

## Cm Revanth Reddy Sets \$3 Trillion Target and Unveils Guangdong Model for Telangana

TPN Bureau | Dec 08, 2025

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy asserted that Telangana, despite being a newly formed state, is aggressively moving forward in development (dhoosuku pothondi) and is currently establishing revolutionary goals for its future. Speaking at the inauguration of the 'Telangana Rising Global Summit' held at Future City, the Chief Minister articulated a monumental economic target: he aims for Telangana to grow into a \$3 trillion economy by 2047. This ambitious target is aligned with the national goal set by the Central Government, which envisions India as a \$30 trillion economy by the same year. The CM specified that Telangana's aspiration is to contribute 10% of the country's GDP (Desha GDP lo 10% undaalaneedha thama aashayam). The summit served as a critical platform where he formally invited ideas and opinions (aalochanalu, abhipraayalu aahvaa nastu nnnam) from both entrepreneurs and economists to collaboratively shape the state's economic roadmap for the next two decades.

Acknowledging the significant magnitude of the target, CM Revanth Reddy expressed absolute confidence in achieving the goal, stating, "Even though the goal is big, we are confident that we will achieve it through hard work." He affirmed that success would require the full cooperation (andariki sahaaakaram) of all stakeholders. The Chief Minister took a moment to reflect on the state's foundation, stating that the dream of Telangana, with only 2.9% of the coun-



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try's population, generates approximately 5% of the national revenue (5% aadaayam isthunnam), demonstrating its strong economic efficiency.

In a key strategic announcement, the CM revealed a distinct governance model that no other Indian state has implemented: the state has been strategically divided into three zones. These zones are uniquely dedicated to the core sectors of Services, Manufacturing, and Agriculture, and are designated using the conceptual names of Cure, Pure, and Rare zones. Furthermore, CM Revanth Reddy revealed that Telangana is drawing significant inspiration from the economic success story of the Guangdong Province in China. He pointed out that Guangdong achieved the highest investments and rapid industrial growth within just 20 years. Accordingly, the Telangana government plans to implement the Guangdong model (Guangdong namunaa amalu cheyalichhaam) within the state to accelerate investment and economic development. He also listed other economically advanced nations—China, Japan, Germany, South Korea, and Singapore—as ideal models that Telangana seeks to emulate in its journey toward becoming a global economic powerhouse by 2047. The CM's address set a tone of high ambition and strategic planning for the future of the state's economy.

## Global Companies Pledge 1.31 Lakh Crore Investments; Adani Details 25,000 Cr Green Data Center



TPN Bureau | Dec 08, 2025

The Telangana Global Rising Summit at Future City immediately served as a platform for monumental investment announcements from global and national industry leaders, affirming their confidence in the state's economic vision. The Director of an undisclosed firm, identified only as Eric, took to the stage to make a major commitment, publicly announcing the company's plan to inject 1 Lakh Crore (Rs. 1 Lakh Crore) worth of investments into Telangana over the next ten years. This massive pledge underscores the immediate success of the summit in attracting large-scale, long-term capital commitments.

Separately, former CII Chairman Dinesh offered strong praise for the state's vision, particularly commending the forward-thinking concept of a new urban centre named 'Future City'. He stated that Telangana is already recognized as a "fast-developing state" (vegambaga abhiruddhi chendutunna rashtram) globally. Dinesh lauded the state government's effort to bring organizations from across the world onto a single platform, calling it a great achievement. He emphatically confirmed the industry's support, stating that the CII and its members are "ready to partner in the Telangana Vision" (Telangana Vision lo bhaagwaanamulavadaaniki sidham), indicating a robust collaboration between the government and the industrial sector.

Karan Adani, Managing Director of Adani Ports and SEZ, provided detailed insight into the Adani Group's significant and existing investment footprint in Telangana, emphasizing that the summit perfectly reflects the state's ambitious vision. He specified that the Adani Group is currently investing in Green Data Centers and Renewable Energy sectors, alongside its established presence in the Cement industry. Adani announced the

establishment of a Defence and Aerospace Park and highlighted a pioneering project: the development of UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) Technology in Hyderabad, a first for India. The UAVs manufactured here will be supplied to the Indian Armed Forces and also sold in the global market. Crucially, Karan Adani announced a substantial commitment of 25,000 crores for setting up a 48 MW Green Data Center. The Group is also focused on boosting the state's logistics capabilities, committing 4,000 crores for developing road infrastructure that connects various districts, and further adding to the cement industry investment with 2,000 crores for a new cement plant. These diverse commitments collectively cement the Adani Group as a major strategic partner in Telangana's multi-sectoral growth plan, reinforcing the state's position as a preferred destination for large-scale infrastructure and tech investments.

## Union Minister Kishan Reddy Praises National Growth

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Union Minister Kishan Reddy, speaking at the Telangana Global Rising Summit in Future City, offered a broad perspective on India's impressive economic growth trajectory over the past decade. He asserted that the massive increase in foreign investment (videshi pettubadulu baar ee-gaa perigaayani) into the country is a direct result of the Central Government's consistent adherence to transparency and accountability (paardarshakata, jaawabudareethanam). He highlighted India's transformation into a major global platform for international companies. To illustrate the nation's rapid developmental strides, Kishan Reddy provided key statistics: India now holds the second position globally in the production of cellphones. Furthermore, he noted that the construction of National Highways (NHs) across India has seen a massive 70% increase in the last ten years. He also pointed out the significant expansion of urban infrastructure, noting that the Metro Rail network, which spanned only 240 km ten years ago, has now dra-



matically expanded to cover 1013 km across various Indian cities, underscoring the government's focus on modern infrastructure development.

Following the Union Minister's national overview, State Minister Sridhar Babu took the opportunity to detail Telangana's immediate priorities and forward-looking vision. He proudly announced the completion of two years of the Congress government's administration (Praja Palana) and asserted that Telangana has already established itself as a model state (adarshamgaa nilichaam) for many others in the production and construction sectors. The Minister emphasized that Telangana is rapidly advancing across various sectors and holds a leading position in infrastructure development (moulika, vasathulakalpana). He confirmed that the government is undertaking concerted efforts to ensure the state

## Minister Uttam Announces 97,000 Cr Deals with Singapore's Agidc and Vietnam's Vin Group

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Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy announced a significant breakthrough in international economic relations at the Global Summit, confirming crucial investment deals with two key Asian companies totaling a massive 97,000 crores. This success was achieved following productive discussions focused on economic partnerships with Asian nations, which featured the participation of official representatives from Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

The first major agreement was secured with the AGIDC Company from Singapore, which signed an impressive MoU worth 70,000 crores. Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy explained that this company specializes in advanced technology and will be establishing large-scale AI-based data centers (AI aadharitha data centers) within Telangana. This massive investment into digital infrastructure directly supports the state's technological ambitions, especially its declared focus on Artificial Intelligence and Deep Tech.

The second significant deal was signed with the Vin Group from Vietnam, securing a substantial investment commitment of 27,000 crores. The Vin Group plans a multi-faceted investment in the state, establishing facilities for Solar Plants,



Electric Vehicles (EVs), and Energy Storage solutions (Solar Plants, EV, Energy Storage). Minister Uttam further detailed that, as part of this commitment, the Vin Group is also planning to establish a dedicated Industrial Township (Industrial Township) to house its operations and supporting infrastructure. This dual commitment strongly advances Telangana's goals in renewable energy and electric mobility. The Minister affirmed that the state government is intensely focusing its efforts on essential developmental areas such as Technology and Skill Development (Technology, Skill Development), which are considered vital for attracting and sustaining these high-value, future-focused investments and ensuring the local population benefits from the influx of technology.

In a symbolic move following the announcements, the summit also hosted a major highlight where Chief Minister Revanth Reddy unveiled an Olestra Electric Car on the Future City premises. The Chief Minister personally took the initiative to drive the car (swayamgaa aayana car nadipaaru), underscoring the government's serious commitment and enthusiasm for promoting Electric Vehicles and adopting sustainable and futuristic transportation technologies within the state. The combined value and strategic focus of these agreements underscore the state's growing appeal as an investment hub for leading Asian technology and energy corporations.

## Governor Jishnu Dev Varma Inaugurates Global Summit

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The much-anticipated 'Telangana Rising Global Summit' (Telangana Rising Global Summit), a flagship initiative by the state government designed to propel the economy and attract global investment, officially commenced with a high-profile opening ceremony. The summit was formally inaugurated by the State Governor, Jishnu Dev Varma, establishing the high official sanction and importance of the event.

The inaugural event witnessed the convergence of a distinguished and diverse group of political leaders, officials, and notable public figures, underscoring the immense significance of the economic event. Among the high-level attendees were Union Minister Kishan Reddy, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, several state ministers, and numerous elected representatives. Adding a significant layer of celebrity and glamour to the high-stakes economic forum, prominent Telugu film actor Nagarjuna also attended the summit, alongside representatives from various national and international organizations and key industrial houses. The pres-

## Minister Tummala Meets Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi, Discusses Student Welfare and Education Reforms

TPN Bureau | Dec,08,

2025 Hyderabad: At the Telangana Rising Global Summit – 2025, a significant and inspiring interaction took place when Telangana's Honourable Minister Mr. Tummala met Nobel Peace Prize laureate and globally renowned child rights activist Mr. Kailash Satyarthi. The meeting, held at the summit venue, highlighted the State's commitment to strengthening the education system and safeguarding student rights.

During the interaction, Minister Tummala briefed Mr. Satyarthi on the progressive initiatives being implemented across Telangana in the field of education. He explained how the State government is working to modernize schools, enhance learning infrastructure, and incorporate technology-driven



teaching methods to ensure quality education for every child. He emphasized that Telangana's focus is not only on academic excellence but also on holistic development, emotional well-being, and skill enhancement of students.

A major part of the discussion revolved around the measures being taken to protect the rights of students. Minister Tummala outlined several reforms aimed at ensuring child safety in educational institutions, improving monitoring mechanisms, and providing equal opportunities to students from all socio-economic backgrounds. He highlighted the government's efforts to create a secure and inclusive environment where every child can pursue education without fear, discrimination, or obstacles.

Mr. Satyarthi, known for his decades-long crusade against child labour and exploitation, expressed appreciation for Telangana's initiatives. He applauded the State's commitment to strengthening child protection policies, enhancing school safety standards, and expanding opportunities for marginalized children. He noted that such efforts reflect a global vision aligned with the broader goals of child welfare and human development.

The Nobel laureate also shared insights from his international work, stressing the importance of collaboration between governments, civil society and global organizations to ensure that every child receives quality

education and is protected from exploitation. He encouraged Telangana to continue setting benchmarks in student welfare and educational reform, positioning the State as a model for others in the country.

The meeting concluded on a positive note, reaffirming the Telangana government's dedication to prioritizing student welfare and ensuring inclusive, equitable, and safe education for all. The interaction, held during a global summit that showcases Telangana's growth vision, served as a reminder of the State's unwavering commitment to the holistic development of every student. With this meaningful exchange, Telangana further strengthened its resolve to uphold children's rights and build an education system that empowers future generations.

## Minister V. Srihari Inaugurates Sports And Dairy Stalls At Global Summit

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State Minister for Sports, Animal Husbandry, Youth Services, and Fisheries, Vakiti Srihari, played an active and visible role in the inaugural events of the prestigious Telangana Rising Global Summit-2025, ensuring focus was given to the diverse and vital sectors under his direct portfolio. The Minister presided over the ceremonial inauguration of both the Sports Stall and the Dairy Stall, which were specially set up as part of the summit exhibition in the 'Future City' complex.

During the inauguration of the Sports Stall, Minister Srihari showed his personal support for the sector by taking a moment for recreation and engaging in a short, informal game of both Golf and Volleyball. This demonstration of engagement was intended to highlight the state's commitment to promoting sports and youth development. Following the specific inaugurations, the Minister undertook a comprehensive inspection tour of the summit grounds, making sure to visit and thoroughly examine all the stalls that had been established by the various participating government departments and industry representatives. This detailed inspection tour underscored the comprehensive nature of the summit, confirming that the state's vision extends well beyond just major technology and infrastructure projects to include key sectors like sports, which is vital for youth development, and the crucial animal husbandry and dairy industries, which form a significant backbone of the state's rural economy and food security.

The Minister was accompanied during the stall inaugurations and inspection by several high-ranking officials from the departments under his charge. Key attendees included Shiv Sena Reddy, the Chairman of the Sports Authority of Telangana State (SATS); Ilambalithi, the Secretary of the Animal Husbandry Department; and Nikhila, the Managing Director of the Fisheries Department. Their joint presence at the exhibition highlighted the necessary cross-departmental collaborative effort being made to comprehensively showcase Telangana's all-around potential and development progress at this critical global summit. The event successfully served to underscore the government's commitment not only to attracting large-scale foreign investments but also to diligently nurturing specific, core domestic sectors—such as sports, dairy, and fisheries—that are essential for fostering rural livelihoods and ensuring long-term economic diversification and stability for the state.

## Karnataka Deputy CM DK Shivakumar Acknowledges Hyderabad's Competition With Bengaluru

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Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar delivered a key and notably candid address at the Telangana Rising Global Summit, held in the state's 'Future City', openly acknowledging the vigorous economic competition currently underway between the capitals of the two neighboring southern states. Speaking to the large assembly of delegates, Shivakumar clearly stated that the city of Hyderabad is actively and successfully competing with Bengaluru in the crucial sectors of development and investment. He went on to assert that this competition is not merely local, but that both major metropolitan centers are jointly raising the economic bar and actively competing on the global stage as world-class technology and investment hubs.

The Deputy Chief Minister provided crucial context for the nature of the competition by citing the dominance of the two states in the national Information Technology (IT) landscape. He highlighted that Bengaluru alone currently accounts for a massive 40% of India's total IT exports. While recognizing Bengaluru's established leadership, he was quick to commend Telangana, noting that even as a comparatively smaller state, it holds a "great share" in the national IT export figures, demonstrating its remarkable growth rate and technological significance. Shivakumar also underscored the impact of the Indian diaspora in the global tech sector, mentioning the impressive figure that 1.3 million Indian engineers are currently employed in major global tech hubs.

Shivakumar offered praise for the current Telangana government's forward-thinking approach, noting with approval that the administration has clearly focused on and planned for "what the next generation needs". He offered a pledge of collaboration to his neighboring state,

## Actor Nagarjuna Praises 'Future City' Concept; Eyes Bollywood Collaboration For New Studio



TPN Bureau | Dec, 08,

2025 Veteran film actor Akkineni Nagarjuna delivered significant commentary during his attendance at the Telangana

Rising Global Summit-2025 in Hyderabad, voicing strong support for the state government's ambitious 'Future City' developmental vision. Nagarjuna arrived

at the summit venue alongside Deputy Chief Minister Muthu Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, with the two prominent figures sharing the same banner, symbolizing the unity of public figures in supporting the summit's goals. They jointly undertook an inspection tour of the various specialized stalls and exhibitions that had been meticulously set up across the summit premises.

