

## Cm Revanth Reddy Underscores Osmania University's Role in Telangana's Spirit of Rebellion and Social Justice

TPN Bureau | Dec 10, 2025

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, speaking at an event organized at Osmania University (OU), delivered a powerful speech emphasizing the university's historic role as the hotbed of the Telangana movement (swaraashtaa aakankshanu balaangaa vinipinchchi gadda). The CM candidly revealed that some individuals had questioned his courage for visiting OU, a campus long associated with political ferment. He rebutted this, stating, "To come to Osmania University, you don't need courage, you need affection (abhimaanam)." He affirmed that he came to the campus with a heart full of affection (gundela nindaa abhimaanaanni nimpukuni) to pave the way for the development of the university and realize the goal of elevating it to an international standard (antharjaath eeyaa sthayilo theerchidhaalane sankalpam). The Chief Minister asserted that the land of Telangana possesses a unique consciousness and spirit of defiance (chaithanyam, pourusham) that is not dependent on formal education.



He traced Telangana's history of struggle against authoritarian rule from the era of Komaram Bheem through the armed peasant struggle (saayudha raithaanga porataam) to the final Telangana movement, emphasizing that the fight has always been against dominance (adhiapathyam). He credited students from OU and Kakatiya University with realizing that the permanent solution to their problems lay only in the achievement of Telangana statehood. He honored OU for contributing towering personalities like P.V. Narasimha Rao, Jai Prakash, George Reddy, and Gaddar.

The CM noted that his 'young brothers' (thammullu) in the movement did not ask for

wealth or farmhouses after state formation; they asked only for freedom, social justice, and equal opportunities. He affirmed that his Praja Prabhuvtam (People's Government) is now delivering these ideals, contrasting this with the past decade when efforts were made to undermine Osmania University. Responding to critics who point out his background, the CM proudly declared, "Yes, I studied in a government school." He asserted that while he may not speak a foreign language, he knows how to read the hearts of the poor (peedavaadi manus) and how to govern to ensure welfare reaches the needy. The CM's objective, he declared, is to provide assistance to the

poor and helpless. He challenged his critics by referencing a past dare to visit Arts College, stating, "I don't have farmhouses. I didn't steal people's money. I stood before you as Chief Minister because the Backward and Weaker Sections blessed me." His ambition, he stated, is to leave behind a governance that history will remember. Highlighting the achievements of his two-year government, the CM noted the official recognition of the state song Jaya Jaya He Telangana, the official unveiling of the Telangana Thalli statue representing the Bahujan populace, the implementation of SC classification for social justice, and the initiation of a Caste Census for BCs. He concluded by urging students to pursue their ambitions as doctors, lawyers, and high officials, and to one day administer the state, cautioning them against falling into the traps of political parties and instead focusing on commitment and continuous hard work.

## Cmrf Cheque Distribution: Cm Revanth Reddy Government Sets Record; Minister Konda Surekha Aids Warangal People

TPN Bureau | Dec 10, 2025

The government led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has achieved a significant milestone, setting a record in the distribution of Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) cheques, underscoring its commitment to providing timely financial assistance to the needy. The administration is currently providing an average of 850 crore in assistance annually under the CMRF, demonstrating a massive scaling up of welfare measures. Over the past two years, the government has successfully distributed CMRF cheques amounting to a staggering 1,685.79 crore to citizens across the state, a clear indicator of the rapid and extensive pace of financial disbursement compared to previous regimes.

Within this state-level achievement, Minister Konda Surekha has established her own notable record in her Warangal constituency, garnering immense appreciation from the local populace. The Minister is reported to have distributed CMRF cheques worth 20 crore to the people in her constituency over the last two years alone. Local people are expressing



great joy and appreciation (harsham vyaktham chestunna Warangal jilla prajalu), recognizing the Minister's dedication to providing support (aasa raaga nilustunna) to those who approach her in times of crisis (aa padhalaa) by securing CMRF funds for them.

Minister Surekha has been consistently extending a helping hand (cheyootha andeesina) through the CMRF to every poor and destitute person (prathi peedha, nirupedhalaku) who has sought her assistance. Her dedication is further quantified by the detailed distribution figures across two years:

In 2024: She facilitated the distribution of 663 CMRF cheques amounting to 3,03,28,000.

