MVA Defeat in Maharashtra Elections

TPN CORRESPONDENT DELHI  
DECEMBER.19

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader and former Maharashtra Chief Minister Sharad Pawar met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday in a meeting that followed the significant defeat of the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in the recent state assembly elections. The meeting took place in the Prime Minister's office in Parliament, with Pawar accompanied by two farmers from Phaltan in western Maharashtra, who presented Modi with a box of pomegranates from their farm.

The meeting comes weeks after the BJP-led MahaYuti alliance triumphed in the Maharashtra elections, securing 235 out of 288 seats, while the Congress-NCP-Shiv Sena (UBT) alliance, or MVA, was left with just 46 seats. This defeat has been a major blow to the MVA, which had hoped to retain control of the state.

During the meeting, Pawar did not discuss political matters related to the election result or the current political landscape in Maharashtra. Instead, he focused on the presentation of the pomegranates and shared a cordial interaction with the Prime Minister. Pawar also conveyed an invitation to Modi in a letter, urging him to inaugurate the 98th Marathi Sahitya Sammelan, a major literary event scheduled to take place in February at Talkatora



Stadium in New Delhi.

Following the meeting, Pawar mentioned that he did not raise the issue of the Sahitya Sammelan during his conversation with Modi but reiterated the invitation that he had previously extended.

Despite the electoral setback, Pawar's meeting with Modi signals the ongoing political engagement between region-

al leaders and the central government. Pawar has often been known for his political acumen, balancing his role in state politics with his presence on the national stage. As Maharashtra continues to adjust to the new political reality after the elections, Pawar's meeting with the Prime Minister highlights the shifting dynamics of Indian politics, where regional parties continue to play significant roles in national discussions.

## Congress Stung By Shah's Expose On Its Insults Of Ambedkar: PM

TPN CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI  
DECEMBER.19

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday defended Union Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, stating that the Congress party had been stung by Shah's expose regarding its history of insulting the architect of the Indian Constitution. Modi, responding to the opposition's attacks, said the Congress had long attempted to obscure its misdeeds, particularly its treatment of Ambedkar and the marginalized communities he championed.

"If the Congress and its ecosystem think their malicious lies can hide their misdeeds, especially their insult towards Dr. Ambedkar, they are gravely mistaken," Modi remarked, emphasizing that the people of India have seen through the Congress party's actions over the years. The controversy stemmed from Shah's remarks in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday, during a debate on the Constitution, where he criticized Congress for undermining Ambedkar's legacy. Shah's comments led to a parliamentary uproar, with both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha being adjourned temporarily.

Modi further highlighted the Congress party's long-standing disrespect towards Ambedkar, listing several instances where the party had mistreated him. These included efforts to defeat Ambedkar in elections on multiple occasions, a campaign by Jawaharlal Nehru to ensure his loss, and the denial of the Bharat Ratna to Ambedkar despite his significant contributions to the nation. Additionally, Modi pointed out that Congress had refused to place a portrait of Ambedkar in Parliament's Central Hall, underscoring its neglect of his contributions.

The Prime Minister also accused the Congress of being complicit in the worst atrocities against Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) during its time in power, calling it an undeniable part of the party's history.

## Tamil Nadu CM Stalin Takes Veiled Jibe At BJP, Modi Over Ambedkar Remarks

TPN CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI  
DECEMBER.19

DMK President and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin criticized the ruling party at the Centre for targeting Congress over its stance on the Constitution and for attacking the party regarding its historical relationship with Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Stalin's comments came in the wake of recent remarks made by senior leaders of the ruling party, though he refrained from directly naming them.

In a cryptic post on 'X' (formerly Twitter), Stalin wrote in Tamil, "Only those who commit more sins should be concerned about 'punya.' Those who are concerned about the country, its people, and the protection of the Constitution will only utter the name of Babasaheb." This statement followed the contentious remarks made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who both recently listed allegations against Congress related to its treatment of Ambedkar.

Modi had sharply criticized Congress, accusing the party of undermining Ambedkar's legacy, pointing out that he was defeated in elections by Congress twice, and alleging that Pandit Nehru made his loss a prestige issue. Modi also accused Congress of denying Ambedkar the Bharat Ratna and refusing to honor his portrait in Parliament's Central Hall. Home Minister Shah, on the other hand, questioned Congress for now invoking Ambedkar's name while it had previously opposed his views and policies, including his stance on Article 370. Shah's remarks also touched upon how the BJP, since coming to power, had built several memorials dedicated to Ambedkar, suggesting that the party had been more proactive in preserving his legacy.

## BJP and Congress Leaders to Join Joint Parliamentary Committee on 'One Nation, One Poll'

TPN CORRESPONDENT DELHI  
DECEMBER.19

BJP leaders Anurag Thakur and Anil Baluni, along with Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, will be part of the newly formed Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to examine the 'One Nation, One Poll' proposal. The JPC will consist of 21 Members of Parliament (MPs) from the Lok Sabha and 10 MPs from the Rajya Sabha.

The JPC has been tasked with evaluating the feasibility and implications of conducting simultaneous elections across the country. The committee will explore various aspects of the proposal, which aims to hold general and state elections at the same time, potentially streamlining the election process and reducing costs.

The committee is expected to submit its report to Parliament by the first day of the last week of the next session. This JPC comes at a crucial time as the debate over



'One Nation, One Poll' has gained significant momentum in recent months, with strong opinions on both sides. Supporters argue that it would bring efficiency and reduce the electoral burden, while critics raise concerns over the practicality and potential consequences for regional political dynamics. As part of the JPC's mandate, it will consider various inputs from political parties, experts, and other stakeholders to build a comprehensive understanding of the proposal. The members,

including prominent figures from the BJP and Congress, are expected to bring diverse perspectives to the table. This move is seen as a step towards addressing one of the key political reforms in India, with wide-reaching implications for the democratic process. Once the JPC finalizes its report, it will be presented before Parliament for further discussion and consideration, potentially paving the way for legislative changes that could alter the future of elections in India.

## Free Treatment For Senior Citizens At All Delhi Hospitals: Arvind Kejriwal



TPN CORRESPONDENT DELHI  
DECEMBER.19

In a significant move ahead of the upcoming Delhi elections, scheduled for February 2025, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal has announced free treatment for senior citizens at all government and private hospitals in the national capital. The initiative, called the "Sanjeevani Yojana," aims to provide healthcare benefits to all people above the age of 60, should the party retain power in the Delhi Assembly.

Kejriwal, addressing the announcement, emphasized the party's responsibility to care for senior citizens, recognizing their contribution to the country. "It is now our duty to take care of you. You people have worked hard to take the country forward," Kejriwal stated.

Under the Sanjeevani Yojana, there will be no upper limit on the cost of treatment, signaling the party's commitment to providing comprehensive healthcare services to senior citizens. Registration for the program is expected to begin in the coming days, with AAP workers visiting households to help seniors sign up. Once registered, senior citizens will be given a card, which they should keep safe. The policy will be implemented as soon as AAP assumes power in the Delhi Assembly after the election results.