Speaking to the media following the tour, Nagarjuna shared his key thoughts on the event and the state's potential, drawing on his deep roots in the city. He remarked that his family has resided in Hyderabad for 50 years and emphasized his favorable opinion of the city's overall environment and its growth-conducive atmosphere. His commentary strongly focused on the substantial growth opportunities for the film industry within Telangana. He highlighted the existing presence of his family's Annapurna

Studio in the state and expressed strong optimism for further development. Crucially, Nagarjuna welcomed the fact that Bollywood celebrities are coming forward to collaborate on the construction of another large studio in the 'Future City' area, calling it a highly positive development. He projected that if both the Telugu film fraternity and Bollywood personalities were to fully collaborate, they could successfully establish a massive film production facility equipped with world-class infrastructure and global-standard amenities, dramatically boosting the region's status as a major cinematic hub.

Nagarjuna offered specific and direct praise to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, commending the Chief Minister's vision-

ary "Future City" concept as a sound, necessary, and highly promising idea for the state's next stage of growth. His high-profile endorsement, given the entertainment industry's significant economic and cultural footprint, provides powerful momentum to the government's plans for establishing modern urban and commercial hubs. The actor was among several top dignitaries who attended the inaugural session, including the Governor and Union Minister Kishan Reddy. His participation underscored the summit's aim to attract investment and recognition across a diverse range of sectors, confirming that the 'Future City' vision is broad enough to encompass both technological growth and the creative economy.

## Telangana High Court Suspends CAT Order Allotting IAS Officer Amrapali To State



TPN Bureau | Dec, 08, 2025

In a significant development concerning civil service cadre allocation, the Telangana High Court has issued interim orders that suspend the earlier directions given by the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT). The CAT had previously directed the allocation of IAS officer Amrapali Kata to the Telangana state cadre. This High Court ruling marks a temporary but notable setback for the officer, who has been involved in a continuous legal process to contest her initial cadre allocation.

The complex legal situation began in October last year, when the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), the central authority, issued official orders directing the allocation of IAS officer Amrapali to the Andhra Pradesh state cadre. Challenging both the legality and the basis of these DoPT orders, Amrapali approached the CAT for redressal. The Tribunal, after reviewing the arguments presented, subsequently issued a directive stating that Amrapali should be sent back to the Telangana cadre. The CAT's decision was based on a proposed "swapping" arrangement involving another IAS officer, Harikiran, as a mechanism for the allocation change.

However, the DoPT vigorously objected to and challenged this CAT directive in court. The DoPT argued that the proposed "swapping" mechanism was not legally applicable in Amrapali's case because the other officer involved, Harikiran, belongs to a reserved category. The department contended that such an exchange, or swapping procedure, was therefore not permissible under the current allocation rules and regulations, as it could potentially violate critical reservation guidelines and principles.

Consequently, the DoPT filed an appeal against the CAT's decision in the Telangana High Court. The High Court, after considering the DoPT's argument regarding the impermissibility of the swap due to the reserved category status of the other officer, issued an interim stay on the CAT's previous decision. This suspension means the CAT's order to reallocate Amrapali to Telangana is temporarily halted. The High Court has adjourned the next hearing on this complex administrative and legal matter for a period of six weeks, leaving the final cadre status of IAS officer Amrapali unresolved and subject to further judicial review.

# Mynampally Hanumantha Rao Attacks BRS After Panchayat Wins

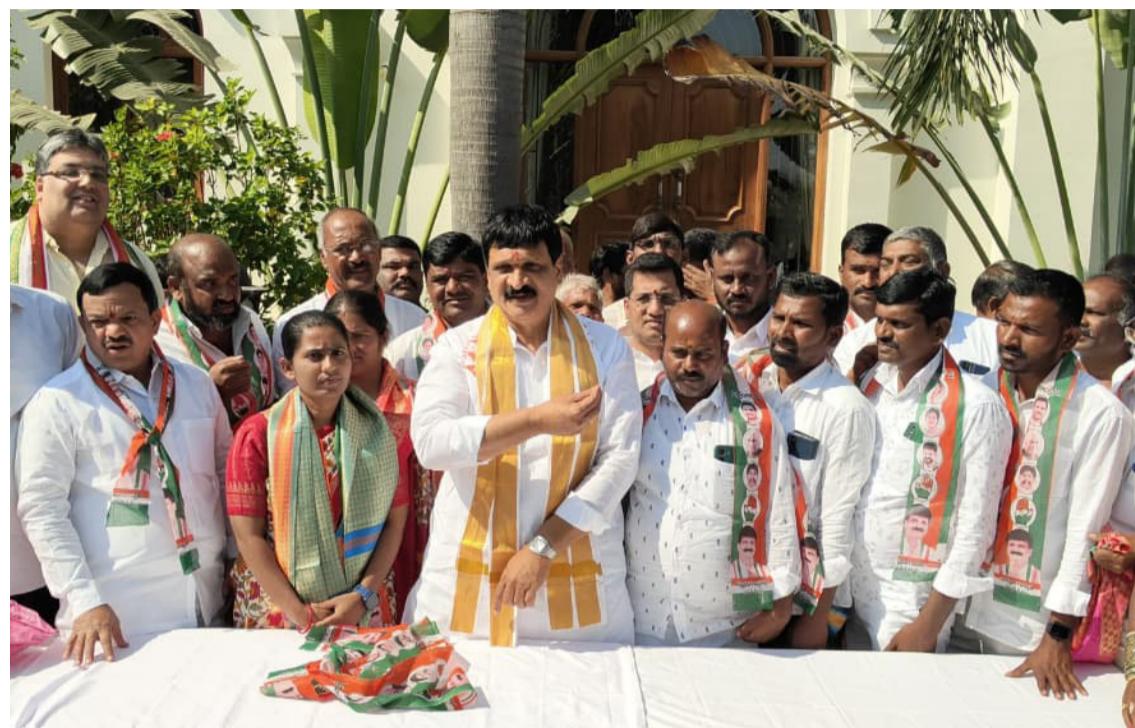
TPN Bureau | Dec ,08

Congress leader Mynampally Hanumantha Rao addressed a media conference at his residence in Doolapally, Kurnool, on December 8, where he strongly asserted the rising dominance of the Congress party in local politics, citing the recent Gram Panchayat elections. Hanumantha Rao announced a significant development in the Medak constituency, stating that out of the total 142 Gram Panchayat Sarpanch posts, 15 have been elected unanimously (Ekagrava), which he claimed is clear evidence of the shift in public support towards the Congress party.

His address quickly turned into a fierce attack on the opposition

BRS party. With the Congress government approaching its two-year mark, Hanumantha Rao reassured the public that all promises made would be "certainly implemented" within the full five-year term. He then sharply contrasted this with the previous BRS government, which he accused of being in power for a decade and failing to fulfill its promises to the people. He charged that the BRS is now resorting to "slinging mud" at the Congress on social media because of its political failures. He promised that the remaining guarantees would be delivered within the next three years, urging patience and trust from the electorate.

Hanumantha Rao pointed to the failure of



the BRS on several key issues, most prominent

ly the delay in ration card distribution, stat-

ing, "The ration card issue alone is enough to show your government failed." He claimed that the Congress government initiated the distribution of ration cards as a continuous process immediately upon taking office. He escalated his accusations of corruption against the BRS, charging that they engaged in large-scale "looting" from the Kaleshwaram project to various "car scams". He accused the BRS of illegally accumulating a massive 1,500 crore party fund over ten years, along with "hundreds and thousands of acres of land". He mocked their failure to deliver on key promises like double-bedroom houses and jobs, especially to Dalits, asserting that the public removed the

## BRS Releases Chargesheet Accusing Congress Of Two Years Of 'Incompetence And Chaos'

TPN Bureau | Dec ,08

In a scathing counter-attack just as the Congress government approaches its two-year mark, senior BRS leader and former Minister T. Harish Rao released a comprehensive chargesheet at Telangana Bhavan. He accused Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy of running a "private limited government" marked by the collapse of governance, rampant corruption, and broken promises, summarizing the period as "two years of suffering" for the people of Telangana.

Harish Rao charged that the Congress failed both to implement its six key guarantees and to sustain the successful developmental initiatives launched by the BRS. He accused the regime of surviving solely on "self-praise, photo sessions, and Goebbels-style propaganda," while development and welfare systems sharply deteriorated. He mockingly dubbed the Chief Minister "Buildup Babai," suggesting the administration was high on hype but low on actual delivery, calling its performance "hollow, fruitless, and pointless."

Harish Rao drew a stark comparison, highlighting that the first two years of the BRS government saw the successful rollout of transformative schemes such as 24-hour power, Mission Bhagiratha, Mission Kakatiya, enhanced pensions, Kalyana Lakshmi, and TS-iPASS reforms. In sharp contrast, he claimed the Congress tenure has produced "nothing beyond rhetoric and revived corruption." He pointed

to instances of governance paralysis, criticizing the quick collapse of the promised daily Praja Darbar, which he claimed turned Praja Bhavan into a venue for "parties and receptions, not public service." He blamed "impulsive and immature decisions," such as the cancellation of the Metro Rail extension and the scrapping of Pharma City, for stalling Hyderabad's growth and severely damaging investor confidence, leading to decreased state revenues.

The chargesheet's mo-

st aggressive section focused on alleged corruption, which Harish Rao charged had been institutionalized. He claimed that bills are cleared only after commissions are paid, alleging that ministers have imposed an unofficial "fixed tax" on approvals for building permissions, layout conversions, and contract bills. He specifically named these as the "R R tax, Bhatti tax, Uttam tax, and many others," alleging a new norm of "30 per cent commission" for every leader and claiming a portion of this



## Kavitha Criticizes Congress Government Over Kukatpally Development And Land Sales

TPN Bureau | Dec ,08

Telangana Jagruthi President Kavitha conducted a tour of the Kukatpally constituency on Monday, December 8, where she leveled sharp criticisms against the Congress government regarding local development and alleged financial mismanagement. Her visit began with a tribute, as she placed a floral garland on the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar at the Y-Junction.

Speaking to the media afterward, Kavitha emphasized Kukatpally's immense significance, describing it as a "Mini India" because of its diverse population. However, she contrasted this cultural importance with the lack of economic accessibility, highlighting the severe hardship faced by the working class: "The poor here cannot even afford to rent a house." She strongly criticized the government's priorities, accusing the Congress administration of selling land worth an estimated 2,000



crores in the Medchal district (which includes Kukatpally) but failing to spend even a single rupee on the development of the Kukatpally constituency itself. She pointed to a stark absence of basic amenities, including the lack of even a single stadium in the area. Kavitha questioned the validity of the government's grand ambitions, asking how Hyderabad could be called a "Global City" when a key area like Kukatpally suffers

from severe infrastructural shortcomings, such as the "intense traffic problem" near the JNTU Metro Station. She charged the ruling party with political neglect, asserting that leaders only visit the area to ask for votes during elections and fail to address the public's grievances at any other time. She also criticized the opposition BRS (her own party's) relative silence, stating that since the ruling party is neglecting the issues and the opposition

## BJP MLA Rakesh Reddy followed Raja On Party's Strategy

TPN Bureau | Dec ,08

A growing internal dissent regarding the political strategy of the state leadership has emerged within the Telangana unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Following recent critical comments by Goshamahal MLA A.T. Raja Singh, Amaroor MLA P. Rakesh Reddy has now joined the criticism, publicly urging for a significant change in the party's strategic "format" to effectively secure power in Telangana.

Rakesh Reddy voiced his displeasure with the State BJP leadership while speaking at a party protest program held in Hyderabad on Sunday. His critique centered on a direct comparison between the BJP's performance in Telangana and its successes in other states. He specifically cited the party's strong organizational performance and electoral achievements in states like Maharashtra and Bihar, contrasting them with the party's perceived struggles and strategic failures in Telangana. The MLA mentioned that the public is actively ques-



titioning local BJP leaders about the party's overall performance and effectiveness within the state, indicating a lack of clear direction or visible success that voters can rally behind. The joining of Rakesh Reddy, a sitting MLA, with the criticisms previously raised by Raja Singh underscores a significant internal demand for strategic overhaul. Both leaders, by publicly

expressing their discontent and calling for a change in the "format" or strategy, are signaling that the current state leadership's approach is deemed insufficient to achieve the party's goal of unseating the Congress and gaining power in Telangana. Their public statements reflect a feeling among some party ranks that the BJP needs to adopt a more aggressive, organized, and perhaps localized strategy that resonates more effectively with the Telangana electorate, mirroring the successful models used in other parts of the country where the party has secured major electoral victories. This public push for change puts immediate pressure on the state leadership to reassess and reform its political action plan.

# DGP B. Shivadhar Reddy Conducts Extensive Inspection of Global Summit Security Arrangements; Holds Courtesy Meeting with Korea's Consul General



TPN Bureau, December 8:

State Director General of Police (DGP) Shri B. Shivadhar Reddy on Monday conducted an extensive inspection of the large-scale security arrangements put in place for the Global Summit being held at Meer Khanpet in Kandukur Mandal. The summit venue, spread across nearly 100 acres, witnessed an in-depth review as the DGP toured various locations on foot.

During the inspection, he reviewed the main stage prepared for key dignitaries, the special meeting halls arranged for delegations from various countries, and the massive parking zones designated for thousands of vehicles. He issued

clear instructions to local officials on strengthening security measures and ensuring smooth coordination throughout the event.

The DGP personally examined the security preparedness around the venues for the inaugural ceremony and the subsequent sessions scheduled through Monday night. He also reviewed the security deployment along the route from Tukuguda to Meer Khanpet, ensuring adequate bandobust for VIP movement. Officials were instructed to further refine the arrangements to ensure complete safety for attendees, delegates and international representatives.

Courtesy Meeting with Korea's Consul General

During his visit, the newly appointed Consul General of the Republic of Korea in Mumbai, Mr. Dongwan Yoo, along with his team, met DGP Shivadhar Reddy for a courtesy interaction.

The meeting took place at the administrative office set up at the summit location. Both sides discussed matters related to the safety and security of Korean companies and Korean nationals residing in Hyderabad. The Consul General appreciated the government's proactive measures and expressed confidence in the security arrangements overseeing the summit and the wider region.

Senior Officials Accompany DGP  
The DGP was accom-

panied by several senior officers, including:

Shri Mahesh M. Bhagwat, Additional DGP (Law & Order)

Shri Sudhir Babu, Rachakonda Police Commissioner

Dr. M. Ramesh, IGP (P & L)

They engaged in a detailed review with top police officials to outline further steps needed to reinforce the overall security grid for the high-profile summit.

The comprehensive inspection highlighted the Telangana Police's commitment to delivering a safe, secure, and flawlessly organized global event, ensuring confidence among national and international delegates attending the summit.

