



Putin reaffirms India as key energy partner despite sanctions heat

Russian President Vladimir Putin used his 3-5 December 2025 visit to New Delhi to reassure India that energy cooperation remains one of Moscow's top priorities, a report has said. Standing with Indian officials, he said Russia is committed to providing "uninterrupted shipments" of fuel to India and praised Indian partners as 'very reliable,' according to the India Narrative report.

His message came at a critical moment, just as India's imports of Russian crude reached a five-month high, even after new US secondary sanctions took effect on 21 November. India's dependence on Russian oil has grown sharply since 2022, and refiners appear unwilling to step back despite the increasing challenges. Nayara Energy is among the biggest buyers.



Between 2023 and 2025, the company sourced more than half of its total crude intake from Russia. In some months of 2024, nearly 60 per cent of the crude processed at its Vadinar refinery came from Russian

grades like Urals and ESPO. However, keeping Russian crude flowing is becoming increasingly difficult. Many Western insurance providers have pulled back from covering vessels associated with the "dark fleet," leading to a rise in

shipping costs.

Freight rates for the Russia-India route have increased by nearly 20 per cent compared with mid-2025. Maritime brokers say almost 40 per cent of tankers previously used for this trade route are now considered high-risk or uninsurable, forcing refiners to rely on unfamiliar carriers and more complex shipping routes. Payment systems are also shifting. With US regulations tightening, Indian buyers are turning to dirham- and yuan-based settlement channels. These systems work, but they also come with compliance and currency-stability risks.

Even so, analysts note that US sanctions do not ban Russian crude outright -- they target specific entities. This means refiners

are more likely to adjust their methods rather than cut ties. Industry observers say ship-to-ship transfers, mixed cargoes, and re-documentation through hubs like Fujairah, Malaysia, and certain Turkish ports are increasingly being used to bring Russian oil to India without a direct link to sanctioned exporters. Such practices mirror earlier global examples where sanctioned oil continued to reach buyers through opaque but reliable routes, as per the report. Indian refiners still prefer Russian barrels for a simple reason: price. Russian crude continues to sell at a discount of \$4-7 per barrel compared to similar Middle Eastern grades. Putin's visit has reaffirmed that Moscow wants this energy partnership to continue, the report stated.

IndiGo has refunded Rs 610 crore to flyers so far for cancelled flights: Govt

Low-cost carrier IndiGo has so far processed refunds totalling Rs 610 crore after the government issued strict directives to the airline requiring that all refunds to passengers for cancelled or severely delayed flights be completed by 8 p.m. on Sunday, the Ministry of Civil Aviation said on Sunday. No additional fees are permitted for rescheduling travel impacted by cancellations, an official statement said. Dedicated support cells have been created to proactively assist passengers so that refund and rebooking issues are resolved without delay or inconvenience, it added.

The ministry also said that IndiGo's performance has shown steady improvement, with flight schedules moving back towards normal levels. IndiGo's flight operations have increased from 706 on Friday to 1,565 on Saturday and are likely to reach up to 1,650 by the end of Sunday. All other domestic airlines are operating smoothly and at full capacity, the statement said.

The ministry further stated that, in light of recent cancellations leading to a shift in demand and a temporary surge in airfares, the government intervened and introduced a cap on airfares with immediate effect. This measure ensures fairness and affordability for travellers. Since the implementation of this order, fare levels across affected routes have moderated to acceptable limits. All airlines have been instructed to comply strictly with the revised fare structure.

IndiGo was also instructed to trace and deliver all baggage separated from passengers due to disruptions within 48 hours. Continuous communication is mandated throughout the process. With this push, IndiGo has successfully delivered 3,000 pieces of baggage to passengers across India as of Saturday. Airport Directors from Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, and Goa have confirmed normal conditions



across terminals on Sunday. Passenger movement remains smooth with no crowding at check-in, security, or boarding points. On-ground support has been strengthened through enhanced monitoring and timely deployment of assistance by airport operators and CISF, according to the statement.

"The MoCA's 24x7 Control Room continues to function as an integrated coordination hub, overseeing flight operations, airport conditions, and passenger support requirements. Passenger calls are being promptly attended to, with necessary assistance as required. Our teams remain deployed on the ground to supervise operational planning, crew rostering, and passenger handling standards, ensuring full compliance," the statement said. The ministry said that it has taken rapid and decisive steps to address the disruption caused by the recent IndiGo operational crisis and to ensure that passengers do not face continued inconvenience. Air travel operations across the country are stabilising at a fast pace. The aviation network is moving swiftly toward full normalcy, and all corrective measures will remain in place until operations stabilise entirely, it stressed. The ministry will continue vigilant monitoring to ensure full protection of passenger rights and interests, and further updates will be shared as required, the statement added.

AP lorry owners association to go for strike over increased vehicle fees

The Andhra Pradesh (AP) Lorry Owners Association has announced its intention to halt the transportation of goods from Tuesday midnight, following the Centre's recent notification that raises testing and fitness fees for vehicles over 13 years old. The Association argues that the increased charges impose an unreasonable financial burden on owners of older vehicles, which are crucial for transporting goods. They are urging the Chief Minister to intervene and reduce the fees, asserting that the state has the authority to halt the implementation of the notification.