In addition to announcing this welfare measure, Kejriwal confirmed that he will be contesting the election from his New Delhi constituency. Chief Minister Atishi will also contest from Kalkaji. The AAP has already released the list of candidates for all 70 Delhi Assembly seats, signaling its preparedness for the upcoming polls.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has scheduled a preparatory meeting this week to discuss the logistics and framework for the Delhi elections. Sources indicate that the dates for the much-anticipated elections will be announced shortly after this meeting. The announcement of the Sanjeevani Yojana is likely to boost AAP's appeal among the senior citizen demographic, further intensifying the political campaign ahead of the polls.



## Fadnavis Aide Ram Shinde Set To Become Legislative Council Chairperson

TPN CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI  
DECEMBER.19

BJP leader Prof. Ram Shinde is poised to become the new Chairperson of the Maharashtra Legislative Council. The 55-year-old leader, who enjoys close ties with Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, filed his nomination papers before Maharashtra Legislature Secretary Jitendra Bhole during the ongoing Nagpur winter session. Prof. Shinde's candidacy is expected to be a mere formality, with his election widely anticipated. He was accompanied by several prominent political figures during the nomination process, including Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, NCP President, and senior BJP leaders such as Chandrashekar Bawankule, Chandrakant Patil, Jaykumar Rawal, and Uday Samant from the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena.

Hailing from the Dhargar community and Ahilyanagar district (formerly part of Ahmednagar), Prof. Shinde is a two-time Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA), having won the Karjat-Jamkhed seat in both 2009 and 2014. From 2014 to 2019, he served as a minister in the BJP-Shiv Sena government led by Fadnavis. However, in both the 2019 and 2024 state elections, he faced defeat at the hands of Rohit Pawar, who contested on behalf of the NCP. The Maharashtra Legislative Council Chairperson's position had been vacant for over two and a half years following the retirement of NCP's Ramraje Naik-Nimbalkar. With Shinde's expected election, the BJP will now hold key positions in both the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council. Last week, BJP's Rahul Narwekar was unanimously elected as the Speaker of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly.

# Leaving India-US Relationship In Strong Place, Expect Continuity In Trump Era: Biden



**WASHINGTON:** The Biden administration has expressed confidence in leaving the India-US relationship in a strong position, emphasizing that this partnership will continue to thrive under the incoming administration of President-elect Donald Trump. Kurt Campbell, the Deputy Secretary of State, stated during a conference call on Tuesday that the Biden administration remains ambitious about strengthening ties with India and anticipates high-level engagement in the remaining weeks of Biden's term.

Campbell highlighted the significance of the India-US relationship, underscoring that both nations have seen substantial progress in various areas, including trade, defense, and strategic cooperation. He noted that the ongoing efforts to deepen bilateral ties reflect the shared interests and common values between the two countries.

Looking forward, Campbell expressed optimism that the India-US relationship would remain a key focus in the Trump administration. He em-

phasized that the partnership has always enjoyed bipartisan support in the United States, suggesting that this alignment would continue under Trump's leadership.

The Biden administration's final weeks are expected to see continued diplomatic engagement with India, with efforts aimed at further solidifying the strong foundation that has been built over the years. The strategic partnership between India and the United States has grown increasingly important in addressing global challenges such as regional security, economic collaboration, and climate change.

As the U.S. transitions to a new administration, both nations are likely to maintain a robust dialogue, with continued cooperation on various fronts. The Biden administration's final push to enhance ties with India reflects its commitment to ensuring that the relationship remains a cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy in the years to come, regardless of political transitions.



## Canada Expands Aerial Border Surveillance To Appease Donald Trump

**BLOOMBERG:** In response to US President-elect Donald Trump's concerns about migrants and fentanyl trafficking across the northern border, Canada has unveiled a C\$1.3 billion (\$908 million) plan, including the deployment of an "aerial intelligence task force." The initiative aims to enhance border security and appease Trump's threat of imposing 25% tariffs on all Canadian goods unless the country strengthens its borders.

The task force, led by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), will utilize helicopters, drones, and mobile surveillance towers to monitor the border more effectively. This measure is part of a broader effort to address issues at the northern border, which have been overshadowed by the larger concerns at the US-Mexico border.

The Canadian government's announcement comes after the resignation of Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland, who accused Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of inadequate preparation for a Trump presidency. Freeland was replaced by Dominic LeBlanc, the new Public Safety Minister, who introduced the plan. LeBlanc emphasized the need for robust support

for border law enforcement agencies, ensuring they are equipped to handle national security issues effectively.

The plan also includes expanding the intelligence-gathering capabilities of the RCMP and Canada's cybersecurity agency, Communications Security Establishment. The government intends to increase penalties for money laundering and create a joint task force with the financial sector. There are also plans to enhance collaboration between Canadian and US officials to combat transnational organized crime, including a proposal for a "North American Joint Strike Force" focused on fentanyl trafficking. Additional measures include the deployment of artificial intelligence tools, new canine teams, and a specialized health department unit to prevent the import of precursor chemicals used in the production of illegal drugs. The government also plans to crack down on immigration practices like "flagpoling" and streamline the process for banning dangerous chemicals. LeBlanc expressed confidence that the new plan would align with the objectives of the incoming Trump administration and strengthen Canada-US border security cooperation.

## Russia Develops mRNA Cancer Vaccine, Set To Distribute For Free

**RUSSIA:** Russia has developed an mRNA vaccine targeting cancer, with plans to offer it free of charge to cancer patients, according to reports from TASS. The vaccine, which is set to be released to the public by early 2025, was created in collaboration with multiple research centers and is expected to offer significant benefits in the fight against cancer.



The vaccine's pre-clinical trials have shown promising results, particularly in suppressing tumor development and reducing the potential for metastases. Andrey Kaprin, the General Director of the Radiology Medical Research Center of the Russian Ministry of Health, confirmed that the vaccine would be provided to patients without cost, marking a major step in cancer treatment accessibility.

The vaccine's development utilizes mRNA technology, similar to the one used in COVID-19 vaccines. mRNA vaccines work by instructing cells in the body to produce a protein that triggers an immune response, which helps the body identify and fight the cancer cells. This innovative approach to cancer treatment has the potential to revolutionize how cancers are prevented and treated.

In addition to this, Russia is exploring the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to create

personalized cancer vaccines. Alexander Gintsburg, Director of the Gamaleya National Research Center for Epidemiology and Microbiology, revealed that AI-powered neural networks could dramatically shorten the time needed to develop personalized vaccines, reducing it from hours to less than an hour. This advancement could further accelerate cancer treatment development, providing tailored therapies for patients in a fraction of the time. This breakthrough highlights Russia's commitment to using cutting-edge technology, including mRNA and AI, in the fight against cancer. If successful, it could pave the way for more affordable and accessible cancer treatment options for patients worldwide.

