



Bhogapuram International Airport Nears Completion Starts in May Rammohan Naidu Announces Trial Run Next Month

TPN Bureau | December 16

Union Minister of Civil Aviation K. J. Rammohan Naidu has announced that the Bhogapuram International Airport project in Vizianagaram district is nearing completion, with a trial run scheduled for next month. Speaking at an event in Visakhapatnam on Monday, he said the airport, originally slated for inauguration by June next year, will be ready for operations a month ahead of schedule.

Rammohan Naidu attended the launch ceremony of the GMR-Mansas Aviation EduCity Project, held at Radisson Blu Resort in Visakhapatnam. The event was also attended by Andhra Pradesh Minister for Information Technology and Industries Nara Lokesh, Mansas Trust Chairman and former Union Minister Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju, and GMR Group Chairman Grandhi Mallikarjuna Rao.

The agreement between the GMR Group and Mansas Trust marks a significant step in developing India's first Aviation Education Hub.



City, which will be set up near the Vizianagaram-Visakhapatnam border. The EduCity aims to serve as a national hub for aviation training and education, integrating world-class academic institutions, simulation centers, and industry-linked training programs. Once completed, it is expected to transform the Bhogapuram region into a thriving center for aerospace learning and employment.

Vision for an Aviation Hub

During his address, Minister Rammohan Naidu emphasized that the Bhogapuram airport and the proposed EduCity would together shape the region into a vital aviation and education hub. "We are not just building an airport; we are creating opportunities for the future. The EduCity will bring universities, training institutions, and skill development centers together, enabling young people to pursue careers in aviation and allied fields," he said.

He added that the central government is working in coordination with the Andhra Pradesh government to expedite infrastructure development and attract new aviation-linked investments. "Our

goal is to open the Bhogapuram airport not in June but by May itself. We want this project to stand as a model of efficiency and cooperation," he stated.

Partnership of Legacy and Innovation

The collaboration between the GMR Group and Mansas Trust symbolizes the partnership between corporate enterprise and philanthropic legacy. GMR, which has built and operates major airports such as Delhi and Hyderabad, brings world-class expertise in airport design and education infrastructure. Mansas Trust, managed by the Vizianagaram royal

family, contributes local knowledge and land resources to realize this visionary initiative.

Ashok Gajapathi Raju expressed confidence that the EduCity would become a beacon for aviation studies in India. "With the Bhogapuram Airport coming up rapidly, this education city will complement that growth by nurturing skilled professionals who will fuel the aviation sector's future," he said.

A Boost to North Andhra's Growth

Minister Nara Lokesh praised the collaboration as a landmark investment for North Andhra Pradesh's development. He noted that the combined efforts of the Centre, the State, and private partners would bring immense employment potential, boost tourism, and enhance regional connectivity.

As construction enters its final phase, the Bhogapuram International Airport and the GMR-Mansas Aviation EduCity stand poised to redefine the economic and educational landscape of coastal Andhra Pradesh.

Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu Emphasizes Digital Health and Preventive Care in High-Level Meeting



TPN Bureau | December 16

Mararavati: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu reiterated his government's commitment to transforming the healthcare sector in Andhra Pradesh through technology-driven and preventive health initiatives. The Chief Minister held a video conference on Tuesday with an elite advisory group comprising global health experts, senior officials, and representatives from international organizations.

During the meeting, CM Naidu stated that Andhra Pradesh is actively implementing the health standards and recommendations set by the World Health Organization (WHO) to strengthen its medical and healthcare systems. He highlighted the state's ongoing "Sanjeevani Project", which aims to create digital health records for all citizens. By integrating citizen data through Digital Nerve Centres in Kuppam and Chittoor districts, developed with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the project enables real-time access to individual health information. Naidu emphasized that digital health integration would not only improve service delivery but also enhance transparency, data accuracy, and long-term health

planning.

He noted that the ultimate goal of his administration's "Vision 2047 Swarna Andhra Pradesh" is to improve the overall quality of life by focusing on citizens' well-being and health equity. The Chief Minister stressed the need to strengthen preventive health infrastructure rather than focusing solely on post-illness treatments. Promoting prevention-oriented technologies, he said, would significantly reduce healthcare expenditure while fostering a healthier population.

The video conference featured leading global health experts, including Dr. Peter Piot (UN AIDS), Dr. Soumya Swaminathan (WHO Scientist), Dr. D. Nageshwar Reddy (Chairman, AIG Hospitals), Prof. Eng Tech (Singapore), Arti Ahuja, Rizwan Koita, Srikant Nadhamuni, Gagandeep Kang, Margaret Elizabeth, and Nikhil Tandon. State Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav, senior health department officials, and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Country Director Archana Vyas were also present.

CM Naidu concluded by affirming that his administration's mission is to deliver top-quality, technology-enabled healthcare services to every citizen while building a robust, preventive, and globally benchmarked health system in Andhra Pradesh.

Delimitation to Be Completed Before Next General Elections, Says Amit Shah

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New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah has made it clear that the process of delimitation—the redrawing of parliamentary and assembly constituencies—will be completed before the next general elections. The statement is being viewed as a major political development with far-reaching implications for representation, governance, and reservation policy across the country.

According to sources, Amit Shah told several Members of Parliament from various states during a recent meeting that there will be no further delay in initiating and completing the delimitation exercise. He categorically stated that the next Lok Sabha elections will be conducted based on the new constituency boundaries that will emerge after the exercise is finished. Shah reportedly informed the MPs that the government has already taken all necessary steps to expedite the census process, which forms the basis for the upcoming delimitation.



According to reports, the process will include updating seat reservations for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST), in line with the latest demographic data. Additionally, there is a strong likelihood that the 33 percent reservation for women recently approved in the Women's Reservation Bill will also be integrated as part of the revised constituency structure. Government officials are confident that the census will be fully completed by 2027, paving the way for delimitation to commence immediately afterward.

This means that states with higher population growth over the past decades largely in North and Central India are likely to gain additional seats, while southern states may see a relative decrease in representation. One of the most significant aspects under consideration is the implementation of new reservation policies alongside the delimitation exercise.

"The census will be carried out within the scheduled timeframe, in two phases," Shah said, emphasizing that the Cabinet has given formal approval for the process. The completion of the national census is crucial, as constituency

YSRCP Faces Three-Front Challenge as Andhra Pradesh Alliance Sharpens Strategy

TPN Bureau | December 16

Mararavati: In Andhra Pradesh's fast-evolving political landscape, the coalition of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), Jana Sena Party (JSP), and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has launched a coordinated, three-pronged offensive to weaken the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP). Even after suffering a major defeat in the recent elections, the YSRCP retains a substantial 40 percent vote share—a critical factor that the alliance aims to erode before the next polls.

Despite losing power, YSRCP still enjoys a committed voter base across rural and social segments. But political observers note that this base may not remain intact as the alliance partners devise targeted strategies to pull key communities away from Jagan Mohan Reddy's party. Each of the three alliance partners has assumed a distinct role in the campaign to neutralize YSRCP's influence before the state heads to polls again.

BJP takes charge of religious narrative

The BJP has focused its attention on reshaping the religious narra-

tive around the YSRCP. The ruling party has long faced criticism from sections of society for being "anti-Hindu," a perception that has gained traction over time.

The controversy surrounding Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), including issues like the alleged laddu irregularities and temple-related mismanagement, has provided ammunition for the saffron party to attack Jagan's government.

BJP leaders have been highlighting these episodes to portray the YSRCP as a party that disregards Hindu sentiments. This campaign is designed to consolidate support among upper-caste Hindu communities.

Kshatriyas, and Vaishyas who are already showing signs of moving away from YSRCP. Political analysts believe that if the BJP succeeds in amplifying this narrative, it could significantly dent YSRCP's influence.

On a parallel front, Jana Sena Party chief Pawan Kalyan has turned his attention to the Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities across the state, particularly in the hill and agency regions. Historically, these tribal areas supported the Congress and later shifted allegiance to YSRCP.

Recent efforts by Pawan Kalyan to engage directly with tribal communities through development-focused initiatives are reportedly changing perceptions.

Jana Sena leaders have been visiting ST-dominated districts to promise better infrastructure, housing, and connectivity areas where local grievances have persisted under the YSRCP administration. These moves are believed to be gradually shifting the loyalties of sections of ST voters. Should the Jana Sena secure a meaningful swing among tribal voters, it could inflict a visible blow to YSRCP's 40 percent vote bank in regions like Pedduru, Araku, and Rampachodavaram.

TDP reinforces Dalit outreach

Meanwhile, the Telugu Desam Party has intensified its outreach among Scheduled Caste (SC) communities, another traditional base for the YSRCP. By reviving the long-debated issue of Dalit sub-categorization, TDP president N. Chandrababu Naidu has sought to reconnect with these voters and position his party as more responsive to their aspirations.

In addition, TDP-led programs like Palle Panduga (village festivals) have been rolled out extensively in Dalit-majority neighborhoods, combining community engagement with visible local development.



Centre Notifies Six Zonal and Two Multi-Zonal Structures for Andhra Pradesh



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Amaravati: The Central government has issued a fresh gazette notification reorganizing Andhra Pradesh into six zones and two multi-zones for the purpose of

public employment, based on the state's new 26-district administrative structure. The notification, released under the provisions of the Public Employment (Organization of Local Cadres and Regulation of Di-

rect Recruitment) Order, 1975, replaces the earlier zonal framework that existed prior to the 2022 district reorganization.

The Centre's move brings clarity to the concept of "local status" and the criteria to be fol-

lowed in direct recruitment across various government departments and services. The notification defines local, zonal, and multi-zonal jurisdictions, ensuring that recruitment and cadre management align with

the state's updated district boundaries.

According to the notification, Andhra Pradesh will now have six zones grouped under two multi-zones. Multi-Zone

Zone I includes the districts of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Parvathipuram, Manyam, Visakhapatnam, and Anakapalli.

Zone II comprises Alur, Sitarama, Raju, East Godavari, Kakinada, and Ambedkar Konaseema districts.

Zone III includes West Godavari, Eluru, NTR, and Krishna districts.

Multi-Zone II

Zone IV will consist of Guntur, Palnadu, Bapatla, Prakasam, and Sri Potti Sriramulu Nellore districts.

Zone V covers the Rayalaseema districts of Tirupati, Chittoor, Annamayya, and YSR Kadapa.

Zone VI encompasses Nandyal, Anantapuram, Kurnool, and Sri Satya Sai districts.

The Centre stated that the reorganized zones have been formulated to maintain rational and equitable distribution of employment opportunities among residents of different parts of the state.

The revised framework will now serve as the basis for implementing local cadre allotments and recruitment under the zonal system.

The gazette clarified that for determining local status, a person shall be regarded as a local

candidate in a particular area if they have studied in that region for a continuous period of seven years or more immediately before appearing for the relevant qualifying examination. This criterion will apply for admissions, appointments, and all forms of recruitment reserved for local candidates.

Departments have been instructed to align their service rules and recruitment notifications accordingly. This notification marks a significant structural reform in the public employment system of Andhra Pradesh, aligning the administrative framework with the state's new geography and paving the way for a more transparent and regionally balanced recruitment process.

AP High Court Slams TTD Over Tirumala Parakamani Theft, Calls for AI-Based Monitoring and Reforms

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Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Tuesday made strong observations concerning the recent theft incident inside the parakamani (donation counting area) at the world-renowned Tirumala temple managed by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD). The court termed the incident a crime much graver than ordinary theft, noting that it undermines the faith and sentiments of millions of devotees across the world.

Hearing a petition seeking a detailed investigation into the matter, the High Court expressed serious concern over the management practices within TTD, especially regarding the handling of donations and security lapses at one of the most sacred religious sites in India. The Bench remarked that the crime that occurred inside the parakamani cannot be treated as a mere act of stealing but as a serious breach of trust affecting devotees' spiritual confidence.

"The crime inside the parakamani is bigger than theft. It has hurt the sanctity of the

served that the religious and financial sanctity of the temple administration required a more robust, secure, and transparent system.

Suggestions for Reforms

The court suggested setting up organized counting tables within the parakamani premises so that the donation-counting process is systematic and verifiable. Furthermore, it posed a thought-provoking question: "Why should not the devotees themselves be allowed to participate in the counting process under supervision?" Such involvement, the court said, could enhance transparency and reinforce public confidence in how the TTD manages offerings collected from devotees.

Advocates Use of Artificial Intelligence

In a significant recommendation, the High Court advised the TTD management to explore the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for monitoring and record-keeping activities within the parakamani.

"The TTD should use modern technology, including AI-based surveillance and tracking, to prevent such incidents in the future," the court suggested.

temple and the emotions of devotees. The administration must ensure that the sentiments of devotees are never hurt again," the court observed in its oral comments.

Questions Out sourcing System

The High Court also raised fundamental questions about TTD's reliance on outsourcing employees for sensitive tasks such as handling and counting donations. "Out sourcing employees cannot be held accountable for such grave responsibilities. When it comes to handling public donations amounting to hundreds of crores, the TTD cannot depend on contractual or temporary staff," the Bench noted.

Emphasizing that accountability should rest with permanent employees and officials directly appointed by TTD, the court stated that the outsourcing system was unsuitable for such critical religious operations. The judges ob-

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Tirumala – The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Board has approved a series of major projects and welfare measures aimed at enhancing facilities across its temples, educational institutions, and pilgrim amenities. TTD Chairman B.R. Naidu announced the key decisions after the board meeting held in Tirumala on Tuesday. Announcing a landmark project involving environmental and spiritual significance, Naidu said the TTD would set up a "Divya Vruksha Project" spanning 100 acres.

