

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

TEMPE RATURE

t°

H 28° C

L 22° C

VIJAYAWADA

TEMPE RATURE

t°

H 29° C

L 24° C

TIRUPATHI

TEMPE RATURE

t°

H 26° C

L 24° C

# 2024: A Tough Year for BRS

Parliamentary Elections Wipeout  
Legal Troubles for BRS Leaders  
Congress Tightens the Grip

KCR's Absence and Leadership Void  
Kavitha's Jail Term Shocks Party  
Uncertain Road Ahead for BRS

TPN | PARTHU, Hyderabad : The year 2024 will be remembered as one of the most challenging periods in the history of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) party. From electoral setbacks to internal and external crises, the party faced a series of blows that have left its leadership grappling with uncertainty and damage control.

Historic Defeat in Parliament Elections

The 2024 Parliament elections marked a significant low for BRS, with the party failing to secure a single seat out of the 17 contested in Telangana. This unprecedented defeat was a major setback for a party that had once dominated the political landscape of the state. Particularly disheartening for the leadership was BRS's performance in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) area, where it fell to the fourth position in several constituencies. For the first time since its inception,

BRS lost representation in the Lok Sabha. This crushing defeat has dealt a severe blow to the morale of party workers and supporters and raised questions about the leadership of K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR).

KCR Retreats from Public Eye

Amid these challenges, Chief Minister KCR largely confined himself to his farmhouse throughout the year. His absence from public events and even the Assembly sessions fueled criticism from the ruling Congress party, with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy repeatedly questioning KCR's silence and lack of engagement. The lack of visible leadership from KCR put additional pressure on K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) and T. Harish Rao, who were tasked with handling party affairs during this turbulent time. Kavitha's Arrest and Its Fallout

In March 2024, BRS MLC K. Kavitha, KCR's daughter, was arrested and spent five months in jail in connection with an investigation. This development was a significant shock to both the party and KCR's family, further tarnishing the party's image.

Scandals and Investigations Target KTR

Both the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) issued notices to KTR, with speculation rife about his potential arrest. Although a court issued interim orders preventing KTR's arrest until the end of the year, these developments added to the growing pressure on BRS leadership.

Internal and External Challenges

Adding to the party's woes, several BRS MLAs crossed over to the ruling Congress. This exodus raised doubts

about the party's cohesion and ability to retain its influence. The Congress party, under Revanth Reddy's leadership, has been relentless in its criticism of BRS, accusing it of corruption and inefficiency.

Hopes for a New Beginning in 2025

As 2024 draws to a close, the mood within BRS is somber. The party's rank and file view the year as one of continuous setbacks, from electoral defeats to leadership crises and scandals. With the dawn of 2025, questions

loom large over BRS's future. Can the party overcome its challenges, regain public trust, and rebuild its political fortunes? The coming months will determine whether BRS can bounce back or if the events of 2024 will mark the beginning of its decline.

For now, the party stands at a critical juncture, with its leadership under fire and its political relevance in question. Only time will tell if the once-dominant force in Telangana politics can reclaim its lost ground.

## CM Revanth, KTR Unite for Bharat Ratna Resolution For Manmohan Singh

Resolution for Bharat Ratna Passed Unanimously  
Revanth Reddy Praises Economic Reforms Legacy of Manmohan Singh  
BRS Extends Full Support to the Proposal  
Tributes to Dr. Singh's Lifetime of Service

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : The Telangana government has introduced a resolution in the Assembly, recommending the Central Government confer the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award, on former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. The resolution was unanimously supported by the opposition Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) party.

The Assembly convened on Monday for a special session to pay tribute to Dr. Singh, who recently passed away due to age-related health issues. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy lauded the contributions of Dr. Singh, describing him as the architect of India's economic reforms. "Dr. Manmohan Singh breathed new life into the Indian economy during his tenure as Finance Minister from 1991-96, putting the country on a path of sustained growth," said Reddy.

Revanth Reddy highlighted Singh's distinguished service in various roles, including Prime Minister, Union Finance Minister, and RBI Governor. He also re-

called his tenure as Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, praising his leadership and vision for economic progress.

Opposition Leader and former Minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) voiced BRS's full support for the resolution. "Dr. Manmohan Singh is truly deserving of the Bharat Ratna for his invaluable contributions to the nation's economic development and governance. His service is a testament to excellence and dedication," said KTR.

The resolution emphasized Dr. Singh's lasting legacy and his pivotal role in transforming India's economic landscape. Leaders from across party lines expressed their condolences and celebrated his remarkable achievements.

This bipartisan move reflects the profound respect and gratitude for Dr. Singh's lifetime of service to the nation. The Telangana Assembly now looks to the Central Government to honor the resolution and confer the Bharat Ratna on the late leader.

## Future City Plans with Microsoft

Focus on Skill University Collaboration... Plans for Future City and AI City Development

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad : Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy held a special meeting with Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella at his residence in Hyderabad. The Chief Minister was accompanied by Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari, Ministers Sridhar Babu, Utam Kumar Reddy, and other officials.

The discussions focused on collaboration opportunities between Telangana and Microsoft, particularly in the areas of skill development and emerging technologies. A key topic was the proposed Skill University, with both sides exploring Microsoft's potential role as a partner. The meeting also covered plans for developing a Future City and AI City in Telangana, with an emphasis on establishing research and development facilities and a Center of Excellence in Cloud Computing.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy urged Satya Nadella to support the Cloud Computing Center of Excellence and requested free OpenAI credits to facilitate innovation in the state. The conversation also included discussions about expanding Microsoft's four data centers in

Telangana and enhancing the Hyderabad center's operations.

This meeting underscores Telangana's commitment to advancing technological innovation and fostering partnerships with global leaders like Microsoft to strengthen the state's position as a tech hub.

## Allu Arjun Unfairly Cornered; Collective Accountability is Needed

- AP Dy CM addressed Allu Arjun's arrest and stampede issue.

- Says He is Unaware of the complete details in Allu Arjun's case.

- Defends police, stating they cannot be blamed for the incident.

- Either the team or the hero should have visited the victim's family the next day.

- Urged better precautions from theater management and actor's teams.

- Recalled Chiranjeevi's discreet approach to attending movie screenings.

- Praised Telangana CM Revanth Reddy's ticket pricing policies.

2<sup>nd</sup> page

## Ten IPS Officers Transferred in Telangana

2<sup>nd</sup> page





## Allu Arjun Unfairly Cornered; Collective Accountability is Needed



**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad :** Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has addressed the controversy surrounding the arrest of actor Allu Arjun and the stampede at Sandhya Theater during the 'Pushpa 2' premiere on December 4. Speaking to media in Mangalagiri, Pawan Kalyan shared his perspective on the incident, emphasizing the importance of fairness and accountability.

Speaking to the media in Mangalagiri, he admitted to not knowing the complete details of the incident, saying, "I don't know what happened in front of or behind the scenes in the Bunny case." Defending the police, Pawan stated that the law applies equally to everyone and emphasized their role in ensuring security during such events. He also acknowledged the emotional connection actors have with their fans, remarking, "Every hero has the right to greet their fans and feel their reaction."

Pawan Kalyan stated that either the team or the hero should have visited the victim's family the day after the incident, emphasizing the importance of showing immediate support in such situations. He further stressed that the theater management and the actor's team should have taken adequate precautions to avoid the tragic incident. The Deputy CM called for collective accountability, urging all parties involved to ensure such mishaps are prevented in the future.

Pawan Kalyan also drew a comparison to his brother Chiranjeevi, who used to attend movie screenings incognito to avoid disruptions. "Chiranjeevi garu would watch films in theaters wearing a mask to maintain a low profile," he said. Addressing ticket pricing policies, Pawan contrasted the approach taken by Telangana CM Revanth Reddy, praising him for providing opportunities to increase ticket prices for benefit shows in Telangana, unlike YCP policies in Andhra Pradesh. Concluding his remarks, the Deputy CM expressed disappointment over how Allu Arjun was "unfairly cornered" in the issue, reiterating that such incidents call for collective accountability rather than isolating any individual.

## Ten IPS Officers Transferred in TG

**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad :** The Telangana government has announced the transfer of ten IPS officers, assigning them to new positions as Additional Superintendents of Police (SP) in various districts. The transfers, aimed at streamlining law enforcement across the state, were confirmed through an official notification on Monday. The new appointments are as follows:

- Kajal: Utnur Additional SP
- Mounika: Devarakonda Additional SP
- Rahul Reddy: Bhuvanagiri Additional SP
- Chittaranjan: Asifabad Additional SP
- Bokka Chaitanya: Kamareddy Additional SP
- Chetan Nithin: Janagama Additional SP
- Vikrant Kumar: Bhadrachalam Additional SP
- Shubham Prakash: Karimnagar Rural Additional SP
- Rajesh Meena: Nirmal Additional SP
- Ankit Kumar: Attached to the DGP's office

These changes reflect the state's efforts to strengthen administrative efficiency and enhance public safety. Each officer brings a wealth of experience and is expected to contribute significantly to their respective jurisdictions. The transfers come as part of routine administrative measures to optimize law enforcement across Telangana.

## TTD Resolves Issues for Telangana Public Representatives on Srivari Darshan

**TPN Correspondent, Telangana, :** Tirumala and Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) have announced a positive change for public representatives from Telangana. After facing criticism for allegedly discriminating against Telangana public representatives, TTD has decided to resolve the issues surrounding recommendation letters for Srivari darshan in Tirumala.

TTD Chairman BR Naidu, during a meeting with Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu, confirmed that the problems related to the recommendation letters from

Telangana MPs, MLAs, and MLCs will be addressed. This comes after dissatisfaction expressed by both ruling and opposition parties in Telangana.

The controversy began over the allocation of darshan slots based on the recommendation letters from Telangana public representatives. The issue escalated after former BRS Minister Srinivas Goud and Minister Konda Surekha raised concerns about perceived discrimination. Initially, TTD Chairman BR Naidu responded defensively, but later backed down following contin-

## KTR Accuses Congress of Misleading Farmers and BCs

**KTR Slams Congress for Failing to Deliver on Promises**  
**Telangana Government Against Corruption Claims**  
**KTR Discusses Party Strengthening Plans for 2025**

**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad :** K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) strongly criticized the Congress government led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, accusing it of filing baseless cases and failing to deliver on key promises. KTR addressed various issues, including corruption allegations, government policies, and political strategies, while highlighting the Congress party's shortcomings.

KTR dismissed the cases filed against him as baseless, claiming they were politically motivated and lacked evidence. "The government files cases in the name of the Anti-Corruption Bureau when there is no corruption. Even if they file indiscriminately, we will face them legally," KTR stated, adding that he has approached the High Court to quash the FIR against him.

Addressing allegations related to the Formula E race in Hyderabad, KTR defended the government's decision to support the event financially. "We paid to ensure Hyderabad and Telangana maintained their international reputation. Not a single rupee of corruption occurred in this



affair," he asserted.

KTR also questioned the Congress party's inconsistencies, citing that CM Revanth Reddy had withheld details of his meeting with Formula E representatives for over a year. He accused the Congress government of blackmailing officials and lying about financial matters, including allegations of misappropriating Rs. 600 crores.

KTR criticized the Congress government

for its failure to implement key promises, particularly the farmer loan waiver scheme. He alleged that delays and inefficiencies in the program led to farmer suicides and financial chaos, stating, "The state's farmers have lost Rs. 26,000 crore due to the Congress party's negligence."

He further accused the Congress of misleading BC communities by failing to implement 42% local body reservations. "The Congress is using court cases as an excuse to deny BC reservations. This is a conspiracy to deceive marginalized communities," KTR remarked. KTR also criticized CM Revanth Reddy for targeting film personalities, calling it a distraction from public issues. He urged the government to prioritize compensation for victims of recent tragedies, including Gurukul school students and auto drivers.

"The Congress party has proven why people shouldn't vote for them. Their vague promises have become a curse for the state," KTR concluded, reiterating his commitment to strengthening his party at every level.

## Deputy CM Lauds Manmohan Singh's Contributions



**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad :** In his speech on the occasion of the condolence resolution for the late Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Deputy CM Bhatti

Vikramarka Mallu lauded the former leader as a beacon of humanity. He remarked, "Many are born and disappear, but only a few spread the fragrance of humanity on this earth, and Manmohan Singh is one of them."

Bhatti Vikramarka emphasized that Manmohan Singh's legacy would remain immortal as long as the state of Telangana exists. He credited the late leader with playing a pivotal role in securing the passage of the Telangana bill in Parliament despite lacking the necessary parliamentary strength, alongside UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi.

