



**Weather Forecast**

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
H 27° C L 14° C	H 30° C L 19° C	H 26° C L 21° C

# CM Serious Over Minister's Performance

TPN Correspondent  
Andhra Pradesh, Dec 20

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has expressed growing concern over the performance of state ministers, revealing that he is closely monitoring their activities. After a Cabinet meeting, CM Naidu voiced his displeasure over several ministers, especially in-charge ministers, who have failed to visit various districts. He stressed that ministers need to take a more active role in their assigned duties. CM Naidu made it clear that he is keeping track of the ministers' performance and the delay in handling their portfolios. He also expressed dissatisfaction with ministers who have not sufficiently studied the policies they are responsible for. Some ministers reportedly admitted that they had not reviewed the relevant policies at all. The Chief Minister urged his colleagues to study their responsibilities in depth and act promptly. One of the primary concerns raised by CM Naidu was the underutilization of technology within ministries, which he believes is hindering efficient governance. He emphasized that ministers must embrace technology to improve operations and decision-making processes. In addition, during the Cabinet discussions, the proposal to shorten the tenure of local body chairpersons from four years to two and a half years was rejected. Minister Narayana noted that 79 municipalities are approaching the end of their terms by March next year, necessitating action.



On a positive note, CM Naidu announced that Rs. 31,000 crores have been secured for the construction of the new capital. This includes Rs. 15,000 crores from the World Bank and Rs. 16,000 crores from HUDCO. Construction is expected to begin within 30 days, with completion targeted within three years.



## Key Bills and Major Decisions Approved in AP Cabinet Meeting

TPN Correspondent  
Amaravati, Dec 20

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, convened on Thursday for a significant meeting where several key decisions were made. The meeting, which began at 11 am, discussed 21 agenda items and approved multiple important bills and proposals. Among the major decisions, the Cabinet approved the re-tendering of five works related to the Jal Jeevan Mission, which had been cancelled and modified, along with an extension of the agreement period. Additionally, administrative permissions worth Rs. 8,821 crore were granted for 20 engineering works in the capital, Amaravati. The proposal to allocate Rs. 24,316 crore for 25 engineering works in Amaravati was also approved. In terms of staffing, the Cabinet sanctioned the transfer of 176 sanctioned cadre strength to the newly formed 12 Nagar Panchayats in municipalities. **Several significant bills and financial approvals were also given:**

- Real Estate Appellate Tribunal:** Approval for 14 new posts in the Andhra Pradesh Real Estate Appellate Tribunal.
- Loan Approvals for Amaravati Develop-**

**ment:** The Cabinet granted approval for loans of Rs. 11,000 crore from HUDCO and Rs. 16,000 crore from KfW for Amaravati's development.

- Extension for Supernumerary Tehsil-dars:** The Cabinet permitted an extension of two years for 679 supernumerary deputy tehsildars who were appointed for the village land survey under the AP Reserve Project.
- Krishi Vigyan Kendra Land Allocation:** Approval for 50 acres of land in B Tandrapadu village, Kurnool, for the establishment of the Krishi Vigyan Kendra under Acharya NG Ranga Agriculture University.

Additional approvals included stamp duty exemptions for flood victims and a Rs. 1,000 crore loan from the National Cooperative Development Corporation to purchase grain. The Cabinet also approved tenders for the left main canal works of the Polavaram project and a joint venture between NTPC and NREDCAP for clean energy projects. The Cabinet further granted Rs. 32.45 crore for educational supplies for inter students in government institutions and sanctioned funds for the implementation of mid-day meals in 475 government junior colleges starting this December.



## YS Jagan Criticizes Chandrababu for Unkept Promises and Mismanagement

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## Rahul Booked for Attempted Murder After Scuffle in Parliament

- BJP Files Complaint Against Rahul Gandhi
- Scuffle at Parliament Leaves Leaders Injured
- Rahul Gandhi Denies Allegations, Alleges Threats
- Congress Demands Amit Shah's Resignation

TPN Correspondent  
New Delhi, Dec 20

Senior Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has been booked for attempted murder following a scuffle between Opposition and National Democratic Alliance (NDA) MPs at the Parliament complex on Thursday, December 19. BJP leaders, including MPs Anurag Thakur and Bansuri Swaraj, filed a complaint at the Parliament Street Police Station, accusing Gandhi of "physical assault and incitement."



investigating.

In the complaint, BJP alleged that Gandhi pushed a senior BJP member during the altercation, a claim denied by the Congress leader. The complaint includes charges under multiple sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), including 109 (abetment), 115 (abetment of offense punishable with death), 117 (abetment of offense involving a large number of persons), 125 (endangering personal safety), 131 (assault or criminal force), and 351 (criminal intimidation). Police have confirmed receipt of the complaint and are

The altercation reportedly occurred at the Parliament entrance, Makar Dwar, during protests by both sides over alleged insults to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Former Union minister Pratap Chandra Sarangi and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge were injured in the melee.

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India's Top 200 Self-made Entrepreneurs of the Millennia 2024

#	Founder(s)	Company	Estimated Company Value (INR crore)	Main Industry	Founded Year	Company
141	Madhusudanan R, Prabhu Rangarajan, Muthukumar Ayyakkannu	M2P Fintech	6,600.0	Financial Services	2,014	Chennai
142	Raghavendra Rao Bondada	Bondada Engineering	6,400.0	Telecommunication	2,012	Hyderabad
143	Nishanth S., Prateek Dixit, Rohan Nayak	Pocket FM	6,300.0	Media & Entertainment	2,018	Bengaluru
144	Jahangir Mohammed, Maluk Mohamed	Twin Health	6,200.0	Healthcare	2,018	Chennai
144	Arun Mn	Casagrand	6,200.0	Real Estate	2,004	Chennai
144	Kirti Mehta, Nirav Mehta, Ankur Mehta	Corona Remedies	6,200.0	Healthcare	2,004	Ahmedabad



## AP Sports Policy 2024-2029 Launched By Minister Ramprasad Reddy

### A New Era for Athletes and Sports Development

- Compass Sports App for the Next Generation
- Modern Technology for Sports
- AP is the first state in the country to offer digital certificates

TPN Correspondent  
Vijayawada, Dec 20

The Andhra Pradesh government has introduced a transformative sports policy for 2024-2029, aimed at revitalizing sports in the state and addressing the challenges faced by athletes. Sports Minister M. Ramprasad Reddy unveiled the policy in Vijayawada on Thursday, emphasizing the state's commitment to providing athletes with the support and resources they need.

Minister Ramprasad Reddy highlighted the difficulties athletes faced under the previous government, including the prevalence of fake sports certificates that ru-

ined the careers of many promising athletes. He said that these issues would no longer be tolerated and pointed out that the newly launched sports app would help curb such practices. "Sports had weakened in the previous government, but under the leadership of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, we are taking steps to promote sports and ensure athletes are given their due recognition," he added. The Minister assured athletes that they would no longer face the neglect they experienced under the previous administration. He emphasized that the coalition government is prioritizing sports, with a special focus on providing the necessary infrastructure and opportunities. He also

mentioned plans for the National Games to be held in Amaravati in 2027, which will bring national attention to the state's sporting achievements. Ramprasad Reddy also spoke about plans for school-level sports, indicating that Education Minister Nara Lokesh is working on a special initiative to prioritize sports in schools. The government is also focused on securing funding from the central government to further support sports initiatives. With the new sports policy in place, the Minister expressed confidence that the state would emerge as a hub for sports development, ensuring a brighter future for athletes in Andhra Pradesh.

## Dy CM Pawan Kalyan Appoints N. Ashwini Kumar as Janasena Party General Council

TPN Correspondent  
Andhra Pradesh, Dec 20

In a significant move, Jana Sena Party President Pawan Kalyan has appointed lawyer N. Ashwini Kumar as the General Council of the party. The appointment, announced by the party in a recent statement, is aimed at strengthening the party's legal wing and overseeing its legal affairs.

Ashwini Kumar, a seasoned lawyer with extensive experience in handling cases in both the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana High Courts, will now play a crucial role in managing the legal requirements of the party. The statement mentioned that Kumar has been providing legal services to Jana Sena for several years, and his appointment comes as a part of the party's efforts to streamline and professionalize its legal operations. Pawan Kalyan's decision to appoint Ashwini Kumar is seen as a strategic step in ensuring the party's legal affairs are handled efficiently, especially as the party prepares for future political challenges.



## AP High Court Questions Lack of Arrest for Seetharamanjaneyulu in Mumbai Actress Case

TPN Correspondent  
Andhra Pradesh, Dec 20

The Andhra Pradesh High Court raised significant questions regarding the arrest of Seetharamanjaneyulu, the second accused (A2) in the ongoing Mumbai actress case. During a hearing on anticipatory bail petitions filed by IPS officers Kantirana and Vishal Gunni, the judge inquired why Seetharamanjaneyulu had not been arrested yet.

The court's query stemmed from the fact that Seetharamanjaneyulu had not filed for anticipatory bail, unlike other accused individuals. The government lawyer responded that Seetharamanjaneyulu had not yet filed for such a petition, prompting the judge to question why the arrest had not been made. Kukkal Vidyasagar, the main accused in the case, has already been arrested, while the remaining accused, including Kantirana, Vishal Gunni, and several other officials, filed anticipatory bail petitions. The High Court has granted protection from arrest to the petitioners until the hearing on their bail petitions is concluded. The case, which involves serious charges related to a Mumbai actress, continues to unfold with legal proceedings being closely monitored. The court's comments have raised concerns over the handling of the arrest process for key suspects in the case, with the investigation still ongoing.



## Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar Advocates for Addanki's Development

TPN Correspondent  
Amaravati, Dec 20

Power Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar met with State Municipal Minister Narayana at the CRDA office on Thursday to discuss the development of Addanki Municipal Corporation. During the meeting, Minister Ravi Kumar emphasized the urgent need for funding to improve the infrastructure and facilities in Addanki. The Power Minister specifically requested Minister Narayana to allocate funds for the construction of a mini bypass around Addanki, particularly on both sides of the NSP Canal. He also called for improvements to the town's CC roads and drainage systems, seeking financial support to enhance the town's infrastructure and overall development. Additionally, Minister Ravi Kumar appealed for funds to support the installation of street lights and the beautification of Addanki, with the goal of improving the quality of life for residents and promoting the town's growth. The discussions highlighted the need for coordinated efforts and financial backing to ensure the successful implementation of these projects, paving the way for a brighter future for Addanki.



## Telangana High Court Denies Interim Relief to Mohan Babu

TPN Correspondent  
Hyderabad, Dec 20

The Telangana High Court has denied actor Mohan Babu interim relief in the attempted murder case against him. Mohan Babu sought a bail petition to prevent his arrest until Monday, but the court refused to grant interim orders. The court directed Mohan Babu to file an affidavit confirming his presence before any further decisions are made. The next hear-

ing has been scheduled for Monday.

Mohan Babu addressed the incident at his residence in Jalpalli, clarifying that he did not intentionally harm the journalist. Expressing regret, he apologized to journalists and the victim's family. Last week, Mohan Babu, accompanied by his son Manchu Vishnu, visited the injured journalist at Yashoda Hospital in Somajiguda and offered apologies to his family.

Amid ongoing family disputes, Mohan Babu voluntarily surrendered his licensed double-barrel gun to Chandragiri police through his PRO. Both Mohan Babu and his son Manoj had earlier approached the police over the family tensions. As a precaution, the authorities ordered them to surrender their firearms. The case has drawn significant public attention, with the court's decision on Monday expected to have major implications for the actor.

## YS Jagan Criticizes Chandrababu for Unkept Promises and Mismanagement

TPN Correspondent  
Andhra Pradesh, Dec 20

YSRCP Chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy made bold comments on Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, claiming that the opposition to his government has already intensified just six months into its tenure. Addressing local body representatives and party leaders in Anantapur, Jagan expressed his frustration over Chandrababu's unfulfilled promises and the worsening conditions for the public.

Jagan stated, "Even before taking office, there was strong opposition to Chandrababu's government, something unprecedented in the history of any administration. While we have worked tirelessly for the welfare of every family, Chandrababu promised to do more, pledging to help every household. But instead of fulfilling his promises, he has failed to keep even the most basic of them."

He added, "The promise of welfare schemes, such as the Rs. 20,000 for farmers and free crop insurance, has been completely disregarded. The schemes that were implemented under our government have disappeared, and new ones are not forthcoming. In just six months, a burden of crores has been placed on the people, particularly through increased electricity charges."

Jagan further criticized the state government for its mismanagement, accusing it of running scams through the sand and liquor mafias. He stated, "The people must stand up. It's time for the opposition to fight back. We must unite on public issues, from rising electricity charges to the pending Rs. 3,900 crore in education funding, which is causing children to drop out of school." Reflecting on his own political journey, Jagan recalled the struggles he faced, including 16 months in jail and his wife's multiple bail petitions.