The initiative aims to grow sacred trees used traditionally in crafting temple flag posts (Dhvajastambhas) and temple chariots (Rathas) for TTD-administered temples. Naidu said the project highlights the board's commitment to sustainable practices and the protection of temple traditions.

Major Sanction for Health and Education

The TTD board approved 48 crore for developing facilities at the Padmavathi Children's Heart Hospital in Tirupati. The hospital, run under TTD auspices, caters to pediatric heart patients and is being expanded to improve specialized care and in-

frastructure. In addition, the Education Sub-Committee of the TTD submitted a report recommending modernization measures in 31 educational institutions under its management. Based on the report, the board approved the installation of digital classrooms, CCTV cameras, computer systems, and recruitment of required staff. The measures are intended to bring TTD-run schools and colleges in line with current educational and technological standards.

Focus on Donor Cottages and New Township

Naidu said the TTD

would introduce a new policy for the management and maintenance of donor cottages and related constructions. These cottages, funded by devotees, provide accommodation in Tirumala and other temple towns. The revised policy is expected to streamline operations, ensure transparent maintenance procedures, and improve pilgrim facilities.

To ease accommodation and urban congestion around Tirupati, the board approved the appointment of an architect for planning an Integrated Township covering 20 acres in Tirupati.

construction works at the Talakona Siddheshwara Swamy Temple, a heritage site located amidst forest surroundings in Tirupati district.

At the Padmavathi Women's Degree College, hostel facilities will be expanded by adding 270 additional seats to the existing 2,100, addressing the demand for quality accommodation for girl students pursuing higher education under TTD management.

Administrative and Welfare Reforms

Naidu also announced the formation of a committee to review and rename major roads and junctions in Tirumala, enhancing urban planning and systematic identification of key locations. Further, the TTD decided to increase salaries of 62 employees, including priests, attendants, and prasadam distribution workers serving in affiliated temples.

The measure recognizes their vital contribution to temple services and ensures fair compensation. Chairman Naidu said these initiatives reflect TTD's continued focus on devotee welfare, institutional development, and preservation of Sanatana Dharma traditions through modern, transparent governance.

Minister Satyakumar Yadav Announces Major Reforms in Andhra Pradesh Healthcare System

TPN Bureau | December 16

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Health Minister Satyakumar Yadav announced on Tuesday that the state government is initiating a comprehensive transformation of the public healthcare system. Speaking to the media, he said that the government has begun mapping ten major diseases and is aligning treatment protocols with recommendations from national and international medical experts to ensure more personalized and effective care.

According to the min-

ister, a dedicated group of scientists and specialists from India and abroad has been constituted to guide this endeavor. The experts, who include top researchers and clinicians, convened virtually for their first meeting, where they laid the groundwork for developing evidence-based strategies to strengthen diagnosis and treatment across the state's healthcare facilities. Minister Yadav emphasized that the central aim of this initiative is to enable individualized patient care and to make the public health system more ro-

bust and data-driven. "We are committed to building a strong health infrastructure that caters efficiently to the medical needs of every citizen,"

he said. He also revealed plans to conduct detailed field visits in the coming weeks to assess on-ground requirements and implementation

challenges. The new healthcare initiative follows Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's recent review of the Medical and Health Department held at the Secretariat earlier in the day.

The meeting, conducted through video conference, included senior health department officials and experts from global institutions such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Gates Foundation Country Director Archana Vyas par-

participated in the discussions, offering strategic insights into improving healthcare quality and accessibility in Andhra Pradesh. The review reportedly focused on systemic reforms, scientific collaboration, and outcome-based planning to ensure better public health delivery.

On the YSRCP's "One Crore Signatures" Campaign, Minister Yadav also responded sharply to the YSR Congress Party's (YSRCP) ongoing campaign against the alleged privatization of medical colleges in the state. Dismissing the initiative, he described it as a "farce" and likened it to "drawing lines in the sand"—a futile exercise intended for publicity rather than genuine public participation.

"The so-called one crore signatures movement is nothing but a drama. Even during their 'Suparipalana Yatra,' not a single person has actually engaged in this campaign," said the minister.

He further claimed that there has been no discussion about the campaign in villages, towns, or among students and the poor. "Even their own party members admit that the campaign lacks enthusiasm," he added sarcastically, suggesting that YSRCP workers were "tired of going through the motions" of collecting signatures that hardly exist.

In summary, while Minister Yadav projected confidence in the government's forward-looking health reforms, he simultaneously sought to undermine the opposition's attempts to mobilize dissent. With expert-driven strategies set to redefine medical governance and field-based assessments planned soon, the state's healthcare system is poised for significant modernization under the Naidu administration.



TDP MLA Bhashyam Praveen's Controversial Remarks Spark Row on Social Media

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Amaravathi: In a development that triggered sharp political debate in Andhra Pradesh, Telugu Desam Party (TDP) MLA Bhashyam Praveen has courted controversy with his provocative statements made at a party meeting, a video of which has since gone viral on social media. The legislator elected from Sathenapalli constituency allegedly urged TDP workers to take extreme action against anyone speaking against the party or its members. In the widely shared video, Praveen is heard telling party activists to "purify" those who criticize the TDP or its leaders, adding that such individuals should be "taught a lesson" by being "thrashed at the center."

He further assured his supporters that he would stand by them if they took such action, reportedly saying, "I am with you; don't hesitate



to act against those who insult our party." The remarks sparked outrage among several political observers and social media users, who condemned what they called an "incitement to violence." Calls have been made for disciplinary action against the MLA, even as TDP leaders have yet to issue an official statement regarding the controversy.

Political analysts noted that Praveen's comments came at a sensitive juncture, given that the TDP has been emphasizing law and order

and party discipline in recent months. The use of aggressive language by a sitting legislator, they pointed out, undercuts the party's official messaging on maintaining democratic conduct and restraint. Meanwhile, supporters of Bhashyam Praveen defended the MLA, arguing that his comments were taken out of context.

According to them, the remarks were "figurative" and aimed at motivating cadres to confront misinformation and internal dissent

firmly, not to resort to physical aggression. Opposition parties, however, seized on the video to target the TDP leadership. YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) spokespersons have demanded that TDP president N. Chandrababu Naidu clarify whether such behavior reflects the party's stance.

"If leaders speak about assaulting people for voicing opinions, what message does it send about their respect for democracy?" a YSRCP representative asked during a press conference in Vijayawada. Law enforcement authorities have yet to comment on whether any complaint or preventive action will be taken in connection with the viral video. Legal experts said that if proven genuine, the comments could be viewed as promoting violence, falling under sections of the Indian Penal Code related to criminal intimidation or incitement.

The incident adds to a continuing trend of political tensions in Andhra Pradesh being amplified through social media. With election activity intensifying across the state ahead of the next phase of local polls, speech and conduct by political representatives have increasingly come under scrutiny. For now, Bhashyam Praveen's remarks remain at the center of a growing social media storm, highlighting once again how unchecked rhetoric can swiftly turn into a statewide controversy.

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East Godavari — Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and Member of Parliament Daggubati Purandeswari congratulated newly appointed BJP National Working President Nitin Nabin, describing his elevation as a move that will infuse new energy and strength into the party's national organization. Nitin Nabin, a prominent leader from Bihar, formally assumed his new responsibility as the BJP's National Working President at the party's national headquarters in New Delhi. Following his appointment, several senior leaders visited the headquarters to extend their greetings and best wishes.

Among them was Purandeswari, who met Nabin in person on Monday and conveyed her congratulations. Speaking to the media



after the meeting, Purandeswari emphasized that Nabin's appointment reflected the BJP's strong internal culture of discipline, commitment, and recognition of merit. "Nitin Nabin is widely regarded as a disciplined and dedicated leader who has worked hard at every level of the organization.

His leadership will certainly help the BJP expand its reach among the people and consolidate its base across the country," she said. The Andhra Pradesh MP further added that the decision showcases Prime Minister Narendra Modi's consistent vision of promoting leaders

with proven capability and grassroots connection. "Under Modi ji's leadership, the BJP has always advanced on the principles of Seva (service), Sankalp (resolution), and Vikas (development).

The appointment of Nitin Nabin as National Working President is a reflection of the same spirit it ensures that the organization remains dynamic and focused on public service," Purandeswari remarked. She noted that Nabin's previous record as a state minister and his active role in the party organization have earned him respect within and outside the BJP. "From the state level to national

politics, he has consistently demonstrated both administrative skill and organizational discipline. This transition to a national leadership role is a natural next step in his journey," she observed.

Purandeswari also expressed confidence that the BJP's national leadership, under Prime Minister Modi and party president J.P. Nadda, is taking forward-looking decisions that will prepare the party for future electoral challenges and governance responsibilities. "The party's new leadership structure will not only bring energy but also ensure stability as the BJP

continues to expand its outreach in different states," she said.

Political observers view Nitin Nabin's appointment as a strategic step to reinforce generational leadership within the BJP ahead of key state elections. With leaders like Purandeswari publicly endorsing this change, the move is seen as a unifying moment within the organization.

Purandeswari concluded by noting that the BJP's continuous process of organizational renewal highlights its commitment to adaptability and service. "The decisions being taken at the national level are not just about leadership changes.

They're about setting the direction for the next phase of the party's growth, both politically and ideologically," she said, reaffirming her faith in the BJP's collective vision and leadership.

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VIJAYAWADA: Former chief minister and YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Tuesday demanded a CBI inquiry into the demolition of houses at Joji Nagar in Vijayawada. Speaking to media, he charged that people in high places are involved in the demolitions. He vowed to extend legal assistance to the affected families.

Expressing solidarity with residents of Joji Nagar, whose homes have been razed despite a court order granting them relief until December 31, Jagan Mohan Reddy alleged that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, IT minister Nara Lokesh and Vijayawada MP

Kesineni Sivanath are involved in the demolitions. Also Read - AP Police Arrest YSRCP Social Media Activist at Shamshabad Airport

Advertisement The former CM pointed out that 42 families lived in the colony spread over 2.17 acres, which is valued at around 150 crore.

The families had built their houses after obtaining all necessary permissions and had been paying EMIs on loans raised for constructing their houses. "Greed of higher-ups in collusion with private players has led to the demolition,"

CM Relief Fund Supporting the Poor, Says Minister Anagani Satyaprasad



TPN Bureau | December 16

Bapatla District (Repal): Andhra Pradesh Minister Anagani Satyaprasad said that the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) has become a vital support system for economically backward families in the state. He presented CMRF cheques worth 86 lakh to 41 beneficiaries at an event held in the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) office in Repalle on Monday. Speaking at the program, the minister

stated that a total of 10 crore had been disbursed through the Chief Minister's Relief Fund in the Repalle Assembly constituency so far. "The scheme reflects the government's commitment to social welfare and financial assistance for people in distress due to medical emergencies and other crises. Taking a sharp dig at the previous YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) regime, the minister

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Coalition Government Defends PPP Model for Medical Colleges, Slams YSRCP's Opposition



TPN Bureau | December 16

Amaravathi: The Andhra Pradesh government, led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, has firmly defended its decision to construct new medical colleges under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode, despite strong opposition from the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP). The issue has sparked a major political debate, with YSRCP organizing a statewide campaign to collect one crore signatures against the decision.

Responding to the controversy, Roads and Buildings Minister B.C. Janardhan Reddy said on Tuesday in Vijayawada that recent recommendations made by a Parliamentary Standing Committee in favor of the PPP model are a "slap in the face" to the YSRCP.

He stressed that the Central Government itself had endorsed the PPP approach, noting that

with medical education costs rapidly increasing, this model is the only viable way to expand access.

Reddy criticized the YSRCP's signature campaign, dismissing it as a "political drama" and accusing the opposition of spreading misinformation without understanding the distinction between privatization and public-private partnership.

He explained that the PPP model would not compromise public ownership, as the government would continue to hold full control over the colleges and hospitals, while private partners would provide infrastructure and operational support.

Assuring the public of tangible results, Reddy announced that all medical college construction would be completed within two years, creating an additional 1,750 seats for Andhra Pradesh students. He expressed confidence that this initiative would not only enhance medical education but also improve access to quality healthcare for the poor.

Jagan demands CBI probe into Joji nagar demolition

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Kesineni Sivanath are involved in the demolitions. Also Read - AP Police Arrest YSRCP Social Media Activist at Shamshabad Airport

Ganja Smugglers in Andhra Pradesh Turn to New Tactics, Packaging Drugs as Chocolates

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Chirala | Bapatla : Smugglers involved in the illegal transport of ganja (cannabis) have devised innovative methods to evade law enforcement authorities. In a recent crackdown, the Bapatla district police, along with Special Branch (SB), Railway Protection Force (RPF), and Eagle teams, uncovered a new smuggling route involving ganja disguised as chocolate bars being transported from Odisha to various southern states including Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Kerala.

According to officials, extensive joint raids by these departments brought the new modus operandi to light. The smuggling networks, which earlier used cargo containers and trucks to move hundreds of kilograms of contraband along National Highway-16 towards southern destinations, have shifted strategies following intensified police vigilance and highway checks.

Highway to Rail Shift
Previously, several large consignments of ganja were intercepted near the Bollapalli toll plaza on the Martur



stretch and at the Surya

Lanka bypass bridge on the outskirts of Bapatla. Due to these frequent seizures, smugglers have shifted operations from road transport to passenger trains. They are now concealing the contraband in suitcases and carry bags inside general compartments of trains traveling from Odisha to major cities such as Chennai, Tirupati, Bengaluru, and Thiruvananthapuram.

Over the last three months, joint railway surveillance by the Eagle, SB, RPF, and civil police units has intensified. Officials have conducted systematic searches on long-distance trains, leading to the seizure of more than 100 kilograms of ganja. Several suspects have been arrested and

criminal cases have been registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

Despite these efforts, smugglers continue to devise new ploys to escape police detection. Authorities say that the operations are becoming increasingly sophisticated and challenging to trace.