"We are protesting against the additional testing and fitness charges on older vehicles, which threaten the livelihoods of many transport operators," stated a representative of the AP Lorry Owners Association. "If our concerns are not addressed, we will be forced to immo-



bilise 10,000 goods lorries. Goods vehicles should not require Vehicle Licensing Documents (VLDs), and we urge both the Centre and the state to reconsider this burden." The outcome of this dispute remains to be seen as the lorry owners prepare for potential industrial action.

Sajjala calls the drive a historic show of public anger

Tadepalli: YSRCP state coordinator Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy claimed that the one-crore signature campaign against the alleged privatisation of government medical colleges has emerged as one of the most disciplined and historic public movements in the party's history. He said the extraordinary response reflects people's clear opposition to Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's policies, which he warned would cause long-term damage to future generations. Addressing a Zoom conference with Parliamentary constituency observers and state presidents of affiliated wings, Ramakrishna Reddy noted that the campaign has received overwhelming support from all sections of society, far exceeding expectations. More than one crore signatures were collected within just a week, and the numbers continue to rise. He announced that constituency-level submissions will be held on December 10, district-level events on December 13, and the final representation will be submitted to the Governor on December 16.



Virat Kohli Visits Simhadri Appanna Swami Temple



Visakhapatnam: Indian cricket star Virat Kohli recently paid a visit to the Simhadri Appanna Swami temple, where he received a warm welcome from the temple authorities. Special arrangements were made for his visit, allowing him to partake in the sacred darshan. Following the darshan, priests conferred Vedic blessings upon Kohli, further enriching his spiritual experience. As a gesture of reverence, temple officials presented him with a portrait of Swami and theertha prasad. The visit highlighted the cricketer's faith and connection to his roots.

BJP supported sarpanch candidates can win: BJP Dist President Souda Ramesh



Jangaon, December 7, Metroodayam:

The meeting was held at the BJP district office. Speaking on the occasion, BJP Jangaon district president Souda Ramesh said that in all the mandals of Jangaon district, sarpanch candidates supported by the BJP have been fielded in all the villages. The BRS government is neither in Delhi nor in the gullies Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a number of schemes for the welfare of the poor and downtrodden in the state. Welfare schemes, implementation of five lacs, free medical facilities etc., schemes can lead to win the sarpanches, Ramesh appeal voters in the villages to cast their valuable vote for BJP candidates for winning. It was followed by Thokala Umarani BJP Jangaon dist General Secretary, Devaraya Yellaiah, dist vice-president, elections spokesperson Peddoju Jagadish, Bokka Sunil, Gone Amarender, Nimmaala Srinivas and others participated.

Ashwin demands proper role for Washington



New Delhi: Former India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has urged the Indian team management to provide Washington Sundar with "proper" role clarity, warning that the bowling all-rounder could otherwise be left "searching for who he is." Ashwin stressed that Washington must be treated as a frontline bowling all-rounder and given a full quota of overs to build confidence with the bat as well. The 26-year-old has bowled only seven overs across the first two ODIs against South Africa and is yet to take a wicket. "Once you have decided to play Washington Sundar, you've to treat him as a bowler who can bat. You've to bowl out his overs," said Ashwin on his YouTube channel.

"Only if he keeps bowling, he'll have the mindset of a bowler who can bat. Otherwise, if he just bats and bowls a few overs, he'll keep searching for who he is. So don't leave him in the searching space. Instead, the team should arrive at giving him the proper role clarity," he added. India failed to defend 358 in the second ODI as South Africa levelled the three-match series with a four-wicket win. They had scrapped through in the opening ODI after scoring 348. Ashwin felt the hosts lacked a finishing option in the absence of Hardik Pandya and questioned whether a like-for-like replacement was overlooked.

Government employee election campaigning in Sarpanch elections...



Warangal District 07 December (Metro udayam)

Rayaparathi Mandal: Some villagers have alleged that Lakawat Srinu, a Central Government Military

employee from Vankudothu Thanda in Rayaparathi Mandal, has been participating in election campaigning for the last ten days on behalf of independent candidate Lakawat Srinivas.



According to the election code of conduct, government employees are prohibited from participating in campaigning on behalf of any political party or candidate. In this context, the villagers have

demanding that the police authorities and the district collector immediately investigate and take legal action, alleging that the concerned officer has violated the election code of conduct...

Women's empowerment at core of NDA agenda: Savitha

Penukonda: BC welfare minister S Savitha said women's economic independence and self-employment are central to the NDA government's agenda. Speaking at an interaction with Self-Help Group (SHG) members at the TDP office in Penukonda, she reviewed the progress of women's empowerment initiatives and various welfare schemes. Prior to the meeting, she visited stalls set up by SHG members and appreciated their products and entrepreneurial efforts.

