



# Kokapet Land Auction Fetches Record Rs. 131 Crore per Acre

Hyderabad:

Land in Kokapet, one of Hyderabad's prime suburbs, has once again fetched record-breaking prices in the ongoing Neopolis land auction, generating massive revenue for the government. In the latest third phase of the auction, plots in the area saw per-acre prices reaching Rs. 131 crore for Flat No. 19 and Rs. 118 crore for Flat No. 20, highlighting the soaring real estate demand in the city's outskirts.

During the auction of Flat No. 19, a total of four acres were sold at Rs. 131 crore per acre, resulting in government revenue of Rs. 524 crore. Flat No. 20, meanwhile, recorded similarly high bids at Rs. 118 crore per acre. The third phase of the Neopolis land auction covered 8.04 acres, generating

substantial revenue for the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA).

Over the course of three phases, a total of 27 acres across six plots have been auctioned, accumulating Rs. 3,708 crore in government income. HMDA is continuing the auction process for a total of 44 acres of land, which will be sold in four phases. The remaining plots include 2 acres in Kokapet's Golden Mile and 15 acres in Moosapet, with e-auctions scheduled for December 5.

The Neopolis land auction has attracted considerable attention from real estate developers, investors, and commercial builders, reflecting the rapid growth of Hyderabad's real estate market. Industry experts attribute the high bids to Kokapet's strategic location, proximity to key infrastructure, and potential for premium commercial and residential development.

Officials from HMDA confirmed that the auction process has been conducted transparently through e-bidding, ensuring fair competition among participants.

"The high prices realized in the auction demonstrate the market's confidence in Hyderabad's growth and development prospects," said a senior official.

The revenue generated from these land sales is expected to contribute significantly to urban infrastructure, development projects, and other public initiatives in the Hyderabad metropolitan region. Authorities have

emphasized that the proceeds will be used to strengthen city planning, improve civic amenities, and support sustainable urban growth.



## Hyderabad Airport Faces Major Disruption After Technical Glitch

Hyderabad, December 3, 2025

A technical glitch at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA), Hyderabad, on Wednesday disrupted operations across the airport, leading to the cancellation of 11 flights and stranding hundreds of passengers. The issue, which reportedly affected check-in and aircraft systems, caused confusion and long delays, leaving travellers scrambling for information.

The affected flights included four departures from Hyderabad and seven incoming services scheduled to land at the airport. Among the cancelled departures were flights to major cities including Delhi, Bengaluru, Madurai, and Bhubaneswar. Several inbound flights were also cancelled or delayed, compounding the chaos. Passengers expressed frustration over last-minute announcements and the lack of timely communication from airlines.

IndiGo, the airline most affected, confirmed that a "technical snag, combined with airport congestion and operational constraints" led to the flight cancellations. The airline assured passengers that alternative arrangements, in-



cluding rebooking on later flights or full refunds, would be provided. Other airlines operating at Hyderabad also experienced minor delays, though the impact was less severe. The chaos was particularly acute in the departure terminals, where hundreds of passengers were seen crowding airline counters, attempting to get updates about their flights. Many travellers missed connecting flights, including international journeys, or were forced to make overnight arrangements at the airport. Airport staff worked through the night to manage the situation and provide relief to stranded passengers.

A Bengaluru-bound IndiGo flight, which was scheduled to depart late Wednesday night, was delayed on the runway for nearly two hours before it was eventually cancelled. The stranded passengers were deboarded and assisted with accommodations and rescheduling. The incident caused inconvenience to business and leisure travellers alike, highlighting the vulnerabilities in airport technology systems.

RGIA officials stated that while the disruption affected flight operations, overall airport management remained

under control. An internal investigation has been initiated to determine the root cause of the technical failure. Sources suggest that the glitch may have originated from a system-wide software error affecting multiple airlines simultaneously.

This incident is not isolated; several Indian airports have recently faced operational disruptions due to technology-related issues. Airlines including IndiGo, Air India, and SpiceJet have reported delayed departures, check-in

failures, and cancellations at multiple hubs across the country in the past few weeks. Aviation authorities, including the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), are monitoring the situation closely and have advised airports and airlines to implement contingency protocols to prevent such disruptions.

Passengers affected by the cancellations are advised to verify flight status online before traveling to the airport. Many travellers criticized airlines for poor communication and called for better passenger support during technical failures.

Airport authorities assured that corrective measures would be taken, including upgrading IT infrastructure and enhancing backup systems, to avoid similar incidents in the future.

The Hyderabad airport disruption has highlighted the critical role of technology in modern aviation and the potential consequences when systems fail. As the investigation continues, the airport and airlines face pressure to improve reliability and ensure a smooth travel experience for passengers in the coming months.

## Minister Sridhar Babu Highlights Government's Welfare Achievements

Minister Sridhar Babu emphasized that the people of Telangana had demanded change two years ago because the previous BRS government failed to deliver on public welfare.

He recalled that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, along with then TPCC chief Revanth Reddy and other senior leaders, had promised to fulfil the aspirations of the people. Under the leadership of CM R. Revanth Reddy and RTC Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, free bus travel for women has been successfully introduced.

The minister stated that the Congress government is committed to ensuring food security for the poor by distributing fine-quality rice. He highlighted that Satavahana University was established during the Congress regime and credited Minister Ponnam Prabhakar for bringing the Satavahana University Engineering College to Husnabad, benefiting thousands of students in the region.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has launched development programs worth 250 crore across various sectors, he added. Sridhar Babu

praised former MLA Bomma Venkanna for his continued efforts in fighting for public issues and supporting local development.

Discussing the Congress party's election promises, he noted that the six guarantees outlined in the manifesto are being implemented to fulfil the aspirations of the people. Under the leadership of CM R. Revanth Reddy and RTC Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, free bus travel for women has been successfully introduced.

Every rupee spent by women passengers in RTC buses is fully covered by the government, marking a significant step towards women's empowerment.

He criticized the previous BRS administration for not issuing even a single ration card in ten years. "A child would be born, get married, and move to their in-laws' house, yet the ration card would still not be issued," he remarked. In contrast, the Congress government has not only issued new ration cards but has also added eligible families to the list. Telangana now stands

out as the only state in the country distributing fine rice to beneficiaries.

Highlighting advancements in power supply, he mentioned that while the BRS government increased electricity charges and disconnected power lines, the Congress government now provides 200 units of free electricity. Strengthening the Congress party at the grassroots, he said, would motivate the government to deliver even more effectively.

Sridhar Babu also pointed out that Arogyasri health coverage has been increased from 5 lakh to 10 lakh, extending significant relief to families. He reiterated that the government will continue supporting farmers through Rythu Bharosa and farm loan waivers.

For the youth, he highlighted the establishment of the Young India Skill Development University to create better job opportunities. An Advanced Technology Centre (ATC), aimed at enhancing student skill development, has also been set up—including.

# IAS Officer Ronald Ross Faces High Court Challenge Over Cadre Posting

Hyderabad:

IAS officer Ronald Ross is currently facing a legal challenge in the High Court over his cadre allocation following the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh and the formation of Telangana. The issue has brought to light the complexities of officer postings, inter-cadre transfers, and administrative continuity in newly formed states.

Ross, originally allotted to the undivided Andhra Pradesh cadre, continued to serve in Telangana even after the state was bifurcated. However, the Department of Personnel and Training (Do

PT) later issued orders requiring officers from the Andhra cadre, including Ross, to report back to Andhra Pradesh by a specified deadline. This directive was based on cadre allocation rules that govern IAS postings and inter-state transfers.

Unhappy with the order, Ronald Ross challenged the DoPT directive at the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), seeking permission to continue his service in Telangana. The petition highlighted concerns about administrative disruption, personal preference, and professional commitments in the stat

e. The CAT initially granted relief, allowing Ross and several other officers to continue working in Telangana while their petitions were under consideration.

The case, however, did not end there. The DoPT appealed the CAT's decision, escalating the matter to the High Court. The legal proceedings have created uncertainty for Ross and other officers, raising questions about whether they must comply with the central orders and report to their original cadre in Andhra Pradesh.

Recent reports indicate that the High Court has dismissed certain pe

titions challenging the transfer orders, effectively upholding the DoPT's instructions. Authorities have directed to ensure that officers from the Andhra cadre return to their allotted postings, emphasizing the importance of following cadre allocation rules strictly. This has been seen as a legal setback for officers like Ross, who had sought to continue in Telangana.

Despite the High Court ruling, the CAT's earlier orders still provide temporary relief, allowing Ronald Ross to continue working in Telangana while the legal proceedings are ongoing. This

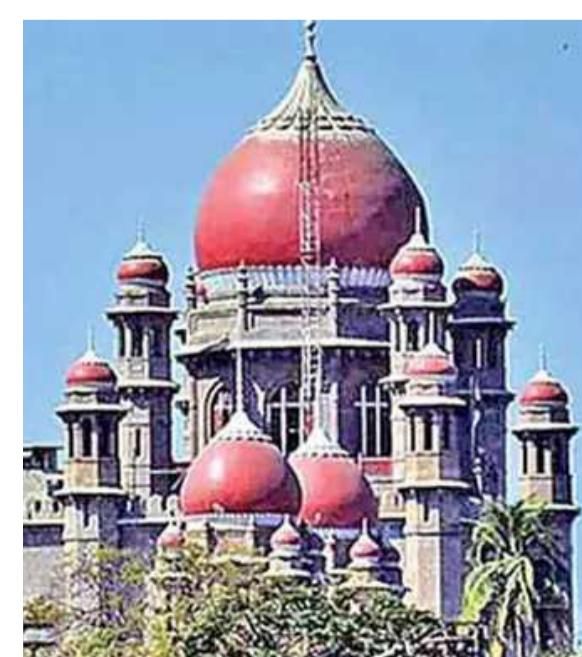
dual development has created a state of uncertainty but also reflects the procedural safeguards in place for officers contesting cadre allocation orders.

The case has wider implications for bureaucratic administration in India. It underscores the challenges of cadre management following state reorganization, highlighting the balance between administrative efficiency and officers' personal and professional choices. For Telangana, retaining experienced officers like Ross could aid governance and continuity in key departments. At the same time,

adherence to rules and regulations by the DoPT ensures transparency and uniformity in officer postings nationwide.

Observers note that the final resolution of this case will set a precedent for how IAS and other central services officers are managed after state bifurcations or inter-cadre disputes. It also emphasizes the role of tribunals and the judiciary in balancing government directives with officers' rights and administrative realities.

Ronald Ross's case continues to attract attention from bureaucrats, legal experts, and the media, as stakeholders



await the outcome that will determine whether he can remain in Telangana or must return to Andhra Pradesh. The resolution is likely to impact cadre posting policies for officers across India in the future.

# Kishan Reddy Criticizes Telangana GO 27, Flags Industrial and Farmer Concerns

Delhi: Union Minister Kishan Reddy has strongly criticized the Telangana government over Government Order (GO) 27, calling it a policy that favors industrialists and real estate developers at the expense of farmers and industrial workers. Speaking at a press interaction, he highlighted that since the formation of Telangana, the state has shifted from having surplus funds to accumulating debts. He alleged that the current Congress administration, in power for the past two years, is following a similar path, risking public resources and welfare schemes.

Kishan Reddy pointed out that the government is now compelled to sell public lands to meet financial obligations, such as retirement benefits for state employees. He recalled instances when attempts to sell Central University lands were blocked by the Supreme Court, emphasizing that such decisions should be taken cautiously and within legal limits. According to him, GO 27 reflects a short-term approach rather than a long-term developmental vision.

The minister accused Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of enabling large-scale land deals in Hyderabad, which could benefit industrialists and real estate players, rather than addressing the needs of ordinary citizens.

He explained that GO 27 seeks to reclassify approximately 9,000 acres of industrial land into commercial zones, a move that could displace industrial units and affect millions of workers employed in these sectors. Kishan Reddy stressed that the government failed to consult industrialists, labor representatives, or experts before issuing the GO, raising concerns about the transparency and accountability of the process.

Kishan Reddy also criticized the state government for neglecting farmers affected by the Outer Ring Road (ORR) expansion. While the policy appears to favor commercial development,



the concerns of farmers seeking proper compensation and land relocation have reportedly been ignored. He termed GO 27 "an anti-farmer, pro-industrialist policy,"

questioning whether such measures are fair and equitable for the people of Telangana.

The Union Minister warned that implementing the GO without proper planning could exacerbate urban challenges in Hyderabad. Drawing parallels with Bengaluru, where companies relocated due to traffic congestion and inadequate

infrastructure, he questioned whether the Telangana government had conducted thorough studies on traffic management, drainage systems, and urban planning before approving the reclassification. He highlighted that Hyderabad's drainage systems are already under stress, and unchecked commercial development could worsen flooding and congestion issues.

