

Youth Must Prioritize Health: Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar

“Exercise, Walking, and Marathons Bring Immense Health Benefits”

Coalition Government Implementing Numerous Public Health Initiatives
TPN Bureau | December 7

TANUKU: Andhra Pradesh Energy Minister and West Godavari District In-Charge Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar urged the youth to focus on maintaining good health, stressing the importance of daily exercise and regular physical activity. Speaking at the ‘Tanuku Road Run’ event on Sunday, held near Chitturi Indiraiah Government Degree College, the Minister stressed that the coalition government led by CM N Chandrababu Naidu is committed to launching multiple initiatives for the well-being of the people.

Participating as the chief guest in the 10K, 5K and 3K run organized by the Tanuku Runners Society under the leadership of local MLA Arimilli Radhakrishna, the Minister said it was encouraging to witness such a large-scale fitness event as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Fit India Movement.

He recalled the government’s massive achievement in Visakhapatnam, where five lakh people performed yoga simultaneously, earning a Guinness World Record as part of the ‘Yogandhra’ campaign. Ravi Kumar called upon the public to contribute to the Chief Minister’s vision of a Healthy Andhra Pradesh, ensuring cleanliness in every home, village, and town.



He appealed to people to dedicate a portion of their daily routine to physical fitness for long-term health

benefits. District Collector Chadalawada Nagarani, who participated in the 3K run, expressed hap-

piness over the enthusiastic participation of youth. She said that under the Yogandhra initiative, daily yoga ses-

sions were organized across the district for a month, from village to district level. Inspired by the Tanuku Road

Run, she urged young people to allocate time each day for fitness activities. Local MLA Arimilli

Radhakrishna highlighted that the run was organized for the second time to promote a cleaner, greener, and healthier Tanuku. He said that 2,500 youth participated with great enthusiasm and that such events would significantly support the goal of building a Healthy Andhra Pradesh.

The event saw active participation from several officials, including District SP Adnan Nayeem Asmi, APIIC Chairman Mantena Ramaraju, RDO Khateeb Kauser Bhano, students from various schools, NGO representatives, district officials and Tanuku Runners Society organizers Viswateja, Sai Deepthi, Krishna Kiran and Vinay Pavan.

EESL Unveils Vision to Make Srinagar the World’s First “Energy-Efficient Tourist Capital”

J&K to Study Vizag’s Globally Acclaimed LED Street-Lighting Model
TPN Bureau | December 7

VIJAYAWADA: In a major push toward India’s climate commitments and Jammu & Kashmir’s sustainable development agenda, Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) has proposed an ambitious plan to transform Srinagar into the world’s first “Energy-Efficient Tourist Capital.” The initiative aims to establish new global standards for green, resilient and future-ready tourism cities.

EESL CEO Akhilesh Kumar Dixit submitted a Comprehensive Roadmap to Mandeep Kaur, Principal Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department and Satish Chandra, Chairman of the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA), J&K. The roadmap highlights cost-effective, world-class energy-efficiency solutions tailored to serve Srinagar’s rapidly growing tourist vol-

ume—2.36 crore visitors in 2024 alone.

Principal Secretary Mandeep Kaur said the UT is entering a new era marked by rising energy demand, rapid growth in electric mobility and unprecedented tourism inflows. “Energy efficiency is the most immediate, affordable and high-impact strategy to strengthen power system reliability, improve urban service delivery and support J&K’s long-term economic goals while sharply reducing carbon emissions,” she noted.

RERA Chairman Satish Chandra, who earlier served as Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, urged the UT administration to adopt global best-in-class technologies in both renewable energy and efficiency. He stressed leveraging the expertise of Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and EESL—the world’s largest energy-efficiency utility—to drive transformative outcomes.



Chandra recalled the landmark LED street-lighting initiative launched in Visakhapatnam after Cyclone Hudhud in 2014. Implemented through EESL under the Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP), the project retrofitted 1 lakh LED streetlights within a month, thanks to rapid intervention by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and continuous monitor-

ing by then Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. The project delivered about 40% energy savings, enhanced public safety and quality of life, and positioned Vizag as a global model for LED-based urban transformation.

The Andhra Pradesh–EESL model later inspired widespread adoption across India, leading to the installation of 1.30

crore LED streetlights nationwide—saving 6,000 crore annually and cutting 6.2 million tonnes of CO emissions. Building on these successes, EESL and J&K authorities believe Srinagar can emerge as the world’s first Energy-Efficient Tourist Capital, combining rapid economic expansion with long-term ecological resilience.

Andhra Pradesh Lorry Owners Threaten Statewide Goods Transport Strike from December 9 Midnight

TPN Bureau | December 7

Vijayawada: The Andhra Pradesh Lorry Owners Association has announced plans to launch an indefinite statewide goods transport strike from midnight on December 9 if the Union Government does not immediately roll back the steep hike in the fitness and testing fees for old goods vehicles. In a strongly worded statement issued on Sunday, the association general secretary Y.V. Eswar Rao described the recent decision of the Central Government as “unreasonable and financially unsustainable” for small and medium transport operators who are already reeling under heavy operational costs.

The association has demanded that both the Central and State Governments intervene urgently to prevent a transport shutdown that could paralyze goods movement across Andhra Pradesh. According to the association, the Centre’s new notification mandates a significant increase in the testing and fitness renewal fees for goods vehicles that are more than 13 years old.

Lorry owners argue that this move comes at a time when diesel prices, insurance premiums, and toll charges

have already raised the cost of operations beyond manageable limits. “The decision adds another burden on operators who are yet to recover from pandemic losses and economic slowdown,” Eswar Rao said.

The association leaders have urged the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister to step in and exercise the state’s authority to temporarily suspend or relax the implementation of the Central order in the state. They argued that many fleet operators in the state run vehicles that cross the 13-year threshold but are still in good condition and regularly maintained.

Penalizing them through higher certification costs, they said, would force many small operators out of business. Among the key demands put forward by the AP Lorry Owners Association are the withdrawal of the increased fitness and testing fees, exemption of goods vehicles from the mandatory Vehicle Location Tracking Device (VLTLD) requirement, and the introduction of relief measures to reduce the financial burden on transport owners.

The association has maintained that mandatory installation of VLTLDs is unnecessary for goods carriers that already

maintain route documentation and operate under strict permits. The association also warned that if the governments fail to respond positively before the midnight deadline on December 9, all goods transport services in Andhra Pradesh will be suspended indefinitely. Nearly 10,000 lorries are expected to stay off the road if the strike goes ahead, halting cargo movement to and from ports, rail sheds, and logistics hubs.

This could severely impact the supply chain and result in temporary disruptions to essential commodity movement across the state. Representatives of the association stated that transport operators have been appealing for reforms to ease their financial stress for several years but have received little response.

They added that the government’s current decision reflects a lack of understanding of ground realities in the transport sector and warned that continued neglect could push many small lorry owners into bankruptcy. As of Sunday evening, no official response has been issued by either the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways or the Andhra Pradesh Transport Department.



NRDC–APMSMEDC to Host Technology, Innovation & IPR Workshop for MSMEs at Ratan Tata Innovation



TPN Bureau | December 7

Vijayawada: The National Research Development Corporation (NRDC), in collaboration with the Andhra Pradesh Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Corporation (APMSMEDC), will conduct a one-day workshop on Technology, Innovation and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) for MSMEs on December 9, 2025, at the Ratan Tata Innovation Hub (RTIH) in Mangalagiri, Guntur district.

State Minister for MSMEs, Rural Poverty Eradication, and NRI Empowerment, Kondapalli Srinivas, announced the event through an official statement, highlighting the workshop’s importance in strengthening the innovation ecosystem for MSMEs and startups across Andhra Pradesh.

Organized under the RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance) Programme, the workshop aims to enhance the innovation capacity, technological adoption, and IPR awareness among MSMEs and startups. Officials said the initia-

tive will significantly boost the entrepreneurial ecosystem by equipping enterprises with the tools and knowledge required to leverage advanced technologies, protect innovations, and accelerate market commercialization.

Participants will also receive detailed insights into the incentives available under the MSME Innovative Scheme of the Ministry of MSME, Government of India. The workshop covers financial assistance schemes that support MSMEs, innovators, individuals, and students in various stages of product development, design, and intellectual property protection.

Financial Assistance Available Under the Scheme

- 1. Incubation Support
Up to ₹15 lakh for new and innovative ideas.
- Up to ₹1 crore for procurement of plant and machinery during the incubation phase.
- 2. Design Support

75% of project cost for micro enterprises.

60% of project cost for small and medium enterprises.

Funding support of up to ₹40 lakh for design projects.

Up to ₹2.5 lakh for student design projects.

3. Intellectual Property Support

Up to ₹1 crore for setting up Intellectual Property Facilitation Centres (IPFCs).

Support for procurement of machinery, hardware, software and facilities required for filing patents, trademarks, designs and GI applications.

Minister Kondapalli Srinivas urged MSMEs, innovators and entrepreneurs in the state to make full use of this opportunity to upgrade their technological and innovation capabilities.

Interested participants may contact Program Coordinator Bhavya Manjira at 9949568527 or Dr BK Sahu at 9810104163 for registration and further details.

MP Maddila Gurumoorthy Seeks Urgent Action in Tirupati University Sexual Harassment Case

TPN Bureau | December 7

NEW DELHI
YSRCP MP from Tirupati Maddila Gurumoorthy has sought immediate intervention from the Union Government and national statutory bodies in a shocking sexual harassment and blackmail case involving a woman B Ed student from the National Sanskrit University, Tirupati. In letters addressed to Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, the National Commission for Women (NCW), the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), the MP urged swift action and strict monitoring of the case.

According to the written complaint submitted by the survivor,

Assistant Professor Dr Laxman Kumar allegedly sexually harassed and blackmailed her using personal photographs and videos. She stated that continuous threats, mental torture and humiliation pushed her into severe trauma, ultimately forcing her to discontinue her studies.

Calling the incident a disturbing example of misuse of authority and unchecked power within the university campus, Gurumoorthy expressed deep concern over the safety of students in higher education institutions. He appealed to the Education Ministry to ensure a transparent, independent, and time-bound investigation, free from institutional influence or pressure.

The MP demanded the immediate suspension



and arrest of the accused professor to prevent interference in the inquiry and to uphold the survivor's safety.

Gurumoorthy also informed that he has written to the NCW, NCSC

and NHRC, urging them to closely monitor the investigation, safeguard the survivor's rights and prevent any attempts at an institutional cover-up. He said the YSR Congress Party will move an

adjournment motion in the Lok Sabha to raise the issue on the floor of Parliament, reiterating that justice for the survivor and accountability from the institution are of utmost priority.

YSRCP Revises Schedule For 1-Crore Signatures Movement Against Medical College Privatization

TPN Bureau | December 7

Vijayawada: The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) has announced a revised schedule for its ongoing 1-crore signatures movement opposing the proposed privatization of government medical colleges in Andhra Pradesh. The changes were finalized on Sunday during a teleconference held by YSRCP State Coordinator Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy with key party leaders across the state. The party's original plan included a meeting between YSRCP President and former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and the Governor on December 16 to submit the collected signatures.

However, in view of the President of India's visit to the state on that day, this appointment has now been rescheduled to December 17. As per the revised program, constituency-level



el rallies and awareness campaigns will go ahead as initially planned on December 10. However, district-level demonstrations and related programs, which were earlier slated for December 13, will now be conducted on December 15.

Party leaders have been instructed to strictly adhere to the updated timetable and ensure smooth coordination at all levels. Addressing MLCs, Parliament coordinators, Mayors, Deputy Mayors, Zilla Parishad Chairpersons and Vice-

Chairpersons, and members of various party committees including PAC, CEC and SEC, Sajjala said the movement had entered its final phase with what he described as an "overwhelming and unprecedented" public response.

According to him, people from different sections of society have been actively participating in the campaign, registering their opposition to any move that could lead to the privatization of government medical colleges. He noted that the number

of signatures collected so far had already exceeded the party's initial expectations. Sajjala directed party functionaries to organise public events at constituency headquarters where the collected signatures would be displayed in the presence of citizens and media representatives.

After public display, the signature forms are to be neatly arranged, sealed in boxes and dispatched in specially arranged vehicles to the respective district party offices. These vehicles will be ceremonially flagged off to underline the significance of the campaign and to reinforce the party's message. He emphasised that senior leaders must remain visibly active throughout these programmes, ensuring strong coverage in both mainstream and digital media. Robust social media outreach, he said, would be crucial in am-

plifying the party's stand and in highlighting the scale of public participation. Sajjala also urged leaders at all levels to focus on mobilising large numbers of people for the district-level demonstrations on December 15, calling on them to turn the concluding phase of the movement into a "grand success" that clearly reflects public sentiment on the issue.

Concluding the teleconference, Central Office In-charge Lella Appi Reddy appealed to all leaders, coordinators and local organisers to carefully note the schedule changes and make the necessary logistical and organisational arrangements.

He stressed that proper coordination, punctuality and disciplined execution of the revised plan would be key to effectively presenting the 1-crore signatures before the Governor on December 17.

Nellore MP Vemireddy Clarifies RS 50,000 Donation, Accuses Jagan of False Propaganda



TPN Bureau | December 7

Nellore: Member of Parliament Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy has strongly refuted allegations made by former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, asserting that his donation of Rs. 50,000 to the Appanna family was an act of pure service and not politically motivated.

Addressing a gathering at the VP Convention Center in Kanupurthipadu, Nellore, the MP expressed both disappointment and anger at what he described as an unprovoked smear campaign initiated by Jagan. Speaking at the "Atmiya Sammelanam" (cordial meeting), Vemireddy said his contribution was made voluntarily and with compassion.

"I extended help to Appanna, who is an employee working under YV Subba Reddy. The assistance came from a sense of service, not for political gain. Whoever informed Jagan about this incident knows the truth themselves," he remarked.

The Rajya Sabha MP added that Jagan's comments were base-

less and deeply hurtful. "The former Chief Minister made unnecessary remarks about me. I leave it to his own conscience and to God to judge his intentions. Jagan should take an oath before God if his allegations are true," Vemireddy said. He further clarified that philanthropy and service have been part of his regular personal initiatives for years.

"Every month, I extend financial help to many people who are in need. There is a long list of beneficiaries, and even Jagan is aware of my regular charitable activities," he stated. Vemireddy explained that his actions stem from a deep commitment to serve the community rather than from any political agenda.