The minister noted that SHGs continue to play a pivotal role in strengthening the socio-economic standing of rural women

and directed officials of relevant departments to accelerate the implementation of all livelihood and welfare programmes targeted at women. During the session, SHG members shared their concerns and suggestions, and the Minister assured them that every issue linked to women's welfare would be addressed with utmost seriousness.

Savitha stated that the NDA government under Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu is committed to fulfilling every promise made to the public. She highlighted that pensions have been enhanced, free gas cylinders are being provided under the Deepam

scheme, Rs 15,000 per child is being extended to mothers, free RTC bus travel has been made available to women, and farmers are receiving Rs 20,000 under the Annadata Sukhibhava scheme.

She added that the government is correcting administrative lapses from the previous regime while simultaneously advancing both development and welfare. As part of the programme, substantial financial support was extended to beneficiaries under multiple schemes. Through Sri Nidhi loans, Rs 18.06 crore was provided to 1,974 members, while bank linkage under the Social Investment

Fund enabled the disbursement of Rs 138.46 crore to 1,413 beneficiaries. Under the Seed Capital scheme, Rs 55.10 lakh was released to 141 members.

Farmer Producer Groups received assistance amounting to Rs 1.03 crore, and under the OSSCF scheme, Rs 24.50 lakh was distributed to 49 beneficiaries. The event saw active participation from DWMA project director Narasayya, Sagara Corporation chairman Venkataramana, various corporation directors, district and mandal-level officials, women leaders and numerous SHG representatives.

Revanth's infra fillip for Devarakonda

Devarakonda (Nalgonda): As part of the Praja Palana Praja Vijayotsavam held, here, on Saturday, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy laid foundation stones for development works worth about 20 crore rupees in Devarakonda Municipality. Revanth laid foundation stones for CC roads worth Rs 13 crore across various wards in the Municipality. He also launched remaining underground drainage works worth Rs 2.5 crore in wards 7, 9, and 10, CC drains worth Rs 50 lakh across wards 1 to 20, stadium development works including a track at the Government Boys Junior College with two crore rupees, and BNR Park development in Ward 19 with two crore rupees. He also handed over bank linkage cheques amounting to Rs 11.34 lakhs to MEPMA women's groups.

Addressing the large gathering, the CM announced that Devarakonda constituency will see all-round development. He directed the district collector to prepare proposals immediately for establishing a nursing college in the constituency. He said senior ministers from Roads & Buildings and Panchayat Raj departments will visit Devarakonda to conduct a special review on the development works requested by MLA Balu Naik, including road networks from tribal hamlets to mandals, from mandals to district headquarters, and further to Hyderabad



He said the government will develop Maddimadugu in Devarakonda and Achampet areas as a pilgrimage centre, install a statue of Sevalal Maharaj there, and allocate funds next year to complete the pending works of Venkateswara Swamy Temple. He added that six crore rupees will be given for upgrading Devarakonda Junior College. Pending lift irrigation works including Pendiipakal will be completed during this assembly term and SLBC and Dindi projects will also be finished.

R&B Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said Devarakonda should be developed just like Kodangal, the Chief Minister's home constituency. He requested sanction of major road works for Devarakonda. He asked for special focus on the backward regions of Devarakonda and Achampet and requested that the area hospital be upgraded from 100

beds to 200 beds.

Earlier, MLA Nennavath Balu Naik, who chaired the meeting, requested a 200-bed upgrade for Devarakonda area hospital, a Motor Vehicle Inspector (MVI) office for the town, an Urdu medium minority school, and new roads from thandas to mandals, and improved drinking water supply for Dindi and Chandampet mandals under Mission Bhagiratha, as Devarakonda is still not receiving adequate water. Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, Legislative Council Chairman Gutta Sukhender Reddy, MLAs Battula Laxma Reddy, Kunduru Jaiveer Reddy, Dr Vamsi Krishna from Achampet, Madhu Sudhan Reddy from Devarakonda, Tungaturthi MLA Mandula Samel, MLC Nellikanti Satyam, and several corporation chairpersons attended the event.

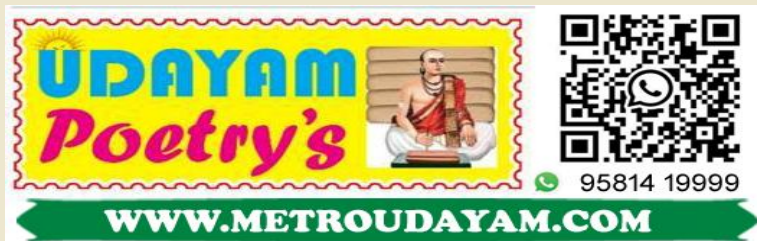
HIS BIRTH DAY SPECIAL (08/12/2025)

DEFINITIVE BIOGRAPHY OF DHARMENDRA

This book, Dharmendra, Not Just A He-Man by Rajiv Vijayakar, unfolds before us a remarkable, eventful long journey of Bollywood actor, producer Dharmendra who passed away on 24th last month. He was to celebrate his 90th Birthday on 8th December. Married Prakash Kaur at the age of nineteen in 1954, had from her four children, two sons, two daughters and later he loved and married actress Hema Malini in 1980 and again became a father of two daughters

According to the author, in looks Dharmendra was handsome, rugged, and strapping and he believed in giving love to all, often openly declared that name and fame was temporary but love eternal. He had it in abundance, gave it to all freely and in turn, he reaped it from millions of fans, and from his friends in the industry. And he will be remembered forever for his love and goodness.