He called for an immediate review of GO 27 and urged the Telangana government to engage in consultations with experts, industry associations, and civil society groups before moving forward. Kishan Reddy emphasized that policies should

strike a balance between industrial growth, farmer rights, labor welfare, and urban sustainability.

In conclusion, he appealed to the state government to reconsider zoning plans, traffic management, and drainage infrastructure, warning that policies prioritizing short-term commercial gains over public welfare could have long-lasting negative consequences. GO 27, he insisted, should be revised to ensure the interests of farmers, industrial workers, and the general public are not compromised while promoting sustainable development and responsible urban planning.

## TPCC Praises Revanth Reddy for Unemployment Initiatives

Hyderabad: TPCC General Secretary Chanagani Dayakar has lauded Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for his efforts in addressing unemployment and creating job opportunities for youth across Telangana. Speaking on the recent developments, Dayakar emphasized that the state government is taking significant steps to ensure justice for unemployed individuals and to promote inclusive growth.



Dayakar further stated that the government is not only focusing on traditional employment avenues but is also facilitating opportunities in emerging sectors, including industrial and technological fields. He emphasized that such steps will allow Telangana's youth to thrive locally, reducing the need to migrate abroad for high-quality employment.

Dayakar highlighted that under Revanth Reddy's leadership, the government is actively working toward providing employment opportunities inspired by the vision of Sri K. Chandrasekhar, regarded as Telangana's first martyr for state development. He stated that the Chief Minister has been making consistent efforts to fill thousands of vacancies in both public and private sectors, ensuring that young people have access to sustainable and meaningful employment.

In particular, the announcement regarding the creation of 40,000 jobs in Hyderabad has been widely welcomed, with Dayakar expressing happiness over the government's commitment to addressing youth unemployment. He noted that at Telangana is steadily

## BRS Launches Protest Against Congress Over HILTP Land Deals

Malkajgiri: Malkajgiri – Maulali Industrial Area: The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) launched a strong protest against the Congress party's alleged land scams worth Rs. 5 lakh crore under the Hyderabad Industrial Land Transformation Policy (HILTP), claiming the policy would cause huge losses to the people of Telangana. The protest, led by senior BRS leaders, focused on raising awareness at the grassroots level about the controversial HILTP policy and demanding its immediate cancellation.

At Maulali Industrial Area today, the leaders organized a meeting with industrialists, local BRS officials, corporate representatives, and residents of the industrial zone. Former Speaker and MLC Madhu Sudana Chari, Malkajgiri MLA Marri Rajasekhar Reddy, along with corporate leaders and local BRS activists, participated in the session to highlight the potential misuse of industrial lands by the Congress government.

BRS leaders alleged that the Congress government was attempting to transfer industrial lands, valued at around Rs. 5 lakh crore within the Hyderabad city limits, to private individuals at extremely low rates. Now, these lands are being converted into 'multi-use zones' for real estate businesses, benefiting a few privileged individuals. Around 9,300 acres of land are being regularized at just 30% of their market value, leading to a massive Rs. 5 lakh crore loss for the public.

He further highlighted that while there is no land allocated for building Indiramma houses for the poor, crematoriums, community halls, tribal and Dalit schools, libraries, or UPHC hospitals, the government is transferring high-value industrial lands to private entities. This, according to him, reflects the government's disregard for public welfare.

BRS leaders stated, "The lands given by the people with trust for industrial development are now being diverted to real estate projects, completely neglecting their original purpose. This exposes the malicious intentions of the Congress government."

The meeting saw participation from a large number of corporate representatives, former corporators, BRS leaders, youth, women, activists, and local residents. Key attendees included Chintala Shanti Srinivas Reddy, Mekala Sunita, Ramu Yadav, Jagadish Goud, Murugesu, Baddu Parasuram Reddy, Raval Anjayya, JAC Venkanna, Thota Narendra Reddy, Anil Kishore Gudud, J.K. Hanumantha Rao, and many others.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

He further highlighted that while there is no land allocated for building Indiramma houses for the poor, crematoriums, community halls, tribal and Dalit schools, libraries, or UPHC hospitals, the government is transferring high-value industrial lands to private entities. This, according to him, reflects the government's disregard for public welfare.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

The BRS leaders reiterated their demand that the HILTP policy be withdrawn immediately to safeguard public assets and protect the rights of industrial workers, farmers, and residents in the industrial zones, warning that failure to act would lead to widespread protests and political mobilization against the Congress government.

</div

# Women's Commission Acts in Bachupally Student Suicide Case

Hyderabad: The Telangana State Women's Commission has initiated a suo motu investigation into the tragic suicide of Varsha, also known as Varsha, a first-year intermediate student of Sri Chaitanya Junior College in Bachupally. The incident has raised serious concerns about student welfare, prompting the Commission to step in and demand accountability from the institution's management.

In its official press release, the Commission stated that it has been receiving numerous complaints over time regarding issues such as excessive academic pressure, lack of emotional support, inadequate monitoring systems, and insufficient safety measures in several junior colleges across the state. The Commission observed that despite earlier inspections conducted by its Chairperson and specific instructions issued

to improve conditions, there has been no substantial progress. The situation at Sri Chaitanya College, in particular, has remained unsatisfactory, which the recent incident has brought to light once again.

Taking a serious view of the matter, the Commission has issued a notice to the Chairperson of Sri Chaitanya Educational Institutions, directing them to appear personally on December 10. The institution has been asked to present a detailed report explaining the circumstances leading up to the student's death, the steps taken by the college in response, the reasons behind continued lapses even after prior inspections, and the current status of implementation of the Commission's earlier recommendations. The Commission has also sought clarity on the measures presently in place to safeguard students' mental well-being and physi-

cal security.

The Women's Commission emphasized that educational institutions have a profound responsibility toward the safety and emotional health of their students, particularly minors who may be vulnerable to psychological stress. It stressed that any failure in supervision or failure to create a supportive learning environment could lead to severe consequences, as demonstrated by the present case.

Over the past several months, parents, students, and various civil society groups have repeatedly raised concerns about the pressure-filled environment prevalent in certain corporate educational institutions. The Commission noted that these issues cannot be ignored any longer and that it intends to closely monitor the functioning of such colleges to ensure compliance with safety norms and welfare standards. In its state-

ment, the Secretary of the Women's Commission expressed deep condolences to the family of the deceased student and assured that the Commission would pursue the matter thoroughly and impartially. The Commission reiterated its commitment to ensuring that all responsible parties are held accountable and that stronger regulatory mechanisms are put in place if necessary. The incident has once again sparked discussions across Telangana about the intense academic environment in some junior colleges and the urgent need for reforms to protect students from mental distress. The Women's Commission's swift action is expected to intensify scrutiny on educational institutions and push for stronger safeguards for student welfare in the state.

Hyderabad: The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has intensified its citywide road safety drive to ensure smooth and safe travel for citizens by reducing traffic congestion and improving road conditions. As part of this ongoing initiative, large-scale repair and maintenance works are being carried out across all major zones in the city.

According to officials, the drive includes filling potholes, repairing catch pits, patchwork on damaged stretches, cover replacements, and restoration of central medians. GHMC Commissioner R.V. Karunan has directed teams to complete the works on priority, while Maintenance Chief Engineer Sahadev Ratnakar is personally monitoring field-level opera-

tions to ensure timely progress.

By December 3, authorities identified a total of 23,058 potholes across Hyderabad. Out of these, 21,786 potholes have already been repaired, marking significant progress under the safety initiative. Additionally, GHMC teams have completed 1,032 catch pit repairs, 495 cover replacements, and 13 central median restorations, further improving road safety and drainage efficiency in multiple areas.

Zone-wise, the highest number of pothole pairs was recorded in the Secunderabad Zone, where 5,239 potholes were filled. This was followed by L.B. Nagar Zone with 3,888, Khairatabad with 3,785, Kukatpally with 3,258, Charminar with 2,885, and Serilingampally with 2,731 repairs com-

pleted.

Officials noted that this intensive road safety drive is part of GHMC's effort to make Hyderabad's road network more reliable, particularly during peak traffic hours and the winter season, when pothole damage tends to worsen. The corporation aims to complete repairs on all pending potholes at the earliest and maintain continuous monitoring to prevent recurring issues.

With a majority of potholes already addressed, GHMC expects smoother commuter movement across major corridors in the coming days. The civic body has urged citizens to report unattended potholes or damaged infrastructure through official helplines and mobile applications to expedite action.

## Two Youths Found Dead in Auto at Chandrayangutta

Hyderabad: In a shocking incident, the bodies of two young men were discovered inside an auto-rickshaw at Chandrayangutta's Paatabasti area, causing panic among local residents. The vehicle was parked near the Roman Hotel, within the jurisdiction of Chandrayangutta Police Station. Locals immediately alerted the authorities after noticing the bodies.

Police teams reached the scene and identified the deceased as Jahangir and Irfan. Authorities confirmed that a third person, believed to be connected to the incident, is currently at large.

Investigators are actively tracking the whereabouts of the fugitive.

At the scene, police recovered three syringes, prompting preliminary suspicions of drug overdose as a possible cause of death. While authorities have not yet confirmed the exact reason, the presence of drug paraphernalia has raised concerns about illicit substance use in the area. The bodies were transported to Osmania Mortuary for post-mortem examination. Police officials are conducting a thorough investigation to determine the exact circumstances leading to the deaths. Investigators

are examining the auto, the recovered syringes, and other evidence collected from the site.

Additionally, authorities have secured and are reviewing CCTV footage from nearby areas to identify any suspicious movements or individuals connected to the incident. Chandrayangutta police have also increased surveillance in the surrounding neighborhood to prevent further incidents.

Preliminary inquiries indicate that the youths may have consumed drugs in high quantities, leading to their deaths, although forensic reports are awaited to confirm the exact cause. Police are also interviewing witnesses and residents in the vicinity to gather information about the events leading up to the tragedy.

The Chandrayangutta Police Commissioner has urged the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities or drug-related offenses. Law enforcement officials have reiterated that they are committed to tracking down the fugitive and ensuring that justice is delivered. This incident has drawn attention to the growing issue of substance abuse among youth in Hyderabad, with officials

emphasizing the need for preventive measures and stricter monitoring in areas prone to such incidents. The police have stated that the investigation is ongoing and further details will be shared once post-mortem and forensic findings are available. Authorities are also exploring whether this case is linked to larger drug distribution networks in the area, and additional actions may be taken based on the evidence collected. Meanwhile, local residents have expressed concern over safety and urged the government to take proactive measures to curb drug-related incidents.

## GHMC Expansion Comes Into Force



Hyderabad: The Telangana government has officially completed the process of expanding the jurisdiction of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), issuing a notification that brings the new boundaries into immediate effect. As per the orders released, a total of 27 municipalities and corporations have now been merged with the GHMC, marking a significant administrative restructuring aimed at streamlining governance, improving civic services, and ensuring uniform urban development across the extended metropolitan region.

According to the notification, the merger has

been effective from yesterday, formally integrating the surrounding municipalities into the GHMC limits. This expansion is expected to enhance coordination in infrastructure planning, road development, water supply, sanitation, environmental management, and overall civic administration. Officials noted that the move is part of the government's long-term vision to strengthen the urban governance framework and meet the demands of Hyderabad's rapidly growing population.

As part of the implementation process, the government has issued directives to immediately take over the re-

cords and assets of the newly merged municipalities and corporations. Deputy Commissioners and Zonal Commissioners of GHMC have been entrusted with the responsibility of completing the take-over process in a smooth and systematic manner. They have been instructed to coordinate with the respective local bodies, verify municipal records, and ensure that all administrative data, financial documents, property details, and ongoing project files are properly transferred to GHMC custody.