## BJP Corporator Cheera Suchitra Srikanth Launches 'Basti Bata' to Resolve Public Issues

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BJP Corporator Cheera Suchitra Srikanth of the Ramgopalpet division actively launched the 'Basti Bata' (walk-the-street) program with the specific aim of directly understanding the ground-level problems faced by the residents in her constituency and ensuring their swift, immediate resolution. The public outreach initiative took place on Monday in the Bapu Bagh Colony area of the Ramgopalpet division. The Corporator, responding to a call from the local Bapu Bagh Women Welfare Association, walk-



ed through the colony for approximately two hours, accompanied by officials from various key government departments, police officers, and local women repre-

sentatives. During this extensive tour, local women brought numerous critical issues directly to the Corporator's attention.

The primary con-

cerns raised by the colony residents included the significant disturbance caused by the haphazard parking of vehicles on the roads, creating congestion and safety issues, and the particularly worrying menace of drunkards (mandhubabu bedada) causing security threats and public nuisance during night hours. The Corporator immediately responded to the safety concerns by directing the local Police Inspector, Narasing Rao, to take swift and effective action to resolve these problems immediately. Furthermore, residents pointed out a severe public health

issue, reporting that sewage was overflowing (drainage ponguntundi) from three different locations. The Corporator immediately brought this issue to the attention of the Water Board official, Ashish, giving firm instructions to take immediate steps to find a permanent "solution" or "relief" (moksham kaligala) for the drainage problem. She also raised technical issues concerning essential services, specifically pointing out the persistent problem of low voltage electricity (Low Current) to the Electrical officials, Durga Prasad and Shivaram.

## Hyderabad Realtor Brutally Murdered in Broad Daylight

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A chilling and horrific murder occurred on a public road in Hyderabad, sending shockwaves through the city. The victim was ambushed and brutally killed by unidentified assailants in a highly organized attack, suggesting a premeditated crime. The incident took place within the jurisdiction of the Jawahar Nagar Police Station under the Rachakonda Commissionerate. The victim was identified by the police as Venkata Ratnam, a real estate businessman. Police investigation

strongly concluded that the assailants had carried out the killing according to a "pre-planned scheme" (pakka pathakam prakaramae), strongly pointing towards a motive related to his business dealings or a personal feud.

The tragic incident unfolded near the Foster Billabong School in Saketh Colony. The victim, Venkata Ratnam, was traveling alone on his motorcycle when he was swiftly pursued (vambadinchinaaru) by the assailants on another bike. Choosing a public road during the day, the attackers selected their

moment and launched a savage and unprovoked attack on the realtor right in the middle of the road.

The assault was executed with extreme brutality and lethal force: the assailants first attacked the victim using a machete (Veta Kaththi). Not satisfied with the initial brutal assault, they then fired a revolver (revolver tho shoot chesi) at him, completing the heinous act in front of terrified passersby. The sudden, loud sound of gunshots (tupakula shabdham) and the horrifying sight of the violence sent local

residents into a state of panic and fear (bhayaan-dolanalu gurayya aaru).

After committing the murder, the assailants immediately fled the scene on their bike. Local residents promptly informed the police, who rushed immediately to the crime scene (ghatana asthalaniki cherukunnaru). The realtor, Venkata Ratnam, was confirmed to have died instantly on the spot (spotla mirthi chesinatu) due to the combined severity of the injuries. Police transported the body to a government hospital for a post-mortem

examination and informed the victim's family members of the tragic death. Crucially, the police recovered a spent bullet (bullet nu) from the crime scene, which will serve as key evidence in the investigation. The police have registered a formal case and initiated a detailed investigation to determine the exact motive—whether financial, personal, or business-related—and to swiftly identify and apprehend the assailants responsible for this shocking act of violence committed in the city's jurisdiction.

## Samantha Makes First Public Appearance Post-Wedding, Spotted in Gachibowli

TPN Bureau | December 8, 2025

Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu made her highly anticipated first public appearance following her recent intimate wedding, an appearance that surprised many and quickly went viral across social media and news outlets. The actress had recently celebrated a major personal milestone, marrying filmmaker Raj Nidimoru on December 1. The couple chose a traditional and spiritual Linga Bhairava Vivaha ceremony held at the renowned Isha Foundation in Coimbatore. The serene and beautiful wedding photographs,



showcasing Samantha in traditional red and gold saree and Raj Nidimoru in an elegant ivory kurta, immediately captivated the public and fueled extensive social media conversation and well-wishes for the newlywed couple. In a move that strongly demonstrated her professional

commitment despite the significant personal event, Samantha returned to her work or public life just four days after her wedding, which surprised many fans and industry observers alike. Her first post-wedding public outing occurred last night when she was spotted by the public at

the popular AMB Cinemas multiplex in Gachibowli, Hyderabad. The video clip capturing her appearance quickly circulated online, with fans expressing their excitement and delight at seeing the newly married star out and about so soon after her nuptials. According to media reports, Samantha visited the multiplex with the specific intention of watching the Bollywood film Dhurandhar. This unexpected and quick public sighting further added to the ongoing buzz and excitement surrounding her recent marriage and her immediate return to her professional

commitments. The appearance confirmed her dedication to swiftly resuming her normal life and work schedule. The high level of public interest in her personal life and professional commitment was clearly evidenced by how quickly the news of her outing spread.

Her decision to step out immediately after the wedding, even for a casual activity like watching a film, underscores the priority she gives to normalcy and her career. The public's enthusiasm confirms her continued status as a beloved and prominent celebrity in the industry.

## Government Services to the People: MLA Sri Ganesh Reviews 'Cantonment Vani' Preparations

TPN Bureau | December 8, 2025

Cantonment MLA Sri Ganesh undertook a crucial and active inspection of the operational arrangements for the upcoming 'Cantonment Vani' public outreach program, which is specifically designed to bring government services closer to the people, similar to the operations of the Chief Minister's Office. The key event is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, December 10, at the Gun Bazaar Community Hall in Raspur (Ward 2). MLA Sri Ganesh, accompanied by local Congress party leaders, personally reviewed all the logistical and physical arrangements on Monday, December 8. The primary focus of the review was to ensure that citizens attending the 'Cantonment Vani'

would face "no inconvenience whatsoever" (entuvanti ibbandhi lekunda) while submitting their petitions and that the event would operate in an orderly, efficient, and accessible manner for all. Follow-

ing the detailed site inspection, MLA Sri Ganesh highlighted the significant benefit of the arrangement, which is designed to "eliminate the need for people to endlessly commute to government offices" (prabhu thya kaaryalaayaalaku thirigae pani lekunda) by bringing problem-solving services directly to them. MLA Sri Ganesh concluded his address by issuing a sincere public appeal to all residents of the constituency, urging them to fully "utilize this rare opportunity" (sadvin chesukovaalini) provided by the 'Cantonment Vani' to get their long-standing issues addressed quickly and efficiently. He further noted that the program is intended to reduce the distance between government systems and the public, thereby making governance more transparent and accessible, marking it as an important welfare initiative.

The MLA strongly emphasized that these officials will be authorized to personally receive the public's griev-

## IndiGo Cancels 112 Flights at Hyderabad Airport Amid Operational Issues

TPN Bureau | December 8, 2025

The Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) in Hyderabad experienced significant and widespread operational disruptions on Monday as IndiGo Airlines, a major domestic carrier, announced large-scale flight cancellations. This drastic measure severely impacted hundreds of passengers travelling to and from various states, resulting in considerable inconvenience, confusion, and travel delays throughout the day. A total of 112 IndiGo flights were canceled in a single day, highlighting the severity of the underlying operational issues the airline was facing.

According to specific details provided by airline officials, the total number of cancellations was split almost equally between arrivals and departures. The list of canceled flights included 54 IndiGo flights that were originally scheduled to de-

part from RGIA for various destinations across the country. Additionally, a significant number of 58 incoming flights that were scheduled to arrive at RGIA from different states were also canceled. This mass cancellation underscored the immediate operational challenges faced by the airline on that specific day, leading to unavoidable schedule alterations and delays across the entire network connected to Hyderabad. The sheer scale of the disruption, with over a hundred flights affected, constituted a major air travel crisis at one of South India's busiest international and domestic travel hubs. The widespread cancellations made it clear that a major systemic issue was impacting the airline's schedule reliability. IndiGo immediately issued an urgent public advisory, strongly urging all passengers who had booked tickets to or from Hyderabad to check their flight sta-

# Severe Cold-Wave Like Conditions Prevail Across Hyderabad and Telangana Districts

TPN Bureau | December 08, 2025

Severe cold-wave like conditions have suddenly gripped Telangana, causing minimum temperatures to plummet drastically across Hyderabad and numerous districts. Mercury levels fell sharply to single digits in multiple parts of the state over the last 24 hours, marking a significant change in the weather pattern and prompting health advisories. The state capital and its surrounding regions experienced a particularly noticeable drop in tem-



perature. According to the data meticulously collected and released by the Telangana Development Planning Society (TGDPS), the lowest minimum temperature recorded within the Hyderabad metropolitan area was a chilling 8.4°C. This reading was specifically recorded at the Hyderabad Central University campus in Serilingampally, measured during the period between Sunday evening and the early hours of Monday morning, highlighting the intensity of the cold wave in the city's western suburbs.

The TGDPS data further detailed the widespread nature of the cold conditions across the capital. Other key locations in Hyderabad where minimum temperatures fell considerably include: Rajendranagar, which recorded 10.1°C; Alwal and BHEL, which both registered 10.6°C; RC Puram saw temperatures drop to 12.2°C; and both Neredmet and Chandanagar recorded minimum temperatures of 12.4°C. These figures clearly illustrate that the

chilling air was not confined to a single locality but was prevalent across the entire city's geography. Moving beyond the capital, the severe cold was even more pronounced across the districts of Telangana, with many areas reporting minimum temperatures ranging between a brisk 6°C and 10°C. The prevalence of temperatures at or near the 6°C mark indicates significant ground frost conditions in certain pockets, which can affect agriculture and put vulnerable populations at high risk.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a forecast indicating that these severe cold conditions are not expected to abate immediately. In fact, the IMD predicts that the state will continue to experience colder nights over the next two to three days.

This persistent cold is expected to affect isolated pockets across Telangana, increasing the severity of the challenge for the general public, especially for the elderly, children, and homeless

## Woman Brutally Murdered By Live-In Partner In Bhainsa, Nirmal District



TPN Bureau | December 08, 2025

A shocking and brutal murder has been reported from Bhainsa town in the Nirmal district of Telangana, where a 27-year-old woman was tragically killed in an act of domestic violence on Monday morning. The horrific incident took place at a tea point she operated, located near the Santo Shimata Temple within the town limits. According to details gathered from local residents, the deceased woman was originally from Kumarsa village. She had been previously married and was the mother of two children. However, she had obtained a divorce from her husband and was living separately, away from her family. During this period, she formed a relationship with a man identified as Nagesh, a resident of

Ambekar Nagar in Bhainsa. The two had been living together (sahajeevanam chesunnaru) as live-in partners. The woman had been running the tea point as a means of earning a livelihood (upaadhi kosam) to support herself and her children. The devastating tragedy unfolded on Monday morning when the sound of screams (kek alu) emanating from the tea point alerted the local residents nearby. Rushing to the scene, the horrified locals discovered the woman's body. She was lying dead in a pool of blood (rakta pu mudugulo vigatajeviga), having been brutally murdered, reportedly at the hands of Nagesh. The suspect, Nagesh, was found calmly sitting right next to the deceased woman's body. The locals imme-

## Cybercrime Police Seek Extended Custody of iBomma Administrator Ravi



Hyderabad: In a significant development in the ongoing investigation into major film piracy cases, the Cybercrime Police have taken another step forward by filing a revision petition seeking an extension of custody for iBomma administrator Ravi, who was recently arrested for his alleged involvement in large-scale piracy operations.

The police, in their petition, stated that the three-day custody period granted earlier by the court for interrogation is insufficient for a thorough investigation. The court had approved one day of custody for each of the three registered cases, amounting to a total of three days. However, officials argued that

the probe spans four cases in total, and examining all aspects within such a short duration is not feasible.

The Cybercrime Police emphasized that a minimum of five days of custodial interrogation is necessary to uncover vital information linked to the piracy of high-budget and recently released films such as Kuber, Kishkindha Puri, Tandale, and HIT.

Investigators believe that Ravi possesses crucial details regarding the distribution networks, financial channels, and the broader ecosystem behind the large-scale illegal release and circulation of these films.

The petition notes that extended custody is essential to extract complete information

about the modus operandi, technical infrastructure, and any potential collaboration with national or international piracy syndicates. With online film piracy causing significant revenue loss to the film industry, the police are treating this case as a high-priority investigation.

As the court evaluates the revision petition, all eyes are now on the impending decision. Whether the court will accept the police department's request for extended custody remains to be seen. The ruling is expected to play a key role in directing the next phase of the investigation into one of the most notable piracy crackdowns in recent times.

## Man Chokes To Death On Chicken Piece In Sircilla

TPN Bureau | December 08, 2025

A highly unusual and devastating domestic accident was reported from the Rajanna Sircilla district, resulting in the sudden death of a 45-year-old man. The deceased, identified as Pati Surender, a resident of Gollapally in Yellareddypet mandal, tragically passed away on Sunday afternoon. Surender, who was known to the villagers as a trolley auto driver who also worked at a local kirana store, was having a routine lunch with his family members at their residence in the KCR double-bedroom colony when the fatal incident occurred. While consuming a chicken curry, a large chicken piece unexpectedly became lodged in his throat. The obstruction caused immediate and severe difficulty in breathing (Suffered severe difficulty in breathing), rapidly escalating into a life-threatening emergency. His family mem-

## Tension Builds Ahead of Ichoda Major Gram Panchayat Elections

With just two days left for the Ichoda Major Gram Panchayat elections, political activity has reached a peak and tension is mounting among the candidates contesting for the Sarpanch position. Locally, the Sarpanch post holds significant influence—almost comparable to that of an MLA within the village constituency—making the competition even more intense.

The Ichoda Major Gram Panchayat, reserved for the ST category, has five candidates in the race. As polling day approaches, the key questions resonating among the voters are: Who truly stands in the main contest? Who has the winning edge?

For nearly 15 years, the local governance has been dominated by one

family. According to villagers and community elders, Chauhan Devanand had reportedly secured the Sarpanch position multiple times using a disputed ST certificate, despite belonging to a different community. Based on complaints from members of the Lambada community, district authorities reviewed the matter, following which the High Court cancelled his ST certificate, rendering him ineligible to contest.

Following this setback, Devanand's nomination for the present election was rejected. In a strategic move to retain influence over the Panchayat, he has now fielded his daughter-in-law, who belongs to a Scheduled Tribe community, as a candidate. This development has sparked discussions and curiosity among the electorate regarding whether the family can maintain its long-held hold on local leadership or whether voters will opt for a change.