In the opening chapters, the author tells us some very interesting anecdotes about his life in the early years. After watching the movie, Saheed, a Dilip Kumar starrer in 1948 along with his uncle in Ludhiana, Dharmendra, a young village boy of thirteen (born in 1935), determined there and then to become an actor. Shortly he went to Mumbai (then Bombay) to



face job interviews but was rejected. Before returning to his village Nasrali, he wanted to see his matinee idol at his Pali Hill house. By walking straight into the bedroom of Dilip Kumar who was there, a scared Dharmendra after a few seconds ran out in utter shock and disbelief.

Again the author throws light on things that happened to Dharmendra during his stay in Mumbai for a Talent Hunt Contest conducted by the Filmfare magazine. During this stay he met Farida, sister of Dilip Kumar and make-up woman for the contest helped him meet Dilip again at his house who this time gifted Dharmendra a costly, imported sweater, marking the beginning of a life long friendship between the two actors!

Success and stardom didn't come easily to Dharmendra. Kewal Krishan Deol, popularly known as Dharmendra. In his initial attempts in the Bollywood he struggled a lot, like his close friends Manoj Kumar, Sashi Kapoor. But the heat of the Sun, the rages of winter, pangs of hunger, and shame of rejections did not deter Dharmendra from visiting studios.

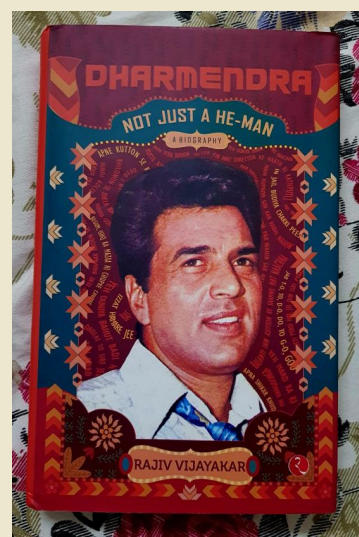
Participating in and winning the Talent Hunt Contest marked the beginning of new chapter in his life as it brought him some offers and however he acted in about 20

movies between 1960 and 1965, he didn't get a big break yet.

Eventually the resounding success of the action movie, Phool Aur Patthar in 1966 brought Dharmendra the much needed break. The rest is history. In a career spanning six decades, he went on acting in more 300 movies in Hindi and other languages and turned producer for his actor sons Sunny Deol and Bobby Deol. It is true that Dharmendra too had his grey period as many of his movies between 1990 and 2003 didn't do well and from 2004 to 2018, he appeared in some cameos and his last movie, IKKIS is going to be released in December. In fact out of his 300 movies, about 60 movies ran for 25, 30, and even 50 weeks.

Then why no awards to him? This is a big question most of his friends from the industry and millions of his fans keep asking. The chapter titled, The Unrewarded Actor tries to find reasons for it. According to the author, first as most people are wont to do, Dharmendra never lobbied for awards, though many of his films were often nominated. Second this% »% natural actor was humilatingly underrated perhaps for acting in some B-grade movies.

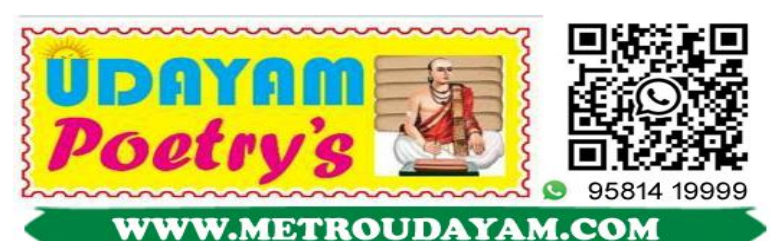
The actor himself felt that he should have received 15 awards for his movies. He kept a new



suit ready every time his movies were nominated in the fond hope of wearing it for the award function but no awards received and he stopped getting new suits ready. This is what he said at the time of receiving the Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award in 1997, revealing his deep disappointment and a veiled comment on the system.

For those who want to know all about Dharmendra and about his career, I recommend this 275 page highly reliable and comprehensive biography for one reason. The author looks at the actor from 360 degrees and covers all aspects including his films, success, failure, faults, foibles, love affairs, thick bond with family and friends, poetic verve and weakness with the bottle.

