

egy underscores Telangana's commitment to embracing futuristic technologies. By developing world-class research infrastructure, promoting startups, and facilitating collaboration between academia, industry, and government, the State seeks to establish itself as a global hub for next-generation technology, paving the way for sustained economic growth and technological leadership.



# CM Revanth Reddy Unveils Development Agenda for Adilabad



Adilabad, December 4, 2025: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy laid the foundation for a series of development projects in Adilabad district today, emphasizing infrastructure, education, irrigation, and women's empowerment, while taking a strong dig at

the previous BRS government for neglecting the region. Addressing a large public gathering, CM Revanth Reddy announced that the newly sanctioned Adilabad airport would be completed within a year and Airbus services would soon commence.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and Civil Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu had assured funding and logistical support for the project. Highlighting irrigation initiatives, the Chief Minister recalled the

Pranahita-Chevella project shelved by the BRS government, which was originally designed to irrigate 16 lakh acres. He accused the previous regime of abandoning the project and amassing wealth through the Kaleshwaram project. Revanth Reddy added that tenders



have been called for constructing the Tummidhatti barrage to provide water to Adilabad, and he urged Telangana's BJP MLA and MP to coordinate with the Maharashtra government for speedy approvals. Pending works of the Korata-Chenaka projects will also be completed soon. The Chief Minister also announced a new university in Adilabad, likely named after Indravelli or Kumuram Bheem, to strengthen education and skill development in the district. He assured improved irrigation, communication, and educational facilities as

part of the region's overall development. Revanth Reddy appealed to citizens to elect Sarpanches unanimously in the upcoming Gram Panchayat elections to avoid unnecessary spending and ensure efficient local governance. He assured that funds would be provided for village development and urged residents to focus on welfare rather than politics, stating, "I will speak about politics only during elections. Our main focus is development and the welfare of all sections of people." On employment, the CM said that the govern-

ment had issued appointment letters to 61,000 candidates in just one year and reformed the Telangana Public Service Commission, filling 562 Group 1 and 2 posts. More job notifications will be released, and he encouraged youth to start preparing for competitive exams, expressing his vision of Telangana's youth becoming IAS and IPS officers. Highlighting women's empowerment initiatives, he noted the government's Rs 8,100 crore investment in free bus travel for women, ownership of 1,000 RTC buses by women groups, petrol

pump operations, and distribution of one crore Indiramma sarees to 65 lakh self-help groups. He emphasized that women's welfare is key to the state's prosperity. The CM also shared plans to revive a closed cement company in Adilabad with private investment and to further strengthen the district's development profile. He concluded by asserting the importance of coordination between the Union and State governments to achieve Telangana's growth and welfare objectives.

# Telangana's Kakatiyam Dance to Feature at Global Summit



Hyderabad, December 4, 2025: Telangana's rich cultural heritage took center stage as Deputy Chief Minister Bhattacha Vikramarkam graced a performance of the state's traditional dance form, Kakatiyam, on Thursday evening at Ravindra Bharathi. The event was organized by Padma Shri awardee Padmaja Reddy along with her troupe, showcasing the historic dance style that has now garnered glob-

al attention. Addressing the gathering, Deputy CM Vikramarkam highlighted that just as every Indian state has its distinctive dance tradition, Telangana proudly possesses Kakatiyam. He lauded Padmaja Reddy for her meticulous research and for documenting the art form in book format. The Deputy CM also praised her troupe for bringing the Kakatiya-era martial rituals to life through the dance

ballet, demonstrating the power, courage, and inspiration that soldiers drew from such performances before heading to battle. He specifically appreciated the troupe's rendition of the Khaliya Mardanam ballet, particularly the serpent dance sequence, which was performed with exceptional clarity and theatricality. "The troupe's efforts not only preserve Telangana's cultural legacy but also promote

it on a global stage," he said, wishing the dancers continued success and recognition. Deputy CM Vikramarkam also discussed the upcoming Global Summit in Hyderabad on December 8 and 9, during which Telangana's developmental roadmap will be unveiled. The visionary document will outline plans to transform Telangana into a three-trillion-dollar economy by 2047, with a focus on infrastruc-

ture, industry, technology, artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, and other emerging sectors. He revealed that the Kakatiyam dance performance is being considered as a key cultural attraction for the summit, symbolizing the state's heritage alongside its developmental ambitions. He further stated that as the Revanth Reddy-led government completes two years in office on December 7, they will present a comprehensive report on the work accomplished while also projecting Telangana's future growth trajectory. The event was attended by several dignitaries, including former Union Minister Pallam Raju, Telangana Government Representative in New Delhi Jitender Reddy, Public Service Commission Chairman Burra Venkatesham, Higher Education Secretary Yogita Rana, and numerous other officials and cultural enthusiasts. Deputy CM Vikramarkam concluded by expressing hope that Telangana's cultural identity, exemplified by Kakatiyam, would continue to inspire pride among residents and gain wider recognition internationally through initiatives like the Global Summit.

# Telangana Ministers Invite Karnataka Leaders to Hyderabad Global Summit



Hyderabad, December 4, 2025: Telangana Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, along with MLA Malreddy Rangareddy and other officials, traveled to Bengaluru to invite top Karnataka leaders to the upcoming Global Summit scheduled on December 8 and 9 in Hyderabad. During the visit, the ministers extended formal invitations to Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister & KPCC President D.K. Shikumar to attend the prestigious event. The summit aims to bring together industry leaders, policymakers, and investors to discuss opportunities in trade, investment, and technological collaboration.

Minister Sridhar Babu emphasized the importance of inter-state collaboration for economic growth and highlighted Hyderabad's strategic role as a hub for investment and innovation. He stated that the summit will serve as a platform to strengthen business ties between Telangana and neighboring states, fostering sustainable development and industrial expansion. MLA Malreddy Rangareddy added that the participation of dignitaries from Karnataka would help showcase regional cooperation and create avenues for knowledge exchange, investment promotion, and joint industrial initiatives. The Global Summit

is expected to feature sessions on emerging industries, digital transformation, renewable energy, and investment opportunities in Telangana. Government officials, industry leaders, and international delegations have been invited to explore partnerships and discuss policy frameworks to boost the state's industrial ecosystem. With the summit fast approaching, the Telangana delegation expressed confidence that the presence of senior Karnataka leaders would enhance the event's significance and strengthen inter-state relations, while attracting new investments to Telangana.





# KTR Slams Revanth Reddy Over HILTP Land Controversy

Hyderabad: In a fiery attack on the Congress government, BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) on Wednesday accused Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy of orchestrating what he called a “massive land scam” under the Hyderabad Industrial Lands Transformation Policy (HILTP). Speaking at a protest program organized by the BRS in the industrial areas of Hyderabad, KTR said the policy was being misused to hand over thousands of acres of valuable industrial land

to private individuals at throwaway prices. The meeting, held in Qutbullapur constituency, witnessed the participation of BRS leaders including MLA K.P. Vi ve kanand, MLCs Shambipur Raju and Satyavathi Rathod, MLA Palla Rajeshwar Reddy, and Parliamentary in-charge Ragidi Lakshma Reddy. They criticized the Congress government for pursuing what they described as anti-people decisions. Addressing the media, KTR alleged that the Congress government was

planning to divert nearly 5 lakh crore worth of industrial land meant for job creation and public welfare. “These lands were originally allotted to industries to generate employment for the people. Today, the same lands are being handed over to private individuals to build apartments, villas and commercial complexes,” he charged. He further claimed that while land prices in areas like Jeedimetla are as high as 1.5 lakh per square yard in the market, the government was proposing to hand over

land at just 4,000 per square yard. “Hyderabad does not have land for the poor, for schools, for hospitals or even for graveyards. Yet, this government is gifting 9,300 acres of prime land to private entities,” he added. KTR demanded that the government take back these lands and instead use them to construct Indiramma houses, Young India Schools and hospitals as promised by the ruling party. “Not a single Indiramma house has been constructed so far, despite tall claims,”

he said. He also warned industrialists against participating in the alleged land deals, saying they could lose both their money and the land if the BRS returns to power. “Our fight will continue until this policy is withdrawn. If necessary, we will wage a legal battle and repeal this policy when we form the government,” he declared. The BRS leader announced that the party would soon organize an all-party meeting, conduct round-table conferences and take the issue directly to the people through public awareness campaigns.

He said the information about the alleged scam came from a “concerned Telangana citizen who could no longer tolerate the government’s exploitation.” KTR also visited several industrial units in the Jeedimetla industrial area, interacting with workers and entrepreneurs to understand their concerns. The program saw large participation from public representatives, former leaders, party cadres and supporters.



# BRS Warns Against ₹5 Lakh-Crore Land Scam in Telangana

Hyderabad, December 2025: The Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) has issued a strong warning to the Telangana government over what it calls a massive 5 lakh-crore land scam under the guise of allotting government lands to private individuals. The party alleges that the ruling Congress government is handing over prime government lands at a fraction of their market value, enabling private builders and developers to construct apartments, villas, malls, and commercial complexes, while bypassing the intended purpose of industrial and public development. Speaking on the issue, the BRS Working President said, “While market rates for prime government lands have soared to nearly 1.5 lakh per square yard, the government is reportedly allotting these lands to private entities for as low as

4,000 per square yard. This is not only an insult to public resources but a severe threat to Telangana’s industrial and economic development.” The party leader accused the Congress government of orchestrating this massive scam over the past two years, claiming that its policies prioritize profiteering over public welfare. According to the BRS, the government’s policies, particularly under the Hyderabad Industrial Lands Transformation Policy (HILTP), are designed to benefit private individuals rather than industries or citizens, thereby endangering jobs, industrial growth, and public interest. He emphasized that the BRS will take a zero-tolerance approach to the alleged exploitation. “If the government thinks it can misuse public land for luxury apartments, commercial com-

plexes, and villas, we will not remain silent. We will actively oppose this and mobilize the people to protect public lands,” he said. The BRS leader further warned that the party would expose the financial and administrative irregularities linked to these land deals, asserting that such policies threaten both investors and the state’s long-term economic interests. He stressed that Telangana’s industrial growth, job creation, and public welfare programs rely heavily on proper utilization of government lands. Handing over lands at throwaway prices could derail these critical initiatives. The party also accused the government of ignoring public concerns and bypassing transparency in land allotments. They warned that continuing on this path would not only invite political

backlash but could also provoke legal challenges. BRS leaders plan to raise the issue in legislative sessions, conduct public campaigns, and hold press briefings to inform citizens about the alleged misuse of resources. The BRS Working President concluded, “This is daylight looting of Telangana’s wealth. We will stand firmly to ensure that government lands, which belong to the people, are used for public benefit and industrial growth, not private profit. The Congress government must immediately halt these policies and take steps to ensure transparency and accountability.” The party’s statement has set the stage for intensified public scrutiny and political action against the land allotment policies, signaling a major challenge to the government in the coming months.







# GHMC Mayor Extends Ex-Gratia Support to Families of Deceased Workers

Hyderabad: In a gesture of compassion and responsibility, GHMC Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi on Thursday handed over ex-gratia financial assistance of 2 lakh each to the families of three Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation workers who recently died under unfortunate circumstances. The distribution took place at the Mayor's office in the GHMC Head Office, where the families were invited to receive the support and share their concerns.

Among those who passed away was Shaik Kareem, a dedicated GHMC worker who had been performing cleaning duties at HUDA Park. Kareem, who was working alongside his son, Shaik Saheel, tragically collapsed and died while on duty. His sudden death left his family devastated, prompting GHMC to extend immediate support through the ex-



gratia relief. The Mayor expressed condolences and acknowledged Kareem's years of sincerity and service to the corporation.

Another victim was Sama Parvathamma, an outsourced sanitary worker who lost her life in a road accident. Parvathamma had been serving as part of the city's sanitation team, contributing to maintaining hygiene and cleanliness in

her assigned areas. Her unexpected demise left her family in hardship, making the government's financial relief crucial for their stability during this difficult time.