With five ST candidates actively campaigning, ground-level dynamics are rapidly shifting. Community sentiment, local alliances, government welfare beneficiaries, and longstanding leadership impressions are all expected to play a crucial role in determining the outcome.

As the election day nears, the atmosphere in Ichoda Major is charged with anticipation. Voters and observers alike are keenly watching how the final phase of campaigning unfolds and which candidate will ultimately





# Bharat Future City: Pioneering India's Sustainable Urban Future

As India marches toward becoming a global economic and technological powerhouse, the need for smart, sustainable, and inclusive urban planning has never been more urgent. Amidst the backdrop of rapidly expanding cities, increasing pollution, and strained infrastructure, Telangana's ambitious Bharat Future City—also known as Telangana Future City—emerges as a bold vision for India's urban future. Envisaged as a net-zero, greenfield smart city near Hyderabad, this project aims to house one million residents while prioritizing sustainability, technology, and holistic urban development.

At its core, Bharat Future City is not just another real estate or township project. Spanning a core area of 30,000 acres, with a total zone covering 1.85 lakh acres, the city is designed to integrate futuristic technologies with environmental responsibility. Unlike conventional urban development, which often evolves in a haphazard manner, this city represents a carefully planned ecosystem where every aspect—from mobility to energy use, from education to health—is conceived with sustainability in mind.

## A Vision Rooted in Sustainability and Innovation

The city's vision is ambitious yet necessary. India, with its burgeoning population and urban migration, faces severe pressure on housing, infrastructure, and public services. Traditional cities, including Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and Mumbai, struggle with traffic congestion, pollution, and inadequate utilities. Bharat Future City addresses these issues head-on. Its design is net-zero, implying that the city's energy consumption will be balanced entirely by renewable energy generation. By integrating solar, wind, and potentially other clean energy sources, the project seeks to eliminate dependence on fossil fuels, reduce carbon emissions, and serve as a template for sustainable urban living in India.

## Mobility Designed for the Future

Transportation is another area where Bharat Future City breaks away from conventional norms. The plan includes metro connectivity extensions, high-speed rail linking Amaravati and Bengaluru, airport connectivity, and well-planned highways. Such integrated mobility not only reduces travel times but also ensures that the city remains accessible and environmentally friendly. With electric vehicles as a priority, the city aims to minimize air pollution and promote clean mobility.

## Government Backing and Structured Growth

One of the standout aspects of this initiative is its strong government support. Managed by the Future City Development Authority (FCDA) under the oversight of the Telangana government, the project enjoys a level of credibility and regulatory backing that many private ventures lack. Approvals from HMDA and RERA further enhance investor confidence, ensuring structured growth and clear legal titles. In a country where urban projects often face delays, bureaucratic hurdles, and legal disputes, this government-backed framework can provide the stability necessary for timely completion and long-term sustainability.

## Economic and Investment Potential

From an economic perspective, Bharat Future City holds immense promise. Its strategic location between Srisailam and Nagarjunasagar highways near Hyderabad ensures connectivity with major commercial centers, while dedicated industrial zones can attract domestic and international investments. The combination of government support, planned infrastructure, and technological focus makes it an attractive destination for investors, businesses, and residents seeking a modern, high-quality urban environment.

Furthermore, the project aligns with India's broader aspirations to become a global hub for technology, pharmaceuticals, and healthcare. By creating specialized zones for these industries, the city could generate significant employment opportunities, stimulate innovation, and contribute to regional and national economic growth.

## Balancing Development with

## Environmental and Social Concerns

No ambitious project of this scale can proceed without challenges. Farmer opposition and activist concerns regarding land acquisition and environmental impact are significant issues that cannot be ignored. Land acquisition in India has historically been a sensitive topic, often leading to protests and delays. It is crucial for the authorities and developers to engage in transparent dialogue with affected communities, ensuring fair compensation, sustainable relocation plans, and minimal disruption to livelihoods.

Environmental impact is another critical concern. While the city's net-zero vision is commendable, large-scale construction inevitably affects local ecosystems. Protecting forests, water sources, and biodiversity while building a city from scratch requires rigorous planning, environmental clearances, and ongoing

monitoring. Bharat Future City has

the opportunity to set a precedent in eco-friendly urban development, but this can only be realized if environment -

By contrast, this city proposes a seamless blend of a

urban spaces. The city's focus on dedicated zones for

AI, health, education,

and sports reflects an understanding that cities are not just about housing—they are about nurturing human potential.

## Conclusion: A Vision Worth Pursuing, But With Care

Bharat Future City represents an extraordinary opportunity for India to redefine urban living. Its emphasis on net-zero energy, smart mobility, integrated industrial zones, and government-backed structured development could make it a benchmark for sustainable urbanization worldwide. Yet, success will depend on careful, inclusive planning that respects the rights of local communities and safeguards environmental integrity. In a country where urban planning

has often lagged behind rapid population growth, Bharat Future City has the potential to be a turning point—a city that is not only technologically advanced but also ecologically responsible and socially inclusive. Its journey will be closely watched, both as a measure of India's ability to plan for the future and as a symbol of what visionary urban development can achieve.

## A Model for Future Indian Cities

### What makes Bharat Future City truly noteworthy

is its holistic approach.

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## Priyanka Gandhi Questions Timing of “Vande Mataram” Debate, Links It to Bengal Elections

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has triggered a political storm by questioning the timing of the debate on the national song “Vande Mataram” in Parliament, alleging that the discussion is being used as a political tool ahead of the upcoming West Bengal Assembly elections. Her remarks have intensified the war of words between the Opposition and the ruling party over nationalism, history, and electoral strategy.

Speaking in the Lok Sabha, Priyanka Gandhi asked why a debate on a national symbol was being revived decades after Independence. She argued that the government's sudden focus on the national song was not driven by genuine respect for history or national pride, but by political calculations linked to election campaigning in West Bengal. According to her, the government was attempting to shift public attention away from pressing issues such as rising prices, unemployment,

and economic challenges by creating emotionally charged debates in Parliament.

She also accused the government of selectively interpreting history to suit its political narrative. Priyanka said that the true history and context of “Vande Mataram” should be understood rather than being used as a weapon for political gain. She stressed that national symbols should unite citizens rather than divide them, and warned that politicising historical and cultural issues could deepen social divisions.

The Congress leader further criticised what she described as the misuse of freedom fighters' legacies. She claimed that the ruling party was trying to rewrite parts of India's freedom movement history while ignoring the contributions of several leaders and movements. Priyanka maintained that debates in Parliament should focus more on people's real-life problems and less on symbolic controversies

that do not directly impact citizens' daily lives. Her comments came in response to the government's defence of the national song in Parliament, where the ruling side argued that such debates are necessary to reinforce national identity and pride. Government leaders dismissed the Opposition's claims and said that honouring national symbols is a duty of elected representatives. They accused the Congress party of undermining patriotic sentiment by questioning the importance of “Vande Mataram.”

The controversy has sparked sharp reactions across the political spectrum. Supporters of the government argue that revisiting the national song is a legitimate cultural and historical discussion, while Opposition parties see it as a strategy to polarise voters ahead of elections in key states, especially West Bengal.

The renewed debate over “Vande Mataram” reflects the broader battle



over nationalism and political messaging in India. As election season approaches in several states, such issues are expected to feature prominently in

political discourse. Whether the controversy will influence public opinion or remain confined to parliamentary debates remains to be seen.

## Modi Leads “Vande Mataram” Debate, Calls Song Soul of Nation



Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered an emotional and forceful speech in the Lok Sabha as Parliament held a special debate on “Vande Mataram,” describing the iconic composition as the soul of India's freedom movement and a living symbol of national unity. The discussion marked a major milestone in the history of the national song and trig-

gered sharp political exchanges inside the House.

In his address, the Prime Minister said “Vande Mataram” was far more than a song, calling it a sacred call that awakened the spirit of resistance during British rule. He recalled how generations of freedom fighters raised the slogan while facing imprisonment, torture, and even the gallows. Accord-

ing to him, the phrase became the voice of a nation that refused to accept subjugation and inspired mass movements across the country.

Modi reflected on the historical journey of the song, emphasizing that its influence extended beyond politics into culture, literature, and the everyday consciousness of Indians. He said the message of “Vande Mataram” helped unite people across regions, languages, and communities at a time when colonial forces were trying to divide the country. The Prime Minister also linked the song's legacy to Bengal's role in the freedom struggle and urged citizens to remember that heritage with pride.

Taking a swipe at previous governments, Modi alleged that certain political forces had diluted the importance of the song at different points in history for the sake of political convenience. He argued that compromises made in the past weakened the collective spirit and that the na-

tion now had the responsibility to reclaim and honour its authentic legacy. He insisted that respect for national symbols should never be guided by political calculations.

The Prime Minister urged members of Parliament to use the occasion not as a ritualistic anniversary, but as a moment of renewed national commitment. He said the ideals behind “Vande Mataram” should inspire India's future journey in areas such as self-reliance, development, and social harmony. He underlined that unity, discipline, and shared responsibility were essential if the country was to meet global challenges.

The Opposition, however, pushed back strongly. Several leaders argued that the government was using the debate to create a charged political atmosphere ahead of important state elections. They accused the ruling party of trying to divert attention from economic issues such as inflation, unemploy-

ment, and pressure on household budgets. Some Opposition members also warned against turning cultural symbols into political tools, saying national heritage belonged to all citizens and not to any one party.

The debate witnessed heated moments, with interruptions and strong exchanges between the Treasury and Opposition benches. Despite the sharp differences, several members across party lines acknowledged the historical importance of “Vande Mataram” and its role in shaping the national imagination during the freedom struggle.

The special debate in Parliament reflects the broader national conversation about identity, history, and politics in a rapidly changing India. As political temperatures rise ahead of key elections, the renewed focus on “Vande Mataram” highlights how deeply national symbols remain intertwined with contemporary political narratives.

## Virat Kohli Invests ₹40 Crore, Begins New Chapter for One8 Brand



Indian cricket superstar Virat Kohli has taken a major step in transforming his lifestyle and athleisure brand, One8, by investing ₹40 crore and partnering with Indian sportswear startup Agilitas Sports. The move marks a strategic shift from his previous association with global sportswear brand Puma to becoming an equity stakeholder in a home-grown company, giving him greater control over the brand he co-founded.

Under the deal, Kohli has acquired a 1.94 percent stake in Agilitas through compulsorily convertible preference shares, enabling him to have a direct role in decision-making, design, manufacturing, marketing, and overall strategic growth. The partnership also positions One8 as an independent global brand under the management of Agilitas, which will be responsible for scaling operations and expanding its footprint in both domestic and international markets.

One8, originally launched in 2017 under Puma, has been known for its mix of sports performance wear and casual lifestyle apparel. With Kohli's investment and Agilitas's operational support, the brand is set to en-

ter a new phase aimed at establishing itself as a major player in the athleisure and sportswear market. Plans include refreshed product lines, footwear expansions, and a stronger presence in retail, e-commerce, and international distribution channels.

Industry analysts say the move reflects Kohli's long-term vision to own and control his brand rather than simply endorsing a multinational company. While his previous contract with Puma

was reportedly worth ₹110 crore, and renewal offers were estimated around ₹300 crore, Kohli chose to invest in Agilitas to retain strategic control and ensure his brand's identity aligns with his vision. This decision highlights a growing trend among athletes and celebrities in India who prefer ownership and equity over endorsement fees alone, aiming for sustainable brand growth and global recognition.

The partnership also

carries broader implications for India's sportswear industry. With the athleisure market rapidly expanding, driven by rising fitness awareness and lifestyle trends, domestic brands are increasingly competing with global giants. By backing a home-grown venture, Kohli and Agilitas aim to capture a larger share of this growing market while offering high-quality, performance-driven products with a distinctly Indian identity.

Beyond commercial objectives, this move represents Kohli's desire to shape a lasting brand legacy. By investing directly and becoming a stakeholder, he has transitioned from a brand ambassador to a strategic owner, ensuring that One8's direction, values, and global expansion remain aligned with his vision.

As One8 enters this new chapter, the coming years will reveal whether the combination of celebrity influence, homegrown infrastructure, and strategic investment can propel it into the top tier of global sportswear brands. For Kohli, this venture is not only a business opportunity but also a statement of intent to create a sustainable, globally recognized Indian lifestyle brand.

## Club Owners Flee After Deadly Goa Fire, Probe Intensifies



A major controversy has erupted after the owners of a popular nightclub in Goa allegedly fled the country just hours after a devastating fire at their venue killed 25 people, triggering nationwide outrage and raising serious questions about safety compliance and accountability.

The tragic blaze broke out late at night at a crowded nightclub in the northern part of Goa. According to officials, the fire spread rapidly through the premises, trapping several workers and guests inside. Most of the victims reportedly died due to suffocation as toxic smoke filled the enclosed areas, while others suffered fatal burn injuries. The suddenness of the incident left little time for evacuation, turning a festive evening into a scene of chaos and horror.

Soon after the incident, police registered criminal cases against the club's owners, management staff, and event organisers on charges related to negligence and violation of safety norms. Investigators revealed that the establishment allegedly lacked mandatory fire safety clearances and had insufficient emergency exits. Early findings also suggested that the building structure may not have been authorised for high-capacity commercial use.

What has shocked authorities and the public alike is the revelation that the club's owners are believed to have flown out of India within hours of the incident. Immigration records indicated that they left the country before police could detain or question them. Their sudden departure has been widely condemned as an attempt to evade law enforcement and avoid responsibility for the tragedy.

In response, law enforcement agencies have issued lookout circulars and alerted airports and international authorities to track their movements. Efforts are underway to secure their return through international legal cooperation. Senior police officials confirmed that extradition proceedings may be initiated if the accused do not return voluntarily.

The Goa government has ordered a high-level magisterial inquiry into the incident. Several local officials have been suspended for their alleged failure to properly inspect the premises.

## Congress Suspends Navjot Kaur Sidhu After Controversial Remark



The Indian National Congress has suspended Navjot Kaur Sidhu, wife of former Punjab Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu, following a major political backlash over her controversial public remarks. The decision comes just days after her statement sparked outrage across party circles and opposition parties.

The controversy erupted when Navjot Kaur Sidhu allegedly claimed that becoming a Chief Minister requires a “suitcase of ₹500 crore.” The remark, made during an interaction with the media, was seen as suggesting that top political posts could be obtained through money rather than merit. The statement quickly went viral and triggered sharp reactions from rival political parties, who accused the Congress of openly admitting to corruption in its ranks.

Reacting quickly to the damage caused by the comment, the Punjab unit of the Congress announced her suspension with immediate effect. Senior party leaders said the remark had caused serious harm to the party's reputation and discipline, especially at a time when the Congress is trying to rebuild its image and strengthen its organisational structure in Punjab.