M SOMASEKHAR PRASAD
GANDHINAGAR
HYDERABAD 500020



वही ईश्वर है जो ज़मीन और आसमानों को भी बनाया है। और हमें बनाया ही इसलिए है के वह हमारी परीक्षा ले के हममें कौन है जो अच्छे कर्म करते हैं!...
(शकील उवाचा - १९९३)

जब हम आजमाने (परीक्षा) के बारे में और भी गहराई में देखते हैं तो पता चलता है के परीक्षाओं का अर्थ केवल कुछ ही बातों तक सीमित नहीं रहता। परीक्षाएं इस शब्द का संकेत और भी व्यापक हैं। आदमी की उपजीविका की कमी और ज्यादाती भी एक परीक्षा है। आदमी जिस समाज में, जिस वातावरण में रहता है वह भी एक परीक्षा है। और आदमी को दिया गया उसका ज्ञान भी एक परीक्षा है। आदमी को दिये गये जिम्मेदारियां भी एक परीक्षा ही हैं।



इन सभी मामलों में ईश्वर की ओर से आदमी की और उसके व्यवहार की परीक्षा की जा रही है। क्या इंसान सत्य और धर्म के मार्ग पर चलेगा या फिर खुद को बुरे कर्मों को समर्पित करेगा? क्या वह रहमान और रहीम खुदा (दयावान, कृपावान परमात्मा) के हुक्म (आज्ञा) का पालन करेगा या उसके विपरीत अपने नफस (स्वयं), इच्छा आकांक्षाओं की पैरवी (अनुसरण) करके शैतान की आज्ञा का पालन करेगा?

और पवित्र कुरआन, अध्याय क्रमांक 11, सुराह हूद, आयत क्रमांक 07 की बात मानी जाय तो, "वही सिंहासनाधिष्ठित ईश्वर जमीन और आसमानों को भी बनाया है और और उसने हमें बनाया ही इसलिए है के वह आजमाएं (परीक्षा ले) के हममें कौन हैं जो अच्छे कर्म करते हैं।" इसके व्यतिरिक्त पवित्र कुरआन, अध्याय क्रमांक 05, सुराह अल माइदा, आयत क्रमांक 48 में कहा गया है के हम सबको अलग अलग मजहबों (पंथों) में हमारे परीक्षा करने ही पैदा किया है।

हमारा अलग अलग मजहबों (पंथों) में या अलग अलग कौमों (जातियों) में पैदा होना हमारी उत्कृष्टता या निकृष्टता का कारण नहीं बनता है केवल हमारे कर्म ही हमें उत्कृष्ट और निकृष्ट बनाएंगे। इसके व्यतिरिक्त किसीको किसीसे ज्यादा और किसीको किसीसे कम दर्जा (श्रेणियों) से भी नवाजा (सम्मानित किया) गया है। और यह खुदा (ईश्वर) के द्वारा प्रदान किये गये श्रेणियों का अंतर भी इसलिए है के हमें दिए गए पुरस्कारों के माध्यम से हमारी परीक्षा ली जाये।

पवित्र कुरआन में आया है के, "और वही (ईश्वर) है जिसने तुम्हें धरती में (अपना) उत्तराधिकारी बनाया और तुममें से बाज के बाज पर दर्जे बुलंद (किसी से किसी के श्रेणियां बढ़ाया) किये कुछ को दूसरों पर (श्रेष्ठ बनाया) ताकि जो कुछ उसने तुम्हें (उपहार) दिया है, उसमें तुम्हारी परीक्षा लें। निस्संदेह तुम्हारा रब शीघ्र (बुरे कर्म करने वालो को,) दण्ड देनेवाला है, किन्तु वह (अच्छे कर्म करनेवालों के लिए) अत्यन्त क्षमाशील, दयावान है।" (पवित्र कुरआन, अध्याय क्रमांक 06, सुराह अल अनआम, आयत क्रमांक 165)।

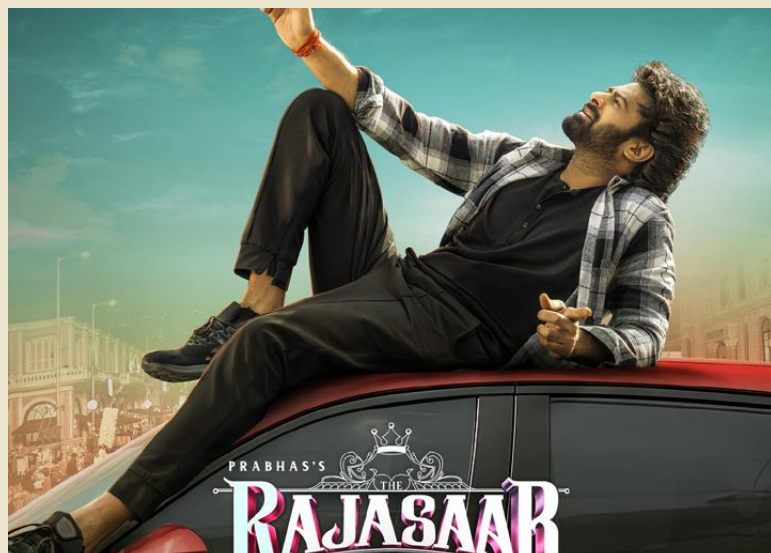
एक और बात की ओर यहां ध्यान दिलाते चलू के खुदा (ईश्वर) के द्वारा जहां बुरे कर्मों की ओर पापों की सजा (शिक्षा) देने की बात की गयी है वहीं अत्यन्त क्षमाशील, दयावान होने की भी बात कही गयी है। याने ईश्वर हमारे कर्मानुसार हमें प्रतिफल देता है इसमें कोई शंका की बात नहीं है पर यह भी वास्तव है के हम से कोई पाप हो जाये तो तौबा (प्रायश्चित्त) करने पर क्षमा करने वाला भी है।