A total of 6 lakh, 2 lakh per family, was handed over by Mayor Vijayalakshmi. She personally interacted with the families, listened to their concerns, and assured them that GHMC would

continue to support them within the available welfare framework. She stressed that the corporation remains committed to prioritizing the well-being of its employees and their families, especially in times of distress.

The Mayor highlighted that GHMC workers—whether permanent or outsourced—play a vital role in keeping Hyderabad clean and func-

tioning efficiently. Their contributions often go unnoticed, and incidents like these underscore the risks they face in their daily duties. She reiterated that GHMC will continue to enhance welfare measures, insurance coverage, and safety protocols to prevent such incidents and provide better support systems for workers.

The families expressed gratitude for the timely assistance and the Mayor's personal involvement. They also conveyed their hardships following the deaths of their loved ones and sought continued support from the corporation.

The ex-gratia distribution stands as a reminder of the GHMC's ongoing commitment to its workforce and its efforts to ensure that families of employees who lose their lives while serving the city are not left without help or recognition.



## Minister Laxman Assures Support to Boy Injured in Dog Attack

Hyderabad: Minister Adluri Laxman visited the young boy who was injured in a dog attack in Hayathnagar and met him at Nilofer Hospital on Monday. Expressing concern over the incident, the Minister personally interacted with the family and reviewed the medical treatment being provided.

As an immediate relief measure, the Minister handed over a 1 lakh financial assistance cheque on behalf of the government. He assured the parents that

the government would stand by the child throughout his recovery and rehabilitation.

In a significant gesture of support, the Minister announced that the boy's family will be sanctioned an Indira Housing unit, ensuring them stable and secure shelter. He also directed officials to arrange handicap pension for the injured boy and facilitate his admission into a school for the hearing impaired, considering his medical needs.

Speaking to the par-

ents, Minister Laxman reaffirmed that the government would extend all necessary assistance, including health support, welfare schemes, and long-term rehabilitation measures.

The Minister's visit brought relief to the family, who expressed gratitude for the timely help and assurance from the government. The incident has once again highlighted the need for stricter measures to prevent stray dog attacks and ensure public safety.

# Cantonment MLA Meets AICC Telangana In-Charge Meenakshi Natarajan

Hyderabad, December 4, 2025: Cantonment MLA Sri Ganesh met with Meenakshi Natarajan, AICC Telangana State In-Charge, today at the MLA Quarters to discuss strengthening the Congress Party in the city and strategizing for the upcoming GHMC elections. The meeting also included AICC In-Charge Secretaries Vishwanathan and Sachin Sawant, and focused on consolidating the party's urban base, planning for future campaigns, and reviewing recent electoral performances.

The meeting was convened at the invitation of Meenakshi Natarajan, who appreciated the efforts of Cantonment MLA Sri Ganesh and his team for contributing significantly to the party's success in the recently held Jubilee Hills by-election. The In-Charge Secretary specifically lauded the MLA's dedication in mobilizing support and strengthening grassroots connections, which helped secure victory for the Congress candidate.

During the discussion, the leaders focused on key strategies to enhance the Congress Party's visibility and engagement among citizens in Hyderabad. Topics included outreach programs, strengthening local party units, and addressing issues of urban development, public welfare, and civic administration that resonate with voters. Emphasis was placed on proactive engagement with residents, identifying community concerns, and presenting Congress as a responsive and people-centric party ahead of the GHMC elections. Meenakshi Natarajan highlighted the importance of disciplined organizational work and coordination among party leaders to ensure a strong electoral performance. She encouraged MLA Sri Ganesh and other city-level leaders to leverage their local networks, strengthen ward committees, and effectively communicate the party's developmental agenda to the public.

Sri Ganesh, in turn,



assured the AICC leadership of his continued commitment to the party's objectives, pledging to further intensify grassroots-level activities and mobilize volunteers for upcoming campaigns. He reiterated the importance of consolidating Congress presence in urban constituencies and maintaining open channels of communication with citizens to understand their priorities.

The meeting also served as a platform to review the performance of local party units, discuss

candidate selection strategies, and plan for voter outreach drives. Leaders emphasized a united approach to tackle electoral challenges and ensure that the Congress Party remains competitive in the city's evolving political landscape.

The session concluded on a positive note, with both the AICC leadership and Cantonment MLA expressing confidence that strategic planning, combined with active engagement at the grassroots level, would enhance the party's prospects in the forthcoming GHMC elections. The Congress Party leadership reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening the party's organizational structure and ensuring meaningful public outreach.

This interaction reflects the Congress Party's focused approach toward urban electoral strategy, highlighting the collaboration between state-level leadership and local representatives to consolidate voter support and achieve success in the civic polls.

## Alwal Corporator Inaugurates Road Works, Participates in Brahmotsavalu



Alwal, December 4, 2025: On the concluding day of the Sri Venkateswara Swami Brahmotsavalu at Temple Alwal, Corporator Raj Jethender Nath participated in the religious festivities, offering prayers and seeking blessings from Swamivaru and Ammavarulu. The event was attended by prominent dignitaries, including Alwal DC Srinivas Reddy, GHMC DGM Sambalath, Congress A-Block President Ashok Reddy, Bobbili Surender Reddy, Srinivas Goud, Venkatesh Goud, and other temple committee members.

Later in the day, Corporator Nath inaugurated concrete road works costing 20 lakh, connecting Royal Enclave to Sai Surya Enclave Link Road (Road No. 1, near Jain Mandir stretch). The newly constructed road is expected to significantly improve accessibility and commuting convenience for local residents. Nath emphasized that this development initiative was actively pursued and facilitated at multiple

levels with the support of Sri Mynampally Hanmantha Rao, ensuring early approval and timely execution.

Residents from Sai Surya Enclave (Lotus Park), including President Chepyala Raju Goud, Secretary M. Narender Reddy, and members K. Shriram Reddy, Ramesh Yadav, Manju Goud, Shankar Naik, Tejaswini, Lavanya, Sridhar Reddy, Satish, Sujata, Anitha, Sushila, and Srinivas Rao, actively participated in the inauguration. From Royal Enclave, attendees included President Srinivas Reddy Prabhakar Reddy, Maipal Goud, Dayakar Reddy, Shiv, and other residents.

The event also witnessed the presence of senior Congress leaders, such as President Surender Reddy, Srinivas Goud, Sarvesh Yadav, Sampath Yadav, Venkat, Swami, Venkatesh, Devendar, and Sandeep Reddy, demonstrating strong political and community support.

Corporator Nath highlighted that the newly laid CC road will not

only reduce travel time and improve road safety but will also facilitate smoother movement for daily commuters. He thanked residents, local leaders, and government officials for their cooperation and participation, underlining the importance of collaborative efforts for community development.

The Corporator further expressed his commitment to continue focusing on infrastructure and civic improvement initiatives in Alwal Division 133, ensuring the well-being and convenience of all residents. He reiterated that such projects reflect the administration's dedication to public welfare and urban development, aiming to create sustainable and citizen-friendly neighborhoods.

This development marks another step forward in Alwal's urban improvement plan, combining public participation, government support, and leadership commitment to enhance the quality of life for residents.

# Chemical Waste Sparks Health Fears in Dundigal Thanda

Hyderabad A major environmental and public-health concern has gripped the residents of Dundigal Thanda-2 in the Dundigal Circle, following the illegal dumping and burning of hazardous chemical waste near the PalloPrakruthi Vanam on Wednesday. Villagers are expressing deep distress, alleging that toxic industrial waste brought from the Kajipally industrial area is being dumped in the local dumping yard and set on fire, endangering both their health and the surrounding ecosystem.

According to locals, waste collected from chemical-processing units—particularly oil-soaked industrial cloth and other hazardous scraps—is being routinely transported to the dumping zone next to the nature park. They claim the material was set ablaze, resulting in a

massive fire that scorched several trees inside the PalloPrakruthi Vanam, leaving them charred and dried. Residents say the once-green area has now turned into a polluted, smoke-filled zone due to continuous dumping and burning.

Villagers complained that the foul, sharp chemical smell has become unbearable. They say it intensifies during evening hours when nearby industries allegedly release chemical effluents into the air. "We are suffocating every day. The air is filled with toxic fumes. It has become difficult even to breathe normally," said one resident, describing severe respiratory discomfort caused by the emissions. Others reported throat irritation, burning eyes, and persistent headaches due to prolonged exposure.



In addition to air pollution, the community claims that water sources and soil around the thanda are also gradually getting contaminated. "Wherever we go, we sense the strong chemical stench. It feels like poison is spreading all around us," villagers said, adding that the issue has worsened over the past few months. Many residents pointed to another nearby facility—Ranki Waste Recy-

cling—which they allege is releasing harmful chemical residues into the environment.

Frustrated with the lack of action from authorities, residents are demanding immediate intervention from the Pollution Control Board (PCB). They insist that strict action be taken against the industries responsible for dumping hazardous waste and violating environ-

mental norms. "If the officials do not respond now, we will have no choice but to protest on a large scale," villagers warned, stating they are prepared to lay siege to the PCB office if their concerns continue to be ignored.

The community has appealed to officials to safeguard their health and restore environmental safety before the situation escalates further.





# MP Urges Flyover and Highway Upgrades for Telangana Roads

Hyderabad, December 4, 2025: In a discussion under Rule 377 in Parliament today, Eatalara Rajender, representing Division No. 227, raised a matter of urgent public importance concerning critical traffic and infrastructure challenges on key stretches of Telangana's road network. Highlighting the growing congestion and safety concerns, the MP urged the Government to sanction flyovers and upgrade essential highways to improve connectivity, commuter safety, and regional economic development.

Speaking during the session, Eatalara Rajender pointed to the Nagarjunasagar Road, particularly the Turkey amjal stretch, which has been severely affected by rapid urban expansion and rising vehicular traffic. The MP emphasized that daily commuters and freight operators face significant delays and safety risks, urging the Government to construct a flyover on this corridor. Such an infrastructure project, he stated, would alleviate traffic bottlenecks, enhance road safety, and ensure smoother movement of both passengers and goods.

Further, he drew attention to the Balanagar to Gandhi Maisamma X Roads stretch, which is part of the Medak-Nanded Highway and serves as a vital inter-state link between Telangana and Maharashtra. Rajender requested the inclusion of this stretch in the National Highway network and proposed the construction of an elevated corridor to support uninterrupted long-distance travel, freight movement, and regional economic integration. According to the MP, upgrading this corridor is essential to sustain growing trade and travel demands while reducing travel time and congestion.



vehicles daily, this highway is a lifeline for the region's economy. Eatalara Rajender called for its inclusion in the National Highway system

To ensure better infrastructure standards, regular maintenance, and improved logistics efficiency, benefiting both local residents and interstate transport operations. Emphasizing the urgent need for coordinated action, the MP urged the Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport and Highways to consider these proposals for early approval and implementation. "Upgrading these critical stretches is not only a matter of commuter convenience but also a strategic move to boost economic activity, ensure safety, and strengthen regional connectivity," Rajender said. The discussion received

ed attention from fellow MPs and representatives of Telangana, reflecting growing concerns over urban road congestion, highway infrastructure, and inter-state connectivity. Analysts note that projects like flyovers, elevated corridors, and National Highway inclusion are vital for handling the region's increasing traffic volumes and supporting sustainable development. By raising this matter in Parliament, Eatalara Rajender seeks to ensure that infrastructural bottlenecks are addressed promptly, prioritizing the safety, convenience, and economic interests of Telangana's residents and traders.