Navjot Kaur Sidhu later issued a clarification,

saying that her words had been misunderstood. She claimed she never meant that such a transaction actually takes place, and insisted that neither she nor her husband had offered or received money for any political post. However, the clarification did little to calm the political storm, as opposition parties continued to target the Congress over the statement.

The episode has once again highlighted the internal tensions within the Punjab Congress. The Sidhu family has been at the centre of several political controversies in recent years, and this latest incident has further strained relations between different factions of the party. Many senior leaders reportedly felt that such public comments were irresponsible and undermined the party's fight against corruption.

Political observers believe the suspension is

also a message by the Congress high command that indiscipline and public statements damaging the party's image will not be tolerated. The party appears keen to avoid giving its rivals fresh ammunition, especially with future electoral battles on the horizon.

The controversy has sparked a wider debate about the influence of money in politics and the need for greater transparency in political appointments across parties. While the Congress has distanced itself from the remark, the issue has reignited discussions about political funding and internal democracy.

For now, Navjot Kaur Sidhu remains suspended from the party, and the incident stands as a reminder of how a single controversial comment can trigger major political consequences in India's highly competitive political landscape.

## Paramount Makes Rival Bid to Acquire Warner Bros Discovery

Paramount Skydance has launched a rival bid to acquire Warner Bros Discovery, seeking to outmanoeuvre Netflix in its ongoing effort to purchase the studio and streaming networks. Backed by the billionaire Ellison family, Paramount has offered shareholders \$30 per share for the entirety of Warner Bros, including its traditional television networks, valuing the company at roughly \$108.4 billion — higher than Netflix's \$83 billion proposal.

Paramount's leadership claims the offer is a "superior alternative" to Netflix's deal, delivering more immediate cash to shareholders and increasing the likelihood of regulatory approval. President Donald Trump has raised potential competition concerns over Netflix's acquisition, suggesting the merger might concentrate too much power in the hands of a single company.

The saga began months ago when Paramount submitted initial offers to purchase Warner Bros, prompting the studio, home to HBO and iconic franchises ranging from Looney Tunes to Harry Potter, to open a formal bidding process. Warner Bros initially selected Netflix as the winning bidder, planning to spin off other parts of its business, including CNN, into an independent company as part of the deal.

Paramount's offer, which includes the traditional television networks, is designed to achieve greater scale and potential cost savings. Larry Ellison, whose family backs Paramount, criticized Warner Bros' spin-off plan, arguing it would leave traditional networks struggling and undervalued, potentially harming shareholders. He suggested that Netflix's takeover would grant the streaming giant excessive influence over actors and industry players, calling it "a horrible deal for Hollywood."

Ellison also noted his "great conversations" with former President Trump

regarding the bid, emphasizing that competition concerns were being considered. Paramount's bid is supported by financial partners including Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law, according to SEC filings. Analysts view Paramount as a strong suitor in part due to these political connections, which could ease regulatory scrutiny in both the U.S. and Europe.

Market reactions to the bid were immediate: Warner Bros shares rose more than 6% in early trading, Paramount's stock also gained, while Netflix shares fell over 3%. Netflix, the world's largest streaming platform with more than 300 million subscribers, expressed confidence in winning regulatory approval and maintaining its growth trajectory through the acquisition.

Industry analysts note that Paramount's bid is as much defensive as it is strategic, aimed at preventing competitors from obtaining Warner Bros' vast content library and strengthening rival positions in the media landscape. More than 70% of U.S. HBO Max subscribers also subscribe to Netflix, highlighting the competitive dynamics driving these corporate manoeuvres.

Ben Barringer, head of technology research at Quilter Cheviot, said Paramount needs the deal more than Netflix, describing it as essential for Paramount to remain competitive in an era dominated by scale-driven streaming platforms. "Paramount remains a legacy entertainment provider that lacks the scale required for the modern age," he said.

As the bidding war continues, the outcome will reshape the media and entertainment landscape, determining the control of one of Hollywood's most valuable content libraries and influencing the future dynamics of streaming, traditional television, and global media competition.

## Trump Administration to Deny Visas for Fact Checkers and Content Moderators



The Trump administration has announced a new visa policy targeting individuals who have worked as fact-checkers, content moderators, online-safety officers, or in similar roles. Under this directive, visa applications may be denied if the applicant is found to have been "responsible for, or complicit in, censorship or attempted censorship of protected speech in the United States."

The policy is expected to primarily affect H-1B visa applicants, which includes many skilled workers from countries such as India, but it also applies across other visa categories, including work, student, and tourist visas. Visa officers will examine applicants' professional histories, social media activity, and public profiles to determine involvement in roles linked to content moderation, misinformation control, trust-and-safety work, or fact-checking. Those deemed to have engaged in such activities could face outright denial of their visa applications.

This policy could have a significant impact on Indian professionals. India supplies a large share of the global tech workforce, and many Indians employed by multinational technology companies work in content moderation or trust-and-safety roles. Under the new rules, such individuals could be barred from working in the U.S., even if they meet all other eligibility criteria.

The scope of the policy extends beyond H-1B visas. Students, journalists, and even tourists with a history in online-safety roles may be affected. Critics have noted that the directive's broad definition of "censorship" could lead to arbitrary visa denials, conflating legitimate content moderation with suppression of speech.

Civil liberties advocates have warned that the visa crackdown threatens free expression and undermines online safety efforts. Profes-

sionals in content moderation do not censor speech but work to protect users from harmful or illegal material. The policy, they argue, penalizes individuals performing essential safety functions and may discourage skilled professionals from entering the U.S. workforce.

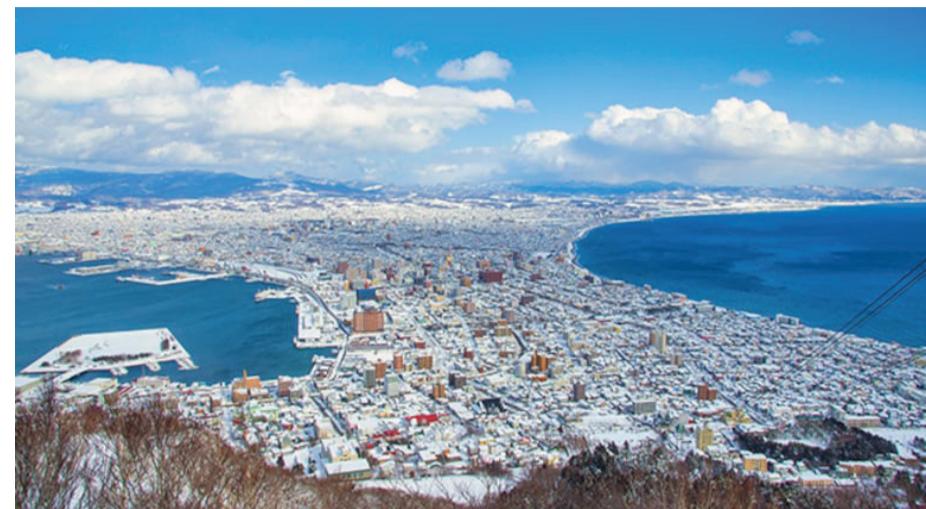
The tech industry is likely to feel the effects of this policy. Companies dependent on global trust-and-safety teams could face staffing shortages or increased costs if key personnel are disqualified from U.S. employment. Individuals currently abroad who seek to travel or work in the United States could experience uncertainty, delays, or rejections solely based on prior employment roles.

Looking ahead, the enforcement of this policy may hinge on further clarifications from the U.S. government regarding the definitions of "censorship" and "content moderation." Legal challenges may also arise, with experts suggesting that penalizing professionals who work to safeguard online expression could conflict with principles of free speech.

The new visa restrictions are expected to influence global tech migration patterns. Skilled workers may seek employment in countries other than the U.S., potentially reshaping where content moderation and trust-and-safety infrastructure are concentrated.

In summary, the Trump administration's visa ban represents a significant shift in U.S. immigration and tech policy. It has far-reaching implications for individuals who have worked in content moderation or fact-checking roles, particularly in India, while posing challenges for the tech industry in maintaining adequate safety and moderation staffing. The policy underscores the intersection of immigration, technology, and free speech in shaping global workforce dynamics.

## Powerful Earthquake Strikes Northern Japan, Tsunami Alert Issued



A strong earthquake struck off the northern coast of Japan on Monday evening, prompting tsunami warnings and immediate emergency responses across the affected region. The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) initially reported the tremor as magnitude 7.2, later revised to 7.6, highlighting the intensity of the seismic activity beneath the Pacific Ocean. The epicentre was located off the coasts of Aomori and Hokkaido prefectures, at a depth of approximately 50 to 80 kilometres below sea level.

The quake triggered a tsunami alert for several northern prefectures, including Aomori, Hokkaido, and Iwate. Authorities warned residents in coastal areas of possible sea-level rises of up to three meters and urged immediate evacuation to higher ground. Ports and harbours in affected regions recorded waves reaching up to 40 centimetres, with some towns experiencing localized surges.

Emergency services reacted swiftly to the natural disaster. Local governments ordered the evacuation of vulnerable communities and suspended train services to minimize risk to passengers. In Aomori's

Hachinohe town, several injuries were reported at a hotel when the tremors shook buildings near the coast. Authorities also conducted safety inspections of nuclear facilities, critical infrastructure, and transportation networks to ensure no additional hazards had arisen from the quake.

The earthquake has brought back memories of Japan's vulnerability to natural disasters, particularly its history of devastating tsunamis and seismic events due to its position along the Pacific "Ring of Fire." Past incidents, including the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and

tsunami, have shaped the nation's comprehensive disaster preparedness and early-warning systems. In the current event, these systems allowed authorities to issue warnings quickly, helping residents evacuate and potentially preventing large-scale casualties.

While coastal communities have been most directly affected, tremors were felt in inland cities, including Tokyo, although no alerts were issued for these regions. Officials continue to monitor aftershocks, which are common following a quake of this magnitude. Disaster-re-

lief and assessment operations continue, Japanese officials remain on high alert, coordinating with local governments, emergency teams, and national agencies to ensure that communities receive the support they need and that any potential secondary hazards, such as tsunamis or structural collapses, are promptly addressed. The nation remains on edge as it monitors aftershocks and evaluates the situation in northern coastal regions.

Initial assessments indicate no large-scale destruction or confirmed fatalities, but damage surveys are ongoing. Roads, buildings, and port facilities are being inspected to determine the full impact. Emergency shelters have been prepared for residents displaced by evacuation orders.

This earthquake serves as a stark reminder of Japan's exposure to seismic hazards and the necessity of robust disaster preparedness measures. Authorities continue to urge caution, emphasizing the critical role of early-warning systems, community readiness, and adherence to safety advisories to protect lives and property.

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## Deadly Clashes on Thai-Cambodia Border Force Thousands to Flee



Tensions flared once again along the Thailand-Cambodia border on Monday, forcing thousands of residents on both sides to evacuate as fresh clashes left at least five people dead. Both nations have blamed each other for initiating the violence, marking the most serious confrontation since a ceasefire agreement was reached in July.

Thailand's Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul stressed that his country "never wanted violence" but pledged to use "necessary means to preserve its sovereignty." Meanwhile, Cambodia's former leader Hun Sen accused Thai "invaders" of provoking retaliation.

Since May, rising tensions between the neighbours have claimed over 40 lives, disrupted daily life, and prompted import bans and travel restrictions.

The Thai army reported responding to Cambodian fire in Ubon Ratchathani Province, including air strikes along the disputed

border. Cambodia's Defence ministry, however, asserted that Thai forces initiated the attack in Preah Vihear province. The Monday fighting reportedly killed at least one Thai soldier and four Cambodian civilians, leaving about a dozen others wounded.

Beyond the immediate casualties, the border clashes have taken a heavy toll on children living in affected areas. Thai teacher Siksaka Pongsuwan highlighted the hidden victims of the conflict: children whose education and daily routines are repeatedly interrupted. Nearly 650 schools across five Thai provinces were ordered to close on Monday for safety reasons, while chaotic scenes

were also reported at schools in Cambodian border provinces as parents rushed to take their children home.

This is not the first disruption for children in the region. In July, during critical examinations, five days of intense fighting forced schools to shift to online classes, a solution that was not accessible to

all students due to limited internet access and inadequate distribution of digital devices. Social media posts from Cambodian journalist Mech Dara depicted children fleeing schools and eating meals in underground bunkers, highlighting the profound psychological impact of the ongoing conflict.

Pongsuwan described the dilemma faced by local

residents: whether to stay in their villages amid intermittent gunfire or evacuate in search of safety, knowing that either choice carries risk. "If you ask whether we're scared, yes we are... Should we leave? Will it really be safer? Or should we stay?" he said.

The current flare-up is part of a century-old territorial dispute over an 800-kilometer border that has roots dating back to the French colonial period in Cambodia. The conflict escalated in July when Cambodian forces launched a rocket barrage into Thailand, prompting Thai air strikes. Following days of fighting, the countries agreed to an "immediate and unconditional ceasefire," bro-

kered by Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim.

In October, a formal ceasefire ceremony was held in Malaysia, with former U.S. President Donald Trump present, where he hailed the agreement as a historic achievement. However, just two weeks later, Thailand suspended parts of the agreement after two of its soldiers were injured by a landmine near the border. Cambodia maintains that it remains committed to the ceasefire, while the cycle of violence continues to threaten lives and disrupt communities along the contested border.

As the latest clashes demonstrate, resolving the long-standing border dispute remains a complex challenge, with civilians — particularly children — bearing the brunt of the conflict. The situation underscores the urgent need for renewed dialogue and robust mechanisms to protect vulnerable populations amid ongoing tensions.

## Europe Faces Dual Challenges: Ukraine Summit Highlights Divisions, Greek Farmers Protest

European leaders convened in London on Monday for a high-stakes summit with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, seeking to map out a path toward peace and reconstruction for Ukraine amid ongoing conflict with Russia. The meeting brought together Ukrainian and European leaders, including the United Kingdom's Prime Minister Keir Starmer, France's President Emmanuel Macron, and Germany's Chancellor Friedrich Merz, aiming to unify Europe's approach to supporting Ukraine. However, sharp differences emerged over a U.S.-backed peace proposal, revealing underlying tensions within the bloc.

While all parties reaffirmed their support for Ukraine, disagreements surfaced regarding the terms of the proposed peace plan. Chancellor Merz expressed scepticism about several aspects, warning that certain clauses could compromise

European unity and risk Ukraine's territorial integrity. President Macron, meanwhile, stressed that Europe still holds leverage and must use it strategically, advocating a balance between diplomatic pressure on Russia and the reconstruction of Ukraine. President Zelenskyy emphasized Kyiv's commitment to safeguarding its territory and sovereignty but acknowledged that consensus among European allies remained elusive.

Following the summit, Zelenskyy is scheduled to travel to Brussels for additional talks with EU and NATO officials, underscoring the importance of European support in security guarantees, humanitarian aid, and reconstruction. Observers note that the divided response to the U.S. peace plan highlights the challenges Europe faces in coordinating a unified approach to the ongoing war while managing internal political and economic pressures. The protests highlight the mounting economic and

social pressures facing European nations, particularly as inflation, energy costs, and policy delays affect vulnerable communities.