The Deputy CM highlighted Manmohan Singh's significant contributions, in-

cluding being the first Prime Minister to waive off farmer loans, which later inspired Telangana's two lakh loan waiver scheme. Bhatti also expressed full support for CM Revanth Reddy's proposal to install a statue of Manmohan Singh in Hyderabad and award him the Bharat Ratna.

Bhatti Vikramarka praised Manmohan Singh for his bold and transformative decisions, such as introducing the Right to Information Act, the Employment Guarantee Scheme Act, the Forest Rights Act, and the Land Acquisition Act. He also acknowledged Singh's efforts to repeal the oppressive Scavengers Act, significantly improving India's global standing while securing the dignity of its citizens.

## Bandi Sanjay Criticizes Pawan Kalyan's Praise of Revanth Reddy

**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad, :** Union Minister of State Bandi Sanjay has criticized Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan for praising Telangana CM Revanth Reddy in the context of the arrest of film actor Allu Arjun. Sanjay questioned what Pawan Kalyan saw as commendable in Revanth Reddy, accusing him of failing to implement the six guarantees promised to the people of Telangana.

During a media interaction, when asked about Pawan Kalyan's statement calling Revanth Reddy a great leader, Bandi Sanjay responded by expressing confusion over why Revanth Reddy was considered great. He sarcastically mentioned that if promises like farmer insurance, Rs. 2 lakh worth of gold, Rs. 4,000 unemployment allowance, and a support pension



of Rs. 4,000 were delivered, then perhaps Revanth Reddy could be regarded as great.

Sanjay further raised suspicions about the relationship between Telangana CM Revanth Reddy and Allu Arjun, suggesting something had gone wrong between them, although neither party

had clarified the situation. He questioned why the issue was being discussed in the Assembly when Revanth Reddy had previously stated that the law would take its course in the Sandhya Theater incident and the case involving Allu Arjun.

Additionally, Bandi Sanjay pointed out that CM Revanth Reddy had prematurely shown Pushpa-3, even before the film's release, and highlighted that it had made Rs. 1,700 crores in revenue and gained national recognition. Sanjay criticized the treatment of Allu Arjun, asserting that many actors in Telangana were overlooked while Allu Arjun was being singled out. He implied that the arrest of the actor might be a diversion from the failure to implement the six guarantees promised to the public.







# Manmohan Singh's Legacy: Ponnam Calls for Honor



**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad :** In a heartfelt speech in the Telangana Legislative Assembly, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar endorsed the proposal by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to award former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh the Bharat Ratna and install his statue in Hyderabad's Financial

District. Reflecting on his five-year association with Singh during the 15th Lok Sabha, Ponnam praised Singh's contributions to India's economic reforms and his leadership in the banking and finance sectors.

He highlighted Singh's academic achievements, including his Oxford and Cambridge degrees and his role as a professor at Punjab University. As Finance Minister, Singh implemented numerous landmark policies, including the Food Security Act, the Land Acquisition Act, and the Employment Guarantee Act. He also emphasized Singh's pivotal role in securing financial reforms, loan waivers, and the establishment of essential infrastructure projects such as the Hyderabad Metro and Outer Ring Road.

Ponnam also recalled Singh's instrumental role in the formation of Telangana and his commitment to its cause. He urged the Assembly to support the resolution to honor Manmohan Singh, acknowledging his deep respect for democracy and his enduring legacy in shaping India's future.

## BJP Urges Dual Memorial for Manmohan and PVN Rao



**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad :** BJP floor leader A.L.T. Maheshwar Reddy has urged the state government to establish a memorial for former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao alongside the proposed memorial for Manmohan Singh. The call comes after Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's recent announcement to set up a memorial for Manmohan Singh in recognition of his services to the country. The CM also mentioned plans to name a government scheme after the former Prime Minister.

Maheshwar Reddy emphasized the importance of honoring PV Narasimha Rao, often referred to as Telangana's beloved leader, for his monumental contributions to the country, particularly in the areas of economic reforms. He stated that a memorial for PV Narasimha Rao would be a fitting tribute to his legacy, alongside the memorial for Manmohan Singh.

The BJP leader's comments highlight the need for recognition of both leaders' contributions to the nation, and he expressed hope that the Telangana government would take action to honor both men with dedicated memorials.

## Komatireddy Praises Dr. Manmohan's Leadership

**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad :** In the Telangana Legislative Assembly, Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy paid tribute to former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, highlighting his extraordinary leadership and transformative contributions to India. He described Dr. Singh as an economist admired worldwide, a leader who steered India towards economic reforms and growth.

Minister Komatireddy emphasized that Dr. Singh's leadership transcended religion and politics, noting how, despite his Sikh background, he was universally regarded as a true Indian leader. He praised Dr. Singh's humble nature, stating that, despite his prestigious academic background and accomplishments, he never sought personal glory.

Dr. Singh's pivotal role in India's economic rise was also highlighted, particularly his efforts in 1991 that transformed the country from an economic crisis to the world's fifth-largest economy. Minister Komatireddy credited him with raising India's global stature, especially through initiatives like the Food Security Act, the Right to Information Act, and the Indo-US Civil Nuclear Agreement.

He also acknowledged Dr. Singh's significant contributions to Telangana's statehood movement, noting his support for the cause. Minister Komatireddy concluded by stating that Dr. Singh's legacy of service to the nation would always be remembered.



## PV did not get even the respect that an ordinary Congress worker gets

- Sonia Gandhi issued an order not to perform PV's last rites in Delhi, says Union Minister
- Kishan Reddy says Prime Minister Modi consoled Manmohan Singh's family
- Says Congress is politicizing Manmohan Singh's death



**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad :** Union Minister Kishan Reddy criticized Sonia Gandhi for behaving disrespectfully towards PV Narasimha Rao, a Telangana native. He expressed his grief that Telangana's own PV did not receive even the respect that an ordinary Congress party leader deserves. He was furious that Sonia had issued an order preventing PV's last rites from being performed in Delhi, and instead, his body was sent to Hyderabad.

Reddy also acknowledged Manmohan Singh's death as an irreparable loss to the country. He recalled that after taking charge as a Union Minister, he had seen Manmohan Singh in the Rajya Sabha in a wheelchair. He said he had the opportunity to bow to Manmohan Singh many times, praising him for serving as Prime Minister for ten years despite facing immense pressure.

Reddy expressed anger over Congress politicizing the death of Manmohan Singh. He reminded that Prime Minister Modi had promised to establish a memorial for Manmohan Singh, similar to the one created for Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He also pointed out that Prime Minister Modi had consoled Singh's family after his death. Reddy concluded by stating that Rahul Gandhi does not have the moral right to criticize the Center or Modi.

In a separate statement, Union Minister Kishan Reddy has said that the speeding up of the Regional Ring Road (RRR) works, stating that the Congress government has no role in accelerating the project. Speaking to the media, Reddy explained that the Central government sanctioned 50% of the funds for RRR construction over two and a half years ago, and the remaining funds will be allocated under the Sagarmala scheme. He pointed out that the Congress government had already green-lit the RRR project before coming to power in the state, but delays in the project were caused by the previous BRS government and further worsened after Congress assumed power.

## Harish Rao Suggests Naming Skill University After Manmohan Singh

**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad :** Telangana Minister Harish Rao has suggested naming the state's Skill University after former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, calling him deserving of the Bharat Ratna. Speaking on the occasion, Harish Rao praised Manmohan Singh for his exceptional qualities, highlighting that true greatness is not only shown in moments of power but also in times of adversity.



He recalled the difficult period after the Congress party's defeat, during which the Antony Committee concluded that Manmohan Singh's economic policies contributed to the loss. Despite the challenges, Harish Rao noted that Singh remained silent, displaying unwavering loyalty to the Congress Party. He emphasized that even when Rahul Gandhi disagreed with some of his decisions, Singh never publicly criticized the party, showcasing his commitment and integrity.

Harish Rao's tribute to the former Prime Minister reflects the deep respect for Manmohan Singh's contributions to Indian politics, particularly his role in shaping the country's economic landscape during his tenure. The suggestion to name the Skill University after him is seen as a recognition of his legacy and impact.

# Congress MP Chamala Comments on Pawan Kalyan



**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad :** Congress MP Chamala remarked that Pawan Kalyan spoke after understanding the real situation and clarified that he wasn't speaking as a political leader. Chamala appreciated Pawan Kalyan for responding thoughtfully and without making hasty comments on the issue.

Chamala also took a swipe at the arrest of actor Allu Arjun, stating that the controversy had only boosted the collections of Pushpa 2. He predicted that the film would continue to run for another two months, citing its growing success.

Addressing questions about Telangana CM Revanth Reddy's absence at the family of Gurukul student Sailaja, Chamala explained that it was not feasible for the CM to attend every event in the state. He also commented sarcastically on Ambati Rambabu's recent posts about CM Revanth Reddy, joking that Rambabu is a good actor who will have a promising future in movies and secure larger roles.

## CM Taking Credit for KCR's Ring Road Project



**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad :** Former minister and MLA Vemula Prashanth Reddy accused CM and ministers of spreading falsehoods about the North Regional Ring Road project. He criticized Minister Komatireddy for misleading the public, stating that the current government is falsely taking credit for work done during KCR's tenure. Reddy asserted that the Regional Ring Road project was KCR's vision, designed with foresight, and planned with a budget of Rs. 27,000 crores to connect 14 National Highways around Hyderabad.

Reddy elaborated on the timeline, stating that KCR secured the Center's agreement in 2017 to fund 50% of the land acquisition costs. He recounted meetings with Union Minister Nitin Gadkari in 2018 and 2021 to push for the approval of the project. By December 2021, the Center approved the alignment, and Rs 100 crore was deposited for land acquisition. However, Reddy claimed that in the 13 months since Congress came to power, no money has been spent for land acquisition, despite the earlier progress, with 76% of land acquisition already completed in four districts.



## Judgment on Allu Arjun’s Bail Petition to be Delivered on January 3



**TPN Correspondent ,Hyderabad** , Actor Allu Arjun’s regular bail petition in connection with the Sandhya Theatre stampede case will be decided by the Nampally court on January 3. The court had earlier heard the case today but postponed its verdict after the government and police lawyers requested additional time to file their counter arguments.

During the hearing on Monday, Allu Arjun’s legal team argued that the actor should not be held responsible for the stampede that led to Revathi’s tragic death. They contended that the case filed under BNS Section 105 was not applicable to Allu Arjun, as he did not contribute to the incident. They urged the court to grant him bail.

In response, the Chikkadpally police filed a counter petition opposing bail, requesting that Allu Arjun be instructed to cooperate with the ongoing investigation if granted bail. Despite this, there has been speculation that the police department is not pursuing the case with full intensity. Observers believe the issue may resolve positively for Allu Arjun when the final verdict is delivered on January 3.

## Fatal Accident at Musheerabad X-Road One Dead, Three Injured

**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad** : In a tragic accident at Musheerabad X-Road late last night, a lorry rammed into several vehicles parked at the junction, resulting in the death of one person and serious injuries to three others. The victim, identified as Abdullah, succumbed to his injuries at the scene. The injured individuals were rushed to Gandhi Hospital by the police, where they are receiving treatment.



The accident caused significant damage to multiple vehicles, including a police vehicle belonging to the Musheerabad Police Station. The driver of the lorry, Yusuf, has been taken into custody by the police.

Eyewitnesses reported that the lorry lost control and plowed into the parked vehicles at high speed. The incident has raised concerns about road safety and the need for stricter monitor-

ing of vehicular movement in the area.

The Chilakalguda Police have registered a case and initiated an investigation into the accident. Further details are awaited as the authorities probe the cause of the mishap. This incident has left the local community in shock and grief, with many calling for immediate measures to prevent such accidents in the future.

## Couple's Public Display of Affection in Hyderabad Metro Goes Viral



**TPN Correspondent , Hyderabad** : A video of a couple engaging in public romance on the Hyderabad Metro has gone viral, causing a stir among commuters. The incident occurred while the metro was traveling from Chaitanyapuri to LB Nagar. The couple was seen kissing openly in front of fellow passengers.

As the act unfolded, other passengers filmed the incident and reported it to the authorities. Metro officials arrived at the scene shortly after and are reportedly taking action, though further details of the investigation are still awaited.

This incident has raised questions about public behavior on public transport, with authorities likely to enforce stricter regulations in response.

# Hyderabad Metro Extends Services

## Police Issue Guidelines for New Year Celebrations

**TPN Correspondent , Hyderabad** : Hyderabad Metro Rail has announced extended services for New Year’s Eve to accommodate the late-night celebrations. On December 31, metro trains will run past midnight, with the last train departing at 12:30 am to help passengers return home safely after the festivities. All three metro lines—red, blue, and green—will operate extended hours to ensure smooth travel during the celebration.