The government stated that this expansion is a necessary step to manage the increasing urban sprawl around Hyderabad. With rapid growth in residential, commercial, and industrial activity in the city's outskirts, ensuring uniform govern-



## Hyderabad Speeds Up Citywide Road Safety Drive

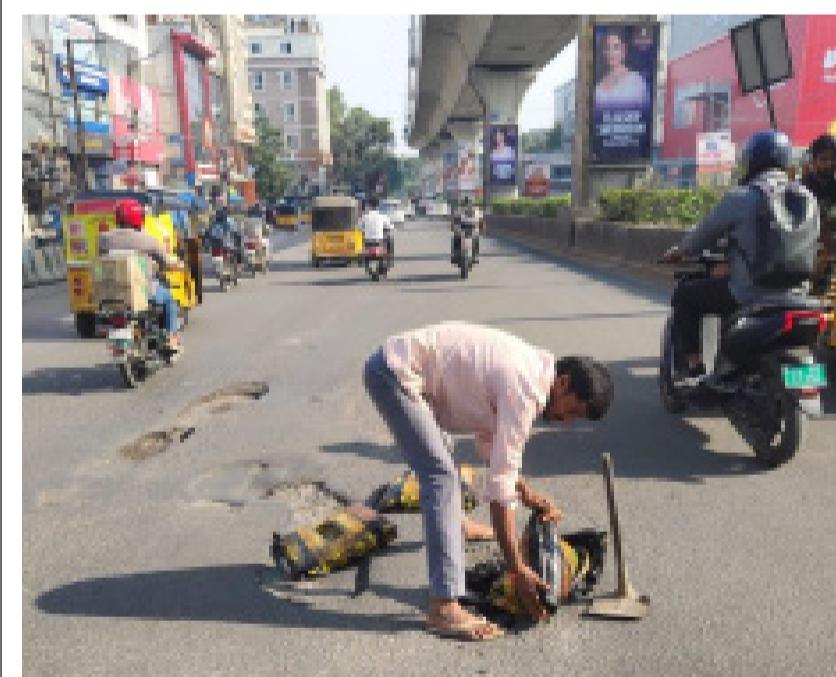
Hyderabad: The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has intensified its citywide road safety drive to ensure smooth and safe travel for citizens by reducing traffic congestion and improving road conditions. As part of this ongoing initiative, large-scale repair and maintenance works are being carried out across all major zones in the city.

According to officials, the drive includes filling potholes, repairing catch pits, patchwork on damaged stretches, cover replacements, and restoration of central medians. GHMC Commissioner R.V. Karunan has directed teams to complete the works on priority, while Maintenance Chief Engineer Sahadev Ratnakar is personally monitoring field-level opera-

tions to ensure timely progress.

By December 3, authorities identified a total of 23,058 potholes across Hyderabad. Out of these, 21,786 potholes have already been repaired, marking significant progress under the safety initiative. Additionally, GHMC teams have completed 1,032 catch pit repairs, 495 cover replacements, and 13 central median restorations, further improving road safety and drainage efficiency in multiple areas.

Zone-wise, the highest number of pothole pairs was recorded in the Secunderabad Zone, where 5,239 potholes were filled. This was followed by L.B. Nagar Zone with 3,888, Khairatabad with 3,785, Kukatpally with 3,258, Charminar with 2,885, and Serilingampally with 2,731 repairs com-



## Three Arrested for Murder of Businessman Magu Singh in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: Hyderabad East Zone DCP Balaswamy revealed key details in the murder case of businessman Magu Singh, whose body was found on December 1 near Erragunta Cheruvu under UPS limits. The case began when the police control room received a "100 call" reporting an unidentified body. Police teams immediately reached the spot and recovered a mobile phone from the scene.

With the notification now in effect, GHMC officials are preparing to complete the transition at the earliest, while residents of the merged municipalities will soon start receiving services directly under the expanded GHMC administration. The government is expected to release further operational guidelines in the coming days as the integration progresses.

After contacting the number stored in the phone, officials reached the victim's son, who identified the deceased as Magu Singh, a resident of Dhoopalpet and a local businessman.

According to the DCP, three accused — A1 Sheikh Ghous, A2 Syed Shoaib, and A3 Illyas — have been arrested for the murder. The investigation revealed that the accused be-

lieved the victim had performed black magic on them, which they thought caused losses in their business and led to their children falling sick. Driven by anger and suspicion, they plotted to kill him.

On December 1, the accused called Magu Singh to Chilkalguda under the pretext of discussing an issue. During this meeting, Sheikh Ghous attacked the victim with an iron rod, resulting in his death. The group then transported the body in a Jailo car and dumped it near Erragunta Cheruvu before fleeing the area.

Police seized critical evidence from the accused, including:

The iron rod used in the murder  
The Xylo car  
Two bikes  
Three mobile phones  
DCP Balaswamy also confirmed that A1 Sheikh Ghous has a crimi-

nal history with previous cases registered at Banjara Hills and Mailardpally police stations. Both A1 and A2 reportedly run a fish business at the Ramnagar fish market. Their association with Magu Singh dates back to their acquaintance in Mangalhat.

The investigation revealed that the accused had earlier given money to the victim seeking profits through black magic. When they believed they suffered losses instead, they developed deep resentment, which led them to commit the murder.

All three accused have now been arrested and remanded to judicial custody.

The DCP stated that the police acted swiftly, gathered solid evidence, and ensured that those responsible for the crime were brought to justice.

# Thieves Rob Flats in Karimnagar, Gold and Silver Stolen in Overnight Burglary

Karimnagar: Thieves struck again in Karimnagar — this time targeting two flats in a residential apartment, making away with gold, silver, and cash, police said on Friday. The incident has raised concerns over rising burglary cases in the city.

According to police, the burglary happened late at night when occupants of both flats had gone out. Early next morning, when families returned, they found that their flats had been broken into and valuables stolen. The two flats belonged to separate families in the same apartment complex.

The stolen items reportedly include a signif-

icant amount of gold ornaments, silver articles, and cash — valuables the victims had stored at home. The families immediately informed the local police, prompting a prompt response. On receiving the complaint, the Karimnagar Police formed special teams to investigate, examine the crime scene, and trace the culprits.

While the exact value of the stolen items is still being calculated, preliminary estimates suggest that the loss runs into several lakhs of rupees. Authorities suspect that the thieves carefully planned the burglary, possibly scouting the building earlier and waiting for an opportune moment



when residents were not at home.

In a similar recent case, the local police arrested two men in connection with a separate burglary and recovered 25 tolas of gold and some silver items along with cash,

motorcycles, and mobile phones. Telangana Today+1 The thefts in Karimnagar have drawn public attention to the growing threat from organized burglary gangs operating across the region. The current case has

reopened calls for better security measures in apartment complexes and residential buildings across the city. Local residents demand stricter vigil, better lighting, and proper checks at entry points. Many have urged

police to increase patrols at night and encourage residents to install CCTV cameras for added security. Karimnagar Police officials told media that they are reviewing CCTV footage from around the apartment to identify the suspects, trace their movements, and determine whether the same gang may have conducted other recent burglaries in the city. They also appealed to the public to report any suspicious activity immediately and avoid storing large amounts of jewelry or cash at home whenever possible. Police added that similar thefts carried out in the recent past often involved gangs which operate across districts: in

August this year, an inter-district burglar was caught after police recovered 18 tolas of gold and 164 tolas of silver from his possession. Telangana Today Such incidents highlight the urgent need for public vigilance and stronger community-police cooperation.

Residents of Karimnagar have expressed shock at the breach of security and the audacity of the thieves in targeting flats in a supposedly secure apartment complex. "We trusted this building was safe, but now our faith has been shaken," said one resident. Others have urged the apartment management to improve communal security measures immediately.

As the police investigation continues, authorities have warned that they will track the culprits aggressively and take stringent action once suspects are identified. In the meantime, they have cautioned homeowners to be alert and maintain records of their valuables to aid investigation if needed.

The burglary at the Karimnagar apartment serves as a stark reminder: even urban communities are vulnerable to crime, and vigilance, security infrastructure, and swift policing remain crucial to protect residents and their property in growing cities like Karimnagar.

## Nursing Student Injured in Chemical Attack Near Warangal

Warangal December 2, 2025

A serious chemical attack on a nursing student has triggered alarm today in the Warangal region, with police launching an urgent investigation. The victim, an 18-year-old B.Sc. Nursing student from Jafargadh (Jangaon district), suffered chemical burns on her leg and waist after unidentified assailants reportedly hurled a corrosive substance at her while she was riding home on a two-wheeler.

The incident occurred around 8:30 p.m. on Monday near Kadipikonda village under Madikonda police limits, in the Hanamkonda area. Police said the attackers were travelling on a two-wheeler, threw a bottle containing the chemical at the student, and sped away. Locals, alerted by her screams, rushed her to nearby medical help, and police were informed.

She has been admitted to MGM Hospital, Warangal. Doctors have described her injuries as superficial; she is currently under observation and receiving treatment. According



ing to hospital authorities, there are no critical internal injuries, but she must remain under medical supervision until the effects of the chemical are fully assessed.

In response to the attack, police from Kazipet (Madikonda) have registered a case under relevant sections and launched a detailed investigation. They are collecting CCTV footage from the area, questioning nearby residents and commuters, and attempting to trace the attackers. Inspector P. Kishan and his team are leading the probe. According to initial reports, the victim did not notice anyone following her before the incident — raising questions about whether the chemical was thrown deliberately by attackers or accidentally spilled.

The attack comes amid growing unease in Warangal over safety of young women and rising reports of targeted assaults. The case has ignited calls for prompt police action, strict enforcement and public vigilance.

Authorities have urged anyone with information — be it CCTV footage, witness details or suspicious sightings near Kadipikonda — to immediately get in touch with the police and help them track down the culprits. The investigation is ongoing, and the police have said they will update the public once more details emerge.

Local residents and students have expressed shock and concern

over the incident, with many demanding increased security on roads — especially late at night — and better street lighting. Student groups and civil society members called for a thorough inquiry and asked authorities to ensure the safety of women travelling alone.

This attack comes as a mid-growing unease in Warangal over safety of young women and rising reports of targeted assaults. The case has ignited calls for prompt police action, strict enforcement and public vigilance.

Authorities have urged anyone with information — be it CCTV footage, witness details or suspicious sightings near Kadipikonda — to immediately get in touch with the police and help them track down the culprits. The investigation is ongoing, and the police have said they will update the public once more details emerge.

Alongside Saikumar, two other officials, identified as Ashok and Saikumar, were also taken into custody for questioning. The ACB officers are continuing their investigation, interrogating the accused and gathering further evidence related to potential corrupt practices



within the office. The raids have been ongoing for over two hours, and authorities have indicated that more searches and inspections are likely to continue at the Sub-Registrar office to uncover any additional instances of bribery or malpractice. The ACB has taken a systematic approach, ensuring that all evi-

dence is collected meticulously, including documents and digital records related to land registrations.

Sources from the ACB stated that this operation is part of a larger effort to clamp down on corruption in public offices, particularly those handling land transactions, which are often prone to illegal activities due to high-value dealings. The officials emphasized that the action serves as a warning to others engaged in similar misconduct.

Local residents expressed relief over the swift action, noting that corruption in land-related offices has long been a source of distress and delays for citizens. "It is reassuring

to see the authorities act decisively," one resident said.

The ACB has assured the public that the investigation will continue until all those involved are held accountable and any irregularities are addressed. The department is also reviewing other Sub-Registrar offices in the region to ensure compliance with legal procedures and prevent further instances of bribery.

Authorities have appealed to citizens to report any instances of corruption and promised strict action against officials who exploit their positions for personal gain. The outcome of the ongoing investigations is expected to set a precedent for zero-tolerance policies against corruption in Telangana's land registration offices.

The Tandur Sub-Registrar office case underscores the continued vigilance of the ACB and the government's commitment to transparency and accountability in public service.

## Three Killed, Two Injured in Khammam Road Accident

Khammam, December 3, 2025 — In a tragic accident that has sent shockwaves through the local community, three people, including a minor, lost their lives and two others sustained serious injuries when a car rammed into a central divider near Kisharam in Sathupalli mandal of Khammam district. The incident occurred early Wednesday morning when the vehicle, a Tata Altroz (registration on TG 04 A 4744), was traveling from Chandragonda towards Sathupalli. Eyewitnesses reported that the car appeared to be moving at high speed before it lost control and struck the divider violently. The impact caused severe damage to the vehicle, leaving the occupants trapped and critically injured. The deceased were identified as Sajid (25



years), Siddesi Jay (18 years), and Markatla Shashi (11 years). The two injured, Talarai Ajay and Imran, were imme-

diately taken to Sathupalli Government Hospital, where they are currently receiving medical care. Local authori-

ties confirmed that all precautionary measures were taken to stabilize the injured while the rescue operations were underway.

Sathupalli Police, led by Inspector Srihari, promptly responded to the scene. The police re-

covered the bodies and initiated an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the crash. Preliminary findings suggest that overspeeding and poor visibility may have contributed to the accident, but further investigation is underway to determine the exact cause. CCTV footage from the surrounding area is being reviewed, and witnesses are being questioned to gather more details.

The incident has raised serious concerns among residents about road safety in the region. Locals have highlighted that the stretch between Sathupalli and Chandragonda is prone to accidents, particularly during early morning hours when fog and low visibility conditions are common. Calls for improved street lighting, better signage, and

and stricter speed regulation have intensified following this tragedy.