"When someone asks for help, I try my best to support them. I have been doing this consistently out of humanity. Unfortunately, good deeds sometimes get misunderstood, and I end up facing criticism," he lamented. Expressing emotional distress, the Nellore MP said he felt compelled to respond only because Jagan's remarks had hurt his

reputation. "I usually refrain from reacting to such comments, but when someone questions my sincerity, it becomes painful. Only God knows the truth behind our actions and the good we try to do for others," he added.

Vemireddy concluded his remarks with a strong message urging leaders to refrain from distorting facts for political advantage. "There was absolutely no need for Jagan to speak this way. It is saddening when genuine service is misrepresented. Even when helping others, one might be subjected to blame that is what pains me the most," he stated.

The episode has drawn attention within Nellore's political circles, with observers noting that relations between Vemireddy and Jagan, which have been tenuous for some time, may strain further following these public statements. Party sources said this confrontation reflects broader tensions between former political allies who have since diverged sharply in their political paths.

YCP Leader Kakani Govardhan Reddy Faces Another Legal Blow; Fresh Case Filed in Venkatchelam



TPN Bureau | December 7

Nellore: Former Andhra Pradesh minister and senior YSR Congress Party (YCP) leader Kakani Govardhan Reddy has been hit by yet another major setback as a fresh case was registered against him on Sunday at the Venkatchelam Police Station in Nellore district.

According to police sources, Ravuru Radhakrishna Naidu, chairman of the Chavatapalem Cooperative Society, lodged a formal complaint alleging that the former minister made objectionable and abusive comments against former minister and Sarvepalli MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy.

Acting on the complaint, the Venkatchelam police registered a case and have begun an investigation into the incident. This latest case adds to a growing list of legal troubles surrounding Kakani Govardhan Reddy, who has already faced allegations in connection with the fake liquor

racket that dates back to 2014.

Revival of the Fake Liquor Case

The controversy stems from accusations that, during the 2014 general elections, fake liquor bottles with counterfeit labels imported from Goa were distributed to influence voters in parts of Nellore district.

Several people reportedly died after consuming the spurious liquor, while hundreds suffered severe health complications. Investigations into the case later revealed that key case files had mysteriously disappeared, raising suspicions of deliberate attempts to weaken the probe. In 2018, the Vijayawada Special Court confirmed that several crucial documents were missing and subsequently transferred the investigation to the CID (Crime Investigation Department) for further action.

However, the case reportedly made little progress after the YSR Congress Party came to power in 2019. The latest developments

suggest that the issue has resurfaced, prompting renewed discussions about the alleged disappearance of vital files. Critics claim this was part of an effort to suppress the case and protect influential individuals implicated in the scandal.

Growing Political Pressure

Political observers note that these renewed allegations come at a politically sensitive time, with factions within Nellore's political landscape intensifying ahead of upcoming elections. The registration of a new case against a prominent YCP leader like Kakani Govardhan Reddy could potentially escalate tensions between the ruling party and the opposition Telugu Desam Party (TDP), whose MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy has been the target of Kakani's alleged remarks. Police said further inquiries are underway, and additional details will emerge following a formal investigation.

No Tolerance for Unauthorized Constructions in the City: GVMC Commissioner

Unauthorized buildings under construction for registration under the BPS scheme are being identified and demolished by the Town Planning Department. Owners of unauthorized buildings constructed before 31 August 2025 should utilize the opportunity provided by the Government under the LRS and BPS schemes.

TPN Bureau | December 7

VISAKHAPATNAM: GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg informed through a press statement on Sunday that several builders are illegally constructing buildings and additional floors with the intention of registering them under the Government's BPS scheme. The Town Planning Department is continuously identifying such illegal constructions and demolishing them. He appealed to all building owners to utilize the LRS and BPS schemes to regularize their con-

structions and reiterated that unauthorized constructions will not be tolerated in the city. GVMC is maintaining strict vigilance to identify such violations.

The Commissioner stated that unauthorized constructions and additional floors undertaken anywhere within Visakhapatnam city limits will not be overlooked. The Town Planning Department has already initiated immediate demolition of such structures. He added that several illegal buildings and additional floors constructed with the intention of wrongful BPS registration have already been demolished.

These include:
In Zone-4, Ward 29, Prakash Rao Peta – Demolition of an unauthorized third floor at Door No. 12-55-1 & 2

In Ward 31, Chakalipeta – Removal of illegal additional floors

In Gajuwaka Srinagar – Demolition of unauthorized upper floors



The Commissioner warned building owners, multi-storey building owners, and the general public not to engage in any such illegal constructions.

He advised that owners of unauthorized buildings and multi-

storey structures constructed on or before 31 August 2025 should make use of the LRS and BPS schemes provided by the Government to regularize their buildings. Unauthorized constructions built after 31 August 2025, as well as those currently being constructed illegally, will not be eligible for the BPS scheme.

To facilitate the public, GVMC's Town Planning Department has set up a dedicated Help Desk at the GVMC Head Office. Building owners are encouraged to con-

tact the help desk through the phone numbers 9154282649, 9154282654 or approach recognized licensed technical persons to regularize their unauthorized constructions built before 31 August 2025. The Commissioner urged owners to utilize this opportunity within the stipulated time.

He also appealed to citizens to immediately report any ongoing unauthorized constructions in the city by calling the GVMC toll-free number 1800 4250 0009.



“My Bollywood Romance” novel released by Dr Anuradha

TPN Bureau | December 7

Vijayawada: The Vijayawada Menopause Society organized its first annual medical conference on Sunday at Vijayawada, focusing on the health challenges women face during menopause, modern treatment approaches, and advancements in medical research. During a special session on “Prolapse Redefined,” renowned gynecologist Dr Anuradha Koduri unveiled her latest novel, “My Bollywood Romance.”

The novel features “Paru” as the central character and sensitively portrays various emotional and social dimensions of a woman’s life. The story follows Paru, a traditional Hindu woman who, despite loving someone else, marries at 23 to honor her family’s wishes.

After two decades as a successful gynecologist in Chicago and a devoted mother of two, Paru’s life is shaken when her husband, Samar, leaves her for another woman. As she struggles with betrayal, emotional tur-



moil and responsibilities, her former lover Harsh re-enters her life. The novel explores Paru’s inner conflict and the decisions she must make to reclaim her life.

Dr Anuradha, already acclaimed as a skilled medical professional, was congratulated by many for her literary achievement.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Society President Dr Haritha Pinnamaneni stressed the need to raise awareness about menopause. She stressed that with proper medical care and

psychological preparedness, women can effectively manage menopause-related complications.

Society Secretary Dr Maineni Poojitha highlighted psychological symptoms such as depression, anxiety and mood swings, urging doctors to strengthen diagnostic and management practices, including specialized counseling protocols.

Treasurer Dr Bhimavarapu Naveena discussed rising cases of osteoporosis, cardiovascular disorders and met-

abolic syndrome among post-menopausal women. She said the conference aimed to familiarize doctors with updated guidelines on preventive care, lifestyle management and clinical monitoring.

Several expert speakers addressed diverse topics under the conference theme, “Menopause Care Bridging Evidence and Practice.” The event also featured scientific sessions and was supported by the Vijayawada Obstetric and Gynecological Society.

New IMA Vijayawada Members Assume Office

TPN Bureau | December 7

Vijayawada: The newly elected members of the Indian Medical Association (IMA), Vijayawada branch, formally assumed office on Sunday at a grand ceremony held at the IMA Hall in Vijayawada. Dr Vemuri Varaprasad took charge as the new President in the presence of outgoing President Dr Bodepudi Hanumaiah, senior members and distinguished guests.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Hanumaiah highlighted the association’s ongoing efforts to provide free medical services and health awareness programmes for the poor

and underprivileged. He said the IMA has been consistently working to extend quality healthcare to those in need.

After assuming office, Dr Varaprasad stated that the association would prioritise public welfare programmes in collaboration with organisations such as Lions Club and Rotary Club. He expressed commitment to strengthening community health initiatives and expanding medical awareness among the public.

Renowned physician Dr YVS Prabhakar delivered an informative session on obesity, elaborating on preventive measures and treatment options

to manage the health condition effectively.

During the event, Indian Medical Council member Dr Keshavrao Babu felicitated Dr Hanumaiah, who received the “Best President Award” and also honoured IMA Secretary Dr Suresh, past President Dr Rasik Sanghvi and several other distinguished members for their services.

Prominent IMA members including Dr P Srinivas, Dr Chowdary Bodepudi, Dr MV Subba Rao, Dr Vamsi and several others participated in the programme, marking a significant beginning for the new leadership of the IMA Vijayawada branch.



Andhra Pradesh Records 50 Road Accidents and 23 Deaths Per Day in 2025: MoRTH Flags Six High-Risk Districts



TPN Bureau | December 7

Vijayawada: Road accidents continue to be a major cause of concern in Andhra Pradesh, with alarming statistics revealed for the period up to November 5, 2025. According to official data, the state has been witnessing an average of 50 road accidents per day, leading to 23 fatalities and 53 injuries daily. Overspeeding remains the primary cause behind most of these incidents, highlighting the urgent need for stronger enforcement and preventive measures.

Over the past five years, Andhra Pradesh has recorded an average of 19,000 accidents annually, resulting in the deaths of nearly 8,000 people each year. The severity and frequency of accidents have prompted the Union Ministry of Road

Transport and Highways (MoRTH) to identify six high-risk districts from the state among the top 100 accident-prone districts in the country.

High-Risk Districts Identified
MoRTH’s nationwide report ranks the following Andhra Pradesh districts among the worst affected in India: Prakasam – Rank 65, Guntur – Rank 71, Nellore – Rank 75, Anantapur – Rank 81, Kadapa – Rank 87 and Chittoor – Rank 96.

These districts have been classified as critical zones due to their high accident numbers and fatality rates. MoRTH has instructed state authorities to immediately implement corrective measures to reduce accidents, especially along national highways and busy traffic corridors.

Evenings Prove

Deadliest

An analysis of accident timings over the last three years shows that a majority of accidents occur after evening hours. Reduced visibility, increased traffic and rash driving during late hours contribute significantly to the higher accident rate.

Nellore and Tirupati See Most Fatalities

Among the districts, Nellore and Tirupati have recorded the highest number of deaths in road accidents this year, underscoring the need for targeted interventions.

As the numbers continue to rise, experts stress that strict enforcement of speed limits, improved road engineering, awareness campaigns, and enhanced patrolling are essential to curb the growing menace of road accidents in Andhra Pradesh.

EO Reviews Bhavani Deeksha Viramana Arrangements; Directs Officials to Fast-Track Works

TPN Bureau | December 7

Vijayawada: Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam Executive Officer (EO) VK Sheena Naik on Sunday conducted a high-level review meeting to assess ongoing arrangements for the upcoming Bhavani Deeksha Viramana festivities to be held at Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada. The EO directed all departments to expedite works and complete them with precision well before the religious event begins.

The review meeting, held at the Devasthanam office, was attended by Trust Board members A. Srinivas Rao and Penumatsa Raghavaraju, Executive Engineer-II Rambabu, Deputy Engineers Ravindra and Ashok, and several officers and staff members from the engineering and temple administration wings. Following the review, the EO inspected key facilities under development around the temple premises.

These included Bhavani Deeksha-specific works, queue manage-

ment zones, bathing ghats, prasadam preparation centres, annadanam arrangements, homa

work in close coordination to ensure seamless crowd management, hygiene, and safety across

taining smooth movement in queue lines, sufficient lighting, and proper maintenance at



gundams, and Irumudi surrenderer items. She personally verified the pace of progress on-site and interacted with field officials to assess preparedness at the ground level. Sheena Naik reminded officials that Bhavani Deeksha Viramana is one of the most significant annual events attracting lakhs of devotees, symbolizing the culmination of the devotees’ month-long spiritual observance.

Given the massive turnout expected, she instructed departments to

all facilities. The EO emphasized the need for systematic, time-bound execution of every work component, warning that any negligence or compromise in quality would invite stringent disciplinary action. “Every aspect must reflect the sanctity and orderliness that the devotees deserve.

There is no room for delay or substandard work,” she firmly stated during the review. Officials from the engineering department were asked to focus on main-

bathing ghats to prevent congestion and accidents.

The temple administration is also upgrading sanitation measures and setting up additional temporary rest points to provide comfort to devotees arriving from various parts of Andhra Pradesh and neighboring states. The EO also reviewed logistical arrangements for prasadam preparation and annadanam distribution. She instructed staff to maintain cleanliness and ensure that food served meets hygienic

standards. Arrangements for homa gundams and ritual platforms are being strengthened to accommodate the expected rise in ritual activities during the concluding days of the Deeksha.

Highlighting the importance of inter-departmental coordination, Sheena Naik said that various wings engineering, vigilance, sanitation, and temple services — must function as a unified team to deliver a transparent and successful event. She appealed to all Bhavani devotees to cooperate with temple authorities and follow guidelines for the smooth conduct of rituals and crowd movement. “Our collective goal is to ensure that every devotee returns with spiritual satisfaction and a positive experience,” she added.

The EO expressed confidence that, with timely completion of all works, the 2025 Bhavani Deeksha Viramana will be conducted in a grand and orderly manner at the sacred Indrakeeladri temple premises.

Jyothi Surekha Vennam Shines with Bronze at Taipei Archery Open 2025

TPN Bureau | December 7

VIJAYAWADA: India’s ace compound archer Jyothi Surekha Vennam once again underlined her class and consistency on the international stage by clinching the bronze medal at the Taipei Archery Open 2025 (Indoor World Series 250) held on December 6. The Vijayawada-based star produced a powerful performance to defeat South Korea’s So Chaewon 149-143 in a thrilling bronze medal match, reaffirming her status as one of the world’s top performers in compound archery.

The Taipei Archery Open is one of the prestigious events on the Indoor World Series circuit, which features elite archers from around the globe competing for ranking points and podium positions. Facing tough competition from seasoned international opponents, Jyothi exhibited remarkable precision, mental composure, and technical mastery throughout the tournament.

Her bronze-medal performance is being hailed as a commanding start to her indoor season and a promising indicator of form ahead of major upcoming championships. Jyothi’s journey to the podium



was marked by a string of consistent high scores in the earlier elimination rounds. Maintaining calm under pressure, she continued her trademark rhythm balancing control and aggression to secure clean ends and build an unassailable lead in her bronze-medal match against So Chaewon, a prominent Korean archer known for her own indoor expertise.