## Rahul Booked for...

Continued from page 1

Sarangi sustained a forehead injury and was hospitalized, while Kharge, who had previously undergone knee surgery, complained of pain after falling. Rahul Gandhi defended himself, alleging that BJP MPs pushed and threatened him as he tried to enter Parliament. "It is our right to enter Parliament," Gandhi told reporters.

### Congress Accuses BJP of Diverting Attention

At a press conference at the AICC headquarters, Congress leaders, including Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi, accused the BJP of attempting to distract from Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks allegedly insulting Ambedkar. The Congress demanded Shah's resignation and an apology. Kharge stated that Congress leaders were peacefully protesting when BJP MPs blocked their entry into Parliament. "They pushed me, causing me to lose balance," Kharge said, condemning Shah's remarks and reaffirming their resolve to continue nationwide protests. The incident has escalated tensions between the ruling NDA and the Opposition, further polarizing parliamentary proceedings.

## YSRCP MLA's Are Ready to Join TDP - Minister Mandipalli

TPN Correspondent  
Andhra Pradesh, Dec 20

Andhra Pradesh Transport Minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy has made striking comments about the current political landscape in the state, claiming that all YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) MLAs are ready to switch to the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) if given the opportunity.

Minister Reddy stated that many YSRCP MLAs have already established communication with TDP Chief N. Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh. He added that the MLAs feel continuing with YSRCP will result in public opposition, prompting their willingness to join the TDP. "The YSRCP will soon be vacant," the minister remarked, indicating that numerous YSRCP leaders, including former MLAs and MPs, are planning to align with the TDP.

He emphasized that the development of Andhra Pradesh is only possible under the leadership of the NDA alliance government. Minister Reddy also dismissed concerns about potential by-elections, stating that the alliance is fully prepared. "Even if elections are held early, there won't be any strong candidates from the YSRCP," he said.

Furthermore, Minister Reddy criticized YSRCP Chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's recent efforts to appease party leaders. He claimed that even offers like granting forms for beef did not motivate leaders to stay loyal to



the YSRCP.

The minister's remarks have created ripples in state politics, raising questions about the stability of the ruling party. With many leaders reportedly seeking a transition to the opposition, the political scenario in Andhra Pradesh is expected to heat up as the state moves closer to simultaneous elections.

## YCP Leaders Joining TDP Due to Discontent with YS Jagan - Srinivasa Reddy



### Focus on Kadapa's Development - MLA Madhavi Reddy



Kadapa MLA Madhavi Reddy echoed similar sentiments, emphasizing the TDP's commitment to the development of Kadapa city and constituency. She revealed that YSRCP corporators have joined the TDP, acknowledging its developmental agenda. "Chandrababu Naidu has assured the people of Kadapa that their city will see significant progress under the TDP government," she said. Madhavi Reddy promised that the TDP will continue to prioritize development projects in Kadapa and expects more leaders to join their ranks in the near future. She reiterated the party's goal to move forward with the unified vision of a prosperous Kadapa city.

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) Polit Bureau member R Srinivasa Reddy has lashed out at the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), claiming that many of its leaders are joining the TDP due to dissatisfaction with YSRCP Chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's leadership. Speaking at a press conference, Reddy highlighted the growing trust in the TDP's vision for development under the leadership of Chandrababu Naidu.

He stated that several YSRCP corporators have switched allegiance to the TDP, drawn by Naidu's efficient governance and the alliance government's focus on progress. "Whoever believes in develop-

ment is welcome to join the TDP," he said, adding that the party is committed to giving significant roles to its senior members and ensuring coordination among all leaders.

Reddy criticized YSRCP leaders for "dreaming" of retaining power through Jamili elections (simultaneous polls). "Their dreams will remain dreams," he said, asserting that the people of Andhra Pradesh will again place their faith in the Telugu Desam Party. He also accused Jagan of avoiding accountability, claiming he fled to Bangalore to escape the pressure of water association elections.

## Harirama Jogayya Letter to Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu to Build Super Specialty Hospital in Palakollu

TPN Correspondent  
Palakollu, Dec 20

Former minister and Kapu leader Harirama Jogayya has penned a letter to Andhra Pradesh Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu and MP Srinivas Verma, emphasizing the urgent need for a 500-bed super specialty hospital in the Palakollu constituency. Jogayya highlighted the critical importance of accessible healthcare, criticizing the government's current priorities.

In his letter, Jogayya stated that true development is not about constructing administrative buildings, residential complexes, parks, and rest houses but about addressing the essential needs of the people, such as clean drinking water, quality education, robust healthcare facilities, well-maintained roads, irrigation



systems, and sewage management. Jogayya criticized the government for allegedly spending crores of rupees on state and administrative buildings, terming it a misuse of public funds. "This approach does not represent real development," he remarked, urging the government

to shift its focus toward healthcare infrastructure. He pointed out that Palakollu, strategically located between Narasapuram, Bhimavaram, and Rajolu constituencies, lacks adequate medical facilities. Residents are often forced to travel to Hyderabad or Visakhapatnam for major medical needs. To address these challenges, Jogayya called for the establishment of a super specialty hospital in Palakollu, equipped with Arogyasri facilities to ensure affordable and quality healthcare for the region's population.

Jogayya appealed to Minister Ramanaidu and MP Verma to prioritize the project, stressing that such an initiative would significantly improve the quality of life for people in the surrounding constituencies and fulfill a long-overdue need for better healthcare services.

## YCP Govt Paid ₹2.10 Crores Illegally to Ram Ropal Varma - GV Reddy

TPN Correspondent  
Andhra Pradesh, Dec 20

AP Fibernet Corporation Chairman GV Reddy has alleged that renowned film director Ram Ropal Varma was illegally paid Rs. 2.10 crore during the tenure of the previous YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) government. Speaking at a media conference in Amaravati, Reddy revealed that the payment was made in connection with the telecast of Varma's movie Vyuham on Fibernet.

Reddy claimed that while Rs. 2 lakh was supposed to be paid for the movie's 18 lakh views, an inflated sum of Rs. 2.10 crore was disbursed instead. He described this as a blatant misuse of funds, which has contributed to the severe financial crisis currently facing AP Fibernet.

He further alleged that the previous administration manipulated key documents to shield YSRCP leaders from scrutiny. GV Reddy also accused former AP Fibernet MD Madhusudhan Reddy of involvement in these irregularities, asserting that a detailed investigation is underway and action will be taken against those responsible.



Reddy criticized the harassment of cable operators during the YSRCP regime and revealed that a female employee had handed over crucial documents to YSRCP MP Vijayasai Reddy to cover up corruption. The employee has since been dismissed from her position.

Highlighting the urgency of the situation, GV Reddy called for strong measures to address the financial mismanagement and restore accountability within AP Fibernet. These revelations have intensified the political debate surrounding the alleged misuse of public funds during the YSRCP's governance.

## MP Vijayasai Reddy Implicated in Crores of Corruption in Fiber Net Case

TPN Correspondent  
Andhra Pradesh, Dec 20

Key developments have emerged in the ongoing investigation into the AP Fiber Net case, implicating YSRCP MP Vijayasai Reddy in alleged corruption worth crores. Authorities have uncovered evidence suggesting that Reddy orchestrated the appointment of a woman employee, Shanti, and manipulated her role to execute corrupt practices.

The disappearance of crucial files related to the case has sparked a major controversy. Investigators revealed that Shanti, identified as an Assistant Commissioner of Endowments, handed over sensitive documents to Vijayasai Reddy. Suspicion has also fallen on Shanti's sister, who is alleged to have been involved in significant irregularities within the Endowments Department.

Authorities suspect that these actions were part of a broader scheme by Reddy to siphon funds and cover up corruption. Following the change in government, Shanti's sister was dismissed from her position, and investigations intensified.

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) court has permitted the attachment of properties belonging to seven accused individuals in the Fiber Net case, amounting to a total of Rs. 114



crore. Among those named in the case are Vemuri Harikrishna (A1), Terra Soft MD Tummala Gopichand, and Pramila (A11). Former Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has been listed as A25 in the case.

The CID has also sought approval to attach properties of the accused family members, further expanding the scope of the investigation.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court has scheduled the next hearing on Chandrababu Naidu's anticipatory bail petition for January 17, 2025. The court has directed both Naidu and the state government to refrain from making public statements regarding the case until further notice.

This high-profile investigation continues to reveal startling details, keeping the political and legal circles on edge.

## YS Sharmila Reddy Slams Amit Shah Over Ambedkar Comments

TPN Correspondent  
Andhra Pradesh, Dec 20

Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) Chief YS Sharmila Reddy has strongly condemned Union Home Minister Amit Shah for his recent remarks about Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, terming them as a "testament to BJP's arrogance." Addressing the media, she labeled the comments a grave insult

asserted.

She demanded an immediate apology from Amit Shah for what she described as an insult to the father of the Indian Constitution and called for his resignation. "Amit Shah must step down from his position for disrespecting Ambedkar and the values he stood for," Sharmila stated.

Furthermore, the APCC Chief urged Congress cadres across the state to participate in protests against Amit Shah's remarks as directed by the All India Congress Committee (AICC). She vowed that the Congress party would not tolerate any attack on the principles enshrined in the Constitution and would continue to stand firmly with marginalized communities.

The controversy has sparked widespread criticism and calls for demonstrations, with political leaders and activists rallying to defend Ambedkar's legacy.



## Waqf Board Chairman Abdul Aziz Meets CM Chandrababu Naidu

TPN Correspondent  
Amaravati, Dec 20

Andhra Pradesh Waqf Board Chairman Abdul Aziz, accompanied by Municipal Administration Minister Narayana, met with Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu at the Secretariat on Thursday. The meeting focused on the management of the Waqf Board and other significant issues concerning its operations. During the discussion, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu emphasized the importance of ensuring that the Waqf Board's management brings a positive reputation to the coalition government. He suggested that efforts should be made to enhance the board's efficiency and transparency, which would reflect well on the government's commitment to serving all communities.

Following the meeting with the Chief Minister, Abdul Aziz also met with Ministers Ponguru Narayana, Anam Ra-



manarayana Reddy, and NMD Farooq to continue discussions on the Waqf Board's activities and other related matters.

The meeting is seen as a part of the government's ongoing efforts to streamline the functioning of the Waqf Board, which plays a key role in managing and maintaining the assets of religious institutions in the state.

## Efforts to Develop Kondapalli Fort for Tourism in NTR District Collector & Govt Officials Inspected Kondapalli Fort

TPN Correspondent  
NTR District, Dec 20

The NTR District administration has launched initiatives to enhance the tourism potential of Kondapalli Fort, a historical landmark in the region. District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi, along with Government Principal Secretary G. Vani Mohan and other key officials, inspected the fort on Thursday, announcing plans to improve its infrastructure and promote it as a major tourist destination.

Dr. Lakshmi emphasized that steps will be taken in collaboration with the cultural, archaeological, museum, and tourism departments to highlight the historical significance of Kondapalli Fort. She mentioned that the fort, which has been a focal point of historical importance since the 10th century, had been neglected for some time. However, under the leadership of former Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu,



significant steps were taken in 2019 to preserve the fort and its heritage, including the organization of the Kondapalli festival.

Dr. Lakshmi outlined plans to organize daily cultural programs and improve infrastructure to make the fort more accessible to visitors. She highlighted the introduction of innovative exhibitions, such as an Android app-enabled photo that reveals the fort's history, which was well received by visitors.

Government Principal Secretary G. Vani Mohan stressed the importance of continued efforts to develop

the fort using modern technology. She encouraged collaboration with CSR funds for further repairs and infrastructure development. Additionally, she proposed organizing special cultural programs to raise awareness and attract visitors while maintaining the fort's natural beauty without extravagant costs.

Officials from the Tourism and Archaeology departments, along with local leaders, participated in the inspection and pledged their support to make Kondapalli Fort a prominent destination for both local and international tourists.

## 35th South Zone Aquatic Championship to be Held from 27th December



TPN Correspondent  
Vijayawada, Dec 20

The 35th South Zone Aquatic Championship will take place from December 27th to 29th under the auspices of the Andhra Pradesh Amateur Aquatic Association. The event was officially announced with the unveiling of the championship poster by SAP Chairman Animini Ravinayudu at the SAP office in Vijayawada on Thursday.

The competition will be held at the Municipal Corporation Swimming Pool in Vijayawada's Gandhinagar area. Members of the Krishna District Amateur Aquatic Association, including Chairman Yelamanchili Venkatasuresh, President Bhaskar, Secretary Vinod, and Treasurer Balamuralikrishna, along with other officials, participated in the event. The SAP Chairman also extended an invitation for the competition, marking a significant step in promoting aquatic sports in the region.