This accident is not isolated in Khammam district. Earlier this year, a vehicle carrying laborers overturned on the Kodad-Khammam highway, claiming two lives and injuring several others. Such repeated incidents have prompted authorities and residents alike to push for stricter enforcement of road safety measures, mandatory vehicle maintenance checks, and awareness campaigns targeting drivers.

The district police have registered a case and are actively investigating whether negligence, road conditions, or other factors contributed to the crash. Kalluru ACP Vasundhara Yadav has advised motorists to exercise caution, especially during early hours as

in adverse weather conditions, and urged the public to report unsafe road conditions promptly.

Officials emphasized the importance of adherence to traffic rules, speed limits, and defensive driving practices to prevent such tragedies in the future. Community members have expressed grief and demanded that the government take immediate action to enhance safety on dangerous stretches of the road to avoid further loss of life.

As investigations continue, this devastating incident serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need for improved road infrastructure, stricter monitoring, and heightened public awareness to protect lives in Khammam and across Telangana.

# Delhi's Air Pollution Crisis: Politics Over Public Health



New Delhi: Air pollution in Delhi continues to claim lives and affect millions, yet political accountability remains elusive, experts say. Every year, pollution kills an estimated 1.5 million Indians and aggravates heart and lung diseases, with vulnerable populations—children, the elderly, and the working poor—bearing the brunt.

Despite this, the government has often sidestepped direct debate on the crisis. Recently, the Modi admin-

istration rejected a request from the Congress party for a parliamentary discussion on air pollution, while sanctioning a ten-hour debate on *Vande Mataram*. This comes amid Delhi's dangerously high pollution levels, with November's average AQI hitting 357.

Political parties have also manipulated narratives. Farmers' stubble burning, blamed for Delhi's winter smog, accounts for only a few weeks of the year, yet it remains a focal

point for blame games between the BJP, AAP, and other parties. Meanwhile, perennial contributors like vehicular emissions, congested roads, poor public transport, and polluting fuels receive insufficient attention.

Incremental measures, such as the Graded Response Action Plan, BS6 fuel adoption, and peripheral expressways, have helped somewhat, but pollution spikes remain severe every winter. Thermal power plants, road

congestion, and outdated public transport continue to add to Delhi's toxic air.

Experts urge urgent reforms: operationalizing flue gas desulfurisation at thermal plants, rapid electrification of buses, taxis, and commercial vehicles, major Metro expansion, and fixing the city's poorly maintained roads. Transparency and enforcement by municipal authorities are essential to reduce vehicle emissions and traffic-related pollutants.

Environmentalists ar-

gue that citizens must use their voting power to hold leaders accountable and demand sustained action. Without political will and a coordinated approach across central, state, and municipal governments, Delhi's residents will continue to struggle for clean air, while health risks rise with each passing winter. The call is clear: air pollution is no longer just an environmental issue—it is a pressing public health and political crisis that requires decisive action.

## India Prepares for Strategic Talks as Putin Arrives for Summit



New Delhi: Russian President Vladimir Putin is set to visit India on December 4-5 for the 23rd annual bilateral summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, marking his first trip to the country since 2021. The summit comes at a critical geopolitical juncture, with both leaders facing significant international pressures. Putin is under U.S. pressure to end the war in Ukraine, while India navigates tensions with the United States, sanctions on Russian oil, and ongoing defence procurement challenges.

Key issues on the agenda include energy, defence, and trade. India's oil imports from Russia have steadily declined, though state-owned refiners like Indian Oil and Bharat Petroleum continue limited purchases. Russia is reportedly exploring alternative trade mechanisms to bypass sanctions. The summit is expected to focus on balancing India's energy security needs with geopolitical sensitivities, including the 25% U.S. tariff on Russian oil.

Defence cooperation remains a cornerstone of the India-Russia relationship. Around 60-70% of Indian military equipment is Russian-made, including T-90 tanks, Su-30MKI and Mig-29 fighters, the INS Vikramaditya aircraft carrier, and multiple Krivak-class frigates. Recent military operations have highlighted the performance of Russian systems, including the S-400 Triumph missile defence systems and the BrahMos

cruise missile. Discussions may include the BrahMos-II hypersonic missile project, the Pantsir self-propelled anti-aircraft system, and long-range early-warning radars to monitor Chinese activity. India is also exploring nuclear attack submarines and continued Russian support for nuclear-powered vessels.

Trade and economic ties will also be discussed, particularly the \$65 billion in Russian exports to India, dominated by oil, compared to India's \$5 billion in exports. Both sides aim to develop alternate payment systems and strengthen bilateral trade, including potential cooperation in small modular nuclear reactors.

Analysts note that Russia remains a key strategic partner for India, offering advanced systems without restrictive conditions often imposed by Western suppliers. Maintaining close ties with Russia while deepening relations with the U.S. and EU represents a delicate balancing act for India amid rising global tensions, especially concerning the Ukraine conflict.

Putin's visit is expected to reaffirm India-Russia ties and explore avenues for energy, defence, and trade cooperation, even as the West watches closely. For India, the summit underscores the importance of sustaining long-standing partnerships while navigating a complex international environment.

## Rupee Slide Signals Urgent Need to Cut Oil Dependence



The Indian rupee has depreciated around 7% over the past year, falling from roughly ₹83.4 to ₹89.2 against the U.S. dollar, raising concerns about the currency's stability amid external pressures. While not unprecedented—the rupee slid 11-12% in 2018—the current context mirrors earlier periods of global uncertainty, including rising U.S. interest rates, strong dollar trends, and trade tensions.

To manage volatility, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has actively intervened, selling a net \$50 billion in foreign exchange since November 2024 and employing long-term currency-swap mechanisms. In 2025 alone, the RBI executed a \$10 billion dollar/rupee buy-sell swap auction to inject liquidity into the banking system. Analysts note that under

India's floating-but-managed exchange rate regime, the RBI can smoothen volatility but cannot fully prevent depreciation.

The rupee's slide has been

driven largely by a widening current-account deficit, fueled by rising bullion imports as a hedge and exports

adjusting to high U.S. tariffs. Crude oil imports, which account for over 20% of total imports, remain a significant pressure point. As India transitions from cheaper Russian crude to more expensive U.S. oil, currency weakness could translate into higher import bills, potentially impacting inflation.

Despite these challenges, there are reasons for cautious optimism. India's foreign exchange reserves remain comfortable at around \$693 bil-

## South Africa Humiliates India in Historic Test Series Sweep



New Delhi: Indian cricket suffered a humbling defeat as South Africa completed a 2-0 series sweep in the ongoing Test series, exposing critical flaws in India's red-ball game. The first Test at Guwahati saw South African captain Temba Bavuma lead from the front, scoring 55 in the second innings—the highest in the match—and guiding his team to a commanding victory. The second Test only reinforced South Africa's dominance, with India succumbing by a record 408 runs at home.

The series has highlighted India's startling decline in home Test cricket. Between 2008 and 2025, India had won 59 out of 88 home Tests, rarely

losing at home. But recent series losses against New Zealand and South Africa suggest that the home advantage has eroded, leaving Indian cricket vulnerable. Analysts attribute the downfall to weak spin bowling, inconsistent batting against quality attacks, and misguided team selection strategies that prioritize all-rounders over specialists.

Controversial team choices worsened India's woes. Washington Sundar, usually an off-spinner, was played out of position at number three and bowled minimally, while Nitish Reddy contributed little with both bat and ball. The absence of specialist spinners and failure to groom domestic

talent for red-ball cricket exposed India to a well-prepared South African attack.

Off the field, a now-infamous incident involving Jasprit Bumrah's on-field remark about Bavuma went viral. While Bumrah's use of a derogatory word drew criticism, Bavuma responded graciously, emphasizing the

series was defined by cricketing performance rather than personal slights. The South African team, however, ensured India "grovelled" on the field, reminiscent of historical confrontations such as the 1976 West Indies-England series.

Experts argue that the Board of Control for Cricket in

India (BCCI) must refocus on red-ball cricket, nurturing specialists and maintaining a balance between youth and experience.

The selectors, including chairman Ajit Agarkar, and the team management face scrutiny for decisions that have undermined India's historic dominance.

With the World Test Championship cycle continuing and Australia set to tour India for five Tests, the BCCI must address these structural issues. Without urgent corrective measures, Indian cricket risks normalizing home defeats, eroding fan confidence, and losing its competitive edge in the longest format of the game.

# Russia to Deepen Civil Nuclear Ties with India During Putin Visit

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Russia is set to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with India to strengthen bilateral cooperation in civil nuclear energy during President Vladimir Putin's two-day visit to India on December 4-5.

The Russian cabinet has cleared the MoU, which will be signed by Rosatom, Russia's state nuclear corporation, on behalf of the government. Rosatom is already engaged in constructing multiple reactors at the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant in Tamil Nadu, marking a long-standing collaboration in India's nuclear energy sector.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told the Indian media that Rosatom CEO Alexei Ligachev will bring a comprehensive portfolio of proposals for the summit, including plans for cooperation in developing small modular reactors (SMRs) in India. These initiatives are expected to enhance India's nuclear infrastructure and support its energy diversification goals.

Reports indicate that Rosatom has also expressed readiness to local-



ise the production of advanced Russian-designed reactors in India. This move aligns with India's push for domestic manufacturing and technology transfer in strategic sectors, including energy.

The upcoming MoU is expected to further consolidate India-Russia ties in civil nuclear energy, building on decades of

partnership that has seen cooperation in reactor construction, fuel supply, and technical training. Both countries aim to leverage nuclear energy as a key component of sustainable development and energy security.

Experts note that this agreement could accelerate India's transition to low-carbon energy sourc-

es while providing Russian technology firms a strong foothold in the growing Indian nuclear market.

The civil nuclear part-

nership is part of a broader agenda for Putin's India visit, which also includes discussions on trade, defence, and regional security. Analysts suggest that the MoU un-

derscores the strategic importance both nations place on energy cooperation amid evolving global geopolitical and energy dynamics.

With nuclear energy playing a central role in India's clean energy strategy, the MoU with Russia is expected to strengthen collaboration and innovation in the sector.

## IndiGo Cancels 70+ Flights Amid Crew Shortages



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

IndiGo Airlines cancelled over 70 flights on Wednesday, affecting operations at major airports including Bengaluru and Mumbai, primarily due to crew shortages, aviation sources said. Numerous other flights faced delays as the airline struggled to meet operational requirements, causing frustration among passengers.

In a statement, IndiGo acknowledged the disruptions, citing "technology issues, airport congestion, and operational requirements" alongside the acute crew shortage as key factors behind the cancellations and delays. Sources noted that the situation worsened on Wednesday following already disrupted schedules on Tuesday.

According to the Civil Aviation Ministry, IndiGo's on-time perfor-

mance from six major domestic airports dropped to 35 per cent on Tuesday. In comparison, other carriers fared better, with Air India at 67.2 per cent, Air India Express 79.5 per cent, SpiceJet 82.5 per cent, and Akasa Air 73.2 per cent.

The ongoing issues are linked to the imple-

mentation of the second

phase of Flight Duty

Time Limitation (FDTL) norms, which

came into effect on No-

ember 1. These norms,

mandated by the DGCA

following Delhi High

Court directives, extend

weekly rest periods to

48 hours, limit night

flights, and reduce the

number of allowable

night landings from six

to two. Airlines, includ-

ing IndiGo and Air In-

dia, had initially op-

posed the measures,

citing additional crew

requirements.

IndiGo, headquar-

tered in Gurugram, currently operates around 2,100 domestic and international flights, with a significant portion during night hours. As of December 2, the airline had a fleet of 416 aircraft, with 366 in operation and 50 grounded, up from 47 last month, according to Planespotters.com.

Passengers have re-

ported long delays and

cancellations, prompting

concerns over winter

travel disruptions.

IndiGo has urged travel-

ers to check flight sta-

tus before heading to

the airport and assured

that it is taking steps to

mitigate the impact of

the ongoing crew short-

age while adhering to

safety and regulatory

norms.

The airline is closely monitoring the situation and coordinating with airports to resume normal operations as soon as possible.

## Government Withdraws Mandatory Sanchar Saathi Pre-Installation



TPN Correspondent | Lucknow

The Ministry of Communications on Wednesday announced it will no longer mandate the pre-installation of the Sanchar Saathi app on all smartphones, reversing a controversial decision issued just days ago.

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) had earlier directed phone manufacturers to pre-install the cybersecurity app on all devices from March 2026, citing concerns over handsets with duplicate or spoofed IMEI numbers that could threaten telecom security.