## Illegal Grain Racket Busted at Telangana Border



A major grain smuggling racket has come to light, exposing the illegal transport of large quantities of paddy from Andhra Pradesh to Telangana without any official permissions. A well-organised group has reportedly been purchasing grain at low prices in AP and secretly transporting it into Telangana for illegal resale. The racket came under scrutiny when 11 lorries carrying paddy from Andhra Pradesh were intercepted by authorities at the Alagadapa Toll Gate in Miryalaguda mandal. Officials confirmed that none of the vehicles possessed the mandatory transit permissions required for inter-state

movement of agricultural produce. Preliminary investigation suggests that the group has been operating as a syndicate, purchasing grain cheaply in AP and moving it into Telangana to exploit higher local demand. Shockingly, the smugglers were allegedly using passbooks of farmers who did not cultivate any crop this season, enabling them to sell illegally procured grain in Telangana procurement centres. According to reports, the gang has been cheating farmers and the government by manipulating records and selling each quintal at 1,200 to 1,400, pocketing illegal profits through fraudulent means.

Officials believe this may only be a part of a larger network engaged in interstate paddy smuggling. Agriculture and civil supplies authorities have intensified checks at borders following the seizure. Further investigation is underway to identify all those involved, including buyers, transporters, and farmers whose documents were misused. The incident has once again raised concerns about organised grain fraud in the region, highlighting the need for strict monitoring of procurement centres, transport permits and farmer documentation to prevent large-scale exploitation and revenue loss.

## Grand West Anjaneya Brahmotsavalu Celebrated in Maktal, Minister Vakiti Srihari Participates

Narayanapet District, Maktal – December 4, 2025: The West Anjaneya Swamy Brahmotsavalu in Maktal was celebrated with grandeur and devotion, attracting large crowds of devotees from Maktal town and surrounding villages. The highlight of the festivities was the spectacular Rathotsavam (chariot procession) held in the evening, which turned the streets of Maktal into a vibrant spectacle of devotion and cultural celebration. State Minister for Sports and Animal Husbandry, Shri Vakiti Srihari, personally participated in the Rathotsavam, adding prestige to the occasion. The entire temple precinct of Anjaneya Swamy resounded with chants of "Jai Sri Ram!" and "Jai Hanuman!", creating a spiritual and festive atmosphere that left devotees enthralled. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Vakiti Srihari emphasized the deep devotion of the Maktal region's people towards Lord Anjaneya. He noted that the West Anjaneya Swamy Brahmotsavalu, which began on December 2, would



continue for a week and include a series of religious rituals, cultural programs, and community events. He said these celebrations aim to not only honor the deity but also bring together people from nearby villages and towns, fostering communal harmony and devotion. Minister Srihari, a devoted follower of Lord Anjaneya, said he personally ensured that all

arrangements for the festival were carried out meticulously. He revealed that special efforts had been made to enhance the temple infrastructure for the convenience of devotees, including renovating the temple premises with his personal contributions, ensuring that facilities were in place to accommodate the influx of visitors during the Brahmotsavalu.

He expressed hope that a large number of devotees would continue to visit and participate in the festivities throughout the week-long celebrations, seeking the blessings and grace of Lord Anjaneya. The Minister also prayed for the well-being, health, and prosperity of the people of Maktal, the wider constituency, and the people of Telangana as a whole.

The Rathotsavam and other ceremonies witnessed enthusiastic participation from devotees, with the town streets coming alive with devotional music, colorful decorations, and the rhythmic beats of traditional instruments. Minister Srihari encouraged all participants to uphold the spiritual values and cultural traditions associated with the Brahmotsavalu, ensuring that such celebrations continue to inspire devotion and community spirit. Concluding his remarks, Minister Vakiti Srihari wished that this year's Brahmotsavalu would be celebrated in an even more magnificent and joyous manner than before, reflecting the faith and devotion of the devotees and strengthening the cultural and religious heritage of Maktal. The West Anjaneya Swamy Brahmotsavalu stands as a testimony to the enduring devotion of the local community, attracting thousands of visitors each year and reinforcing Maktal's reputation as a center of spiritual and cultural significance in Narayanapet district.

# Modern Police Facilities Inaugurated in Nirmal District

Nirmal, December 4, 2025: In a significant step towards enhancing police welfare and strengthening law enforcement infrastructure, the newly constructed police buildings in Nirmal district were inaugurated today by the State DGP, Shivadhar Reddy, IPS. The state-of-the-art facilities, aimed at providing modern amenities to police personnel, are expected to improve operational efficiency and boost morale among the force. The inauguration ceremony took place at Elapalli, where DGP Shivadhar Reddy officially opened the newly built facilities for police officers and staff. The project, part of a broader initiative to modernize policing infrastructure in the district, ensures better working conditions, enhanced residen-



tial spaces, and improved administrative environments for the police personnel. Speaking at the event,

DGP Shivadhar Reddy highlighted the importance of providing officers with adequate infrastructure. "These mod-

ern buildings will not only serve as efficient workplaces and residential quarters but will also contribute to deliv-

ering improved services to the citizens of Nirmal. We aspire for Nirmal Police to set an example across the state in

service quality and professionalism," he said. Following the inauguration, a foundation-laying ceremony for the new District SP Camp office was conducted by the DGP. This ceremony marks the beginning of another crucial project that will further strengthen the district's policing capabilities. The DGP emphasized that the creation of such facilities reflects the government's commitment to supporting the welfare of police personnel while enhancing public service delivery. The event saw participation from several dignitaries, including MLA Maheshwar Reddy, IGP (P&L) M.D.T.G.P. H.C. Ramesh, District SP Dr. G. Janaki Sharmila, IPS, District Collector Abhilash Abhinav, along with senior police officials and other district

authorities. Their presence underscored the collaborative efforts of state and local administration in ensuring modern, functional spaces for law enforcement. The new buildings feature advanced workspaces, residential quarters, and community areas designed to provide a safe and comfortable environment for the police staff. These developments are expected to enhance administrative efficiency, improve response times, and facilitate better coordination among officers. DGP Shivadhar Reddy also called upon all officers to utilize these facilities to their fullest potential and continue serving the public with dedication, integrity, and professionalism. "Our primary goal is to ensure that police services in Nirmal remain citizen-frie-

ndly, responsive, and efficient. Modern infrastructure is a crucial step toward achieving that vision," he added. This initiative aligns with broader state-level efforts to modernize policing infrastructure across Telangana, reflecting the government's focus on both officer welfare and improved public service. The newly inaugurated facilities in Nirmal serve as a model for similar projects in other districts, reinforcing the state's commitment to strengthening law enforcement capabilities and ensuring public safety. With these upgrades, Nirmal Police is poised to enhance operational efficiency, provide better service to the public, and set a benchmark for modern policing practices across the state.



# Telangana's Temples Marching Forward

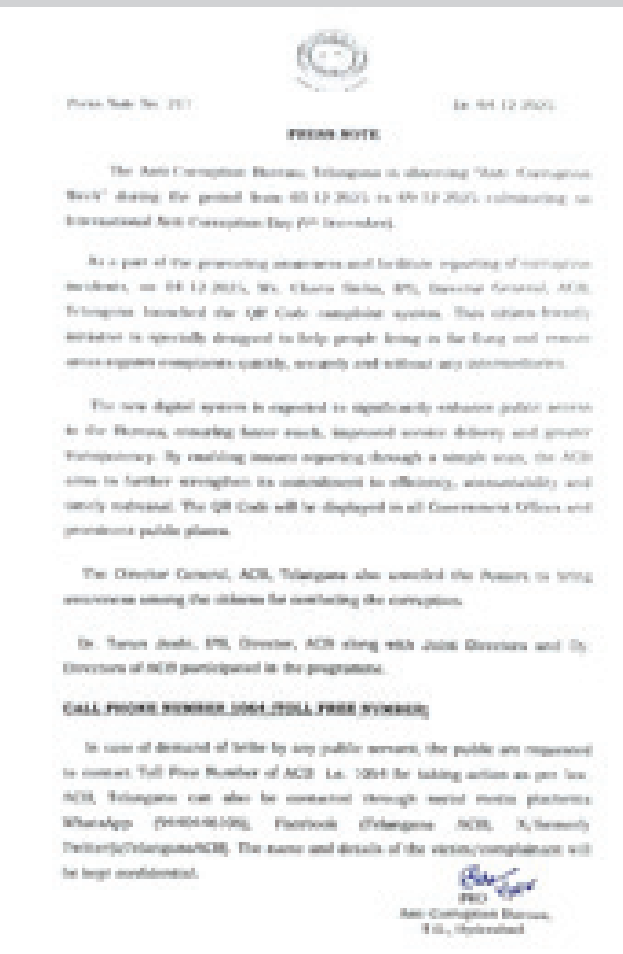


Telangana's temples are seeing major improvements, thanks to the government led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Endowments Minister Smt. Konda Surekha. The government is working hard to make temples beautiful and grand, but most importantly, they're making sure ordinary people have basic facilities when they visit. They are fixing many things that were ignored before and are giving special importance to the people's religious beliefs. This commitment was clear during the big festivals. The recent Sammakka-Saralamma Jata, the state's largest gathering, was held successfully, with the government spending ₹110 crores to ensure a smooth experience. Now, they are planning an even bigger festival next time, including permanent construction at the site. The Bonalu festival in Hyderabad was also celebrated on a grander scale, with ₹20 crores sanctioned—more money than before—due to the Minister's special interest. In a

first, the Endowments Department started Mass Karthika Month Lamp Festivals (Deepotsavams), bringing spiritual light to all temples every evening during the holy Karthika month. They're also using technology: people who can't attend the Sammakka-Saralamma festival can now offer 'gold' and receive prasadam online through services like Mee Seva and the Postal Department. This online service was also available for prasadam during Maha Shivaratri. On the administrative side, the government gave promotions to 33 long-serving employees and moved temple staff around in transfers after 16 years. New events like the River Lamp Offering (Nadi Aarathi) have begun at sacred places like Bhadrachalam. Big Plans for Big Temples The government is spending about ₹400 crores to improve temples across the state. Yadagirigutta is getting a new gold plating on its main dome (about 63 kg of gold). They've also planned

a Vedic School and acquired a large area of land for building guest houses. Vemulawada received ₹76 crores for improvements, including building a new free meal (Annadanam) center. Bhadrachalam received ₹60.20 crores to buy land for future development. The government is also protecting temple property. They started a special effort to secure over 632 acres of temple land. They plan to use some of this land for solar plants, involving women's self-help groups (Indira Mahila Shakti Groups). They are also using modern mapping technology (GIS digitalization) to keep track of temple lands, which is a commendable step. Overall, Telangana's religious sites are not just being preserved; they are being actively developed using modern methods, greater funding, and a deep respect for the public's faith, ensuring a bright future for these cultural landmarks.

**Sagar Vanaparthi, Policy Analyst.**



# The rupee's real problem: A rising import bill and stagnant exports



The Indian rupee's latest slide has sparked concern, especially since domestic fundamentals appear stable. Inflation remains within the RBI's tolerance band, economic growth hit 8.2% in Q2 FY26, and weakening US manufacturing data should typically soften the dollar. Yet the rupee continues to depreciate, and attributing this solely to tariff threats from the Donald Trump administration oversimplifies the issue. India's currency pressures stem from long-standing structural vulnerabilities in the external sector—not short-term geopolitical shocks. At the core of the problem is a persistent mismatch: India's heavy import dependence alongside modest export performance. India relies on a narrow set of imports—crude oil, gold, electronics, edible oils, and key intermediate goods. As incomes rise and manufacturing expands, the import bill grows faster than export earnings, widening the current account deficit. HSBC estimates FY26's deficit may nearly double from 0.6% to 1.4% of GDP, signalling mounting pressure on the rupee. Meanwhile, India's export performance has remained largely stagnant for decades. The country accounts for just 1.8% of global merchandise exports and 4.3% in services. By contrast, China's share jumped from 4% in 2001 to over 15% by 2022 due to its deep integration with global value chains and massive investments in logistics and manufacturing. India continues to grapple with high logistics costs, unpredictable regulations, quality-control issues, and limited participation in global supply chains.