Jyothi’s final score of 149, dropping only one point in the 15-arrow match, demonstrates her near-flawless execution. The 2025 indoor campaign holds special

importance for Jyothi, who has been one of India’s most reliable medal hopes across both individual and team compound events. Her Taipei triumph adds yet another international medal to her distinguished career, which already includes multiple World Cup, World Championship, and Asian Games medals. This latest accolade signals her readiness for the upcoming stages of the Indoor World Series and the World Archery Championships later in the season.

Sports analysts and archery enthusiasts have praised Jyothi’s



stability and focus, particularly considering the demands of indoor archery, where even minute variations in release or aim can alter scores dramatically. Her ability to maintain consistency across formats whether indoor or outdoor reflects her deep experience, training discipline, and growing confidence on the global circuit. Back home in Vijayawada and across India, congratulations poured in from sportspersons, fans, and officials.

The Archery Association of India lauded her latest success, calling her a “pillar of strength”

for Indian compound archery. Jyothi’s coach and support team credited her dedication and precision for yet another excellent performance that inspires upcoming Indian archers.

As India continues to expand its presence in world compound archery, Jyothi Surekha Vennam’s achievements serve as a beacon of excellence and determination. Her bronze in Taipei is not just another medal it is a reflection of her relentless pursuit of perfection and a sign that she remains a strong contender for global honors in the year ahead.

Bhagiradha Chemicals Adopts Surverreddypalem Village under ‘Pay Back Society’ Initiative

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Ongole:

In a commendable act of social responsibility, Bhagiradha Chemicals Ltd. has adopted Survey Reddypalem village under its “Pay Back Society” initiative, drawing widespread appreciation from district officials and public representatives. Speaking on the occasion, District Collector P. Rajababu lauded the organization’s efforts to contribute meaningfully to rural development through sustainable interventions.

As part of the company’s P-4 program, Bhagiradha Chemicals extended its support to the SKR Charitable Trust for the installation of a modern Reverse Osmosis (RO) water purification plant worth 18 lakh in Survey Reddypalem village of Ongole mandal. The project was officially inaugurated on Saturday in the presence of several dignitaries, local representatives, and residents.

Ensuring Safe Drinking Water for Villagers

With the new RO plant now operational, villagers will have access to clean and safe drinking water, a major relief in areas that have



long experienced issues with groundwater contamination. The installation reflects the organization’s commitment to improving public health standards while addressing essential needs at the grassroots level.

Speaking after the inauguration, MLA Damacharla Janardhan emphasized that Bhagiradha Chemicals has gone beyond traditional corporate boundaries by adopting not one but four villages, including Yarajarla, Surverreddypalem, Cheruvukommupalem, and Vengamukkapalem. The company is undertaking several welfare activities targeted at improving infrastructure, sanitation, education, and environmental sustainability across these adopted

villages.

Collective Commitment to Rural Growth

Collector P. Rajababu appreciated the company’s initiative and described it as a model example of corporate social responsibility (CSR). He highlighted that such public-private partnerships are vital to accelerating rural progress and complementing government welfare efforts. “Often, real development happens when communities and private organizations together take ownership of local issues.

Bhagiradha Chemicals’ adoption of these villages demonstrates that sense of responsibility,” the Collector stated. The inauguration event drew partici-

pation from a wide range of local officials and community leaders. Ongole Mayor Gangadha Sujatha, PCCB Bank Chairman Kamepalli Seetharamayya, RDO Lakshmi Prasanna, and AMC Chairman R. Venkat Rao were among those present.

They praised the company’s proactive approach and pledged continued support for civic and rural welfare efforts.

A Path Toward Sustainable Social Responsibility Bhagiradha Chemicals’ “Pay Back Society” motto underscores the company’s philosophy of giving back to the communities that surround its operations. By focusing on tangible, need-based projects such as safe drinking

water, healthcare, and education, the company aims to set a precedent in corporate citizenship. Local residents expressed gratitude to the company and officials for addressing a long-pending community need.

The new RO facility is expected to benefit hundreds of families and serve as an example of how effective CSR practices can elevate rural living conditions. The event marked not just the opening of a water purification system but also the beginning of a long-term partnership between industry, government, and local citizens working together for a cleaner, healthier, and more empowered rural Andhra Pradesh.

Dead Man Pays Mutation Fee : Shocking Incident at Ongole Municipal Corporation

Ongole Municipal Corporation			
PROPERTY MUTATION FEE RECEIPT			
Receipt No:	12/2025-26/55284	Receipt Date:	05-12-2025 17:16:34
Name:	MIRIVALA GOVINDA RAO		
Address:	39-8-19/5/5, Gopala Nagar, Revenue Ward No 27, Ongole		
Payment Details:	Description: Property Tax Assessment Number: 1035024650 (20249-2025-0Y) Paid By: MIRIVALA GOVINDA RAO		
Description Head of A/C		Amount (in Rupees)	
MUTATION FEE		200.00	
Total:		200.00	

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Ongole, Prakasam District: In what locals are calling a bizarre case of “official magic,” the Ongole Municipal Corporation has found itself embroiled in controversy after records showed that a man who died ten years ago appeared to have personally paid a mutation fee of 200. The revelation has sparked outrage among residents and raised serious questions about integrity, documentation, and potential corruption within the civic body.

According to official records, one Govindarao, a resident of Ongole, passed away about a decade ago. Since then, his property has been under the possession of his daughter and grandchildren, who have continued paying property taxes in his name without interruption. However, shock waves spread across the local community when municipal records recently showed that Govindarao had “returned” to pay a mutation fee in person, an impossibility that exposed glaring procedural

lapses.

The controversy deepened when a woman suddenly surfaced, claiming to be Govindarao’s wife. Reports suggest that she manipulated certain officials, presenting herself as the legal spouse, and managed to get the property mutation processed once again in Govindarao’s own name. Alarming, the transaction was approved and receipt records were generated without any supporting documents such as a family member certificate, marriage proof, or death verification.

When confronted by journalists, municipal staff claimed that “the woman herself came and paid the fee,” implying that the department accepted the payment and processed the mutation solely on her verbal statements. This has drawn sharp criticism from both the public and Govindarao’s actual family, who accuse the officials of bypassing legal procedures and facilitating forgery.

Adding fuel to the fire, allegations have surfaced linking the

incident to a Revenue Inspector (R.I.) who reportedly played a central role in orchestrating the process. The officer, sources say, had previously been caught in an Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) trap and had only recently resumed duty after a long gap. It is alleged that he acted upon verbal instructions and “high-level recommendations” from district officials, leading to this irregular approval.

Local residents are demanding a thorough probe, arguing that the case exposes systemic corruption and casual negligence within the municipal offices. Govindarao’s legitimate family members have formally requested an investigation, insisting that justice be served and the property’s rightful ownership restored.

As the story continues to unfold, Ongole residents are left wondering whether ghosts have indeed started paying taxes—or if some officials simply believe they can make the dead return for their paperwork.

GVMC Commissioner Conducts Surprise Inspection of Night Sanitation Operations

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Visakhapatnam:

GVMC Commissioner Ketan Garg conducted a surprise inspection of night sanitation operations in various locations under Zone-3 and Zone-4 of the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation on 06-12-2025 Saturday midnight. The inspection covered RTC Complex, Siripuram, Satyam Junction, Seethammadhara, Diamond Park, and several other areas.

During the inspection, the Commissioner interacted with the sanitation workers and instructed them to perform their duties with determination, dedication, and sincerity. He emphasized that night sanitation plays a crucial role in maintaining city cleanliness, controlling pollution, safeguarding public health, and enhancing the city’s beauty. He advised the sanitation staff to work responsibly to ensure the city remains clean and attractive at all



times.

The Commissioner reviewed night-time garbage collection, waste management, and enforcement of sanitation norms in commercial areas. He stressed the importance of proper trash collection from business establish-

ments, timely removal of waste, and strict adherence to cleanliness standards during night hours.

While most sanitation workers reported to duty on time, it was found that about 12% of the total 375 workers were absent during

night duty. The Commissioner directed Sanitary Inspectors to closely monitor the movement of garbage collection vehicles and ensure complete removal of accumulated waste.

He further instructed officials to identify business establishments vio-

lating sanitation norms by dumping waste in front of their shops and impose heavy penalties through the “SHE Teams” (Sanitation and Health Enforcement Teams) during night hours. In the Package-15 area behind RTC Complex, the Commissioner ordered immediate action—with the support of the Town Planning Department—to remove additional counters set up on footpaths or impose a penalty of 10,000 on each shop.

Expressing strong dissatisfaction, the Commissioner noted that the SS-II officer responsible for night sanitation was not present in the field at 1 AM and lacked details on workers’ attendance, sanitary inspectors, and vehicle movements.

He instructed public health officials over the phone to further strengthen night sanitation monitoring, stating that negligence in cleanliness duties will not be tolerated and that officials and staff must act responsibly to ensure every area remains clean.

Vizianagaram District Police Stress Strict Adherence to Road Safety Rules: SP Damodar

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VIJAYAGARAM:

Vizianagaram District Superintendent of Police AR Damodar, directed officials to intensify road safety measures and create greater public awareness to curb rising road accidents across the district.

Addressing officials, SP Damodar instructed them to identify accident-prone black spots, prepare detailed action plans for each location and submit reports so that corrective steps can be taken in coordination with other departments. He stressed that visible policing and daily vehicle inspections must be strengthened to ensure compliance with road safety and Motor Vehicles Act norms.

The SP highlighted that many road acci-

dents could be prevented if two-wheeler riders consistently wore helmets. Officials were told to counsel riders on the life-saving benefits of helmets and ensure every motorist carries all mandatory vehicle documents while on the road.

As part of intensified enforcement, the district police have registered 19,077 cases against riders not wearing helmets, 2,370 cases for using mobile phones while driving, 1,020 cases against vehicle owners who allowed minors to drive and 5,510 drunken-driving cases so far this year. Notably, in the last 20 days alone, 45 persons caught driving under the influence of alcohol have been sentenced to jail. Additionally, 17,246 cases were filed for consuming alcohol in

public places.

SP Damodar reiterated that driving under the influence is a punishable offense and minors driving vehicles is a legal violation. He instructed officials to intensify drunken-driving checks, register cases without compromise, and ensure offenders are prosecuted.

To prevent accidents at identified black spots, the SP directed installation of caution boards on both sides, speed-control measures such as stoppers and barricades, and reflective radium stickers to improve visibility at night.

He stated that once all departments submit their reports, the matter will be taken to the District Collector to implement necessary measures to reduce road accidents effectively.



DECEMBER 10 INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY



RECLAIMING DIGNITY: THE UNFINISHED JOURNEY OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN AP

By: **Rammohan Nimmaraju**
Senior Social Worker

Reclaiming Dignity: The Unfinished Human Rights Journey of Trafficked Women and Girls in Andhra Pradesh

International Human Rights Day is a reminder of humanity's collective promise that every individual—regardless of class, caste, gender, or circumstance—is entitled to dignity, equality, and freedom from violence. Yet in Andhra Pradesh, the lived experiences of thousands of women and girls who are trafficked into commercial sexual exploitation reveal how distant this promise remains. Their lives are shaped by economic distress, unsafe migration, entrenched gender inequality, and weak enforcement mechanisms that allow violence and exploitation to become daily realities instead of exceptional violations.

Survivors repeatedly describe a continuum of harm that spans physical, sexual, psychological, and economic abuse. Traffick-

ers, brothel operators, clients, intimate partners, and private moneylenders exert relentless control, and in some cases even law enforcement or custodial institutions become sources of further degradation. Rescue, far from guaranteeing safety, often introduces a new cycle of surveillance, moral policing, and humiliating treatment. Many women speak of unsafe shelter conditions, long periods of institutionalisation, and routines that strip them of autonomy, reinforcing trauma and violating their fundamental right to live free from cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment.

Long after exiting exploitation, stigma continues to shadow survivors. Once labeled, they face persistent exclusion from housing, employment, healthcare, and public services. The denial of these entitlements—guaranteed under the Constitution—cuts at the core of their right to equality and non-discrimination, pushing them back toward the very vulnerabilities that facilitated their trafficking in the first place.

Data obtained by VIMUKTHI, a collective of survivors of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, illustrates the systemic gaps that compound this suffering. Between 2019 and June 2023, 2,737 survivors entered 21 Swadhar Homes and five Ujjawala Homes across the state. These shelters were meant to offer comprehensive rehabilitation, yet only 692—barely a quarter—applied for the entitlements they were eligible for, and just 592 ultimately received any form of support. In effect, less than 22 percent accessed legally mandated rehabilitation, leaving the majority without the financial, psychological, or social resources required to rebuild their lives. Behind these numbers lie structural failures: absence of individual care plans, poor coordination among departments, limited livelihood opportunities, inadequate mental health services, and prolonged institutional stays that serve as holding periods rather than genuine rehabilitation.

The history of anti-trafficking efforts in Andhra Pradesh shows that meaningful progress is possible when political will aligns with community needs. In 2003, under the leadership of then Chief Minister Sri Nara Chandrababu Naidu, the government introduced India's first state-level anti-trafficking policy through G.O. Ms. No. 1. This pioneering measure established a state mechanism chaired by the Chief Secretary to ensure coordinated responses to rescue, rehabilitation, and reintegration. Even after state bifurcation in 2014, the policy continued effectively until 2018. However, from 2019 onward, its implementation faded, leaving the order largely confined to paper. Government data reveals that of 2,460 survivors rescued between 2016 and 2022, barely five to ten percent received support under the order or related schemes—an alarming indicator of institutional neglect.

The consequences of such gaps are devastating. Survivors released from shelters without financial assistance or rehabilitation often return to unsafe

environments where traffickers retain influence. Without victim compensation or livelihood support, many borrow money at exorbitant rates from private lenders, entering debt bondage that deepens their vulnerability. In numerous cases, survivors are unable to testify in court due to intimidation, financial distress, or lack of support, resulting in low conviction rates—barely eight percent according to NCRB data. This cycle of failed prosecution empowers traffickers and undermines justice.

Compounding these challenges is a troubling legislative vacuum. Andhra Pradesh currently lacks any enforced law regulating private moneylenders after the repeal of the Debtors' Protection Act, 1934, and the non-enforcement of the A.P. Moneylenders Bill, 2017. The absence of legal safeguards has allowed predatory lending to flourish, particularly affecting sex workers and trafficking survivors. The recent floods in and around Vijayawada further wors-

ened their socio-economic distress, forcing many back into exploitative borrowing mechanisms that risk re-trafficking.