Packaging Ganja as Chocolates

In the latest twist, police discovered that smugglers are now converting ganja into chocolate-like bars to disguise its appearance. These "ganja chocolates" are being transported in crowded train compartments, particularly in general coaches where passenger movement is frequent, making inspection more

difficult. Police say the contraband disguised as chocolates is being circulated near educational institutions to target unsuspecting students and turn them into addicts.

The issue came to light three days ago when railway police conducted inspections aboard the Puri-Tirupati Express and seized 71 ganja chocolates during checks between Bapatla and Chirala stations.

Police Alert and Citizens' Role

SB-II Inspector Rambabu stated that selling, transporting, or purchasing ganja constitutes a serious criminal offense. He warned that stringent legal action would be taken against those involved in any stage of the illegal trade. The officer urged the public to remain vigilant and report suspicious activities related to drug trafficking.

Citizens can share information anonymously by contacting the emergency and police helpline numbers — 100, 112, and 1972. Officials added that sustained operations and public cooperation are essential to dismantle the network of traffickers operating across interstate railway routes.

As police tighten surveillance, smugglers seem determined to stay ahead with new concealment strategies, highlighting the need for continuous intelligence gathering and interstate coordination to curb narcotics trafficking effectively.

Tragic Road Accident in Kakinada District Claims Lives of Mother and Son

TPN Bureau | December 16

Kakinada: A tragic road accident in Kakinada district claimed the lives of a woman and her ailing son in the early hours of Tuesday. The incident occurred on the outskirts of Gollaprolu (Gandepalli) when the car they were traveling in collided with a tractor-trolley. According to police reports, the victims have been identified as Thorlapati Tulasi (40) and her son Sasikumar (24), residents of Veluchuruvilli village, Atreyapuram mandal. Sasikumar had reportedly been suffering from cancer for some time and was being taken to Visakhapatnam for advanced medical treatment.

Accompanying them in the car were Tulasi's elder son Sanjay, and relatives Thorlapati Parapao and Nagabattula Srinu. The family began their journey towards Visakhapatnam late Monday night. Around 4:30 AM on Tuesday, as they reached the Gandepalli limits, tragedy struck. Their car is believed to have rammed into a slow-moving trolley that was traveling ahead of them on the same route.

The impact of the collision was so severe that Tulasi died on the spot due to multiple injuries. Locals who witnessed the accident immediately alerted the police and emergency services. All the injured were rushed to the Government General Hospital in Rajamahendravaram for treatment. Despite doctors' efforts, Sasikumar succumbed to his injuries while undergoing medical care. The other three occupants Sanjay, Parapao, and Srinu sustained serious injuries

and are receiving treatment at the same hospital.

Gandepalli Sub-Inspector Sivanagabu confirmed the details and stated that a case has been registered. Preliminary investigation suggests that negligence

and poor visibility during early morning hours may have contributed to the mishap. Police are examining whether the trolley was parked or moving slowly without proper indicators at the time of the accident.

This heartbreaking incident has thrown the Veluchuruvilli village into deep mourning, as the family was already struggling with Sasikumar's illness. The deaths of Tulasi and her son have left villagers and relatives grief-stricken. Police have seized both

and are receiving treatment at the same hospital.

Gandepalli Sub-Inspector Sivanagabu confirmed the details and stated that a case has been registered. Preliminary investigation suggests that negligence

when he was hit during the commotion.

He was immediately shifted to a nearby hospital, and his condition is said to be stable. The incident created a tense atmosphere, forcing local police deployment at key junctions to prevent further escalation. Locals criticized the disturbance, noting that the two-wheeler rally already noisy due to vehicles with modified silencers had created severe inconvenience in the city's busy commercial zones. Commuters stuck in traffic jams expressed frustration at the political show of strength disrupting public movement.

Despite the chaos, senior YSRCP leaders including District President Ananta Venkatarami Reddy, MLAs Shivarami Reddy and Mangamma, ZP Chairperson Girijamalla, Mayor Vaseem, and former MP Gorantla Madhav

continued with the program, addressing the gathering later in the day. They emphasized the importance of the signature campaign aimed at defending Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's policies and countering opposition criticism.

Political observers say Monday's incident is a reflection of deeper internal strains in the ruling party at the grassroots level, even in its strongholds like Anantapur. They note that while YSRCP leadership in Amaravati is pushing for organizational unity ahead of crucial political developments, frequent displays of infighting could undermine public confidence and party discipline.

Fraudulent Online Land Deals in B. Koduru Under Scrutiny

TPN Bureau | December 16

B. Koduru: A large-scale land registration scandal has come to light in B. Koduru mandal, where officials and private parties allegedly manipulated online systems to register lands through fake agreements. Several land transactions, processed during the previous government's tenure, are now under investigation for irregularities and possible fraud.

According to local sources, individuals took advantage of the online registration process introduced in recent years, using fabricated "agreements of sale" to upload land details onto government portals.

In many cases, even ancestral lands—which traditionally require proper documentation and registered ownership were illegally uploaded and later sold to third parties through fraudulent registration procedures. In the past, land buying and selling followed a clear, transparent process. Buyers and sellers,

along with witnesses, would meet for registration at the office, complete formalities, and even mark the occasion with a social tradition sharing food and offering bananas to all participants. This local practice ensured community awareness about property transfers, creating public acknowledgment of legitimate ownership.

Local residents and opposition leaders argue that this system not only weakened land ownership integrity but also deprived the state government of significant revenue. When ancestral or private lands are registered legally, the government earns through stamp duty and registration fees.

In contrast, uploading through agreements circumvents this process, creating a financial "leakage" affecting the state's income. With multiple reports of fraudulent online entries and illegal sales, many in B. Koduru are urging the coalition government to immediately end the practice and restore the traditional registration system to safeguard both farmers and public revenue.

Sankranti Festivities Gear Up in Godavari Region with Lavish Hospitality and Cultural Programs

TPN Bureau | December 16

Palakollu: When the festival of Sankranti is mentioned, the first place that comes to mind for many is the Godavari region. Known for its rich traditions, colorful villages, and heartfelt hospitality, the combined Godavari districts have long been seen as the cultural heartland of the Sankranti season. This year, preparations are already underway across towns and villages to once again host the festival in grand style.

Throughout West Godavari district, elaborate programs, decorations, and gatherings are being finalized. Several local organizers and cultural committees have stepped forward to plan large-scale events.

Their aim is to make this year's harvest festival not just a celebration, but an unforgettable rural experience for visitors arriving from across India and abroad. Warm hospitality and elaborate arrangements in keeping with their time-honored tradition of Atmeeya Aathithyam (warm hospitality), villagers are preparing to make guests feel at home throughout the three-day festival.

Instead of allowing visitors to travel elsewhere during the

festivals, organizers are creating facilities that encourage them to spend the entire day in the host villages. Starting from the Bhogi bonfire on the first morning, the schedule includes full-day cultural and culinary treats. A lavish free food service has been arranged at several venues, featuring signature local dishes for breakfast, lunch, evening snacks, and dinner.

In Pulapalli village of Palakollu mandal, event committees have gone a step further. They plan to treat special items such as Doopudu Potlu Biryani and Pandugappa Biryani, along with at least five other festive delicacies, for all three days of the festival.

Local chefs and catering teams have already been booked to manage the large crowds expected during the celebrations.

Special packages attract tourists.

Meanwhile, several hoteliers and guesthouse operators have launched exclusive Sankranti holiday packages to attract domestic and international tourists.

With tradition blending seamlessly with modern event management, this year's Sankranti in the Godavari districts promises to be an unforgettable showcase of Andhra's culture, cuisine, and hospitality.

Under the banner of Sankranti Village, the epicenter of festivities once again.



continued with the program, addressing the gathering later in the day. They emphasized the importance of the signature campaign aimed at defending Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's policies and countering opposition criticism.

Political observers say Monday's incident is a reflection of deeper internal strains in the ruling party at the grassroots level, even in its strongholds like Anantapur. They note that while YSRCP leadership in Amaravati is pushing for organizational unity ahead of crucial political developments, frequent displays of infighting could undermine public confidence and party discipline.

Factional Feud Erupts in Anantapur YSRCP During Party Rally

TPN Bureau | December 16

Anantapur: Internal rifts within the ruling YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) in Anantapur district erupted into the open on Monday, turning a party-organized event into a public showdown. The district-level program, held as part of the YSRCP's statewide "One Crore Signatures" campaign, witnessed heated exchanges and physical scuffles among local party leaders and their followers.

The district event was flagged off from the YSRCP district office and proceeded as a grand two-wheeler rally passing through major city areas, including the Clock Tower flyover. However, shortly after the rally began, tensions flared between two prominent local leaders. Anantapur district YSRCP president Ananta Venkatarami Reddy's

brother Ananta Chandra Reddy and Deputy Mayor Koganti Vijay Bhaskar Reddy.

According to eyewitnesses, the dispute started over who would lead the motorbike procession on the flyover. Both leaders, claiming seniority and influence, insisted on riding in the front row. What began as a heated verbal argument quickly escalated into a public altercation as each leader's supporters joined in, leading to pushing, shouting, and chaos on the crowded flyover. The altercation brought traffic to a standstill across the busy stretch covering the Clock Tower junction, Saptagiri Crossroads, and Patur Market. Motorists were stranded for nearly an hour as police and party organizers scrambled to restore order. In the scuffle, a young participant named Anand reportedly sustained a head injury

when he was hit during the commotion.

He was immediately shifted to a nearby hospital, and his condition is said to be stable. The incident created a tense atmosphere, forcing local police deployment at key junctions to prevent further escalation. Locals criticized the disturbance, noting that the two-wheeler rally already noisy due to vehicles with modified silencers had created severe inconvenience in the city's busy commercial zones. Commuters stuck in traffic jams expressed frustration at the political show of strength disrupting public movement.

Despite the chaos, senior YSRCP leaders including District President Ananta Venkatarami Reddy, MLAs Shivarami Reddy and Mangamma, ZP Chairperson Girijamalla, Mayor Vaseem, and former MP Gorantla Madhav

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Under the banner of Sankranti Village,

Why Big Tech Has Committed Almost \$80 Billion To India In Two Months



The Congress party, one of India's oldest political formations, finds itself in familiar and uncomfortable territory once again. As the year ends, internal turbulence in Karnataka — arguably the party's most strategically important state — has reignited long simmering questions about leadership, decision making, and the role of the vaunted high command. The real question isn't whether the party has capable leaders at the state level, but whether the central leadership can avoid repeating the same mistakes it has made elsewhere.

At the heart of the current political unease is a leadership tussle in Karnataka between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar. The two senior leaders once agreed to a power sharing formula in 2023 that would see Siddaramaiah serve the first half of the term and Shivakumar take over thereafter. But as the halfway mark passed without any clear transition, tension

and speculation have grown. Siddaramaiah, invoking his long-standing stature, has shown little appetite for stepping aside. Meanwhile, Shivakumar's supporters are openly signalling impatience, making it increasingly hard to ignore the simmering dissatisfaction among party legislators and workers.

What makes this particular standoff notable is how it highlights the paralysis of the Congress high command — a theme that has recurred across multiple states. Karnataka, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh have all seen intra party rivalries flare under the watch of national leadership, often culminating in stalled governance and frayed morale. This isn't just politics as usual; it's a pattern of indecision that has tangible consequences for voters and the party's credibility.

The high command's reluctance to decisively resolve the Karnataka impasse has created a paradox:

on paper, the government functions, but in practice, uncertainty stifles momentum. Ministers delay decisions, internal debates overshadow public governance, and the broader administration loses focus. State-level achievements risk being overshadowed by leadership confusion, weakening the party's standing at a time when it needs visible successes more than ever.

This hesitation isn't just a Karnataka problem; it's emblematic of a deeper organisational dilemma within Congress. When internal disagreements arise, the response often seems to be a combination of strategic silence and hope that factions will self regulate. But politics rarely resolves itself without clear direction. In this case, the central leadership's choice to defer a clear answer has only fanned speculation, frustrated supporters, and handed the opposition fresh ammunition.

Critics argue this indecision undermines the party's ability to pre-

sent a unified front, particularly ahead of crucial elections. Instead of asserting authority and clarity, the top-tier leadership looks hesitant — inviting narratives of dysfunction that are difficult to counter. Meanwhile, rival parties seize on these moments to paint Congress as perpetual victims of its own internal contradictions.

Ultimately, Karnataka presents Congress with both a challenge and an opportunity. As one of the few states where the party enjoys stable governance, it should be a showcase of competence and unity. But the ongoing leadership uncertainty risks turning it into yet another cautionary tale of internal discord. The high command must decide whether it wants to lead with conviction or watch from the sidelines as ambiguity erodes its achievements. The time for ambiguity has passed; decisive leadership is what the party — and its voters — urgently need.

Is Congress High Command About to Repeat Its Old Mistakes?



The Congress party, one of India's oldest political formations, finds itself in familiar and uncomfortable territory once again. As the year ends, internal turbulence in Karnataka — arguably the party's most strategically important state — has reignited long simmering questions about leadership, decision making, and the role of the vaunted high command. The real question isn't whether the party has capable leaders at the state level, but whether the central leadership can avoid repeating the same mistakes it has made elsewhere.

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A City Without Water: Lessons for a Thirsty Planet

Water scarcity is no longer a distant threat; it is an urgent reality, vividly illustrated by cities that teeter on the brink of crisis. Recent reports of urban centres running out of potable water serve as a stark reminder that climate change, mismanagement, and overconsumption are converging to create a global challenge that cannot be ignored.