जैसे के पवित्र कुरआन में कहा गया है के, "और अपने परवरदिगार (सृष्टिकर्ता पानहार परमात्मा) से अपनी मरफेत (पापों की क्षमा) की दुआ मांगो (प्रार्थना करो) फिर उसी की बारगाह में तौबा करो (उसके समक्ष प्रायश्चित्त करो, पलट आओ)। (और कहो) बेशक मेरा परवरदिगार (पालनहार ईश्वर) मेहरबान (दयावान) और मोहब्बत (प्रेम) करने वाला है।" (पवित्र कुरआन, अध्याय क्रमांक 11, सुराह हूद, आयत क्रमांक 90)।

पैगंबर साहब मोहम्मद (स्व.) के पहिले उत्तराधिकारी इमाम अली इब्न अबू तालिब अलैहिस्सलाम के मुताबिक तौबा का मतलब है अपने गुनाहों के लिए अल्लाह (सु.) से माफी मांगना और उससे क्षमा याचना करना। अपने किए गए गलत कामों पर सच्चा पछतावा होना। और कभी ऐसे गुनाह ना करने के पक्के इरादा रखना, गुनाह की राह छोड़कर परमात्मा की ओर पलट आना, इसी को तौबा कहते हैं।

-डॉ. मोहम्मद शकील ताज मोहम्मद जाफरी (शकील गंवरी), गंवरी, पुणे (महाराष्ट्र) भारत

The Raja Saab Movie 2026: Release Date, Cast, Runtime & Prabhas Horror Thriller



The Raja Saab starring Prabhas will release worldwide on January 9, 2026 for Sankranti. Why Fans Are Excited Prabhas is doing a horror thriller for the first time. Director Maruthi is making his first pan-India film. The teaser, trailer, and songs created big hype. Advance Bookings Advance bookings have started in the USA. Movie Runtime A US ticket website shows a runtime of 3 hours 14 minutes. This would make it the longest movie in Prabhas' career. There is no official confirmation yet. Prabhas' Movie Runtimes (For Comparison) Baahubali 1: 2h 45m Baahubali 2: 2h 47m Salaar: 2h 55m Cast Prabhas Malavika Mohanan Nidhi Agarwal Riddhi Kumar Sanjay Dutt Production The film is produced by TG Vishwa Prasad under People Media Factory with a huge budget.

Taapsee exudes calmness and confidence



Taapsee Pannu has been missing from the Telugu film circuit for some time now. Her last Telugu outing was the 2022 film Mishan Impossible, which didn't perform as expected at the box office. Following its lukewarm reception, the actress did not immediately take up another Telugu project. Instead, she strategically shifted her attention toward OTT platforms, choosing roles that allow her to experiment and challenge herself rather than chasing frequent big-screen appearances. In the midst of this phase, Taapsee has treated fans to a refreshing new photoshoot. The actress dropped a series of stunning photos on social media, capturing attention with impeccable simplicity. Dressed in a pristine white gown, paired with minimal yet elegant styling, Taapsee exudes a calm confidence that makes the look effortlessly appealing. The understated glamour, combined with her composed pose, reflects the evolved artistic space she currently occupies. Though she may be away from Telugu cinema for now, posts like these remind audiences of her enduring charm and strong presence—both on screen and off it.

KBC: Harmanpreet Kaur reveals how father predicted her 'cricket' future immediately after birth, surprises Amitabh Bachchan

Mumbai: Following the celebrations of the Women's Cricket World Cup Champions and Kaun Banega Crorepati's victorious tribute to them, the upcoming episode will be seen taking an emotional turn as captain Harmanpreet Kaur will be seen reflecting on her childhood. During the conversation with the host of the show, megastar Amitabh Bachchan, she recalled how her father had once stitched a special T-shirt for her with the words 'Good Batting' written on it, a moment that prompted Harmanpreet to share the touching story behind that cherished memory. Harmanpreet revealed, "The day I was born, my father was at his office, and the family sent him a message that my mother had been taken to the hospital. When I first wore those clothes, no one noticed. But after I played for India, a few years later, when we were shifting houses, my mother found them and said, 'Let me show you the clothes you wore on your first day.' I saw a shirt with 'Good Batting' written on it and a small pair of shorts that said 'Good Bowling.'" A curious, Amitabh also asked Harmanpreet what inspired her to take up cricket. With pride, she shared, "One day, my school principal saw me playing. He told me that the school had many sports but no cricket team. He said, 'If you join, I will create a team, because I have girls who play other sports.'