President Murmu encouraged all citizens to actively participate in empowering Divyangjan, fostering an environment of equality and mutual respect. She noted that national development is incomplete unless every individual, including those with disabilities, is able to contribute meaningfully to society.

The awards ceremony was attended by senior government officials, social activists, and representatives from organisations working for disability rights. It served as a reminder of India's ongoing commitment to inclusion, accessibility, and the empowerment of persons with disabilities, aligning with the global vision of equity and social justice.

In its revised statement, the government said the policy reversal

was prompted by the app's "increasing acceptance" among users.

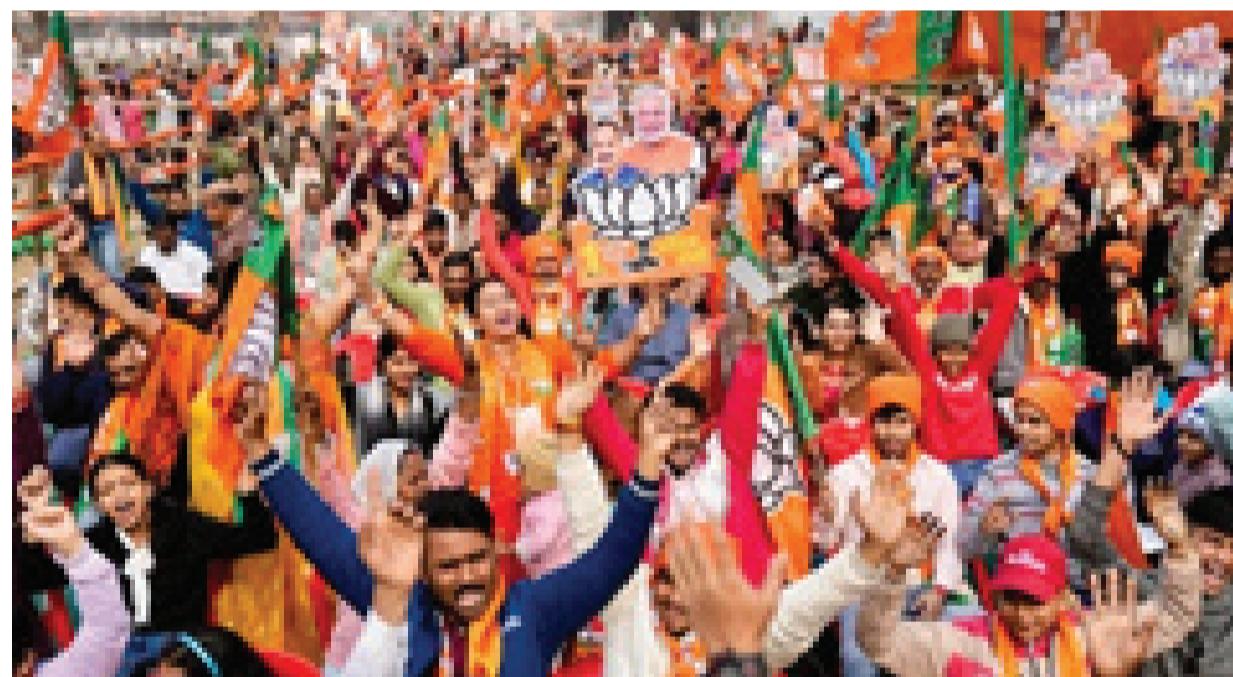
Several parties had publicly called for the policy to be reconsidered, highlighting concerns over digital freedoms and user consent.

By withdrawing the pre-installation requirement, the government aims to balance cybersecurity objectives with public concerns over privacy.

The Ministry underlined that the app remains available for voluntary use and continues to play a role in protecting users from telecom fraud, even without mandatory installation on devices.

The decision marks a rare policy reversal in India's tech regulatory landscape and reflects the growing influence of public opinion and digital rights advocacy in shaping government directives.

## BJP Wins 7, AAP 3 in Delhi Municipal By-Polls



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) secured a comfortable victory in seven of the 12 wards contested in the Delhi Municipal Corporation by-polls on Wednesday, strengthening its position following the February Assembly elections.

Despite its overall suc-

cess, the BJP lost two wards it previously held—one each to Congress and AIFB—but gained Chandni Chowk, previously held by AAP. AAP, in turn, reclaimed Naraina, a BJP ward from 2022. These minor shifts, however, do not affect BJP's control of the municipal house, where it

now holds 122 of 250 seats. AAP has 102, while Congress holds nine.

The by-polls were con-

ducted in Greater Kailash,

Shalimar Bagh B, Ashok

Vihar, Chandni Chowk,

Chandni Mahal, Dichaon

Kalan, Naraina, Sangam

Vihar A, Dakshin Puri,

Mundka, Vinod Nagar,

and Dwarka B wards. Ele-

ven of the vacancies arose

after sitting councillors

were elected to the Assem-

by, including Shalimar

Bagh B, previously repre-

sented by BJP's Rekha

Gupta, now Delhi's Chief

Minister. BJP's Anita Jain

retained that ward, while

Veena Asija narrowly held

Ashok Vihar by a margin of

405 votes.

For BJP, the by-polls were a key test for Chief

Minister Rekha Gupta,

which the party cleared

comfortably. For AAP, it

was the first electoral test

under the leadership of

Saurabh Bhardwaj, who

also emerged without los-

ing any contested seats.

The results reinforce

BJP's continued domi-

nance in Delhi's civic poli-

cies while showing AAP's

resilience in key wards.

Congress' single victory

and AIFB's win indicate

smaller players can still

influence local contests,

even in a largely bipolar

municipal scenario.

The by-poll outcomes

will shape party strategies

ahead of future local elec-

tions in the capital.

## President Murmu Honors Disability Champions



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

President Droupadi Murmu presented the National Awards for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) for the year 2025 in New Delhi on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The ceremony celebrated individuals, organisations, and institutions making outstanding contributions to the welfare and empowerment of persons with disabilities as equal partners.

Addressing the gathering, President Murmu highlighted the importance of a rights-based approach for Divyangjan, urging society to move beyond charity and engage with persons with disabilities as equal partners. "Respect, not charity, should guide our efforts for Divyangjan," she said, underlining that inclusion must be grounded in dignity and empowerment.

The President appreciated the government's initiatives aimed at improving the lives of persons with disabilities, citing legislative measures and

executive actions that have enhanced accessibility, employment opportunities, education, and social welfare programs. She emphasized that a collaborative approach, involving civil society, corporate sectors, and government, is essential to create an inclusive environment where Divyangjan can thrive.

The National Awards recognise excellence

across multiple categories, including individual achievement, institutional support, innovation in accessibility, and efforts in advocacy and awareness.

Recipients included exemplary role models who have broken barriers in education, employment, sports, and social services, demonstrating that persons with disabilities can lead independent and fulfilling lives with

appropriate support and recognition.

President Murmu encouraged all citizens to actively participate in empowering Divyangjan, fostering an environment of equality and mutual respect. She noted that national development is incomplete unless every individual, including those with disabilities, is able to contribute meaningfully to society.

The awards ceremony was attended by senior government officials, social activists, and representatives from organisations working for disability rights. It served as a reminder of India's ongoing commitment to inclusion, accessibility, and the empowerment of persons with disabilities, aligning with the global vision of equity and social justice.

The initial mandate

had drawn sharp criti-

cism from opposition

leaders and privacy ad-

vocates, who argued it

## Five-Layer Security Deployed Ahead of Putin's India Visit



TPN Correspondent New Delhi

Russian President Vladimir Putin is set to arrive in India tomorrow for a two-day visit, and authorities have established an elaborate five-layer security ring to ensure his safety throughout the action-packed itinerary. The measures include top commandos, snipers, drones, jammers, AI monitoring, and facial recognition systems, according to sources.

Putin's visit, at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, includes a ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan, a visit to Mahatma Gandhi's memorial at Raj Ghat, the India-Russia Annual Summit at Hyderabad House, and a banquet hosted by President Droupadi Murmu. Over four dozen Russian security personnel have already arrived in Delhi to coordinate with Indian agencies for the operation.

The outer layers of the security ring involve the National Security Guard (NSG) and Delhi Police, who are responsible for sanitising routes and monitoring crowds. The inner layers are managed by the Russian Presidential Security Service, with specialized drones providing live feeds to a central control

room. Commandos from India's Special Protection Group (SPG) will join the inner ring when Putin meets Prime Minister Modi. Several snipers will cover the President's movement, and jammers will protect against potential electronic threats.

Every venue, including the hotel where Putin will stay, has been thoroughly secured. Russian and Indian officials are also monitoring potential impromptu destinations the President may visit. The control room will maintain constant communication with all layers, ensuring rapid response to any threat.

Officials emphasized that the multi-tiered security approach is designed to address a range of risks, from physical attacks to cyber or drone threats. Sources said the operation reflects India's focus on providing the highest level of protection for visiting world leaders, combining advanced technology with elite personnel.

Putin's visit underscores the close diplomatic ties between India and Russia, with extensive security measures highlighting the significance and high-profile nature of the two-day engagement.

## Israel: Gaza Findings Don't Match Hostages



TPN Correspondent | Jerusalem

Israel on Wednesday announced that the remains returned from Gaza on Tuesday do not match any of the hostages killed during Hamas' 2023 attack, according to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office. Forensic testing confirmed that the materials handed over by Palestinian militants were unrelated to the 26 hostages who had died in captivity.

The handover occurred in Beit Lahiya, a northern town in Gaza, and marks one of the last steps in the first phase of the US-brokered ceasefire between Israel and Hamas. Since early October, the ceasefire has facilitated the return of 20 living hostages and the remains of 26 others, under terms that both sides have accused each other of

high, as each side continues to scrutinize the other's compliance with the agreement.

The handover is seen as a critical aspect of the ceasefire, which was mediated by the United States to de-escalate violence in the region. Despite the ongoing diplomatic efforts, both Israel and Hamas have faced criticism for actions perceived as undermining the agreement, including delays and selective reporting of returns.

Analysts note that while the forensic findings provide clarity regarding the remains, they may further complicate negotiations over the remaining hostages. The fate of the two individuals still in Gaza remains uncertain, and Israel has emphasized the need for continued international pressure to ensure their safe return.

The ceasefire and hostages' return remain closely watched by the global community, with hopes that this phase will pave the way for broader negotiations to reduce hostilities and address humanitarian concerns in Gaza.

## Trump administration halts immigration applications for migrants from 19 travel-ban nations

TPN Bureau | Washington

The Trump administration has ordered an immediate pause on immigration benefit applications — including green cards and naturalizations — for individuals from the 19 countries already covered under this year's expanded travel ban. The directive, detailed in a policy memo released Tuesday by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), marks one of the most sweeping immigration actions taken since the recent shooting of two National Guard troops near the White House.

The pause affects a broad range of immigration processes for applicants from nations the administration has labelled "high-risk." USCIS Director Joseph Edlow has been given authority to determine when the suspension will be lifted. The travel restrictions announced in June banned entry for citizens of Afghanistan, Myanmar, Chad, the Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen, while access was limited for individuals from Burundi, Cuba, Laos,



Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan and Venezuela.

Until now, immigrants from these nations already inside the US before the ban faced no additional procedures. The new order changes that significantly. USCIS has confirmed it will re-review all "approved benefit requests" for anyone from

these countries who entered the US on or after January 20, 2021 — regardless of their immigration status or the length of time they have been in the country. This may include fresh interviews, background checks, and referrals to immigration enforcement.

The agency cites national

security concerns linked to the Thanksgiving week shooting involving a suspect of Afghan origin, which left one National Guard soldier dead and another injured. Within 90 days, USCIS will prepare a priority list of cases for reassessment.

The move comes amid a

series of rapid policy shifts, including a pause on all asylum decisions and the State Department's suspension of visa processing for Afghans who assisted US forces. Critics argue the administration's actions amount to collective punishment and risk destabilizing long-settled immigrant communities.

## "Radicalised Islamist Asim Munir Yearns For War With India": Imran Khan's Sister

TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

Imran Khan's sister Aleema Khan has launched a sharp attack on Pakistan's Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) General Asim Munir, alleging he is driven by "radical Islamism" ideology and is responsible for escalating tensions with India. Speaking to Sky News on The World with Yalda Hakim, Aleema claimed Munir "yearns for a war with India," contrasting him with her brother, whom she described as a "pure liberal" who seeks peace with neighbouring nations.

Responding to questions on the reasons behind the India-Pakistan conflict in May, Aleema accused Munir of pushing confrontation due to his "radicalisation and conservatism." She asserted that whenever Imran Khan comes to power, he attempts to improve ties with India, whereas Munir's approach leads to conflict not only with



India but potentially with its allies as well. Aleema urged Western nations to increase pressure on Pakistan to release the former prime minister.