In a separate event, SAP Chairman Ravinayudu met with karate player Ramineni Rohit from Vinukonda, who recently represented Andhra Pradesh at the 11th Commonwealth Karate Championship 2024 in South Africa and secured a medal. Ravinayudu congratulated Rohit on his achievement and assured him of SAP's continued support and cooperation in his future endeavors.

## Sajjala Bhargava Reddy Receives Temporary Relief in AP High Court Over Social Media Posts



TPN Correspondent  
Vijayawada, Dec 20

YCP leader Sajjala Bhargava Reddy has received a small relief from the Andhra Pradesh High Court regarding the cases registered against him for posting inappropriate content on social media targeting leaders like Chandrababu Naidu, Pawan Kalyan, and Nara Lokesh.

Bhargava Reddy had filed a petition seeking the dismissal of the cases, arguing that they lacked grounds for investigation. His senior counsel, Ponnavolu Sudhakar Reddy, presented the case, stating that no complaints were filed directly by the affected parties, and the cases were initiated based on third-party reports. He further argued that non-bailable sections were included in the charges instead of IT-related provisions.

After hearing the petition, the High Court issued an order requiring the police to follow Section 35 (3) of the BNS Act while issuing notices. The court also extended the order preventing any action against Bhargava Reddy until the next hearing, which has been scheduled for the first week of February 2025. This temporary relief has allowed Bhargava Reddy to avoid immediate legal consequences.

## VMC Launches Extensive Anti-Larva Operations to Combat Mosquitoes

TPN Correspondent  
Vijayawada, Dec 20

In a bid to control the spread of mosquito-borne diseases, the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) has initiated extensive anti-larva operations across the city. Following the orders of VMC Commissioner Dhyana Chandra, the city authorities began removing silt from the Budameru canal in Gunadala on Thursday morning.

The operation aims to eliminate potential breeding grounds for mosquitoes. The VMC's efforts include fogging, spraying emel oils,



and clearing silt from side canals. The operations also involve the use of advanced equipment like truck-mounted machines,

boats operated by malaria workers, and long-arm machinery for large-scale silt removal. These measures are designed to prevent the spread of diseases like malaria and dengue and ensure the health and safety of the city's residents.

Biologist Suryakumar has taken a proactive approach in overseeing the comprehensive removal of silt, further enhancing the initiative to reduce mosquito breeding sites. The VMC's swift actions reflect the administration's commitment to protecting the public from mosquito-borne illnesses.

## Cyber Crime Awareness Program at Amrutha University

TPN Correspondent  
Mangalagiri, Dec 20

In a bid to raise awareness about the increasing threat of cyber crimes, an awareness program was conducted at Amrutha University in Kuragallu village, Mangalagiri mandal. The initiative, organized under the guidance of Mangalagiri Rural CI Y Srinivasa Rao, aimed to educate students about the risks of cyber frauds and the importance of vigilance in the digital age.

During the program, Mangalagiri Rural CI Y Srinivasa Rao and SI Chirumamilla Venkat addressed the students, urging them to be cautious while using technology. They highlighted the growing incidents of cyber crimes, including the theft of personal information and financial losses, which are often facilitated through social media, online banking



frauds, and phishing attacks. The officials emphasized that it is crucial for people, especially students, to be aware of how cyber criminals operate, including the misuse of personal data and deceptive online tactics. They stressed the importance of taking precautions against online scams, including fraudulent phone calls, suspicious links, and securing personal information on social media platforms.

The session saw active participation from Amrutha University students, staff, and faculty, who were encouraged to report any suspicious online activity and avoid falling victim to cyber frauds. This program is part of ongoing efforts to empower the public with the knowledge to safeguard themselves against the growing menace of cyber crime.

## Rising Theft Incidents Cause Panic Among Tadepalli Residents

TPN Correspondent  
Tadepalli, Dec 20

Residents of Tadepalli, known as the gateway to the capital, are living in fear due to a series of thefts that have taken place in recent days. The town has witnessed a sharp increase in criminal activity, including chain snatching, vehicle battery thefts, and break-ins.

Yesterday, thieves struck again, snatching chains from locals and stealing batteries from parked vehicles. The most recent incident occurred today, when a car's windows were shattered at the Railway Bridge underpass in Ward 17, Tadepalli, and a tape recorder was stolen. The criminals seem to be operating with increasing confidence and skill, making it difficult for residents to feel safe in their own homes and

neighborhoods.

The people of Tadepalli have expressed growing concern, fearing a return to the troubling times of unchecked crime. Many have pointed out that if the police conducted regular night patrols, these incidents could be prevented. The lack of visible police presence has only added to their anxiety.

Local residents are urging higher authorities to take immediate action to address the growing theft problem. They are demanding enhanced surveillance, stricter law enforcement, and more regular police patrols to restore safety and security in their area. The increasing frequency of such crimes has left the community on edge, hoping for swift intervention to put an end to the fear that has gripped their neighborhood.

## Devineni Avinash Criticizes TDP MLA Gadde Rammohan for Lack of Progress in East Constituency

TPN Correspondent  
Vijayawada, Dec 20

NTR District YCP President Devineni Avinash launched a scathing criticism of TDP MLA Gadde Rammohan, accusing him of failing to initiate any development programs in the East constituency over the past few months. Avinash claimed that instead of focusing on the welfare of the constituency, Rammohan has been spending his time attacking Former Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy. Addressing the media, Avinash questioned Rammohan's actions and moral standing, especially given his age. He also took issue with Rammohan's claims that the previous TDP government had approved the construction of a Shaadikhana (community hall). Avinash clarified that it was the YCP that actively sought the Shaadikhana during the corporation elections, and after winning, they succeeded in getting approval for the project. He revealed that the YCP government had secured Rs. 2 crore for the Shaadikhana, with contributions from both the corporation and the then Deputy CM, Amjad Bhasha.

Avinash further accused Rammohan of taking credit for projects initiated



by others and expressed frustration over the lack of progress on development projects in the constituency. He pointed out that despite the formation of the coalition government six months ago, not a single brick had been laid for the Shaadikhana.

He also highlighted how TDP leaders were allegedly targeting the financial interests of YCP supporters, including small traders, who have been subjected to unfair treatment. He stressed the importance of avoiding divisive politics, calling for unity rather than fueling factionalism.

In closing, Avinash urged the alliance leaders to refrain from actions that undermine the development of the region and demanded that the promises made under the Super Six program be fulfilled without delay.

# Nara Bhuvaneshwari Inspires Youth at Kuppam Govt Degree College

**TPN Correspondent, Kuppam :** Nara Bhuvaneshwari, wife of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, emphasized the importance of perseverance, determination, and hard work as the keys to success while addressing students at Kuppam Government Degree College on Thursday. Interacting with the students, she highlighted the pivotal role youth play in shaping the future of the country and shared motivational insights from her personal journey.

Bhuvaneshwari underscored the significance of focused efforts and planning, stating that success comes only through consistent dedication. "If you work hard and move forward with a vision, miracles can be achieved,"

she said. She also advised students to maintain their parents' trust and work diligently toward securing a bright future.

Looking at the students, Bhuvaneshwari fondly recalled her college days, mentioning the joy and challenges of balancing responsibilities at a young age. "I got married at 19 while still studying. My husband, Chandrababu, entrusted me with the responsibility of Heritage. I took it as a challenge and worked hard to succeed," she shared, adding that such experiences strengthened her resolve.

Bhuvaneshwari celebrated the strides women have made in various fields, particularly in IT, highlighting their

equal talent alongside men. "Women are the future in all domains. There is nothing they cannot achieve if they set their minds to it," she affirmed. She reiterated her family's commitment to Kuppam's progress, stating that Chandrababu Naidu's vision of Swarnandhra by 2047 prioritizes eliminating poverty and fostering development. "In the next five years, Kuppam will be transformed into a model of development for the entire country," she promised.

Responding to students' requests, Bhuvaneshwari assured that she would advocate for a new playground at the college. She also participated in a tree-planting initiative on the premises, joined by TDP leaders, including MLC Srikanth.



## TDP State President Palla Srinivasa Rao Inaugurates Sand Supply Center



**TPN Correspondent, Visakhapatnam:** TDP State President and MLA Palla Srinivasa Rao inaugurated a new sand supply center in Mindi, Visakhapatnam, aimed at providing affordable and regulated sand for the construction sector. The center was set up in accordance with the directives of the Underground Mines Department.

Speaking at the inauguration, Palla Srinivasa Rao emphasized that the sand would be sold at a fixed price of Rs. 1,000 per ton, ensuring affordability for construction projects in the region. He assured that the sand supply system has been designed to eliminate any scope for irregularities or black market activities.

The establishment of these sand supply centers in various regions is part of the TDP's effort to support the construction sector and curb illegal sand mining. Palla highlighted that this initiative would help prevent black market operations and make sand more accessible for genuine construction needs.

The MLA expressed his commitment to ensuring that the sand supply would be transparent, efficient, and well-regulated, benefiting both the construction industry and the public.

## Srisailam Mallanna Temple Registers Over ₹5 Crore in Offerings

**TPN Correspondent, Srisailam :** The Srisailam Mallanna temple in Nandyal district has garnered a substantial income of ₹5,96,92,376 through offerings made by devotees over the past 26 days. The hundi count, conducted meticulously at the Chandravati Kalyana Mandapam, revealed the figures, according to Devasthanam Executive Officer (EO) Srinivasa Rao.

Apart from cash contributions, devotees also offered 232.4 grams of gold and 7.85 kilograms of silver. Additionally, foreign currency was found in the hundi, including:

- 558 US dollars
- 115 Euros

- 60 Australian dollars
- 35 Canadian dollars
- 12 Kuwaiti dinars
- 7 Singapore dollars
- 20 Zambian kwachas
- 5 UK pounds
- 1,000 Japanese yen

Other currencies such as Saudi Arabian riyals, Omani baht, Qatari riyals, Kenyan shillings, Philippine pesos, and UAE dirhams were also discovered, underscoring the temple's global appeal.

The hundi counting was carried out under stringent security measures with the

participation of temple officers, staff, and Shiva Sevaks from various departments. EO Srinivasa Rao expressed gratitude to the devotees for their contributions, emphasizing that such offerings reflect the deep devotion and faith in Sri Bhramaramba Mallikarjuna Swamy Ammavar.

The temple authorities ensured transparency during the process, which was monitored closely to maintain sanctity and order. The collected offerings will be utilized for the temple's developmental activities and the welfare of pilgrims visiting this revered site.

## Fire Breaks Out at Petrol Station in Tekkali

**TPN Correspondent, Tekkali :** On Thursday a fire broke out at a petrol station on the old national highway in Tekkali, causing panic among nearby residents and locals. The incident occurred on Thursday morning, prompting an immediate evacuation of the station's staff.

According to eyewitnesses, the fire originated from the oil pump at the petrol station and began spreading rapidly. Concerned locals feared the escalating blaze might lead to a major accident if not contained promptly. They

quickly alerted the fire brigade, urging swift action to prevent further damage.

Firefighters have been called to the scene and are working to bring the situation under control. Meanwhile, authorities are investigating the cause of the fire to ensure safety and prevent future incidents.

No casualties have been reported so far, and efforts are underway to assess the extent of the damage. Locals remain on high alert as emergency services address the situation.



## Private Surveyor Attacks Citizen in Emmiganur Tahsildar's Office in Kurnool District



**TPN Correspondent, Kurnool :** In a disturbing incident, a private surveyor named Ramanjineyulu allegedly attacked a man named Mallikarjuna from T.S. Kuluru village inside the premises of the Emmiganur Tahsildar's office in Kurnool district.

For the past few months, the surveyor has reportedly been harassing individuals who visited the office regarding land issues. The incident occurred when Mallikarjuna came to the office to address a land dispute. According to reports, Mallikarjuna discovered that 20 cents of his land had been surveyed without his consent. When he confronted the surveyor about the unauthorized action, the surveyor dismissed his concerns, stating, "That's all I have done." This response led to a violent altercation, and the surveyor attacked Mallikarjuna, causing him serious injuries.

Mallikarjuna later filed a complaint with the local police, detailing the assault. The incident has raised concerns about the conduct of private surveyors working within government offices. When approached for an explanation, the Tahsildar expressed their intention to investigate the matter thoroughly. They assured that legal action would be taken against the private surveyor if it was found that he had continued to interfere in official work or engaged in misconduct.

## Telangana Leader Srinivas Goud Criticizes TTD for Dividing Telugu People

**TPN Correspondent, Tirumala :** Telangana leader and Minister Srinivas Goud recently visited the Tirumala Srivari temple and made strong remarks regarding the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) administration, accusing it of creating divisions between Andhra and Telangana residents.

Speaking after his darshan of Lord Venkateswara, Goud expressed his dissatisfaction with the TTD's treatment of people from Telangana. He questioned why there were discrepancies between the treatment of public representatives from the two states. "Where in Telangana are there no differences between Andhra and Telangana people? In Telangana, businesses and affluent individuals are still considered Andhra residents," he stated.