Urban populations are swelling, and with them, demand for freshwater. Cities that once relied on rivers, lakes, or aquifers now face diminishing supplies due to prolonged droughts, erratic rainfall patterns, and excessive extraction. The crisis is compounded by ageing infrastructure, leakage, and inefficient distribution systems, leaving millions without reliable access to clean water.

The consequences of such shortages extend beyond the inconvenience of dry taps. Public health suffers as communities resort to unsafe sources, leading to waterborne diseases and other illnesses. Economies slow as industries dependent on water — from agriculture to manufacturing — struggle to maintain production. Social tensions rise when access to water becomes a point of contention, threatening the very fabric of urban life.

One of the critical lessons is that water scarcity is not just an environmental issue; it is a governance challenge. Cities that fail to plan for population growth, industrial expansion, and climate variability risk pushing their residents into desperation. Policies must address not only immediate shortages but also long-term



sustainability, integrating water conservation, recycling, and equitable distribution into urban planning.

Technology can play a role, but it is not a panacea. Smart metering, desalination, wastewater treatment, and rainwater harvesting can augment supply, but these solutions require investment, maintenance, and public cooperation. Behavioral change — reducing wastage, using water-efficient appliances, and protecting local sources — remains equally vital.

The crisis also underscores a broader planetary warning: water scarcity is not confined to one city or country. Globally, freshwater resources are under pressure, with aquifers depleting faster than they can be replenished and glaciers feeding major rivers melting at alarming rates. A city without water today is a harbinger of a thirsty world tomorrow.

Addressing the challenge demands multi-level action. Governments, private enterprises, and civil society must collaborate to implement sus-

tainable water management practices. Education and awareness campaigns can empower citizens to adopt responsible habits. Investments in resilient infrastructure can buffer communities against climatic shocks. And at a global level, international cooperation on transboundary water resources will be critical to prevent conflict and ensure equitable access.

Ultimately, the story of a city running dry is a wake-up call. It forces us to confront uncomfortable truths about consumption, climate change, and resource management. Water is not limitless, and urban populations cannot continue to expand without a clear plan to secure this most essential of resources.

A city without water is more than a local crisis; it is a glimpse of our planet's future if sustainable practices are not adopted. The time to act is now, before scarcity becomes a permanent reality, reshaping life on Earth in ways that are far more profound than a momentary drought.

The Elusive Identity of Usha Vance in America's Narrative

In the complex tapestry of American society, attempts to define individuals often reveal more about the definers than the defined. The case of Usha Vance illustrates this phenomenon vividly. Despite her growing prominence in business and public discourse, attempts to categorize her identity — by ethnicity, profession, or social role — have repeatedly fallen short, highlighting America's broader struggle with nuance and intersectionality.

Usha Vance, a figure of South Asian descent with a career spanning technology and entrepreneurship, embodies multiple identities simultaneously. She is an innovator, a leader, a woman navigating historically male-dominated sectors, and a representative of an immigrant success story. Yet, media and public narratives often attempt to reduce her to a single category: an "Indian-American tech executive" or "woman entrepreneur." These shorthand labels, while convenient, fail to capture the multifaceted dimensions of her life and influence.

The persistent difficulty in defining Vance reflects a broader challenge within American society: the tendency to oversimplify identities into neat, digestible packages. Race, gender, profession, and cultural background are often treated as separate and isolatable traits, when in reality, they intersect in ways that shape perspectives, opportunities, and lived experiences. Vance's career trajectory, shaped by education, ambition, and cross-cultural

navigation, exemplifies these intersections, which cannot be adequately captured by simplistic descriptors.

Media coverage and public discourse also reveal the implicit biases that influence which aspects of a person's identity are highlighted. For Vance, her South Asian heritage is often foregrounded, sometimes overshadowing her professional achievements. Conversely, her accomplishments in tech and business may be framed as exceptional because of her gender or ethnicity, rather than being recognized as noteworthy in their own right. This dual framing underscores the difficulty of evaluating individuals on their own merits while simultaneously acknowledging the social contexts that influence their paths.

The struggle to define Vance is not merely semantic. It has real implications for representation and perception.

Oversimplified labels risk flattening her narrative, reducing her story to stereotypes or tokenized achievements. At the same time, recognizing the complexity of her identity allows for a richer understanding of the challenges and contributions of women of color in high-stakes professional arenas.

In many ways, Usha Vance becomes a mirror reflecting America's own contradictions: a nation that celebrates diversity in principle but struggles to accommodate it fully in narrative and perception. Her story challenges institutions, media, and audiences to move beyond reductive labels and engage with the complexity of lived experience.

Ultimately, Vance's elusiveness is instructive. It reminds us that identity cannot always be neatly defined or compartmentalized. It is dynamic, multifaceted, and context-dependent. In attempting — and failing — to define her, America is confronted with a broader lesson: meaningful understanding requires attention to nuance, a willingness to embrace complexity, and recognition that individuals cannot always be reduced to categories.

Usha Vance's narrative, therefore, is not just a personal story; it is a commentary on American society itself, challenging conventional frameworks and urging a more sophisticated approach to identity, achievement, and engagement.



Bondi Beach Shooting: Hyderabad-Origin Man Identified Among Attackers

Sydney witnessed one of its most shocking acts of violence in recent years after a deadly shooting at Bondi Beach, a popular tourist destination, left multiple people dead and several others injured. Australian authorities have confirmed that one of the two attackers was Sajid Akram, a man originally from Hyderabad, who was carrying an Indian passport, triggering international attention and a multi-country investigation.

The incident occurred during a busy evening at Bondi Beach, when gunmen opened fire on civilians, causing panic and chaos along the shoreline and nearby public areas. Police responded swiftly, killing one attacker at the scene while the second was critically injured and taken into custody. Authorities have since declared the attack an act of terror-inspired violence, though investigations are ongoing to determine the full extent of planning and possible external links.

Australian police later identified the attackers as a father and son duo. Sajid Akram, aged around 50, was shot dead during the police operation, while his son, Naveed Akram, survived and is currently un-



der heavy security in hospital custody. Officials stated that the attackers appeared to have acted alone, though they were influenced by extremist ideology.

Indian authorities confirmed that Sajid Akram was originally from Hyderabad and had migrated to Australia nearly three decades ago. Despite residing abroad for years, he reportedly continued to hold an Indian passport. Indian police clarified that Akram had minimal contact with relatives in India and that there was no indication of radicalization or operational links originating from Indian soil.

The revelation of Akram's Hyderabad connection prompted coordination between Australian and Indian

investigative agencies. Officials in India have initiated parallel inquiries to trace his background, travel history, and any possible financial or communication links that could aid the Australian probe.

However, early findings suggest that his radicalization occurred overseas and independently of any organized network in India.

Further investigations revealed that the suspects had travelled to Southeast Asia in the weeks preceding the attack, raising questions about potential exposure to extremist influences during the trip. Authorities are examining whether this travel had any connection to the planning or execution of the shooting.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese condemned

the attack in strong terms, calling it an assault on Australia's values of safety, diversity, and peaceful coexistence. He assured citizens that law enforcement agencies would take all necessary steps to prevent similar incidents and protect public spaces.

The shooting has reignited debates in Australia over public safety, counter-terrorism preparedness, and monitoring of radicalization, especially in cases involving lone actors or small family units operating outside established terror networks.

Meanwhile, members of the Indian diaspora in Australia expressed shock and concern over the incident, urging the public not to stigmatize communities based on the actions of individuals. Community leaders emphasized the need for unity and restraint as investigations continue.

As authorities piece together the events leading up to the Bondi Beach tragedy, the focus remains on ensuring justice for the victims and preventing future attacks. The case underscores the growing global challenge of detecting and stopping extremist violence before it erupts in public spaces.

Indian-Origin Woman Detained by US Immigration During Green Card Interview After 30 Years in Country

A 60-year-old Indian-origin woman who has lived in the United States for nearly three decades was unexpectedly detained by US immigration authorities during what was supposed to be the final stage of her application for permanent residency. The incident has drawn significant attention from immigrant communities, elected officials and civil liberties advocates amid ongoing debates over US immigration enforcement practices.

The woman, identified as Babblet "Bubbly" Kaur, has resided in the US since 1994 and was attending a scheduled biometric appointment—usually a routine step in the process of securing a Green Card—when federal immigration officers from US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) took her into custody. The family described the arrest as abrupt and distressing, saying she had an approved residency petition and was simply completing the final procedural requirements.

According to family accounts, Kaur arrived at the immigration office for her biometric scan, a process that typically involves fingerprint-

ing and is considered one of the last steps before a Green Card is granted. While she was waiting, several agents entered the facility and approached her. She was then informed she was being detained. The sudden action reportedly left her relatives and supporters in shock, as they had not anticipated any enforcement measure at that moment.

Kaur's family highlighted that she had no criminal record and had lived peacefully in the United States for more than 30 years. The Green Card petition under review was filed by her daughter, who is a US citizen, and was supported by her husband, a lawful permanent resident. The couple raised three children in the US, with two of them now American citizens and the third protected under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

In the hours following her arrest, Kaur's family said they were not informed of her location, which added to their anxiety. They later learned that she had been transferred to a detention facility where conditions are described as challenging, with limited privacy

and constant noise. Kaur was reportedly granted a brief phone call with her attorney, but the family remains uncertain about the timeline for her legal proceedings and potential release.

The incident has sparked a strong reaction from community leaders and lawmakers. A local congressman publicly criticised the manner in which the detention was carried out, calling it "horrible" and stressing that such actions can terrorize long-standing residents who have contributed to their communities for years. The lawmaker's office stated it was actively communicating with immigration authorities and assisting the family with legal options, including seeking her release on bond while her case moves forward.

Advocates for immigrants' rights argue that the case highlights broader issues within the US immigration system—particularly the enforcement tactics used during routine legal processes. They emphasise that detaining individuals who are lawfully seeking to regularise their status can undermine trust in the legal system and harm families who play active

roles in American society. Kaur's detention also adds to ongoing debates over how immigration laws are implemented, especially for elderly immigrants who have deep roots in the country. The family and supporters are now focusing on legal avenues to challenge the detention, stressing that Kaur's decades of residence and lack of any criminal history should be significant factors in her favor.

As the case unfolds, it is expected to draw continued attention from immigrant communities, legal experts and political leaders concerned about due process and the humane treatment of individuals navigating the complex path to permanent residency in the United States.

Rs 1 Lakh Loan Turns Into Rs 74 Lakh Debt, Maharashtra Farmer Sells Kidney to Repay Dues

In a disturbing incident highlighting the deepening agrarian crisis and unchecked private lending practices, a farmer from Maharashtra was forced to sell his kidney after a loan of just Rs 1 lakh allegedly ballooned into a staggering Rs 74 lakh due to compound interest and informal borrowing arrangements. The case has triggered public outrage and renewed calls for stricter regulation of moneylenders and stronger protections for vulnerable farmers.

The farmer, a resident of a rural district in Maharashtra, had initially borrowed Rs 1 lakh several years ago to meet agricultural and family-related expenses. According to officials, the loan was taken from a private moneylender at a high interest rate, outside the formal banking system. Over time, repeated extensions, penalties, and accumulated interest reportedly pushed the total liability to an amount far beyond the farmer's capacity to repay.

As crop failures, rising input costs, and unpredictable weather patterns worsened his financial condition, the debt kept mounting. With no access to institutional credit or effective debt relief mechanisms, the farmer was allegedly subjected to constant harassment and pressure from the lender.



Unable to see any other way out, he reportedly agreed to sell one of his kidneys to arrange money for partial repayment of the loan.

The illegal organ transplant came to light after the farmer's deteriorating health condition prompted medical scrutiny. Authorities were alerted, leading to the registration of a case and the launch of an investigation into the organ trafficking network allegedly involved.

Police have detained several individuals, including middlemen and medical facilitators, while efforts are underway to identify the moneylender who allegedly exploited the farmer's desperation.

Medical experts have stated

that kidney removal without strict medical necessity and legal authorization poses serious long-term health risks. The farmer is currently undergoing treatment, and doctors have said his condition is stable but will require ongoing medical supervision.

The incident has reignited debate over farmer indebtedness and the persistence of exploitative lending practices in rural India. Despite multiple government schemes aimed at providing affordable credit and loan waivers, many small and marginal farmers continue to rely on private moneylenders due to procedural hurdles, lack of awareness, or delayed institutional support.

The tragic episode underscores the human cost of unchecked debt and systemic gaps in rural credit delivery. As investigations continue, the case stands as a grim reminder of the urgent need for comprehensive reforms to address farmer distress, regulate informal lending, and prevent exploitation driven by poverty and desperation.

Rahul Gandhi Sharpens Attack on Prime Minister Modi Amid G Ram Controversy



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday intensified his political attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alleging that the Prime Minister harbours "hatred for two things" — dissent and constitutional institutions.

Gandhi's remarks came amid an escalating political row over the G Ram controversy, adding fresh momentum to the ongoing war of words between the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the opposition Congress.

Addressing party workers and media, Rahul Gandhi accused the Prime Minister of repeatedly targeting voices that question the government.

He alleged that the Modi government has consistently weakened institutions meant to uphold democratic values and constitutional safeguards. According to Gandhi, recent developments linked to the G Ram issue are yet another example of how the ruling dispensation reacts sharply to criticism rather than engaging in constructive dialogue.

While Gandhi did not directly accuse the Prime Minister of personal wrongdoing, he framed his criticism as part of a broader pattern of governance ahead of upcoming political battles. Over the past year, Gandhi has repeatedly targeted the Prime Minister on issues related to central agencies, electoral processes, and the role of constitutional bodies. His supporters argue that such criticism

tolerance towards alternative viewpoints.