"Jaan Hi Lele!" - Ranveer Singh gushes as Deepika Padukone steps out for 'Date Night at the Movies' for Dhurandhar



Mumbai: Bollywood superstar Deepika Padukone seems to be excited and thrilled as star husband Ranveer Singh gears up for his big release, Dhurandhar, today on the 5th of December. Deepika shared a carousel post featuring herself looking all things sassy and classy. The actress in the pictures is seen sporting a chic and fitted black button-down jacket paired with high-waisted wide-leg dark denims.

Her husband, Ranveer Singh who couldn't handle his wife's hotness, took to the comments section of Deepika's social media post, and wrote, "Jaan Hi Lele," with a knife emoticon Deepika's cascading wavy hair and subtle makeup in the pictures elevate the look with effortless glamour. Completing the outfit are pointed black heels that add height and sharpness to her silhouette.

Talking about Ranveer Singh, with Dhurandhar the actor returns to the big screen after a hiatus of two long years. Earlier this evening, Deepika had taken to her social media account to root for her husband for Dhurandhar. As per the caption, it looks like she caught one of the first day's shows of "Dhurandhar". Deepika wrote, "Dhurandhar has been watched and is worth every minute of those 3.34 hours! So do yourselves a favour and get to a cinema hall NOW! So incredibly proud of you, Ranveer Singh! Congratulations to the entire cast and crew! @adityadharfilms | @officialjiostudios (sic)".

Earlier today, actress Yami Gautam also penned an emotional note for her director husband Aditya Dhar and the entire 'Dhurandhar' team. For the uninitiated, Dhurandhar has been directed by Aditya Dhar. Yami had uploaded a photo with her husband and penned, "And it's DHURANDHAR DAY today!!!! Some of the hardest working & most gem-like people that I know & am proud to call them my family!!! You have given all your heart, devotion, dedication, intent, passion, sweat, blood, and tears (which you never show) to this film, Aditya!!! (sic)"

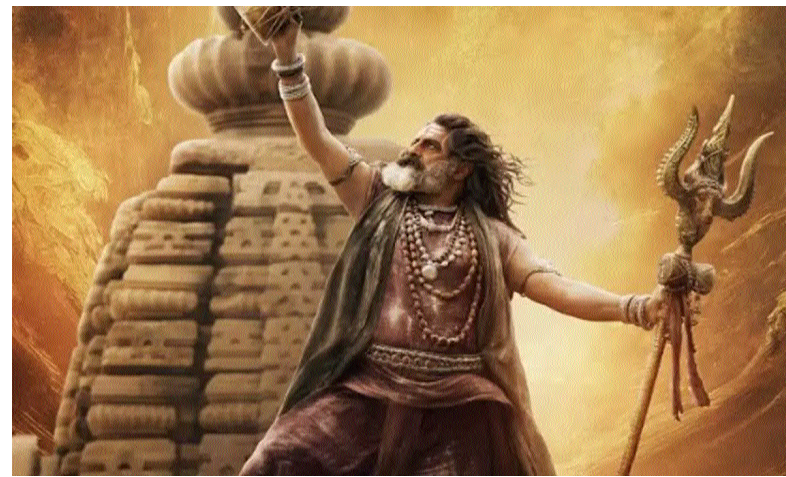
"Too many emotions running today, many hearts beating together!!! You guys are Dhurandhars in your own right. DHURANDHAR is not a parting gift of 2025 but is here to welcome 2026 for all of us across the globe. Ab yeh aapki film hai, audience. Jai Hind," she further wrote. Dhurandhar, along with Ranveer Singh, also stars Akshay Khanna, Arjun Rampal, Sanjay Dutt, and R. Madhavan in significant roles.

Akhanda 2' stumbles at the finish line

In a stunning setback for Tollywood, the much-awaited pan-India spectacle Akhanda 2 — Thaandavam, starring Nandamuri Balakrishna and directed by Boyapati Sreenu, has been halted indefinitely just hours before its scheduled release. What should have been a celebratory moment for fans has now spiralled into one of the industry's most dramatic release-day collapses in recent years.

The makers released an emotional statement expressing regret, assuring that "unavoidable circumstances" forced the postponement and promising a positive update soon. However, the lack of clarity over the reasons has intensified frustration, with many fans and industry insiders blaming the producers for severe mismanagement. With premieres locked, special shows planned, and promotional events underway, the sudden cancellation has led to heavy financial and operational losses for distributors and theatre owners.

While initial speculation



pointed to internal delays, the real shock emerged when it became clear that Akhanda 2 was ensnared in a decade-old legal battle unrelated to its production. The dispute stems from a 2015 agreement between Eros International and 14 Reels Entertainment during the Aagadu and 1 Nenokkadine era. After years of litigation, an arbitral tribunal in 2019 ordered 14 Reels to pay over ₹11 crore with interest and refrain from dealing with those films — or any new films tied to the agreement — until dues were cleared. Despite the Supreme Court upholding the award in 2021, no payment was made.