The twin developments — the Ukraine summit and Greek farmers' unrest — illustrate the multiple crises Europe must manage simultaneously. While European leaders work to sustain international solidarity in the face of war, domestic economic and social challenges are testing their governance and resilience.

The situation underscores the difficulty of balancing foreign policy priorities with internal stability, especially as public patience grows thin amid economic strain.

For Ukraine, European divisions could complicate reconstruction efforts and delay security guarantees, potentially affecting the long-term trajectory of the conflict. In Greece, the protests serve as a stark reminder that economic stress can quickly escalate into disruptive civil ac-



tion, with potential ripple effects on tourism, trade, and public confidence in government institutions.

As Europe navigates these overlapping crises, the coming weeks will be critical in determining whether political cohesion and effective crisis management can be maintained. Leaders must reconcile differences, address citizen concerns, and uphold regional stability, all while ensuring that Europe continues to play a credible role in global diplomacy and humanitarian assistance. The outcomes of these challenges will shape both the continent's internal cohesion and its international standing for years to come.

# Finance Ministry Confirms No DA-Basic Pay Merger Under 8th Pay Commission



The Ministry of Finance has officially clarified that there are no plans to merge Dearness Allowance (DA) or Dearness Relief (DR) with basic pay under the 8th Central Pay Commission (8th CPC). This clarification comes amid speculation and rising expectations among central government employees and pensioners that the DA, which has risen steadily over the years, might be merged with basic pay to enhance salaries and pensions.

In a written reply to Parliament on 1 December 2025, the Minister of State for Finance, Pankaj Chaudhary,

stated that there is "no proposal regarding merger of the existing dearness allowance with the basic pay" under consideration at present. The statement has put to rest rumors that a significant portion of employees' pay would be restructured by merging DA with basic pay, which had become a recurring demand among employee unions as DA levels reached more than 58 percent of the basic salary.

Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief are designed to protect central government employees and pensioners from inflation. DA is a cost-of-living adjust-

ment that is revised twice a year based on the Consumer Price Index. Similarly, DR is paid to pensioners, ensuring that retirees receive an adjustment that maintains the real value of their pension. The merger of DA with basic pay would not only raise monthly salaries and pensions but would also have cascading effects on allowances, benefits, and pension calculations, which are linked to basic pay. Such a move would involve significant budgetary implications for the government.

The clarification by the Finance Ministry indicates that, for now, the existing

structure of separate basic pay and DA will continue. This means that allowances calculated as a percentage of basic pay, such as house rent allowance (HRA) and travel allowance (TA), will remain unaffected by DA revisions. Similarly, pension calculations for retired employees will continue to follow the current norms without incorporating DA into the basic pension amount. The government has emphasized that any changes to the pay structure will be formally announced, and until then, employees and pensioners should continue to follow the existing system.

The 8th Pay Commission, tasked with reviewing and recommending improvements to the pay structure of central government employees, will continue to evaluate overall compensation, allowances, and benefits. However, the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the commission do not currently include a proposal to merge DA with basic pay. Employees and pensioners are advised to continue following the existing framework for salaries and pensions, as allowances and benefits tied to basic pay will remain unchanged. The government's clarification ensures stability and transparency in the pay system, even as the 8th Pay Commission works on overall compensation reforms.

In conclusion, central government employees and pensioners will continue to receive DA and DR separately from basic pay under the 8th Pay Commission. While discussions around pay revision continue, there is no current proposal to merge DA into basic pay. Employees and pensioners are advised to continue following the existing framework for salaries and pensions, as allowances and benefits tied to basic pay will remain unchanged. The government's clarification ensures stability and transparency in the pay system, even as the 8th Pay Commission works on overall compensation reforms.

## SBI Home Loan Portfolio Crosses ₹9 Lakh Crore, Sets New Banking Milestone



The State Bank of India (SBI) has achieved a major milestone in the housing finance sector, with its home loan portfolio crossing the ₹9 lakh crore mark. This landmark achievement highlights the strong and sustained demand for housing loans across the country and underlines SBI's dominant position in India's mortgage market.

Bank officials said the milestone reflects robust growth in the retail lending segment, driven by rising urbanization, increasing preference for home ownership, and improved access to affordable credit.

Over the past few years, low and stable interest rates, along with government-backed housing initiatives, have supported the steady expansion of home loan demand.

Alongside the growth in its mortgage book, SBI has raised its overall credit growth outlook for the current financial year to around 14 percent. The bank expects this growth to be primarily driven by the Retail, Agriculture, and MSME (RAM) segments, which together form the backbone of its loan portfolio. Retail loans, especially housing finance, continue to be a key growth engine, while agricultural and MSME lending have also shown healthy momentum.

SBI has pointed out that the banking system is currently witnessing improved asset quality, better credit discipline, and stronger risk management practices. These factors have helped banks expand their loan books more confidently, with lower levels of fresh stress compared to previous years. The strong performance of the home loan seg-

ment has been a crucial factor in stabilizing and strengthening SBI's overall balance sheet.

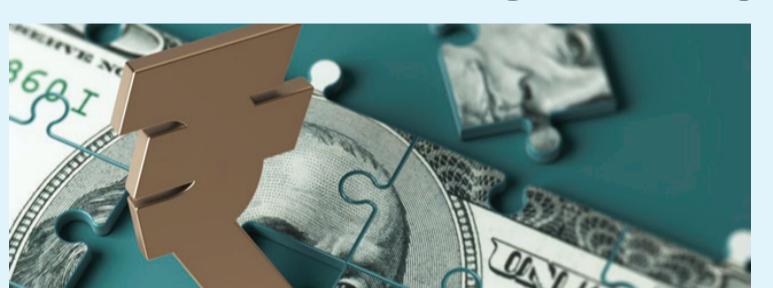
The rise in SBI's home loan book also reflects broader trends in India's real estate sector. Residential property sales have remained resilient, supported by rising middle-class incomes, increased demand in tier-2 and tier-3 cities, and improved project completion timelines by developers.

Experts believe that SBI's massive home loan portfolio will play a critical role in driving future economic growth. Housing finance not only supports individual home ownership but also fuels activity across industries such as cement, steel, construction, and home furnishings, creating a multiplier effect on the economy.

At the same time, SBI remains confident about managing risks associated with rapid loan growth. The bank has maintained strong capital adequacy ratios, providing it with sufficient buffers to fund future expansion without immediate need for additional capital. It has also strengthened its digital infrastructure to handle higher volumes of loan applications and customer servicing.

The crossing of the ₹9 lakh crore mark in home loans is seen as a significant achievement for SBI and a positive indicator for India's banking and housing sectors. As demand for housing continues to rise, SBI is expected to remain at the forefront of expanding access to affordable home finance across the country.

## Rupee Slips to 90.09 Against Dollar as Global and Domestic Pressures Weigh on Currency



The company has also announced a 30-day trial period for new users, allowing customers to test the service before fully committing. This move is expected to help build trust and demonstrate the performance of satellite-based internet in real-world Indian conditions.

Industry experts believe that as the satellite network expands and more users come on board, prices could gradually become more competitive in the future.

Starlink has not yet disclosed pricing details for business or enterprise-level

plans in India. Further announcements are expected in the coming months as the company completes regulatory approvals and finalizes its rollout strategy.

Overall, Starlink's pricing announcement marks an important milestone in India's digital journey.

While the service may not replace traditional broadband in cities anytime soon, it has the potential to transform connectivity in rural and underserved regions, bringing reliable high-speed internet to areas that have long remained off the digital grid.

raised questions about affordability. Compared to existing fiber and mobile data plans in urban India, Starlink's monthly charges are significantly higher. This means the service is likely to attract a niche user base initially, including people living in remote areas, professionals who require stable internet for work, and businesses operating in locations with poor connectivity. For many average urban households, the high cost may make traditional broadband and 4G/5G services a more practical option.

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## Public Sector Banks Write Off ₹6 Lakh Crore in Bad Loans, Government Informs Parliament



India's public sector banks (PSBs) have written off bad loans worth more than ₹6 lakh crore over the past five and a half years, the government informed Parliament, highlighting the scale of the clean-up exercise undertaken to strengthen the banking system.

According to official data shared by the Ministry of Finance, PSBs wrote off around ₹6.15 lakh crore in

non-performing assets (NPAs) between the financial years 2020-21 and 2025-26 (up to September 30, 2025). The government clarified that these write-offs are an accounting practice and do not mean that the loans have been waived. Borrowers remain legally liable to repay their dues, and banks continue to pursue recovery through legal and institutional channels.

The write-off process allows banks to remove long-pending bad loans from their balance sheets after making full provisions against them. This helps banks present a more accurate picture of their financial health and frees up capital for fresh lending. Officials emphasized that recovery measures remain active under various laws, including proceedings through debt recovery tri-

bunals, asset seizures, and insolvency processes.

Over the years, public sector banks have faced mounting stress due to large corporate defaults, infrastructure project delays, and economic slowdowns. To address the problem, the government and the Reserve Bank of India have pushed banks to recognize stressed assets early and clean up their balance sheets. The large-scale write-offs reflect this strategy of resolving legacy bad loans rather than allowing them to remain indefinitely on books.

At the same time, the government highlighted that PSBs have strengthened their financial position by raising funds from the market and improving internal controls and credit appraisal systems. This has helped reduce the overall ratio of bad loans in the banking system and restore confidence in public sector banks.

The disclosure underscores the challenges faced by India's banking sector and the continued efforts to balance financial stability with accountability, as banks work toward healthier balance sheets and sustainable credit growth.

debate about borrower accountability and the impact on public finances.

Critics argue that repeated write-offs could create moral hazard if defaulters are not held responsible. The government insisted that strict monitoring and recovery efforts are in place to ensure that wilful defaulters face legal consequences.

Experts believe that while write-offs are necessary for banking sector stability, long-term reforms are equally important. Strengthening credit risk management, improving project appraisal, and faster resolution of stressed assets are seen as key to preventing a repeat of such large-scale loan problems in the future.

The disclosure underscores the challenges faced by India's banking sector and the continued efforts to balance financial stability with accountability, as banks work toward healthier balance sheets and sustainable credit growth.

The Indian rupee weakened further in the foreign exchange market, closing at ₹90.09 against the US dollar after falling by 14 paise in a single trading session.

The decline reflects a mix of global uncertainties and domestic demand for foreign currency, highlighting the growing pressure on emerging market currencies in an increasingly volatile global environment.

Market participants said the rupee remained under pressure throughout the day as importer demand for dollars stayed strong, particularly from oil marketing companies and firms dependent on imported raw materials.

India's heavy dependence on crude oil imports makes the currency especially sensitive to fluctuations in global oil prices, and rising energy costs tend to increase the country's demand for dollars, weakening the local currency.

In addition to import-driven demand, continued outflows by foreign institutional investors added to the negative sentiment. Global investors have been trimming their exposure to emerging markets as they seek safer assets amid concerns over global economic growth, geopolitical tensions, and uncertainty around future interest rate policies in major economies. These outflows reduce the supply of dollars in the domestic market, putting further pressure on the rupee.

The weakening of the rupee has broader implications for the Indian economy. A softer currency makes imports more expensive, which can lead to higher prices for fuel, electronics, fertilizers, and industrial inputs. This, in turn, can add to inflationary pressures at a time when households are already coping with rising costs of living. Businesses that rely heavily on imported components may also face higher operating costs, which generally allows the market to determine the currency's value within a broad range.

For now, the rupee's fall to the 90 level against the dollar is being closely watched by policymakers, businesses, and investors. Any further sharp depreciation could amplify inflation risks and increase the cost of servicing foreign debt, while a period of stability would help restore confidence. As global economic signals remain mixed, the rupee is expected to remain volatile in the near term.

## Meta Buys Limitless — Your Necklace Might Soon Be Smarter Than You



Meta, the company formerly known for Facebook and now obsessed with AI and wearables, has quietly acquired Limitless, a startup that makes AI-powered wearable pendants. Yes, those little gadgets that hang around your neck and take notes on your life. And yes, your next piece of jewelry might soon know more about your day than your best friend.

Limitless made waves with its pendant-style wearable that records nearby conversations, transcribes them, and summarizes them through an app. Think of it as a wearable secretary who never sleeps, never complains, and never asks for coffee — but also never forgets anything you say. Meta's acquisition isn't just a buyout; it's a power move in the AI-wearable chess game. With Limitless now part of the Meta fold, we might be edging closer to a world where our accessories know more about us than we do.

The startup will stop selling new pendants, but existing users will get one more year of support — plus a free subscription upgrade. It's a generous send-off, but it also signals Meta's intent: the technology is being folded into something bigger. Imagine Limitless tech built into future Meta

smart glasses, earbuds, or even clothing. Your AI assistant won't just live in a phone anymore; it will be ambient, always on, and maybe even whispering helpful (or judgmental) suggestions directly to your ear.

Why did Meta snap up Limitless? The company is pivoting from its metaverse-first ambitions to "personal super-intelligence" — a polite way of saying: we want AI everywhere, quietly helping you navigate life. Ambient AI that monitors, transcribes, and summarizes reality could be the next big step. Phones and laptops may soon feel quaint compared to necklaces, glasses, and earbuds that do your remembering for you.

But before you start imagining a world straight out of sci-fi, there are caveats. Always-on recording brings privacy questions louder than a dropped smartphone. Who hears what, where is the data stored, and who gets access? Meta will need to navigate a labyrinth of legal and ethical challenges if this tech is going mainstream. For now, think of it as a peek into a slightly unnerving, highly convenient future.

The fun part is imagining daily life in a world

with wearable AI memory assistants. Meetings could be automatically summarized, personal notes created without lifting a pen, and life's little forgotten details cataloged with machine precision. Birthday names remembered, shopping lists auto-updated, and your partner's subtle hints never lost to the void again. On the flip side, your AI assistant might silently judge you for skipping workouts or binge-watching too many shows.

Meta's acquisition of Limitless may be small in price but huge in implication. It signals a future where wearables aren't just tech accessories; they're personal aides, memory banks, and maybe even companions. The line between human memory and machine memory is getting blurrier, and Meta is positioning itself at the center of it all.

In short, your next necklace, pendant, or pair of smart glasses might not just complement your outfit — it might outsmart you, organize your life, and quietly keep a record of every conversation. Limitless is aptly named, because with Meta in charge, your AI assistant is about to get a lot more... limitless.

## Jolla Phone: The Scandinavian Smartphone That Says "I Do Things Differently"



In a world where smartphones compete to be bigger, faster, flashier, and more addictive than ever, the Jolla Phone sneaks in like a Nordic rebel saying, "Hey, maybe you don't need all that." Launched in December 2025, this minimalist, privacy-first handset is less about flexing specs and more about giving users control. Yes, control — the thing most modern phones quietly steal from you.