## If They Tax Us, We Tax Them Same Amount: Trump Threatens India With Reciprocal Tariff

**WASHINGTON DC:** US President-elect Donald Trump has once again emphasized his plan to impose reciprocal tariffs in response to India's high tariffs on certain American imports. Speaking to reporters on Monday, Trump expressed frustration with what he described as unfair trade practices, particularly targeting India and Brazil for imposing high duties on US products.



"Reciprocal. If they tax us, we tax them the same amount. They tax us, we tax them. Almost in all cases, they're taxing us, and we haven't been taxing them," Trump said, reaffirming his stance on trade imbalances. His remarks came in response to a question about potential trade agreements with China, but he extended his criticism to India, noting that countries like India and Brazil impose significant tariffs on US goods.

Trump pointed out the disparity in trade practices, saying, "The word reciprocal is important because if somebody charges us — India, we don't have to talk about our own — if India charges us 100 percent, do we charge them nothing for the same? You know, they send in a bicycle and we send them a bicycle. They charge us 100 and 200. India charges a lot."

He argued that if countries like India choose to impose high tariffs, the US would respond in kind, imposing similar duties on their products. The remarks reflect a broader frustration with trade policies that Trump believes disadvantage American businesses. Trump's incoming Commerce Secretary pick, Howard Lutnick,

echoed this sentiment, emphasizing that reciprocity would be a central focus for the Trump administration. "How you treat us is how you should expect to be treated," Lutnick stated, underlining the administration's intent to adopt a more assertive stance in international trade relations.

The threat of reciprocal tariffs adds another layer of complexity to US-India trade relations, as the two countries continue to navigate their economic ties under the incoming Trump administration. The focus on tariffs signals a shift toward protectionist trade policies, with India and other countries facing the potential for retaliatory measures.

## Yoon Suk Yeol Fails To Appear For Questioning Over Martial Law Declaration

**SEOUL:** South Korea's impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol failed to appear before the Corruption Investigation Office (CIO) on Wednesday, which had summoned him for questioning over his controversial martial law declaration. Yoon, who was stripped of his presidential duties by the National Assembly following his brief December 3 martial law announcement, is under investigation for charges of insurrection and abuse of power.

The CIO had called Yoon to its office in suburban Seoul at 10:00 am (0100

GMT) for questioning. However, Yoon did not show up, and an official from the CIO confirmed to AFP that he had failed to comply with the summons. His legal team had previously stated that they do not believe the insurrection charges are legally valid, but they assured they would cooperate with the investigation.

In response to the summons, the CIO revealed that a notice had been sent to Yoon, but it was returned "undelivered" after an unidentified individual at the presidential office refused to

accept it. As a result, Yoon's failure to appear on Wednesday was treated as non-compliance with the initial summons.

The investigation into Yoon is being conducted by South Korean prosecutors, with the involvement of a joint task force of police, the defense ministry, and anti-corruption investigators. Reports also indicated that the Presidential Security Services had blocked the joint investigation team's attempt to raid a computer server at the presidential compound.







# Markets Slide Amid Global Uncertainty

Sensex Falls 502 Points, Nifty Closes Below 24,200

Domestic stock markets have been volatile for the third consecutive session. Investors are on alert in the backdrop of the US Fed meeting and US economic data. Expectations of tariff hikes during the upcoming Trump administration and the surging dollar have hurt market sentiment. Moreover, the high valuations of companies are another reason. Nifty closed below 24,200 as selling pressure increased for heavyweights. Sensex lost 502 points and settled at 80,182.



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The BSE Sensex, which closed at 80,684 in the previous session, opened at 80,666 today. It touched an intraday low of 80,050. It reached an intraday high of 80,868. It finally closed at 80,182, down 502 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 24,297 on Wednesday, touched a low of 24,149 and a high of 24,394. It closed at 24,198, down 137 points. The Bank Nifty fell 695 points to settle at 52,139.

In the Nifty50, 17 companies gained while 33 lost. Trent, Dr. Reddy's, Cipla, Wipro, and Reliance were the top gainers. Tata Motors, Power Grid, BEL, NTPC, and JSW Steel suffered the most losses. Today, buying was seen in the pharma, healthcare, and IT sectors. Selling pressure was seen in the defense, media, PSE, CPSE, bank, metal, finance, commodities, and energy sectors.

Market breadth turned in favor of sellers on NSE today. Out of 2895 shares traded, 881 gained and 1932 lost. Shares of 94 companies reached 52-week highs while 34 reached 52-week lows. Investors can buy shares of Veegard, StarHealth, Mankind, Dr. Reddy's and Godrej Industries in the short term.



Rupee hits record low of 84.95 against dollar. Nuama has given a buy rating to Berger Paints and Indigo Paints. Citi has maintained neutral rating with a target price of Rs. 300 for M&M Finance. Sai Life Sciences gained 40% on the day of listing. Vishal Megamart rose 40% and Mobikwik rose 90%. Bharti Hexacom shares surge 5%. Sebi to tighten controls to deal with suspicious trading activities. Shriram Finance raises \$1.28 billion in multi-currency funds. Jefferies gives buy rating to Caffeine Technologies on potential expansion in Asian countries. Shares rally. 13 lakh shares of Canara exchange hands in a block deal. Citi gives buy rating to LIC Housing Finance.

**Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Limited (DRREDDY)**  
Strong revenue growth, robust R&D spending (~9% of revenue), and leadership in generics

and biosimilars. Regulatory challenges and dependency on global market conditions. Suitable for long-term investors seeking exposure to the healthcare sector with strong growth and profitability prospects.

**V-Guard Industries Limited (VGUARD)**

Strong revenue growth driven by increasing urban and rural penetration. Expanding product portfolio, including kitchen appliances and water heaters. Leadership in voltage stabilizers, diversified product mix, and growing brand visibility. Seasonal demand fluctuations and high competition in consumer electronics. A stable pick for medium- to long-term investors look-

ing to capitalize on India's growing consumer electronics market.

**Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Limited (STARHEALTH)**

Market leader in retail health insurance with a robust distribution network. High competition in the health insurance sector and regulatory changes. Suitable for long-term investors betting on the growth of India's health insurance market.



**Mankind Pharma Limited**

Strong domestic market presence, growing consumer healthcare portfolio, and expansion in US generics. Heavy reliance on Indian market and potential pricing pressures in exports. Ideal for long-term investors looking for a mix of pharma and consumer healthcare growth.



**Godrej Industries Limited (GODREJIND)**

Strong presence in consumer products through Godrej Consumer. Growing real estate portfolio under Godrej Properties. Diversification into agrochemicals and chemicals. Diversified business model with exposure to multiple high-growth sectors. Complex business structure and cyclical risks in some segments (e.g., real estate and chemicals). A diversified long-term pick, suitable for investors looking for balanced exposure across industries.