This combination—high imports and stagnant exports—keeps the rupee vulnerable. Depreciation is often seen as a tool to boost exports, but in India's case the benefits are muted. The rupee has weakened more than 35% since 2015, yet export shares have barely moved. Many export industries depend heavily on imported inputs, meaning a weaker rupee simply raises production costs. In high-value sectors, competitiveness depends on reliability, innovation, and supply-chain integration—not currency movements. The RBI's ability to influence this structural imbalance is limited. The central bank can smooth volatility but cannot sustainably support an artificially strong rupee without risking reserve depletion or capital flight. Durable currency strength must come from the real economy. Policy priorities must therefore shift toward expanding export capacity. This includes strengthening R&D, improving university-industry collaboration, modernising logistics through programmes like Gati Shakti, and ensuring a stable, predictable trade regime. India also needs deeper participation in global supply chains through free-trade agreements and partnerships. Finally, a shift from volatile portfolio flows to long-term FDI would provide greater currency stability. The rupee's recent depreciation is a reminder that currencies reflect economic strength. Without bold reforms to raise competitiveness and diversify exports, the rupee will continue to mirror India's unrealised potential.

# India Needs More Bureaucrats, Not DOGE-Style Cuts, to Improve Efficiency



As the US disbands its controversial Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), once championed by Elon Musk and former President Donald Trump, the episode offers a cautionary tale for countries like India that often romanticise drastic bureaucratic downsizing. DOGE's 10-month run, marked by the firing of 2,60,000 federal workers, ultimately collapsed under its own chaos. Rather than improving governance, it promoted a techno-dystopia that sidelined human expertise in favour of hyper-automation. Yet in India, where frustrations over red tape are common, many saw DOGE as a model for streamlining governance. This reflects a broader belief that bureaucracies are bloated and inefficient. However, global research—and India's own experience—suggest the opposite: the Indian state is severely understaffed, not overstaffed. Much of India's administrative reform discourse relies

on curbing bureaucratic discretion through digital surveillance tools—MIS dashboards, biometric attendance, GPS tracking and command-and-control centres. These systems aim to “discipline” civil servants but often undermine their ability to deliver public services. Frontline workers, from teachers to anganwadi staff, say they are reduced to “clerks” uploading data rather than solving real implementation challenges. Restricting discretion also removes critical feedback loops from frontline officers who best understand on-ground realities. When their voices are ignored, bureaucratic culture shifts toward rigid adherence to process rather than outcomes. Many officers describe themselves as powerless “post officers,” reflecting a system that over-values data compliance instead of service delivery. International comparisons highlight India's staffing crisis. In 2011, government em-

ployment accounted for only 4.6% of total employment—far below the US, where public employment stands at 15.9%. India has 1,623 government servants per 1 lakh residents, compared to 7,681 in the US. At senior levels, the gaps are stark: a 23% shortfall in IAS posts in 2018, only 940 diplomats compared to nearly 14,000 in the US State Department, and nearly 48% vacancies among Block Development Officers, according to research by Devash Kapur and Aditya Dasgupta. As outlined in State Capability in India, co-authored by current Cabinet Secretary T.V. Somanathan, India's state machinery performs remarkably well given its size and burdens. The real path to efficiency lies not in axing staff or replacing them with algorithms, but in empowering frontline workers, restoring autonomy, and expanding the workforce to match the country's administrative needs.

# Putin in Delhi: India-Russia Ties Enter a More Transactional Phase

Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to New Delhi has renewed attention on a relationship long steeped in nostalgia and strategic habit. While expectations from his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi remain high, the India-Russia partnership is undergoing visible transformation, shaped by shifting global geopolitics, sanctions pressure, defence diversification, and India's broader multi-alignment strategy. For decades, defence ties served as the backbone of bilateral relations. Since the 2000 Strategic Partnership declaration and the 2010 upgrade to a “Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership,” India has relied on Moscow for trusted defence supplies, advanced technologies, and diplomatic support. Legacy platforms—from MiG and Sukhoi aircraft to T-90 tanks and the INS Vikramaditya—cemented Russia's role as India's key armaments partner. Flagship ventures like BrahMos and the S-400 exemplified deep collaboration. But the landscape is changing. Russia remains India's largest single defence supplier, yet its share of imports has declined sharply as New Delhi diversifies towards the US, France, Israel, and domestic production under Make in India. Sanctions and the Ukraine conflict have disrupted deliveries and payments, exposing the risks of overdependence and accelerating India's push for selective, high-end cooperation rather than broad reliance.



Energy and trade ties have expanded, particularly after India increased purchases of discounted Russian crude. Trade has surged to over \$65 billion, but remains starkly imbalanced: India's exports are still below \$5 billion. Western sanctions on Rosneft and Lukoil have complicated payments, creating rupee surpluses and pushing experiments with local-currency settlement. Ambitious connectivity initiatives—INSTC, Chennai Vladivostok, and the Northern Sea Route—have political backing but face infrastruc-

tural and sanctions-related hurdles. Geopolitically, both countries champion multipolarity and coordination in BRICS, SCO, and the G20. But Russia's tightening embrace of China limits Moscow's ability to balance Beijing on issues central to India's security. Meanwhile, India's deepening partnerships with the US, QUAD, and Europe constrain overt alignment with a heavily sanctioned Russia. This dynamic has led to a more pragmatic Indian approach—maintaining ties with Moscow while di-

versifying across multiple partners. Looking ahead, the relationship will remain relevant but more constrained and transactional. Cooperation will endure in nuclear energy, hydrocarbons, select defence technologies, and Eurasian connectivity. Yet Russia will no longer occupy the central position it once did in India's foreign policy. Instead, New Delhi will pursue a calibrated partnership—resilient in priority sectors but shaped by the realities of a rapidly evolving global order.



# Putin’s India visit: A tense tightrope walk for PM Modi government

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Russian President Vladimir Putin’s visit to India has put the Modi government in a delicate diplomatic position, balancing India’s strategic ties with Moscow while managing relationships with the U.S. and European Union. The visit, set against the backdrop of the International Criminal Court (ICC) issuing an arrest warrant against Putin, presents both opportunities and challenges for New Delhi.

According to Ministry of External Affairs officials, the ICC warrant does not impact India, as the country is not a signatory. Nevertheless, the optics of hosting Putin amid ongoing international scrutiny have raised questions about India’s diplomatic positioning.

The agenda of the visit spans multiple sectors, including energy, trade, defence, nuclear cooperation, and labour mobility. Agreements reached during the visit are likely to influence India’s broader geopolitical strategy, especially as Western nations closely monitor India’s engagements.



The Modi government faces the task of ensuring that strategic cooperation with Russia, particularly in defence and energy, does not strain ties with Western partners. Analysts suggest that India’s handling of the visit reflects a careful calibration

of national interests, maintaining long-standing relations with Russia while upholding commitments to global partners.

Energy security and defence acquisitions, including ongoing collaborations on missile systems and military

technology, are expected to dominate discussions. At the same time, New Delhi must navigate the political optics, both domestically and internationally, to avoid perceptions of endorsing controversial actions by Moscow.

Putin’s visit underscores India’s evolving foreign policy approach—pursuing pragmatic partnerships while walking a tightrope between global powers, asserting strategic autonomy, and safeguarding national interests.

## “Young children, elderly suffering”: Sonia Gandhi asks Centre to take action to curb air pollution



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi on Thursday called on the central government to take immediate

measures to curb air pollution in the Delhi-NCR region, emphasizing the severe impact on vulnerable groups, particularly young children and the

elderly.

Speaking to reporters outside Parliament, Gandhi highlighted that air pollution levels in the national capital have reached

alarming proportions, posing serious health risks. “It is the responsibility of the government to protect the health of its citizens, especially those most vulnerable. Young children and the elderly are suffering, and urgent action is needed,” she said.

Gandhi urged the Centre to implement stricter measures to control vehicular emissions, industrial pollution, and stubble burning in surrounding states, which significantly contribute to Delhi’s deteriorating air quality. She stressed that comprehensive policy interventions and timely enforcement are crucial to prevent a public health crisis.

The Congress leader also called for increased monitoring of air quality, wider public awareness campaigns, and immediate provision of medical support for those affected by pollution-related ailments. She warned that failure to act decisively could exacerbate respiratory and cardiovascular diseases among residents.

diocvascular diseases among residents.

Sonia Gandhi’s remarks come amid rising concerns over Delhi-NCR’s worsening air quality, particularly during the winter months when pollution levels typically spike. Authorities have already issued health advisories, but environmental activists argue that more proactive steps are needed to tackle the problem at its source.

Gandhi concluded by urging the government to view air pollution not just as an environmental issue but as a public health emergency, requiring coordinated action at both the central and state levels. Her statement reflects growing public concern over the long-term effects of air pollution on vulnerable populations in the capital region.

The call for urgent government intervention is expected to reignite debate in Parliament over policies to combat air pollution and protect citizen health.

## Rahul Gandhi Criticizes Exclusion of Opposition in Foreign Visits

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

: Congress MP and Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi has criticized the government for sidelining the Opposition during visits by foreign dignitaries, calling it a break from long-standing parliamentary tradition.

Speaking to reporters, Gandhi said that historically, visiting leaders have met with the LoP, a practice followed during the tenures of former Prime Ministers Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh. “It usually is a tradition that whoever visits from outside has a meeting with the LoP. It used to happen during the governments of Vajpayee ji, Manmohan Singh ji. This has been a tradition. But these days, foreign dignitaries or when I visit abroad, Government suggests them not to meet the LoP. This is their policy and they do it all the time,” he remarked.

Addressing the recent visit of Russian President Vladimir Putin, Gandhi



emphasized the importance of Opposition participation in diplomatic engagements. “We have re-

lations with everyone. LoP gives a different perspective. We too represent India. It is not just the Gov-

ernment which does it. Government doesn’t want the Opposition to meet people coming from out-

side... Modi ji and Foreign Ministry don’t follow this norm. It is their insecurity,” he added.

Gandhi’s comments highlight the Congress party’s concern over diminishing parliamentary conventions and reduced Opposition engagement in foreign diplomacy. Analysts say that while the government controls official diplomatic channels, excluding the LoP from such meetings could be perceived as politicizing foreign relations.

The Congress leader’s criticism comes amid a series of high-profile foreign visits by heads of state, where Opposition leaders have raised questions about transparency and inclusivity. Gandhi’s statement underscores the party’s push for greater recognition of the LoP’s role in India’s international engagements, arguing that the Opposition’s perspective is essential to present a more comprehensive view of the nation on the global stage.

## Trinamool MLA Suspended Over Babri Masjid Remark

TPN Correspondent | Kolkata

Trinamool Congress (TMC) MLA Humayun Kabir has been suspended from the party after making controversial remarks about constructing a mosque modeled on the Babri Masjid in Murshidabad, triggering widespread political backlash.

Kabir’s statement, seen as highly sensitive given the historical and communal implications of the Babri Masjid issue, prompted immediate action from the TMC leadership. The party described his comments as “irresponsible” and “contrary to the party’s ethos of communal harmony.”

The suspension was announced by senior party officials, who emphasized that the TMC remains committed to maintaining peace and religious coexistence in West Bengal. Party sources added that Kabir’s views were personal and did not reflect the party’s stance.

The remarks have sparked reactions across political circles, with opposition parties criticizing the TMC for allowing



such statements from its members, while community leaders called for calm and restraint to prevent escalation.

Kabir’s suspension underscores the sensitivity surrounding religious issues in India, especially topics linked to historical disputes like the Babri Masjid. Analysts suggest that political parties are increasingly cautious about statements from their representatives that could inflame communal tensions.

The TMC leadership has indicated that strict

action will be taken against members who violate party discipline or make statements that could disrupt social harmony, sending a strong message to its cadre to adhere to the party’s policies.

Humayun Kabir’s suspension comes amid growing scrutiny of political leaders’ statements in West Bengal ahead of upcoming local elections, highlighting the challenges parties face in managing internal discipline while addressing communal sensitivities.

## Ray-Ban Meta (Gen 2) AI Glasses Launch in India at ₹39,900

TPN Correspondent | Lucknow

Meta has officially launched the second-generation Ray-Ban Meta AI glasses in India, starting at ₹39,900. The new iteration brings several upgrades, including improved video capture, extended battery life, enhanced Meta AI features, and a refreshed design.