He further criticized the TTD for what he saw as its discriminatory practices, claiming that the institution was dividing Telugu people along state lines. "TTD is dividing Telugu people into Andhra and Telangana residents," he remarked. Goud emphasized that the TTD should not create these artificial boundaries, as the temple is a symbol of unity for all Telugu people.

While acknowledging the importance of TTD, Goud stressed the need for greater representation and influence from Telangana in the administration. He urged that it was not enough to merely appoint people from Telangana as board members; they should also be given decision-making power. "We consider TTD a great temple, and we will prioritize the protection of its assets. However, the differences between the two states are being exacerbated by government intervention," he added. Goud's comments have sparked a debate on the equitable representation of both states in the administration of TTD and the temple's management.



## Dairy Farmers Protest at Visakha Dairy Over Milk Price Increase



**TPN Correspondent, Visakhapatnam :** Dairy farmers in Visakhapatnam have staged a protest by sitting in front of the main gate of Visakha Dairy, demanding an increase in the price of milk collected from them. The farmers are expressing concerns over the rising costs of production and seeking a fair price for their milk.

The protest has garnered significant attention as the farmers claim that the current prices are not sufficient to cover their expenses, which have escalated due to rising feed costs and other operational expenses. They are calling for the dairy management to review and increase the payment for milk collection.

To maintain order, the police have been deployed at the administrative building of Visakha Dairy. Security measures are in place to ensure that the protest remains peaceful and does not disrupt operations at the dairy. The authorities have not yet commented on the farmers' demands, but discussions are expected to take place in the coming days to address the issue.

## Sri Lankan President's Visit to India Strengthens Bilateral Ties Amid Regional Dynamics

Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, who assumed office in September, made his first overseas visit to India this week. This visit marks a significant step in reinforcing the strong relationship between the two nations. Dissanayake's presidential victory, followed by his party, the National People's Power (NPP), securing a historic win with full control of the Sri Lankan Parliament, has raised hopes for a renewed focus on Indo-Sri Lanka relations.

India's External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar, had visited Sri Lanka shortly after Dissanayake's election, underscoring India's commitment to maintaining a robust partnership with its southern neighbor. By choosing India as his first destination abroad, Dissanayake has sent a clear message that Sri Lanka is committed to strengthening its ties with New Delhi. Despite his affiliation with the traditionally anti-India Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), Dissanayake's visit served to reassure India of his intent to prioritize mutual interests.

During his visit, the Sri Lankan President acknowledged India's vital role in supporting Sri Lanka during its financial crisis, especially in terms of economic assistance and restructuring bilateral debt. Dissanayake reaffirmed his country's commitment to not allowing its territory to be used in ways that could harm India's interests. He expressed optimism about the growing cooperation between the two nations.



India, in turn, emphasized its long-term commitment to sustainable cooperation with Sri Lanka, highlighting projects aligned with the island's development priorities. As Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated, India's bilateral projects will continue to focus on areas such as housing, renewable energy, agriculture, and infrastructure. In particular, India is keen to assist Sri Lanka with digital identity and public infrastructure projects, such as Aadhaar-like systems and UPI payment platforms, which are vital for Sri Lanka's development.

A significant development during this visit was the agreement between India and Sri Lanka to expedite defense cooperation. The two nations are set to strengthen their security engagement through joint exercises, maritime surveillance, and defense dialogues. With China's growing presence in the Indi-

an Ocean region, enhanced security ties with Sri Lanka are crucial for India to safeguard its strategic interests in the region.

The visit also addressed sensitive issues, including the rights of Sri Lanka's Tamil minority and the long-standing dispute over fishing rights in the Palk Strait. India's approach to these issues was measured, focusing on Sri Lanka's commitment to implementing its constitution and addressing humanitarian concerns over fishermen's encroachment.

While Sri Lanka continues to balance its relations with both China and India, this visit has reassured New Delhi of the continuity in their partnership. As the region faces increasing geopolitical competition, it is essential for both nations to maintain a strong, pragmatic relationship to address the challenges ahead.

## Time for Parliament to Repeal the Places of Worship Act



The Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, passed just before the Babri Masjid demolition, remains a contentious law. It froze the religious character of all places of worship to what it was on August 15, 1947, prohibiting changes or legal challenges to this status. The law exempted the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute, acknowledging that courts were already handling the case. Intended to prevent future controversies, the law has instead become an obstacle to Hindu rights, particularly in places like Mathura and Varanasi, where Hindu temples lie beneath mosques.

In the wake of legal challenges to this law, the Supreme Court has recently directed the Union Government to file its counter-affidavit by January 2024. This has renewed the debate on whether the law, in its current form, is justifiable. The BJP, which has long championed the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, should not wait for the

court's judgment. Instead, it should introduce a bill in Parliament to repeal the Places of Worship Act, a move that could decisively end the legal standoff and remove an undue restriction on Hindu religious freedom.

Repealing the law would be straightforward. Much like the historic abrogation of Article 370, which required a two-thirds majority in Parliament, repealing the Places of Worship law would only require a simple majority in both Houses. If necessary, a joint session of Parliament could expedite the process, overcoming any potential deadlocks in the individual Houses. The law, which was a product of political expediency, has outlived its original purpose and now serves as a hindrance to the Hindu community's claims to religious sites.

The 1991 law, criticized as weak and contradictory, was passed under the minority Narasimha Rao govern-

ment. Critics argue that it was an attempt to appease both secular and religious factions without taking a firm stance. However, in its current form, it continues to prevent Hindus from reclaiming temples at sites such as Krishna Janmabhoomi in Mathura and Kashi Vishwanath in Varanasi—locations of deep religious significance for millions of Hindus.

The repeal would send a clear message that the government does not endorse the sanctity of a law that impedes Hindu movements. It would also render the ongoing Supreme Court case irrelevant, eliminating the need for further counter-affidavits. While opposition parties may challenge the repeal, Parliament's authority to make or amend laws would stand firm. Repealing the Places of Worship Act would be a decisive step toward honoring the rights of Hindus and would eliminate unnecessary legal hurdles in the path of reclaiming sacred sites.



## Priyanka Gandhi's Parliamentary Debut: A Need for Fresh Perspective in Congress

Priyanka Gandhi's debut speech in Parliament has garnered attention for its bold rhetoric, drawing comparisons to her brother's headline-grabbing style. While some statements echoed a familiar tone, she presented herself as less bitter and more open to forging a new path for the Congress party. Her speech, though impactful, warrants deeper scrutiny, especially in the context of Congress's stagnation in electoral politics and the evolving political landscape in India.

Priyanka, often compared to Indira Gandhi by party members, faces the challenge of carving out her unique political identity. For a party struggling with relevance, her leadership could signal a much-needed shift. In her speech, she focused on the present, critiquing the ruling party for its disconnect with the masses. Phrases like "Vartmaan ki baat kijiye" (focus on the present) and "Paise ke bal par sarkar giraaye jaate hain" (governments are toppled with money power) were powerful, but also reflective of Congress's internal contradictions.

While Priyanka rightfully emphasized the need for politicians to stay grounded and alert to contemporary issues, the same standard must be applied to her own party. If Congress indeed has a mechanism for gathering timely feedback, why has it faced consecutive electoral defeats,

especially in states where it previously had an advantage? Congress has struggled to evolve over the past 15 years, relying on an outdated approach that prioritizes ideological "ought to be" over pragmatic "what is."

This disconnect is evident in Congress's insistence on discussing issues like the caste census or the alleged threat to the Constitution, which, while important, may not resonate with the pressing concerns of ordinary citizens. The party's continuous targeting of business houses and its reluctance to adapt have alienated potential supporters. A shift in approach is necessary, one that moves away from old Congress playbooks and embraces the present realities.

Priyanka Gandhi has shown a willingness to take a new direction, but she must leave behind the worn-out strategies that have held the party back. The Congress leadership must stop lecturing the public and begin focusing on real-time feedback, addressing the concerns that matter to the people today. Priyanka's potential lies in drawing inspiration from the best qualities of past leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi, while recognizing that the Modi era demands bold welfarism, assertive nationalism, and an understanding of India's rising aspirations.



## Delhi's Air Pollution Crisis: Lessons from Beijing's Transformation

Air pollution in Delhi has become an annual ritual, where hazardous levels of smog trigger momentary concern from the media, public, and government. Each winter, the city grapples with poor air quality, often with the Air Quality Index (AQI) hovering in the "very poor" or "unhealthy" range, considered hazardous by global standards. However, once the AQI settles around 200, restrictions are relaxed, and life returns to normal—until the next pollution spike. This pattern has become all too familiar, and once again, the focus shifts to combating pollution rather than long-term solutions.

A similar crisis once unfolded in Beijing, where rapid industrialization, urbanization, and motorization led to severe air pollution. The once iconic "blue skies of Beijing" became a rarity, with AQI levels soaring over 500 in 2009, a figure far exceeding Delhi's worst levels today. This public health hazard drew global attention and forced the Chinese government to adopt aggressive measures to address the issue.

Beijing's response to its pollution crisis provides valuable lessons for Delhi. The city's efforts to reduce air

pollution focused on a multi-pronged strategy. One of the key measures was the prohibition of new coal-fired power plants in specific areas, significantly reducing harmful emissions. The city also shifted towards renewable energy sources, which have contributed to cleaner air and a reduced carbon footprint. In addition, Beijing developed greenways for pedestrians and cyclists, promoting more sustainable transportation options and reducing reliance on motor vehicles.

Traffic control measures played a crucial role in managing pollution levels. By limiting the number of cars on the road and implementing stricter vehicle emissions standards, Beijing was able to reduce the concentration of harmful pollutants in the air. The government also increased transparency in air quality data, ensuring that residents were better informed about the state of the environment and could take necessary precautions.

As a result of these efforts, Beijing has seen a dramatic improvement in its air quality. The AQI, once regularly above 500, has now dropped to around 25 on average—a stark contrast to its past.

# PM and King Charles Discuss Strengthening India-UK Ties and Global Issues

TPN CORRESPONDENT DELHI  
DECEMBER.20

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke with UK's King Charles III on Thursday to reaffirm India's commitment to enhancing the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two nations. During their conversation, they reflected on the long-standing relationship between the countries and their shared vision of expanding cooperation in various sectors.

Both leaders emphasized their commitment to strengthening the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, a key pillar of the bilateral relationship. According to an official statement, they discussed the importance of continuing to build on this partnership, which has contributed significantly to their collaboration in trade, defense, technology, and other areas.

The dialogue also included a discussion on the Commonwealth of Nations, with both leaders exchanging views on the outcomes of the recent Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) held in Samoa. As important members of the Commonwealth, India and the UK reiterated their support for advancing the organization's



goals and working together to address global challenges.

Climate change and sustainability were central topics during the exchange. Prime Minister Modi praised King Charles for his long-time advocacy for environmental issues and shared insights into India's efforts to combat climate change and promote sustainable development. Modi highlighted the country's initiatives aimed at enhancing green development and reducing carbon

emissions.

In a warm and cordial gesture, the leaders exchanged festive greetings for the upcoming Christmas and New Year, with Prime Minister Modi wishing King Charles good health and well-being. This conversation underscores the ongoing efforts by both leaders to strengthen the ties between India and the UK, with a focus on mutual goals for global peace, environmental sustainability, and economic growth.



## "BJP's Bid To Distract From Ambedkar Row": Rahul Gandhi On Parliament Tussle

TPN CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI  
DECEMBER.20

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi sharply criticized the BJP for creating a diversion from Union Home Minister Amit Shah's controversial remarks on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Speaking at a press conference on Thursday, Gandhi accused the ruling party of orchestrating chaos in Parliament to distract from Shah's comments, which sparked a massive row between the Opposition and the BJP.

Gandhi, holding a copy of the Indian Constitution, claimed that the BJP's actions were an attempt to divert attention from the Home Minister's "anti-constitutional and anti-Ambedkar" mindset. He added that the BJP was undermining Ambedkar's legacy and contribution. Referring to the incident at Parliament, Gandhi explained that while Opposition MPs were heading to Ambedkar's statue, BJP MPs blocked their entry, brandishing sticks. He called for Shah to apologize and resign over the remarks, labeling the incident as an insult to Ambedkar.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge also condemned Shah's comments, accusing him of refusing to acknowledge his mistake. Kharge emphasized that Congress had demanded Shah's resignation, or at the very least, for Prime Minister Modi to remove him. He explained that, after realizing neither of these actions would take place, Congress leaders, including Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, staged a protest. Kharge further alleged that BJP MPs physically attacked Congress leaders, including pushing him to the ground.

The confrontation led to complaints from both parties. The BJP accused Rahul Gandhi of injuring two of their MPs, Pratap Sarangi and Mukesh Rajput, during the incident. BJP's Nagaland MP, Pahangnon Konyak, also accused Gandhi of misbehaving with her. In response, Congress filed a complaint claiming BJP MPs had pushed and misbehaved with Kharge.