## Isuzu Motors India Achieves Major Milestone with One Lakh Vehicle Rollout from Sri City facility

- The one lakh unit milestone was achieved with the rollout of the popular Isuzu D-MAX V-Cross from its Sri City Plant, Andhra Pradesh
- The company has successfully doubled its vehicle production over the last two years



**18 December 2024:** Isuzu Motors India announced their milestone achievement of rolling out one lakh vehicles from its state-of-the-art manufacturing facility at Sri City, Andhra Pradesh. This remarkable achievement underscores Isuzu's steadfast commitment to the Indian market and reflects its growing presence in the country's automotive market. The one lakh vehicle milestone achievement was marked with the rollout of the popular Isuzu D-MAX V-Cross model that has consistently garnered trust and recognition for its durability and reliability.

Dr. N. Yuvaraj, Secretary to Government, Industries Commerce & Food Processing Department, Andhra Pradesh was the chief guest of the event. The guests of honour were Dr. Ravindra Sannareddy, Founder & MD, Sri City along with Makoto Sado, Chairman, Sri City Japanese Company Group.

Isuzu Motors India began its operations in 2016 by setting up its manufacturing facility in Sri City. Bringing synergy in manufacturing operations, the company commenced its Phase-II operations in 2020 with the inauguration of the state-of-the-art Press Shop facility and engine assembly plant. Since then, more than 14,00,000 pressed parts have been rolled out from the facility.

Driven by the growing market demand, Isuzu Motors India has doubled its vehicle and engine production in the last two years, showcasing the company's ability to adapt to evolving customer needs, while adhering to the same global levels of quality for which Isuzu is known for. Aligning with its long-term 'Make in India' strategy, Isuzu Motors India has strengthened its operations for the domestic market and has contributed towards expanding Isuzu's footprint globally.

Sharing his thoughts, Mr. Rajesh Mittal, President & Managing Director, Isuzu Motor India, said, "At Isuzu Motors India, we take immense pride in our journey here in India. Over the years, the company has achieved significant milestones in both production and exports. One key highlight is that around 22% of our production line workforce comprises talented women. This showcases our commitment to fostering diversity and inclusion. Additionally, 100% of our production workforce are diploma engineers and they make world-class vehicles adhering to the same global standards of Isuzu's manufacturing and operational excel-

lence. This has enabled us to become the leading exporter of commercial vehicles from India. As we continue to grow, we remain committed to provide products and services of the highest level of quality in India and in the overseas market."

Commenting on the occasion, Mr. Toru Kishimoto, Deputy Managing Director of Isuzu Motors India, said "Achieving this milestone is a testament to the trust our customers place in delivering vehicles of reliable and versatile products of the highest quality that are made for India. This is a proud moment for us and it reflects our unwavering commitment to India, a market of immense potential and strategic importance to Isuzu. We remain focused on delivering value-driven, reliable, and innovative mobility solutions to the delight of our customers."

In addition to ramping up production, Isuzu Motors India has significantly expanded its reach across the country this year. Going forward, the company is looking to increase its touch points for taking the brand much closer to its customers for a seamless ownership experience.

## India Can Double Global Trade Share with Enhanced Trade Strategies: CII

India can more than double its share in global trade, currently at 2 percent, by focusing on deeper integration into global value chains, improving digital trade infrastructure, and enhancing the competitiveness of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), according to the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

Sanjay Budhia, Chairman of the CII National Committee on EXIM, emphasized the chamber's commitment to collaborating with the government to overcome critical challenges impeding the growth of manufacturing and exports. He outlined that India's growth in global trade would rely heavily on integrating into global value chains, which would foster better collaboration and open new markets for Indian businesses.

Additionally, Budhia highlighted the need for enhanced digital trade infrastructure, which could streamline trade processes and improve efficiency. The development of a robust digital infrastructure will not only make trading easier but also more cost-effective, thereby strengthening India's position in international markets.

A major part of India's trade growth strategy involves boosting the competitiveness of its MSMEs, which play a vital role in the economy. By providing MSMEs with better access to global markets and supporting their growth with modern tools and technologies, India can significantly improve its export performance.

Budhia also called for the adoption of best practices followed by developed countries, particularly in the area of customs regulations. He specifically pointed to the CAARR (Customs Authority on Advance Ruling) Regulation, 2021, which aims to provide certainty in duty liabilities and reduce global trade costs. Implementing such regulations will help Indian exporters navigate trade hurdles with greater clarity and confidence.

The roadmap laid out by CII emphasizes both systemic improvements and practical initiatives that could propel India into a more competitive position in the global trade arena, setting the stage for significant economic growth in the coming years.

## BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty Decline Sharply Amid Selling Pressure and FII Outflows

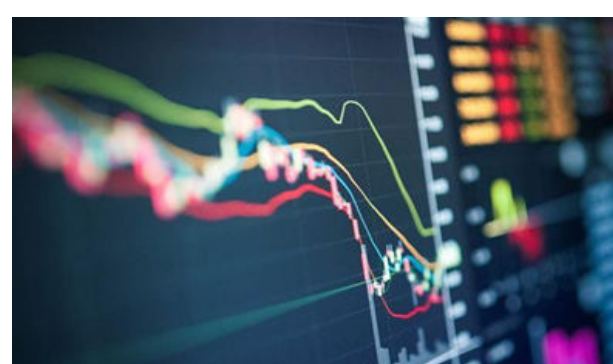
Benchmark indices BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty 50 experienced a significant correction on Tuesday, dropping by over 1 percent each, primarily due to widespread selling across sectors.

The 30-share Sensex plunged by 1,064.12 points, or 1.30 percent, closing at 80,684.45. The broader NSE Nifty 50 also ended lower, falling by 332.25 points, or 1.35 percent, to settle at 24,336.

The volatility index, India VIX, surged by 3.31 percent to 14.49, signaling heightened market volatility. The sharp decline in the indices came amid ongoing concerns over global economic conditions and the uncertainty surrounding the U.S.

Federal Reserve's interest rate decisions. Investors were particularly cautious ahead of the Fed's expected rate cut announcement, scheduled for Wednesday.

Market analysts pointed to continuous selling by foreign institutional investors (FIIs) as a major factor contributing to the market fall. Brokers noted that the foreign outflows created additional pressure on the markets, resulting in widespread declines across stocks. The Fed's rate cut decision, which is widely anticipated to provide economic relief, could influence investor sentiment globally and trigger further market volatility.



The market correction reflects the broader global uncertainties, as investors adjust their portfolios in response to shifting economic signals. As the market remains sensitive to both domestic and international developments, all eyes are now on the outcome of the U.S. Federal Reserve's meeting and its potential impact on global markets.



## OpenAI Expands ChatGPT Search to All Users, Challenging Google

OpenAI has expanded its ChatGPT-powered internet search functionality to all users, marking a significant step in the ongoing competition with Google's long-standing dominance in the search engine market.

# OpenAI



Initially introduced in October 2023, the search feature in ChatGPT was available only to paying subscribers. However, OpenAI's latest upgrade now makes this tool accessible to free users as well. The enhancement allows users to access real-time information and provides direct links to relevant sources, positioning ChatGPT as a strong contender against traditional search engines.