While Andhra Pradesh was once recognized as a frontrunner for progressive anti-trafficking policy, today it is identified as the state with the highest number of sex workers in India—1.33 lakh, according to a recent Ministry of Health and Family Welfare study. This alarming statistic underscores the urgency of re-establishing comprehensive, community-based rehabilitation models. Successful examples from West Bengal demonstrate that empowering local structures—such as Andhra Pradesh's village and ward-level Sachivalayam system—can transform access to services and reduce re-trafficking by ensuring support within the survivor's community.

Livelihood security, financial inclusion, and protection from moneylenders remain critical pillars of human rights restoration. Sex workers frequently face intimidation in banks and government

offices, making financial services inaccessible without institutional support. Many attempt small businesses but fail due to lack of mentoring and technical guidance. Ensuring that SRLM and SULM actively include sex workers in livelihood planning is essential for long-term economic empowerment. Similarly, access to health services must extend beyond HIV care to include mental health support, as emotional trauma, depression, and stigma significantly impact the well-being of survivors and their children.

Children of sex workers continue to face high levels of stigma, exclusion, and violence in schools and communities, yet remain invisible within the state's child protection systems. Without targeted interventions, many are pushed toward substance abuse, exploitation, or early entry into the sex trade, perpetuating a cycle of vulnerability that spans generations.

Anti-Human Trafficking Units, though established as specialized mechanisms by the Ministry of

Home Affairs, operate in only half of Andhra Pradesh's districts and suffer from inadequate infrastructure, inconsistent training, and weak inter-departmental coordination. Poor investigation and lack of witness protection continue to produce low conviction rates, undermining the deterrent effect of the law.

As Sri Chandrababu Naidu resumes office as Chief Minister, survivors across the state voice a collective plea: to revive the spirit of the 2003 policy, restore accountability, ensure 100 percent compensation, rehabilitate every rescued victim, and rebuild systems that uphold their rights rather than prolong their suffering. On this International Human Rights Day, their struggle stands as a powerful reminder that human rights are not abstract ideals. They are lived realities measured in safety, dignity, justice, and opportunity—and the true test of governance lies in ensuring that these rights reach those who have been denied them the longest.



Telangana's Temples Marching Forward

Telangana's temples are seeing major improvements, thanks to the government led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Endowments Minister Smt. Konda Surekha. The government is working hard to make temples beautiful and grand, but most importantly, they're making sure ordinary people have basic facilities when they visit. They are fixing many things that were ignored before and are giving special importance to the people's religious beliefs. This commitment was clear during the big festivals. The recent Sammakka-Saralamma Jatara, the state's largest gathering, was held successfully,

with the government spending ₹110 crores to ensure a smooth experience. Now, they are planning an even bigger festival next time, including permanent construction at the site. The Bonalu festival in Hyderabad was also celebrated on a grander scale, with ₹20 crores sanctioned—more money than before—due to the Minister's special interest. In a first, the Endowments Department started Mass Karthika Month Lamp Festivals (Deepotsavams), bringing spiritual light to all temples every evening during the holy Karthika month. They're also using technology: people who can't attend the Sammakka-Saralamma festival can now offer 'gold' and receive prasadam online through services like Mee Seva and the Postal Department. This online service was also available for prasadam during Maha Shivaratri. On the administrative side, the government gave promotions to 33 long-serving employees and moved temple staff around in transfers after 16 years. New events like the River Lamp Offering (Nadi Aarathi) have begun at sacred places like Bhadrachalam. Big Plans for Big Temples The government is spending about ₹400 crores to improve temples across the state. Yadagirigutta is getting a new gold plating on

its main dome (about 63 kg of gold). They've also planned a Vedic School and acquired a large area of land for building guest houses. Vemulawada received ₹76 crores for improvements, including building a new free meal (Annadanam) center. Bhadrachalam received ₹60.20 crores to buy land for future development. The government is also protecting temple property. They started a special effort to secure over 632 acres of temple land. They plan to use some of this land for solar plants, involving women's self-help groups (Indira Mahila Shakti Groups). They are also using modern mapping technology (GIS digitalization) to

keep track of temple lands, which is a commendable step. Overall, Telangana's religious sites are not just being preserved; they are being actively developed using modern methods, greater funding, and a deep respect for the public's faith, ensuring a bright future for these cultural landmarks.

Sagar Vanaparathi, Policy Analyst.



IndiGo Operations Stabilise as Government Steps In to Protect Passengers

New Delhi: India's largest airline, IndiGo, is steadily returning to normal operations after days of widespread disruptions, operating over 1,650 flights today, up from 1,500 the previous day. In a late-evening update, the airline confirmed that 137 out of its 138 destinations are now functioning, with on-time performance improving sharply to 75 per cent from just 30 per cent a day earlier.

IndiGo reiterated that it will continue to provide a full waiver on cancellations and free rescheduling for all bookings made until December 15. The airline said the process of issuing refunds and sorting delayed baggage is progressing rapidly. "We are working round the clock to resume normal service. Please bear with us," the airline said in its latest statement.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has taken swift and decisive steps to handle the disruption caused by IndiGo's operational crisis and to ensure that passengers are not subjected to further inconvenience. According to officials, multiple emergency measures were introduced to stabilise the situation and protect consumer interests.

Airfare Caps to Prevent Overcharging

Following a spike in airfares due to cancellations and a sudden shift in demand, the ministry im-



posed an immediate cap on ticket prices across affected routes. This intervention was aimed at preventing overcharging and ensuring air travel remained fair and affordable. Officials said fare levels have already moderated and all airlines have been directed to strictly comply with the revised fare structure.

Refunds and Rescheduling Relief

To safeguard passengers financially, MoCA directed IndiGo to complete all refunds for cancelled or heavily delayed flights by 8 pm today. So far, the airline has processed refunds amounting to ₹610 crore. The ministry also prohibited the levy of any additional fees for rescheduling tickets impacted by the disruption.

To further streamline passenger support, IndiGo has set up dedicated help cells to proactively assist travellers and resolve refund and rebooking issues without unnecessary delays.

Baggage Delivery Accelerated

The ministry instructed IndiGo to trace and deliver all baggage that had been separated from passengers within 48 hours. Continuous communication with affected travellers has been made mandatory. IndiGo has already delivered more than 3,000 pieces of stranded baggage across the country as of yesterday, reflecting visible progress in clearing the backlog.

Normalcy Returns at Airports

Airport directors from major hubs, including Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Goa, confirmed that terminal operations have largely returned to normal. Passenger movement has remained smooth, with no overcrowding reported at check-in counters, security points or boarding gates.

On-ground assistance has been strengthened with enhanced monitoring and timely deployment of support staff by airport operators and the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

24x7 Monitoring and Passenger Assurance

MoCA's 24x7 control room continues to function as an integrated co-ordination centre, closely

monitoring flight operations, airport conditions and passenger grievances. Calls are being handled in real time, while teams remain on the ground to supervise operational planning, crew rostering and customer handling.

The ministry reassured passengers that safety, comfort and dignity remain the government's top priorities. It said India's aviation network is moving quickly towards complete normalcy and that corrective measures will remain in force until operations stabilise fully. Continuous monitoring will ensure passenger rights are protected, with further updates to be shared as required.

Goa Nightclub Fire During Bollywood Event Kills 25, Triggers Probe

Goa: A devastating fire broke out at the popular nightclub Birch By Romeo Lane in north Goa's Arpora late last night, claiming at least 25 lives and injuring six others, during a crowded "Bollywood Banger Night" event that had drawn around 100 tourists.

According to eyewitness accounts and circulating videos, the incident unfolded while a dancer was performing to the iconic song "Mehbooba O Mehbooba" from the classic Hindi film Sholay. The video shows the performer on stage, surrounded by musicians and cheering guests, when flames

suddenly erupted behind the console area. Initially, the seriousness of the situation was not realised, with some spectators even making light-hearted remarks, but panic set in as the flames spread rapidly.

Within moments, fire engulfed the ceiling and upper portions of the club. Musicians abandoned their instruments, and both staff and guests rushed towards the exit. However, the club's narrow entry and exit points caused severe bottlenecks, trapping many people inside. Several tourists reportedly ran towards the kitchen located

on the lower floor in search of an escape route, only to become trapped due to poor ventilation and thick smoke.

Rescue operations were also severely hampered by infrastructure challenges. Firefighters said the narrow lanes leading to the club were inaccessible to large fire engines, forcing them to park nearly 400 metres away from the site. This delay complicated efforts to control the blaze and evacuate stranded victims. Officials confirmed that most victims died of suffocation, while others sustained critical burn injuries.

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant termed the tragedy unprecedented in the state. In his statement, he said preliminary findings suggest the fire began on the upper floor and that congested exits prevented many people from escaping in time. He also pointed out serious ventilation failures in the underground areas, which proved fatal for those who fled there.

The state government has ordered a magisterial inquiry into the incident. An FIR has been registered against the hotel's general managers and the owner, and arrest war-

rants have been issued. The investigation will focus on whether the establishment complied with mandatory fire safety and building regulations.

Expressing condolences, the Chief Minister assured that financial assistance would be provided to the families of the victims. He added that the government is committed to taking strict measures to prevent such tragedies in the future.

The incident has sent shockwaves across the country, once again highlighting the critical need for strict enforcement of fire safety norms in public venues.

India Plans Possible Zelenskyy Visit After Putin Talks, Walks Diplomatic Tightrope

New Delhi: Even as Russian President Vladimir Putin wrapped up his two-day visit to India on December 5, New Delhi has begun preparations for a possible visit by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, highlighting India's careful diplomatic balancing act amid the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. According to officials, the Ukrainian leader's visit could take place as early as January 2026.

The proposed visit is part of India's long-standing effort to remain engaged with both Moscow and Kyiv. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has consistently maintained that India is "not neutral" but firmly "on the side of peace". This stance was reiterated during Putin's visit and reflects the same approach Modi conveyed to Zelenskyy during his Ukraine trip last year.

Diplomatic sources said talks between Indian and Ukrainian officials have been underway for several weeks, with New Delhi co-ordinating with Zelenskyy's office even before Putin arrived in India. However, the final timing and scope of the visit will



depend on multiple factors, including developments on the battlefield and evolving international peace initiatives.

One significant variable is the proposed peace plan by former US President Donald Trump, which is being closely monitored in New Delhi. Domestic political developments in Ukraine are also likely to influence the situation, as President Zelenskyy's government faces pressure amid a major corruption controversy.

Ukraine's presiden-

tial visits to India have been rare, having taken place only three times in the past — in 1992, 2002 and 2012 — making any proposed visit by Zelenskyy diplomatically significant.

Putin's India visit has drawn close attention from European countries, with several envoys urging India to leverage its influence to persuade Moscow to end the conflict. India, however, has remained consistent in its messaging, arguing that dialogue and diplomacy are the only

sustainable solutions. Modi's remark during talks with Putin — "India is not neutral, India is on the side of peace" — echoed similar language he used during his Ukraine visit in August 2024.

Since the war began in February 2022, Modi has remained in contact with both Putin and Zelenskyy, speaking to the Ukrainian leader by phone at least eight times and meeting him on four occasions. Their most recent conversation took place on August 30, when Modi was in

China for a summit and was preparing to meet Putin.

The conflict has also started affecting India's economic interests directly. Secondary sanctions and tariff pressures, including penalty tariffs imposed by the United States over Russian oil purchases, have forced India to reduce its imports of Russian crude since September.

Notably, recent official statements from both leaders avoided using the words "war" or "conflict", instead referring to the situation as a "crisis". This marked a shift from Modi's earlier blunt messaging in 2022, when he famously told Putin that "this is not the era of war".

While no reference to the Ukraine situation appeared in the latest joint statement, India remains quietly active behind the scenes, positioning itself as a potential bridge for dialogue. A Zelenskyy visit, if finalised, would further underline India's evolving role as a global diplomatic mediator seeking peace rather than taking sides.

Pakistani Woman Appeals to PM Modi, Alleges Husband Abandoned Her and Planned Second Marriage



New Delhi: A Pakistani woman from Karachi has made an emotional public appeal seeking justice, alleging that her husband abandoned her and began preparations for a second marriage in India while still legally married to her. The woman, identified as Nikita Nagdev, released a video message that has drawn widespread attention on social media and sparked strong reactions from social and legal groups in both India and Pakistan.

According to Nikita, she married Vikram Nagdev, a Pakistani-origin man living in Indore on a long-term visa, on January 26, 2020, in Karachi as per Hindu customs. She stated that she travelled to India with her husband on February 26, 2020, hoping to begin a new life. However, she claims that within months, her situation changed dramatically.

Nikita alleged that on July 9, 2020, she was taken to the Attari border and sent back to Pakistan under the pretext of a "visa technicality." She said she was forcibly separated from her husband and has since been repeatedly denied the opportunity to re-

turn to India. "I kept requesting him to call me to India, but he refused every time," she said in her video statement.

In her appeal, Nikita directly addressed Prime Minister Narendra Modi, stating that women risk losing faith in the justice system if such cases are ignored. She urged people to stand with her and highlighted the physical and emotional abuse that women often face after marriage.

She also made serious allegations about her treatment at her in-laws' home, claiming that her husband was involved in an affair. When she raised the issue, she alleged that her father-in-law dismissed the matter, telling her that such behaviour by men was normal.

During the COVID-19 lockdown, Nikita claimed she was again pressured to remain in Pakistan permanently and was stripped of any chance to reunite with her husband. She further alleged that she later discovered Vikram was planning a second marriage with a woman from Delhi while still married to her.

Distressed by these developments, Nikita filed a written com-

plaint on January 27, 2025. Her case was taken up by the Sindhi Panch Mediation and Legal Counsel Centre, which is authorised by the Madhya Pradesh High Court to facilitate mediation in such disputes. Notices were sent to Vikram and the alleged prospective bride, and a hearing was conducted, but mediation failed.

In its report dated April 30, 2025, the Centre stated that since neither spouse holds Indian citizenship, the case falls under Pakistan's legal jurisdiction. It also recommended that Vikram be deported to Pakistan for further legal proceedings.

Earlier, in May 2025, Nikita approached the Indore Social Panchayat, which also recommended Vikram's deportation. Indore Collector Ashish Singh confirmed that an official inquiry had been initiated and that appropriate action would be taken based on the findings.

The case continues to draw public attention as legal and administrative authorities in India and Pakistan consider the next steps, while Nikita continues to seek justice and reunification or legal closure.

Mandhana Calls Off Wedding, Refocuses on Cricket Career

Indian women's cricket star Smriti Mandhana has officially called off her wedding with music composer Palash Muchhal, ending weeks of speculation around her personal life. The cricketer confirmed the decision through a heartfelt statement on Instagram, saying it was "important for me to speak out" after continuous rumours following the postponement of the ceremony.