The tensions began earlier in the week when Amit Shah made disparaging remarks about Ambedkar during a debate in the Rajya Sabha. His comments were widely criticized, with the Congress and Trinamool Congress moving privilege motions against him. Despite the protests, Shah refused to resign, defending his remarks. Prime Minister Modi also defended Shah, accusing the Congress of spreading malicious lies.



## Rahul Gandhi's Alleged Push Leads to Injury for BJP MP Pratap Sarangi

TPN CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI  
DECEMBER.20

BJP MP Pratap Chandra Sarangi from Odisha has been at the center of controversy following a recent altercation with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi inside the Parliament premises. Sarangi, who sustained a head injury during the incident, was taken to the hospital for treatment. The injury allegedly occurred when another MP fell on him after being pushed by Rahul Gandhi during heated protests between the INDIA bloc and BJP MPs.

Pratap Chandra Sarangi, born on January 4, 1955, in Gopinathpur village of Balasore district, Odisha, is a prominent leader within the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Fakir Mohan College in Balasore and started his political journey through volunteer work with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). Sarangi was also actively involved in the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Bajrang Dal.

## "Not In His Nature To Be Nasty": Omar Abdullah Defends Rahul



TPN CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI  
DECEMBER.20

Omar Abdullah, former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and ally of the Congress party, came to the defense of senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi after BJP MP Pratap Chandra Sarangi accused him of being responsible for his injuries during a brawl in Parliament. Sarangi claimed that Gandhi had pushed another MP, causing that MP to fall onto him, resulting in his own fall.

"I was standing near the stairs when Rahul Gandhi came and pushed an MP, who then fell on me," Sarangi said, asserting that this incident led to his injury. The BJP MP's state-

ment quickly gained attention on social media, fueling further debate.

However, Omar Abdullah dismissed the allegations, asserting that it was completely out of character for Rahul Gandhi to engage in such behavior. "I know Rahul, he would not push anyone, much less a member of parliament. It's simply not in his nature to be rude or nasty to anyone," Abdullah wrote on X, expressing his belief in Gandhi's good character. His comments were an attempt to counter the circulating accusations and offer a more balanced perspective on the situation.

The incident in question reportedly took place during a chaotic scene in Parliament, which had seen protests and disruptions. Rahul Gandhi has long been a vocal figure in Indian politics, often at the center of heated exchanges in Parliament. However, those close to him, like Omar Abdullah, maintain that his actions have always been grounded in civility and respect.

The controversy surrounding this event is just the latest in a series of political disputes within the Indian Parliament, where tensions often flare during debates and protests. Despite the allegations, Abdullah's defense of Gandhi highlights the ongoing political rifts between Congress and the BJP, as both sides continue to exchange sharp criticisms.

## Fracas at Parliament: BJP MPs Injured, Complaints Filed by Congress and NDA

TPN CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI  
DECEMBER.20

A confrontation between the opposition and ruling NDA factions at Parliament on Thursday turned violent, leading to injuries for two BJP MPs and allegations of misconduct. The chaos erupted after a protest related to alleged insults against Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, with both sides accusing each other of physical aggression.

The BJP has charged Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, with pushing an MP, leading to injuries to BJP lawmakers Mukesh Rajput and Pratap Chandra Sarangi. However, Gandhi denied the accusations, claiming he was the one who was pushed by a member of the ruling party. Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge also accused BJP MPs of shoving him and injuring his knees during the incident. The altercation took place as members of both the Opposition and NDA were engaged in protests at the Parliament complex. BJP MPs Rajput and Sarangi were injured and rushed to RML hospital, where they were treated for head injuries. Prime Minister Narendra Modi contacted the injured MPs to inquire about their condition.

In response to the fracas, both Congress and



BJP lodged complaints at Parliament Street police station, blaming each other for the disturbance. Additionally, both parties filed formal complaints with the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Chairs, seeking action against the opposing members.

The incident occurred amid rising tensions over remarks made by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, which were viewed by many, including the Congress, as disrespectful to Dr. Ambedkar. The altercation in Parliament marked an unprecedented escalation in the ongoing dispute, with both sides accusing each other of physical aggression and misconduct on the hallowed grounds of the Indian Parliament.

## Shah would have been 'scrap dealer' if there wasn't Ambedkar's Constitution: Siddaramaiah



TPN CORRESPONDENT DELHI  
DECEMBER.20

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has intensified his criticism of Union Home Minister Amit Shah following his controversial remarks about Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in Parliament. Speaking in the Karnataka State Assembly on Thursday, Siddaramaiah alleged that without the Constitution framed by Ambedkar, Shah would have been nothing more than a "scrap dealer" in his village, not the Home Minister of India.

Siddaramaiah also took aim at Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar, suggesting that if he were truly upholding the Constitution, he should have immediately suspended Shah from the House for his derogatory comments about Ambedkar. The Chief Minister was responding to the ongoing controversy sparked by Shah's remarks, which many, including Congress leaders, saw as disrespectful to the architect of the Indian Constitution.

"The entire country has heard the derogatory words spoken by the Home Minister about Babasaheb Ambedkar," Siddaramaiah stated, calling Shah's comments a revelation of the BJP's true stance on Ambedkar. He further emphasized that Shah's remarks were not surprising, claiming that they exposed the real mindset of the BJP and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

Siddaramaiah sarcastically congratulated Shah for "courageously revealing the innermost opinion" of the BJP about Ambedkar, accusing the ruling party of being "anti-Ambedkar" and undermining the legacy of Dr. Ambedkar's Constitution. He criticized the BJP and its affiliates for their ongoing campaign to distort facts and misrepresent Shah's words.

In response to these accusations, Shah defended himself in the Rajya Sabha, stating that the Congress had twisted his comments and launched a malicious campaign to tarnish his statements on Ambedkar. He further accused the Congress of misrepresenting his position and promote an "anti-Ambedkar" narrative. The clash over Shah's comments continues to stir intense political debates in the country.



# India Has Been Key Partner In Indo-Pacific On Number Of Shared Issues: US



**WASHINGTON:** On Wednesday, Vedant Patel, Principal Deputy Spokesperson of the US Department of State, reaffirmed India's importance as a key partner in the Biden administration, emphasizing the strength of the bilateral relationship. Patel's comments came in response to a question about the meeting between US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in late November during the G7 meeting in Italy.

Patel highlighted the close partnership between the United States and India, noting that the collaboration spans various areas, including security, trade, and consular issues such as visa matters. He further underscored India's significant role in the Indo-Pacific and the shared commitment of both nations to address global challenges. Patel also reiterated that the Biden administration remains committed to deepening cooperation with India.

In the meeting, held on the sidelines of the G7

summit in Fiumicino, Italy, Blinken and Jaishankar reaffirmed their dedication to strengthening bilateral ties. Blinken expressed the United States' eagerness to continue working closely with India to address pressing global security issues. Jaishankar also posted about the successful bilateral discussion on X, stating that the conversation covered the state of the world and the ongoing progress in the India-US partnership.

For his part, Blinken echoed the sentiment, writing that US-India ties are stronger when both nations collaborate, particularly on promoting global security and prosperity. He added that their continued cooperation is essential for addressing the challenges facing the world.

The positive tone of the meeting and the shared commitment to deepening cooperation further solidified the importance of the US-India partnership, which is poised to continue making strides on key global issues under the Biden administration.

## Italy's PM Giorgia Meloni Defends Friendship with Elon Musk Amid Controversy



**MILAN:** Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has defended her friendship with US tech billionaire Elon Musk, dismissing suggestions that their relationship could influence her political decisions. Speaking to Italian lawmakers on Wednesday, Meloni responded to questions about her interactions with Musk, emphasizing that her government would not be swayed by his economic interests, especially in areas like space policy.

"I can be a friend of Elon Musk and at the same time head the first Italian government to introduce a new law regulating private activity in space," Meloni stated, referring to a new framework her government passed earlier this year, which allows foreign space companies to operate in Italy. This move is expected to attract significant investments, with projections of 7.3 billion euros (USD 7.7 billion) by 2026.

Meloni also took a swipe at previous Italian leaders, suggesting that unlike them, she does not "slavishly follow what others did" when dealing with foreign relations. She added that while she maintains "good relationships with many people," she does not "take orders from anyone."

The relationship between Meloni and Musk has been under scrutiny due to their frequent meetings since Meloni's far-right-led government took power in 2022, as part of her efforts to boost Italy's economic ties with international investors. The two were seen together at various events, including a black-tie function in New York in September 2023, where Musk presented Meloni with an award. A photo from the event, showing them looking affectionately at each other, sparked rumors of a romantic relationship, which Musk quickly denied.



## Russia Ready For A Missile "Duel" With US: Vladimir Putin

**MOSCOW:** Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday suggested a missile "duel" with the United States to showcase the effectiveness of Russia's new Oreshnik hypersonic ballistic missile. The proposal was made in response to Western doubts about the missile's capabilities, with Putin asserting that it could defeat any U.S. missile defense system.

Putin proposed that both sides select designated targets to be protected by U.S. missiles, offering to conduct an experiment to prove the Oreshnik's superiority. "We're ready for such an experiment," Putin declared, suggesting a direct challenge to the U.S. missile defense technology. The Oreshnik missile, while a new weapon in Russia's arsenal, is based on previous Russian missile design developments. Putin described it as a modern and advanced system, signaling his confidence in its ability to evade missile defense systems and demonstrate Russia's growing military capabilities.

Russia first deployed the Oreshnik missile in a strike on the Ukrainian city of Dnipro on November 21, framing the attack as a retaliatory measure after Ukraine used U.S. ATACMs ballistic missiles and British Storm Shadows to target Russian territory. The missile attack underscored the ongoing military escalation between Russia and Ukraine, with Western-supplied weapons playing a central role in the conflict. Putin's comments come as tensions between Russia and the West continue to escalate over the ongoing war in Ukraine. The Russian president's challenge highlights the technological rivalry between the two powers, particularly in the field of missile defense and hypersonic weaponry. As both Russia and the United States

## UK PM Keir Starmer Hosts Indian Investors to Strengthen UK-India Economic Ties

**LONDON:** UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer recently welcomed a delegation of Indian investors and CEOs to Downing Street, focusing on boosting economic opportunities between the UK and India. This visit follows his meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the G20, where both leaders committed to advancing a UK-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. The partnership emphasizes collaboration in sectors like economic growth, security, defense, technology, climate, health, and education.

Supported by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), the delegation engaged in discussions with key UK officials, including Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves, Foreign Secretary David Lammy, and Secretary of State Jonathan Reynolds. They explored potential avenues for further strengthening the UK-India trade relationship, particularly in light of ongoing negotiations for a UK-India trade deal.

With bilateral trade already valued at £42 billion and supporting over 600,000 jobs in both nations, the two countries are looking to expand their economic ties. Mr. Starmer expressed enthusiasm about the opportunities, stating, "India is a vital partner for the UK, and we have huge ambition to unlock more opportunities together, building on our already strong relationship."

Jonathan Reynolds, Business and Trade Secretary, emphasized the UK's unmatched opportunities for Indian businesses, noting that India is already the second-largest source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) projects into the UK. He



reiterated the government's commitment to enhancing trade and investment links with India.

The delegation, led by Sunil Bharti Mittal, Founder and Chairman of Bharti Enterprises, highlighted India's rapid economic growth and its status as the fastest-growing large economy. Mittal also underscored the significant potential of the ongoing India-UK Free Trade Agreement negotiations for mutual growth and collaboration.

The event culminated in an evening reception hosted by the High Commission of India in London, reinforcing the importance of the UK-India partnership and signaling further opportunities for cooperation.

## Sri Lanka to Lift Vehicle Import Ban, Private Car Imports Allowed in 2025



goods and services.

President Anura Kumara Dissanayake confirmed in Parliament on Wednesday that while the ban on public transport vehicle imports will be lifted immediately, private car imports will only be permitted starting February 2025. However, he emphasized that the decision is subject to specific regulations designed to protect the country's ongoing efforts to bolster foreign reserves and ensure economic stability.

The policy shift is seen as a positive sign of economic recovery in Sri Lanka, which has been grappling with inflation, a shortage of foreign currency, and a decline in living standards. The import of vehicles, which had been severely restricted, is expected to provide some relief to the transportation sector, particularly public transport services that have been struggling with outdated fleets.