The key improvement in this update is the ability for ChatGPT to deliver fast, up-to-date answers sourced in real time from the web. This is a major shift from the previous version, which was limited by data cutoffs, leaving it unable to provide current information. With the new integration, ChatGPT can now offer users accurate and timely responses, reducing the need to rely solely on conventional search platforms for information.

Kevin Weil, OpenAI's Chief Product Officer, made the announcement in a video statement on YouTube, highlighting the global rollout of the search feature. "We're bringing search to all logged-in free users of ChatGPT," Weil said, emphasizing that it would now be available across all platforms where ChatGPT is used.

This expansion aligns with OpenAI's strategy to enhance ChatGPT's utility and increase its competitive edge in the AI-driven market. By offering real-time search capabilities, ChatGPT is poised to challenge Google, which has long been the dominant force in the search engine industry. As users continue to seek faster, more accurate answers, this move could reshape how individuals access and consume information on the internet.

## Plant-Based Meat Alternatives to Increased Depression Risk in Vegetarians

A recent study published in *Food Frontiers* has raised concerns about the potential mental health effects of plant-based meat alternatives (PBMA) on vegetarians. Researchers at the University of Surrey analyzed data from over 3,300 vegetarians, revealing that those who consumed PBMA had a 42% increased risk of depression compared to vegetarians who avoided these alternatives.

The study also identified higher levels of inflammation and blood pressure, along with lower levels of 'good' cholesterol (HDL) in vegetarians who ate plant-based meat substitutes. The research compared two groups: one that consumed PBMA, made from plant-based proteins like soy, and the other that did not.

While PBMA is often promoted as a more sustainable choice for reducing the environmental impact of meat production, it is considered an 'ultra-processed food.' These products are often high in additives and chemicals that help them mimic the taste and texture of meat. Despite the potential environmental benefits, the study found no clear health benefits from consuming PBMA.

The findings suggest that PBMA consumption may be linked to increased inflammation, as indicated by elevated C-reactive protein (CRP) levels and lower HDL cholesterol, raising concerns about its long-term effects. However, the researchers stressed that further studies are needed to fully understand the relationship between



these foods and mental health.

Co-author Anthony Whetton acknowledged that PBMA can serve as a useful transition for people adopting a vegetarian diet, supporting sustainable agricultural practices. However, he emphasized that more research, particularly longitudinal studies with diverse populations, is required to confirm the findings and explore the connection between PBMA and mood disorders.

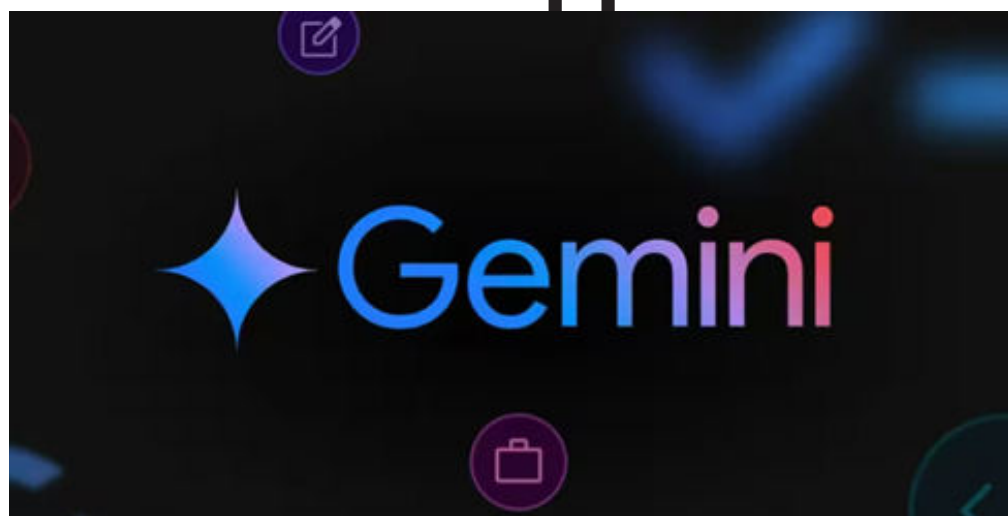
Interestingly, the study also found that vegetarians consuming PBMA had a 40% lower risk of irritable bowel syndrome compared to those who avoided it. Despite these mixed findings, the study concludes that PBMA may be a safe option as part of a balanced diet, although the possible link to depression and inflammation warrants closer investigation.

## Google Tests AI-Powered Suggestions Feature for iOS App

Google is reportedly testing a new AI feature for its iOS app that offers intelligent suggestions while typing search queries. According to a recent report from Android Authority, the tech giant is working on a feature designed to enhance search results by providing real-time AI suggestions based on the context of the query.

This feature, which is still under development, has not yet been made available in the global or beta versions of the app. The new functionality is part of Google's ongoing efforts to integrate AI into its services to make user searches more efficient and personalized. During a teardown of the Google app, Android Authority discovered a new pencil icon located next to the camera and microphone icons in the app's search text field.

Tapping on this pencil icon opens a dedicated AI suggestions interface, allowing users to refine their search by receiving helpful prompts. When users begin typing a query, the feature activates and shows related suggestions that help clarify or narrow down the



search. The suggestions appear in a full-screen interface with three rows of contextually relevant options. These rows are categorized by themes such as budget, occasion, or the relationship with the person for whom the search is intended.

For example, if a user types "buying a birthday gift," the AI may generate suggestions like "less than Rs. 5,000" for budget, "anniversary" for occasion, and "wife" for relationship. Users can select relevant filters, such as "less than

Rs. 5,000," "anniversary," and "wife," which would refine the search results to show information from websites catering specifically to those criteria.

This AI-powered feature is expected to offer users a more personalized and accurate search experience, making it easier to find exactly what they are looking for with minimal effort. While this feature is still in development, it holds potential to improve search accuracy and user engagement within the Google app on iOS.

## Antioxidant Inspired by 'Conan the Bacterium' Could Shield Humans from Radiation



New research inspired by *Deinococcus radiodurans*, a bacterium known for its remarkable ability to withstand extreme levels of radiation, has led to the creation of a synthetic antioxidant that could potentially protect humans from ionising radiation. This bacterium, often referred to as "Conan the Bacterium," can endure radiation doses that would be lethal to most life forms, making it a subject of intense scientific interest.

A study published on December 12, 2024, in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (PNAS) explored how *D. radiodurans* survives under extreme conditions that typically cause DNA damage, protein oxidation, and cellular destruction. The bacterium's resilience is attributed to its robust cell wall, efficient DNA repair mechanisms, and antioxidant properties that neutralise harmful free radicals.

Inspired by these features, researchers led by Michael Daly, a geneticist at the Uniformed Services University in Maryland, developed a synthetic antioxidant designed to mimic the bacterium's protective capabilities. The resulting compound, called manganese-dependent peptide (MDP),

combines manganese ions, phosphate ions, and a peptide based on the amino acids found in *D. radiodurans*. According to co-author Brian Hoffman, a chemistry professor at Northwestern University, this complex interacts to form a highly effective radioprotective compound that can withstand radiation levels more than 12,000 times higher than the lethal dose for humans.