The dormant case resurfaced in 2025 when Eros discovered that Akhanda 2 was being released under 14 Reels Plus LLP, which they argued was simply a rebranded extension of the original company. A petition was filed seeking to stop the film's release. Though a single-judge bench initially dismissed Eros' plea, the Division Bench reversed the ruling and froze the release until the entire amount is paid.

As a result, a film featuring stars like Samyuktha and Aadhi Pinisetty, backed by massive production values and even a 3D release plan, now finds itself locked out of theatres. Fans remain divided—

some urging a quick resolution for an immediate release, others suggesting a strategic shift to Sankranti 2026. For now, Akhanda 2 stands stranded between legal complications and production lapses, its fate hinging on whether the producers settle a decade-old debt. Overseas screenings in jeopardy Though the team of Akhanda 2 is trying to resolve the issue quickly, the delay has created a major setback for the film's overseas plans. Because the movie didn't arrive as scheduled, several theatres reserved by overseas distributors have now been allotted to Zootopia 2 and Wicked: For Good for the weekend. Even if the makers attempt a late release, Akhanda 2 won't secure enough screens in North America. With the first film earning over \$1 million, expectations for the sequel were high. Now, distributors are likely to face losses. The earliest feasible overseas release appears to be December 12, but competition will intensify with Avatar: Fire and Ash releasing on December 19.

Vysakh hails Mammootty's bold reinvention ahead of 'Kalamkaval' release

Director Vysakh has penned an emotional and admiration-filled note for Malayalam superstar Mammootty, expressing his excitement for the actor's upcoming film Kalamkaval, which hits theatres on December 5. Taking to Instagram, Vysakh praised Mammootty as an artist who "doesn't just act but evolves," saying the star continues to push boundaries with every new role.

Vysakh, who is currently directing Prithviraj Sukumaran's Khalifa, wrote that watching Mammootty step into fresh characters with renewed fire is a privilege for audiences. Calling Kalamkaval a film he's eagerly waiting



to witness on the big screen, he wished the team massive success, hoping it becomes another shining chapter in the actor's legendary journey.

The director also extended his wishes to Vinayakan, whose intensity he said he was excited

to see, and to filmmaker Jithin K Jose and writer Jishnu Sreekumar. He congratulated the entire team, including George and Mammootty Kampany, for backing a film driven by passion and strong creative force. Vysakh ended his note with a fan-like declaration: "First day, first

show — booked."

Kalamkaval, led by Mammootty and Vinayakan, has already built strong buzz following its teaser and the makers' claim that the superstar will be seen in a never-before avatar. The film, cleared with a U/A certificate, is rumoured to present Mammootty in a character with grey shades. Directed by Jithin K Jose, the film features cinematography by Faisal Ali, editing by Praveen Prabhakar, music by Mujeeb Majeed and action choreography by Action Santhosh. With mounting anticipation and glowing industry support, Kalamkaval is gearing up for a powerful opening.

Telangana Deputy CM reviews arrangements for Messi's exhibition match

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Minister D. Sridhar Babu on Sunday reviewed the arrangements for the exhibition football match to be played between football legend Lionel Messi's team and a local team led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on December 13. Telangana Sports Authority Chairman Shiv Sena Reddy, Rachakonda Police Commissioner Sudhir Babu and other officials briefed them on the arrangements being made for the much-awaited match. The review offered a clear view of the scale and excitement building for the match.

Deputy CM Vikramarka, noting thousands of football fans are expected to come to see the



match, urged them to arrive early and settle into their seats to ensure both security and convenience. Tight security arrangements will be made for Messi, and both Rachakonda and Hyderabad Police Commissioners are closely monitoring the arrangements, he

added. Special routes have been designated for the arrival and departure of Messi, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, ministers, and other VIPs. Vikramarka stated that the match is being organised as part of "Telangana Rising" celebrations.

According to him, Messi showed personal interest to be part of the celebrations. The event coincides with the "Telangana Rising Global Summit", in which delegates from 42 countries are participating. Sridhar Babu said Messi would be here for a social cause and not just a friendly match. He said they were focusing on ensuring seamless coordination, public safety and a vibrant sporting atmosphere that reflects Telangana's growing enthusiasm for major sporting events. The ministers said that all necessary facilities were being provided for a smooth experience for football enthusiasts.

Police and stadium officials briefed them on the preparations in place inside and outside the venue. The match is to be played

as part of Messi's 'GOAT Tour 2025'. Football fans are eagerly waiting to see the legend in action in the match between 'Revanth Reddy 9 vs Lionel Messi 10'. The Chief Minister will wear Jersey number 9, and Messi his famous jersey number 10. Selected players from government schools are likely to be part of the 'RR9' team. It will not just be football action as the state government is planning to invite Messi to serve as the global brand ambassador for its 'Telangana Rising' initiative. The Chief Minister is trying to rope in the football legend to project the state's dynamism to the world through sports, tourism, investment promotion and youth outreach.