Mandhana, who is known to maintain a private personal life, said she felt compelled to clarify the situation due to growing public interest. In her post, she wrote that while she prefers to stay away from personal publicity, she wanted to make it clear that the wedding has been called off. Her statement has brought closure to weeks of uncertainty surrounding the high-profile relationship.

The wedding had originally been scheduled for November 23, 2025, and was preceded by months of pre-wedding celebrations that had gained widespread attention across social media. The ceremony was abruptly postponed last month after Mandhana's father, Srinivas Mandhana, suffered a sudden medical emergency. Around the same time, reports emerged that Palash Muchhal was also hospitalised due to stress-related health issues.



Initially, members of both families maintained that the wedding was only delayed and would be rescheduled soon. However, speculation intensified after Mandhana removed several wedding-related posts from her social media accounts and was seen in public without her engagement ring. Her latest public statement has now put an end to the rumours.

In her message, Mandhana firmly shifted the focus back to her professional career, emphasising that cricket remains her top priority. She stated that representing India at the highest level is her true purpose and that her commitment to the sport remains unwavering.

"I believe there is a higher purpose driving us all and for me that has always been representing my country at the highest level," she wrote, adding that she hopes to continue winning trophies

for India for as long as possible.

Mandhana also appealed to fans and the media to respect the privacy of both families during this difficult period. She requested space for everyone involved to process the situation and move forward with dignity.

The development comes at a crucial stage in Mandhana's career. She is expected to play a key role for India in upcoming international matches and is set to lead Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the Women's Premier League. Her teammate and close friend Jemimah Rodrigues had earlier withdrawn from the Women's Big Bash League to support her, highlighting the strong backing she has within the cricketing community.

As she turns the page on her personal life, Mandhana appears fully focused on her cricketing journey ahead.

FIFA Peace Prize to Trump Sparks Controversy



FIFA President Gianni Infantino has sparked global debate after awarding the newly established FIFA Peace Prize to former U.S. President Donald J. Trump during the 2026 World Cup draw in Washington, D.C. The decision has raised questions about the organization's commitment to political neutrality and its credibility as an international sports governing body.

During the high-profile ceremony, Infantino praised Trump for his international diplomatic efforts, including his support for agreements such as the Abraham Accords, which normalized relations between Israel and several Arab nations. "This is your prize, this is your peace prize," Infantino declared, lauding Trump as a leader who promoted peace and unity. Trump accepted the award, calling it "one of the great honors of my life," and claimed his tenure as president had "saved millions of lives worldwide."

However, the decision has drawn sharp criticism from human rights organizations, sports commentators, and political observers. Critics argue that Trump's controversial domestic and foreign policies, including military interventions and restrictions on civil liberties, are inconsistent with the ideals of peace and humanitarian leadership that such an award is meant to recognize.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) has questioned the legitimacy of the prize, demanding transparency regarding the nomination and selection process. The organization called for clarity on whether nominees were evaluated for their adherence to international human rights standards, pointing out that Trump's record on conflict resolution and humanitarian issues is mixed at best. Some analysts have suggested that awarding the prize to Trump reflects a politicization of FIFA itself, challenging the long-standing principle that football should remain separate from political disputes.

Gaza Ceasefire at Risk as Israeli Raids Resume

Israeli air raids targeted the Maghazi camp in central Gaza on Sunday, December 7, 2025, raising alarms that the fragile ceasefire could collapse. The strikes came just days after a truce aimed at ending years of violent conflict, underscoring how tenuous the current calm remains. Japan's Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi described similar tensions in East Asia, though in Gaza the focus is on civilian safety amid renewed Israeli military activity.

Reports indicate that Israeli forces killed seven Palestinians in northern Gaza during the day, including a 70 year-old woman and her adult son. These casualties have intensified fears that the ceasefire, which was mediated with international oversight, may be short-lived. The incidents occurred despite ongoing negotiations and limited truce arrangements designed to stabilize the region temporarily.

Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani emphasized the fragile nature of the ceasefire, calling it a temporary pause rather than a durable peace. Speaking at the Doha Forum, he stressed that a stable truce requires a full withdrawal of Israeli forces, the restoration of mobility for Palestinian civilians, and comprehensive guarantees for sustained peace. "The current calm is not permanent," Al Thani warned, highlighting the critical need for immediate international engagement to prevent escalation.

Regional powers have echoed these concerns. Türkiye's foreign minister cautioned that without urgent intervention, particularly from the United States, progress toward a stable ceasefire could quickly falter. The renewed airstrikes illustrate the high risk of resuming full-scale conflict, particu-

larly given the densely populated nature of Gaza and the widespread destruction from previous operations. Humanitarian conditions remain dire. Millions of civilians continue to face displacement, restricted access to essential services, and the psychological toll of living under constant threat. Aid and reconstruction efforts are moving slowly, and any new surge in violence could exacerbate the already severe humanitarian crisis. International organizations have warned that renewed hostilities could undo months of relief work and prolong suffering for Gaza's population.

The ceasefire plan, negotiated with international mediators, included phased steps such as limited withdrawal of forces and hostage exchanges. While initial phases were largely observed, the resumption of air raids has underscored the fragility of these arrangements. Observers note that the situation remains highly volatile, with both sides needing to uphold commitments to avoid a return to large-scale hostilities.

Analysts warn that the current truce's stability hinges on continuous monitoring, adherence to agreed terms, and meaningful dialogue between Israeli and Palestinian representatives. Without these measures, the risk of escalation remains high, potentially drawing in regional actors and complicating international efforts to maintain peace in the Middle East.

As the situation develops, the people of Gaza remain caught between fragile diplomacy and the harsh realities of renewed military action. While mediators continue to push for progress, the fragile calm is a reminder that achieving lasting peace will require sustained international commitment and genuine political will on all sides.

Further controversy surrounds the committee responsible for selecting the recipient. Reports indicate that the FIFA Social Responsibility Committee, tasked with choosing peace-prize honorees, is chaired by a figure with links to a regime sanctioned for human rights violations. Observers have raised concerns that the committee lacks impartiality, undermining the credibility of the award. This unprecedented move has reignited debates about FIFA's role on the global stage. Traditionally, FIFA has sought to position football as a neutral platform that promotes unity, cultural exchange, and fair competition. Critics argue that aligning the organization with a divisive political figure threatens to erode public trust and tarnish FIFA's reputation.

The timing of the award, coinciding with the World Cup draw for the 2026 tournament in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, has amplified scrutiny. Some media outlets have described the decision as symbolic and politically motivated, rather than a genuine recognition of efforts to advance peace. Comparisons have been drawn to "participation trophies," suggesting that the award may serve more as a gesture of approval than a meaningful honor.

Despite the backlash, Infantino defended the choice, emphasizing FIFA's desire to highlight leadership that contributes to global stability. Yet, many observers maintain that the controversy highlights broader challenges facing international organizations attempting to balance sports promotion with social and political engagement. As the world prepares for the 2026 World Cup, the awarding of the FIFA Peace Prize to Trump continues to spark debate. For many, the decision underscores the delicate intersection of politics and sports, raising difficult questions about FIFA's role, responsibilities, and the limits of its neutrality on the international stage.

Benin Foils Coup Attempt, Heavy Security Deployed in Cotonou

The government of Benin said it has successfully foiled a coup attempt after a group of soldiers tried to overthrow the country's leadership early Sunday, triggering gunfire, military deployments and heightened security across the capital.

Interior Minister Alasane Seidou announced in a televised address that loyal forces remained committed to the republic and neutralised the uprising. "The Beninese armed forces and their leadership, true to their oath, remained committed to the republic," he said, confirming that the situation was under control.

Earlier in the day, a faction of soldiers made a broadcast claiming they had ousted President Patrice Talon. Eyewitnesses reported hearing gunshots in parts of the city, while journalists working for the state broadcaster were briefly held hostage. A presidential adviser later confirmed that President Talon was moved to a secure location. French officials denied reports that he had taken shelter at France's embassy.

According to Seidou, the mutiny began on the morning of December 7, when a small group of soldiers attempted to destabilise state institutions. Loyalist troops quickly moved



in, regaining control and foiling the attempt. Helicopters were seen flying over Cotonou, while key roads were blocked and a strong military presence was deployed around strategic locations.

Benin, a former French colony, has long been regarded as one of West Africa's more stable democracies, despite being one of the world's poorer nations and heavily dependent on cotton production.

The rebel soldiers were reportedly led by Lt-Col Pascal Tigri, who justified the action by accusing the government of mishan-

dling national security, particularly in the country's northern regions bordering Niger and Burkina Faso. In recent years, Benin's forces have suffered casualties in clashes with jihadist militants linked to Islamic State and al-Qaeda.

The mutineers also accused President Talon of neglecting fallen soldiers' families, cutting health-care funding, raising taxes and restricting political freedoms.

President Talon, 67, is nearing the end of his second term and is due to step down next year, with elec-

tions scheduled for April. First elected in 2016, he has promised not to seek a third term and has backed Finance Minister Romuald Wadagni as his preferred successor. His government has been praised for economic reforms but criticised for limiting dissent and opposition activities.

The attempted coup comes amid growing regional instability. It follows the recent overthrow of Guinea-Bissau's president and a wave of military takeovers in Burkina Faso, Mali, Guinea and Niger. Russia has increased its influence in many Sa-

hel nations in recent years, while Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger have exited ECOWAS to form the Alliance of Sahel States.

The African Union and ECOWAS strongly condemned the attempted coup. AU Commission Chair Mahmoud Ali Yousof reiterated the organisation's zero-tolerance policy toward unconstitutional changes of government.

Authorities in Benin have urged calm while maintaining heightened security as investigations into the incident continue.

China Targets Japanese Jets with Radar Near Okinawa



TOKYO:

Japan has raised concerns after Chinese fighter jets directed fire-control radar at Japanese aircraft over international waters near the Okinawan islands on Saturday, December 6, 2025. The incidents, which occurred in two separate encounters, prompted strong condemnation from Japan's Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi, who described the actions as "dangerous."

"These radar illumination went beyond what is necessary for the safe flight of aircraft," Koizumi said in a post on X, emphasizing that Japan had lodged a formal protest with China over the "regrettable" events. The encounters took place in a sensitive region near disputed territories claimed by both Japan and China, heightening existing tensions between the neighboring countries.

Relations have been strained following comments from Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takachi, who warned that Japan could respond militarily if Chinese actions against Taiwan threatened Japan's security. Taiwan, a democratically governed island, is claimed by Beijing and lies just 110 kilometers (68.4 miles) from Japan's westernmost Yonaguni Island.

China's military did not respond to calls made to its defence ministry outside office hours on Sunday, December 7. Analysts suggest the incident could further escalate tensions in the East Asian region, where both Japan and China maintain significant military presence and influence.

Japan hosts the largest concentration of U.S. military forces outside the United States, including warships, aircraft, and thousands of Marines stationed in Okinawa. The proximity of U.S. forces adds another layer of stra-

tegic complexity, with potential implications for regional security. The U.S. State Department was not immediately available for comment.

The Chinese aircraft involved were J-15 fighter jets, launched from the Liaoning aircraft carrier. Japan reported that the carrier was operating south of the Okinawan islands alongside three missile destroyers during the incidents. These movements coincide with a broader Chinese naval build-up in East Asian waters, which, according to Reuters citing intelligence sources, included more than 100 naval and coast guard vessels earlier in the week.

Taiwan's government has expressed concern over the Chinese military build-up, describing it as a potential threat to security across the Indo-Pacific region. Japan confirmed it is closely monitoring Chinese activities in its surrounding waters to ensure the safety of its airspace and maritime routes.

These incidents mark another chapter in a growing pattern of regional military posturing. Japan and China have long-standing disputes over territory and security influence in the East China Sea, particularly regarding islands claimed by both nations. Observers warn that repeated close encounters between military aircraft carry the risk of accidental escalation, underscoring the fragile nature of regional security dynamics.

With tensions continuing to simmer near Taiwan and Okinawa, the international community is closely watching the situation. Both Japan and its allies, including the United States, are expected to maintain vigilance to prevent any miscalculations that could destabilize the broader Indo-Pacific region.

US Strike on Venezuela Could Trigger Regional Chaos



Rising tensions between the United States and Venezuela have sparked fears that any U.S. military action could destabilize the country and trigger far-reaching consequences across Latin America. Experts warn that even a limited strike could set off a chain reaction of violence, political upheaval, and humanitarian crises.

Since early September 2025, the U.S. has conducted targeted strikes on at least 21 Venezuelan boats, reportedly linked to drug trafficking, resulting in at least 87 deaths. Washington justifies the operations as necessary to curb drug flows threatening U.S. national security, although critics contend that evidence connecting Venezuela directly to major narcotics exports is limited.

While some U.S. officials have not ruled out a full-scale invasion, analysts believe any intervention would likely be limited to air and naval strikes rather than ground operations. Logistical challenges, legal hurdles, domestic opposition, and the risk of protracted occupation make a full invasion improbable. Nonetheless, even short-term strikes carry significant risks for both Venezuelans and the broader region.

One of the most pressing concerns is the potential for armed groups to exploit the chaos. Analysts warn that any disruption of Venezuela's military or paramilitary structures could empower factions to seize control in parts of the country. Such fragmentation would likely exacerbate violence and make governance nearly impossible, threatening civilians already enduring severe hardship.

The political opposition in Venezuela may also lose ground. Experts note that external aggression often triggers a "rally-around-the-flag" effect, consolidating support for incumbent governments and providing justification for crackdowns on dissent. This dynamic could make meaningful political change more difficult, undermining U.S. objectives of promoting democracy or stability.

Humanitarian consequences would likely be severe. Venezuela's population is already grappling with hyperinflation, food shortages, and mass displacement. The United Nations estimates that nearly eight million people need humanitarian assistance. Even limited strikes could further disrupt electricity, water, medical services, and food distribution, intensifying suffering and displacement.

International ramifications are also a concern. Countries such as China and Russia, key allies of Caracas, could increase diplomatic or logistical support to Venezuela, complicating the situation. While direct military intervention by these powers seems unlikely, their backing could prolong conflict and heighten regional tensions.

Beyond immediate regional risks, analysts warn that a U.S. attack could set a dangerous precedent. By framing a domestic crisis as a threat warranting extraterritorial force, it could weaken international norms against unilateral military interventions and embolden similar actions elsewhere in Latin America.