In 2025: The number of beneficiaries and the amount saw a massive increase, with 4,6

68 CMRF cheques distributed, totaling 17,37,57,890.

This exponential rise in the distribution of funds in 2025 highlights the intensified efforts by the Minister to ensure financial aid reaches the grassroots level, particularly in her constituency. The overall record set by the CM Revanth Reddy government, along with the outstanding individual performance of Minister Konda Surekha, emphasizes the administration's core philosophy of prioritizing the welfare of the poor and utilizing the CMRF as a vital safety net for citizens facing medical or financial emergencies. The large-scale and rapid disbursement of funds validates the government's claim of responsive and efficient governance, cementing its commitment to social welfare as a primary agenda.

## Minister Thummala Finalizes State Report on Draft Seeds Bill 2025; Demands Stronger Farmer Safeguards

TPN Bureau | Dec 10, 2025

Minister of Agriculture, Tummala Nageswara Rao, finalized the state's comprehensive report containing suggested amendments and additions to the Central Government's Draft Seeds Bill 2025. The report, prepared in a meeting with agriculture department officials, is set to be submitted before the December 11 deadline. Minister Tummala stressed that the new Seed Act must pave the way for the prosperity of Indian farmers. The state's key recommendations focus on robust protection for farmers' rights, stringent quality control, and a clear, time-bound compensation mechanism for crop failure due to spurious seeds.

Minister Tummala highlighted that seed production is crucial to Telangana's agricultural economy, with thousands of farmers involved in cultivating and preserving high-quality seeds, including traditional and indigenous varieties.

He noted that despite their contribution, seed farmers often face significant challenges like lack of official recognition, flawed contract terms, and insufficient compensation. The Minister acknowledged that previous drafts of seed bills have failed to effectively protect farmers' interests. To address this, the state government undertook comprehensive discussions with farmers, farm representatives, dealers, and seed companies at state and district levels to prepare the final report.

Key Amendments Proposed by Telangana Government:

Registration Authority (Section 13): The State Seed Committee must be empowered to register

of fake, substandard, unauthorized, and overpriced seeds (nakili, naasirakam, anumathi leni mariyu adhika dhara kaligina vithanala). The rising cost of cultivation, exacerbated by poor quality hybrid and BT seeds, has severely impacted the financial stability of agricultural families.

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Dealer Qualifications (Section 18(1)): Seed dealers and distributors must also hold a minimum educational qualification on (Agriculture Degree/Diploma or a Certificate Course in Seed Production) for registration eligibility. Mandatory Certification (Section 21(1d)): Self-certification of seeds by producers must be disallowed. All seeds intended for marketing must be certified by an accredited certification agency to prevent failures and complaints.

## Cm Revanth Reddy Aims for 100 Unicorns from Hyderabad by 2034 at Google for Startups Hub Launch



TPN Bureau | Dec 10, 2025

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy launched the Google for Startups (GFS) hub at T-Hub, Hyderabad, marking the first such state-integrated hub in India, a dedicated Google-branded space designed to invigorate the vibrant startup ecosystem in Telangana. The CM set an ambitious and challenging goal for the state's entrepreneurial community: "At least 100 startups from Hyderabad must become unicorns, and at least 10 of them super unicorns, by 2034." The CM urged startup founders to focus on creating product-based, innovative, and intellectual property (IP) intensive start-ups, moving beyond mere services.

CM Revanth Reddy appealed to the founders to actively utilize the forthcoming 1,000 crore Start-up Fund of Funds that the state government is establishing. He drew parallels with the impres-

sive growth seen in Hyderabad's own software services, pharma, and life sciences sectors over the past 25 years.

Emphasizing the core ingredients for success, the Chief Minister used an analogy from his favorite sport: "Start-ups are like football. In football, you have to work hard, practice hard. It is team work. But finally, winning is most important. It is the same with start-ups." He stressed that teamwork, hard work, and the ultimate focus on victory are paramount. The launch event was attended by IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu, Special Secretary to CM B. Ajith Reddy, Special Chief Secretary Sanjay Kumar, Deputy Secretary Bhavesh Mishra, and several Google executives. The GFS hub will further bolster the regional ecosystem by offering free, year-long dedicated coworking seats for selected AI-first startups and a curated set of venture investors.