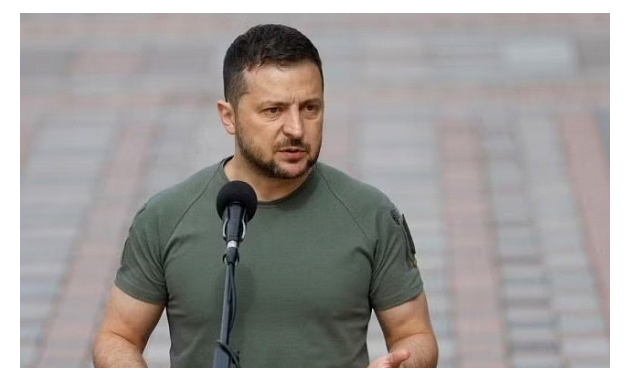
Despite the easing of restrictions, the government remains cautious and will enforce rules to prevent excessive spending of foreign currency on imports, aiming to balance economic recovery with the need to safeguard national reserves. The move signals gradual stabilization in Sri Lanka's economy and its readiness to open up key sectors to international trade once more.

## Zelensky Urges Trump to Support EU Alliance Against Russia Amid War Concerns

**BRUSSELS:** Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called on US President-elect Donald Trump to align with Europe in the fight against Russia and help secure Ukraine's future. Speaking ahead of an EU summit focused on the ongoing Ukraine war, Zelenskyy emphasized the importance of unity between the United States, the European Union, and European countries in addressing the Russian threat.

Zelenskyy's appeal comes amid growing concerns that Trump, a known NATO skeptic, might curtail American support for Ukraine's war effort. Trump has repeatedly expressed his intention to end the war quickly and has suggested that Ukrainian President Zelenskyy be open to negotiating a peace deal with Russian President Vladimir Putin. However, the specifics of these negotiations, including whether Ukraine would have to cede any territory to Russia, remain unclear. During the EU summit, EU diplomats signaled strong support for Ukraine, stressing that any peace settlement must include Ukraine and uphold its territorial integrity. They expressed their determination to send a clear message to Trump, affirming their commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty.

Antonio Costa, the new European Council President, underscored the EU's resolve in achiev-



ing a just and lasting peace. He emphasized that the war in Ukraine transcends national borders and is a critical issue for international law. "This war is not only about Ukraine, it is not only about Europe; it is about international law. The invasion must be defeated," Costa told reporters.

The EU leaders, while focused on supporting Ukraine's defense against Russian aggression, are keen to show that their backing for Kyiv remains steadfast, even as Trump's position on the war has raised questions about future US involvement. As the conflict approaches its third year, the EU continues to emphasize the need for unity among Western allies to ensure Ukraine's victory and uphold the principles of international law.





## Indian Stock Markets Lose ₹10 Lakh Crore in Four Sessions Amid Fed's Hawkish Stance

Indian stock markets experienced a significant downturn, shedding ₹10.5 lakh crore in market value over four sessions, following the US Federal Reserve's hawkish commentary. The Fed's decision to cut interest rates by just 25 basis points, along with signals that there may not be multiple rate cuts in 2025, dampened investor sentiment. This was compounded by a strong recovery in the US dollar, creating further uncertainty in global markets. High valuations added to the selling pressure, leading to a sharp decline in the markets.

On Thursday, the BSE Sensex, which had closed at 80,182 in the previous session, opened at 79,029, touching an intraday low of 79,020. Despite a brief recovery to 79,516, the index closed at 79,218, losing 964 points. The NSE Nifty followed a similar trend, opening at 23,877, reaching a low of 24,870 before recovering slightly to 24,004. It closed down by 247 points at 23,951. The Bank Nifty also saw a substantial loss of 563 points, settling at 51,575.

In the Nifty50, 14 stocks advanced, while 36 stocks declined. Dr. Reddy's, Cipla, BPCL, Sun Pharma, and



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Apollo Hospitals were the top gainers, while Bajaj Finserv, JSW Steel, Bajaj Finance, Grasim, and Asian Paints saw the most significant losses. The pharma and healthcare sectors saw increased demand, while other sectors such as banking, automotive, finance, IT, and FMCG were hit hard.

Despite the overall weakness in the market, the breadth favored buyers, with 1,100 stocks advancing and 2,890 stocks declining. Shares of 76 companies hit 52-week highs, while 50 reached 52-week lows. In the short term, investors are advised to consider stocks like Sun Pharma, Torrent Pharma, Ipka Labs, Lupin, and Hind Petro.

The market decline, triggered by the US Fed's stance, has led to a growing sense of uncertainty, with further risks looming if Nifty falls below the 200DEMA.

## SEBI Revises Merchant Banker and IPO Framework for SMEs to Enhance Investor Protection

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Wednesday introduced significant changes to the regulatory framework for merchant bankers (MBs) and initial public offerings (IPOs) for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The revisions aim to strengthen the structure for IPOs, ensuring better opportunities for SMEs with a proven track record to raise funds and get listed on stock exchanges, while enhancing investor protection.

SEBI's new guidelines for merchant bankers focus on updating eligibility criteria, activities that they can undertake, and the net worth requirements, including criteria for liquid net worth. These changes are designed to ensure that only qualified and capable entities handle SME IPOs, safeguarding the interests of investors.

The updated framework will allow well-established SMEs to tap public markets for fundraising, providing them with the much-needed capital to expand their operations. By easing the entry process for these businesses, SEBI aims to boost the participation of SMEs in the Indian capital markets.



With the new norms in place, SMEs with sound financial records and business models will have an opportunity to raise funds from the public, paving the way for their growth and development. The regulations are also intended to ensure that investors are well-protected, creating a more transparent and trustworthy environment for both companies and potential investors.

SEBI's move to revise the framework for merchant bankers and SME IPOs reflects its commitment to fostering a more vibrant and robust stock market while maintaining strict investor safeguards.

## India's Solar Manufacturing Sector Set for Growth with Rs 1 Lakh Crore Investment



India's solar equipment manufacturing sector is poised for robust growth over the next 2-3 years, with an expected capital expenditure (Capex) of nearly Rs 1 lakh crore, according to CareEdge Ratings. A significant portion of this investment—around Rs 70,000 crore—will be funded through debt, which includes funding for polysilicon and wafer production capacities.

As of September 2024, India's total renewable energy capacity stood at 155 Gigawatts, with the solar segment contributing the largest share of 91 GW. This expansion reflects India's strong commitment to renewable energy, driven by favorable policies, competitive tariffs, and substantial investor interest.

In the fiscal year 2023-24, India added 18.5 GW of renewable energy capacity. CareEdge Ratings anticipates that annual installations will exceed 35 GW over the next two years, supported by a pipeline of over 100 GW. This growth will be fueled by an ambitious annual tendering target of 50 GW for renewable energy, with solar power expected to account for the majority of this capacity.

Over the next 2-3 years, significant additions in solar capacity will come from rooftop installa-

tions, hybrid solar components, and off-grid solar projects, contributing 20 GW to the national grid. The government's proactive policies, including tariffs and non-tariff barriers, are also fostering demand for domestic solar equipment manufacturers.

To counteract the predatory pricing from Chinese manufacturers, the government imposed a 25% Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on Chinese solar cells and 40% on modules, effective from April 2022. This move has made domestic solar modules more cost-competitive, boosting the prospects for Indian manufacturers.

Despite the growth outlook, challenges remain. These include the lack of integrated solar equipment manufacturing capacity, supply chain dependencies on China, increasing competition, and potential delays in renewable energy capacity additions.

India continues to focus on reducing its dependence on fossil fuels and increasing its renewable energy capacity, in line with its commitments made during COP26. The country aims to achieve 500 GW of non-fossil fuel electricity capacity by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2070, marking its ambitious green energy agenda.

## India's GDP Growth Forecasted at 6.6% in FY26, Driven by Investment and Capex

India Ratings and Research has forecasted a 6.6% GDP growth for India in FY26, a slight increase from its revised FY25 growth estimate of 6.4%. Despite the current challenges posed by tightening monetary, fiscal, and external factors, the agency expects growth to recover in the coming financial year, driven by a combination of monetary easing and improvements in public and private investments, particularly in capital expenditure (capex).

The Indian economy has faced a cyclical slowdown over the past three quarters, largely due to the lingering effects of COVID-19 and base effect distortions. While Q1 FY25 is expected to experience weaker growth due to the strong base effect and the general elections scheduled for May 2024, a recovery is anticipated in Q2 FY25, though the impact of weak private sector capex may still affect the growth.

India Ratings highlights that while the economy is currently undergoing a phase of monetary, fiscal, and external tightening, the easing of monetary conditions is expected to provide a boost in the near term. However, fiscal and external pressures are likely to persist through FY26, limiting the scope for aggressive policy interventions.

Notwithstanding these challenges, the growth forecast for FY26 aligns with the best decadal growth period India wit-



nessed between FY11 and FY20. The improvement in investments, both public and private, is expected to play a key role in supporting the economy's recovery. The agency notes that the focus on capex will help rejuvenate growth in key sectors, providing the necessary momentum to sustain economic expansion in FY26 and beyond.

Devendra Kumar Pant, Chief Economist at India Ratings, emphasized that the economy's growth slowdown is expected to reverse from Q3 FY25 onwards, reinforcing the belief that India's economic resilience will support strong growth prospects in FY26.

## Sensex Drops 965 Points as US Fed Signals Fewer Rate Cuts

Equity benchmark Sensex suffered a sharp decline of nearly 965 points on Thursday, falling below the 80,000 mark, driven by heavy selling in global equities following the US Federal Reserve's indication of fewer rate cuts in 2025. The broader market also felt the impact of deep losses in key sectors, including consumer durables, banking, and IT stocks, exacerbated by foreign fund outflows.

The significant drop in the Indian stock market was largely influenced by the US Federal Reserve's hawkish stance. The Fed's recent comments indicated that interest rate cuts may be more limited in 2025, which spooked investors and caused a sell-off across global markets. As investors reassessed future growth prospects amid tighter monetary conditions, market sentiment turned bearish, contributing to the sharp fall in Sensex.



Consumer durables stocks, which have been key drivers of the Indian market, saw considerable losses, alongside banking and IT stocks, both of which are sensitive to global financial conditions. This sectoral weakness deepened the overall market's downward trajectory. Analysts pointed to the rising uncertainty in global markets, particularly due to the US Fed's policy outlook, which affected investor confidence.

Additionally, foreign fund outflows compounded the negative sentiment, leading to further pressure on the stock indices. The Sensex, which had closed at 80,182 in the previous session, opened lower at 79,029 and ended the day at 79,218, marking a decline of 964 points.

The Nifty 50 index also mirrored the trend, closing 247 points lower. Experts believe that unless there is a significant rebound in global market sentiment, the Indian stock market could face more challenges in the short term, especially if the Nifty falls below crucial support levels.

Investors are advised to stay cautious as market volatility continues, driven by external macroeconomic factors and domestic concerns.



## YouTube will Soon Take Down Videos With Click Bait Titles And Thumbnails

YouTube has introduced stricter measures aimed at curbing “egregious clickbait” on its platform, specifically targeting Indian users and content creators. This new policy, announced on December 19, outlines the company’s commitment to enhancing user experience by reducing misleading content that exploits sensationalized titles or thumbnails to attract views.

The term “egregious clickbait” refers to videos where the title or thumbnail promises or implies certain content that is not delivered in the actual video. This often happens with misleading claims about breaking news or current events that fail to meet viewers’ expectations upon watching. YouTube’s new guidelines seek to address this growing problem, which has increasingly affected the credibility of content on the platform.

YouTube has clarified that clickbait in this context involves video titles or thumbnails that exaggerate or distort the content’s subject matter, making false or unverified claims to mislead viewers into clicking the video. The platform highlights that while creative freedom in content creation is encouraged, it is important to ensure that the actual content aligns with the message conveyed in the title and thumbnail.

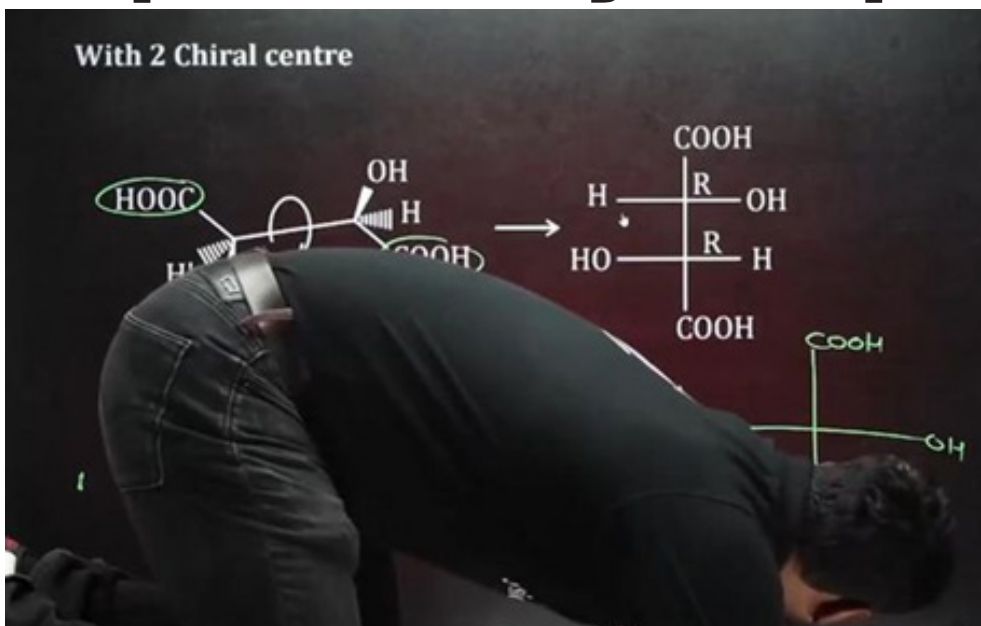


In recent years, YouTube has taken several steps to ensure the integrity of the platform, introducing various measures to combat misinformation, hate speech, and harmful content. The focus on clickbait now marks another significant step in refining the platform’s content policies to promote a more authentic user experience.