The Gen 2 glasses aim to offer a more seamless and stylish experience for users looking to integrate AI and social media functionalities into daily life. Meta highlights that the device now provides higher-quality video recording, making it easier to capture moments on the go. Battery performance has also been upgraded, promising longer usage without frequent recharging—a key concern for wearable tech enthusiasts.

In addition to hardware improvements, the new glasses integrate the Meta AI experience, enabling smarter inter-



actions and a more intuitive interface for users. Social media sharing, content creation, and real-time AI-driven features are designed to make the glasses a versatile tool for both casual and professional use.

The style and ergonomics of the Gen 2 model have also been refined, keeping the classic Ray-Ban aesthetic while enhancing comfort for extended wear. The glasses come in multiple frame styles and lens options, cater-

ing to diverse user preferences.

Meta’s launch in India reflects the growing market for wearable tech that blends fashion with functionality. With AI integration becoming a key trend, the Ray-Ban Meta Gen 2 glasses aim to position themselves as a premium choice for users seeking both innovation and style.

The device is now available for purchase through select online and offline retail outlets across India.

## Rajnath Singh and Andrei Belousov lay wreath at the National War Memorial



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Russian Defence Minister Andrei Belousov paid homage to India’s fallen soldiers by laying a wreath at the National War Memorial in New Delhi on Thursday, December 4, 2025. The ceremony, held shortly after Belousov’s arrival, was attended by senior officials including Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan and Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth, underscoring the significance of the visit.

Belousov’s trip coincided with the 22nd India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on

Military and Military Technical Cooperation, co-chaired by Singh and Belousov at the Manekshaw Centre. The commission is a key platform for advancing defence collaboration between the two countries, highlighting the longstanding strategic partnership.

The visit follows the Russian State Duma’s ratification of the Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS), which facilitates military logistics sharing between India and Russia, further cementing operational and strategic coordination.

The wreath-laying

ceremony and subsequent talks signal India and Russia’s intent to deepen defence ties amid evolving global security dynamics. Observers noted that the focus on advanced air defence systems, missile technology, and defence manufacturing reflects both nations’ commitment to strengthening military readiness and technological collaboration.

Belousov’s visit reaffirms the robust bilateral defence partnership, emphasizing mutual respect, shared strategic interests, and continued cooperation in defence and military-technical domains.



## UAE Hosts Mass Wedding for 54 Palestinian Couples in Gaza



TPN Correspondent New Delhi

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) organized a mass wedding for 54 Palestinian couples in Khan Younis, southern Gaza, on Tuesday, December 2, 2025, marking its 54th Eid Al Etihad celebrations. The ceremony, held amid the ruins of the Hamad residential area, was conducted under the UAE's humanitarian operation "Gallant Knight 3" (also called "Chivalrous Knight 3"), symbolizing hope and resilience amid ongoing destruction.

Named "Thawb al-Farah" (Gown of Joy), the event brought together families, community leaders, and couples selected through a lottery from over 577 applicants. The initiative aimed

to provide a moment of happiness to Gaza's population, which has faced over two years of conflict, displacement, and severe humanitarian challenges.

The 54 couples, chosen from across the Gaza Strip, were required to be permanent residents and already engaged. Each couple received modest financial aid and essential supplies to help start their married life despite shortages and insecurity.

Since November 2023, the UAE's broader humanitarian campaign has delivered more than 8,700 lorries and 1.6 million aid parcels to Gaza, addressing urgent needs for food, medicine, and essential items.

Ali Al Shehi, Head of the UAE Mission in Gaza, highlighted that the wedding reflects the UAE's dedication to human well-being. "This ceremony shows that joy and hope can prevail even in the face of destruction," he said, underscoring the symbolic significance of the initiative in promoting resilience and community solidarity in Gaza.

The mass wedding was widely praised for bringing a rare moment of celebration and optimism to families living under challenging circumstances.

## Japan PM Takaichi's "Work, Work, Work" Wins Catchphrase of the Year

TPN Correspondent | Jerusalem

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's pledge to "work, work, work, work and work" has been named the country's catchphrase of the year, reflecting her determined rise as Japan's first female leader. The phrase, first spoken in October when she became head of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), captured public attention for its intensity and sparked mixed reactions in a nation already known for long working hours.

Takaichi, an ultraconservative leader, clarified that the recognition was meant to highlight her personal enthusiasm, not to encourage overwork. "I have no intention of suggesting long working hours as a virtue," she said while accepting the award from a private committee.

Since taking office, Takaichi has drawn attention not just for her work ethic but also for her bold political stances, including remarks on potential Japanese military action if China attacks Taiwan. Her conservative policies aim to regain support from right-wing voters after the LDP's losses under her predecessor Shigeru Ishiba.

Her personal dedication has



been extraordinary: she reportedly sleeps only two to four hours a night while also caring for her husband, who is recovering from a stroke. She balances this with daily hot tub sessions for relaxation.

Takaichi's style has also made her a cultural phenomenon. Fans have embraced her black "Grace Delight Tote" bag, nicknamed the "Sanae Bag," and her sparkly Jetstream 4&1 pen, which have both sold out quickly. Many women admire her minimalist workwear and short haircut, seeing her as a new type of role model.

## Macron Urges China to Push for Peace, Rebalance Trade

TPN Correspondent | Beijing

French President Emmanuel Macron met Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing on Thursday, urging China to play a role in ending the war in Ukraine and addressing trade imbalances between the two nations. This marks Macron's fourth visit to China during his presidency, aimed at strengthening diplomatic ties, promoting a ceasefire in Europe's deadliest conflict since World War II, and attracting Chinese investment to France.

The leaders met in the Great Hall of the People, where Xi emphasized the importance of more "balanced" economic relations, two-way investment, and a "non-discriminatory" business environment. Beijing has long resisted European Union tariffs on Chinese products, including steel and electric vehicles, which Brussels claims are sold at unfair prices due to state subsidies.

Xi reiterated China's support for peace in Ukraine, stating, "China supports all efforts committed to peace and hopes that all parties will reach a fair, lasting, and binding peace agreement acceptable to all parties." China, a major Russian trading partner, continues to maintain a neutral stance on the conflict



without condemning Moscow's invasion.

Macron highlighted the need for both nations to overcome differences, calling cooperation "decisive" for global peace and stability. Xi echoed the sentiment, emphasizing "more stable" bilateral ties.

The meeting occurs amid renewed international efforts to broker an end to the nearly four-year conflict in Ukraine. Macron's approach contrasts with a US-backed plan that has faced criticism for appearing aligned with Russian interests.

The summit reflects France's dual strategy of pushing for peace in Ukraine while seeking to strengthen trade and investment relations with China, reinforcing the growing global importance of Sino-European diplomacy.

## Trump Administration Targets H-1B Applicants Linked to Censorship

TPN Bureau | Washington

The Trump administration has announced stricter vetting for H-1B visa applicants, targeting individuals involved in "censorship" of free speech. The directive, issued in an internal State Department memo on December 3, 2025, applies to both new and repeat applicants seeking the visa for highly skilled work in the United States.

H-1B visas are essential for U.S. companies, particularly in the technology sector, allowing employers to hire foreign professionals in specialized fields. The enhanced scrutiny requires U.S. officers to review applicants' resumes, LinkedIn profiles, and public activity for any involvement in suppressing free expression. Those deemed complicit in censorship could face visa denials.

The move is part of the administration's broader focus on protecting free speech and ensuring that foreign nationals entering the U.S. respect constitutional principles. It comes amid ongoing tensions between U.S. tech companies, foreign talent, and concerns over authoritarian practices in countries



like China and India, which are major sources of H-1B applicants.

Industry experts have noted that the enhanced vetting could slow visa processing and complicate hiring for tech companies that rely heavily on international talent. Companies that employ large numbers of H-1B work-

ers, such as those in Silicon Valley, may face challenges in onboarding engineers, IT specialists, and other highly skilled professionals under the new policy.

The Trump administration's memo signals a stronger emphasis on ideological alignment alongside professional qualifications for visa

applicants. U.S. officials are expected to implement the directive immediately, reviewing social media activity, professional networks, and other public records to assess potential risks related to free speech censorship.

Critics argue the policy may unfairly target applicants from countries with

restrictive information environments, while proponents claim it strengthens U.S. national security and democratic values. The long-term impact on the technology sector and H-1B program remains to be seen, with both employers and prospective applicants closely monitoring the evolving rules.

## "I'll Come To New York": Netanyahu's Big Assertion Despite Mamdani's Arrest Threats

TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has declared he will visit New York City despite threats from mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani to arrest him over an International Criminal Court (ICC) warrant. In an interview with the New York Times' Dealbook forum, Netanyahu said, "Yes, I'll come to New York," signaling his intent to proceed with the visit.

When asked about engaging with Mamdani, Netanyahu added, "If he changes his mind and says that we have the right to exist, that'll be a good opening for a conversation." The 34-year-old democratic socialist mayor-elect has supported Israel's right to exist but refrained from recognizing it as a Jewish state, arguing that no country should enforce a "hierarchy of citizenship" based on religion.



Mamdani has claimed that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza and vowed to involve the New York Police Department to enforce the ICC warrant if Netanyahu enters the city. The Hague-based ICC last year stated there were reasonable grounds to believe Netanyahu

bore responsibility for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity linked to Israel's offensive in Gaza following the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack. Israel, along with the US and Russia, has repeatedly rejected accusations of genocide and apartheid and does not recognize the ICC's

jurisdiction.

Despite Mamdani's assertions, an arrest in New York is highly unlikely. Legal experts note that in the United States, immigration and diplomatic matters are managed at the federal level, and a city mayor lacks authority to enforce international arrest warrants. Ad-

ditionally, the US government, under former President Donald Trump, has historically supported Israel and taken measures, including sanctions against ICC judges, to shield Israeli officials from prosecution.

Netanyahu's planned visit underscores the continuing

tension between international legal mechanisms and geopolitical realities. While Mamdani's threats highlight local activism against alleged war crimes, the practical enforcement of ICC warrants in the US remains extremely limited, making an actual arrest improbable.



## Imran Khan Slams Army Chief Munir from Jail



TPN Correspondent - Lahore

Pakistan's jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday sharply criticized Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir, calling his policies "disastrous" for

the country and accusing him of deliberately stoking tensions with Afghanistan. Khan's comments came a day after his sister, Dr Uzma Khan, visited him at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail—the first family meeting in over

a month following special permission from the Shehbaz Sharif government.

In a post on X, Khan, 73, said Munir's policies have fueled terrorism in Pakistan and alleged the army chief prioritizes appeasing

Western powers over national interests. "Munir deliberately ignited tensions with Afghanistan to be seen internationally as a so-called 'mujahid,'" Khan wrote. He also condemned drone strikes and military

operations targeting Pakistanis, warning they only exacerbate terrorism.

Khan accused Munir of moral and constitutional failings, claiming he and his wife have been imprisoned on fabricated charges

and subjected to severe psychological torture. "I have been kept in complete solitary confinement for four weeks, cut off from human contact and basic necessities guaranteed under the jail manual," Khan said.

He further alleged that his legal and family rights have been repeatedly denied despite high court orders, noting that his sister Noreen Niazi was forcibly dragged during an attempt to meet him. Praising Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi, Khan urged continued resistance against what he described as a climate of repression.

Uzma Khan, after her meeting, described Imran's health as "perfectly fine" but confirmed he was enduring "mental torture in solitary confinement." The PTI founder reiterated that law enforcement in Pakistan is selectively applied, targeting his party while exempting others.



# Markets Rebound After Early Losses

Mumbai: Equity markets rebounded on Thursday, December 4, 2025, after slipping in early trade, with investors engaging in value buying at lower levels. The 30-share BSE Sensex and the 50-share NSE Nifty both recovered to trade in positive territory following an initial dip.