In a statement shared on X, Hyderabad Metro Rail encouraged commuters to “Ring in the New Year with joy and peace of mind!” It reassured passengers that services would continue until 12:30 am on January 1, ensuring a safe and convenient journey into the New Year.



Typically, Hyderabad Metro operates from 6:00 am to 11:00 pm, but the extended hours on New Year’s Eve will help citizens enjoy the celebrations without worrying about transportation.

Meanwhile, the Hyderabad Police have put strict measures in place to ensure public safety during the New Year celebra-

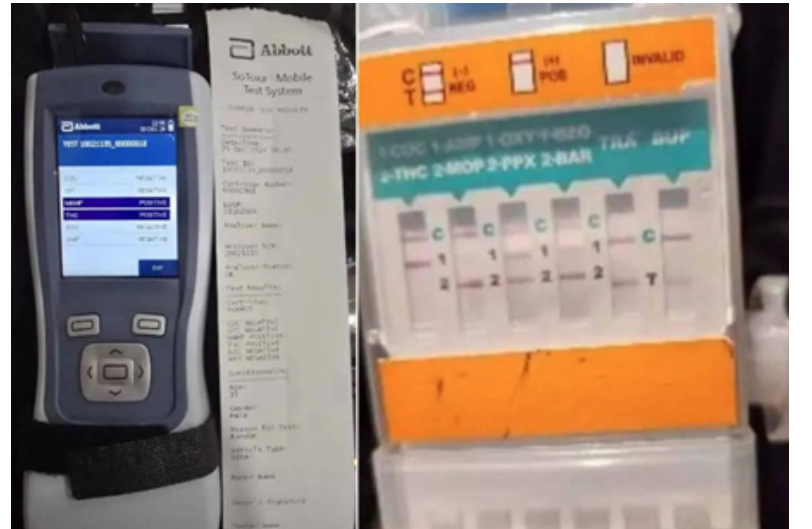
tions. Key guidelines include:

- Drunk Driving Offence: Drivers under the influence may face a fine of Rs 10,000, imprisonment for up to six months, and a possible license suspension of three months or longer.
- Breath Analyzer Tests: Vehicles driven by intoxicated individuals will be confiscated unless accompanied by a sober

- driver with a valid license.
- Noise and Speed Regulations: Motorists are advised not to remove silencers from two-wheelers and to adhere to speed limits to prevent accidents.
- Women’s Safety: SHE Teams will be deployed throughout the city to ensure the safety of women.
- Designated Drivers: Partygoers are encouraged to use designated drivers or safe transport options.

Hyderabad Police also emphasized that establishments should display safety guidelines prominently and comply with parking, fire safety, and other regulations. These measures aim to balance festive enjoyment with public safety and order, ensuring that everyone can celebrate responsibly.

## Hyderabad Drug Check: 8 Test Positive for Cocaine, Other Substances



**TPN Correspondent Hyderabad** : In a continued effort to curb drug abuse, the Telangana Anti-Narcotics Bureau (TGANB), in collaboration with Cyberabad police, conducted a drug check during an event in Madhapur on Sunday night, December 29. The operation identified 25 individuals suspected of drug use, with 14 undergoing advanced drug testing. Eight individuals tested positive for substances including THC (found in Ganja), Cocaine, Amphetamine, and Methamphetamine.

The operation used advanced equipment, such as drug detection kits, rapid-result urine and saliva testing kits, and trained narcotics detection dogs. This technology provided immediate and accurate results, leaving no room for evasion.

With New Year celebrations approaching, TGANB announced that similar checks would be conducted at events and parties across Telangana. Strict action will be taken against those found consuming or distributing drugs. Additionally, TGANB instructed pubs and bars to display their drug-free status and enforce a zero-tolerance policy on underage drinking. Violations will lead to legal consequences.

## Cockroaches Found in Chutney at Madhuram Tiffins, Customers Outraged

**TPN Correspondent , Hyderabad 31:** Contaminated food incidents continue to emerge at various hotels in Hyderabad. Recently, cockroaches were found in the chutney served to a customer at Madhuram Tiffins, located at Plot No. 75, KPHB Colony, 9th Phase, Kukatpally. The shocked customer discovered the insects in the chutney and immediately questioned the management, who reportedly responded negligently.

This disturbing incident follows a similar situation where cockroaches, worms, and even rats were found in food at other eateries, including one in Kukatpally. A video of the cockroaches in the chutney has since gone viral, sparking outrage among locals.

The incident raises concerns about food hygiene standards at local eateries, urging authorities to take swift action to ensure the safety and cleanliness of food served to the public.



## Rachakonda Traffic Police Introduce Body Cameras for Officers

**TPN Correspondent , Hyderabad** : In a significant move to enhance transparency and accountability, the Rachakonda traffic police have rolled out Body Worn Cameras (BWCs) for their enforcement officers. These cameras will be worn by officers during their duties, recording interactions with the public and providing an objective record of events. The initiative aims to reduce disputes and complaints by ensuring all interactions between officers and citizens are documented. It also encourages improved officer conduct and promotes professionalism. The cameras will hold officers accountable and enhance public trust, offering reassurance to citizens that their interactions with traffic enforcement officers are being recorded.

The BWCs have already been distributed to all traffic enforcement officers, including sub-inspectors and inspectors in the Rachakonda area. Rachakonda Commissioner of Police Sudheer Babu described the introduction of body cameras as a landmark step towards modernizing traffic enforcement and fostering greater trust between the police and the public.



## Man Dies After Falling From Building in Jeedimetla



**TPN Correspondent , Hyderabad** : In a tragic incident under Jeedimetla police station limits, a man lost his life after accidentally falling from a building in Essar Nayak Nagar, Qutbullapur.

The deceased, identified as Chenchu Ramanaiah (43), was sitting on the wall of his fourth-floor penthouse while smoking late last night when his cigarette slipped, causing him to lose balance and fall. He suffered severe injuries and died on the spot.

Locals discovered the body on the rocks below early in the morning and immediately informed the police. Chenchu Ramanaiah is survived by his wife and son. According to residents, he was employed at a private company in Bollaram.

Jeedimetla police reached the scene, registered a case, and shifted the body to Gandhi Hospital for postmortem. The incident has left the local community in shock, highlighting the dangers of negligence in high-rise buildings.

Further investigation is underway to determine if there were any other contributing factors to the accident.



# Ministers Urge Strike End for Students' Welfare



**TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad :** Ministers Ponnam Prabhakar and Seethakka have appealed to the nearly 19,500 Sarva Shiksha employees and KGBV teachers, who have been on strike for 25 days, to call off their strike for the welfare of students. The ministers emphasized that the ongoing strike is severely affecting students, particularly those from weaker sections studying in Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV). Minister Prabhakar urged the employees not to harm

the students by prolonging the strike and promised that their concerns would be addressed.

The Sarva Shiksha employees raised issues regarding job regularization, pay scales, and job security, which they have long been advocating for. Minister Prabhakar assured that the issue had been raised with Union Minister Kishan Reddy, and efforts would be made to bring it to the attention of the central govern-

ment. He also highlighted that the problems faced by Sarva Shiksha employees are national issues.

The ministers proposed a meeting with a sub-committee led by Deputy CM Batti Vikramarka to discuss solutions. They promised that non-financial demands, like maternity leaves and casual leaves, would be addressed, while financial matters would be explored further.

## Kavitha Demands Action on Crimes Against Women



**TPN Correspondent, Nizamabad :** BRS MLC K Kavitha on Monday criticized the Congress government in Telangana for the rise in crimes against women, citing a 10% increase in such offenses. Kavitha pointed out that a rape occurs every third hour and a kidnapping every fifth hour in the state. She emphasized the failure of the Congress government to effectively implement the "SHE Teams" initiative, which was introduced by the previous BRS government to combat crimes against women. She urged Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, who oversees the Home department, to hold a special review meeting on women's safety and take immediate action.

Kavitha also slammed the Congress for neglecting key promises, such as farm loan waivers and monthly financial aid for women. She accused the government of mismanagement, harming farmers, women, and laborers. Kavitha demanded immediate loan waivers for over 1.7 lakh farmers in Nizamabad and Kamareddy districts.

Further, she criticized both Congress and the BJP for neglecting development in Nizamabad, highlighting stalled projects, the absence of a police commissioner, and the lack of funding for local municipalities and Telangana University. She called for transparency on the land resurvey issue and expressed frustration over unaddressed regional needs.

## Tummala Unveils Major Infrastructure Projects for Khammam



**TPN Correspondent, Khammam :** Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao announced a series of significant infrastructure projects for Khammam on December 30, 2024. These include the construction of a single ring road designed to improve connectivity and enable travel to Rajahmundry in just one hour. The project will be modeled after Hyderabad's Outer Ring Road (ORR), providing an enhanced road network for the region.

Additionally, Nageswara Rao confirmed the development of an underground drainage system for Khammam pattanam and a cable bridge over the Khammam Munneru River. The government also plans to construct national highways in the area, with key projects aimed at improving accessibility. The Minister highlighted the completion of the Sita Rama Project, which will bring Godavari water to ten constituencies, and announced that the Yatala Kunta Tunnel will be ready by the next Independence Day. A national highway connecting Jaggayya Peta to Vaira and a road from Kothagudem to Bhadrachalam are also on the agenda.

Other ambitious projects include the Seethamma Sagar reservoir, valued at Rs 3,000 crore, and the development of waterways in the Godavari. Nageswara Rao expressed hopes for a railway line connecting Pandurangapuram to Bhadrachalam and potential airways in Kothagudem. These projects are set to boost regional connectivity and development.

## Police Crack Down on Drug Gangs Ahead of New Year Celebrations

**TPN Correspondent , Hyderabad :** Filmnagar police have intensified their vigilance as part of efforts to ensure safe New Year celebrations, arresting a gang accused of supplying drugs during the festive season.

The gang, which reportedly brought drugs from Mumbai under the guise of celebrations, was apprehended with three members in custody. The arrested individuals have been identified as Abdul Irfan, Rahmat Ali, and Hazmatullah. All three have been remanded for further investigation.

"We have formed special teams to monitor and tackle drug-related activities during the New Year celebrations," the police stated,

emphasizing their zero-tolerance policy. Strict action will be taken against those found consuming drugs in pubs, restaurants, or farmhouses. Police have also warned against unauthorized parties in suburban areas, stating that such gatherings will attract legal consequences. "We are closely monitoring known gangs and keeping a watch on their movements," the officials added.

The proactive measures reflect the police's commitment to maintaining law and order, ensuring a safe and drug-free environment for New Year festivities. Further operations are underway to curb the distribution and consumption of narcotics in the city.



## Telangana IT Department Launches DEET Platform

**TPN Correspondent , Hyderabad :** In a significant initiative to address unemployment, the Telangana IT Department has introduced the "Digital Employment Exchange of Telangana (DEET)\*, an AI-based digital platform designed to create job opportunities tailored to the skills of unemployed youth.

The DEET platform aims to bridge the gap between job seekers and employers by leveraging advanced technology to match candidates with suitable job roles. To enhance accessibility, the government has also developed a dedicated mobile application for DEET, allowing users to explore opportunities conveniently.

This innovative platform is expected to play a crucial role in empowering youth by providing them with skill-based employment opportunities and fostering economic growth in the region.

The Telangana government's focus on integrating technology with employment solutions reflects its commitment to creating a robust ecosystem for job seekers and addressing unemployment effectively.



## Minister Konda Surekha Thanks AP Government

**TPN Correspondent, Warangal :** Minister Konda Surekha expressed gratitude to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and the state government for approving the Telangana recommendation letters for special darshan at Tirumala. She praised the efforts made under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to secure this facility for Telangana devotees.

Surekha described the darshan facility as a "New Year gift" for the people of Telangana and thanked Andhra Pradesh Endowments Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy and TTD Chairman BR Naidu for their cooperation. The new arrangement allows Tel-



angana MPs, MLAs, and MLCs to obtain two VIP break darshan (Rs. 500) and two special entry darshan (Rs. 300) recommendation letters each week.

The minister expressed hope that this initiative will foster continued cooperation and friendship between the two states, benefiting Telangana devotees visiting Tirumala.

## Complaint Filed with ED Against KCR, KTR Over ORR Toll Lease

**TPN Correspondent , Hyderabad :** A complaint has been filed with the Enforcement Directorate (ED) against Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) and his son, Minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), alleging irregularities in the Outer Ring Road (ORR) toll lease during the BRS government's tenure. The complaint, filed by the BC Political



JAC, claims that the IRB company paid bribes in the form of electoral bonds for leasing the ORR.