Indian content creators, in particular, will feel the impact of these stricter measures. As YouTube continues to prioritize the need for transparency and user trust, creators will need to be more cautious in how they design their video titles and thumbnails. Failure to comply with these new guidelines could result in videos being removed or channels facing restrictions.

The move is part of a broader effort by YouTube to tackle the spread of misleading or sensationalized content, which has long been a challenge for social media platforms globally. By implementing these changes, YouTube hopes to foster a more trustworthy and credible environment for both creators and viewers.

## Viral Video: Physics Wallah Teacher Uses Body to Explain Chirality Concept



Teaching methodologies are constantly evolving, and one recent lesson by Harsh Tyagi, an educator at India’s 101st unicorn startup Physics Wallah, showcased an unconventional approach to explaining complex scientific concepts. Physics Wallah, valued at over \$2.8 billion, offers courses for NEET and JEE, and Tyagi’s lesson on chirality has garnered widespread attention for its unique and creative teaching style.

Chirality, a fundamental concept in chemistry, refers to objects or molecules that exist in two forms, similar to how your left and right hands are mirror images of each other but cannot be perfectly aligned. In chiral molecules, no amount of rotation or flipping can make one image match the other. This concept is critical in understanding how molecules interact, and Tyagi’s lesson aimed to make it easier for students to grasp.

To explain chirality in a more engaging way, Tyagi used his own body to demonstrate the idea. In a video that

quickly went viral, he positioned himself on all fours on a table, with his hands extended to the floor and his legs raised. By mimicking the shape of a trigonal planar molecule, Tyagi physically demonstrated how chirality works, offering a more dynamic and memorable visual than traditional methods.

While the demonstration has been widely appreciated for its creativity, it has also divided opinion among students. Some praised Tyagi for his innovative teaching style, which made a complex concept more accessible. However, others felt the approach was too unconventional and distracting, expressing a preference for more traditional methods.

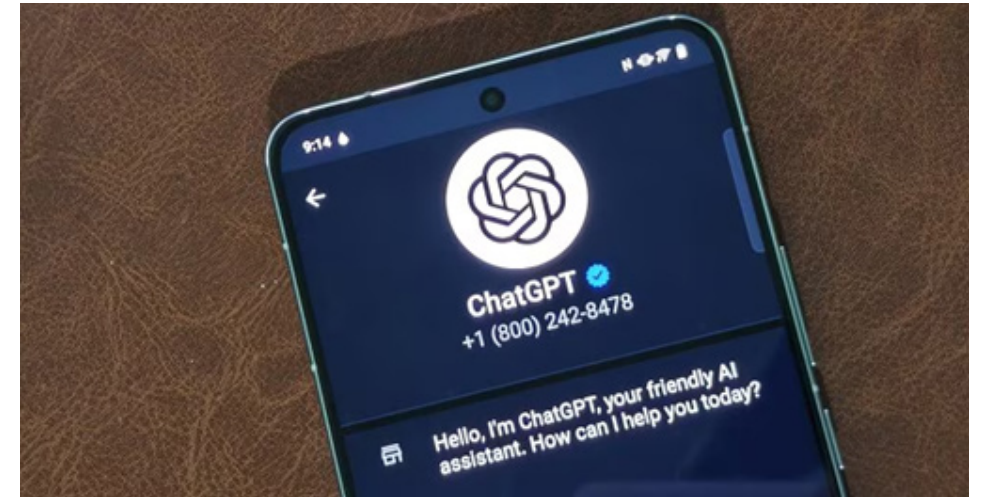
Regardless of differing opinions, Tyagi’s demonstration has sparked important discussions on how educators can adapt their teaching methods to make learning more interactive and engaging, especially when explaining abstract concepts like chirality in chemistry.

## OpenAI Makes ChatGPT Accessible via Landline and Flip Phones in the US and Canada

OpenAI has unveiled an exciting new feature for users in the United States and Canada: the ability to communicate with ChatGPT through flip phones and fixed landline phones. Starting Thursday, users can dial 1-800-CHATGPT to access the AI for up to 15 minutes per month, making it easier than ever to interact with ChatGPT, regardless of having access to smartphones or internet-enabled devices.

This move is part of OpenAI’s ongoing efforts to make its AI more accessible to a broader audience. The new service does not require users to have a subscription or even an account, allowing anyone with a basic phone line to interact with ChatGPT. Whether you’re using a landline or a flip phone, you can now make inquiries and have natural conversations with the AI, as it responds to voice input in a friendly, easy-to-understand manner.

The service provides a variety of useful functions. Users can ask ChatGPT personal queries, such as advice on various topics, or even learn about new phrases in different languages.



The AI is designed to offer a seamless voice exchange experience, providing a conversation that feels just like speaking to a human assistant. This opens up new possibilities for people who may not have had the means or inclination to use more traditional digital devices for interacting with AI.

This development is significant because it bridges the gap between advanced AI technology and users who rely on older, more basic communication methods. By providing an intuitive, voice-based way to in-

teract with ChatGPT, OpenAI ensures that even those with limited access to modern devices can benefit from the knowledge and assistance the AI offers.

With this new service, OpenAI has further expanded the reach of ChatGPT, ensuring that it is accessible to an even larger demographic. Whether for educational purposes, personal queries, or casual learning, ChatGPT’s voice capabilities open up a world of possibilities for everyone with access to a phone.

## Can Your Daily Cup of Tea Ruin Your Health? Experts Weigh In

For many, a warm cup of tea is the perfect start to the day, offering comfort and relaxation. But with concerns about caffeine and its potential health effects, many wonder: Could that daily cup of tea be doing more harm than good? Here’s what the experts have to say.

### Is One Cup of Tea Harmful?

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), tea, like coffee, contains caffeine, which stimulates the central nervous system and can lead to dependency. The recommended daily caffeine limit is 300 milligrams, which is roughly the amount found in two cups of tea. A 150 ml cup of tea typically contains 30-65 mg of caffeine, so one cup a day generally falls within safe limits.

Experts agree that moderate tea consumption, around two cups per day, does not pose significant health risks. However, it’s important to note that the type of tea and how it’s consumed can impact its health benefits. Green tea, for instance, offers antioxidants that can support overall health, while excessive milk and sugar can lessen the benefits.

### The Real Concern: Snacks with Tea

While one cup of tea a day isn’t harmful, many people pair their tea with high-calorie snacks like biscuits,



toast, and fried foods. Nutritionist Deepsikha Jain points out that if you consume 4-5 biscuits with your tea, you could easily add 300-400 calories to your daily intake. These additional calories can contribute to weight gain and other health issues when consumed regularly. So, while the tea itself isn’t harmful, the snacks you pair with it can make a difference in your overall health.

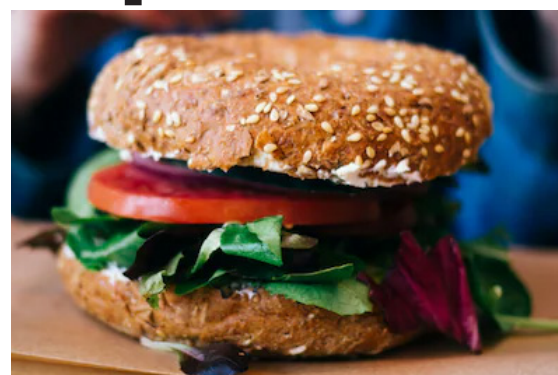
### Moderation is Key

In conclusion, there’s no need to worry about that daily cup of tea. It’s the extra calories from snacks that you should be mindful of. As long as you enjoy your tea in moderation and avoid pairing it with unhealthy snacks, it can be a healthy, comforting part of your routine.

## Shantanu Deshpande Critiques India’s Junk Food Epidemic in Viral Post

A recent LinkedIn post by Shantanu Deshpande, the CEO of Bombay Shaving Company, has gone viral, sparking widespread discussion about the declining state of healthy diets in India. Deshpande highlighted several factors contributing to what he called the “biggest epidemic” of poor nutrition in the country, focusing on the growing reliance on processed and ultra-processed foods.

Deshpande’s post begins by drawing attention to the increasing consumption of unhealthy foods high in palm oil and sugar. He points out that the nutritional value of India’s grains has deteriorated over the past 50 years, as agricultural practices have shifted focus from nutrition to maximizing yield. “We are suffering from the biggest epidemic of poor nutrition and unhealthy processed food,” he writes, emphasizing the widespread addiction to junk



food. He adds that this trend, driven by inexpensive and easily accessible fast foods like Rs 49 pizzas, Rs 20 energy drinks, and Rs 30 burgers, is mirroring the unhealthy patterns seen in countries like China and the US—without the economic buffer required for such diets.

In his post, Deshpande also criticized the food delivery sector, particularly platforms like Zomato, Swiggy, and Zepto. He described the practice of delivering “frozen purees and cur-

ries” or reheated food as part of the modern fast-food culture, which often fails to provide genuinely fresh meals. Deshpande expressed frustration over the prioritization of speed and convenience in food delivery, noting that food delivery services rush meals to customers in minutes, compromising quality and nutritional value.

Deshpande urged food delivery companies to focus on providing healthier, non-stale options that could truly meet consumer needs. While he acknowledged the current limitations in offering fresh meals within such a short time frame, he called for innovation to create healthier, quicker food options. “I would LOVE if we innovate and are able to actually give non-stale and decent food in 10 min,” he wrote, calling it a “massive unlock” for the future of Indian commerce.



## ICC Announces Neutral Venues for 2025 Champions Trophy and India-Pakistan Matches



The uncertainty surrounding the venue for the 2025 ICC Champions Trophy has finally been resolved. After months of speculation, the International Cricket Council (ICC) officially announced that the prestigious event will be held in Pakistan, with some matches played at a neutral venue. The ICC confirmed the decision in a statement, bringing clarity to the host locations for the 2025 edition of the tournament.

In another significant development, the ICC, led by Jay Shah, revealed that all India vs. Pakistan matches in ICC events will be held at neutral venues until 2027. This means that upcoming India-Pakistan encounters

in major ICC events, including the Champions Trophy 2025, will not take place in either country. Instead, neutral venues will be chosen for these high-profile matches.

This decision applies to multiple upcoming ICC events. Apart from the 2025 Champions Trophy, which will be hosted by Pakistan, the rule will also apply to the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 and the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, both of which are set to be held in India. Additionally, the 2026 Men's T20 World Cup will be co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka.

The decision comes amid ongoing political tensions between India

and Pakistan, which have often affected bilateral cricket series. In the past, both teams have faced challenges in playing each other in their respective countries due to diplomatic reasons, leading to the need for neutral venues to host their encounters.

With this announcement, the ICC has provided certainty about the logistics of upcoming events and clarified the situation for fans and teams. While it may disappoint some who were hoping for India and Pakistan to face off on home soil, the move ensures the smooth organization of these high-profile fixtures in the coming years.

## PSG Defeats Monaco 4-2, Extends Unbeaten Run but Loses Donnarumma to Injury

Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) extended their unbeaten start to the Ligue 1 season with a 4-2 victory over Monaco on Wednesday, but the win was marred by a serious injury to goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma. The Italy international was left requiring 10 staples after sustaining deep facial lacerations when he was struck by the studs of Monaco's Wilfried Singo. PSG captain Marquinhos expressed concern over the lack of a red card, stating, "I don't know if the referee was badly positioned, but VAR needed to intervene. You have to protect the players."



Despite the injury setback, PSG continued their relentless push for victory. After Donnarumma was replaced by Matvey Safonov, Desire Doue gave the visitors the lead with his first league goal. However, Monaco responded strongly in the second half, scoring twice in quick succession to take the lead. First, Eliesse Ben Seghir converted a penalty after a handball by Marquinhos, and Maghnes Aklouches's cross allowed Brel Embolo to poke the home side ahead.

But PSG was far from finished. Ousmane Dembele equalized shortly after Monaco's second goal, and Goncalo Ramos gave PSG the lead with a header off

a corner shortly after coming on. Monaco goalkeeper Philipp Koehn denied Lee Kang-in's powerful long-range effort with a brilliant save that tipped the ball onto the post.