Experts caution that what might be intended as a short, targeted operation could instead become a long, destabilizing conflict. The combination of political uncertainty, armed group activity, and humanitarian vulnerabilities could turn Venezuela into a protracted crisis zone, with ripple effects across neighboring countries.

As Washington weighs its options, the international community is watching closely. Diplomats, human rights advocates, and regional governments are urging restraint, emphasizing the need for dialogue and multilateral solutions to avoid triggering a "Pandora's box" of instability. For the Venezuelan people, the coming weeks may determine whether the nation remains on the brink of chaos or manages to navigate through rising tensions without a catastrophic conflict.

Fed Rate Decision, FII Flows to Shape Indian Markets

As the new week begins, Indian financial markets are set for a critical period, with investor attention focused on the U.S. Federal Reserve's upcoming policy decision and foreign institutional investor (FII) trading activity. Analysts say these two factors are likely to steer market momentum, while domestic economic indicators add an additional layer of uncertainty.

Last week, Indian indices closed largely flat after a week of mixed trading. The BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty 50 showed limited movement as investors adopted a cautious approach amid global and domestic uncertainties. Currency volatility further contributed to market caution, with the Indian rupee weakening past ₹90 against the U.S. dollar, raising concerns about capital flows and import costs.

The Federal Reserve's Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting, scheduled for December 9-10, is expected to be the week's defining event. Investors will closely monitor both the Fed's interest rate decision and its forward guidance on monetary policy, which could significantly influence global risk sen-

timent and emerging-market equities, including India. Any indication of a rate cut or pause could boost risk appetite, while hints of further tightening may prompt investors to reduce exposure to emerging markets.

Foreign institutional investor activity will also play a crucial role in shaping market trends. Analysts note that FIIs remain cautious, with inflows and outflows heavily influenced by global monetary policy, the strength of the U.S. dollar, and domestic market fundamentals. Ajit Mishra, Senior Vice President at Religare Broking, observed that FIIs are likely to closely track India's inflation data scheduled for December 12, which will provide clues about the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) future policy stance.

Global cues remain equally important. Markets worldwide are reacting to economic data from the United States, fluctuations in bond yields, and the overall performance of major global indices. A surge in the dollar or a spike in U.S. yields could trigger capital outflows from emerging markets, while positive



global sentiment could attract fresh investment into Indian equities.

Domestic fundamentals also continue to influence investor sentiment. Corporate earnings announcements, inflation data, and macroeconomic trends are all under scrutiny. Analysts suggest that until clear signals emerge from both the Fed and FIIs, market participants are likely to maintain a cautious approach, balancing risk and opportunity carefully.

Ponmudi R, CEO of wealth-tech firm Enrich Money, noted that "If global fund flows rotate back into emerging markets, India could benefit, but it largely depends on clear and supportive cues from the U.S. Fed." Currency stability will also be critical, as a weakening rupee could deter foreign investors and increase volatility in equity markets.

Overall, the market mood can be described as "watchful wait." Investors are closely monitoring external and domestic developments, seeking indications on interest rates, foreign flows, and macroeconomic stability before making major investment decisions.

As the week progresses, the interplay between global monetary policy, FII activity, domestic inflation data, and currency movements will determine the trajectory of Indian stock markets. Analysts caution that while opportunities exist for gains, heightened volatility is likely, emphasizing the need for prudent trading and investment strategies in the coming days.

MS Dhoni Builds ₹1,000-Crore Business Empire Post-Cricket

New Delhi — Former Indian cricket captain MS Dhoni, widely celebrated as "Captain Cool" for his calm and strategic approach on the field, has quietly built a sprawling business empire worth approximately ₹1,000 crore, showcasing a shrewd mix of investments, brand management, and long-term planning. Even after stepping away from international cricket, Dhoni's earnings and business ventures continue to make him one of India's wealthiest and most influential sports icons.

As of 2025, Dhoni's net worth is estimated around ₹1,000 crore (roughly US\$120 million), with an annual income reportedly close to ₹50 crore. A significant portion of this wealth stems from strategic investments and endorsements, rather than just cricket contracts or prize money. Analysts note that his post-retirement financial strategy reflects the same calm and calculated approach that characterized his captaincy.

Diversified Business Ventures

Dhoni's investments span multiple sectors, highlight-

ing both diversity and careful selection:

- **Food & Dining:** He invested ₹32 crore in a restaurant chain with a build-your-own meal concept, which has gained traction amid rising consumer demand.
- **Technology & Startups:** His portfolio includes stakes in fitness brands, electric mobility, and used-car marketplaces, reflecting an eye for emerging sectors and innovation.
- **Sports Franchises:** Dhoni remains involved in sports business, co-owning a football club and supporting various athletic initiatives, demonstrating his continued engagement with sports beyond cricket.
- **Real Estate & Assets:** His property holdings include a lavish farmhouse in his hometown of Ranchi, along with residences in major cities. These holdings reflect both personal wealth and strategic real estate investments.

Dhoni's business philosophy emphasizes sustainable growth, long-term potential, and careful selection of ventures, rather than short-term, high-risk gambles. Even ventures that under-

perform, such as an EV-taxi startup, have been part of his learning curve, reinforcing a balanced approach to risk and investment.

Brand Value and Endorsements

Beyond his business ventures, Dhoni commands an impressive brand value, estimated at around ₹800 crore. His calm, approachable persona, combined with decades of consistent crick- etting excellence, has made him a favorite for endorse- ments across sportswear, automobiles, tech products, and lifestyle brands. The synergy between his personal brand and business ventures has amplified both his financial reach and influence.

Experts highlight that Dhoni's strategy is distinctive: he invests in sectors he understands, trusts people he partners with, and prioritizes ventures with long-term potential. This disciplined approach, mirroring his crick- etting mindset, has helped him build a diversified portfolio that continues to grow even in retirement.

A Legacy Beyond Cricket

MS Dhoni's journey from



"Captain Cool" on the crick- et field to a business mag- nate illustrates a rare com- bination of strategic thinking, brand manage- ment, and entrepreneurial foresight. While many sports stars see their influ- ence fade after retirement, Dhoni's careful invest- ments, strong brand pres- ence, and engagement with emerging sectors position him as a lasting business icon in India.

In conclusion, Dhoni's success off the pitch dem- onstrates that with vision, discipline, and diversified investments, athletes can transform their personal brand and wealth into a sus- tainable business empire. His ₹1,000-crore net worth stands not only as a testa- ment to his crick- etting bril- liance but also as a blue- print for sports stars aiming to translate fame into long- term financial success.

Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim: Billionaire Royal with Global Economic Clout



New Delhi — Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Emir of Qatar, stands out not only as a royal figure but also as a powerful economic player with personal and sovereign wealth estimated at over \$400 billion. From real estate and tech investments to energy holdings and luxury assets, Sheikh Tamim's economic influence extends well beyond Qatar, affecting global markets, diplomatic relations, and high-value invest- ment flows. The Emir recently made headlines after gifting a \$300 million Bo-

eing 747 8 jet to the United States, showcasing the scale of his wealth and the unique ways it intersects with diplomacy.

From Heir to Emir

Born on June 3, 1980, Sheikh Tamim is the fourth son of former Emir Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani and Sheikhha Moza bint Nasser. Educated initially in Qatar, he later attended the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, graduating in 1998. Groomed as heir apparent after his elder brother re- nounced succession, he as-

sumed the throne on June 25, 2013, at the age of 33, becoming one of the youngest rulers in the Gulf. His youth, combined with strategic vision, has allowed him to modernize Qatar's economic policies while maintaining the country's longstanding regional influence.

Sovereign Wealth and Global Investments

Qatar's economic power stems primarily from its vast natural gas reserves and oil wealth. Under Sheikh Tamim, the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) — the country's sovereign wealth fund — manages over \$450 billion in global assets, including equities, real estate, infrastructure projects, and technology startups. The fund's diversified strategy enables Qatar to reduce dependency on hydrocarbons while creating steady international revenue streams.

Sheikh Tamim's personal portfolio mirrors this strategic diversification. He owns multiple luxurious properties, including a 15-palace complex in Doha, international residences in London and Sardinia, and a fleet of private jets and yachts. These assets, while symbols of wealth, also serve as platforms for global investment and high-level economic interactions.

Economic Diplomacy and Strategic Influence

The Emir's \$300 million jet gifted to the United States highlights how wealth and diplomacy inter- twine. Beyond symbolism, such gestures are tools of soft power, enhancing bilateral relations and reinforcing Qatar's role as a key player in global geopolitics. Sheikh Tamim's wealth enables Qatar to act as a major investor in global markets, giving the country leverage in international economic and political affairs.

Diversification and Risk Management

Sheikh Tamim emphasizes diversified investments, both at the sovereign and personal level, mitigating risks associated with oil price fluctuations. His ventures include technology startups, luxury real estate, and global infrastructure projects, balancing high-

TCS, Infosys Lead ₹72,285 Crore Market-Cap Surge Among Top Firms

New Delhi — The combined market capitalization of five of India's top ten most-valued firms surged by ₹72,284.74 crore last week, led by TCS and Infosys, according to market data. The gains underscore selective investor interest in IT and financial sector blue-chips, even as some heavy-weight firms witnessed declines.

Among the top performers, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) posted the biggest gain, adding ₹35,909.52 crore to reach a market valuation of ₹11,71,862.37 crore. Infosys followed with an increase of ₹23,404.55 crore, taking its market cap to ₹6,71,366.53 crore. Other contributors included Bajaj Finance, which rose ₹6,720.28 crore to ₹6,52,396.39 crore; Bharti Airtel, gaining ₹3,791.90 crore to ₹12,01,832.74 crore; and ICICI Bank, up ₹2,458.49 crore to ₹9,95,184.46 crore. Collectively, these five firms drove a significant portion of market momentum among India's large-cap stocks.

However, not all top firms participated in the rally. Reliance Industries led the declines, falling ₹35,116.76 crore to ₹20,85,218.71 crore. Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) dropped ₹15,559.49 crore to ₹5,50,021.80 crore, while State Bank of India slipped ₹7,522.96 crore to ₹8,96,662.19 crore. HDFC Bank and Larsen & Toubro also recorded losses of ₹5,724.03 crore and ₹4,185.39 crore, respectively. These contrasting movements highlight the selective nature of recent investor interest, focused on firms with strong earnings growth prospects or perceived resilience.

Market analysts noted that the surge in TCS and Infosys valuations reflects continued optimism in India's IT sector, which has benefited from strong global demand, digital transformation trends, and consistent earnings growth. Meanwhile, financial services companies like ICICI Bank and Bajaj Finance gained as investor sentiment around credit growth and retail finance remained positive.

Despite the sharp gains in individual firms' market caps, broad-



er indices showed muted performance. The BSE Sensex rose marginally by 5.7 points, while the NSE Nifty 50 fell 16.5 points over the same period. This divergence indicates that gains were concentrated in select high-performing stocks rather than a broad market rally. Analysts suggest that stock-specific factors — including recent quarterly results, earnings guidance, and sectoral developments — drove the momentum rather than overall market trends.

The market-cap surge also illustrates the growing dominance of certain firms in shaping overall investor sentiment. TCS and Infosys, in particular, continue to attract foreign and domestic portfolio inflows due to their strong fundamentals and global business presence. Similarly, companies in the financial sector remain attractive to investors seeking growth combined with relative stability.

For investors, these developments underline the importance of selective stock picking. While broader indices may show muted gains or volatility, targeted investments in high-quality large-cap firms with strong earnings visibility and sectoral tailwinds can deliver substantial returns. The performance of TCS, Infosys, and other top gainers is expected to continue to influence market sentiment in the near term, highlighting the evolving dynamics of India's equity market.

In summary, last week's ₹72,285 crore surge in market capitalization among five top firms demonstrates concentrated investor optimism, with IT and financial services stocks leading the gains, while several heavyweight firms faced declines. The selective nature of these movements emphasizes the need for strategic stock selection amid mixed market performance.

Midcaps Likely to Lead Market Gains in 2026, Says Kotak AMC

New Delhi — Mid-cap stocks are expected to outperform both large-cap and small-cap equities in 2026, according to Nilesh Shah, Managing Director of Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company (AMC). In its recently released market outlook for the calendar year, Kotak AMC highlighted improving domestic consumption, strong earnings growth, and renewed foreign investor interest as key drivers for mid-cap outperformance.

Shah noted that corporate earnings are projected to remain robust in FY2026, with many companies expected to report double-digit growth in FY2027. This growth, coupled with a more stable macroeconomic environment, is anticipated to attract foreign portfolio investments, providing liquidity and supporting mid-cap valuations. "While mid-caps are likely to outperform, investors should adopt a balanced approach, moderating return expectations and diversifying across sectors," Shah advised.

Global Economic Impact

The Emir's wealth and investments impact international markets. QIA investments support job creation, stimulate innovation, and stabilize key sectors worldwide. Qatar's strategic hosting of major global events, including the FIFA World Cup 2022, further solidifies its role as a hub for capital inflows, tourism, and global investment.

In conclusion, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani exemplifies how modern monarchy can shape global economics. Through strategic sovereign wealth management, diversified personal investments, and diplomatic gestures, he not only secures national prosperity but also positions Qatar as a pivotal player in the global financial and geopolitical landscape. His wealth, influence, and strategic investments underscore the growing economic significance of Gulf monarchies on the world stage.



Small-caps remain highly sensitive to market volatility and global fund flows, making them a riskier option for investors seeking stable returns. Conversely, mid-cap stocks are seen as reasonably valued, offering a balance between growth potential and manageable risk.

Large-cap equities, while more stable, are expected to deliver modest returns relative to mid-caps. Investors are advised to combine large-caps for stability, mid-caps for growth potential, and selectively include small-caps to maintain a diversified equity portfolio.

Broader Market Outlook

Kotak AMC also discussed broader asset-class opportunities, noting that commodities like gold and silver may see upside due to ongoing global uncertainty and central bank demand. The recommendation for investors is to maintain a diversified portfolio across equities, precious metals, and fixed-income instruments to navigate market fluctuations and optimize risk-adjusted returns.

Investor Implications

For investors seeking growth in 2026, mid-cap equities represent a middle ground between the stability of large-caps and the high-risk, high-reward nature of small-caps. While the margin of outperformance may not be dramatic, careful stock selection within the mid-cap segment could yield meaningful gains.

In summary, the Kotak AMC outlook suggests that mid-cap companies, supported by domestic consumption trends, earnings growth, and favorable investor sentiment, are likely to take the lead in market performance in 2026. However, prudent diversification, disciplined investing, and selective stock-picking will remain critical for navigating risks and achieving optimal returns in the evolving market landscape.