BC Political JAC Chairman Rachala Yugandhar accused the BRS government of embezzling crores of rupees through this lease deal. According to the complaint, in April 2023, the BRS government leased the ORR to the IRB company for 30 years. Later, in July 2023, the company allegedly purchased electoral bonds worth Rs. 25 crore from the

BRS party.

Yugandhar called for a thorough inquiry into these alleged irregularities, seeking action against those responsible for the financial misconduct. The complaint emphasizes the need for transparency and accountability in the ORR toll lease deal and related transactions.

## Telangana Police Now a Platform for Political Agendas: Praveen Kumar

**TPN Correspondent , Jagtial :** BRS leader Dr. R.S. Praveen Kumar criticized the Telangana Police during a media conference on law and order, accusing them of being influenced by political agendas. He highlighted that since the formation of the Congress government, the state has lacked a Home Minister, and there have been two changes in the Director General of Police (DGP). Despite recruitment of over 40,000 police personnel, Praveen Kumar claimed that law and order has significantly deteriorated in the past year.



Praveen Kumar pointed out that the police failed to take action even after Congress workers attacked police at a petrol pump in Jagtial, with a case only being

registered after the incident gained media attention. He also cited alarming increases in crime rates, with murders, rapes, and marijuana smuggling all on the rise, including an 82% increase in rapes involving women under 18. He alleged that the Telangana Police have become embroiled in political intrigues, failing to uphold the law and ensure safety for citizens. Praveen Kumar further criticized the current government for neglecting the police force's duty and for the decline in law and order across the state.



# A Murky Rivalry Brewing in India's Neighbourhood

The latest airstrikes by Pakistan on Afghan villages have sparked outrage in Kabul, with 46 people, including women and children, killed in an attack on Paktika province. This violent act comes after Pakistan's long history of backing insurgent groups like the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), a by-product of its own policy of harboring militants. Ironically, the TTP is not an Afghan creation but the result of Pakistan's own strategic miscalculations. Former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's 2011 warning about Pakistan keeping "snakes in its backyard" seems prophetic in this context, as these groups now target their former benefactor.

The strikes on Afghan territory, targeting alleged TTP leaders, came despite Pakistan's diplomatic efforts with Afghanistan. Pakistan's envoy, Mohammad Sadiq, had received a warm reception in Kabul, where Afghan officials expressed interest in maintaining good relations and enhancing trade. However, just hours after these diplomatic overtures, Pakistani fighter jets launched strikes in Barmal, Paktika, a region closely tied to Afghanistan's foreign minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi. This has escalated tensions, with Kabul summoning the Pakistani charge d'affaires to protest the strikes and assert Afghanistan's sovereignty.

Pakistan's military operations are partly driven by rising insecurity at home. This year, Pakistan has faced over 700 attacks, including brutal assaults on



its security forces. These strikes, coupled with unrest in tribal regions and conflicts in places like Kurram, have strained Pakistan's internal stability. The government's attempts to mediate in areas like Lakki Marwat and Kurram have only led to more resistance from local populations, particularly among Pashtuns, who have long felt marginalized. The arrest of leaders from the Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement (PTM) has intensified this sense of alienation, possibly pushing more people toward militant groups.

Kabul's response to Pakistan's actions could escalate into greater conflict. Afghanistan's Taliban, although divided, may retaliate against Pakistani targets, but this risks strengthening groups like the Islamic State Khorasan

(IS-K), which is already a significant threat to Kabul. The IS-K has been gaining ground, and its alliance with groups like the TTP poses a broader regional threat, including to neighboring countries like India.

India, in turn, needs to closely monitor developments in Afghanistan, especially as Pakistan continues to exert influence over Afghan factions. With the situation evolving rapidly, a larger incursion into the tribal areas and further instability along the Durand Line cannot be ruled out. This brewing rivalry between Afghanistan and Pakistan, fueled by a complex mix of territorial disputes, militant movements, and geopolitical ambitions, is likely to have far-reaching consequences in the region.



## China's Influence in Sri Lanka Faces Competition as New President Strengthens Ties with India

Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's recent visit to New Delhi from December 15 to 17, 2024, marked a significant shift in Sri Lanka's foreign policy under his leadership. It was his first international trip since taking office in September, and the visit brought renewed optimism for stronger bilateral cooperation between India and Sri Lanka. The joint statement, titled "Fostering Partnerships for a Shared Future," highlighted the continuity of ties, despite initial concerns about Dissanayake's ideological stance and his party's historic opposition to Indian influence.

Dissanayake, widely known as AKD, had been portrayed as anti-India and pro-China due to his party's, the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), long-standing opposition to what it perceives as "Indian expansionism" in Sri Lanka. The JVP had also criticized the 13th Amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution, a result of the 1987 India-Sri Lanka Accord, and had been resistant to agreements like the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), which sought to further strengthen bilateral ties.

In addition to these historical concerns, AKD's campaign rhetoric included plans to halt the 484 MW wind power projects in northeastern Sri Lanka—projects being developed by India's Adani Green Energy. This \$440 million venture, which was set to span over 20 years, had already sparked tensions, as critics argued it symbolized growing Indian economic influence in Sri Lanka's strategic regions.

However, the outcome of Dissanayake's visit to India helped dispel many of the concerns surrounding his government's foreign policy. During the trip, he thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for India's swift and substantial financial assistance following Sri Lanka's 2022 sovereign default. India's support, amounting to \$4 billion, was pivotal in stabilizing Sri Lanka's economy during its financial crisis. The president's reaffirmation of Sri Lanka's commitment to deepen ties with India in multiple sectors, including security, trade, and investment, indicated a shift away from the narrative of increased Chinese influence in the region.

This visit also signaled a renewed focus on regional security and prosperity, underscoring Sri Lanka's strategic position in the Indian Ocean. While China has been a key player in Sri Lanka's infrastructure development, especially through loans and projects under its Belt and Road Initiative, Dissanayake's engagement with India suggests that Sri Lanka is balancing its relationships with both global powers, with India emerging as a key partner in Sri Lanka's economic recovery and long-term development. As Sri Lanka navigates its post-crisis recovery, it appears that India will continue to play a pivotal role, making it unlikely that China will gain greater leverage in the island nation under the new administration.

## Reevaluating India's Election Process: Beyond the EVM Debate

India, the debate surrounding the manipulation of elections, their results, and particularly Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), has been an ongoing issue for years. The introduction of over a million EVMs in all 543 constituencies of the Lok Sabha during the 2004 general elections sparked a wave of discussions, and the issue remains contentious, especially since the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) first raised concerns about their integrity in 2010.

EVMs were originally presented as stand-alone machines. However, they are, in fact, part of a larger system, comprising two machines: the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) and a Control Unit, alongside Symbol Loading Units (SLUs) when necessary. The Election Commission of India (ECI) later began referring to the EVMs as Balloting Units, but the underlying system — consisting of four machines in total — is what forms the

Electronic Voting System (EVS) or Polling System.

While the EVMs undoubtedly play a crucial role in the election process, it's important to acknowledge that they represent just one part of the broader framework that facilitates elections. As poet Faiz Ahmad Faiz famously said, "Aur bhi dukh hain zamaane mein mohabbat ke siva" — meaning that there are many other concerns that come into play in the election process beyond just the machines.

The focus on EVMs has dominated the political discourse, especially in light of controversies surrounding their reliability. However, as recent elections — including the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Haryana and Maharashtra assembly polls, and various by-elections — have shown, much can happen before the EVS even takes over the voting process. Manipulations, irregularities, and other factors can occur long

before ballots are cast and counted.

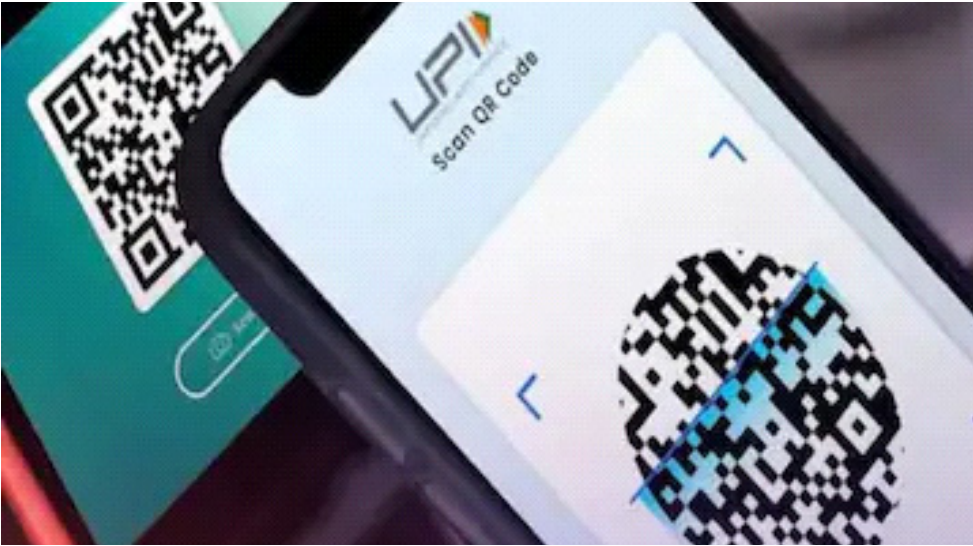
In understanding the complete electoral process, it's essential to recognize the multiple components that comprise what should be called the National Electoral System (NES). The NES can be broken down into four major components: Voter Roll, Scheduling, the Electronic Voting System (EVS), and Post-Poll Activities. Each of these elements plays a significant role in ensuring the legitimacy and transparency of elections, and they deserve more attention than the singular focus on EVMs.

The National Electoral System needs to be considered holistically, and efforts should be made to improve transparency and trust across all its components, not just the EVMs. The integrity of the entire process — from voter registration to the final result — is crucial for maintaining faith in the democratic process.

# India's Next Big Export: UPI Set To Lead Global Digital Payments Revolution

India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has become a transformative force in the world of digital transactions, revolutionising how people in the country manage and conduct payments. The initiative, spearheaded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's push for a cashless economy, has reshaped India's financial landscape by combining efforts focused on digital infrastructure, financial inclusion, and internet connectivity. This has drastically changed the way Indians make transactions, contributing significantly to the country's financial growth and expanding the user base across all segments.

Launched in 2016 with the Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) app, UPI has been nothing short of revolutionary. By the end of 2024, UPI is expected to have processed a staggering 171 billion transactions, representing a 45% increase



from the previous year. The platform now handles an average of 16 billion transactions monthly, valued at approximately Rs 22 lakh crore. Remarkably, UPI now facilitates 85% of India's

digital transactions, a testament to its widespread adoption and success. UPI's key achievement lies in its ability to simplify digital payments while boosting financial inclusion, with over 300

million people now integrated into India's formal financial system.

As UPI continues to soar in India, the platform has attracted significant global attention. Countries like the UAE, France, Singapore, Bhutan, Mauritius, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka have already adopted UPI in various forms. Moreover, UPI is expanding its reach to nations such as Oman, Saudi Arabia, Australia, and the United Kingdom. India's National Payments Corporation (NPCI) has established the NIPL (NPCI International Payments Ltd) to lead UPI's international expansion, collaborating with countries like Trinidad and Tobago, Peru, Namibia, and Rwanda to help them develop their own digital payment systems inspired by the UPI framework.

The global reception to UPI is particu-

larly significant for nations in the Global South, where UPI's potential to drive financial inclusion at a mass scale is seen as revolutionary. UPI has already surpassed global digital payment giants such as PayPal, Alipay, and Brazil's PIX in terms of transaction volume. Between April and July 2024, UPI processed nearly Rs 81 lakh crore worth of transactions, cementing its position as a leader in the global digital payments space.

India's UPI is not only transforming its own financial ecosystem but also revolutionising the global payments landscape, particularly in developing countries. With increasing international partnerships and an expanding global presence, UPI is poised to become one of India's most significant exports, setting the stage for a new era of seamless, inclusive, and innovative digital transactions worldwide.



# PM Modi's Historic Third Term: A Testimony to BJP's Dominance and Good Governance

TPN CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI  
DECEMBER.31

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic third victory in the 2024 elections not only solidifies his personal legacy but also underscores the continued dominance of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Indian politics. This win positions Modi as the symbol of stability for the country, while the BJP has firmly established itself as a party associated with effective governance.

In 2024, the global political landscape was marked by a wave of anti-incumbency, with several major democracies witnessing significant electoral defeats for their ruling parties. In the United States, the Democrats lost the presidency along with control of both houses of Congress. In the UK, the Conservative Party suffered a decisive ousting from power. Similar outcomes were seen in countries like France, South Korea, and Poland, where incumbent parties were unseated in favor of opposition forces.