The BJP strongly rejected the allegations, accusing Rahul Gandhi of indulging in political theatrics and misleading the public. Party spokespersons argued that the Congress leader was attempting to divert attention from internal challenges within his party and recent electoral setbacks. They maintained that the Modi government has strengthened institutions and ensured transparency through reforms and accountability measures.

The G Ram controversy, which has sparked intense debate in political circles, has become a flashpoint for opposition criticism. While details of the matter continue to be contested, opposition leaders claim it underscores broader issues related to governance and institutional independence. The BJP, however, insists that due process is being followed and has dismissed claims of political interference.

Political analysts observe that Rahul Gandhi's remarks are part of a calculated effort to position himself as a defender of democratic institutions ahead of upcoming political battles. Over the past year, Gandhi has repeatedly targeted the Prime Minister on issues related to central agencies, electoral processes, and the role of constitutional bodies. His supporters argue that such criticism

is necessary to keep the government accountable, while critics view it as rhetoric lacking substantive alternatives.

The exchange also highlights the increasingly confrontational tone of Indian politics, where sharp personal remarks often dominate public discourse. With Parliament sessions frequently disrupted and political debates spilling into public rallies and press briefings, consensus-building has taken a back seat to high-decibel accusations.

Senior Congress leaders rallied behind Gandhi's statement, asserting that the party would continue to raise questions it believes are in the public interest. They accused the BJP of silencing opposition voices and using state machinery for political gain. Meanwhile, BJP leaders countered by listing welfare schemes and governance achievements, asserting that public support for the Prime Minister remains strong.

As the political confrontation intensifies, observers note that such exchanges are likely to continue in the run-up to key elections. Whether Rahul Gandhi's sharp rhetoric resonates with voters or strengthens political polarization remains to be seen. For now, the G Ram controversy has added another chapter to the ongoing and deeply entrenched rivalry between the Congress and the BJP.

Priyanka Gandhi Slams Proposal to Rename MGNREGA, Calls It "Governance by Whim"



Congress leader and Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday strongly criticised the proposal to rename the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), warning that no law should be altered based on the "personal whims" of those in power. Her remarks came amid growing political controversy over the Centre's reported move to rename the flagship rural employment scheme as G-RAM.

Speaking to party workers and media, Priyanka Gandhi said MGNREGA is not merely a welfare programme but a legally guaranteed right for rural citizens, enacted after years of parliamentary debate and consensus. She argued that renaming such a landmark legislation without broad discussion undermines democratic norms and disrupts the intent behind the law.

"MGNREGA was passed by Parliament to protect the dignity and livelihood of rural workers," she said. "No government has the authority to casually rename a law that affects millions of people across the country. Laws are not personal branding tools."

The Congress leader accused the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of attempting to erase historical contributions associated with previous governments rather than focusing on improving implementation. She alleged that the Centre's approach reflected a pattern of symbolic politics, where renaming schemes take priority over addressing ground realities such as delayed wages, reduced workdays, and budgetary constraints faced by MGNREGA

beneficiaries.

MGNREGA, introduced in 2005, guarantees 100 days of wage employment annually to rural households and is widely regarded as one of India's most impactful social security legislations. Over the years, the scheme has played a critical role in poverty alleviation, rural asset creation, and migration control, particularly during economic distress and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Priyanka Gandhi also raised concerns about the manner in which the proposed renaming is being discussed, stating that no bill should be introduced or passed without detailed debate and consultation. "Parliament exists for discussion, scrutiny, and consensus. Decisions affecting the livelihoods of crores of Indians cannot be taken unilaterally," she said.

The BJP has rejected the criticism, stating that the government remains committed to rural development and employment generation. Party leaders argued that reforms and rebranding are part of governance evolution and accused the Congress of politicising welfare schemes for electoral advantage. They also claimed that the focus should remain on efficiency, transparency, and outcomes rather than

nomenclature. Political analysts say the controversy reflects a broader ideological clash between the ruling party and the opposition over legacy, symbolism, and governance style. While the BJP has often defended renaming initiatives as part of administrative rationalisation, the Congress views them as attempts to dilute historical narratives linked to its leadership.

Opposition leaders beyond Congress have also expressed reservations about altering the name of MGNREGA, cautioning that such moves could distract from pressing issues like funding shortages and wage arrears. Farmer unions and rural worker organisations have echoed similar concerns, urging the government to prioritise timely payments and adequate work allocation.

As the debate intensifies, the proposed renaming of MGNREGA has become a fresh flashpoint in Parliament and beyond. Whether the Centre moves ahead with the change or reconsiders amid opposition pressure remains to be seen. For now, the issue has reopened a larger conversation about governance priorities, parliamentary procedure, and the sanctity of landmark social welfare laws.

Who Is Bettina Anderson? Socialite Engaged to Donald Trump Jr. Draws Public Attention

Bettina Anderson, a prominent American socialite and philanthropist, has come into the global spotlight following reports of her engagement to Donald Trump Jr., the eldest son of former US President Donald Trump. The development has attracted widespread attention in political and social circles, given Trump Jr.'s high-profile role in conservative politics and business.

Bettina Anderson is known primarily for her presence in elite social and philanthropic circles in the United States. Based in Florida, she has been actively involved in charity initiatives, social causes, and fundraising events linked to education, healthcare, and community development. Her public profile has largely remained outside partisan politics, with her work focused on advocacy and lifestyle-oriented philanthropy.

Born into a well-established family, Anderson reportedly comes from a background associated with business and civic engagement. She has maintained a strong presence in cultural and charity events, particularly in Florida's Palm Beach and Miami social scenes. Friends and associates describe her as someone who values privacy despite her frequent appearances at high-profile gatherings.

Donald Trump Jr., a businessman and political commentator, has been a central figure in Republican campaigning over the past several years. As a vocal supporter of his father's political ideology, he has played a significant role in mobilising conservative voters and fundraising efforts. His engagement to Anderson marks a notable personal development amid his ongoing public and political activities.

According to reports, the couple has been seen together at several private and public events in recent months, sparking speculation before the engagement became public. While neither Anderson nor Trump Jr. has issued an extensive public statement, sources close to the family suggest that the relationship has been welcomed by those around them.

The engagement has also drawn attention due to the timing, coming



amid heightened political activity in the United States. Observers note that personal developments within the Trump family often generate intense media interest, given their continued influence over conservative politics and public discourse.

Despite being thrust into the media spotlight, Anderson has maintained a relatively low-key public stance. Those familiar with her work say she prefers to be recognised for her charitable efforts rather than celebrity associations. However, analysts believe her profile is likely to expand significantly following the engagement, particularly as Trump Jr. remains a prominent political figure.

Social media reactions to the news have been mixed, ranging from congratulatory messages to broader commentary on the Trump family's public influence. Lifestyle and political commentators alike have begun examining Anderson's background, fashion presence, and philanthropic commitments, reflecting the public's curiosity about individuals linked to major political families.

As preparations reportedly begin for the next phase of their relationship, attention is expected to remain focused on the couple. Whether Bettina Anderson chooses to step into a more visible public role alongside Donald Trump Jr. or continues her work largely away from politics remains to be seen.

For now, the engagement represents a personal milestone for both individuals while reinforcing the continued public fascination with the lives of figures connected to America's most polarising political dynasty.

Hollywood in Shock: Son Arrested in Fatal Stabbing of Filmmaker Rob Reiner and Wife



LOS ANGELES — Hollywood was stunned over the weekend after authorities arrested 32-year-old Nick Reiner, the son of acclaimed filmmaker and actor Rob Reiner and his wife Michele Singer Reiner, in connection with their deaths. The couple was found dead on Sunday in their Brentwood, Los Angeles home, and police have launched a homicide investigation.

Emergency responders were called to the residence in the afternoon after the couple's daughter discovered them unresponsive. Investigators determined that both Rob and Michele had suffered fatal stab wounds. Nick Reiner was taken into custody shortly after the discovery and booked on suspicion of murder. He remains in custody without bail as authorities continue their investigation into the incident. The motive for the killings has not been publicly disclosed.

Reports indicate that on the night before the deaths, Nick and his father attended a holiday gathering hosted by television host Conan O'Brien. Witnesses said the father and son were involved in a heated argument. While authorities have not confirmed a direct connection between the altercation and the subsequent tragedy, the confrontation has drawn attention as part of the ongoing investigation.

Rob Reiner, 78, was one of the most respected figures in Hollywood. He rose to fame in the 1970s for his role as Mike "Meathead" Stivic in the groundbreaking sitcom *All in the Family*. Later, he became a celebrated director, creating iconic films such as *This Is Spinal Tap*, *Stand by Me*, *The Princess Bride*, *When Harry Met Sally...*, and *A Few Good Men*. In addition to his film career, Reiner was known for his activism and engagement in political and social issues.

Michele Singer Reiner, 68, was a tal-

ented photographer and film producer who often collaborated with her husband. She met Rob Reiner during the filming of *When Harry Met Sally...* and played a significant role in both their personal and professional lives. The couple had been married for over three decades and raised three children together.

The news of their deaths has sent shockwaves through the entertainment industry. Colleagues, fans, and political figures have expressed their grief and condolences. Los Angeles officials described the loss as devastating, noting the impact of Rob Reiner's contributions to film and culture. Former President Barack Obama and California Governor Gavin Newsom were among those who publicly paid tribute to the couple's legacy.

Nick Reiner's history of struggles with addiction and mental health has been widely reported, and these challenges were reflected in the semi-autobiographical film *Being Charlie*, which he co-created with his father in 2016. Despite their artistic collaborations, the violent events leading to the deaths of Rob and Michele have left the community grappling with grief and disbelief.

The Los Angeles Police Department continues to investigate all aspects of the case, and prosecutors are preparing to file formal charges. The incident has been described by officials as both shocking and deeply tragic, underscoring the unpredictability of personal and familial crises, even among prominent figures in the public eye.

As the investigation unfolds, Hollywood and the wider public are mourning the loss of two influential figures whose work, creativity, and advocacy left a lasting impact on generations of audiences around the world.

UK Launches BBC Funding Review Amid Fallout From Trump Defamation Lawsuit



The United Kingdom government has launched a high-profile review of the BBC's funding model, aiming to "future proof" the public broadcaster as it navigates mounting challenges — including a multi-billion-dollar defamation lawsuit filed by former US President Donald Trump. The move marks a rare moment of introspection and potential reform for the BBC at a time of legal, financial, and political stress.

The review, announced by Culture Secretary Lisa Nandy in London, comes as the BBC faces a lawsuit in a Miami federal court in which Trump is seeking up to \$10 billion in damages. Trump's legal action accuses the BBC of defaming him by deceptively editing segments of his January 6, 2021 speech in a documentary, an accusation the broadcaster denies even as it apologised for the misleading edit. The BBC has said it will defend the lawsuit, insisting there is no legal basis for the claims.

Nandy said the review is designed to ensure the BBC remains independent, accountable, and trusted by audiences, while also being financially sustainable in a rapidly

evolving media landscape.

She emphasised that the goal is to help the institution continue serving the public effectively amid declining revenue from its traditional funding system and growing competition from global streaming platforms.

Under its current model,

the BBC is funded primarily through an annual television licence fee, a mandatory charge paid by households that watch live TV. However, the number of households paying the licence fee has been falling steadily as more consumers shift to online and subscription services. With the licence fee set at £174.50 per year, the broadcaster derives the bulk of its revenue from this source — a model that many now question for its sustainability.

The funding review will explore a range of options.

These include ways to boost commercial revenue through advertising or subscription services, expand income from international operations such as the World Service, and consider reforms to how the licence fee is structured. Officials have also suggested exploring hybrid models in which essential public services like

news and children's programming remain universally available, while entertainment and drama could be offered through optional subscription services.

Nandy stressed that any

changes would need to preserve the BBC's editorial independence and public service mission. She highlighted the institution's role not just as a news provider but as a central cultural and economic contributor in the UK, underpinning local production and employment.

The review coincides with significant internal and external scrutiny of the BBC. In addition to the Trump lawsuit, the broadcaster has faced a series of controversies, including resignations by senior ex-

ecutives over editorial misjudgments and criticism over reporting on international conflicts. These issues have reignited longstanding debates about the BBC's impartiality and governance.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer's office has said that legal matters such as the Trump lawsuit

are for the broadcaster to handle, while affirming the government's support for the BBC's independence. Starmer's administration underscored the importance of a strong public service broadcaster, even as it pushes for reforms to funding mechanisms and greater accountability.

Opposition parties and media unions have welcomed parts of the review, stressing the need to protect journalistic independence while ensuring long-term financial stability. However, critics warn that introducing commercial elements — such as advertising or subscriptions — could fundamentally alter the nature of the BBC and its public service ethos.

The funding review is expected to produce recommendations well ahead of the BBC's charter renewal in 2027, providing a blueprint for how one of the world's oldest and most influential public broadcasters will operate in the years to come. The process will be closely watched by media stakeholders, political figures, and audiences alike as the BBC navigates both legal battles and transformational change.

Zelenskyy Says Peace Proposals to End War in Ukraine Could Be Presented to Russia Within Days



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has revealed that draft peace proposals aimed at ending the ongoing war with Russia could be finalised within days and presented to Moscow, signalling a potential move toward a diplomatic resolution after nearly four years of conflict. The announcement comes following intensive discussions with U.S. officials and European partners in Berlin earlier this week.

Zelenskyy stated that negotiations with U.S. envoys have produced a draft plan that he described as "very workable," while stressing that significant challenges remain. A key sticking point continues to be the fate of Ukrainian territories currently occupied by Russian forces, which Kyiv has repeatedly insisted must remain under Ukrainian sovereignty.