In early trade, the Sensex fell 156.83 points to 84,949.98, while the Nifty slipped 47 points to 25,938.95. Analysts attributed the initial weakness to cautious sentiment among investors amid mixed global cues and profit-booking in select heavyweight stocks.

However, the markets staged a recovery as buyers stepped in to pick up fundamentally strong stocks at lower valuations. The rebound was broad-based, with gains seen across key sectors such as IT, banking, and consumer goods.

Market experts noted that the positive momentum was supported by optimism around corporate earnings, easing crude oil prices, and stable global equity trends. "Investors found value



at lower levels, which triggered buying in large-cap and mid-cap stocks. We expect the markets to maintain a steady uptrend if global cues remain supportive," said a senior market strategist.

Trading activity also saw notable participation from foreign institutional investors, who added to positions in banking and IT shares. Sectoral indices such as the BSE IT index and BSE Bankex led the

gains, while healthcare and metal stocks also contributed positively.

Market breadth was healthy, with a majority of stocks on both exchanges closing higher by midday. Analysts cautioned, however, that

while short-term gains were visible, investors should remain alert to global macroeconomic developments and domestic policy announcements that could influence market direction.

Overall, Thursday's

session reflected a recovery mood after early jitters, with the Sensex and Nifty demonstrating resilience amid mixed sentiments and renewed investor confidence in buying opportunities at lower levels.

# Rupee Hits Record Low of 90.43 Against Dollar

The Indian rupee slumped 28 paise to a fresh all-time low of 90.43 against the US dollar in early trade on Thursday, December 4, 2025, as sustained foreign institutional investor (FII) outflows and restrained intervention from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) weighed on the currency.

The rupee opened at 90.36 in the interbank market and slipped further to hit 90.43 against the greenback, marking another record after breaching the 90-a-dollar mark for the first time on Wednesday, when it closed at 90.15. Forex traders attributed the fall to strong dollar demand from importers and limited RBI intervention ahead of the upcoming Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting.

Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran stated that the weakening rupee has not impacted inflation or exports significantly. However, import-dependent sectors such as petroleum, electronics, and gems and jewellery could face higher input costs, potentially pressuring inflationary expectations.

Global factors also influenced the rupee. The dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against



a basket of six major currencies, was up 0.14% at 98.99, while Brent crude rose 0.49% to USD 62.98 per barrel. Trade tensions with the US have prompted investors to adopt a cautious stance, with expectations of a resolution toward year-end.

Analysts suggest further depreciation is possible. Anil Kumar Bhansali of Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP noted, "Until the trade deal materialises, the rupee could weaken toward 91.00. With a weak rupee, we do not expect RBI to cut rates on Friday."

All eyes are now on RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, whose rate-setting panel will announce its decision on Friday. Market participants are looking for guidance on the rupee's stability amid falling inflation, rising GDP growth, and ongoing geopolitical

tensions.

On the equity front, domestic markets showed resilience, with the Sensex rising 45.99 points to 85,152.80 and Nifty up 14.35 points to 26,000.35 in early trade, despite FII net outflows of Rs 3,206.92 crore on Wednesday.

# India Slashes Russian Oil Imports by 38, sharpest fall so far



India significantly reduced its crude oil imports from Russia in October 2025, marking

the sharpest single-month fall so far. According to the Ministry of Commerce and In-

dustry, India imported \$3.55 billion worth of Russian crude oil last month, down 38% from

\$5.8 billion in October 2024. In volume terms, imports dropped 31% to 71.6 lakh tonnes, com-

pared with 103.8 lakh tonnes in the same month last year.

This decline follows a 29% fall in value and 17% fall in volume in September 2025, reflecting a combination of a high base effect from the previous year and an overall reduction in India's oil imports. Despite the drop, Russia continues to be a key supplier, accounting for around 32% of India's total oil imports by both value and volume.

The data indicates that India's overall oil import bill also fell by 15.4% in October 2025. In contrast, oil imports from the United States surged, with volumes rising nearly 40% and value increasing 18.3% compared to October 2024. This suggests a gradual diversification of India's crude sourcing amid global energy market shifts.

The decline in Rus-

sian oil imports comes amid growing international scrutiny of Russian energy exports and changing trade dynamics. Analysts note that India's reduction, while significant, still keeps Russia as a major supplier due to competitive pricing and long-term supply agreements.

The Ministry's figures highlight India's evolving energy strategy, balancing economic considerations with geopolitical factors. As global energy markets remain volatile, India appears to be cautiously adjusting its import mix while maintaining energy security.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's ongoing visit to India adds diplomatic context to the trade developments, underscoring the strategic importance of energy ties between the two nations.

## Health, Security Cess Not on Essentials: FM



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday, December 4, 2025, clarified that the proposed Health and National Security Cess will not be levied on essential commodities, and the revenues collected will be shared with States to fund specific health initiatives. The announcement came during the discussion of the Health and National Security Cess Bill, 2025, in the Lok Sabha.

Ms. Sitharaman explained that the levy would primarily target demerit goods, with a focus on pan masala units. The cess will be imposed based on the production capacity of these units, in addition to the existing 40% Goods and Services Tax (GST) already applicable. She emphasized that the measure is aimed at generating funds for public health and national security priorities while discouraging consumption of harmful products.

"The Health and National Security Cess will be collected from production capacity of pan masala units. Essential commodities will remain exempt," Ms. Sitharaman said. She added that the proceeds from the cess will be

allocated to States under designated health schemes, ensuring that the revenue supports public welfare.

The Finance Minister further highlighted that the cess is part of a broader strategy to strengthen the country's health infrastructure and security mechanisms. By linking the levy to production rather than sales alone, the government aims to enhance compliance and streamline collection.

The bill has sparked discussion among lawmakers regarding its implementation, potential impact on consumers, and the administrative framework required to monitor production-linked levies. Analysts note that while the measure targets high-risk products, its success will depend on effective enforcement and transparent distribution of funds to State health programs.

With the Health and National Security Cess Bill, the government seeks to balance public welfare financing with curbing the consumption of products with adverse health impacts, without burdening essential goods or everyday consumers.

## Silver Prices Soar to Record Highs in India



Silver prices in India have hit unprecedented levels, climbing to an all-time high of Rs 1,84,727 per kg on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) on Wednesday, December 3, 2025. The March contract alone surged by Rs 3,126, extending the metal's rapid upward momentum. Over the past month, silver spot prices jumped nearly 20%, from Rs 1,48,717 to Rs 1,77,886.

MCX data highlights the extraordinary long-term gains, showing silver has risen 98% in one year, 133% in two years, 182% in three years, and an astonishing 419% over the last decade.

Experts attribute the rally to a mix of global and domestic factors. A key driver is the expectation that the US Federal Reserve may soon cut interest rates. Historically, lower rates boost demand for precious metals as investors seek alternatives to low-yielding financial assets.

Tight global silver inventories are also fueling the

surge. Stockpiles remain constrained, showing little sign of easing, which has added upward pressure on prices.

Industrial demand is another significant factor. Rapid growth in sectors such as solar energy, electronics, and green technology has increased silver consumption, positioning the metal as not just a safe-haven asset but a vital industrial commodity.

Market analysts caution that while silver's rally offers potential gains, the market remains volatile. Investors are advised to balance the allure of high returns with prudent risk management.

With both investment and industrial demand driving the market, silver's momentum shows no immediate signs of slowing. The metal's performance in the coming months will likely be influenced by interest rate decisions, supply constraints, and global industrial trends, making it one of the most closely watched commodities in India today.



# Fabergé ‘Winter Egg’ Expected to Fetch Rs 200 Crore at Auction



A rare Fabergé masterpiece—famously known as the Winter Egg—is once again headed to auction, and experts believe it could command an extraordinary price of Rs 200 crore. Just four inches tall, the jewel-like creation is considered one of the most exquisite and valuable decorative eggs ever made.

Crafted in 1913 for Tsar Nicholas II of Russia, the Winter Egg was designed by Alma Pihl, one of the very few female artists at the House of Fabergé. The Tsar commissioned it as an Easter gift for his mother, Empress Maria Feodorovna. Today, only two eggs created by Pihl survive—one held by the British royal family, and this newly surfaced piece now set for sale.

What sets the Winter Egg apart is its extraordinary craftsmanship. Made from rock crystal, the exterior shimmers like frozen glass and is embellished with nearly 4,500 dia-

monds, giving it a glistening, frost-like appearance. Inside the egg lies its signature surprise: a miniature basket of flowers, crafted from precious stones and quartz. The delicate design symbolises the transition from winter to spring, capturing the elegance and imagination for which Fabergé is renowned.

The egg’s journey through history is just as striking as its design. After the fall of the Romanov dynasty in 1917, many royal treasures were sold off by the new communist regime. Despite its immense value, the Winter Egg was reportedly sold to a London dealer for only £450 due to Russia’s financial crisis at the time.

More than a century later, the piece is poised to break auction records. With its rich imperial history, intricate artistry, and extreme rarity, the Fabergé Winter Egg stands as one of the world’s most extraordinary—and expensive—art objects.

# Over 1,000 Amazon Workers Warn Against ‘Warp-Speed’ AI Rollout



More than 1,000 Amazon employees have signed an open letter urging the company to slow down its rapid expansion of artificial intelligence systems, warning that the current “all-costs-justified, warp-speed” approach could harm workers, democracy and the environment. The letter, published on November 26, comes amid Amazon’s ongoing plan to cut up to 14,000 corporate jobs globally this year.

The signatories include engineers, product managers and warehouse associates, reflecting concerns across the company’s workforce. Their message has also drawn support from over 2,400 employees at other major tech firms, including Microsoft, Apple, Google and Meta—showing a broader industry unease about unchecked AI growth.

Employees argue that Amazon’s leadership is pushing ahead with AI adoption without adequate guardrails, risking mass job displacement and expanding workplace surveillance. They also highlight the environmental cost of large-scale AI infrastructure, which demands vast energy resources at a time when climate concerns are mounting.

The letter warns that deploying powerful AI tools without proper oversight could contribute to democratic backsliding, especially when combined with rising global authoritarianism. Workers fear that AI-driven decision-making in logistics, hiring, productivity tracking and customer-facing services could concentrate power and reduce transparency.

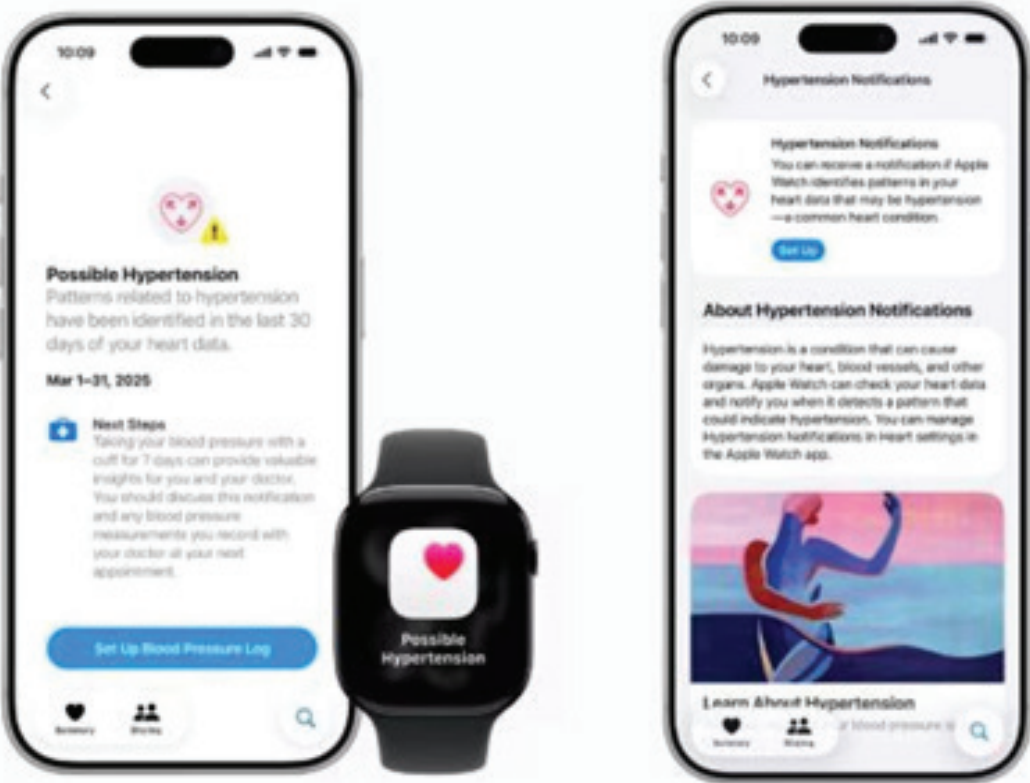
“We believe that the warp-speed approach to AI development will do staggering damage,” the letter states, urging Amazon to invest in stronger safety, privacy and ethical standards before scaling further. Employees want clearer policies on how AI may affect job roles, along with commitments to retraining and protecting workers’ rights.