Global Glaciers Accelerate in Summer, Raising Climate Concerns

A landmark study has produced the first-ever global map of glacier speeds, revealing that glaciers worldwide flow significantly faster during summer months than in winter. Scientists warn that this seasonal acceleration, driven by surface meltwater, could foreshadow longer-term glacier loss and contribute to rising sea levels. The research underscores the urgent need to understand glacier dynamics as the planet warms.

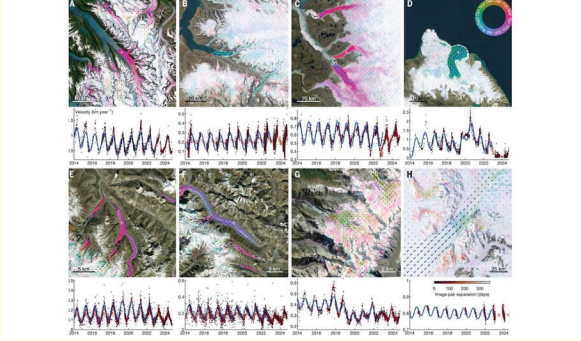
Mapping Ice Across the Globe

Researchers analyzed nearly a decade of satellite data, covering millions of images of glaciers around the world. The dataset spans all glaciers larger than approximately 5 km², providing an unprecedented view of glacier movement across diverse regions, from the Arctic to high-altitude mountain ranges.

Advanced satellite imaging techniques were used to track surface features, including crevasses and debris, enabling precise measurement of ice displacement over time. The result is a series of “velocity mosaics” that illustrate how glacier speeds vary seasonally and regionally.

Seasonal Acceleration and Meltwater Impact

The study confirms a distinct seasonal rhythm: glaciers accelerate in spring and summer when melting occurs and slow considerably during winter. Meltwater seeps through cracks to the glacier bed, reducing friction and allowing ice to slide faster. This phenomenon, known as basal lubrication,



explains why some glaciers exhibit pronounced summer surges.

Glaciers with high seasonal variability appear particularly susceptible to long-term acceleration, meaning that summer surges could indicate future faster ice loss. Such behavior is concerning because it amplifies glacier contribution to sea-level rise.

Implications for Sea-Level Rise and Water Supply

Glaciers store a substantial portion of the world’s freshwater. Faster ice flow accelerates the delivery of ice to glacier termini, where it can calve into oceans or melt, adding to sea-level rise. Communities dependent on glacial meltwater for drinking, irrigation, and hydropower may face water insecurity and increased flood risks.

Since the early 2000s, glaciers have been melting at unprecedented rates, and the addition of faster summer flows exacerbates the potential for future environmental impacts. Experts warn that this could intensify risks for both low-lying coastal regions and mountain communities.

Regional Variations

Not all glaciers behave identically. In Alaska,

peak speeds typically occur in spring, while in Arctic Europe and Russia, acceleration peaks in summer or early fall. High-altitude glaciers often display less pronounced seasonal changes, but even minor summer surges contribute to cumulative ice loss. This variability makes global predictions challenging but emphasizes the pervasive impact of warming temperatures on glacier systems.

Looking Ahead

Scientists suggest that monitoring seasonal glacier velocities can serve as an early-warning system for glaciers most at risk from climate change. Understanding which glaciers have high seasonal variability will help policymakers, researchers, and communities plan for water resource management, flood mitigation, and coastal adaptation strategies.

As glaciers continue to respond to a warming planet, the study highlights the urgency of climate action. Faster summer flows are not just a seasonal pattern — they signal the accelerating pace of environmental change with far-reaching global consequences.

Hearing Aids Gain Popularity in India: What to Know Before Buying

Hearing difficulties are increasingly being recognized as a common health concern in India, affecting people of all ages due to age-related decline, noise exposure, or medical conditions. As a result, hearing aids have grown in popularity as a solution to improve communication and overall quality of life. Among these, the Horizon series of hearing aids has attracted attention for its modern features and promise of clearer hearing.

Benefits of Modern Hearing Aids

Hearing aids like Horizon are designed to enhance speech recognition and overall hearing ability. They help users pick up conversations, phone calls, and ambient sounds that would otherwise be missed, especially in noisy environments. This can improve social interactions and boost confidence in daily life.

Modern devices include advanced features such as directional microphones that focus on voices, noise reduction modes, and smartphone-controlled customization. Many models offer rechargeable batteries for all-day use, Bluetooth streaming for calls and music, and discreet designs that are comfortable for extended wear. These features aim to provide a natural listening experience and convenience for users.

Why Professional Guidance Matters

Despite the advantages, experts emphasize that hearing aids should not be viewed as a cure for hearing loss. Unlike glasses that correct vision, hearing aids ampli-



fy sounds but do not restore normal hearing. Users may need several weeks or months to adjust to new devices, as the brain adapts to the amplified sounds.

Improperly fitted or programmed hearing aids can cause discomfort, distort sounds, or amplify background noise excessively. This can lead to fatigue, irritation, or even worsen the perception of hearing difficulties. Proper assessment and professional fitting by a qualified audiologist ensure the device meets the user’s specific needs.

Maintenance and Cost Considerations

High-quality hearing aids are an investment. Beyond the initial purchase, users should consider ongoing costs such as servicing, battery or charging-case maintenance, and regular adjustments. Not all types of hearing loss respond equally well to hearing aids, making professional testing critical before committing to a device.

Making an Informed Choice

For anyone considering a hearing aid, following a few essential steps can ensure success:

1. Get a hearing

test to understand the type and severity of hearing loss.

2. Consult a qualified audiologist to get a properly fitted and programmed device.

3. Set realistic expectations regarding the improvement hearing aids can provide.

4. Plan for maintenance and follow-up care, including periodic check-ups and device adjustments.

Bottom Line

Hearing aids like Horizon can dramatically improve quality of life by restoring the ability to hear conversations, alerts, and ambient sounds. They enable better social engagement, communication, and overall well-being. However, success depends on professional assessment, correct fitting, and realistic expectations. When used wisely and maintained properly, these devices are a powerful tool for those experiencing hearing difficulties.

As awareness of hearing health grows in India, hearing aids are increasingly seen as an essential device rather than a luxury, offering a practical solution for millions seeking to maintain their auditory health and stay connected in daily life.

Apple, Google, Samsung Push Back Against India’s “Always-On” Location Tracking Proposal



India is facing a growing debate over digital privacy as the government considers a proposal that would require all smartphones sold in the country to keep GPS-based location tracking permanently enabled. This “always-on” tracking rule would allow authorities to access a user’s precise location in real time, even when the device owner believes location services are switched off. The plan has drawn criticism from major technology companies, privacy advocates, and international experts.

Proposal Details

The proposal, submitted by the industry lobby Cellular Operators Association of India, calls for Assisted-GPS (A-GPS) on smartphones to remain active by default. Pop-up notifications that currently alert users when their location is being accessed would be removed, reducing transparency and potentially

eliminating user consent.

Supporters argue that the measure would help law enforcement agencies track criminals more accurately, assist in locating stolen or fraudulent devices, and improve emergency response. Tower-based triangulation, which is less accurate than GPS, could be supplemented by always-on GPS, providing authorities with meter-level location data when needed.

Pushback from Technology Companies

Global technology giants Apple, Google, and Samsung have strongly opposed the plan. They argue that mandatory always-on location tracking would violate user privacy, contradict international privacy norms, and set a concerning precedent for smartphone policies worldwide. The companies, along with the India Cellular & Electronics Association, describe the

measure as regulatory overreach that could compromise trust between users and technology providers.

Critics emphasize that the proposal could turn every smartphone into a potential surveillance device, raising safety concerns for vulnerable groups such as journalists, judges, defense personnel, and human rights activists. The removal of consent mechanisms, combined with continuous tracking, could expose individuals to risks they cannot control. Experts note that no other country has implemented a similar policy, making it a unique and potentially troubling move in global privacy standards.

Current Status

As of now, Indian authorities have not made a final decision. Meetings between phone makers and government regulators intended to discuss the proposal have been postponed, indicating

that deliberations are ongoing. The issue follows recent controversies over other government directives involving pre-installed security apps, which were later withdrawn after privacy concerns were raised. The renewed focus on mandatory location tracking has reignited discussions about digital surveillance and citizens’ rights.

Implications for Users

If implemented, the proposal could drastically reduce user control over personal data. Smartphones would continually transmit location information, removing the ability to turn off tracking and compromising user privacy. For the public, this could mean a permanent state of surveillance, with personal movements accessible to authorities without consent.

Beyond India, the decision may set a global precedent, potentially influencing smartphone regulations in other

countries and normalizing persistent location monitoring. Privacy experts argue that any move toward always-on tracking must balance public safety with individual rights, highlighting the importance of transparency, consent, and accountability in digital policy.

Conclusion

The ongoing debate in India underscores the tension between security concerns and digital privacy. While authorities cite crime prevention and device tracking as benefits, technology companies and privacy advocates warn that mandatory, always-on location tracking could erode citizens’ rights and set a troubling global example. The final decision will have significant implications for smartphone users, privacy norms, and the broader relationship between technology and governance in the country.

POCO C85 5G to Launch in India with 6.9 Inch 120Hz Display

POCO is preparing to launch its new budget-friendly smartphone, the C85 5G, in India on December 9. Ahead of its official debut, the company has revealed key specifications, highlighting a large 6.9 inch display, a long-lasting battery, and essential performance features aimed at consumers looking for an affordable 5G device.

Display and Design

The POCO C85 5G is equipped with a 6.9-inch HD+ display, featuring a high 120Hz refresh rate for smoother scrolling, gaming, and video playback. The screen can reach a peak brightness of 810 nits, making it easier to use under bright sunlight. The display also comes with eye-care features such as Low Blue Light mode, Flicker-Free technology, and a Circadian mode designed to reduce eye strain during extended use.

Design-wise, the phone has a water-drop notch on the front to house the selfie camera. The rear sports a dual-tone back panel with a square dual-camera module and subtle POCO branding. The device will be available in multiple color options in India, including Mystic Purple, Spring Green, and Power Black. Its design balances aesthetics with a comfortable grip, keeping it lightweight despite the large display.

Performance

Powering the POCO C85 5G is the MediaTek

Dimensity 6100+ 5G processor, an octa-core chipset capable of handling day-to-day tasks, multitasking, and moderate gaming. The chipset supports 5G connectivity, allowing users to experience faster download and upload speeds in regions with 5G coverage. The device is expected to come in multiple RAM and storage configurations, catering to different user needs.

Camera Setup

The phone features a dual-camera setup on the rear, headlined by a 50-megapixel primary sensor. This camera system supports AI enhancements, enabling better low-light performance

and image processing. A front-facing selfie camera is positioned in the water-drop notch, suitable for video calls and casual photography. While it may not compete with flagship devices, the camera setup is well-positioned for a budget 5G smartphone segment.

Battery Life and Charging

One of the C85 5G’s most attractive features is its large 6,000mAh battery, which promises long-lasting usage for streaming, gaming, and general smartphone activities. The device supports 33W wired fast charging, allowing users to recharge quickly, and it also offers 10W reverse charging, enabling the

phone to serve as a power source for other devices in a pinch. The combination of high-capacity battery and efficient processing ensures users can get through a full day or more without frequent charging.

User Experience

The large display, high refresh rate, and bright screen enhance user experience for media consumption, reading, and gaming. Eye-care features make it suitable for long sessions, while the battery and 5G connectivity ensure uninterrupted use for users who rely heavily on their devices. POCO’s focus on balancing performance, battery life, and display quality

makes the C85 5G appealing to first-time 5G phone buyers and those seeking a budget-friendly device with essential features.

Conclusion

The POCO C85 5G is shaping up to be a strong contender in India’s budget 5G segment. With a 6.9-inch 120Hz display, robust battery, capable processor, and functional camera setup, it promises to deliver a satisfying combination of performance and value. As the launch date approaches, consumers will be eager to see how the device performs in real-world usage and how its pricing compares to other budget 5G smartphones in India.

Gambhir Slams Split Coaching Idea After Test Setback



India head coach Gautam Gambhir launched a strong rebuttal against calls for a split coaching system following India's recent Test series defeat against South Africa, insisting that outsiders have no right to interfere in the team's internal decisions. His comments came after an IPL team owner publicly suggested that India should appoint separate coaches for red-ball and white-ball formats.

Speaking after India's impressive limited-overs comeback against South Africa, Gambhir made it clear that coaching decisions are the responsibility of the national team management, not franchise owners. He stressed that while everyone is entitled to their opin-

ions, crossing professional boundaries is unacceptable. "If we don't step into someone else's domain, they don't have the right to step into ours," he said in a firm message aimed at those questioning his methods.

The controversy began after India suffered a disappointing Test series loss, with critics questioning the team's preparation, strategy, and coaching structure. Some voices from within the cricketing ecosystem argued that India needed specialist red-ball and white-ball coaches to improve consistency across formats. The suggestion sparked widespread debate, but Gambhir was quick to shut it down.

He also defended his team

by highlighting the circumstances surrounding the Test defeat. According to Gambhir, India were forced to play the series without key players due to fitness concerns, which significantly impacted performance and balance. He questioned why such crucial facts were ignored in post-series criticism, saying that fair analysis must consider context instead of looking for easy targets.

Gambhir further expressed frustration with what he described as selective criticism. He pointed out that success and failure are part of sport, and the same voices praising the team during victories often turn excessively harsh during brief downturns. He

urged former players, franchise owners, and commentators to be more responsible and constructive in their public assessments.

Despite the tension, India's strong showing in the limited-overs series against South Africa helped shift focus back to their on-field performance. The team displayed renewed confidence, discipline, and clarity, which Gambhir said was a result of the current coaching setup working effectively. He maintained that there was no need to overhaul the system based on one disappointing result in the longest format.

The episode has once again highlighted the growing divide between franchise cricket and national

team priorities. With the Indian Premier League becoming increasingly influential, voices from the franchise world are becoming louder in shaping debates about the national side. Gambhir's strong response reflects a pushback against that trend, reinforcing the importance of clear boundaries.

As India prepares for upcoming international assignments, Gambhir's message is clear: decisions about the national team will be made within the dressing room, not from outside boardrooms. Whether the debate over split coaching will fade or intensify remains to be seen, but the head coach has firmly drawn his line in the sand.

Starc Stars as Australia Crush England in Pink-Ball Ashes Test



Australia produced a dominant all-round performance to defeat England by eight wickets in the day-night pink-ball Test, with left-arm pacer Mitchell Starc delivering a match-winning display to put his side firmly in control of the Ashes series.