Against this global trend, Prime Minister Modi's re-election stands as a remarkable exception. Not only did he retain power, but he did so with a resounding mandate, securing a historic third term in office. His previous victories in 2014 and 2019 set a strong foundation, but the 2024 win showcases the enduring trust the Indian electorate has in his leader-



ship.

This unprecedented third win for Modi highlights the strong bond he shares with the people of India. It also reflects the party's broad appeal and its focus on governance reforms, economic growth, and national security. In a time when many democracies are grappling with political instability and declining voter

confidence, India's continued faith in Modi and the BJP demonstrates the electorate's preference for stability and leadership rooted in decisive governance.

As Modi embarks on another term, his victory serves as a powerful affirmation of his vision for India's future, while further cementing the BJP's place at the helm of Indian politics.

## Not very lucky on security front, must stay vigilant: Rajnath Warns of Security Challenges

TPN CORRESPONDENT MHOW  
DECEMBER.31

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday emphasized the importance of vigilance among Indian soldiers, stating that India is "not a very lucky" nation in terms of security. While addressing army personnel at the Mhow Cantonment in Madhya Pradesh, Singh highlighted the ongoing challenges faced by the country on both its northern and western borders, as well as internal security concerns.

Singh, who is on a two-day visit to Madhya Pradesh, remarked that India's geographical location makes it vulnerable to constant security threats. "Taking the security scenario into account, Bharat is not a very lucky country because our northern and western borders continuously face challenges," he said. He urged the armed forces to remain vigilant, noting that the nation faces threats from both external and internal adversaries who are constantly active. The Mhow Cantonment, which is located 25 kilometers from Indore, is home to several prestigious military institutions, including the Army War College, Military College of Telecommunication Engineering, and Infantry School. It also houses the Infantry Museum and the Army Marksmanship Unit. Singh emphasized the importance of these institutions in preparing soldiers for the challenges they face.

"We also face challenges on the internal front. In the backdrop of this, we can't sit quiet, unconcerned. Our enemies, whether internal or external, always remain active. In these circumstances, we must keep an eye on their activities and take appropriate and timely steps against them," he added.

Singh further highlighted the crucial role of the Indian Army in securing the nation and supporting its journey towards becoming a self-reliant and developed country.

## Bihar Govt Has Become Symbol Of Atrocity On Youths: Priyanka Gandhi

TPN CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI  
DECEMBER.31

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra criticized the "double-engine" BJP government in Bihar, calling it a symbol of "atrocities on youth" after police used water cannons to disperse students protesting against the cancellation of the Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) exam. The incident occurred on Sunday when students gathered at Gandhi Maidan, demanding the cancellation of the BPSC exam held on December 13 due to allegations of corruption and paper leaks.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Priyanka Gandhi stated, "It is the government's job to stop corruption, rigging, and paper leaks in examinations. But instead of addressing these issues, students are being prevented from raising their voices." Her remarks came a day after the protest turned tense, with students attempting to march towards the residence of Bihar's Chief Minister. The police intervened, using water cannons to disperse the crowd, a move that sparked further outrage. The students were joined by Prashant Kishore, the founder of Jan Suraj, who lent his support to the protesters. Authorities confirmed that the police had to take action as the students tried to march toward the Chief Minister's residence. The protests were a reaction to what students believe is an unfair examination process, exacerbated by corruption and administrative lapses.

The situation has ignited a political controversy, with opposition leaders accusing the state government of failing to address the concerns of the youth. The incident has also drawn attention to the growing frustration among students in Bihar, who feel their voices are being silenced in the face of systemic corruption and inefficiencies.



## TVK Chief Vijay Meets Tamil Nadu Governor Over Sex Assault At Anna University

TPN CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI  
DECEMBER.31

Actor-turned-politician Vijay met Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi in Chennai amid widespread outrage over the sexual assault of a second-year student at Anna University on December 23. The incident has sparked protests across Tamil Nadu, leading to the arrest of one person and the formation of four special police teams to investigate the case.

The Students' Federation of India (SFI) and the All India Women Welfare Federation held demonstrations outside Anna University's Guindy campus, demanding justice and stronger security measures for women in educational institutions. In response to the incident, Vijay, leader of Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), expressed his shock and concern, calling it "deeply shocking and painful." He urged the Tamil Nadu government to take swift legal action against the accused and ensure justice.

Vijay also proposed the use of the Nirbhaya Fund to install smart poles equipped with emergency buttons, CCTV cameras, and telephones in vulnerable areas. He called for the creation of mobile apps and emergency hotlines for women's safety and emphasized the need for better restroom facilities in public spaces.

Meanwhile, the Madras High Court intervened by constituting an all-women Special Investigation Team (SIT), led by IPS officers Sneha Priya, Ayman Jamal, and Brinda. The SIT has been tasked with investigating not only the sexual assault but also the leak of the victim's FIR. The court has ordered the Tamil Nadu government to provide Rs 25 lakh as compensation to the victim and ensure she receives free education, along with boarding, lodging, and counseling support.

The ruling DMK government faces increasing political pressure, with BJP Tamil Nadu president K Annamalai protesting by whipping himself outside his home, accusing the DMK of failing to ensure women's safety. The National Commission for Women (NCW) has also dispatched a two-member team to investigate the case and monitor the response from authorities.

## Kejriwal Announces Monthly Allowance for Priests and Granthis Ahead of Delhi Elections



TPN CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI  
DECEMBER.31

In a bid to retain power for a fourth consecutive term, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal announced a new welfare scheme for Hindu temple priests and granthis of gurdwaras on Monday. Titled the Pujari Granthi Samman Yojana, the scheme promises a monthly allowance of Rs 18,000 to these religious leaders, aimed at recognizing their contribution to society.

Speaking about the initiative, Kejriwal emphasized that priests and granthis often remain neglected despite their vital role in communities. "For the first time in the country, we are introducing a scheme to support them, under which they will receive a monthly honorarium of Rs 18,000," Kejriwal said. He further stated that the scheme would help provide financial security to these religious workers, many of whom operate on minimal income.

The announcement, which comes ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections, is part of the AAP's strategy to connect with a broader section of voters. Kejriwal made it clear that the scheme would only be implemented if the AAP is re-elected to govern the city-state. Registration for the scheme is set to begin on Tuesday, with Kejriwal planning to visit the Hanuman temple in Connaught Place to oversee the registration process for priests.

The decision to introduce such a welfare scheme highlights AAP's focus on addressing the concerns of religious communities in the capital, as it seeks to consolidate its position ahead of the elections. Kejriwal's announcement has generated significant attention, with both supporters and critics weighing in on the potential impact of the scheme. As the election date approaches, this move could play a crucial role in shaping voter sentiment in Delhi.

## Don't Fall For BJP's Money: Mamata Banerjee's Message To Sandeshkhali

TPN CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA  
DECEMBER.31

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, during her first visit to Sandeshkhali since the sex harassment controversy erupted, took a strong dig at the BJP, urging people not to be swayed by lies or money. Banerjee, who was in the riverine island to oversee a public distribution programme, accused the BJP of spreading false narratives and indulging in political manipulation.

"Here, a lot of money has been involved, and later everything turned out to be lies," said Banerjee, addressing the crowd. "Don't fall for the prey of naughty men... Don't fall for BJP's money... Bring down defamation, lies, and misinformation, and let peace prevail here." Her remarks were a direct reference to the controversy that the BJP had stoked ahead of the Lok Sabha election.



Banerjee urged the locals to be cautious and not attend meetings or events orchestrated by the BJP. "Even if someone calls you, don't go. It's your right not to go," she said. The Chief Minister further warned of the dangers posed by the Left, accusing them of political violence in the past. "If something happens in Sandeshkhali, I will hear about it in minutes. I work as a 'paharadar' (watchman) for the people. If you are fine, I will be fine," she added.

The controversy began with allegations of sex harassment and land grabbing against Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Sheikh Shahjahan. The TMC claimed the allegations were politically motivated, especially after a video surfaced in which a former BJP leader allegedly confessed that the incident had been "scripted by the BJP." While the BJP used the issue to accuse the TMC of misrule and exploitation of women, the TMC managed to retain the Basirhat seat, which includes the Sandeshkhali assembly area.

Amid the uproar, the TMC suspended Sheikh Shahjahan along with his two associates, Shibu Prasad Hazra and Utam Sardar. Shahjahan was later arrested after evading police for two months, following an incident in which his supporters attacked Enforcement Directorate officials visiting Sandeshkhali in January.



# Sri Lanka's Human Rights Commission Denied Access to Rohingya Refugees in Military Camp

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's Human Rights Commission (HRCSL) has expressed concern over being denied permission to visit Rohingya refugees who are being held at a military camp in Mullaitivu, northern Sri Lanka. The HRCSL wrote a formal letter to President Anura Kumara Dissanayake on December 26, alleging that its team, including senior officials, was blocked from assessing the conditions of the refugees detained at the Sri Lanka Air Force Camp.

The Rohingya refugees, over 100 in total, were rescued by the Sri Lanka Navy on December 20 after being found in a distressed condition off the northeastern coast of the island. The group was spotted by local fishermen near the Velamullivaikkal area in Mullaitivu. The Sri Lankan government suspects that the refugees were part of a human trafficking operation, with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Arun Hemachandra labeling them as illegal immigrants.

Despite the growing humanitarian concerns, the HRCSL's attempt to inspect the



living conditions of these refugees was thwarted. The Commission had aimed to ensure that the refugees were being treated humanely and to assess whether their detention met international human rights standards.

The situation has sparked widespread debate about Sri Lanka's treatment of refugees and its broader refugee policy.

Human rights organizations have called for transparency and accountability, urging the government to reconsider its handling of such cases and to uphold its commitments to international human rights law. The case continues to highlight the challenges faced by refugees fleeing persecution, as well as the tension between security concerns and humanitarian obligations.

# Crashed Plane was Shot At From Russia: Azerbaijan President



BAKU: Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev has claimed that a passenger plane, which crashed last week and killed 38 people, was damaged by an accidental shooting from the ground in Russia. Aliyev, speaking on Sunday, suggested that some officials in Russia had misrepresented the cause of the disaster.

The crash involved Azerbaijan Airlines

Flight J2-8243, which tragically went down after encountering trouble in Russian airspace. The incident occurred as Russia's air defenses were engaged in combat with Ukrainian attack drones. Russian President Vladimir Putin expressed regret for the "tragic incident" in a statement on Saturday, but the Kremlin did not confirm any direct responsibility for downing the plane. Instead, the statement mentioned

that a criminal investigation had been initiated into the incident.

Aliyev, however, clarified that the plane had been shot at unintentionally while approaching Grozny, a city in southern Russia. The Azerbaijani president added that the aircraft was also subject to some form of electronic jamming, which may have contributed to the confusion leading to the shooting. Despite the severity of the incident, the pilots were praised for their heroic efforts in executing a controlled landing, which allowed 29 of the passengers to survive.

The tragic crash has raised serious questions about the safety of civilian air traffic in regions affected by military operations. It has also added to the tense relationship between Azerbaijan and Russia, as both countries now look to address the cause of the crash and its broader implications for aviation security.

The investigation into the crash is still ongoing, with both Russian and Azerbaijani authorities looking into the details of the shooting and its accidental nature. The incident has become a point of contention, with both governments seeking clarity and accountability in the wake of the disaster.



# Jimmy Carter, Former U.S. President and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Dies at 100

WASHINGTON: Jimmy Carter, the earnest Georgia peanut farmer who served as the 39th president of the United States, passed away on Sunday at the age of 100, according to the Carter Center. He died peacefully at his home in Plains, Georgia. Carter's legacy as a statesman and humanitarian is cemented by his achievements during and after his presidency.

"My father was a hero, not only to me but to everyone who believes in peace, human rights, and unselfish love," said his son Chip Carter. "The world is our family because of the way he brought people together, and we thank you for honoring his memory by continuing to live these shared beliefs."

Carter, a Democrat, served as president from 1977 to 1981, defeating incumbent Republican President Gerald Ford in the 1976 election. Despite facing challenges during his presidency, such as a struggling economy and the Iran hostage crisis, Carter brokered a historic peace agreement between Israel and Egypt at the 1978 Camp David Accords, an accomplishment that earned him the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002 for his humanitarian efforts.

Though Carter's presidency ended in defeat to Republican Ronald Reagan in 1980, his post-presidency years garnered widespread admiration. He lived longer after his time in office than any other U.S. president and became known as a better former president than during his time in office—a status Carter himself acknowledged.

His presidency was marked by efforts to promote human rights and bring stability to the Middle East, but it was also marred by domestic economic struggles and the international humiliation of the Iran hostage crisis, which lasted for 444 days. Despite these challenges, Carter's legacy as a peacemaker and humanitarian continues to shape his place in history.