The antioxidant's potential applications in space exploration and healthcare have garnered significant interest. Daly emphasized that astronauts on long-duration missions, such as to Mars, could benefit from this compound to mitigate the risks of prolonged exposure to cosmic radiation. Additionally, MDP could aid in treating acute radiation syndrome and may even offer benefits in combating metabolic aging. However, the researchers note that further studies are required to assess the compound's safety and efficacy for human use.

As the team continues to refine the structure of MDP, the potential of this synthetic antioxidant grows, offering a promising new approach to protecting humans from the harmful effects of ionising radiation.

## Waymo Explores Expansion into Japan with Self-Driving Test Vehicles

Self-driving car startup Waymo is preparing to test the waters for international expansion by embarking on a fact-finding mission to Tokyo, Japan. The company, which has primarily operated within the U.S., is looking into the feasibility of extending its autonomous vehicle services beyond its home market for the first time.



To gain insight into how its self-driving technology could operate in a different cultural and regulatory environment, Waymo is sending over 25 Jaguar I-PACE SUVs to Japan. These vehicles will be deployed starting in 2025 as part of a comprehensive exploration of how autonomous services might function in Japan's dense urban settings.

Waymo's vehicles have so far been tested extensively in the U.S., but the company recognizes that challenges such as local traffic laws, infrastructure,

and consumer preferences may differ significantly in Japan. The fact-finding mission aims to understand these factors and assess the potential for launching a self-driving car service in the country.

The move represents a significant step for Waymo as it seeks to expand its reach and capitalize on global demand for autonomous transportation. Japan, known for its technological innovation

and high interest in self-driving vehicles, offers a promising market for the company to explore.

Waymo's international ambitions are set to be shaped by how its vehicles can adapt to Japan's unique driving conditions and regulatory framework. By sending vehicles to Japan for testing, the company hopes to refine its autonomous systems and determine how to roll out a successful service in one of the world's most advanced automotive markets.

This move reflects a broader trend of self-driving companies eyeing international markets, as the technology continues to evolve and gain traction around the world. For Waymo, this expansion is a pivotal step towards broadening its global footprint and potentially bringing its autonomous vehicles to new markets in the near future.



## Ace spinner Ashwin announces retirement from international cricket

India's premier off-spinner, Ravichandran Ashwin, shocked the cricketing world on Wednesday by announcing his immediate retirement from international cricket in the midst of the ongoing Test series against Australia.

Ashwin, who has been a key figure for India in Test cricket, retires as the second-highest wicket-taker for India in the format, with an impressive tally of 537 wickets from 106 Test matches. The only player ahead of him on the list is the legendary Anil Kumble, who holds the record with 619 wickets. While Ashwin has retired from international cricket, he has confirmed that

he will continue to play in club cricket, keeping his passion for the game alive.

At the end of the drawn third Test against Australia, Ashwin made the announcement during a joint press conference with Indian captain Rohit Sharma. In a brief statement, Ashwin said, "I won't take too much of your time. Today will be the last day for me as an India cricketer." After making his announcement, he declined to take any questions and left the stage.

The 38-year-old spinner's retirement marks the end of an illustrious career in international cricket, which saw him play crucial

roles in India's successes across various formats. In the most recent day-night Test in Adelaide, Ashwin claimed one wicket. Following his announcement, Rohit Sharma, the Indian captain, expressed his support, stating, "He was very, very sure of his decision. We should stand by what he wants."

Ashwin's retirement leaves a significant void in Indian cricket, but his contribution to the team, particularly in Test matches, will be remembered for years to come. His remarkable achievements on the field and his leadership off it have made him a true legend of Indian cricket.

## India vs Australia: Rain gods play spoilsport again as 3rd Test ends in draw



India managed to escape with a vital draw in the weather-affected third Test against Australia, with intermittent rain throughout the day severely disrupting play. The match ended in a stalemate, leaving the five-match series intriguingly tied at 1-1.

Resuming the final day at 252 for nine, India added just 8 more runs, getting all out for 260 in their first innings. With little time remaining in the day due to the rain-impacted morning session, Australia came out aggressively with their batting, but India's bowlers kept them under pressure. Australia's batters managed to score 89 runs for seven wickets in just 18 overs before captain Pat Cummins made a bold declaration, setting India a target of 275 runs with 54 overs left to chase.

However, rain continued to play spoilsport. Bad light and worsening weather forced an early tea break, with India at 8 for no loss from 2.1 overs. Unfortunately, as the rain intensified, no further play was possible, and the match was called off with India still in pursuit of the target.

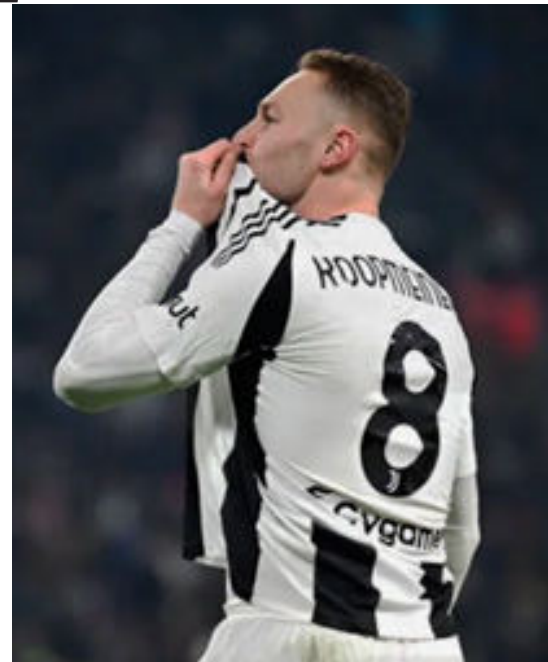
The drawn result keeps the series finely balanced as both teams now head into the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne, where the outcome of the next match will be crucial. With the series tied 1-1, the remaining Tests promise to be full of drama and anticipation. The unpredictable weather may have impacted the final day, but it has only added to the excitement as the series heads toward its next chapter.

## Teun Koopmeiners Stunner Sends Juventus Into Italian Cup Quarter-Finals

Holdings Juventus secured their place in the quarter-finals of the Italian Cup with a commanding 4-0 victory over Cagliari at home on Tuesday. The win saw the 15-time champions progress confidently to the next stage, thanks to a standout performance, including a sensational free-kick by Teun Koopmeiners.

The match got off to a strong start for Juventus, with Dusan Vlahovic opening the scoring just before halftime. In the 44th minute, Vlahovic showed great composure, swiveling to receive a pass from Kenan Yildiz and calmly slotting the ball into the far corner, giving Juventus a 1-0 lead.

In the second half, Koopmeiners delivered a moment of brilliance in the 53rd minute. The summer signing from Atalanta struck a powerful left-footed free-kick from 25 meters out that left Cagliari's goalkeeper with no chance, doubling Juventus' advantage. This goal was his second for the club, and it underscored his growing influence in the team.