Her remarks come months after the May 7 Indian Armed Forces' precision strikes on

nine terror bases across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. India said the strikes — part of Operation Sindo — were a direct response to the April 22 Pahalgam attack that left 26 civilians dead.

Tensions between

Imran Khan and Asim Munir date back to 2019, when Munir reportedly initiated probes involving Khan's wife Bushra Bibi. He was removed as ISI chief within eight months, a move the army did not publicly explain.

Imran Khan, detained since August 2023 on multiple convictions, remains in Adiala Jail. Recent concerns over his well-being intensified after his family alleged they were denied access. His sister Dr Uzma Khanum, after a brief

meeting on Tuesday, said Khan was "mentally tortured" and held in isolation. Aleema accused authorities of attempting to "suppress the people of Pakistan" by silencing a leader she claims "represents 90% of the country."

## Zelenskyy in Europe as US Envoy Meets Putin on Peace Talks



TPN Correspondent | Colombo

As peace efforts in the four-year-long Ukraine conflict gather momentum, US special envoy Steve Witkoff met Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow on Tuesday to discuss an early-stage peace plan, with hopes of ending the war. The

meeting, attended by Jared Kushner, son-in-law of former US President Donald Trump, was described by the Kremlin as a focused session involving only the US delegation and an interpreter.

The talks mark a renewed push by the Trump administration to advance peace pro-

posals, following months of limited progress. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has been engaged in parallel discussions with Ukrainian officials, while Witkoff's visit signals direct US engagement with Moscow. According to Kremlin sources, the discussions are expect-

ed to continue "as long as needed" to find common ground on key issues.

Coinciding with the Moscow meeting, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, accompanied by his wife Olena Zelenska, visited Ireland, part of his ongoing tour of European nations sup-

porting Ukraine's resistance to Russian aggression. In Dublin, Zelenskyy met Ireland's President Catherine Connolly, highlighting Ukraine's diplomatic outreach in Europe amid ongoing conflict.

Speaking on Tuesday, President Putin asserted that Russia does not

seek war with European powers but warned that Moscow is prepared to fight if Europe desires direct confrontation. He also accused European nations of complicating US-led peace efforts by submitting proposals Moscow deems unacceptable, adding tension to the diplomatic landscape.

Observers say the dual-track approach — diplomatic outreach in Europe by Zelenskyy and direct negotiations in Moscow by US officials — reflects the urgency to find a resolution before the conflict escalates further. Analysts note that the involvement of high-profile US figures underscores the international community's commitment to ending hostilities, though major hurdles remain in reconciling Moscow and Kyiv's positions.

The outcome of these discussions could shape the trajectory of the Ukraine war and influence broader European security dynamics in the months ahead.

# India's Power Tools Market Set to Cross \$3.8 Billion by 2035

India's power tools segment is projected to more than double, reaching \$3.8 billion by 2035, growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 7.8%, according to industry experts and a recent study by IMARC Group.

The growth is being driven by massive government capital expenditure in infrastructure sectors such as roads, railways, airports, and housing, alongside increasing demand from furniture manufacturing, the automotive aftermarket, and a rising Do-It-Yourself (DIY) culture.

To reduce reliance on imports and tap into the growing demand, the Union Government is actively encouraging domestic manufacturing, which is beginning to show results. Local manufacturers are gradually scaling up production capacity in line with the "Make in India" initiative.

The broader hand tools, power tools, and fasteners market in India



is also on an upward trajectory. The domestic hand tools market, currently valued at \$826 million (2024), is expected to reach \$1.22 billion by 2033, reflecting a CAGR of 4.1%, the IMARC study noted.

This surge is being attributed to the modernisation of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), increasing industrialisation, and strong aftermarket demand. Moreover, with India's booming con-

struction and home improvement sectors, the need for efficient and cost-effective tools is only expected to grow.

Industry officials said that the DIY trend among urban consumers, especially in metro

cities, is also expanding the market for portable and battery-operated tools. E-commerce platforms have further simplified access to such products, making them popular among younger, tech-savvy users.

Experts believe that sustained policy support, coupled with infrastructure and industrial growth, will transform India into a manufacturing and export hub for power tools over the next decade.

## India Becomes Top Expansion Market for APAC 3PL Firms:

India has emerged as the most-preferred expansion destination for third-party logistics (3PL) companies in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region, according to a new report released by CBRE on Sunday (September 28, 2025).

The study reveals that nearly 70% of APAC-based 3PL occupiers are planning to expand their footprint in India over the next two years. This marks the highest intent for expansion among all markets surveyed in the region.

CBRE attributed this growing interest to India's rapidly developing infrastructure, digital transformation in supply chains, and the booming e-commerce sector. Other contributing factors include favourable government policies under initiatives such as PM Gati Shakti and National Logistics Policy, aimed at enhancing logistics efficiency and reducing operational costs.

"India's position as a key supply chain hub is strengthening, driven by robust demand from retail, e-commerce, manufacturing, and FMCG sectors," said a senior CBRE analyst. "The country



is now seen not only as a consumption market but also as a strategic distribution and logistics hub."

The report also highlighted a rise in Grade-A warehousing demand, especially in Tier-1 cities like Delhi-NCR,

Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Chennai. Tier-2 cities such as Lucknow, Coimbatore, and Indore are also gaining traction due to lower costs and improving connectivity.

India's 3PL segment has seen double-digit annual

growth in recent years, supported by increasing outsourcing of logistics operations by major industries. With rising investments in automation, cold chain facilities, and multi-modal logistics parks, the sector is poised for

sustained expansion.

CBRE expects the Indian logistics real estate market to outperform its regional counterparts in the medium term, reinforcing the country's status as the logistics growth engine of APAC.

## SBI Bats for 25 bps Rate Cut Ahead of RBI Policy Meet



Ahead of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) bi-monthly monetary policy announcement

on October 1, a State Bank of India (SBI) research report has recommended a 25 basis

point (bps) rate cut, calling it the "best possible option" in the current economic

climate. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), chaired by RBI Gover-

nor Sanjay Malhotra, will begin its three-day meeting on Monday, September 30, amid global economic uncertainty, rising geopolitical tensions, and the recent 50% tariffs imposed by the US on Indian exports.

The SBI report argues that a modest rate cut would support domestic growth without stoking inflation, especially as headline CPI inflation remains within the RBI's comfort range. "A 25 bps cut would signal proactive policy support to insulate the economy from external shocks," the report said.

However, several other economists and analysts expect the RBI to maintain status quo on the repo rate, citing concerns about volatile crude prices, geopolitical risks, and the weak rupee. Many believe the central bank will

prefer to wait and watch, especially as the US Federal Reserve remains hawkish.

India's repo rate currently stands at 6.50%, unchanged since February 2023. The central bank has maintained a "withdrawal of accommodation" stance, balancing inflation control with the need to support growth.

A rate cut now, according to SBI, would also help ease borrowing costs for businesses and consumers, just ahead of the festive season, potentially boosting consumption and credit demand.

The final decision will be announced by RBI on Wednesday, October 1, and will be closely watched by markets, banks, and industry stakeholders for its signal on the direction of monetary policy amid global uncertainty.

New Delhi: The central government plans to borrow ₹6.77 lakh crore through dated securities in the second half (H2) of fiscal year 2025-26, aiming to stay close to its full-year borrowing goal.

Having already borrowed ₹7.95 lakh crore in H1, the Centre will revise the total gross market borrowing for FY26 to ₹14.72 lakh crore, narrowly lower than the original budgeted ₹14.82 lakh crore.

The shift is designed to balance fiscal discipline with market stability, despite increasing defence spending pressures.

Officials say that the H2 borrowing will be conducted over 22 weekly tranches, each totaling ₹28,000-₹33,000 crore, and is scheduled to conclude by March 6, 2026. Of the total, ₹10,000 crore is planned via sovereign green bonds.

In terms of maturity com-

## Plastic Pipes Industry Faces FY25 Challenges, Eyes 10-12% Growth Ahead



Traditionally fragmented and focused heavily on agriculture, India's plastic piping industry has faced significant turbulence in FY25, struggling with subdued infrastructure investments, tight liquidity, and volatile raw material prices, according to a report released by JM Financial. However, the industry remains optimistic about its medium-term outlook, supported by stabilising input costs and sustained demand from key sectors.

### Navigating a Tough Year

FY25 proved to be a challenging year for the sector. Plastic pipe manufacturers—especially those reliant on PVC (polyvinyl chloride)—

had to deal with erratic pricing patterns. Global factors, such as sluggish construction activity in major markets like China and developed economies, combined with a supply glut from large exporters like China, South Korea, and Taiwan, led to aggressive undercutting of prices in the Indian market.

### PVC Price Trends

PVC, which constitutes a major input cost for the industry, dropped significantly over FY20-25, declining at a 4% CAGR, compared to its long-term growth trend of 2% CAGR over the last 25 years.

After a prolonged downturn, prices began to recover, rising by ₹7/kg over the last 4-5 months to reach ₹79/kg in September 2025. While this remains below the FY22 peak, it marks a potential turning point for the sector.

### Market Evolution and Future Drivers

"Stabilising PVC prices should restore distributor confidence, reduce inventory risks, and aid margin recovery for organised players," the report concluded, projecting a more stable and profitable path ahead for the sector.

## Govt to Borrow ₹6.77 Lakh Crore in H2, Holds Near FY26 Target



position, the share of short-term papers (3-5 years) will be increased to 19.9% (from 15.9%), while the share of longer-term papers (15-50 years) will fall from 51.8% to 43.7%. Medium-term securities (7-10 years) will also see a rise to 36.5% from 32.4%.

The Centre reaffirmed its commitment to keeping the fiscal deficit at 4.4% of GDP, compared to 4.8% in FY25. To manage liquidity mismatches, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set the ways and means advances (WMA) limit for H2 at ₹50,000 crore.

Officials emphasise that despite uncertainties—like US-imposed tariffs and defence expenditure—the borrowing plan remains predictable, aiming to avoid surprising the bond market and limit crowding out of state and private borrowing.

## India, Japan Join Forces on Giant Telescope to Hunt for Aliens



India and Japan are collaborating to build one of the world's most advanced astronomical instruments, the Thirty Metre Telescope (TMT), designed to probe the deepest reaches of the universe and search for signs of extraterrestrial life. With a massive 30-metre primary mirror, the telescope will surpass existing instruments in size and capability, offering unprecedented clarity in observing distant galaxies, black holes, and exoplanets.

The TMT project is an international initiative involving India, Japan, and two leading U.S. universities. Unlike traditional telescopes, TMT's primary mirror is formed by 500 smaller mirrors precisely aligned, a technological challenge where India plays a crucial role. Indian scientists and engineers from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru; Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune; and Aryabhatta Research Institute for Observational Sciences (ARIES), Nainital, have developed opto-mechanical systems to ensure perfect mirror alignment, a critical factor for the telescope's success.

Dr. Saku Tsuneta, Vice Chair

of Japan's Committee on National Space Policy, explained that the larger the mirror, the more light it can capture, enabling discoveries about extremely distant cosmic objects. Indian technology is central in managing the alignment and calibration of these mirrors, highlighting the nation's growing role in global science collaborations.

The telescope will be constructed at Mauna Kea, Hawaii, at an altitude of 4,000 metres, chosen for its clear skies and minimal atmospheric interference. Japan already operates an 8.2-metre telescope at the site, which has delivered groundbreaking astronomical observations for over 25 years.

India joined TMT as a founder-member partner in 2014, contributing to optical and infrared astronomy expertise. The telescope is expected to redefine humanity's understanding of the universe, potentially answering one of the most profound questions: Are we alone in the cosmos?

This collaboration underscores India's strength in high-precision science and engineering, while offering a platform for cutting-edge discoveries in astronomy and astrobiology.

## Man Turns Hulk, But Paint Mishap Leaves Him Green for Days



A British man's attempt to become the Incredible Hulk for an event in Benidorm turned into a multi-day ordeal after a paint mishap left him stuck in green.

The man, identified as Kane, used green fabric paint instead of body-safe makeup while preparing for a night out. His friend, Graham White, who documents city life on TikTok, filmed Kane applying the paint with a brush, smiling as he transformed into the superhero.

Despite the mishap, Kane reportedly maintained his good humor, sharing the ordeal online and joking about being "the real-life Hulk" until the paint finally came off. The story has sparked a mix of amusement and concern, reminding others that not all paints are created equal when it comes to skin safety.