# Syrian Elections Could Take 4 Years: Rebel Leader Ahmed Al-Sharaa



DUBAI: In a recent interview with Al Arabiya TV, Syria's new leader Ahmed al-Sharaa discussed his plans for the country's political future, the role of foreign relations, and the impact of sanctions. Following the ousting of Bashar al-Assad by his Islamist group, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), and allied rebels, Sharaa indicated that Syria's election process could take up to four years, emphasizing the need to rewrite the constitution, which could take an additional two or three years. He reaffirmed the importance of drafting a new constitution and holding UN-supervised elections, as outlined in United Nations Security Council Resolution 2254, adopted in 2015. Sharaa also expressed hope that under the administration of US President-elect Donald Trump, sanctions imposed on Syria under Assad's regime would be lifted. He argued that since Assad is no longer in power, these sanctions should be automatically removed.

On the subject of Syria's foreign relations, Sharaa underscored the importance of maintaining strong ties with Russia and Iran. Both countries have been crucial allies of Assad, aiding him in reclaiming territory throughout Syria's ongoing war. Sharaa stated that Syria cannot function without its relationship with Iran, noting that it must be based on mutual respect for sovereignty and non-interference. He also acknowledged Russia's significant influence in Syria, calling it "the second most powerful country in the world," with deep strategic interests, particularly in military presence and infrastructure.

Sharaa also discussed the integration of Kurdish-led forces, which Turkey opposes, into Syria's national army. He emphasized that all arms should be controlled by the state, and that the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), which played a crucial role in defeating ISIS, should be welcomed into the defense ministry.

# EAM Jaishankar To Embark On 3-Day Doha Visit Today, To Meet Qatari PM

NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will begin a three-day official visit to Qatar on December 30 to review and enhance bilateral relations between the two nations. His visit will focus on key sectors including trade, investment, energy, and security, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced. The visit is set to conclude on January 1.

During his stay, Jaishankar is expected to meet with Qatari leaders, including Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani. The discussions will cover various aspects of the India-Qatar partnership, ranging from political and economic cooperation to cultural exchanges and people-to-people ties. Both sides will also address regional and global issues of mutual concern.

This visit follows a series of high-level engagements between the two nations. Earlier this month, Jaishankar visited Qatar and Bahrain from December 6 to 9, where he held talks with Qatar's Minister of Commerce and Industry, Faisal bin Thani Al Thani, and Minister of State, Ahmed Al Sayed, on the sidelines of the Doha Forum. Additionally, in late October, the two countries held the fifth round of Foreign Office



Consultations, reviewing a broad spectrum of bilateral relations including trade, investment, education, and technology.

India and Qatar share a longstanding and friendly relationship, marked by frequent exchanges at the highest levels. Both countries have committed to furthering cooperation in areas such as renewable energy, fintech, startups, and technology. As part of these efforts, they have explored opportunities to deepen ties through joint

initiatives and discussions on regional and international matters.

The large and vibrant Indian community in Qatar plays a significant role in the country's development, and continues to strengthen the deep-rooted friendship and multifaceted cooperation between the two nations. The MEA emphasized that this visit will continue to build on the excellent framework of collaboration established between India and Qatar.



# Domestic Market Dips Amid Global Uncertainty: Bears Tighten Grip

Domestic stock markets are in turmoil. The indices fell sharply on Monday as bears tightened their grip. The reasons for this are the decline in year-end volume, the withdrawal of foreign institutional investors, the appreciation of the dollar and the weakening of the rupee. The Nifty, which started with gains in the morning, crashed shortly after. It closed at 23,644 with a total loss of 168 points. The Sensex, however, recovered slightly from the loss of 850 points and closed with a loss of 459 points. The indices are likely to rise only if there are positive signals from the international markets.



The BSE Sensex, which closed at 78,699 in the previous session, started at 78,637 today. It touched an intraday low of 78,077. It reached an intraday high of 79,092. Finally, it closed at 78,248 with a loss of 450 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,796 on Monday, touched a low of 23,599 and a high of 23,915. It closed at 23,644, down 168 points. The Bank Nifty, meanwhile, fell 358 points to settle at 50,952.

In the Nifty50, 11 companies gained while 38 lost. Adani Enterprises, Tech Mahindra, HCL Tech, IndusInd Bank, Shriram Finance were the top gainers. Hindalco, Tata Motors, Trent, BEL, Wipro lost the most. FMCG, IT, Pharma, Healthcare, and Consumer Durables indices rose today. Bank, auto, finance, media, metal, realty, oil and gas indices rose.

Market breadth on NSE today was in favour of sellers. Of the 2942 shares traded, 947 gained and 1913 lost. Shares of 69 companies hit 52-week highs while 97 hit 52-week lows. Rupee settled flat at 85.54 against the dollar. KEC International received orders worth Rs 1073 crore from various companies. Nifty Pharma index surged. Shares of Biocon, Lupin and JB Chemicals rose by 3-4%. Adani Enterprises rose by 7% as brokerages gave buy calls with a target price of Rs 3801. Rocking deals to invest Rs 100 crore for growth. India-Australia trade has become more diversified after the trade agreement was signed in 2022. Heavy trades were made in Graves Cotton, Hindalco, and CDSL. Vodafone Idea shares rose 5% after the government waived off bank guarantees from the old spectrum auction. IOL Chemicals shares rose



5% after the board approved the share split. Adani Group stocks surged today. Ola Electric shares fell 3% after the resignation of CMO and CTO.

## 1. Persistent Systems Ltd.

Persistent Systems is a global software and technology services company specializing in digital business acceleration, enterprise modernization, and product engineering. Persistent Systems has been a top performer, with its stock price appreciating significantly over the past year. It was among the top gainers in the BSE A Group, reflecting strong market confidence. The company's focus on digital transformation services positions it well to capitalize on the increasing demand for such solutions across various industries.



## 2. Voltas Ltd.

Voltas is a leading Indian multinational company specializing in air conditioning and cooling technology. It operates in various segments, including Unitary Cooling Products, Electro-Mechanical Projects, and Engineering Products and Services. Voltas holds a strong position in the Indian air conditioning market, benefiting from its extensive distribution network and brand reputation. The increas-



ing demand for cooling solutions in India, driven by rising temperatures and improving living standards, presents significant growth opportunities for Voltas.

## 3. The Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL)

The company has shown a strong recovery post-pandemic, with increasing occupancy rates and average room revenues contributing to improved financial performance. IHCL's flagship brand, Taj, is renowned for its luxury offerings, and the company has been expanding its presence in both domestic and international markets. With the revival of the travel and tourism industry, IHCL is poised to benefit from increased travel demand, both leisure and business, alongside its strategic expansion plans.



## 4. Indus Towers Limited

Indus Towers is one of the world's largest telecom tower companies, providing passive infrastructure services to all telecom operators in India. The company has maintained steady revenue streams through long-term contracts with telecom operators, ensuring consistent cash flows. Indus Towers plays a critical role in India's telecom infrastructure, supporting the rapidly growing data consumption and network expansion needs. With the rollout of 5G technology and increasing smartphone penetration, Indus Towers is well-positioned to capitalize on the expanding telecom infrastructure requirements.



## 5. Marico Limited

Marico has consistently delivered strong financial results, with steady revenue growth and healthy profit margins, driven by its diversified product portfolio and strong brand equity. The company holds significant market share in the hair oil and edible oil segments, with a growing presence in the health foods and male grooming categories. Marico's focus on innovation, expanding rural reach, and increasing penetration in emerging categories positions it well for sustained growth in the FMCG sector.



# Ministry of Steel Outlines Global Strategy to Strengthen India's Steel Sector



The Ministry of Steel is crafting a comprehensive strategy aimed at transforming India into a global leader in steel production and exports. In its 2024 year-end review, the ministry emphasizes the focus areas of raw materials, investments, technology, and exports, all aligned with international best practices. To further these goals, the government is exploring international partnerships and collaborations that will strengthen India's steel sector on the global stage.

A major highlight of the ministry's strategy is the promotion of sustainability and quality in steel production. Initiatives like the Green Steel Mission, the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Specialty Steel, and efforts in standardization and quality control are central to this plan. The Green Steel Mission, with an investment of Rs 15,000 crore, aims to decarbonize the steel industry and contribute to the nation's net-zero goals. It includes incentives for renewable energy usage and requires government bodies to prioritize purchasing green steel.

Complementing the Green Steel Mission, the National Green Hydrogen Mission, with a Rs 455 crore allocation for pilot projects, supports green innovation in the sector. Key

developments include the release of a roadmap for decarbonization, a Taxonomy for Green Steel to standardize low-emission steel, and the Steel Scrap Recycling Policy aimed at resource efficiency. Additionally, pilot projects exploring hydrogen-based Direct Reduced Iron (DRI) production are demonstrating India's commitment to sustainable steel manufacturing.

To reduce imports and boost domestic manufacturing, the government has rolled out the PLI Scheme for Specialty Steel. This initiative has garnered investments of Rs 27,106 crore and is expected to create 14,760 direct jobs while producing 7.90 million tonnes of specialty steel. By October 2024, Rs 17,581 crore worth of investments had already materialized, providing employment to over 8,660 people.

In addition, the extension of duty exemptions on ferrous scrap until March 2026 and the reduction of customs duties on ferro-nickel are designed to further strengthen the domestic stainless steel industry. While India has ample iron ore and non-coking coal reserves, the country continues to rely on imports of coking coal due to limited domestic supply.

# India's Economic Growth Slows to 5.4%, Raising Concerns for 2024

India's economic growth slowed to 5.4% in the July-September quarter, marking the lowest growth rate in seven quarters. This unexpected dip raised concerns among analysts, who had anticipated a growth rate above 7%. The slowdown has prompted the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to revise its growth forecast for the financial year 2024-25, lowering it from 7.2% to 6.6%.



there is increasing pressure on policymakers to find ways to reinvigorate the economy and ensure that growth remains resilient in the face of both domestic and global challenges. The slow pace of economic recovery, coupled with the uncertainties surrounding the global market, has made it even more important for India to adopt a strategic approach to economic management.

The slowdown has sparked calls for the RBI to cut interest rates to stimulate demand and encourage economic growth. While rural demand remains robust, urban demand has shown signs of weakness, contributing to the overall economic deceleration. Experts suggest that continued reforms, particularly in the face of global economic uncertainties, could help revive growth.

The upcoming Union Budget for 2024 is seen as a crucial opportunity to provide guidance on addressing the economic challenges. Analysts believe that government spending and targeted reforms could play a vital role in boosting demand and supporting growth in the coming months.

In the wake of these developments,

While the rural economy remains a bright spot, urban consumption, which has been a key driver of India's growth in recent years, has seen a notable slowdown. This trend suggests that the economy's recovery may remain uneven across different sectors and regions. Therefore, experts are calling for a balanced policy response that fosters growth across both rural and urban areas.

## India's GDP Growth Expected to Recover in Q3 and Q4, Says RBI Report



India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth is projected to recover in the third and fourth quarters of the current financial year, driven by a rebound in domestic factors such as public consumption, investment, and strong service exports, according to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) latest Financial Stability Report.

Despite a recent slowdown, the RBI report highlights that structural growth drivers in the economy remain intact, suggesting that the economy is on track for recovery in the latter half of FY 2024-25. "Real GDP growth is expected to recover in Q3 and Q4 of 2024-25," the report stated, providing optimism for the second half of the fiscal year.

## BSNL Launches Affordable Plan with 425 Days Validity

In response to rising prices from private telecom operators like Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, and Vodafone Idea (Vi), Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has introduced an attractive new prepaid plan aimed at providing cost-effective alternatives for customers. The new plan, priced at ₹2,398, offers an impressive 425 days of validity, making it an ideal choice for long-term users who prefer fewer recharges.

The plan includes unlimited voice calls to all networks and a total of 850 GB of data, offering 2 GB of daily data. After exceeding the daily limit, the internet speed will reduce to 40



Kbps. Additionally, customers can send up to 100 free SMS per day.

Currently, this promotional offer is available exclusively to customers in the Jammu and Kashmir region, with BSNL suggesting that the plan could be expanded to other states in the future, though no specific timeline has been confirmed.



## Kidnapping Gone K-pop: 3 Girls Plan to Meet BTS at All Costs: Internet Stuns

YouTube, one of the leading video streaming platforms, has always been a go-to destination for entertainment and information. However, with an overwhelming number of videos available, users often find it challenging to quickly discover something interesting to watch. To address this issue, YouTube is reportedly testing a new feature called the “Play Something” floating action button, designed to eliminate endless scrolling.