Tempers flared when Monaco's head coach Adi Huetter was sent off for his reaction to a penalty appeal being turned down for a challenge on Embolo. Dembele sealed PSG's victory with a second goal deep into stoppage time, signaling his return to form after reports of tension with coach Luis Enrique in recent weeks.

With the win, PSG now hold a 10-point lead over second-placed Marseille and Monaco in the Ligue 1 standings. The Parisians will next face Lens in the French Cup before a rematch with Monaco in the Champions Trophy on January 5.

## Manu Bhaker's Olympic success becomes defining moment for Indian shooting in 2024



Manu Bhaker's remarkable achievements at the Paris Olympics 2024 have become a defining moment for Indian shooting. Despite narrowly missing a historic hat-trick of medals, finishing fourth in the women's 25m sports pistol event, Bhaker's two bronze medals in 10m air pistol and 10m mixed team pistol were historic. Her triumphs in Paris made her the first Indian woman athlete to secure two medals in a single Olympic Games, marking a major milestone for Indian shooting.

India had a record 21 shooters at the 2024 Olympics, finally breaking a nearly decade-long medal drought in the sport. Alongside Bhaker's success, Swapnil Kusale also earned a bronze in the 50m rifle 3-positions, contributing to India's three-bronze haul.

The spotlight remained on Bhaker, who had faced disappointment at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics due to a pistol malfunction that dashed her hopes. This time, she stepped into the Cha-teauroux range with confidence and composure, ending the country's Olympic medal drought in shooting. Her coach, Jaspal Rana, played a crucial role in her success. Despite facing challenges, including being sidelined by the National Rifle Association of

India and forced to coach from the stands, Jaspal's unwavering support helped Bhaker overcome her doubts and excel.

Along with Bhaker, Sarabjot Singh also had an extraordinary year. After overcoming a career-threatening injury in 2023, the Ambala shooter clinched a joint bronze medal with Bhaker in the 10m mixed team event. Swapnil Kusale's success was a personal victory for his coach, Deepali Deshpande, who had faced criticism for India's performance at Tokyo 2020 but guided Kusale to an Olympic medal.

Despite the success, there were some near-misses. Arjun Babuta, Maheshwari Chauhan, and Anant Jeet Singh Naruka, who finished fourth in their respective events, are seen as hopefuls for future Olympic glory.

The lead-up to Paris was marked by selection controversies, as shooters like Rudrankksh Patil and Tilottama Sen, who had earned quota places, missed out on the final team due to disputes over Olympic selection criteria. However, the success of Bhaker, Sarabjot, and Swapnil has revitalized Indian shooting, paving the way for even greater achievements at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

## Real Madrid beats Pachuca in Intercontinental Cup final

Real Madrid triumphed over Mexican team Pachuca 3-0 in the Intercontinental Cup final on Wednesday, making Carlo Ancelotti the most decorated coach in the club's history. With this win, Ancelotti secured his 15th title with the Spanish giants, surpassing the 14 trophies won by both him and the legendary Miguel Muñoz, who led the team during the 1960s and 70s.

"Very happy, it's a triumph," said Ancelotti, 65, who had been named FIFA's Men's Coach of the Year just the day before. "We didn't get off to a good start but finished well, showing great attitude."

The victory marked Real Madrid's fourth Intercontinental Cup title, adding to their previous wins in 1960, 1998, and 2002. Kylian Mbappé, Rodrygo, and Vinícius Júnior each found the back of the net, securing a dominant win for the European champions.

Pachuca, which was competing for its first-ever Intercontinental Cup title, was outplayed by the reigning European champions in the final. The match took place as part of FIFA's revamped Club World Cup, which now fea-



tures 32 teams from across the globe, starting in 2025.

This victory adds another prestigious trophy to Ancelotti's already impressive resume, solidifying his legacy as one of the most successful coaches in football history. With this title, he continues to expand his collection of honors, reinforcing Real Madrid's position as one of the world's most dominant football clubs.

## Bonmati's Goal Secures Barcelona's Top Spot in Women's Champions League

Aitana Bonmati's decisive goal helped Barcelona secure a 3-0 win over Manchester City on Wednesday, ensuring the defending champions topped Group D in the Women's Champions League and advanced to the quarterfinals. Bonmati, who recently won the prestigious FIFA Women's Player of the Year award for the second consecutive year, scored in the 57th minute, racing through and calmly slotting the ball between the goalkeeper's legs to double Barcelona's lead.

The victory ensured both Barcelona and Manchester City finished with 15 points in the group, but Barcelona's superior goal difference saw them finish as group winners. The



result continued Barcelona's strong campaign, highlighting their dominance in European women's football.

Bonmati, who also won back-to-back Ballon d'Or awards in wom-

en's soccer, played a crucial role in securing the top spot for her team, underlining her importance in Barcelona's success.

In other Group D action, Arsenal confirmed their place as another group winner, securing a 3-2 victory over Bayern Munich. Spain's Marióna Caldentey scored an 86th-minute penalty to seal the win, securing Arsenal's qualification as the fourth and final group winner.

Barcelona, Arsenal, Lyon, and Chelsea have now progressed to the knockout stages as group winners, marking another chapter in the growing prominence of women's football in Europe.



## Meenu from Sankranthiki Vasthunnam: A Romantic Melody

Venkatesh's upcoming film \*Sankranthiki Vasthunnam\* is generating significant buzz as it prepares for its release on January 14th, coinciding with the Sankranti festival. The promotional activities for the movie are in full swing, with the first song already receiving a tremendous response and the second song's teaser also creating excitement among fans.

The song, titled "Meenu," showcases a tender and romantic storyline. Venkatesh, portraying a police academy trainer, narrates his love story with Meenakshi, one of his trainees. Their budding romance is filled with cherished moments that unfold throughout the song. At one point, Venkatesh's wife, Aishwarya, grows worried about the bond he shares with Meenakshi. However, Venkatesh reassures her by saying that he never kissed Meenakshi, which instantly calms her down and brings peace to the situation.

The song is a delightful romantic melody, composed by the talented Bheems Ceciroleo. The lyrics, penned by Anantha Sriram, beautifully capture the essence of love and longing. Bheems' music, combined with Pranavi Acharya's soulful vocals, creates a magical atmosphere that is bound to resonate with

listeners. Given its melodic charm and emotional depth, the song is expected to become an instant hit.

Directed by Anil Ravipudi and produced by Sri Venkateswara Creations, \*Sankranthiki Vasthunnam\* promises to be a perfect treat for audiences during the festive season. With its captivating music and heartwarming storyline, the film is poised to make a significant impact when it hits theaters on January 14th. Fans are eagerly anticipating the film's release, and the romantic melody "Meenu" has only added to the excitement surrounding this upcoming blockbuster.



## Raja Saab Producers Address Film's Progress, Stay Silent on Postponement Rumors

The buzz surrounding Prabhas' upcoming film \*The Raja Saab\* has intensified following rumors about its potential postponement due to the actor's reported injury. The speculation escalated further when Siddhu Jonnalagadda announced the release of his next film on the same date \*The Raja Saab\* had originally chosen, leading many in the industry to assume that the film would be delayed.

In response to these growing speculations, the team behind \*The Raja Saab\* issued a statement updating the public on the film's progress but refrained from addressing the postponement rumors directly. The statement confirmed that the film's shooting is progressing rapidly, with nearly 80% of the shoot completed. The team emphasized that post-production work is also underway, indicating that the production is



on track.

Regarding the teaser, the team responded to various rumors claiming it would be released around Christmas or New Year. They urged the public not to believe these false reports, stating that an official announcement would

be made at the appropriate time. The statement concluded by assuring fans that the teaser, when it arrives, will be an exciting and thrilling treat, promising to leave viewers spellbound.

Interestingly, while the statement provided clarity on the teaser release, it did not address the rumors about the film's postponement, nor did it include a confirmed release date on the poster, fueling further doubts among fans and industry watchers.

Directed by Maruthi, \*The Raja Saab\* stars Prabhas in the lead role, with Niddhi Agerwal and Malavika Mohanan playing the female leads. Despite the ongoing speculation about the film's release, the team remains tight-lipped about any delays, keeping audiences eagerly awaiting more official updates in the coming weeks.

## Upendra's UI: The Movie Set to Deliver a Powerful Message on Global Warming

Upendra's latest film, *UI: The Movie*, is more than just an action-packed spectacle; it aims to deliver a thought-provoking message about the planet's future. Set to release tomorrow, the futuristic film delves deep into the devastating consequences of global warming, offering a wake-up call for viewers about the urgent need for environmental conservation.

The movie envisions a world ravaged by climate change, where humanity is grappling to survive amidst rising temperatures and deteriorating ecosystems. While the plot remains under wraps, reports suggest that \*UI\* highlights the severe impact of pollution, biodiversity loss, and the role of politicians in exacerbating these environmental crises. The film promises to combine intense action with a compelling narrative that critiques the political apathy towards pressing global issues.



In an interesting decision, the filmmakers have kept the film's runtime to a concise 2 hours and 12 minutes, ensuring that the narrative remains engaging without any lulls. This move is expected to keep audiences hooked from start to finish, with every moment contributing to the film's core message.

The film has garnered significant attention, especially since Upendra has stepped behind the camera as the director after a considerable gap. His return to direction has added an extra layer of anticipation for the movie, as fans are eager to see how he handles this ambitious project.

\*UI: The Movie\* has been mounted on a hefty budget of nearly 100 crore, making it one of Upendra's most expensive ventures to date. Produced as a joint venture between Lahari Films and Venus Entertainers, the movie is being brought to the Telugu audience by Geetha Arts. With the overwhelming response to the trailer and promotional materials, expectations for \*UI\* are running high. The film's release is eagerly awaited, as it promises to be both an action-packed experience and a timely reminder of the environmental issues that threaten the future of the planet.

## Kamal Haasan's Indian 3: Shankar's Franchise Continues with Exciting Updates

The \*Indian\* franchise, starring Kamal Haasan in the lead role, continues to captivate audiences, and the third installment, \*Indian 3\*, is already generating significant buzz. Directed by Shankar, the franchise has already seen the release of \*Indian 2\*, a highly anticipated sequel. However, despite a grand release on July 12 this year, \*Indian 2\* fell short of expectations at the box office, failing to meet the audience's hopes.



Rumors have been circulating that \*Indian 3\* might bypass a theatrical release and head straight to OTT platforms, following the financial setbacks faced by the producers of the sequel. However, Shankar remains optimistic about the future of the franchise, dismissing negative reviews of \*Indian 2\* and expressing confidence in the upcoming projects. He believes that films like \*Game Changer\* and \*Indian 3\* will surely resonate with audiences when they hit theaters.

Kamal Haasan's fans are particularly excited as \*Indian 3\* is confirmed to be released in cinemas, with Shankar's team planning a significant promotional campaign to boost anticipation. The

latest updates suggest that after the release of \*Game Changer\*, the \*Indian 3\* promotions will take center stage, and a trailer is expected to be unveiled soon. The trailer is expected to generate massive excitement and hype for the film, signaling the high expectations surrounding its release.

Shankar's fans can look forward to a thrilling couple of years, as \*Indian 3\* and \*Game Changer\* are both set to release in close proximity, giving moviegoers two major films to look forward to from the renowned director. With all the buzz around the upcoming projects, \*Indian 3\* is expected to reignite the interest in the franchise and deliver the much-anticipated cinematic experience that fans have been waiting for.

## Keerthy Suresh Shares Glimpse of Dreamy Wedding with Thalapathy Vijay in Attendance

Actress Keerthy Suresh and her longtime partner, Anthony Thattai, tied the knot in a beautiful ceremony in Goa on December 12. Among the distinguished guests at the wedding was none other than Keerthy's co-star, the beloved actor Thalapathy Vijay, who added star power to the celebration.

On the evening following her wedding, the new bride shared a series of stunning photos from the event on her Instagram. One of the pictures featured the newlyweds posing alongside Vijay, who looked dashing in traditional attire, capturing a moment of warmth and joy.

Keerthy also shared another candid image of Vijay interacting with some of the guests at the ceremony, showcasing the personal and intimate nature of the event. In her heartfelt post, she expressed her gratitude to Vijay for attending and blessing their special day. The post, which was accompanied by a caption that read, "When our dream icon blessed us at our dream weddinggg! @actorvijay sir. With love, Your Nanbi and Nanban," reflected the deep admiration and affection Keerthy holds for the actor, both as a colleague and a friend.

Thalapathy Vijay's presence at Keerthy's wedding added an extra touch of magic to



the celebration, making the occasion even more memorable for the couple. Their bond, both on-screen and off, has resonated with fans, and this moment further solidified their close friendship.

As the newlyweds embark on this new chapter of their lives, the sweet memories of their dream wedding, along with the support of close friends like Vijay, will undoubtedly be cherished forever.