As Amazon accelerates integration of generative AI across e-commerce, cloud services and warehouse operations, the internal pushback underscores a growing divide between corporate strategy and employee anxieties. Workers say AI innovation is inevitable—but warn that without meaningful safeguards, its consequences could be far-reaching and irreversible.

# Apple Watch Rolls Out Hypertension Alerts for Users in India

Apple has introduced a new hypertension notifications feature for Apple Watch users in India, aiming to help identify signs of chronic high blood pressure in people who may not know they have the condition. The feature analyzes 30 days of PPG (photoplethysmography) sensor data using machine learning and is designed specifically for users without a prior hypertension diagnosis.

Unlike a traditional blood pressure monitor, the Apple Watch does not measure blood pressure directly or show BP readings. Instead, it looks for long-term patterns linked to chronic hypertension and alerts eligible users—those over 22, not pregnant, and undiagnosed—if concerning trends emerge. Once enabled through the Watch or Health app, the feature runs automatically in the background.



Dr. Adam Phillips, a cardiologist at Apple involved in developing

the feature, said it is built on three principles: scientific valida-

tion, actionable insights, and privacy. Apple used data from

over 100,000 participants to design the feature and clinically vali-

dated it on 2,229 adults. In testing, it achieved 41.2% sensitivity in detecting hypertension and 92.3% specificity in identifying users without it—performance comparable to clinical BP cuffs.

The feature works on Apple Watch Series 9, 10, 11, Ultra 2, and Ultra 3. If a user receives a notification, Apple recommends logging blood pressure for seven days using a certified external BP cuff. Reports generated through the Health app can be shared with doctors via email, messaging apps, or WhatsApp.

Hypertension affects 1.3 billion people worldwide, with nearly half going undiagnosed. Apple says its goal is to help this large population get early alerts that can encourage timely medical evaluation and prevent complications such as heart attacks, stroke, and kidney disease.

# Russian Firm Claims Neurochip Can Turn Pigeons Into Human-Controlled Drones

A Russian neurotechnology company, Neiry, has announced that it is developing a system that can turn real birds—starting with pigeons—into remotely operated “biodrones.” According to a translated post from the company, its implanted neurochip allows an operator to control the bird’s flight by uploading tasks, similar to programming conventional unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

Unlike trained messenger birds, Neiry claims its biodrones require no training at all. After surgery, the bird can reportedly be guided through brain stimulation. By activating specific neural regions, researchers say they can create an impulse that makes the bird “want” to fly in the commanded direction.

The company argues that using live birds offers significant advantages. Pigeons can naturally navigate complex urban environments and have better endurance than many mechanical drones. Neiry also asserts that the risk of operational failure is equivalent to the normal chances of a bird falling mid-flight.



The biodrone system involves implanted electrodes, a back-mounted stimulator, and a remote controller that sends directional cues. A GPS receiver tracks the bird’s location in real time. Neiry claims that operators can manage entire flocks, up-

dating flight paths through the neural interface. A pigeon equipped as a PJN-1 biodrone can reportedly fly up to 310 miles in a day, and with adequate sunlight for the on-board power system, nearly 1,850 miles in a week. Founder Alexander Panov

says the company plans to expand the technology to other species: ravens for heavier payloads, gulls for coastal monitoring, and albatrosses for long-range ocean surveillance. Neiry states that the project is in its final testing

phase and will soon be used for remote monitoring. However, the company has not disclosed how many birds have been harmed during development or provided data on surgical success rates, raising ethical and welfare concerns.

# AI Firms Fall Short of Global Safety Standards: Study



A new report from the Future of Life Institute (FLI) has found that the safety practices of leading artificial intelligence companies—including Anthropic, OpenAI, xAI and Meta—remain far below emerging global standards. The findings were released in the latest edition of FLI’s AI Safety

Index on Wednesday. The independent expert panel that evaluated these companies concluded that, despite rapid efforts to build increasingly powerful and potentially superintelligent AI systems, none of the firms has developed a robust, reliable framework to control or align such ad-

vanced technologies. The report warns that safety measures are not keeping pace with the accelerating AI race. The study comes at a time of growing public anxiety over the societal impacts of smarter-than-human systems. Recent incidents linking AI chatbots to self-harm

and suicide cases have intensified scrutiny. Concerns have also risen around AI-powered hacking, manipulation, and psychological harm. Max Tegmark, MIT professor and president of FLI, criticized the regulatory vacuum surrounding AI development. “Despite recent up-

roar over AI-powered hacking and AI driving people to psychosis and self-harm, US AI companies remain less regulated than restaurants and continue lobbying against binding safety standards,” he said. While governments worldwide are exploring guardrails for advanced AI, the tech industry continues its rapid expansion. Major companies are investing hundreds of billions of dollars to scale up machine learning infrastructure, signaling no slowdown in the competitive push toward superintelligence. FLI—founded in 2014 and initially supported by Elon Musk—has long warned about the existential risks posed by uncontrolled AI. Just this October, a group of prominent scientists including Geoffrey Hinton and Yoshua Bengio called for a moratorium on developing superintelligent AI until stronger public oversight and scientific understanding are in place. The institute argues that without stringent safety standards, the gap between AI capabilities and governance will continue to widen, increasing the risk of real-world harm.



# AIFF Super Cup Semi-final: FC Goa vs Mumbai City FC

The AIFF Super Cup 2025-26 semi-finals reach a thrilling climax on Thursday as FC Goa takes on Mumbai City FC at the PJN Stadium in Fatorda. With a place in the final—and a pathway back to continental football—at stake, both sides are primed for a high-intensity clash.

Mumbai City FC enters the match after an extended training block without competitive fixtures, while FC Goa comes in on the back of gruelling AFC Champions League Two commitments. Despite the contrasting rhythms, both teams are motivated to deliver top performances. Mumbai City head coach Petr Kratky expressed confidence in his squad's preparation. "Goa are a very good team and are playing in the ACL Two, so they're in full rhythm, but we've prepared as best as possible," he said. Midfielder Brandon Fernandes, eager for his first Super Cup final with the Islanders, added, "It's a massive semi-final for us. We want to win, reach the final, and return to AFC competition." Fernandes, facing his former club, emphasized focus on



the present, saying, "Goa is my former team, but that doesn't change anything about this game."

FC Goa head coach Mano-lo Marquez acknowledged the mental and physical demands of competing in both the AFC Champions League Two and the Super Cup. "We are training more, playing more, and it's mentally demanding, but we are prepared. Playing strong matches is better preparation than training alone," he said. Young defender Ronney Wilson Kharbudon, who debuted against Al Nassr, called the experience invaluable for growth and preparation. Past encounters between the two teams have been goal-filled affairs, with 16 goals in their last five meetings. FC Goa ended Mumbai City's 10-game unbeaten run in February with a 3-1 win, setting the stage for another intense showdown. Both coaches agree on one thing: attacking, possession-based football will dominate. With so much at stake, fans can expect an electrifying match as FC Goa and Mumbai City FC battle for a spot in the Super Cup final.

# Sunil Narine Becomes First Bowler to Claim 600 T20 Wickets



Trinidadian mystery spinner Sunil Narine etched his name in crick-

eting history by becoming the first bowler to claim 600 wickets in competitive

T20 cricket. The milestone came during a World ILT20 match for his franchise,

Abu Dhabi Knight Riders, against Sharjah Warriorz on Wednesday. In celebration of his unprecedented feat, the franchise presented Narine with a special edition jersey featuring the number 600.

Narine, 37, achieved the landmark by dismissing England's Tom Abell, highlighting his enduring skill and consistency over years of T20 cricket. Known for his variations and deceptive spin, Narine has been a match-winner for every team he has represented, consistently troubling batsmen with his flight, pace, and guile.

Over his illustrious career, Narine has played for multiple franchises in the Knight Riders family, including Kolkata Knight Riders in the Indian Premier League, Trinbago Knight Riders in the Caribbean Premier League, Los Angeles Knight Riders in Major League Cricket, and Abu Dhabi Knight Riders. His performances have often turned games

in his team's favor, making him one of the most feared and respected bowlers in T20 cricket worldwide.

"The Knight Riders family stands immensely proud of Narine's extraordinary achievement, recognising that this record may well stand the test of time as one of cricket's most enduring milestones," the franchise said in a press release on Thursday.

This milestone not only underscores Narine's longevity in T20 cricket but also cements his status as one of the format's all-time greats. With his experience, guile, and tactical intelligence, Narine continues to be a pivotal figure on the field, inspiring the next generation of spinners to emulate his remarkable journey. Fans and teammates alike celebrated the moment, acknowledging Narine's dedication, skill, and impact on T20 cricket over the past decade and a half.

# Historic Night in Raipur: South Africa Pull Off Record-Breaking Chase Against India

The second ODI between India and South Africa in Raipur turned into a historic, high-scoring thriller, delivering multiple records and showcasing exceptional batting from both sides. After losing the toss, India were asked to bat first—and they made full use of the opportunity. Led by brilliant centuries from \*Virat Kohli\* and \*Ruturaj Gaikwad\*, India posted a formidable total of \*\*358 runs\*, setting what seemed like a winning score in home conditions.

However, South Africa responded with remarkable determination and composure. Captain \*Temba Bavuma\* anchored the start, while \*Aiden Markram\* produced a masterful century under pressure. Youngster \*Dewald Brevis\* added crucial runs with a well-paced half-century, keeping South Africa in the hunt. Their chase culminated successfully with \*four balls to spare, giving them a \*\*four-wicket win\* and leveling the three-match series \*1-1\*.

This victory also marked a monumental achievement for the Proteas—they now hold the record for the \*most successful run chase against India on Indian soil,



surpassing Australia's previous pursuit of 359 runs in Mohali in 2020. South Africa's 2025 Raipur chase of \*\*359/6\* now sits jointly atop that list.

The match also set a new benchmark in India-South

Africa ODI history. With both teams combining for a massive \*720 runs, this became the \*\*highest aggregate ever recorded\* in ODIs between the two nations. Remarkably, it broke the record set just days earlier in

the first ODI of the same series, where 681 runs were scored.

Additionally, this game entered India's record books as only the \*third instance of a successful 350+ chase in ODIs played in India\*, fur-

ther highlighting how extraordinary the Raipur showdown was. The stage is now set for a dramatic series decider, with both teams carrying strong momentum into the final encounter.

# India Sends Star Shooters to ISSF World Cup Final in Doha



Top Indian shooters are all set to showcase their talent at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Final, beginning today in Doha, Qatar. The tournament promises high-octane competition, bringing together the world's elite marksmen and women to compete across rifle, pistol, and shotgun events.

India will field a strong 15-member squad, led by reigning world champion Samrat Rana, who has been in exceptional form this season. Joining him are seasoned shooters like Suruchi Singh, known for her precision in rifle events, and Manu Bhaker, India's ace pistol shooter who has consistently delivered on the international stage. The team represents a balanced mix of experience and young talent, aiming to secure medals across multiple categories.