Playing under lights in challenging conditions, Starc was the standout performer from the very start. He made immediate inroads with the new ball, troubling England's top order with pace, swing and bounce. His incisive spell reduced England to a fragile position early in their first innings, setting the tone for the match. England eventually posted a modest total, never truly recovering from Starc's early burst.

Australia responded with authority in their first innings. The batting unit showed patience and discipline, building strong partnerships to seize command of the game. Starc, often known primarily for his bowling, added valuable runs with the bat, showcasing his growing importance as an all-round contributor. His aggressive yet controlled innings pushed Australia to a commanding total and handed them a substantial first-innings lead.

Under the floodlights, the pink ball once again became a nightmare for England's batters in their second innings. Starc returned with another fiery spell, extracting movement in the air and off the surface. Wickets fell at regular intervals as England

struggled to cope with the relentless pressure applied by the Australian pace attack. Despite some resistance from the middle order, England were bundled out for a below-par score, leaving Australia with a small target to chase.

In the final innings, Australia showed calmness and clarity. The openers provided a steady start, neutralising any early threat. The target was chased down comfortably, with minimal drama, as the home side sealed an emphatic eight-wicket victory. The win not only underlined Australia's superiority in home conditions but also highlighted their clinical approach in day-night Tests.

Starc was deservedly named Player of the Match for his exceptional all-round performance, which included a haul of crucial wickets and valuable runs with the bat. His ability to influence the game in multiple facets has once again proven why he remains one of the most dangerous fast bowlers in world cricket.

With this convincing victory, Australia have taken firm control of the Ashes series, placing England under immense pressure heading into the next Test. For England, major improvements are needed in both batting technique and mental resilience if they hope to mount a comeback. For Australia, confidence is sky-high as they continue their march in one of cricket's most fiercely contested rivalries.

Neser's Maiden Five-For Powers Australia to 2-0 Ashes Lead



Australia tightened their grip on the Ashes series with a dominant performance in the pink-ball Test, defeating England to go 2-0 up, thanks largely to a sensational spell by fast bowler Michael Neser, who claimed his maiden five-wicket haul in Test cricket.

Returning to the Test side after a long absence, Neser made an unforgettable impact under lights. England, hoping to build some momentum in their second innings, were undone by his relentless accuracy and movement. He consistently hit probing lengths, extracting seam and bounce from the surface, and broke crucial partnerships that England desperately needed to stay alive in the contest.

England had shown early

fight on the fourth day, with their middle order attempting to steady the innings. However, Neser changed the complexion of the game in a single passage of play. His burst not only shattered England's resistance but also exposed a fragile lower order. Wickets fell in quick succession as pressure mounted, and England were bowled out for a modest total, unable to pose a serious challenge.

Earlier in the match, Australia had built a commanding position with the bat. Their top and middle order displayed patience and authority, piling up a big first-innings total that put England on the back foot from the outset. The depth in Australia's batting lineup once again showed why

they remain one of the most formidable sides in home conditions, especially in day-night Tests.

When the time came to chase, Australia approached the small target with calm confidence. The openers ensured there were no early scares, playing positively while respecting the conditions. The target was reached comfortably, sealing a convincing victory and underlining Australia's complete dominance across all phases of the match.

Neser's five-wicket haul was the defining moment of the Test. It was not just a personal milestone but also a statement about Australia's bench strength and fast-bowling depth. His performance earned praise from teammates and crick-

et experts, with many calling it one of the finest spells seen under pink-ball conditions.

With a 2-0 lead in the series, Australia now have a firm upper hand heading into the remaining matches. England, on the other hand, face mounting pressure. They will need a complete turnaround in their batting approach and greater discipline with the ball if they hope to fight back in the series.

For Australia, the win is a strong signal of intent. Their combination of disciplined bowling, solid batting, and bench strength is proving too strong for their traditional rivals, as they continue their quest to retain the Ashes in dominant fashion.

Yashasvi Jaiswal Matches MS Dhoni's Historic Feat, Joins Elite Indian Club

India's rising batting star Yashasvi Jaiswal etched his name into the record books by matching a remarkable milestone first achieved by former captain MS Dhoni nearly two decades ago. Jaiswal became only the sixth Indian cricketer to score international hundreds in all three formats — Tests, One Day Internationals, and T20 Internationals — cementing his status as one of the country's most promising young talents.

The landmark moment came after Jaiswal produced a brilliant century in an ODI, showcasing his trademark mix of composure and aggression. His knock not only anchored the innings for India but also underlined his growing maturity as an international cricketer. With that innings, he completed the rare feat of centuries across formats, a list that includes some of Indian cricket's greatest modern-era batters.

Jaiswal's journey to this achievement has been nothing short of inspirational. From humble beginnings and early struggles in Mumbai's maidans to becoming a mainstay in India's top order, his rise reflects years of hard work and resilience. His fearless stroke play, sharp cricketing brain, and ability to adapt to different match situations have made him a vital asset for India across formats.

By equalling MS Dhoni's long-standing record and joining an elite club, Jaiswal has highlighted the changing face of Indian batting — where young players are seamlessly transitioning between the demands of Tests, ODIs, and T20 cricket. His performances in red-ball cricket have already been impressive, while his impact in the shorter formats



has added a new dimension to India's batting depth.

Cricket experts have praised Jaiswal's technique and temperament, noting that he combines classical shot-making with modern attacking flair. His ability to handle pace and spin with equal authority has made him one of the most difficult batters to contain, especially in high-pressure international matches.

At a young age, Jaiswal has already achieved what many cricketers only dream of, but there is a sense that this is just the begin-

ning of his journey. With several major tournaments lined up and India's packed international calendar ahead, expectations from the left-hander will only continue to rise.

As he continues to break records and set new benchmarks, Yashasvi Jaiswal's name is steadily being etched alongside India's cricketing legends. His latest milestone not only celebrates individual excellence but also signals a bright future for Indian cricket, driven by fearless, talented young stars.

The Great Pre-Release Event Creates Grand Buzz



The highly awaited biopic “Ghantasala: The Great” held its spectacular pre-release event in Hyderabad on December 5, generating immense excitement among cinephiles and music lovers. The film, directed by C.H. Rama Rao and produced by C.H. Phani under the Anyukt Ram Pictures banner, chronicles the life and musical journey of the legendary playback singer Ghantasala Venkateswara Rao, who mesmerized generations with his melodious voice and timeless contributions to Telugu cinema.

Set to release on December 12, the film explores key milestones from Ghantasala’s life, beautifully capturing his personal and professional struggles. Actor Krishna Chaitanya portrays Ghantasala, while Mridula plays his wife Savitriamma. Young Ghantasala is played by Atulit, known for his work in Tulasi Movies, with Suman in a pivotal role.

During the pre-release event, Krishna Chaitanya expressed

his gratitude for the opportunity, saying, “I grew up listening to Ghantasala’s songs. Acting in this film is a blessing. Director Rama Rao garu trusted me with this role, and I hope audiences embrace it when the film releases on December 12. Ghantasala is like one eye of Telugu cinema music, and the other is Balasubrahmanyam garu.”

Director C.H. Rama Rao shared his vision behind making the biopic, stating that he wanted the younger generation to understand the legacy of Ghantasala. “It gives me immense satisfaction that industry veterans appreciated the preview. This is the first biopic of an Indian singer of this magnitude, and I am fortunate to bring it to the screen,” he said.

The distributor and producer Shobharani expressed hope that the film reaches Sankarabharanam-level acclaim, emphasizing their commitment to the project’s success. Co-producer Phani also requested audience support,

highlighting the team’s dedication.

Several dignitaries and film personalities, including Tummalapalli Ram Satyanarayana, lyricist Anant Sriram, Chadalavada Srinivas, Relangi Narasimha Rao, Thanikella Bharani, and Tamareddy Bharadwaj, lauded the film for its authenticity, emotional depth, and musical grandeur. Many emphasized that the film is made with a sincere intention rather than for commercial gain, predicting it to be a festival treat and a super hit.

The event also made headlines when the first ticket was purchased for one lakh rupees by Chadalavada Srinivas, marking the grandeur and anticipation surrounding the release.

With its compelling storytelling, music-rich narrative, and stellar performances, “Ghantasala: The Great” is poised to become another landmark in Telugu cinema, honoring the life of one of the country’s most cherished musical legends.

“Ustaad Bhagat Singh”: First Single Promo to Release on December 9



The excitement around the upcoming Telugu film “Ustaad Bhagat Singh” is reaching new heights as the makers officially announced that the first single promo will be released on December 9 at 6:30 PM. The announcement has sparked a wave of anticipation among fans, who are eagerly awaiting a glimpse of Pawan Kalyan in his new avatar.

Directed by Harish Shankar, the film stars Pawan Kalyan alongside actresses Sreeleela and Raashii Khanna, promising a blend of style, action, and mass entertainment. The first single is expected to be a high-energy track, combining catchy music, visually striking choreography, and Pawan Kalyan’s signature charisma.

Music for the film is composed by Devi Sri Prasad (DSP), with lyrics

penned by Bhaskarabhatla, ensuring that the song will resonate with both mass audiences and music lovers. Early teasers hint at a visually vibrant number, and behind-the-scenes glimpses show Pawan Kalyan rehearsing the hook step, indicating that the promo will be a feast for fans.

The team has carefully planned the promo release to maximize excitement for the film, which is being positioned as a major festive-season entertainer. With Pawan Kalyan’s immense fan base and Harish Shankar’s reputation for delivering stylish mass films, expectations are high that the first single will set the tone for the film’s promotions.

Fans are also buzzing about the performances of Raashii Khanna and Sreeleela, both of

whom bring freshness and energy to the screen. Industry observers note that the combination of star power, high-voltage music, and mass appeal choreography is likely to make the promo a viral hit, setting the stage for the movie’s overall success.

As December 9 approaches, excitement continues to build for “Ustaad Bhagat Singh”, with the first single promo seen as the first official glimpse of Pawan Kalyan’s stylish new role. The film is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated Telugu releases, promising entertainment, music, and action in equal measure. Fans are already counting down the days to see the full musical experience and the larger-than-life persona of Pawan Kalyan on screen.

A Grand Sequel in the Making: “Akhandha 2” Raises Fan Expectations



The upcoming Telugu film “Akhandha 2” is already creating a strong buzz in the film industry, promising to be bigger, bolder,

and more spiritually powerful than its predecessor. After the massive success of the first Akhandha, the makers are deter-

mined to raise the scale of storytelling, action, and emotion, giving fans an unforgettable cinematic experience.

Directed by Boyapati Sreenu, the sequel is expected to blend intense devotional elements with high-voltage action sequences. The film will once again explore themes of justice, faith, and divine power, which were key highlights of the first part. Sources close to the production reveal that “Akhandha 2” will feature grand sets, advanced visual effects, and a much larger action canvas, aiming to set new standards for commercial Telugu cinema.

The lead actor Nandamuri Balakrishna is said to be preparing extensively for the role, undergoing physical transformation and special training for fight sequences. His powerful screen presence is expected to be one of the biggest strengths of the film. Fans are especially excited to see how the character’s spiritual aura and warrior-like intensity will be portrayed in this second installment.

Music will play a crucial role in elevating the film’s emotional depth. The background score is being designed to amplify both the devotional atmosphere and the adrenaline-pumping action scenes. Several reports suggest that the makers are planning to shoot major portions of the movie in exotic and spiritually significant locations to give the film a visually rich and authentic feel.

Producer Vishwa Prasad has reportedly confirmed that the film’s budget will be significantly higher than the first part, reflecting the team’s ambition to deliver a pan-Indian blockbuster. The makers are focusing not only on mass entertainment but also on strong storytelling that connects with audiences on an emotional and spiritual level.

Industry insiders believe that “Akhandha 2” could turn out to be one of the most awaited Telugu releases of the coming year. With a powerful combination of faith, fury, and filmmaking finesse, the sequel is poised to take audiences on a thrilling cinematic journey filled with goosebumps moments and high-impact drama.

As expectations continue to rise, “Akhandha 2” stands as a symbol of how Indian commercial cinema is evolving — blending tradition, technology, and storytelling into a powerful on-screen spectacle.

Shiva Rajkumar Brings Gummadi Narsaiah’s Life to the Big Screen

The grand muhurtham ceremony of the biopic “Gummadi Narsaiah” turned into a memorable event as Kannada superstar Shiva Rajkumar officially began his journey into Telugu cinema with a powerful, socially rooted role. The film, which chronicles the life of legendary CPI leader and former MLA Gummadi Narsaiah, was launched in Palvancha in the presence of political leaders, film personalities, and local supporters.

Directed by Parameshwar Hivrale and produced by N. Suresh Reddy under the banner Pravalika Arts Creations, the film aims to bring to light the extraordinary simplicity and commitment of a leader who was known for riding a bicycle to the Assembly and living a life devoted entirely to public welfare.

The launch event was attended by Telangana Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, Kavitha, and Nandini Mallu, wife of Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka. In a symbolic start to the film, Geetha Shivarajkumar gave the first clap, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy switched on the camera, and Nandini Mallu handed over the script to the team.

Speaking at the ceremony, director Parameshwar Hivrale stated that this film was not made for commercial reasons, but to remind society that politics should be a form of social service, not a

business. He highlighted that Gummadi Narsaiah served as an MLA for two decades without enriching himself and that such honesty deserves to be documented on the silver screen.

Producer N. Suresh Reddy praised Shiva Rajkumar for accepting the challenging role, calling him a real-life hero with a compassionate heart. He expressed confidence that the film would inspire a positive shift in political thinking and public life.

In his emotional speech, Shiva Rajkumar said he felt proud to portray Gummadi Narsaiah and revealed that the character reminded him of his own father, who also lived by the principle of serving others. He shared that he is learning Telugu for the film and will dub in his own voice, adding authenticity to his performance. He described the role as a blessing and said the film would serve as an inspiration for future leaders.

Gummadi Narsaiah himself addressed the gathering, humbly stating that he is an ordinary man and that the film should not glorify him, but instead convey his beliefs about honesty, self-change, and integrity in public life.

With the release of the first-look and motion posters, the film has already generated strong curiosity. Shiva Rajkumar’s transformation has been widely appreciated, and expectations are ris-



ing for this powerful biographical drama that promises to combine political realism with emotional depth.

The technical team includes cinematographer Satish Mutyala, editor Satya Giduturi, and music director Suresh Bob-

bili, ensuring strong visual and musical storytelling for this much-anticipated project.