According to Zelenskyy, the finalized proposals are expected to be delivered to Moscow within days, with further diplomatic en-

gagements planned over the coming weekend in the United States. The discussions in Berlin involved marathon talks between Ukrainian, American, and European representatives aimed at narrowing differences ahead of potential direct negotiations with Russia.

Despite progress, Zelenskyy acknowledged that unresolved issues could still derail a deal. Central among them is the status of Russian-occupied areas in eastern Ukraine and Crimea. Ukraine has emphasized that it will not

recognize Moscow's control over these regions. Some proposals being considered, such as the creation of a "free economic zone" in parts of the Donbas, are designed to facilitate cooperation without implying Russian sovereignty.

Officials involved in the talks indicated that the draft plan has achieved consensus on roughly 90 percent of its provisions among Ukraine and its European allies. These in-

rangements could include an European-led monitoring or peacekeeping force to ensure adherence to a ceasefire, prevent violations, and help maintain stability in contested areas.

U.S. officials have voiced optimism about the process, describing a peace agreement as closer than ever, while acknowledging the remaining disagreements that must be resolved. Western support, particularly through security guarantees and potential peacekeeping mechanisms, remains central to Kyiv's strategy for safeguarding its territory and deterring future aggression.

European leaders have indicated that security arrangements could include an European-led monitoring or peacekeeping force to ensure adherence to a ceasefire, prevent violations, and help maintain stability in contested areas. The proposals are designed to provide a durable peace structure while avoiding direct NATO involvement on Ukrainian soil.

Analysts caution that major hurdles remain.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's willingness to accept terms that do not reward territorial conquest is uncertain, and

Russian claims over its land. Should Moscow reject the proposals, Kyiv has indicated that it would seek expanded Western sanctions and increased military support.

As diplomats finalize the proposals, global attention is sharply focused on whether these initiatives will succeed in bringing about a ceasefire and eventual peace, or whether geopolitical divisions and territorial disputes will continue to stall progress. The coming days are expected to be critical in shaping the future trajectory of the Ukraine-Russia conflict.

Trump Sues BBC for \$10 Billion, Alleges Defamation Over Edited January 6 Speech



Former U.S. President Donald Trump has filed a \$10 billion defamation lawsuit against the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), accusing the public broadcaster of deceptively editing his January 6, 2021 speech and misrepresenting his words to falsely suggest he incited violence. The lawsuit, filed in a federal court in Florida, marks a high-profile legal battle between a former U.S. president and one of the world's most prominent media organisations.

The case centers on a Panorama documentary aired by the BBC in late 2024, shortly before the U.S. presidential election. The broadcast included a portion of Trump's remarks on January 6, the day of the Capitol attack. According to Trump's complaint, the BBC spliced together segments of his speech, combining moments in which he spoke about walking to the Capitol with supporters and

saying "fight like hell," while omitting context where he encouraged peaceful protest. Trump claims the editing created a false impression that he explicitly called for

violence. The lawsuit contends that the BBC's actions were not merely editorial mistakes but constituted defamation and violations of Florida's Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act. Trump's legal team is seeking \$5 billion in damages for defamation and another \$5 billion for deceptive editing practices, citing reputational and financial harm caused by the broadcast.

Trump's filing alleges that the BBC presented a "false, defamatory, deceptive, disparaging, inflammatory, and malicious depiction" of his speech, arguing that the edited version could influence public perception, particularly during the 2024 election cycle. He claims that the broadcaster offered no meaningful restitution or

reforms to prevent similar editorial abuses.

The BBC had previously admitted that the edit gave a misleading impression and issued an apology, describing the incident as an "error of judgment." However, Trump stated that the apology was insufficient, arguing that the damage to his reputation required substantial legal remedy.

The controversy also led to intense internal scrutiny at the BBC, resulting in resignations at senior levels of its news division.

In response to the lawsuit, the BBC has maintained that there is no legal basis for the defamation claim, noting that the documentary was originally broadcast in the UK and not widely in the U.S.

This lawsuit adds to a pattern of legal battles between Trump and major media organisations, following previous defamation claims against U.S. outlets.

Observers note that the outcome could have implications not only for Trump's legal strategy but also for international journalism, editorial standards, and how media outlets handle politically sensitive content.

As the case progresses, it will be closely watched by legal analysts, media experts, and the public, given its potential to influence both U.S. defamation law and global perceptions of journalistic responsibility.

RBI Clears HDFC Bank Group to Hold Up to 9.5% in IndusInd Bank



New Delhi, December 16:

In a significant regulatory development that has drawn attention across the banking and financial markets, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted approval to HDFC Bank and its group entities to hold an aggregate stake of up to 9.50 per cent in another private sector lender, IndusInd Bank. The approval, formalised through an RBI letter dated December 15, 2025, is valid for a period of one year and is aimed at ensuring compliance with regulatory norms governing significant shareholding in banking companies.

Under RBI regulations, acquisition or holding of 5 per cent or more of a bank's paid-up share capital or voting rights by another bank or related entities requires prior central bank approval. In this case, HDFC Bank's group entities — including its mutual fund arm, life insurance company, general insurance business, pension fund and securities wing — had collectively crossed this threshold in IndusInd Bank based on their combined investments. To

regularise this cumulative exposure, a formal application was made by HDFC Bank to the RBI in October this year, prompting the regulator's approval.

The aggregate holding permission means that the combined stake of HDFC Bank group entities in IndusInd Bank must not exceed 9.50 per cent at any time during the approval period. Should the combined shareholding fall below 5 per cent, the group will need to seek fresh RBI approval to increase its holding beyond that lower threshold. The central bank's clearance does not automatically imply that HDFC Bank will make fresh direct investments; rather, it allows its affiliated entities to maintain and, where necessary, acquire equity up to the sanctioned limit.

Market observers note that the approval addresses a technical requirement under the RBI's "Commercial Banks — Acquisition and Holding of Shares or Voting Rights" guidelines issued this year. These

guidelines treat holdings by all related group firms under common management or control as part of the aggregate shareholding, requiring prior clearance once such combined holdings exceed the regulatory cap.

The announcement prompted focused attention on both banks' shares in early trade, with investors weighing the implications for future strategic collaboration or investment flows between prominent players in the Indian banking sector. While HDFC Bank itself has clarified that it does not currently intend to make direct capital infusion into IndusInd Bank, the regulatory permission provides flexibility for its group companies to pursue normal course investments within the stipulated limits.

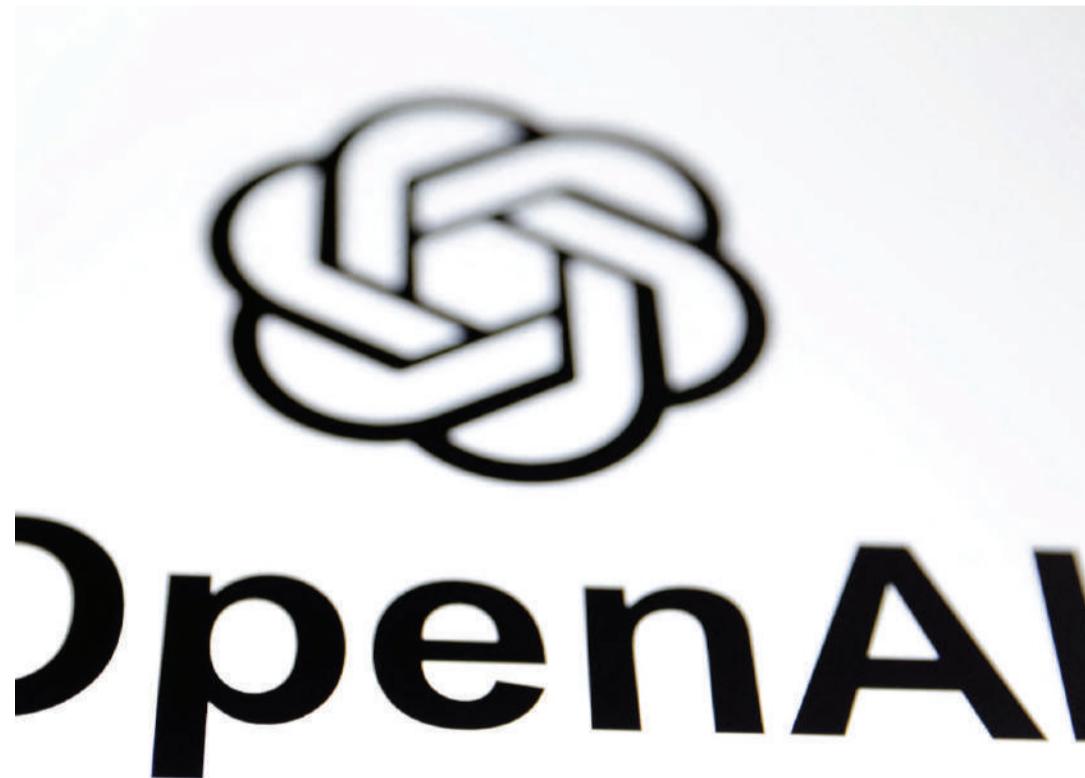
IndusInd Bank, which has faced a phase of organisational and financial challenges this year, including leadership changes and stress in certain portfolio segments, stands to benefit indirectly from the clarity around institutional shareholding structures. Regulatory

approval for higher aggregate holdings by large financial groups can sometimes help stabilise market perceptions and support broader confidence in a bank's investor base.

Analysts say that the RBI's stance underscores its continued oversight on systemic risks associated with interlinkages between large lenders. By setting a clear cap and timeframe, the regulator aims to strike a balance between investor freedom and financial stability, ensuring that significant capital movements in one bank do not create undue concentration risk or governance concerns in another.

Going forward, both HDFC Bank and its group firms will monitor market conditions and regulatory developments closely, while ensuring adherence to all compliance requirements tied to the approved holding limit. The one-year validity of the approval means the group has until mid-December 2026 to adjust and manage its combined exposure within the sanctioned threshold.

OpenAI Appoints Former Google Executive as Corporate Development Head



San Francisco, December 15: OpenAI has appointed a seasoned former Google executive as its new Vice President of Corporate Development, marking a key leadership move as the artificial intelligence company accelerates its expansion and sharpens its long-term strategic ambitions. The appointment underscores OpenAI's intent to strengthen deal-making, partnerships, and strategic investments at a time when competition in the global AI industry is intensifying.

The newly appointed executive brings years of experience from Google, where they played a central role in corporate strategy, mergers and acquisitions, and business development across multiple technology segments. At OpenAI, the executive will be responsible for overseeing corporate development

initiatives, including partnerships, acquisitions, and strategic collaborations that support the company's rapid growth and evolving business model.

OpenAI has expanded quickly over the past few years, transitioning from a research-focused organisation into a major commercial player in artificial intelligence. Its products and services are now widely used by businesses, developers, and consumers around the world, while its enterprise offerings and partnerships with large technology firms have significantly increased its market presence.

As the company scales further, corporate development has become a critical function in identifying growth opportunities and managing complex strategic relationships.

Industry observers say the

appointment reflects OpenAI's focus on building a leadership team with deep experience in navigating large-scale technology ecosystems. Executives with backgrounds at established tech giants are increasingly being drawn to fast-growing AI firms, which are seeking to balance innovation with operational discipline and regulatory awareness.

The move also comes at a time when artificial intelligence companies face growing scrutiny from regulators and policymakers globally. Strategic acquisitions, data partnerships, and platform integrations are under closer examination, making experienced leadership in corporate development essential. OpenAI is expected to pursue partnerships that expand its computing capacity, distribution channels, and access to

high-quality data, while remaining compliant with evolving regulatory frameworks.

OpenAI's leadership has highlighted the importance of responsible growth and long-term sustainability. By bringing in an executive with a strong track record in corporate strategy, the company aims to ensure that future expansion aligns with both commercial goals and ethical considerations around AI deployment. The new vice president is expected to work closely with senior leadership to evaluate potential deals that strengthen OpenAI's technological capabilities and market reach.

The appointment follows a series of high-profile hires and internal changes as OpenAI continues to mature as an organisation. With demand for advanced AI models rising across sectors such as software, healthcare, finance, education, and retail, the company is positioning itself to compete more aggressively with both established technology firms and emerging AI startups.

Analysts believe that OpenAI's focus on corporate development signals a more structured approach to growth, moving beyond organic expansion to include carefully selected acquisitions and alliances. Such a strategy could help the company accelerate innovation, enter new markets, and secure critical resources in an increasingly crowded AI landscape.

As OpenAI continues to evolve, the addition of a former Google executive to its leadership team highlights the convergence of big technology experience and next-generation AI innovation. The move is widely seen as a step toward strengthening OpenAI's strategic foundation as it seeks to maintain its leadership position in the fast-moving global artificial intelligence sector.

NCLT Clears Vedanta's Major Demerger Plan



Mumbai, December 16:

Indian equity markets closed sharply lower on Tuesday as sustained selling pressure across key sectors dragged benchmark indices into the red. Weak global cues, profit booking at higher levels, and cautious investor sentiment weighed heavily on Dalal Street, leading to a broad-based decline in stocks.

The BSE Sensex ended the session down by over 500 points, while the NSE Nifty50 slipped below the crucial 26,000 mark. The fall reflected weakness across frontline stocks as well as mid-cap and small-cap segments, indicating a widespread risk-off mood among investors.

Sectorally, realty, banking, and information technology stocks emerged as the biggest laggards. Heavyweight financial stocks witnessed notable selling, adding pressure on the benchmarks. Realty stocks also underperformed, reflecting concerns over valuations and near-term demand outlook. IT shares declined amid cautious global technology cues and uncertainty surrounding overseas demand.