With the ISSF World Cup Final serving as the culmination of the season's shooting calendar, the stakes are high. Athletes will compete not only for medals but also to improve their world rankings and prepare for upcoming global competitions, including

the Olympics. Indian shooters have historically performed well at ISSF events, and expectations are high for podium finishes in Doha.

The Indian contingent has been training rigorously under the guidance of national coaches and sports psychologists, focusing on both technical precision and mental resilience. The athletes have also participated in pre-event practice sessions at the venue to acclimatize to local conditions, including lighting, wind patterns, and humidity.

Fans and sports enthusiasts across India are eagerly watching as the nation's top shooters aim to continue India's strong legacy in the shooting sports arena. The ISSF World Cup Final in Doha is set to run over several days, with medals up for grabs in both individual and mixed team events.

With Samrat Rana leading the charge, and stalwarts like Suruchi Singh and Manu Bhaker in the fray, Team India hopes to return home with an impressive medal haul, reinforcing India's position as a global powerhouse in shooting sports.

# Barreto: Indian U15 Footballers Match European Talent



Mohun Bagan legend Jose Ramirez Barreto has delivered a striking revelation about Indian football, claiming that Indian players at the Under-15 level are as talented as their European counterparts. Speaking at the launch of the Athlead Ingolstadt Juba Sangha academy in Delhi-NCR, Barreto expressed concern over why this potential fails to translate into senior-level success.

"It's a total organisational problem," Barreto told NDTV. "Players have nothing to do. I understand expectations are high, but it's all about structures. Players are like a product. There are many stages and structures you need to build to develop them. That's what we are lacking today."

Barreto highlighted the persistent challenges facing Indian football despite the presence of raw talent at the grassroots. He noted that while plans exist for 2030 and 2050, disruptions in domestic competitions such as the Indian Super League (ISL) have hindered player development. "Football cannot stop. The league

stoppages have exposed that things aren't going in the right direction," he said.

Having travelled with youth teams to England, Barreto observed, "At the U15 level, Indian kids and European kids are exactly the same. The gap comes after that." He attributed the decline in performance at higher levels to the lack of structured pathways, coaching, and opportunities rather than individual talent.

Despite the challenges, Barreto offered encouragement for India's future footballers. "You can't focus on the negatives. Your passion has to be bigger. Even in Brazil, I faced many obstacles without proper structures or coaches. I just had myself," he said.

Barreto's candid assessment underscores a critical need for systemic reform in Indian football. With the right support, infrastructure, and competitive exposure, the country's young talents could bridge the gap with global peers and help India rise in the international football arena.



Akhanda 2: Last-Minute Shock for Fans!

Premieres Cancelled Due to Technical Issues



The much-awaited Akhanda 2 premiere shows, scheduled to take place today, were abruptly cancelled, leaving fans disappointed yet hopeful for tomorrow's grand release. Throughout the day, fans were concerned about the delay in the commencement of advance bookings. However, when the Telangana government issued a new GO approving ticket price hikes, the mood brightened—only to be followed by the official announcement of premiere cancellations. The production house confirmed the development on social media, stating: "Akhanda 2 Premieres in India scheduled for today are cancelled due to technical issues. We've tried our best, but a few things are beyond our control. Sorry for the inconvenience. The overseas premieres will play as per the schedule today." The last-minute setback created anxiety among both the production team and moviegoers. Sources indicate that the issues were unavoidable, prompting the makers to cite "technical reasons" as the cause. The decision, while disappointing for fans who had anticipated an early viewing, was made to ensure a smooth and uncompromised experience when the film hits theatres officially. With premiere shows now off the schedule, all focus shifts to tomorrow's nationwide release. The team is said to be working closely with distributors, exhibitors, and technical partners to prevent any further disruptions and ensure that the first shows on release day run flawlessly. Directed by Boyapati Srinu and produced under the 14 Reels Plus banner, Akhanda 2 is one of the most anticipated releases of the season. The film has generated significant pre-release buzz, and expectations are high as fans across India gear up for tomorrow morning's first show. Despite today's unexpected hiccup, excitement remains strong, and audiences are eagerly waiting to witness the next chapter of the Akhanda saga on the big screen.

Chiranjeevi-Nayanthara's 'Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu' 2nd Single Out December 8



Megastar Chiranjeevi's much-anticipated mass-and-family entertainer, Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu, directed by hitmaker Anil Ravipudi, is set to delight fans with its second musical offering. The film stars the gorgeous Nayanthara opposite Chiranjeevi, with both actors promising high-energy performances and on-screen chemistry. Produced by Sahu Garapati and Sushmita Konidela under Shine Screens and Gold Box Entertainments, and presented by Smt. Archana, the movie has already created a buzz with its first single, Mee-sala Pilla, which garnered over 75 million views. The second single, titled Sasirekha, is slated for release on December 8, with the promo dropping on December 6. The track promises a melodious yet foot-tapping vibe, showcased in a vibrant poster where Chiranjeevi is seen dancing with infectious energy while Nayanthara strikes a stylish pose. Set against a picturesque port backdrop, the song hints at visually rich choreography and a colorful cinematic presentation. The film also features Victory Venkatesh in a pivotal role, who has completed his portions, bringing the production closer to completion. The mass dance number featuring both Chiranjeevi and Venkatesh is expected to be one of the major highlights of the film. The technical crew includes Bheems Ceciroleo as music composer, Sameer Reddy handling cinematography, Tamiraju overseeing editing, and AS Prakash managing art direction. The story is co-written by S. Krishna and G. Adi Narayana, promising a mix of mass appeal and family-oriented entertainment. With its vibrant music, star-studded cast, and Sankranti 2026 release, Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu is shaping up to be one of the most eagerly awaited films of the festive season. Fans are eagerly waiting for the second single Sasirekha to experience the film's energetic and colorful world.

Arnold Schwarzenegger Joins James Cameron at 'Avatar: Fire and Ash' LA Premiere

Hollywood icon Arnold Schwarzenegger reunited with longtime friend and director James Cameron at the star-studded premiere of Avatar: Fire and Ash in Los Angeles. Their friendship spans decades, dating back to their collaboration on The Terminator franchise, which cemented both as legends in action cinema. Schwarzenegger's presence at the premiere added a nostalgic touch while celebrating Cameron's latest cinematic milestone. The premiere was a high-energy affair, attracting fans, industry insiders, and global media. Excitement buzzed throughout the venue as anticipation for Avatar: Fire and Ash reached fever pitch. The film promises to expand Cameron's landmark sci-fi universe with cutting-edge visuals, immersive world-building, and thrilling new characters, making it one of the year's most eagerly awaited releases. Early reactions to the film have been overwhelmingly positive. Critics praised its breathtaking visuals, ambitious scale, and emotional depth, highlighting Cameron's ability to blend spectacle with heartfelt storytelling. Audiences worldwide have expressed enthusiasm for the next chapter in the Avatar saga, which pushes the boundaries of cinematic technology while maintaining a compelling narrative. Schwarzenegger's attendance symbolized a meeting of two generations of blockbuster filmmaking, bridging the legacy of action classics like The Terminator with Cameron's ongoing innovation in science-fiction cinema. Fans and industry observers noted the camaraderie between the actor and director, emphasizing the lasting impact of their collaborations on Hollywood. Avatar: Fire and Ash is set for release in Indian theatres on December 19 in multiple languages, including English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Malayalam. With its global appeal, visual spectacle, and star-studded premiere, the film is expected to make a significant mark at the box office and continue James Cameron's tradition of redefining cinematic experiences.



Horror Thriller Isha Glimpse promises haunting experience in cinemas on Dec 12

Isha is an upcoming horror thriller directed by Srinivas Manne, featuring an impressive ensemble that includes Thrigun, Akhil Raj, Hebah Patel, Siri Hanmanth, and Babloo Prithveeraj in key roles. Backed by Pothula Hema Venkateswara Rao under the HVR Productions banner. The team recently unveiled a gripping teaser that gives audiences a first glimpse into the eerie world of Isha. The newly released glimpse opens with a group of schoolchildren discussing ghost stories before plunging into a series of disturbing visuals and a tense soundscape. As the narrative hints at the characters' haunting encounters and the terrifying mysteries surrounding an abandoned house, the film promises an intense cinematic experience. Isha is scheduled to hit the big screens on December 12th, 2025. Presented by KL Damodar



Prasad, the film boasts music by RR Dhruvan and visuals crafted by cinematographer Santosh Sanamoni. Producers Bunny Vas and Vamsi Nandipati, who delivered consecutive successes with Little Hearts and Raju Weds Rambai, are now set to bring this chilling project to theatres. Known for supporting strong, content-first storytelling, the duo is backing Isha to continue their streak of impactful and engaging films. Their involvement has already raised expectations for the movie among industry circles and audiences alike.

Veteran Producer AVM Saravanan Passes Away at 86

AVM Saravanan, the legendary Tamil film producer and driving force behind AVM Studios, passed away early Thursday morning at the age of 86 following age-related ailments. He had been undergoing treatment for several months and breathed his last at 5:30 a.m. at his residence within the AVM Studio premises in Chennai. His passing comes just a day after his 86th birthday, marking a poignant moment for the Tamil film fraternity. Born as the third son of iconic filmmaker A.V. Meiyappan Chettiar, Saravanan took over AVM Productions in 1958 and went on to become one of the most influential figures in Tamil cinema. Under his stewardship, AVM produced landmark films that combined commercial success with technical innovation, including Naanum Oru Penn, Samsaram Adhu Minsaram, Sivaji, Vettaiyaadu Vilaiyaadu, Minsara Kanavu, and Ayan. These films not only set new benchmarks in the industry but also helped shape the careers of stars like Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan, cementing AVM Studios' reputation as one of India's oldest and most trusted production houses. In recent years, Saravanan had faced declining health and had been unable to walk for nearly two years. He was treated at a private hospital a month ago and later shifted home under medical supervision. Despite his physical struggles, his contributions to cinema remained celebrated and influential. AVM Saravanan's body will be kept for public homage on the third floor of AVM Studios until 4 p.m., followed by funeral rites at the AVM Electric Crematorium this evening. His son, M.S. Kugan, now manages AVM Studios, continuing the family legacy. The Tamil film industry, fans, and cultural icons have expressed their condolences, remembering Saravanan as a visionary who skillfully blended tradition with innovation, leaving an indelible mark on Indian cinema for over six decades.



Vaibhav Reddy's The Hunter – Chapter 1 Streaming Successfully On Aha



Telugu audiences are buzzing about the latest thriller sensation, The Hunter – Chapter 1, which has started streaming exclusively on Aha. This gripping suspense drama, starring the very talented Vaibhav Reddy, has quickly captured viewers' attention, generating massive appreciation and chatter across social platforms. Cinegoers are praising its edge-of-the-seat narrative, and the film's impressive digital debut is setting new benchmarks for Telugu thrillers on OTT. Originally made in Tamil as Ranam Aram Thavarel, The Hunter – Chapter 1 finds new life with its Telugu dub, expertly crafted to engage audiences who love taut mysteries and unexpected twists. Directed by Sherief, the story centers on Aadhi (Vaibhav Reddy), a man haunted by a traumatic past, who's thrust into a dark web of disappearances that shake the city to its core. The chase unravels layers of secrets, testing every character's limits and blurring the line between good and evil. The film's success owes much to Vaibhav's intense, nuanced performance. Nandita Swetha adds emotional gravitas, while Tanya Hope's enigmatic portrayal leaves a lasting impact. Critics and viewers alike have lauded the ensemble's chemistry and the film's tight pacing, noting that the suspense remains unrelenting from start to finish. Music is composed by Arrol Corelli, while Balaji K Raja handled cinematography. At just two hours, The Hunter – Chapter 1 wastes no time in drawing audiences into its atmospheric, moody world. As word of mouth spreads, the film has emerged as a must-watch for lovers of enthralling crime dramas and cleverly-plotted thrillers.