As per a recent report from 9to5Google, the “Play Something” button is displayed with a black background and white text, positioned just above the bottom bar of the screen. When users tap on this button, it initiates the playback of a random video in the Shorts player. Interestingly, the feature isn’t limited to Shorts alone—it can also play regular long-form content in portrait mode.

In portrait mode, the usual video controls, including the like, dislike, comment, and share buttons, appear on the right side of the screen. Additionally, a timeline scrubber is visible at the bottom of the player, offering users an option to skip ahead or go back in the



video.

This new feature is part of YouTube’s ongoing efforts to improve user experience by helping users discover new content effortlessly. The “Play Something” button could potentially serve as a fun and engaging way for users to explore videos without having to make the decision themselves, especially when they are unsure of what to watch next.

At the moment, YouTube is reportedly testing this feature, so it may not be available to all users yet. However, if successful, it could roll out more widely in the future, providing users with a more seamless and spontaneous way to enjoy content on the platform.

Stay tuned for more updates on this exciting feature as YouTube continues to enhance its user interface.

## iPhone SE 4 Might Be More Expensive Than Its Predecessor

Apple’s upcoming affordable iPhone model, the iPhone SE 4, is expected to launch early next year, following in the footsteps of the iPhone SE (2022). While Apple hasn’t officially confirmed the release, a new leak from a South Korean blog provides insights into the phone’s pricing and features. According to the report, the iPhone SE 4 is expected to feature a similar design to the iPhone 14, with a 6.1-inch OLED display, FaceID, and the powerful A18 chip.

The latest leak suggests that the iPhone SE 4 will be priced under \$500 (approximately Rs. 42,000), with the South Korean market potentially seeing a price above KRW 8,00,000 (around Rs. 46,000). Earlier rumors hinted at a price range between \$499 (Rs. 42,000) and \$549 (Rs. 46,000), compared to the starting price of \$429 (Rs. 35,000) for the iPhone SE (2022). This new pricing reflects the inclusion of advanced features like 5G capabilities and a more modern design.



### New Features and Design

The iPhone SE 4 is expected to feature Apple’s first in-house 5G baseband chip, which could slightly increase its price due to the shift away from Qualcomm’s modems. Additionally, the phone will sport a more modern design, resembling the iPhone 14, with a 6.1-inch OLED display and FaceID support.

Under the hood, the iPhone SE 4 will be powered by the A18 chip, the same processor found in the iPhone 16. The device could also come with a single 48-megapixel rear camera and options for either 6GB or 8GB LPDDR5 RAM. The handset will feature an aluminum frame and may also support USB Type-C charging.

With these upgrades, the iPhone SE 4 is expected to offer a more premium experience at a competitive price, positioning it as an attractive option for users looking for an affordable iPhone with modern features.

## Childhood Obesity in New Zealand: The Role of Screen Time



Childhood obesity is a rapidly increasing global concern, and in New Zealand, it has become a particularly pressing issue. With rising rates of overweight and obesity among children, addressing this challenge requires a multifaceted approach, including lifestyle changes, diet, and screen time management.

One of the key contributors to childhood obesity is excessive screen time. Studies have shown that prolonged screen use, including time spent on phones, tablets, and computers, often leads to sedentary behavior and poor dietary choices. Children are more likely to snack on unhealthy foods while engaged in screen-based activities, further exacerbating the risk of obesity.

For families, the most effective strategy is to implement and maintain clear rules regarding screen time. These rules should address the quantity, quality, and timing of screen use to ensure that children are not spending excessive hours in front of screens. Experts recommend setting strict limits on recreational screen time, encouraging physical activity, and promoting more interactive, educational content instead of passive entertainment.

It’s also crucial for parents to lead by example. Parents should prioritize physical activity and limit their own screen time to set a positive example for their children. Additionally, family routines that include outdoor play, sports, or active hobbies can help children develop healthy habits and maintain an active lifestyle.

In New Zealand, schools and communities are increasingly focusing on promoting healthy lifestyles, including providing opportunities for physical activity and educating children about healthy eating. However, it’s essential that these efforts are supported by families at home.

By implementing thoughtful and consistent rules around screen time, alongside encouraging physical activity and healthy eating, families can play a pivotal role in combating childhood obesity. In doing so, they can help ensure a healthier future for their children, both in New Zealand and around the world.

## Google Tests New Animation for AI Search Summaries

Google may be testing a fresh animation for its AI search summary feature, known as AI Overviews. The new animation, which replaces the previous blue lines shown while preparing a summary for a search query, introduces a more dynamic visual effect. Instead of the standard blue lines, users now see a roaming spotlight effect in blue and purple, which closely resembles the animation seen in Google’s Gemini AI assistant on Android and Gemini Live.

The discovery was first shared on December 28, 2024, by Reddit user Gaiden206, who posted a screenshot on the Bard subreddit, showcasing the new loading animation. The post quickly garnered attention, with several other users in the comments reporting that they, too, had noticed the updated animation. According to a report from 9to5Google, the animation is currently visible to a select group of users, but it has not been rolled out to everyone globally yet.

While the change is still being tested, the new animation adds an extra layer of interactivity and style to the AI search experience, making the wait for a query’s AI-generated summary feel less static. However, not all users are seeing the animation at this time, as it seems to be limited to a test phase. Gadgets 360 staff also noted that they could not verify the presence of the



new animation, suggesting that it is still in the early stages of testing.

The ongoing testing of new features like this highlights Google’s continued efforts to refine and enhance the AI search experience, offering users a more visually engaging and interactive way to receive information. As this animation continues to be tested, it remains to be seen whether it will be adopted widely for all users in the future.

## Why Disinfectants Can Never Promise 100% Germ Elimination

Have you ever wondered why disinfectants often claim to kill 99.9% or 99.99% of germs but never promise to eradicate all of them? In a world where science has made incredible advancements, it might seem surprising that a disinfectant can’t be 100% effective. The answer lies in a combination of microbiology and mathematics.

Disinfectants are substances used to kill or inactivate harmful microbes such as bacteria, viruses, and fungi on surfaces. While most microbes are harmless—and some even beneficial—a small number can cause illness.

Disinfection typically involves chemical agents, although physical methods like heat and UV light can also be used. However, it’s the mathematical pattern behind microbial elimination that explains why a disinfectant can never guarantee total



eradication. Microbial populations grow exponentially, meaning that a colony of 100 bacteria can double every hour, leading to a rapid increase in their numbers.

On the flip side, the process of killing or inactivating microbes follows a logarithmic decay pattern, which is the reverse of exponential growth. As disinfectants work, the number of surviving microbes

decreases, but the rate of death slows over time. For example, if a disinfectant kills 90% of bacteria every minute, after the first minute only 10% of the original population remains. After another minute, only 1% of the original population would remain, and so on.

This pattern of logarithmic decay is why it’s impossible to guarantee the death of every microbe. With each minute, fewer microbes remain, making it increasingly difficult to eliminate the last few. Therefore, disinfectants can only reduce microbial populations by a fixed percentage, not entirely eliminate them.

In conclusion, while disinfectants are highly effective at reducing germs, the nature of microbial growth and decay means it’s not possible to ever claim 100% eradication. The 99.9% and 99.99% figures are a reflection of the science behind the process, not a failure of the products.



# Jasprit Bumrah Nominated for ICC Test Cricketer of the Year Award

India's star fast bowler, Jasprit Bumrah, has been nominated for the prestigious ICC Test Cricketer of the Year award. He is competing alongside England's Joe Root and Harry Brook, and Sri Lanka's Kamindu Mendis. Bumrah, who has been in sensational form in 2024, has taken 71 wickets from 13 matches at an average of 14.92 and a strike rate of 30.16, making him the top-performing bowler in Test cricket this year.

The ICC highlighted Bumrah's remarkable return to the Test arena after recovering from a recurring back injury in 2023. His exceptional performances in 2024 saw him finish the year with more wickets than any other bowler. Notably, his match-winning spells during India's tour of Australia, including his memorable efforts in Perth, were among his standout performances. His 30 wickets in just four matches during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy have cemented his place as the premier fast bowler of the year.

In addition to Bumrah, England's Joe Root is also nominated, having scored 1,556 runs in 17 Tests at an average



of 55.57. Root's stellar year included six centuries and five fifties, with a career-best 262 against Pakistan. His consistency with the bat made him one of the most dominant players of the year.

Harry Brook, another English cricketer, earned a spot in the shortlist with 1,100 runs from 12 Tests at an average of 55.00. Known for his aggressive batting, Brook scored four centuries, including a blistering 317, with the majority of his runs coming in overseas conditions.

Sri Lanka's Kamindu Mendis also had a standout year, scoring 1,049 runs from nine Tests at an impressive average of 74.92. Mendis became the joint-third quickest to reach 1,000 Test runs, equaling Sir Don Bradman's record with 13 innings. His twin centuries against New Zealand were among his most memorable performances.

These exceptional players will now vie for the ICC Test Cricketer of the Year honor, showcasing their outstanding contributions to the longest format of the game.

# Australia Clinch 184-Run Victory Over India in MCG Test, Lead Series 2-1

Australia stunned India by taking seven wickets in the final session of the fourth Test in Melbourne on Monday to win by 184 runs, taking a 2-1 lead in the five-match series. India, set an improbable 340 runs to win, collapsed to 155 all out with just 12.5 overs left in the match. With this loss, India now faces a must-win scenario in the final Test, starting on Friday in Sydney, if they hope to level the series and retain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

Australia's captain, Pat Cummins, was the standout performer, taking 3-28, including the crucial wicket of Yashasvi Jaiswal, who was India's top scorer with 84. Jaiswal's departure sparked a dramatic collapse as India's last seven wickets fell for just 34 runs in 20.3 overs. Despite India's solid middle-order partnership between Jaiswal and Rishabh Pant, who survived the second session to take the score to 112-3 at tea, the game turned when Pant was dismissed for 30. Pant was caught in the deep after an ill-advised shot off part-time spinner Travis Head.

The wickets of Ravindra Jadeja and Nitish Kumar Reddy followed shortly after, and Jaiswal was dismissed in controver-



sial fashion. The TV umpire overturned an initial not-out decision after reviewing a caught-behind appeal from an attempted hook, despite no sound being picked up by technology, as visual evidence suggested the ball had changed direction.

Scott Boland (3-39) removed Akash Deep, while Jasprit Bumrah registered his second duck of the match. Mohammed Siraj was the final wicket to fall, trapped lbw by Nathan Lyon (2-37).

Earlier, India's top order had struggled in the first session, with Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul, and Virat Kohli all falling for single-digit scores. Cummins rounded off an excellent Test match, finishing with six wickets and scoring 90 runs—his best batting performance in a Test series.

# Liverpool Thrash West Ham 5-0, Extend Premier League Lead to Eight Points



Liverpool extended their lead at the top of the Premier League with a dominant 5-0 victory over West Ham, opening up an eight-point gap in the race for the title. Goals from Luis Diaz, Cody Gakpo, Mohamed Salah, Trent Alexander-Arnold, and Diogo Jota sealed the commanding win at the London Stadium, as Liverpool ended 2024 as the favorites to secure their second league title in 35 years.

Despite the emphatic victory, Liverpool's manager, Arne Slot, reminded everyone that there's still a long way to go, with the team just one game short of the halfway point in the season. Slot, who took over from Jurgen Klopp, has now guided Liverpool to 23 wins in 27 matches across all competitions, and his managerial debut has been nothing short of impressive.

The Reds were relentless from the start, with Diaz breaking the deadlock in the 30th minute. His intended pass to Curtis Jones rebounded off a West Ham defender and fell kindly for the Colombian, who slot-

ted the ball into the corner. West Ham's Mohammed Kudus almost equalized but saw his effort strike the post.

Just before halftime, Liverpool put the game to bed with two quick-fire goals. Gakpo netted his ninth goal in 14 games, thanks to a brilliant turn and assist from Salah, before Salah himself curled a shot past Alphonse Areola to make it 3-0, reaching the 20-goal mark for the eighth consecutive season.

Alexander-Arnold added to the misery for West Ham with a thunderous strike that deflected in off Max Kilman, and Jota sealed the win with a fifth goal after a superb assist from Salah, who registered his 13th Premier League assist of the season.

Liverpool's dominance this season continues to shine, with speculation over the futures of Alexander-Arnold, Salah, and Virgil van Dijk failing to derail their title charge. Salah, focused on the team's success, emphasized that winning the league remains the top priority.

# Manchester Secures First Win in Five League Matches with 2-0 Victory Over Leicester

Manchester City secured a crucial 2-0 victory over Leicester City at King Power Stadium on Sunday, marking their first win in five Premier League matches. The victory, achieved in Pep Guardiola's 500th game in charge, was vital for the defending champions as they look to close the gap at the top of the Premier League.