Among Sensex constituents, stocks such as HCL Technologies, Tata Steel, Bajaj Finserv, Axis Bank, UltraTech Cement, and NTPC were among the major losers, each declining by more than one per cent. Selling pressure in these heavyweight stocks played a key role in dragging the indices lower. On the other hand, a handful of consumer-oriented and defensive stocks managed to show limited resilience, though their gains were insufficient to offset broader market losses.

The broader market mirrored the weakness seen in benchmark indices. Mid-cap and small-cap stocks faced selling pressure, with investors continuing to trim exposure amid elevated volatility. Market participants remained cautious, preferring to book profits after the recent rally and stay on the sidelines ahead of upcoming domestic and global triggers.

Stock-specific action was visible despite the overall weak trend. Shares of several companies remained in focus due to corporate announcements, regulatory developments, and trading restrictions. Some stocks were placed under restrictions in the derivatives segment, while others drew attention due to sharp price movements during the session.

The primary market also remained in focus, with the ongoing initial public offering of a major asset management company attracting investor attention on its final day of subscription. The IPO activity added to market buzz, even as secondary markets remained under pressure.

Market experts attributed Tuesday's decline to a combination of weak global cues, cautious foreign investor activity, and profit booking after recent gains. Concerns over global economic growth, interest rate trajectories, and geopolitical developments continued to influence investor sentiment. Additionally, the breach of key technical levels on the Nifty added to selling pressure during the latter part of the session.

Despite the day's losses, analysts believe the broader market structure remains intact, supported by strong domestic fundamentals and steady participation from long-term investors. However, they cautioned that near-term volatility could persist as markets react to global developments, macroeconomic data, and corporate earnings announcements.

Looking ahead, investors are expected to closely monitor global market trends, foreign fund flows, and upcoming economic indicators for further cues. While short-term sentiment remains cautious, market participants see selective opportunities in fundamentally strong stocks amid ongoing corrections. The coming sessions are likely to be guided by a mix of global signals and domestic developments, keeping markets volatile but range-bound in the near term.

Markets Slide as Sensex Drops Over 500 Points, Nifty Slips Below 26,000



Mumbai, December 16:

The Mumbai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has approved Vedanta Ltd's long-awaited demerger plan, clearing the path for one of India's biggest corporate restructurings in recent years. The decision allows the Anil Agarwal-led natural resources conglomerate to split its diverse businesses into multiple independent and focused companies.

With the tribunal's approval now in place, Vedanta can move ahead with implementing the demerger, which is expected to be completed by the end of the current financial year, subject to customary procedural and regulatory requirements. The restructuring is aimed at simplifying the company's complex conglomerate structure and unlocking greater value for shareholders.

As per the approved scheme, Vedanta Ltd will continue as the base metals company, while four new entities will be created to separately house the aluminium, power, steel and iron, and oil and gas businesses. These entities will operate as independent listed companies with their own leadership teams, balance sheets, and strategic priorities.

The demerger is designed to give each business greater operational autonomy and sharper strategic focus. Existing shareholders of Vedanta Ltd will receive proportionate shares in each of the newly formed companies, ensuring continuity of ownership without any cash outflow. The move is expected to offer investors clearer exposure to individual business segments rather than a single diversified entity.

The tribunal's nod follows months of examination and hearings, during which certain objections were raised, particularly related to disclosures and liabilities in the oil and gas segment. Vedanta addressed these concerns through additional clarifications and commitments, satisfying the tribunal and paving the way for final approval.

The market responded positively to the announcement, with Vedanta's shares registering strong gains as investors welcomed the removal of a key regulatory overhang. Analysts noted that the demerger could lead to better valuation discovery, improved capital allocation, and enhanced transparency across the group's businesses.

Earlier, the demerger plan had received overwhelming support from shareholders and creditors, reflecting strong confidence in the company's long-term strategy. Industry observers believe the restructuring will enable each business to pursue growth opportunities more effectively, attract sector-specific investors, and strengthen overall governance.

Once implemented, Vedanta's demerger is expected to mark a significant milestone in the Indian corporate sector. The company's management is now likely to focus on execution, including regulatory filings, formation of new boards, and preparations for separate listings. The successful completion of this exercise could serve as a model for other large conglomerates looking to unlock shareholder value through focused corporate restructuring.



IPL 2026 Auction: Record Deals, Emerging Stars, and Strategic Moves Set the Stage for a Thrilling Season

The Indian Premier League (IPL) Auction 2026, held on December 16, 2025, in Abu Dhabi, turned out to be one of the most electrifying auctions in recent IPL history. With 10 franchises looking to complete their squads, the mini-auction provided drama, surprises, and record-breaking bids, reflecting the evolving strategies of teams in the world's most popular T20 league. The upcoming season, scheduled from March 26 to May 31, 2026, promises to be one of the most competitive yet, with a mix of established stars, new talent, and tactical acquisitions shaping the contest.

Auction Overview

Unlike mega auctions, IPL 2026 featured a mini-auction, allowing teams to fill remaining slots after retentions, trades, and releases. A total of 350 players, including 110 overseas and 240 Indian players, were shortlisted. However, only 77 slots were up for grabs, making the competition fierce. Franchises had to manage their remaining purse carefully while balancing marquee overseas players with emerging Indian talent. The auction saw aggressive bidding, especially for multi-dimensional players who could perform in multiple roles, reflecting the strategic shift towards versatile squad composition.

The absence of Right to Match (RTM) cards meant teams could not simply retain

their released stars at fixed prices, forcing franchises to adopt a more calculated and tactical approach. The focus was on building balanced squads capable of adapting to different match situations while maintaining high-performance standards.

Record-Breaking Buys

The auction's biggest headline was the acquisition of Australian all-rounder Cameron Green by Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) for ₹25.20 crore, making him the most expensive overseas player in IPL history. Green's skill set, which includes hard-hitting batting, seam bowling, and finishing games under pressure, made him the most sought-after player of the auction. KKR's aggressive approach in securing Green immediately established them as a team to watch in the upcoming season.

KKR also strengthened their pace attack with Sri Lankan pacer Matheesha Pathirana, who was signed for ₹18 crore, adding raw speed and lethal death-over abilities to their arsenal. Their overseas additions, including Finn Allen and Ben Dwarshuis, were also snapped up, ensuring that IPL 2026 will showcase fresh talent alongside established stars. Teams prioritized versatile players capable of contributing in multiple facets of the game, including batting, bowling, and fielding.

Delhi Capitals (DC) made waves by securing David Mill-

er, the experienced South African finisher, for ₹2 crore, widely regarded as a bargain considering his international credentials. DC also invested in uncapped Indian talent, notably Akib Dar, who fetched ₹8.40 crore, reflecting the growing faith franchises have in emerging domestic stars.

Emerging Indian Talent Steals the Spotlight

The IPL 2026 auction highlighted the growing importance of uncapped Indian players, with franchises willing to pay substantial amounts for promising talent. In addition to Akib Dar, Chennai Super Kings (CSK) made headlines with the acquisitions of Prashant Veer and Kartik Sharma, both going for ₹14.20 crore each. These record prices underline the league's commitment to nurturing new talent while simultaneously balancing squads with experience and leadership.

Other uncapped players such as Yash Thakur, Abhinav Sadarangani, Ravi Bishnoi, and Praveen Dubey were also snapped up, ensuring that IPL 2026 will showcase fresh talent alongside established stars. Teams prioritized versatile players capable of contributing in multiple facets of the game, including batting, bowling, and fielding.

Team Strategies and Squad Composition

Each franchise entered the auction with distinct strategies:

Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) opted for a high-spending strategy, securing marquee overseas players alongside promising Indian talent. With Cameron Green, Matheesha Pathirana, Finn Allen, and Ben Dwarshuis, KKR now possesses one of the most balanced squads in terms of batting, bowling, and all-round capabilities.

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) focused on youth and potential. Apart from Prashant Veer and Kartik Sharma, CSK picked Rahul Chahar, Akiel Hosein, Matthew Short, Matt Henry, Sivang Kumar, and Aman Khan. By blending international experience with domestic promise, CSK aimed to maintain the perfect balance between consistency and raw talent.

Delhi Capitals (DC) strengthened their finishing power and bowling attack with players like David Miller, Ben Duckett, Kyle Jamieson, Lungi Ngidi, Akib Dar, Patum Nissanka, and Adam Milne. Their strategy clearly emphasized a mix of seasoned match-winners and energetic young players to maintain depth and versatility across formats.

Mumbai Indians (MI) opted for selective spending, bringing in Quinton de Kock, Danish Malvear, Mayank Rawat,

and Cooper Connolly. They relied on their core retained players while investing in niche roles such as wicket-keeping, finishing, and specialized bowling.

Other franchises such as Lucknow Super Giants (LSG), Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB), Gujarat Titans (GT), Rajasthan Royals (RR), Punjab Kings (PBKS), and Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) also followed specific strategies. LSG focused on spin and all-round depth, signing Wanindu Hasaranga and Anrich Nortje. RCB strengthened their batting with Venkatesh Iyer and bowling options with Jacob Duffy. GT invested in finishing power and spin with Josh Inglis and Rashid Khan, while RR and PBKS prioritized balanced squads with depth in both batting and bowling.

These purchases highlight franchises' strategies of securing all-rounders, finishers, and versatile players capable of performing in multiple roles.

Surprise Snubs and Unsold Players

While some players commanded high prices, several experienced names went unsold, surprising fans and analysts alike. Notable unsold players included Jake Fraser McGurk, Devon Conway, Gus Atkinson, Wiaan Mulder, Jamie Smith, Jonny Bairstow, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, KS Bharat, and Deepak Hooda.

Many of these players may still find opportunities as injury replacements or late signings, keeping the competition alive and unpredictable.

Overseas players dominated marquee buys, emphasizing the importance of international T20 stars.

Uncapped Indian players achieved record bids, reflecting the league's faith in domestic talent.

Teams increasingly prioritized balance and versatility over big names alone, focusing on all-rounders, finishers, and specialized bowlers.

The auction demonstrated the evolving tactical approach in the IPL, where careful squad management and strategic spending are as critical as raw talent.

Looking Ahead to IPL 2026

With squads finalized, franchises are now turning their attention to pre-season camps, practice matches, and refining team combinations. The tournament promises high-octane action, strategic battles, and opportunities for emerging stars to shine. Analysts predict that IPL 2026 will be among the most competitive seasons, with close finishes, breakout performances, and tactical masterstrokes defining the journey.

Fans can expect power-packed matches, thrilling finishes, and unforgettable moments, as established stars face challenges from the new generation of Indian cricketers. The IPL continues to blend international experience with domestic potential, ensuring a spectacle that thrills fans while cultivating the stars of tomorrow.

"Zindagi in Two Shades" Wins Hearts at Hyderabad Premiere; Mohammed Azharuddin Hails Filmmaker Dollye Tomar

Hyderabad witnessed an evening of cinematic celebration as the documentary *Zindagi in Two Shades*, based on the life of Iftekhar Sharif, premiered to an enthusiastic audience and invited guests. The event drew notable personalities from both the film and sports worlds, including former Indian cricket captain and current Telangana Minority Affairs Minister, Mohammed Azharuddin, who praised the documentary for its authenticity and social relevance.

Produced by Omsheel Productions, Mumbai, under the leadership of filmmaker Dollye Tomar, and supported by DK Omsheel Productions, USA, led by Khurram Syed, *Zindagi in Two Shades* brings together a talented technical crew. The documentary is directed by Rajneesh Dubey, produced by Kalpana Rajput, and edited by Devu Namdev. Senior film journalist Dheeraj Appaji coordinated the premiere, ensuring a seamless event that highlighted the film's essence and message.

The documentary chronicles the life of Iftekhar Sharif with honesty and sensitivity, presenting his experiences in a manner that resonates deeply with viewers. It captures the nuances of everyday life, exploring the challenges, triumphs, and moral dilemmas that shape human existence. The narrative's simplicity and grounded storytelling were widely appreciated by audiences, reflecting the filmmaker's commitment to realism and social



awareness.

Mohammed Azharuddin, speaking at the premiere, lauded Dollye Tomar for her insightful portrayal of real-life struggles. He described the documentary as "honest, simple, and deeply moving" and emphasized the importance of films that convey meaningful social messages. Highlighting the filmmaker's potential, Azharuddin expressed confidence in her bright future and called for a Part 2 of *Zindagi in Two Shades*, noting that the story deserved further exploration. The documentary has already begun garnering attention beyond Indian audiences, attracting interest from international film festivals. Its themes of perseverance, human values, and societal challenges make it a universally relatable story, bridging cultural gaps and appealing to a global audience. Critics and viewers alike have praised the film's sensitive handling of complex issues, as well as its realistic cinematography and compelling editing. The premiere of *Zindagi in Two Shades* marks an important milestone for Dollye Tomar, establishing her as a filmmaker capable of creating content that is both socially conscious and emotionally impactful. The positive reception from au-

diences and dignitaries underscores the growing demand for documentaries that explore real-life narratives with depth and authenticity.

With its meaningful storytelling, strong performances behind the camera, and significant social message, *Zindagi in Two Shades* is more than just a documentary—it is a reflection on life, resilience, and the human spirit. The film continues to make waves and is poised to inspire both viewers and aspiring filmmakers, while the anticipation for a potential second part promises to keep audiences engaged with the story of Iftekhar Sharif for years to come.

Technical Crew:

Director: Rajneesh Dubey | Producer: Kalpana Rajput | Editor: Devu Namdev | Production Houses: Omsheel Productions, Mumbai; DK Omsheel Productions, USA

Notable Attendees: Mohammed Azharuddin, senior film journalist Dheeraj Appaji, and several other dignitaries and film enthusiasts.

Zindagi in Two Shades is proving that heartfelt storytelling rooted in real-life experiences has the power to leave a lasting impression on audiences, both in India and internationally.