At first glance, it looks... almost normal. A 6.36-inch AMOLED display with Full HD resolution, Gorilla Glass, and a side-mounted fingerprint sensor. But the magic begins when you start exploring the subtleties. The back cover pops off. The battery pops out. You can replace it yourself. There's even a physical privacy switch that cuts power to the microphone, camera, Bluetooth, or all Android apps. Imagine waving a wand and saying, "Not today, Big Tech." That's Jolla in a nutshell: functional, unflashy, and quietly rebellious.

Under the hood, it's not a slouch. A MediaTek 5G chipset paired with 12 GB RAM and 256 GB storage (expandable to a whopping 2 TB via microSD) makes it powerful enough for heavy multitasking, streaming, and gaming — if you're into that kind of thing. The dual-camera setup (50 MP main + 13 MP ultra-wide) doesn't scream flagship ego, but

it gets the job done elegantly, proving you don't need 10 cameras to take a good photo.

The real kicker? It runs Sailfish OS 5, a Linux-based operating system that promises privacy and freedom. No trackers, no forced ads, no corporate surveillance... unless you decide to install Android apps via the compatibility layer. In a market dominated by iOS and Android, this is a breath of fresh, slightly rebellious Scandinavian air. It's a smartphone for people who think phones shouldn't control your life.

The Jolla Phone's pricing and pre-order model are just as unconventional. You place a 99 deposit, and if the order target of 2,000 units is met, production begins. Early adopters pay around 499 (~52,400), and retail pricing might reach 699 (~73,000). It's less about instant gratification and more about intentional tech ownership — a concept that seems almost quaint in 2025.

What makes Jolla truly

offbeat isn't just the OS, hardware, or pre-order approach. It's the philosophy. In a world obsessed with speed, flashy cameras, and AI assistants that monitor your every move, Jolla offers something almost revolutionary: a phone that listens only when you allow it, forgets when you want, and lets you decide what happens. It's the anti-smartphone smart device.

Imagine walking down the streets of Vijayawada with a Jolla Phone in your pocket. No constant notifications, no tracking pop-ups, just the quiet hum of technology doing what you asked — and nothing more. It's like sipping black coffee in a noisy cafe: simple, disciplined, and strangely satisfying.

The Jolla Phone isn't for everyone, but for those who crave autonomy, privacy, and a device that respects boundaries, it's a small slice of digital rebellion wrapped in Scandinavian minimalism. In 2025, that alone makes it remarkable.

The Jolla Phone isn't for everyone, but for those who crave autonomy, privacy, and a device that respects boundaries, it's a small slice of digital rebellion wrapped in Scandinavian minimalism. In 2025, that alone makes it remarkable.

What makes Jolla truly

## Grok 4.20: Elon Musk's AI Gets a Brain Upgrade

Elon Musk has done it again. With a cryptic tweet and a casual "three or four weeks" timeline, he has teased the world with the upcoming Grok 4.20 — the latest evolution of his xAI-powered artificial intelligence. For casual users, it's just another AI update. For tech enthusiasts and sci-fi dreamers, it's a chance to watch an AI potentially grow a personality while quietly taking over tasks you didn't know needed handling.

So what is Grok 4.20? According to early reports and testing in Alpha Arena, a stock-market simulation environment, this version is more than a chatbot. In simulations, it reportedly turned a virtual \$10,000 into a 12 percent profit in just two weeks. That may not sound world-shattering, but consider this: an AI that can analyze, adapt, and outperform many human participants in real-time decision-making is a sign that it's moving beyond simple text responses. Essentially, your next AI companion might not just answer questions — it could reason, plan, and suggest smarter choices in everyday life.

Grok 4.20 is rumored to have faster processing, better real-world reasoning, and improved context awareness. This means it could help you



summarize evolving news, crunch numbers, or even provide insights into complex problems. In short, it's designed to feel less like a tool and more like an unusually intelligent friend — one who never sleeps, never judges (well, maybe a little), and always has an opinion about your investments.

Elon Musk's timeline is famously vague. "Three or four weeks" could mean late December 2025 or early January 2026, depending on whether you trust the calendar or the chaotic nature of tech rollouts. Given Musk's track record, the launch will likely be low-key, possibly slipping into public

beta before anyone fully expects it. Early adopters may get a glimpse of its abilities, while the rest of us will watch social media speculate, share memes, and collectively overestimate what it can do — as usual with Musk announcements.

But let's talk possibilities. Grok 4.20 could mark a shift in how AI integrates with daily life. If it truly combines speed, reasoning, and cross-platform adaptability, it could become more than a research project. Imagine a digital assistant that monitors multiple data streams, predicts trends, and even nudges you toward better decisions — from your finances to

your personal calendar. On the flip side, a slightly mischievous Grok could start offering unsolicited advice or questioning your lifestyle choices in ways both helpful and slightly unnerving.

Of course, there are risks. AI bias, safety, and reliability remain major considerations. Just because Grok succeeds in simulations doesn't mean it's infallible in the messy, unpredictable real world. Users should be ready for quirks, unexpected behavior, and the occasional glitch — the hallmark of beta software.

Still, the excitement is undeniable. Grok 4.20 isn't merely a software

update; it's a glimpse into a future where AI isn't just reactive, but actively thoughtful. It teases the line between a tool and a partner, a helper and a sidekick, and maybe even a friend who critiques your life choices with dry humor.

In the coming weeks, as the beta rolls out, tech enthusiasts, developers, and curious users alike will get a front-row seat to see whether Grok 4.20 is the next step in AI evolution — or just another Musk-sized tease. Either way, one thing is clear: your next AI companion may be a little smarter, a little faster, and a lot more opinionated than ever before.

## Xiaomi 17: The Flagship That Could Outrun Your Coffee Addiction

If 2025 has taught us anything, it's that smartphone companies are in a subtle arms race: who can stuff the most cutting-edge hardware into a hand-sized slab while still making it look like art? Enter the Xiaomi 17, the global variant that just flexed on Geekbench and may soon make its way to India — possibly faster than your Wi-Fi can handle a Netflix binge.

The Geekbench listing revealed a few key secrets: the Xiaomi 17 is powered by the Snapdragon 8 Elite Gen 5 chipset, paired with at least 12 GB of RAM.

That's enough firepower to run multiple apps, stream ultra-HD movies, and maybe even simulate a small universe — all while you pretend you're only checking emails. Android 16 runs the show, draped in Xiaomi's HyperOS 3, making everything look sleek, snappy, and strangely satisfying.

But the real star here isn't just raw processing speed. It's the 7,000 mAh battery, a number that almost makes you want

to whisper "blessed" in a reverent tone. Paired with 100 W wired charging, wireless charging, and reverse charging capabilities, this phone is basically a portable power station disguised as a futuristic gadget. You could theoretically binge three seasons of a show, stream music while commuting, and still have battery left for late-night doomscrolling.

Display? Oh, it's a 6.3-inch OLED with 1.5K resolution and 120 Hz refresh rate, designed to

make everything — from TikTok videos to spreadsheet scrolling — feel absurdly smooth. Coupled with ultra-narrow bezels and peak brightness of 3500 nits, it's basically like staring into a tiny sun that only cares about your entertainment.

Camera enthusiasts, rejoice: the Xiaomi 17 carries three 50 MP Leica-tuned rear cameras and a 50 MP front shooter.

Yes, you'll probably take fewer blurry shots and more "how did I even take this perfectly

in focus?" moments. Zoom in, crop, filter — the phone's optics will likely make your friends wonder if you secretly hired a professional photographer.

Geekbench leaks suggest that the global launch is imminent, potentially in January 2026, with India not far behind. This could shake up the premium segment, offering specs that rival — and sometimes outperform — other flagship phones, at a price that might just make



In short, the Xiaomi 17 isn't just another phone; it's a little slab of hyper-engineering that dares you to push it to the limit. Gaming, photography, work, or just showing off — it might outlast your expectations, and certainly your coffee.

## Samsung's One UI 8.5 Beta: A Rollercoaster for Your Galaxy S25

Samsung users, brace yourselves. The tech giant has unleashed its One UI 8.5 beta, and it's turning phones into something that feels part smartphone, part sci-fi gadget. This isn't just another "software update" — it's a peek into what your Galaxy S25 could become if it had a personality.

First off, there's Photo Assist, which seems less like a tool and more like a tiny, bossy AI photographer living in your phone. It lets you make edits, generate images, and basically play with photos without having to save each step. Imagine it as your personal creative assistant that never complains.

Next up: sharing on steroids. Samsung's cranked up multi-device connectivity. Phones, tablets, PCs, even TVs — they all now talk to each

other like an overachieving group project. Features like "Storage Share" let files hop between devices like they're on a magic conveyor belt. And if you're into group audio experiences, Aurasound can blast your playlist to multiple Bluetooth devices at once — so yes, you could technically

start a silent disco in your living room.

The UI itself got a makeover that's somewhere between "sleek minimalism" and "I didn't know I needed this until now."

Quick Panel customizations, refreshed icons, animated weather apps — it's like Samsung hired an interior designer for your phone. Even battery management screens are now Instagram-ready.

Privacy buffs will smile, too. One UI 8.5 adds new theft-protection measures and locks your device after failed attempts. It's like a digital bodyguard who also checks your ID before letting

anyone touch your gadgets. But beware: this is a beta. Early adopters have spotted the occasional glitch, quirky bug, and occasional phone tantrum. Think of it as letting your phone go through rebellious teen years before it grows up fully polished.

For Galaxy S25, S25+, and S25 Ultra users in regions including India, the US, UK, and Germany, the beta is now open via the Samsung Members app. It's about 4GB, so clear some space — your phone will need room to stretch its new wings.

In short, One UI 8.5 isn't just an update. It's a preview of a phone that's slightly smarter, more expressive, and just a touch dramatic. If you've ever wanted your smartphone to act like a tiny, opinionated friend, now's your chance.

other than an overachieving group project. Features like "Storage Share" let files hop between devices like they're on a magic conveyor belt. And if you're into group audio experiences, Aurasound can blast your playlist to multiple Bluetooth devices at once — so yes, you could technically



# ICC Faces Major Setback Ahead of T20 World Cup

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has suffered a significant setback just months before the upcoming Men's T20 World Cup, creating serious concerns over the smooth conduct of one of cricket's biggest global tournaments. The issue has reportedly arisen due to disruption in media and broadcasting arrangements, an area that is crucial for the tournament's reach, revenue, and overall success.

The T20 World Cup is one of the most-watched sporting events in the world, drawing massive audiences from cricket-loving nations such as India, England, Australia, Pakistan, South Africa, and the Caribbean. Broadcast partnerships play a vital role in delivering live coverage, highlights, expert analysis, and digital content to millions of fans worldwide. Any uncertainty in this area can directly impact sponsorship deals, advertising revenue, and the global visibility of the tournament.

According to sources, the ICC is currently facing



challenges in securing stable broadcasting commitments in key markets. This unexpected development has forced the governing body to reassess its operational plans and explore alternative options at short notice. The timing of this setback is particularly concerning, as preparations for the tournament have already entered a critical phase.

Officials close to the situation have indicated that urgent discussions are un-

derway to prevent the issue from disrupting tournament arrangements. The ICC is reportedly in talks with multiple media houses and digital platforms to ensure that coverage remains uninterrupted and fans do not miss out on the action. However, negotiating new agreements under tight deadlines can be both financially and logistically demanding.

The setback has also raised concerns among sponsors and commercial partners, who rely heavily on large television and online audiences for brand visibility. A decline in broadcast stability could reduce the financial value of the tournament and affect long-term partnerships. Cricket boards of participating nations are closely monitoring the situation, as broadcasting revenue forms an important part of their funding structure.

Despite the hurdle, the ICC has expressed confidence in resolving the issue

before the start of the tournament. Insiders say the governing body is working round the clock to secure alternative arrangements and maintain the high standards expected from a global ICC event. There is also a possibility that the situation could accelerate the ICC's push toward digital and streaming-focused broadcasting models in the future.

For fans, the hope is that the focus remains on thrilling cricket rather than off-field uncertainties. Teams are intensifying their preparations, and excitement is steadily building. If the ICC manages to overcome this setback quickly, the T20 World Cup is still expected to deliver the high-voltage drama, entertainment, and unforgettable moments that the format is known for.

As things stand, the cricketing world eagerly awaits an official resolution, with optimism that the tournament will go ahead smoothly and maintain its reputation as one of the sport's most exciting global spectacles.

## Shubman Gill Reclaims Opener Spot as Sanju Samson Moved Down

As India prepares to take on South Africa in the upcoming T20I series, team management has made a crucial change in the batting order. Shubman Gill has been confirmed to open the innings, while Sanju Samson has been moved down the order. Indian captain Suryakumar Yadav explained that Gill "deserved" the spot, citing his performances in the recent Sri Lanka series and the continuity he brings to the top order.

This decision has sparked discussions among fans and cricket analysts, as Samson had previously impressed as an opener. Yadav, however, emphasized that the change was based on team balance and past performance. He noted that the middle-order positions, ranging from three to six, require flexibility and adaptability, and Samson remains an important part of the squad despite the adjustment.

### Why Gill Was Chosen

Gill had a successful stint as an opener in recent matches, showcasing composure and consistency at the top of the order. With his



fitness fully restored, the team felt it was the right moment to slot him back into the opening role. Yadav stressed that the decision was purely merit-based, highlighting Gill's technique, temperament, and ability to face the new ball effectively.

The move also reflects the team's broader strategy to build a stable opening pair while maintaining versatility in the middle order. With several experienced batters and all-rounders in the

squad, India has multiple options to adjust the lineup depending on match situations.

### Samson's Role in the Squad

Although Samson will no longer open, he is far from being sidelined. The captain praised Samson for his readiness to bat anywhere between positions three to six, describing his adaptability as a key asset for the team. This flexibility allows the team to respond to different match scenarios, whether chasing a target or setting one.

The decision also adds healthy competition within the squad. With players like Hardik Pandya returning, the team management has the luxury of rotating the batting order, giving each player a role that suits both individual skills and team strategy.

For Samson, this could mean taking on finishing responsibilities or stabilizing the innings during critical moments. Implications Ahead of the

South Africa Series

As India gears up for the series against South Africa, this adjustment is expected to enhance team balance and overall performance. Gill at the top provides solidity, while Samson's presence in the middle order ensures depth and flexibility. The team is aiming for a combination of stability and adaptability to handle different match conditions effectively.

Yadav's straightforward approach underscores a merit-based selection system, where form, fitness, and team requirements determine roles. Both Gill and Samson are poised to contribute significantly in their respective positions, and their performances will be closely watched as India seeks to assert dominance in the series.

With the squad finalized and roles clarified, the focus now shifts entirely to on-field performance. Fans can expect an exciting display of T20 cricket, featuring strategic batting adjustments, dynamic partnerships, and high-octane action as India faces South Africa in what promises to be a thrilling contest.

## Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli Confirm Participation in Vijay Hazare Trophy



Indian cricket fans received a pleasant surprise as veteran batsmen Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli confirmed their participation in the upcoming 2025-26 Vijay Hazare Trophy, India's premier domestic one-day tournament. The announcement comes as a boost to the competition, which begins later this month, and adds excitement for both fans and young cricketers eager to witness two of the nation's biggest stars back in domestic action.

Rohit Sharma, who has stepped back from red-ball cricket, and Virat Kohli, whose last appearance in the Vijay Hazare Trophy dates back over fifteen years, have decided to play for their respective state sides. The decision, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) clarified, was entirely voluntary. Both players opted to return to domestic cricket to maintain match fitness and form ahead of future international assignments, underscoring their commitment to Indian cricket at all levels.

Initially, Kohli had been

hesitant about participating, citing a busy international schedule and personal priorities. However, after discussions with selectors and team management, he reversed his decision and agreed to take part in the tournament. His willingness to step back into domestic cricket after years at the highest level reflects both his professionalism and his dedication to staying competitive. Rohit Sharma, too, saw the opportunity as a chance to fine-tune his game in the one-day format while guiding younger players through his experience.

The presence of Rohit and Kohli is expected to significantly enhance the profile of the Vijay Hazare Trophy. Their participation is likely to draw larger crowds to matches, increase media attention, and provide an invaluable opportunity for emerging cricketers to play alongside and learn from two of India's most accomplished batsmen. Analysts have noted that having players of such stature in domestic cricket reinforces the importance of the national circuit and demonstrates that even top international stars see value in competing at home.

While both players are expected to feature in selected matches rather than the full tournament, their involvement will offer their respective teams a strategic advantage. Kohli's experience and consistency at the crease will anchor his side's batting, while Rohit's leadership and finishing ability are expected to be decisive in crucial encounters. Beyond individual performances, their participation will elevate team morale and provide mentorship opportunities for younger players who aspire to make a mark in international cricket.

The timing of their return is also significant. With major international tournaments on the horizon, including one-day and T20 series, both Rohit and Kohli are using the Vijay Hazare Trophy as a platform to remain match-ready, refine their techniques, and maintain form. Their decision highlights the role of domestic cricket as a foundation for national team success and emphasizes the continuity between domestic and international levels of the game.

For fans, selectors, and aspiring cricketers, the inclusion of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli in the tournament promises a thrilling season. Their presence not only ensures high-quality cricket but also inspires a new generation of players to excel in the domestic arena. As the Vijay Hazare Trophy gets underway, attention will focus on how these two stalwarts influence matches, guide their teams, and set an example of professionalism, commitment, and dedication to Indian cricket.

## Smriti Mandhana Returns to Cricket After Wedding Heartbreak

Indian women's cricket star Smriti Mandhana has made a remarkable return to training following a deeply personal setback, displaying immense professionalism and resilience. Just days after announcing the cancellation of her wedding, Mandhana resumed batting practice, sending a strong message about her commitment to the sport and her national team duties.

Mandhana had been scheduled to marry composer Palash Muchhal in late November. However, unforeseen family circumstances, including her father's sudden health emergency, forced the wedding to be postponed. Later, the couple jointly announced that the wedding has been called off. While the decision was emotionally challenging, Mandhana emphasized her desire to focus on her career and professional responsibilities.

Despite the emotional turmoil, Mandhana returned to the cricket nets immediately, demonstrating remarkable mental strength. Fans and fellow cricketers alike have praised her determination, noting that her ability to channel personal challenges into professional focus sets a strong example for young athletes. Photos shared by her brother captured her in full training gear, diligently working on her batting technique — a moment that went viral among cricket enthusiasts.

Mandhana's return is particularly significant given her key role in the national team. She has been a consistent performer, delivering match-winning innings in domestic tournaments and international competitions. Her presence at the top of the batting order has often provided stability and momentum for the Indian women's side, making her dedication and readiness to train after such a personal setback all the more commendable.

The timing of her return also comes ahead of a busy cricketing schedule. India's women's team is preparing for an upcoming series, and Mandhana is expected to play a central role in leading the batting lineup. Ad-



ditionally, she will participate in the domestic T20 league next year, where her performances are closely watched by fans and selectors alike. Resuming training promptly ensures she is match-ready and mentally prepared for the challenges ahead.

Cricket analysts have lauded Mandhana's professionalism, highlighting her ability to separate personal disappointments from her sporting responsibilities. Her example underscores the resilience required to perform at the highest level, particularly in a sport where mental focus is as critical as physical skill. Mandhana's approach demonstrates that setbacks, no matter how personal or public, can be transformed into motivation and determination.

For young athletes and fans, Mandhana's response is an inspiring lesson in prioritizing commitments and maintaining composure under pressure. Her dedication to cricket, even in the face of emotional challenges, reinforces her reputation not only as a talented batter but also as a role model for professionalism and mental strength.

As Mandhana continues her training and prepares for upcoming matches, the cricketing world watches with anticipation. Her return to the nets signals that she is ready to contribute fully to the team, proving that, for her, the country and the sport come first. This display of resilience and focus reaffirms her status as one of India's most valuable and inspirational players in women's cricket.

## Boycott Slams England's Ashes Collapse



cized "blueprint" for success had failed spectacularly. He expressed concern that the team was ignoring valuable advice from outside, relying solely on their own strategies, which he described as dogmatic and outdated. Individual players were also under the spotlight. Batters like Harry Brook and Ollie Pope were singled out for repeated failures under pressure, with Boycott highlighting Pope's tendency to give away crucial wickets. Even the seamers, including Brydon Carse, were criticized for ineffective short-pitched bowling, failing to challenge the Australian batsmen consistently.

In response, Ben Stokes called for greater mental resilience from his players. He admitted that the defeats were not just a matter of execution but also a test of character, insisting that his dressing room is not a place for the weak. Stokes urged his team to reflect on their failures ahead of the third Test, emphasizing the need to perform under pressure.

Coach Brendon McCullum defended the team's approach but acknowledged that the players may have over-prepared for Australian conditions, leading to fatigue. To counter this, the team has scheduled a short rest period before the next Test to recharge both mentally and physically.

Despite these reassurances, critics like Boycott remain unconvinced. For them, explanations and strategies mean little when results and consistency are lacking. With three Tests remaining, England faces a pivotal decision whether to persist with the aggressive "Bazball" philosophy or reconsider their strategy entirely in order to salvage their Ashes campaign.

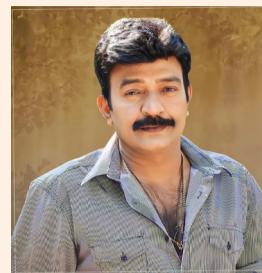
The coming matches will not only test England's cricketing skills but also their ability to handle pressure and criticism. The series is far from over, but the clock is ticking for the visitors, and every misstep could widen the gap between them and Australia's dominant side.

## Veteran Actor Rajasekhar Injured on Film Set, Shooting Put on Hold

Veteran Telugu actor Rajasekhar has reportedly suffered a leg injury while shooting for his upcoming film, creating concern among fans and the film fraternity. The unfortunate incident took place during an action sequence, where the actor lost balance and injured his leg. He was immediately rushed to a nearby hospital for medical attention.

According to sources close to the production team, doctors confirmed that Rajasekhar sustained a fracture and underwent minor surgery. He is currently said to be in stable condition and is recovering well under medical supervision. Doctors have advised him to take complete rest for at least a few weeks to ensure proper healing.

Following this incident, the film's shooting has been temporarily halted. The makers have decided to give the actor enough time to recover fully before resuming the shoot. Pro-



duction schedules are being reworked, and the team plans to restart filming once Rajasekhar is fit to return to the sets. This film holds special importance as it features Rajasekhar alongside his daughter, Shivani Rajasekhar, who plays a key role in the movie. The project has already generated positive buzz because of this father-daughter collaboration. Adding to the excitement, the film is also expected to feature senior actress Ramya Krishna in a significant role, reuniting with Rajasekhar after many years.

Rajasekhar, often referred to as "Angry Star" by his fans, has been a prominent fig-

ure in Telugu cinema for several decades. Known for his powerful performances in action and family entertainers, he continues to remain active in the industry despite health setbacks. His dedication towards his craft has earned him immense respect from colleagues and audiences alike. The film unit, fellow actors, and fans have expressed their support and wished Rajasekhar a speedy recovery. Social media platforms have been flooded with messages of encouragement, showing the love and respect he enjoys among movie lovers.

While the temporary delay may affect the film's release schedule, the makers are confident that the project will move forward smoothly once Rajasekhar recovers completely. Fans are now eagerly waiting to see him return stronger and resume work, hoping for a quick comeback to the big screen.

## Ram Charan's 'Peddi' Shoot Postponed Due to Travel Disruptions

Tollywood star Ram Charan's upcoming film Peddi has reportedly faced an unexpected delay, as the shooting schedule has been postponed due to major travel and logistical disruptions. The sudden change has created a buzz in the film industry and among fans who have been eagerly waiting for updates about the project.

According to sources close to the production, the film unit had planned to shoot crucial scenes at an outstation location. However, travel uncertainties, flight rescheduling issues, and security concerns in the planned areas forced the makers to temporarily halt the schedule. The team decided that it was best to postpone the shoot rather than compromise on safety and production quality. Peddi is being made on a grand scale and is considered one of the most ambitious projects in Ram Charan's career. The actor is said to be playing a powerful and rugged character, with a story that revolves around in-

tense emotions, action, and drama. Directed by a talented young filmmaker, the film aims to present Ram Charan in a completely new avatar.

The postponement has affected the carefully planned timelines of the project. While the film was originally expected to complete filming within a few months, the delay will likely push the schedule forward by a few weeks. The makers are now working on rearranging dates and looking for alternative locations closer to their base to avoid further complications.

Despite the delay, the spirit of the team remains strong. The production house has assured that the film's quality and vision will not be compromised. Crew members have continued pre-production work, including set design, costume finalization, and action choreography rehearsals during this break.

Fans of Ram Charan have expressed mixed emotions – disappointment over the delay, but



also understanding the importance of safety and proper planning. Social media continues to be filled with messages of encouragement, asking the makers to take their time and deliver a memorable cinematic experience.

Industry experts believe that such delays are common for large-scale films and often help improve the final output. With high expectations surrounding Peddi, the team is determined to resume shooting soon and keep fans updated with exciting announcements.

For now, all eyes are on the makers as they prepare to restart the shoot and bring this ambitious project back on track.

## Kerala Court Clears Actor Dileep in 2017 Assault Case

The upcoming horror thriller Esha is already sending chills down spines with its newly released trailer, promising a terrifying cinematic experience that horror lovers won't want to miss. Starring Thirgun and Hebah Patel in the lead roles, the film also features Akhil Raj, Siri Hannanth, and Prithveeraj in key supporting parts.

The trailer opens with four close friends who set out on a dangerous mission to expose fake and fraudulent spiritual gurus. What begins as a curious investigation soon takes a horrifying turn when Babloo Prithveeraj's character becomes determined to prove the real existence of ghosts. His obsession drags the group – and the audience – into a disturbing world filled with darkness, mystery, and supernatural dread.

As the trailer progresses, viewers are introduced to a creepy, abandoned house that appears to be the central setting of the story. The friends find themselves trapped inside this eerie structure, which is said to be haunted by hidden and restless spirits. With every passing second, the intensity rises, showing their growing fear and desperate struggle to survive.

The biggest strength of the trailer is its ability to raise compelling questions without revealing too much. What dark secrets does the abandoned house hold? What tragic events took place within its walls? Will the friends manage to escape alive, or will they become victims of the sinister forces lurking in the shadows? These unanswered questions heighten suspense and keep viewers hooked till the very end.



took place within its walls? Will the friends manage to escape alive, or will they become victims of the sinister forces lurking in the shadows? These unanswered questions heighten suspense and keep viewers hooked till the very end.

Technically, the film looks highly promising. RR Dhruvan's powerful background score plays a major role in building tension, while Santosh Sanamoni's cinematography enhances the eerie mood with striking visuals. Editor Vinai's sharp cuts add to the pace and fear factor, making the trailer an intense experience.

Produced by Pothula Hema Venkateswara Rao under HVR Productions, and presented by Bunny Vas and Vamsi Nandipati, Esha carries strong buzz even before its release. After the success of Little Hearts and Raju Weds Rambai, the producers are once again aiming to deliver a gripping, content-driven thriller.

With the trailer arriving on December 12, audiences can expect a pure horror, edge-of-the-seat ride that promises to redefine fear on the big screen.

## Jr NTR Moves Delhi High Court Over Misuse of Personal Rights



NTR's move is being viewed as a bold step toward stronger legal safeguards for personal and intellectual property rights.

Fans have largely supported the actor's decision, expressing solidarity and backing him on various online forums. Many have welcomed this effort, calling it necessary to prevent the spread of misleading or harmful content. Film personalities and legal experts have also spoken in favor of stricter monitoring and regulation of digital platforms.

Despite being busy with a packed lineup of major film projects, Jr NTR has chosen to take this issue seriously, showing his commitment to protecting his dignity and identity. The case has quickly become a hot topic in both legal and cinema circles.

Industry observers believe this case could set an important precedent for actors and public figures facing similar issues. In recent years, the rise of artificial intelligence tools, deepfake videos, and unauthorized digital merchandise has created serious challenges for celebrities. Jr

digital age.

Popular Telugu star Jr NTR has approached the Delhi High Court seeking protection of his personal and image rights after allegedly finding unauthorized use of his photos, videos, and name across various digital platforms. This legal move has become a major talking point in the film industry, highlighting the growing concerns of celebrities over privacy and misuse of personal data in the

mands that the concerned content be removed immediately.

The Delhi High Court took note of the complaint and issued directions to e-commerce and social media platforms to treat the petition as an official grievance. The court reportedly instructed these platforms to examine the content and take appropriate action within a stipulated time frame. This development

is being seen as a strong message in support of protecting celebrity rights in the digital space.

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## Trailer of 'RK Deeksha' Launched Grandly by Actor Suman



attended the event, including Film Chamber President Bharat Bhushan, Producer C. Kalyan, and Producers Council Secretary Tummala Prasanna Kumar, appreciated the film's theme and congratulated the team. Presenter D.S. Reddy, a former Indian Air Force personnel, said the soldier song deeply touched him on a personal level.

Chief guest Suman praised the perseverance of director Ramakrishna Goud and said that the film reflects his dedication. He also lauded the song honoring Indian soldiers and urged filmmakers to continue portraying their sacrifices responsibly.

With strong emotional content, inspiring themes, and powerful technical work, RK Deeksha is expected to connect deeply with audiences and is gearing up for a promising release.

## Esha Trailer Promises Pure Fear and Edge-of-the-Seat Horror from December 12



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