Despite Juventus continuing to press forward, Vlahovic had two more goals ruled out for offside. However, the hosts weren't finished. Francisco Conceicao extended the lead to 3-0 in the 80th minute, cutting in from the right flank and finishing with a clinical shot. Nico Gonzalez added a fourth just before the final whistle, chipping the ball over the goalkeeper in the 89th minute to seal the dominant victory.

Juventus coach Thiago Motta was pleased with his team's performance, particularly given the challenges they've faced this season. "These lads are going through a tough situation in the right way, giving their all in every training session," he said after the match.

With the win, Juventus join Lazio, Empoli, Bologna, and AC Milan in the quarter-finals. Serie A leaders Atalanta are set to play Cesena on Wednesday, while Roma will face Sampdoria, and Inter Milan will host Udinese to complete the round of 16.

## West Indies Level Series with Dominant Win Over India

Hayley Matthews played a sensational knock of 85 not out to guide the West Indies to a commanding nine-wicket victory over India in the second T20I, leveling the three-match series 1-1. Matthews' brilliant performance overshadowed Smriti Mandhana's classy 62 as the West Indies ended their nine-match losing streak against India in T20 internationals.

India posted a competitive 159/9 after Mandhana's 41-ball 62 and a quickfire 32 from Richa Ghosh helped the hosts recover from early setbacks. Despite the strong start, India couldn't capitalize fully, with the West Indies bowling attack proving effective in the final overs.

However, West Indies launched a ferocious assault in their chase. Matthews, who had earlier contributed with the ball,



taking 2/36, took center stage with the bat, blasting 17 fours in her 47-ball 85. The West Indies chased down the 160-run target in just 15.4 overs, reaching 160/1. This victory was particularly sweet for the Caribbean side, as it marked their first win over India since November 2016, breaking a nine-match losing streak.

Qiana Joseph played an important role, contributing 38 runs from 22 balls, including 6 fours and 2 sixes, while Shemaine Campbelle remained unbeaten on 25 as the West Indies comfortably

cruised to their biggest win against India in terms of wickets.

The series now heads into a thrilling decider on Thursday, with India having won the first match by 49 runs. With both teams level at 1-1, the final T20I promises to be an exciting conclusion to the series.

## Bumrah Becomes Leading Wicket-Taker in World Test Championship 2023-25 Cycle

Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah has become the leading wicket-taker in the ongoing ICC World Test Championship (WTC) 2023-25 cycle. The 31-year-old surpassed his teammate, veteran spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, during the third Test against Australia at the Gabba in Brisbane. Bumrah now has 66 wickets in 13 matches, while Ashwin, who announced his retirement at the end of the third Test, has claimed 63 wickets in 14 Tests.

Bumrah's remarkable performance in Brisbane, where he helped India to a commanding position, was on full display. In Australia's second innings, he dismissed Usman Khawaja, followed by Marnus Labuschagne for just 1, and then cleaned up Pat Cummins with the first ball of his second spell. Across both innings, Bumrah finished with a match haul of 9 wickets for 94 runs in 34 overs, demonstrating his dominance on Australian soil.

Bumrah's rise has put him in contention to break multiple records. If he picks up six more wickets in the remaining two matches of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, he will surpass Ashwin's record of most wickets for India in a single WTC cycle. Ashwin claimed 71 wickets in the 2019-21 WTC



cycle, while Australia's Nathan Lyon topped the previous cycle with 88 wickets in 20 matches.

Additionally, Bumrah became India's leading Test wicket-taker in Australia, surpassing Kapil Dev's record of 51 wickets during the second session of the final day of the Gabba Test. Bumrah has now taken 12 five-wicket hauls in Test cricket, with eight of them coming in SENA countries (South Africa, England, New Zealand, and Australia), making him the first Indian to achieve this feat. This broke the previous record held by Kapil Dev, who had seven five-wicket hauls in Australia.



## Exciting Trailer Release for 'RRR – Behind and Beyond' Documentary

The blockbuster film \*RRR\* has left a lasting impact on the global film industry, and now fans are getting an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at its creation. The documentary \*RRR – Behind and Beyond\* offers a fascinating glimpse into the making of the film, showcasing the journey that led to its record-breaking success. Set to release on December 20th, 2024, on selected screens, the documentary dives deep into the creative process and personal experiences of the film's makers.

The documentary trailer, released yesterday, highlights key moments from the film's production, including director S.S. Rajamouli's visionary approach to the project. The film's journey began on November 19, 2018, when the first shot was filmed, featuring Rama Raju presenting a 'wanted' picture to Bheem—an iconic scene that set the tone for the blockbuster success that followed. \*RRR\* hit theaters in 2022, becoming a massive hit, and the song \*Naatu Naatu\* won an Oscar in 2023, further cementing its place in cinematic history.

In the documentary, Rajamouli reflects



on the challenges and excitement of creating \*RRR\*. He shares insights into his long-held dream of bringing together two superstar heroes, Ram Charan and N.T. Rama Rao Jr., for a collaboration of this scale. Rajamouli admits that despite the confidence he had in his previous 12 films, \*RRR\* was different. He expresses that he had never felt as much pressure as he did while making this film, due to the immense

expectations surrounding it.

The documentary offers a unique opportunity for fans to experience the dedication, passion, and challenges that went into creating \*RRR\*. It sheds light on the minds behind the film, providing a personal connection to the process that resulted in one of the most successful films of recent times.

## Siddhu Jonnalagadda's Jack Set To Release on April 10, 2025

Tollywood actor Siddhu Jonnalagadda, known for his impressive performances, is currently working on multiple projects. One of his upcoming films, \*Jack\*, directed by Bommarillu Bhaskar, has recently made headlines with a major announcement. The movie, which is being produced under the banner of Sri Venkateswara Cine Chitra (SVCC), is set to release on April 10, 2025.



\*Jasaab\*, starring Prabhas, which was also slated for the same release date. Reports have hinted at a possible postponement of \*Rajasaab\*, and in light of this, the makers of \*Jack\* have strategically unveiled a new poster confirming its release on the same date. The poster showcases a striking image of a jeep in a desolate landscape, with a gun in the foreground, creating a sense of mystery and intrigue around the film's storyline.

with Siddhu Jonnalagadda in the lead role. The film's music is composed by Achu Rajamani, while the costume design is handled by Neeraja Kona. Fans are eagerly anticipating the movie, and the new poster has only added to the excitement, hinting at a gripping narrative that will keep audiences on the edge of their seats.