Avinash Thiruveedhula's Vanara Drops First Single "Adaraho"; Grand Theatrical Release Set for December 26th

The countdown for Avinash Thiruveedhula's directorial and acting debut *Vanara* has begun in earnest with the release of its first single, "Adaraho." The mythological rural drama, which promises a unique blend of action, emotion, and folklore, is all set for a worldwide grand theatrical release on December 26th.

Vanara marks a significant milestone for Avinash Thiruveedhula, who takes on the dual responsibility of director and lead actor. Simran Choudhary stars as the female lead, bringing charm and emotional depth to the story, while Nandu plays the antagonist, adding intensity and conflict to the narrative. The film also features an ensemble cast including Khadgam Prudvi, Kona Venkat, Satya, Amani, Sivaji Raja, Chammak Chandra, and Racha Ravi, promising a rich tapestry of characters that enhance the mythological storytelling.

Presented by Asian Cinemas and produced by Shanthanu Pathi, Avinash Buyani, Alapati Raja, and Ankith Reddy under the Silver Screen Cinemas LLP banner, *Vanara* boasts a strong technical team. The film's dialogues, penned by Sai Madhav Burra, aim to balance traditional storytelling with modern punch, while Sujatha Siddharth's cinematography captures the rustic grandeur and mythological essence of the setting. Editing by Chota K. Prasad ensures a tight narrative, while



production designer Narni Srinivas creates visually compelling rural landscapes that complement the film's epic themes.

The first single, "Adaraho," has already created a buzz among fans. Composed by Vivek Sagar, who also lends his electrifying voice to the track, the song features a rap-style delivery combined with catchy, high-energy beats. Lyricist Bharadwaj Gali collaborated with Sagar to craft lyrics that reflect the protagonist's vigor and attitude, making it both a musical and narrative highlight. The track promises to capture the essence of *Vanara*, emphasizing heroism, determination, and the untamed spirit of the film's central character.

As the first single hits streaming platforms, anticipation for the film's December 26th release continues to grow. With a story rooted in mythology yet presented with a modern cinematic approach, *Vanara* aims to offer audiences an immersive experience that blends tradition, drama, and contemporary music sensibilities.

The combination of Avinash Thiruveedhula's creative vision,

Vivek Sagar's music, Sai Madhav Burra's dialogues, and a talented ensemble cast has positioned *Vanara* as one of the most awaited films of the season. Fans are eagerly waiting to witness how the rural mythological backdrop and high-octane performances come together on the big screen.

Cast: Avinash Thiruveedhula, Simran Choudhary, Nandu, Khadgam Prudvi, Kona Venkat, Satya, Amani, Sivaji Raja, Chammak Chandra, Racha Ravi.

Technical Crew:

Director & Lead Actor: Avinash Thiruveedhula | Music Director: Vivek Sagar | Dialogues: Sai Madhav Burra | Story & Screenplay: Vishwajith | Director of Photography: Sujatha Siddharth | Editor: Chota K. Prasad | Production Designer: Narni Srinivas | Producers: Shanthanu Pathi, Avinash Buyani, Alapati Raja, Ankith Reddy | Presenter: Asian Cinemas | Banner: Silver Screen Cinemas LLP | PRO: GSK Media

With the release of "Adaraho," *Vanara* is set to capture hearts and set the stage for a grand cinematic experience this festive season.

Legendary Comedian Brahmanandam Praises New-Age Dark Comedy Gurram Paapireddy at Grand Pre-Release Meet



Telugu audiences are gearing up for a fresh cinematic experience as the dark comedy *Gurram Paapireddy*, starring Naresh Agastya and Faria Abdullah, prepares for its worldwide theatrical release on December 19th. The pre-release press meet held in Hyderabad drew industry veterans and media, including legendary comedian Brahmanandam, who lauded the film for its innovative storytelling and performances.

Produced by Venu Saddi, Amar Bura, and Jayakanth (Bobby), under the presentation of Dr. Sandhya Goli, and directed by Murali Manohar, *Gurram Paapireddy* promises a

concept never seen before in Telugu cinema. The film revolves around unique dark comedy, blending fresh narratives with nativity, while providing audiences with an engaging cinematic experience.

At the event, dialogue writer Niranjan emphasized the novelty of the film, stating, "These days, it feels scary to say we are making a new kind of film. Every artist and technician supported my effort as a director," he said, underscoring the collaborative spirit behind the film.

Producer Amar Bura

spoke about the dedication of the team, particularly Murali Manohar and Brahmanandam, who supported the project at every stage. He highlighted the

Paisa Dum Dum, praising Faria Abdullah for her singing and energetic contribution.

Director Murali Manohar expressed his gratitude to the producers for providing complete creative freedom. "All of us worked with the intention of showing Telugu audiences a new kind of film. Every artist and technician supported my effort as a director," he said, underscoring the collaborative spirit behind the film.

Producer Amar Bura

spoke about the dedication of the team, particularly Murali Manohar and Brahmanandam, who supported the project at every stage. He highlighted the

challenge of securing Yogi Babu's dates and praised the performances of Jeevan, Vamsidhar, and Rajkumar Kasireddy for their comic brilliance. Amar also appreciated the lead actors, noting Naresh Agastya's active promotion of the film despite usually avoiding social media, and Faria Abdullah's versatility both as an actress and a singer-choreographer.

Gurram Paapireddy brings together a talented cast and crew including Prabhias Sreenu, Rajkumar Kasireddy, Jeevan Kumar, Vamsidhar Kogi, John Vijay, Motta Rajendran, with cinematography by Arjun Raja, and music by Krishna Saurabh. Presented by Dr. Sandhya Goli and promoted by GSK Media, the film is poised to offer audiences a fresh, engaging cinematic experience this December 19th.

Cast: Naresh Agastya, Faria Abdullah, Brahmanandam, Yogi Babu, Prabhias Sreenu, Rajkumar Kasireddy, Jeevan Kumar, Vamsidhar Kogi, John Vijay, Motta Rajendran, and others.

Technical Crew: Director & Writer: Murali Manohar | Director of Photography: Arjun Raja | Music: Krishna Saurabh | Producers: Venu Saddi, Amar Bura, Jayakanth (Bobby) | Presented by: Dr. Sandhya Goli | PRO: GSK Media

Mohanlal's Epic Saga Vrussabha to Roar into Telugu Cinemas on December 25th, Distributed by Geetha Film Distributors

Geetha Film Distributors, the powerhouse behind Telugu hits like *Kantara*, *Viduthalai*, *Chava*, and *Mahavatara Narasimha*, is set to release the highly anticipated epic *Vrussabha*, starring legendary actor Mohanlal, in Telugu on December 25th. The announcement has generated immense excitement among audiences, promising a cinematic spectacle that blends drama, action, and emotional storytelling on a grand scale.

Written and directed by Nanda Kishore, *Vrussabha* is a sweeping saga of love, destiny, and vengeance, exploring the unbreakable bond between a father and son. The makers recently unveiled a striking poster showcasing Mohanlal in two contrasting avatars, further heightening anticipation for the film. Shot simultaneously in Malayalam and Telugu, with planned releases in Hindi and Kannada, the film is poised to be one of the biggest cinematic events of 2025.

The previously released teaser introduced audiences to Mohanlal in a

commanding avatar as a warrior king, accompanied by the evocative tagline: "When Destiny Calls, Blood Must Answer." The teaser, emphasizing the theme of *Reborn Love – A Love So Strong, It Defies Death*, captivated viewers with its dramatic transitions between past and present, hinting at the dual worlds that the narrative explores.

Mohanlal leads a formidable ensemble cast including Samarjit Lanke, Ragini Dwivedi, Nayan Sarika, Ajay, Neha Saxena, Garuda Ram, Vinay Varma, Ali, Ayyappa P. Sharma, and Kishore.

Each character promises to contribute to the film's high-stakes storytelling, adding depth and nuance to the narrative of familial loyalty and personal destiny.

The technical crew brings together some of the best talent in Indian cinema. Cinematography by Antony Sam Samson will oversee its grand release in Telugu, promising audiences a truly spectacular cinematic experience.

Set to release worldwide

on December 25th, *Vrussabha* combines action, drama, and emotional storytelling in an epic

Aaryan Mehdi complements Resul Pookutty's immersive sound design, ensuring a fully engaging cinematic experience. Dialogues are crafted by S. R. K., Janardhana Maharshi, and Karthik, adding punch and emotional resonance to the film's storytelling. Editing by K. M. Prakash ensures the narrative flows seamlessly across the film's grandiose action and drama sequences.

Vrussabha is presented by Connekkt Media and Balaji Telefilms Ltd in association with Abhishek S. Vyas Studios, and produced by Shobha Kapoor, Ektaa R. Kapoor, C. K. Padma Kumar, Varun Maithur, Saurabh Mishra, Abhishek S. Vyas, Praveer Singh, Vishal Gurnani, and Juhu Parekh Mehta, with Vimal Lahoti as co-producer. Geetha Film Distributors is the powerhouse behind Telugu hits like *Kantara*, *Viduthalai*, *Chava*, and *Mahavatara Narasimha*, is set to release the highly anticipated epic *Vrussabha*, starring legendary actor Mohanlal, in Telugu on December 25th. The announcement has generated immense excitement among audiences, promising a cinematic spectacle that blends drama, action, and emotional storytelling on a grand scale.

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portrayal of family, destiny, and courage, making it one of the most awaited films of the year. Cast: Mohanlal, Samarjit Lanke, Ragini Dwivedi, Nayan Sarika, Ajay, Neha Saxena, Garuda Ram, Vinay Varma, Ali, Ayyappa P. Sharma, and Kishore. Technical Crew: Director & Writer: Murali Manohar | Director of Photography: Arjun Raja | Music: Krishna Saurabh | Producers: Venu Saddi, Amar Bura, Jayakanth (Bobby) | Presented by: Dr. Sandhya Goli | PRO: GSK Media

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Cast: Mohanlal, Samarjit Lanke, Ragini Dwivedi, Nayan Sarika, Ajay, Neha Saxena, Garuda Ram, Vinay Varma, Ali, Ayyappa P. Sharma, and Kishore, and others.

Technical Crew: Director & Writer: Murali Manohar | Director of Photography: Arjun Raja | Music: Krishna Saurabh | Producers: Venu Saddi, Amar Bura, Jayakanth (Bobby) | Presented by: Dr. Sandhya Goli | PRO: GSK Media

Karunada Chakravarthy Shiva Rajkumar, Real Star Upendra, and Versatile Raj B Shetty Unite in "45: The Movie"; Trailer Promises a Cinematic Spectacle

Kannada cinema enthusiasts have a major reason to celebrate as the much-anticipated film *45: The Movie* unveils its theatrical trailer, offering a glimpse of a cinematic journey that promises scale, star power, and substance in equal measure. Helmed by acclaimed music director Arjun Janya, who makes his directorial debut with this project, *45* brings together three of Kannada cinema's most formidable talents—Karunada Chakravarthy, Shiva Rajkumar, Real Star Upendra, and versatile actor Raj B Shetty—in a narrative that blends philosophy, action, and striking visual storytelling.

Produced under the Suraj Productions banner by Mrs. Uma Ramesh Reddy and M. Ramesh Reddy, *45* has been marketed with meticulous attention, building curiosity through its intriguing promotional material and mysterious teasers. The recently released trailer confirms the

filmmakers' ambition, delivering high-voltage visuals and a conceptual depth that sets the film apart from contemporary fare.

The trailer opens with a stark thematic premise—birth, death, and the fleeting stretch between them—framing life as a journey defined not merely by existence but by the choices made along the way. There is a strong metaphysical undertone as the narrative hints at moral accountability extending beyond death, creating a philosophical canvas for the characters to inhabit.

Shiva Rajkumar, Upendra, and Raj B Shetty bring contrasting energies to this moral universe. Upendra's deep and resonant voiceover lends the film an intellectual weight, while Raj B Shetty portrays the everyman, vulnerable yet grounded, caught in the unfolding moral and existential dilemmas. Shiva Rajkumar, appearing in a striking red Bharatanatyam costume, evokes a

sense of duality and transformation, providing moments of visual and emotional intensity that anchor the film.

The technical craftsmanship of *45* amplifies its narrative ambitions. Cinematographer Satya Hegde captures every frame with precision, while Arjun Janya's pulsating musical score intensifies the drama. High-octane action sequences, designed by renowned stunt coordinators Dr. K. Ravi Verma, Jolly Bastian, and Different Danny Chetan D'Souza, promise to keep audiences on the edge of their seats. Editing by K. M. Prakash ensures that the film's narrative rhythm matches its visual and emotional intensity, while dialogue writer Anil Kumar adds sharpness and nuance to the characters' moral explorations.

The trailer hints at a cinematic experience that balances philosophy, action, and spectacle, setting high expectations for the film's release. With the movie slated to premiere in five languages on January 1st, the New Year will arrive with a dose of Kannada cinema at its most ambitious. Fans of the stars and newcomers alike are eagerly anticipating what promises to be a landmark film in the industry.

Cast: Shiva Rajkumar, Upendra, Raj B Shetty, and others. Technical Crew: Arjun Janya (Director, Music Composer, Writer), Satya Hegde (Cinematographer), K. M. Prakash (Editor), Anil Kumar (Dialogues), Dr. K. Ravi Verma, Jolly Bastian, Different Danny Chetan D'Souza (Stunts), Johnny Basha (Choreographer).

Production: Suraj Productions, Producers: Mrs. Uma Ramesh Reddy, M. Ramesh Reddy. With its unique combination of star power, conceptual depth, and technical excellence, *45: The Movie* is shaping up to be a must-watch for Kannada cinema audiences this New Year.

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