The win was City's second in 14 games across all competitions, lifting them to fifth place in the standings with 31 points, 11 points behind leaders Liverpool, who have two games in hand. Leicester, on the other hand, remained in the relegation zone in 18th place, continuing their struggle in the league.

Savinho opened the scoring in the 21st



minute, netting his first goal for City. The Brazilian forward capitalized on a rebound after Leicester goalkeeper Jakub Stolarczyk had pushed Phil Foden's long-range shot into his path. Savinho fired the ball into the roof of the net from a tight

angle, giving City the lead.

Despite a relatively quiet first half from Haaland, the Norwegian striker extended City's lead in the 74th minute, scoring his second goal in eight league matches, marking a welcome return to form. Savinho, who had been involved in the first goal, provided a perfect looping cross to Haaland, who powered a header past Stolarczyk to seal the win.

The victory was much-needed for City, who had been struggling to find their rhythm in recent weeks. With this important three points, they will look to build momentum as they prepare for the challenges ahead in the Premier League and across other competitions.

# 29th All India Federation Cup Carrom Tournament 2025 Set to Kick Off in Nellore

TPN Correspondent

**Nellore, Dec 31:** The Andhra State Carrom Association (ASCA) and SPSR Nellore District Carrom Association are excited to announce the 29th All India Federation Cup Carrom Tournament 2025, scheduled to take place from January 5th to 8th, 2025, at the Nellore Club in Nellore.

Organized by the All India Carrom Federation (AICF), this prestigious tournament will feature top players from across the country, with teams representing 25 states and 10 institutions. Each team will comprise four male and four female players, alongside their respective coaches and managers.

Among the top contenders are K. Srinivas from Telangana and Rashmi Kumari from New Delhi, both of whom will represent PSPB. Srinivas, the reigning World Champion, will compete alongside M. Khazima from Tamil Nadu, who recently claimed the women's singles title at the 6th Carrom World Cup in the USA. Other members of the Indian team from the World Cup will also be participating in the tournament.

From Andhra Pradesh, notable players



such as top seeds Ch. Janardhan Reddy (Men) and MSK Harika (Women) will be representing the state with hopes of securing victory in their respective categories.

The tournament will feature four events: Men's Singles, Men's Doubles, Women's Singles, and Women's Doubles, all following a knockout format. As an AICF ranking tournament, the points earned here will be crucial for the selection of the Indian national team, alongside other ranking tournaments.

The host district and Nellore Club have made exceptional arrangements to ensure a smooth and memorable event. Participants from various states will benefit from free boarding and lodging through-

out the tournament. ASCA has a strong history of organizing national carrom tournaments, having hosted five prestigious events in recent years, and remains committed to promoting the game and supporting its players.

The tournament will be graced by the presence of Mr. Josef Meyer, President of the International Carrom Federation, who will attend to witness the exciting competition. Key matches will be streamed live by SYNCO, the official equipment manufacturer.

The 29th All India Federation Cup Carrom Tournament promises to be an unforgettable event, showcasing the best carrom talent from across India. Fans and enthusiasts are eagerly anticipating the action that will unfold this January in Nellore.

Neeraj Kumar Sampathy  
Senior Vice President,  
Andhra State Carrom Association

SK Abdul Jaleel  
President, All India Carrom Federation  
General Secretary, Andhra State Carrom Association





## Year of Controversies For Telugu Film Industry

The Telugu film industry experienced a stormy year, with scandals and tragedies dominating the headlines and leaving fans in shock. A controversy involving actor Raj Tarun and Lavanya grabbed attention when Lavanya accused actress Malvi Malhotra and popular RJ Shekhar Bhasha of cheating her. While the scandal initially caused a stir, it gradually faded from the spotlight. Minister Konda Surekha sparked controversy with comments on actress Samantha and Naga Chaitanya's divorce. Her remarks provoked sharp reactions from Samantha and the Akkineni family, leading Nagarjuna to file a defamation case against her. Adding to the tension, the demolition of Nagarjuna's N Convention Center for alleged encroachments became a hot topic.

Choreographer Johnny Master faced serious allegations of sexual harassment by his assistant. Arrested and later released on bail, he saw his national award revoked, and his membership in the Dance Masters Association was canceled, marking a significant fall from grace.

Senior actor Mohan Babu's family dispute escalated dramatically when his son, Manoj, accused him of issuing threats. When journalists arrived at Manoj's invitation, Mohan Babu allegedly attacked a reporter, resulting in injuries and an attempt-to-murder



case being registered against him. Actress Kasturi faced backlash for her remarks about the Telugu people, leading to her arrest by Chennai police. She was later released on bail. Meanwhile, actress Hema was arrested at a Bengaluru rave party, where she reportedly spent years in jail, drawing significant media attention.

A devastating stampede occurred at Sandhya Theater during a benefit show for Pushpa 2, attended by actor Allu Arjun. The incident claimed the life of a woman named Revathi and left her son, Sreetej, critically injured. Allu Ar-

jun was arrested in connection with the tragedy but has since been released on bail. Controversial filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma found himself in hot water over provocative social media posts during elections. Although he evaded arrest for years, court intervention eventually provided him relief. From personal disputes to professional challenges and tragic incidents, the year left an indelible mark on the Telugu film industry, exposing the highs and lows of its celebrated members.

## Pawan Kalyan to Grace ‘Game Changer’ Pre-Release Event as Chief Guest

On a bustling Monday morning, Tollywood producer Dil Raju met with Andhra Pradesh Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan at his Mangalagiri camp office, sparking a wave of excitement across social media. The meeting has led to confirmed reports that Pawan Kalyan will attend the highly anticipated pre-release event of Dil Raju's upcoming film *\*Game Changer\**, starring Ram Charan.



While the event's exact location and date are yet to be confirmed by the producer, sources indicate that the pre-release event is likely to take place in Rajahmundry on January 4 or 5, 2025. Fans are eagerly anticipating the chance to see Pawan Kalyan and Ram Charan share the stage, fueling speculation that other prominent members of the Mega family might also make appearances. Official details about the event are expected to be announced soon.

*\*Game Changer\** is a pan-Indian political drama that has garnered a lot of buzz due to its star-studded cast and gripping

storyline. Alongside Ram Charan, the film features Kiara Advani, Anjali, SJ Suryah, Naveen Chandra, and Srikanth in key roles. Directed by Shankar, the film has already generated significant anticipation and is slated for a grand release on January 10, 2025.

Fans are excited not only about the film's release but also about the upcoming pre-release event, which is expected to draw huge crowds and media attention. With Pawan Kalyan's involvement, the event is sure to become a memorable occasion for fans of both the actor and the Mega family.

## India’s Biggest OTT Franchise ‘The Family Man’ Wraps Up Production for Season 3

The Family Man on Amazon Prime Video has become one of India's most successful OTT shows, significantly boosting Manoj Bajpayee's career. With the series garnering immense popularity, Bajpayee now has nearly ten films lined up for release in the next two years. Fans of the show have been eagerly awaiting the third season, and the latest update reveals that production has officially wrapped up in Mumbai.



Season 3 of The Family Man promises to be an exciting chapter, with new developments that are sure to intrigue the audience. One of the most anticipated aspects of this season is the introduction of Jaideep Ahlawat in a negative role. Ahlawat, who has earned praise for his performances in acclaimed shows like Paatal Lok and Bard of Blood, as well as films like Raees and Jaane Jaan, is expected to bring a fresh dynamic to the series. His involvement has sparked significant buzz, and his character's role is already one of the most talked-about elements of the upcoming season.

Additionally, Sundeep Kishan, another talented actor, will make a cameo appearance in the third season, further adding to the star-studded cast. Directed by the dynamic duo Raj and DK, The Family Man 3 is set to continue its legacy of gripping

storytelling, combining action, suspense, and emotional depth.

The show's success has made it one of the leading names in Indian OTT content, and as the production wraps up, anticipation for the new season is at an all-time high. As The Family Man 3 is poised for release in 2025, fans are eagerly awaiting the continuation of the thrilling journey of Manoj Bajpayee's character, Shrikant Tiwari, and the evolving plot that promises to captivate audiences once again.

## Preity Mukhundhan’s First Look as Princess Nemali in ‘Kannappa’ Unveiled

The much-anticipated historical and mythological film Kannappa, produced by the Manchu family, has released its first look of actress Preity Mukhundhan, who plays the role of “Nemali”, the Princess of Spoons. This film is being touted as one of the most prestigious projects in the Manchu family's filmography, with a budget of around Rs. 100 crores. Kannappa is helmed by Mukesh Kumar Singh, known for his work on the Mahabharata serial, and stars Manchu Vishnu in the lead role.



In the film, Preity Mukhundhan plays the role of Ishtasakhi, a significant character known as the princess of spoons, who has a strong devotion to the legendary character Kannappa. Her character is described as a unique blend of beauty, courage, and devotion, with an intense love for Kannappa that sets her apart. Preity shared her excitement over the role, describing

her character as “Natural in beauty, Courage in desperation, Abnormal in love, Ecstasy in devotion... Everything to Kannappa.”

Kannappa features an ensemble cast that includes prominent stars from the Telugu, Bollywood, and Kollywood industries, including Prabhas, making it a multi-industry collaboration. The film's story weaves

a historical and mythological narrative, adding a deep layer of intrigue to its production. As the Manchu family works tirelessly on this dream project amid personal and professional challenges, Kannappa is poised to captivate audiences with its grandeur and the depth of its characters.

With the first look of Preity Mukhundhan as Nemali receiving positive attention, fans are eagerly awaiting the release of the film, anticipating her captivating performance alongside a stellar cast in this epic tale.



The much-anticipated film *\*Sankranthiki Vasthunnam\**, directed by Anil Ravipudi and starring Venkatesh, is all set to hit theaters on January 14, 2025, just in time for the Pongal celebrations. The film, which also features Meenakshi Chaudhary and Aishwarya Rajesh in pivotal roles, is generating buzz ahead of its grand release.

In a bid to further raise excitement, the makers have unveiled the third single from the movie titled *\*Blockbuster Pongal\**. This lively and festive track, released today, is designed to get audiences into the celebratory mood

for the festival. The song is a special collaboration featuring Venkatesh, who not only stars in the film but also lends his voice alongside singer Rohini Soratt. The music for the track has been composed by Bheems Ceciroleo, who infuses the song with energetic beats that perfectly match the festive tone of Pongal.

The *\*Blockbuster Pongal\** song beautifully encapsulates the spirit of the Sankranthi festival, with vibrant visuals and catchy rhythms. It showcases exciting dance performances by the lead actors, Venkatesh, Aishwarya

## Ram Charan to Appear on Balakrishna’s ‘Unstoppable’ for the First Time in Season 4

Nandamuri Balakrishna's popular OTT talk show Unstoppable has quickly become a go-to platform for film promotions, with its candid conversations and engaging discussions about upcoming films drawing significant attention. The show's unique format, where Balayya shares lively talks with his celebrity guests, has made it a fan favorite. Now, Unstoppable is set to welcome a star of the highest caliber, as Ram Charan is all set to make his debut appearance on the show.



Ram Charan will shoot for a special episode of Unstoppable Season 4 tomorrow, marking his first-ever appearance on the show. The episode is expected to be one of the standout moments of the season, and fans are eagerly anticipating the Mega-Nandamuri crossover. Charan and Balayya share a strong camaraderie, which was evident during a previous telephonic conversation when Pawan Kalyan appeared on the show in Season 3. Their easy rapport promises an entertaining and candid interaction during the upcoming episode.

The episode will likely feature discussions on a variety of topics, including their respective upcoming films. Both Charan and Balakrishna are set to release highly anticipated films during the Sankranthi season. Charan's *Game Changer*, slated for release on January 10, will go head-to-head with Balayya's *Daaku Maharaaj*, which releases on January 12. This adds an interesting layer to the episode, as the duo may discuss their films and the exciting prospects for this festive season at length.

Fans are eagerly awaiting this unique Mega-Nandamuri encounter, and the upcoming episode of Unstoppable is expected to be one of the most talked-about episodes in the show's history. Stay tuned for what promises to be a fascinating and entertaining discussion between two of Tollywood's biggest stars.

## Blockbuster Pongal song from Sankranthiki Vasthunnam brings instant festive energy

Rajesh, and Meenakshi Chaudhary, adding to the song's festive charm. The mass dance moves and colorful settings bring an extra layer of energy, making it a perfect anthem for the celebrations.

Produced by Dil Raju under the Sri Venkateswara Creations banner, *\*Sankranthiki Vasthunnam\** has already piqued interest with its well-executed promotional campaign. With the release date approaching, fans are eagerly awaiting the film's launch to experience this festive entertainer on the big screen.