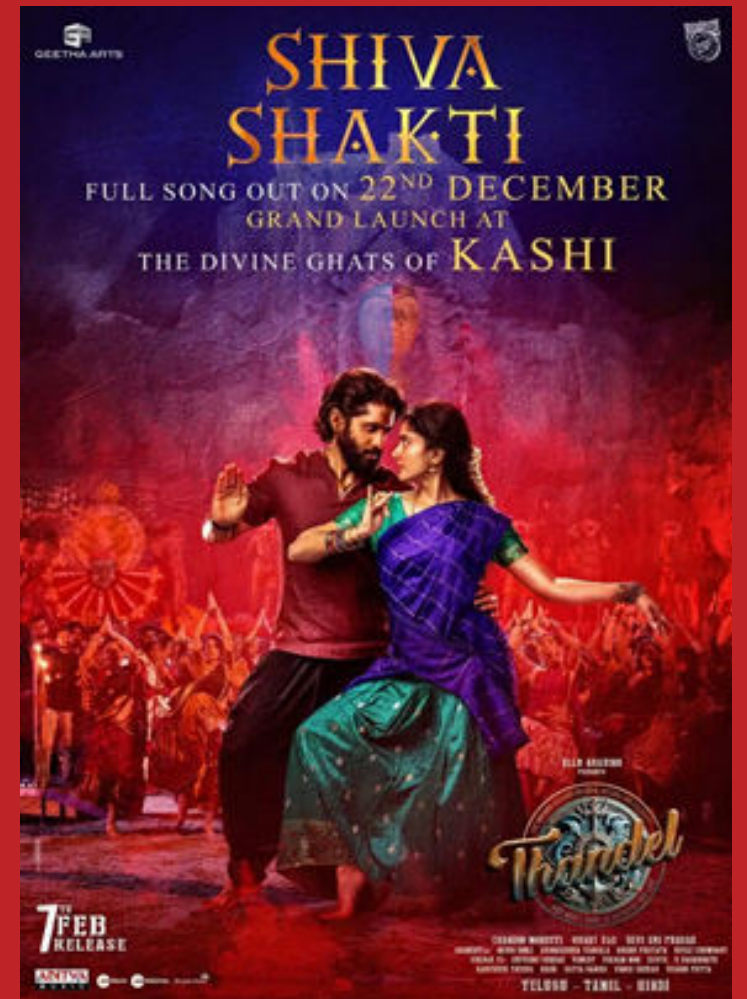
In addition to \*Jack\*, Siddhu Jonnalagadda has other projects in the pipeline, including the highly anticipated \*Tillu 3\*. The actor's growing fanbase and his back-to-back movie releases are sure to create a significant buzz in the industry in the coming months.

With \*Jack\* set to release on April 10, 2025, it will undoubtedly be a big date for Tollywood moviegoers. Fans of Siddhu Jonnalagadda and action-packed thrillers are in for an exciting cinematic experience.

This announcement comes amidst speculation about the release of \*Ra-

Directed by BVSN Prasad, \*Jack\* promises to be an action-packed thriller

## Thandel Shiva Shakti Song Launching In Kashi



The highly anticipated film \*Thandel\*, starring Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi, continues to create a buzz in the industry. Directed by Chandoo Mondeti, the film has already captured the audience's attention with its teaser and the massive success of its first single, Bujji Thalli, which has garnered over 30 million views.

In a recent update, the makers have announced the release date for the film's second single, \*Shiva Shakti\*. The song, which is a special tribute to Shivaratri, will be launched on December 22nd in the spiritual heart of India – the temple town of Kashi. This spiritual anthem promises to be as powerful as it is electrifying, with deep connections to the cultural heritage of Srikakulam and the ancient Sri Mukhalingam Shiva temple. The song will undoubtedly resonate with the audience, blending devotion with vibrant energy.

The poster for \*Shiva Shakti\* showcases Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi in powerful poses reminiscent of Shiva and Shakti. Set against the backdrop of a grand Jathara, their fierce expressions and dynamic presence add to the intensity of the visuals. The song's choreography, handled by Sekhar Master, promises to be equally spectacular, while the music, composed by Rockstar Devi Sri Prasad, is expected to further elevate the song's energy.

Produced by Bunny Vas under the Geetha Arts banner and presented by Allu Aravind, \*Thandel\* is set to be Naga Chaitanya's biggest project to date. The film, which boasts a high budget, is slated for release on February 7th, 2025. Fans are eagerly awaiting the arrival of \*Shiva Shakti\* and the film's release, as it promises to deliver a unique cinematic experience.

## Game Changer To Release Dhop Song on December 21

The much-anticipated political drama \*Game Changer\*, starring Ram Charan and Kiara Advani, is set to hit theaters on January 10, 2025. Directed by Shankar Shanmugam, the film is creating a massive buzz across the industry, with fans eagerly awaiting its release in multiple languages. To further build excitement, the makers have announced that the fourth single from the film, \*Dhop\*, will be released on December 21, 2024.

Music composer Thaman has been teasing fans by calling \*Dhop\* one of his finest creations. With his reputation for delivering chart-topping hits, the anticipation for the song is at an all-time high. \*Dhop\* promises to be a powerful addition to the film's soundtrack, and fans are eager to see how it complements the film's intense narrative.

\*Game Changer\* features an ensemble cast that includes prominent actors like Anjali, SJ Suryah, Srikanth, and Samuthirakani, who will be playing pivotal roles. The film's grand scale and compelling storyline are backed by producer Dil Raju, ensuring that it will be a cinematic experience to remember.

The film is expected to deliver a gripping



political drama filled with high-octane action, drama, and suspense. With the release of \*Dhop\*, fans are expecting a musical masterpiece to complement the film's powerful themes and performances. As the countdown to the January release continues, \*Game Changer\* is shaping up to be one of the most awaited films of 2025.

Stay tuned for more updates as \*Game Changer\* prepares for its grand release, and don't miss the launch of \*Dhop\* on December 21!

## Neha Shetty To Sizzle In Pawan Kalyan's OG with Special Song

Pawan Kalyan's upcoming film \*They Call Me OG\* is one of the most anticipated releases of 2025. Directed by Sujeeth, known for his work on \*Saaho\*, the film is currently being shot in Thailand, where the team is working on some crucial action sequences. As the excitement around the film grows, new rumors have surfaced that could further amplify the buzz.

According to sources, \*DJ Tilly\* fame Neha Sshetty is set to make an appearance in a special song in \*OG\*. The actress recently posted intriguing stories on her Instagram, hinting at her involvement in a "crazy project" while she is in Thailand. Fans quickly began speculating that the project in question is none other than Pawan Kalyan's highly anticipated film. Although the news has not been officially confirmed, the possibility of Neha Sshetty joining the film has sparked significant excitement among fans.

The movie also stars Priyanka Arul Mohan as the female lead, with Emraan Hashmi playing the antagonist. Alongside the lead actors, the film features a strong supporting cast including Prakash



Raj, Sriya Reddy, Arjun Das, Shaam, and Harish Uthaman, all of whom are expected to bring depth and intensity to their respective roles. The music for \*OG\* is being composed by Thaman, whose energetic compositions have already raised expectations for the film's soundtrack.

\*OG\*, produced by DVV Entertainment, promises to be a high-octane action thriller that will showcase Pawan Kalyan in an intense new avatar. With Neha Sshetty's rumored special song and a talented ensemble cast, the film is set to be a major hit when it releases in 2025. Fans are eagerly awaiting an official confirmation regarding the song and more updates as the film nears its release.