The unusual incident has gone viral on social media, elic-

iting laughter, sympathy, and warnings from users about the importance of using safe, removable body paints for costumes. Experts caution that fabric paints are not intended for skin and can cause irritation if left on for long periods.

Kane's experience serves as a cautionary tale for cosplayers and partygoers, highlighting the need to double-check product labels and use proper makeup or body paint when transforming into characters.

Despite the mishap, Kane reportedly maintained his good humor, sharing the ordeal online and joking about being "the real-life Hulk" until the paint finally came off. The story has sparked a mix of amusement and concern, reminding others that not all paints are created equal when it comes to skin safety.

## Half of Packaged Foods on Blinkit, Zepto, Swiggy Instamart Are Junk: Survey

A recent survey has revealed that nearly half of the packaged food items available on popular online grocery platforms like Blinkit, Zepto, and Swiggy Instamart fall into the category of "junk food," raising concerns over public health and nutrition. The study examined hundreds of products, highlighting a high prevalence of items rich in unhealthy fats, sugar, and salt, while being low in fiber, vitamins, and other essential micronutrients.

Nutrition experts warn that regular consumption of these processed foods is strongly linked to lifestyle diseases such as obesity, type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disorders, and even accelerated aging. The survey also found that many products marketed as "healthy" or "snack alternatives" often contain hidden sugar, refined flours, and preservatives, mislead-



Paan Corner



Dairy, Bread & Eggs



Fruits & Vegetables



Cold Drinks & Juices



ing consumers into believing they are making healthier choices.

"The convenience of online grocery platforms has made access

to packaged foods easier, but consumers must exercise caution," said a nutritionist involved in the study. "A large portion of these products do not meet basic nutritional standards and can have long-term health consequences if consumed regularly."

The survey under-scores the urgent need for stricter regulations on the marketing and labeling of packaged foods, especially those sold on e-commerce

platforms. Experts suggest that clear front-of-pack labeling and public awareness campaigns could help consumers make informed choices.

While e-commerce grocery services have transformed urban food consumption, making delivery of snacks and packaged meals easier than ever, the study highlights the hidden health risks associated with this convenience. Health authorities and consumer rights organizations have called for increased monitoring and guidance to ensure that these platforms prioritize nutritional value alongside variety and affordability.

Consumers are advised to read labels carefully, limit consumption of processed snacks, and include more fresh fruits, vegetables, and whole grains in their diets to maintain a balanced nutritional profile.

## Apple May Launch Only Three iPhones in 2026, Foldable Model Rumoured



Cupertino: Apple is reportedly planning a leaner iPhone release schedule in 2026, with only three models expected to hit the market. According to industry sources, the tech giant may delay the launch of the standard "vanilla" iPhone and the next-generation iPhone Air, focusing instead on premium and innovative models.

One of the most anticipated developments is the potential debut of a foldable iPhone, which could mark Apple's first entry into the foldable smartphone segment. Analysts suggest that the foldable model would feature advanced flexible display technology, improved durability, and enhanced multitasking capabilities, aiming to compete with existing foldable devices from Samsung and other manufacturers.

Apple's decision to trim the lineup is seen as part of a broader strategy to streamline production, reduce supply chain complexities, and emphasize high-margin devices. The company has reportedly conducted extensive research on consumer de-

mand and found that premium models continue to generate the majority of revenue and profit, making a focused launch strategy more viable.

While the foldable iPhone could redefine the smartphone experience for Apple users, the delayed launch of the standard and Air mod-

els may impact mid-tier buyers who prefer more affordable options. Industry watchers expect Apple to maintain its existing pricing strategy while positioning the foldable iPhone as a premium, aspirational device.

Additionally, the new

incremental upgrades in processing power, camera capabilities, and battery life, along with tighter integration with Apple's broader ecosystem, including the Apple Watch, iPad, and Mac devices.

Rumors indicate that Apple may unveil the 2026 models at its traditional Septem-

ber launch event, but confirmation on the exact lineup and specifications is still awaited. Tech enthusiasts worldwide are eagerly awaiting more details, particularly on the foldable iPhone, which could signal a significant shift in Apple's product design and market strategy.

## Delhi Restaurateur Claims Zomato Lists His Eatery as "Unavailable"

### Tadka Rani

2 km - Lala Lajpat Rai Marg

Schedule your order

Frequently reordered

CLOSED RIGHT NOW  
Sorry! All delivery partners are occupied. Please try after some time

4.1  
By 1.30 AM

Excellent hygiene

Tadka Rani

Not delivering currently

BASED ON YOUR SEARCH



Tadka Rani

Not delivering currently

Similar restaurants delivering now



MORE RESULTS LIKE THIS



Moets Curry Leaf

40-45 mins

inder Goyal, CEO of Zomato's parent company, Eternal, implying senior management awareness of the issue.

The video Sapra shared highlights the growing frustration among restaurant owners over app-based delivery platforms controlling visibility and rider allocation, a long-standing point of contention in the food-tech industry.

Zomato, which dominates India's online food delivery market, has faced similar allegations from other restaurateurs in the past regarding system glitches, order prioritization, and high commission charges. Industry experts say such concerns reflect the need for greater transparency and fairness in algorithmic management of restaurants on delivery platforms.

Sapra has urged Zomato to rectify the listing and ensure fair access to riders, emphasizing that repeated unavailability listings during busy hours are harming his revenue and customer base. The company's formal investigation is awaited, and it remains to be seen whether corrective measures will be implemented to restore the restaurant's visibility on the app.

A Delhi restaurateur has raised concerns over Zomato repeatedly marking his restaurant as "unavailable", even when nearby eateries remain open. Gagandeep Singh Sapra, owner of Tadka Rani in Greater Kailash 1, shared a video on X showing

the app displaying his restaurant as unavailable while others within 50 meters continued to receive orders.

Sapra alleged that this issue occurs during peak hours, affecting rider allocation and impacting his busi-

ness. He claimed to have reported the problem for 31 days without resolution. The restaurateur also suggested that the move might be aimed at increasing Zomato's commission, which he says already exceeds 52% of sales. He accused the plat-

form of using a system glitch to further hike charges.

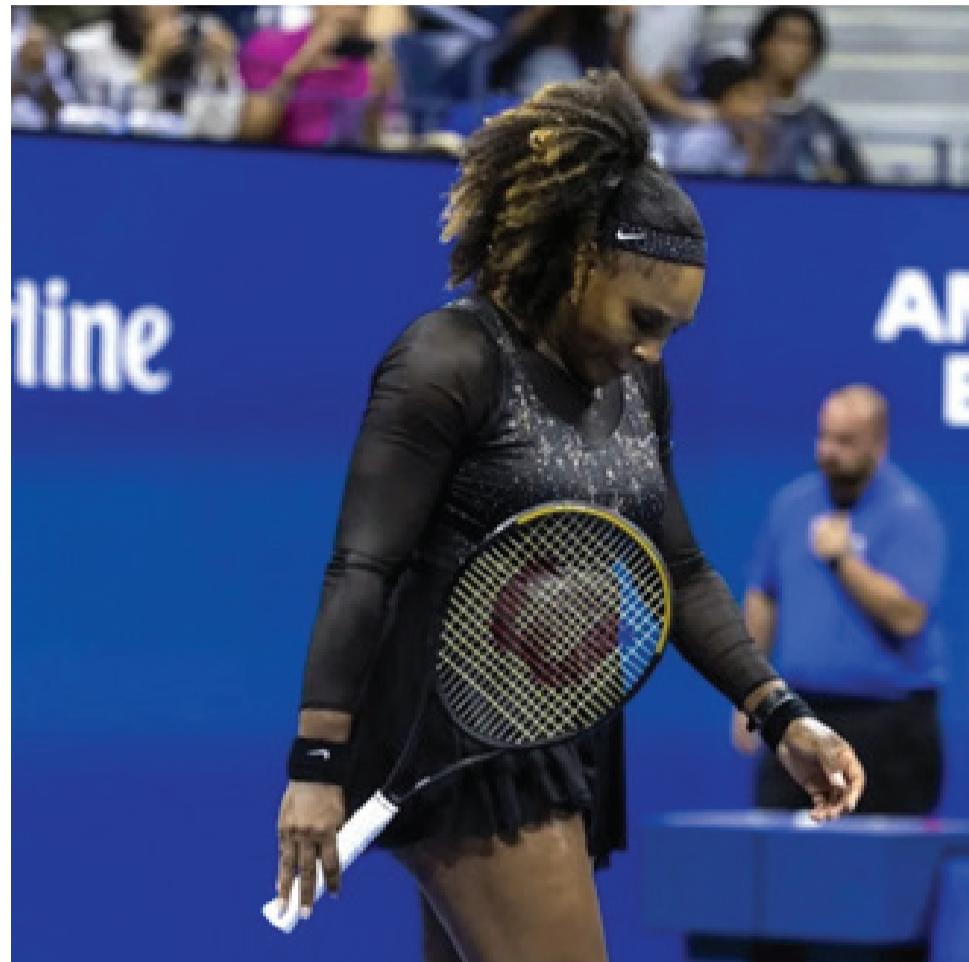
Following the post, Aditya Mangal, Zomato's Food Delivery CEO, responded, stating that the matter would be investigated. Sapra's complaint also mentioned Deep-

# Serena Williams Shuts Down Comeback Rumours

Serena Williams has firmly denied speculation about a tennis comeback after news broke that she had re-entered the sport's Registered Testing Pool, a requirement for any player considering a return to competitive tennis. The development triggered widespread reports suggesting the 23-time Grand Slam champion might be preparing for a dramatic return. However, Williams made it clear on Tuesday that she has no such plans.

The 44-year-old last competed at the 2022 US Open, where her third-round loss left her just one title shy of Margaret Court's all-time record of 24 Grand Slam singles trophies. Since then, she has repeatedly indicated she has moved on from the sport, describing her transition not as retirement but as an "evolution" away from professional tennis.

An International Tennis Integrity Agency spokesperson confirmed that Williams was indeed back on the Registered Testing Pool list but offered no explanation beyond the administrative update. Players consid-



ering a return must be available for drug testing for at least six months before they are eligible to compete, fueling speculation about her intentions.

But Williams put all rumours to rest with a direct post on X, stating: "Omg yall I'm NOT coming back. This wildfire is crazy," underscoring that the registration should not be interpreted as a sign of a return.

Her sister, Venus Williams, who resumed competition this year at age 45 after nearly two years away from the tour, has openly expressed her desire to see Serena back on court. The sisters, one of the most iconic duos in tennis history, have won 14 Grand Slam doubles titles and three Olympic gold medals together.

Despite the growing buzz, Serena's latest clarification signals that fans may have to accept her legacy as complete. While the door appears closed for now, the tennis world continues to hold out hope—just as Venus does—that she may one day reconsider.

## Haaland Smashes Record, Becomes Fastest to 100 Premier League Goals



Erling Haaland has rewritten Premier League history yet again, becoming the fastest player to

reach 100 goals in the competition. The Manchester City striker achieved the milestone in just 111 ap-

pearances, surpassing Alan Shearer's long-standing record of 124 games. The landmark moment came

during City's thrilling 5-4 win over Fulham on Tuesday.

Haaland struck in the 17th minute with trademark precision. Latching onto a sharp cross from Jeremy Doku, the Norwegian fired a first-time left-footed shot past the Fulham goalkeeper, sending the away fans into a frenzy. The goal not only placed him in the Premier League record books but also set the tone for what became one of the most dramatic matches of the season.

Manchester City and Fulham exchanged goals in a high-octane contest that saw nine goals distributed across the 90 minutes. Despite Fulham's resilient attacking display, City's firepower ultimately proved too strong. Haaland's early strike added to an already sensational goalscoring résumé, one that has seen him dominate English football since his arrival from Borussia Dortmund.

Reaching the 100-goal mark in such a short span

highlights Haaland's extraordinary consistency and his unmatched ability to find the net. His scoring rate has placed him among the most lethal forwards in modern football, and his latest record reinforces his growing legacy in the Premier League.

Alan Shearer, whose benchmark stood for decades, had long been considered untouchable. Yet Haaland's relentless scoring spree has shattered that notion, redefining expectations for strikers in the league. With several years ahead of him, the 25-year-old is now on track to challenge more long-standing records, including Shearer's all-time tally of 260 goals.

As Manchester City continue their pursuit of domestic and European success, Haaland's historic achievement stands as a defining moment of the 2025 season—one that may signal the beginning of an era dominated by the Norwegian powerhouse.

## Shubman Gill Set to Return as Vice-Captain for T20I Series vs South Africa



Shubman Gill has been declared fit and will return to India's T20I setup as vice-captain for the upcoming five-match series against South Africa, beginning December 9 in Cuttack. A senior BCCI source on Wednesday confirmed that the star batter has fully recovered from the neck injury that forced him out of the ongoing ODI series.

Gill, who leads India in Tests and ODIs, sustained the injury during the opening Test against the Proteas in Kolkata. The setback ruled him out of the second Test in Guwahati as well as the subsequent ODI leg of the tour. His return is expected to provide stability to India's top order in the shortest format.

"Gill has recovered fully and will be back as vice-captain," the BCCI source said, adding that the full squad for the T20Is will be announced later in the day. Suryakumar Yadav will continue as India's regular T20I captain.

The series holds significance with the T20 World Cup cycle in view, and Gill's comeback will be closely watched as India begins shaping a long-term

core. His recent form across formats has made him one of India's most dependable batters, and his leadership presence is expected to benefit the young squad.

Meanwhile, the BCCI

source dismissed growing speculation of a proposed meeting between board officials, senior players Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, and head coach Gautam Gambhir amid rumours of dressing-room tension. "No

meeting will take place mid-series. We will see what's to be done once the series is over," he clarified.

India recently suffered a 0-2 defeat in the Test series against South Africa, plac-

ing added importance on the limited-overs leg to regain momentum. The upcoming T20Is will offer India an opportunity to bounce back while integrating key players returning from injury.

## Chennai Super Warriors Stay Unbeaten

Gurgaon Registers First Win in IPL Day 2 Thriller



Day 2 of the Indian Pickleball League delivered high-intensity action, dramatic momentum swings and a dash of celebrity glamour. Chennai Super Warriors continued their dominant run with a 4-2 victory over Hyderabad Royals, while Capital Warriors Gurgaon edged Bengaluru Blasters in a nail-biting Grand Rally to secure their first win of the season. Earlier, Lucknow Leopards staged a spirited comeback to earn a 3-3 draw against Mumbai Smashers.

Hyderabad salvaged the Grand Rally 21-16, but it wasn't enough to stop Chennai from extending their perfect streak. Van Reek and Kataria were named Players of the Tie.

The second contest of the night saw Lucknow Leopards and Mumbai Smashers deliver one of the season's most gripping encounters. DUPR World No. 3 Quang Duong opened with a 15-7 win, but Lucknow responded through Ryler De-Heart and Himansh Mehta in the men's doubles.

Allison Harris clinched a golden-point victory in the women's singles, and Mumbai took a 3-1 lead with a rare sisters' showdown featuring Pearl and Naomi Amalsadiwala. However, Lucknow stormed back in the Grand Rally, winning 21-15 and forcing a dramatic 3-3 draw. Duong and Harris were named Players of the Tie.

## Subplots Shine in India's Commanding Ranchi ODI Win



India's convincing victory over South Africa in the Ranchi ODI offered more than statistics or scorecard highlights. It revealed the emotional undertow within a team emerging from a difficult phase, turning the match into a study of body language, unspoken assertions, and subtle responses under pressure.

The win itself was emphatic, but two quiet moments on the field spoke louder than the final margin. The first came when Rohit Sharma reached his half-century. Standing at the non-striker's end, Virat Kohli glanced toward the dressing room with a sharpness that seemed to carry months of speculation, criticism, and boardroom chatter. In that split-second look, observers sensed a message—one shaped by recent debates over leadership and selection. It felt like a silent rebuttal to those who doubted the experienced core of the side.

These reactions reflected a team still healing from a bruising Test-series defeat and navigating decisions that sidelined senior figures at critical junctures. Such choices, made in closed meeting rooms, face their real test under stadium lights—where pressure strips emotions down to their rawest form.

In Ranchi, India's victory restored confidence, but the silent exchanges between its leaders revealed deeper truths. They highlighted a group determined to reclaim control of its narrative through performance, unity, and unwavering resolve—both expressed and unspoken.

## Dil Raju's Team Dismisses Rumours

Confirms Akshay Kumar–Anees Bazmee Project



Producer Dil Raju and his banner Sri Venkateswara Creations have issued an official clarification addressing the recent wave of rumours surrounding their upcoming projects. According to the statement, several speculative reports circulating across media and social platforms are entirely baseless and do not reflect the studio's current plans.

The team noted that outdated and unrelated reports are being linked to their ongoing developments, resulting in misinformation being presented as fact. Stressing the need for accuracy, they stated that these rumours have been "blown out of proportion," creating confusion among audiences and industry trackers.

Setting the record straight, the production house confirmed that they are actively developing a film featuring Akshay Kumar in the lead role. The project will be directed by Anees Bazmee, known for his successful commercial entertainers. At present, the film is in the pre-production stage, with work progressing steadily.

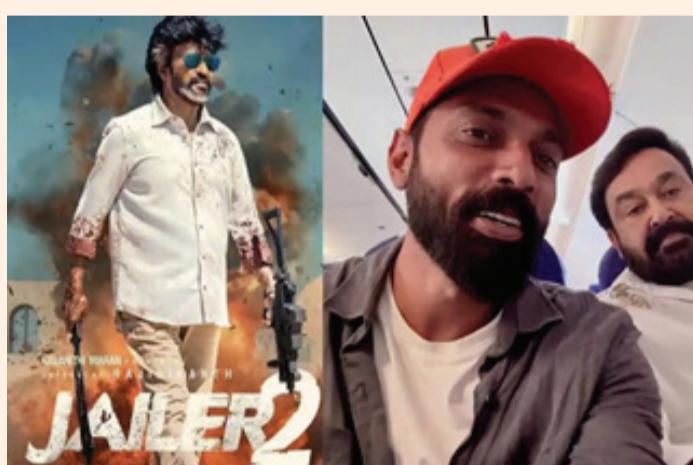
ly behind the scenes. The makers assured that authentic updates, including cast and crew details, will be shared at the appropriate time through official channels.

In their message, the team appealed to media professionals and social media platforms to avoid drawing premature conclusions. They emphasized the importance of verifying information before publication and urged everyone to refrain from circulating unconfirmed or speculative content.

Sri Venkateswara Creations reiterated that they value the support of the media and audiences and will continue to maintain transparency regarding their projects. Until then, they request patience and responsible reporting, noting that only information released directly by the production house should be regarded as official.

With the Akshay Kumar–Anees Bazmee collaboration now formally acknowledged, fans can look forward to further announcements once pre-production advances.

## Mohanlal Joins 'Jailer 2' After Wrapping 'Drishyam 3'



Mollywood superstar Mohanlal continues his packed schedule in 2025, keeping fans engaged with back-to-back updates. After completing the much-awaited Drishyam 3, the actor has already shifted focus to his next major project—Jailer 2, the sequel to the blockbuster Rajinikanth starrer Jailer.

The veteran actor reportedly flew to Chennai earlier this week to join the film's shoot, which is progressing at a brisk pace under the direction of Nelson Dilipkumar. Mohanlal reprises his popular role as Mathew, a character that left a strong impact in the first film. This time, insiders suggest that his character will have significantly more screen time and narrative weight, making his presence one of the key highlights of the sequel.

Fans are eagerly waiting for glimpses of Mohanlal and Rajinikanth sharing screen space once again—a combination that created massive hype earlier. With both legends currently on set, expectations

around Jailer 2 have skyrocketed.

The film is being produced by Sun Pictures, known for mounting high-budget commercial entertainers. Music sensation Anirudh Ravichander returns to score the soundtrack, adding further excitement given his chart-topping work in the first installment. The cast also includes Ramya Krishnan, Mirnaa Menon, Vinayakan, and several other prominent actors, promising a star-studded sequel.

Jailer 2 is slated for a June 2026 theatrical release, positioning itself as one of the biggest pan-Indian films to look forward to next year. With Mohanlal now officially on set and the team ramping up production, more updates and first-look reveals are expected soon.

As two of Indian cinema's most iconic performers reunite, audiences across the country are eagerly anticipating what promises to be a powerful, action-packed sequel.

## Karthi's "Annagaru Vostaru" Locks December 12 Release, 'Annagaru' Lyrical Song Out Now

The highly-anticipated Tamil film "Va Vaathiyaar" is coming to Telugu audiences under the title "Annagaru Vostaru." The makers officially announced the release date today, confirming that the film will hit theatres worldwide on December 12. The film is produced by K.E. Gnanavel Raja under the prestigious Studio Green banner and is directed by Nalan Kumarasamy, known for his unique blend of action and comedy. Krithi Shetty plays the female lead.

Along with the release-date announcement, the team also launched the 'Annagaru' lyrical song today. Composed by Santhosh Narayanan with a chart-buster vibe, the song features catchy lyrics by Rakendu Mouli. S.P. Abhishek and Haripriya have rendered the track with high energy. The lyrics "Annagaru, Annagaru... already I'm a rich kid; I've planned a pan-India movie; I even called Rajamouli to direct my biopic..." paired with colourful, vibrant visuals, make

the song instantly engaging.

Recently, blockbuster director Anil Ravipudi launched the teaser of "Annagaru Vostaru," which has received an overwhelming re-

sponse. With the strong impact created by the promotional content so far, expectations are high that this film will become another major blockbuster in Karthi's career.

### Cast:

Karthi, Krithi Shetty, Sathyaraj, Madhur Mittal, Anand Raj, Raj Kiran, Shilpa Manjunath, Karunakaran, and others.

### Technical Crew:

(Suresh & Srinivas) Banner – Studio Green Producer – K.E. Gnanavel Raja Writer & Director – Nalan Kumarasamy



## Thiruveer–Aishwarya Rajesh Film Titled 'Oh..! Sukumari'

Actor Thiruveer, who recently impressed audiences with The Great Pre Wedding Show, is continuing his strong run with a series of new projects. Among them, his upcoming film with acclaimed actress Aishwarya Rajesh has been generating considerable buzz.

Announced in November 2025, the film has now returned to the spotlight as the makers officially revealed its title: Oh..! Sukumari.

The project marks the directorial debut of Bharat Dharshan and is being produced by Maheswara Reddy Mooli under the Gangad Entertainments banner.

Significantly, Oh..! Sukumari is being positioned as a true pan-Indian film, marking Thiruveer's first entry into large-

scale nationwide releases. With both lead actors known for their performance-driven roles, the pairing has already sparked strong curiosity among fans and industry observers.

Billed as a wholesome family entertainer, the film's first-look poster has succeeded in raising expectations. The visuals hint at a colourful and engaging narrative, though the makers are keeping plot details under wraps for now.

As Thiruveer expands his horizons beyond regional cinema, this project is seen as a crucial step in his career progression.

The production is currently moving ahead at a steady pace. Cinematographer CH Kushendar is crafting the film's



visual palette, while Bharath Manchiraju is composing the music. The technical team, combining fresh talent with experienced hands, is

expected to play a major role in shaping the film's pan-Indian appeal.

With shooting underway and key creative elements in

place, the team behind Oh..! Sukumari is gearing up to share more updates in the coming weeks. As anticipation grows, fans of both

Thiruveer and Aishwarya Rajesh are eagerly waiting to see how this vibrant family entertainer unfolds on a national scale.

## 'Irumudi' Tipped as Title for Ravi Teja's Upcoming Thriller



Tollywood star Ravi Teja, who is awaiting the Sankranthi 2026 release of his family entertainer Bhartha Mahasayulaki Wignyaphathi, is simultaneously working on another highly anticipated project. Directed by Shiva Nirvana, the film is said to be a thriller and is also targeting a 2026 release. While the plot details remain closely guarded, the movie has already begun generating buzz due to rumours surrounding its title and casting.

According to industry reports, the makers are seriously considering 'Irumudi' as a potential title. The term, associated with devotion and determination, is seen as a strong thematic fit for the film's narrative.

Early rumours suggest that the story revolves around a father who goes to extraordinary

lengths to protect his daughter—an emotional core that could give Ravi Teja ample scope for an intense performance.

Meanwhile, speculation is rife about the female lead. Recent whispers in the industry indicate that actress Priya Bhavani

Shankar may have been roped in for the role. However, the team has not issued any official announcement yet, and fans are

eagerly awaiting confirmation.

Ravi Teja, who wrapped up shooting for Bhartha Mahasayulaki Wignyaphathi and

is now fully engaged with this new project, appears to be heading into one of the busiest phases of his career. With Shiva Nirvana at the helm, expectations are high, given his reputation for blending strong emotions with engaging storytelling.

The film is being produced by Mythri Movie Makers, one of Tollywood's most successful production houses in recent years. Music is expected to be composed by Ajaneesh Loknath, whose work has been drawing attention across industries.

As discussions around the title intensify, an official announcement from the makers is anticipated soon. Fans of Ravi Teja are watching closely, hoping for clarity on Irumudi and more updates on this promising thriller.