## Minister Ponnamb Prabhakar Details RTC Expansion for Hyderabad: 373 New Routes Operational Today

TPN Bureau | Dec 10, 2025

Minister for Transport, Ponnamb Prabhakar, held a detailed media conference focusing on the expansion of the Telangana RTC services, marking two years of the Transport Department under the new Praja Paalana government. The discussion focused heavily on new bus procurement and ongoing efforts to resolve employee issues. The Minister outlined the state's strategic development approach, which segments the region into Urban, Semi-Urban, and Rural areas, with the core urban areas inside the Outer Ring Road now merged under GHMC jurisdiction. He acknowledged a critical service gap: that buses were still not reaching many colonies, stressing the urgent need to expand the public transport system further into the community.

To address this, the Minister announced that following a two-month-long survey to

identify optimal routes, the government, based on the Chief Minister's instructions, has resolved to connect 373 new colonies with RTC bus services. He confirmed that buses began operating on these routes starting today, a move that will newly provide public transport facilities to approximately 7 lakh people in Hyderabad. He extended an appeal to the public to utilize these new connections, noting that the increased use of public transport is a positive development and encouraging for the state. He also appealed to citizens in rural areas to inform RTC officials or public representatives of locations where bus services are required, ensuring that the expansion is demand-driven and inclusive.

Minister Prabhakar also extended an offer to the IT corridor, stating that the RTC is ready to operate buses to connect their offices as needed, suggesting that using RTC services could help alleviate the severe traffic problems currently being caused by excessive.

## Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Hails Mahalaxmi Scheme's 2nd Anniversary; Targets 70% Public Transport Share by 2047

TPN Bureau | Dec 10, 2025, The Minister for Transport and BC Welfare, Ponnam Prabhakar, marked the second anniversary of the Mahalaxmi Scheme—which offers free bus travel for women in RTC buses—by holding a comprehensive video conference from Bus Bhavan with RTC officials across 97 depots statewide. The Minister began by warmly congratulating and extending best wishes to the dedicated drivers, conductors, shramik (workers), and other staff for their continuous efforts in ensuring the scheme's resounding success. During the conference, the Minister, who also celebrated two years in his role, was felicitated by the MD and Executive Directors of the corporation, a positive gesture symbolizing the government's renewed commitment to the



organization.

A major focus of the conference was the Vision 2047 strategy, which aims to dramatically increase the public transport share in the state from the current 28% to an ambitious 70%. Minister Prabhakar stressed that to achieve this, the public transport system must be taken closer to the people. He directed RTC officials to intensify their expansion efforts and actively scout for new routes (kottha roott-

lanu anveshinchchi) from the capital to rural villages, aligning services with the actual needs of the populace. In a tangible step towards this goal, he announced that, based on a three-month survey in Hyderabad, RTC buses are now operating on 373 new routes starting today. This expansion alone is expected to newly connect approximately 7 lakh people living outside the Outer Ring Road to the

public transport network. The Minister emphasized that hitting the 70% target requires the RTC system to expand to three times its current capacity (moodinthala vyavastha avasaram), urging all employees to contribute diligently to this monumental effort.

Welfare remains a cornerstone of the new government's policy, with the Minister reiterating the primary objectives: institution preservation, employee welfare, and passenger comfort (san-

tha parirakshana, udya gkshemam, prayanikula saukaryam). He called for a friendly attitude from RTC staff towards passengers and advised officials to treat staff like family, arguing that this approach fosters greater dedication to the corporation. He assured employees of the government's firm support against external threats, citing the recent incident in Sircilla where the corporation stood by a driver facing assault, promising strict action (kathina charyalu thappavani) against anyone attacking RTC staff. He also assured that long-pending employee issues, including financial matters, are being resolved by discussing them with the government. He highlighted massive ongoing recruitment (3038 posts) and the purchase of 2476 new buses (40% of the current fleet) in the last two years. He credited the Mahalaxmi scheme and CM Revanth Reddy's leadership for the turnaround, noting that over 90 RTC depots are currently operating in profit (laabhaalaa baatala unnaayi), a significant recovery after the corporation's survival was questioned over the previous decade. Finally, looking ahead, he promised to work towards establishing a dedicated RTC School with modern facilities (adhunatha saukaryaalatho RTC school) for employees' children, further demonstrating the holistic approach to staff well-being and cementing RTC's critical role in realizing the Chief Minister's long-term \$3 Trillion economy vision. The Minister also noted that new depots were established in Peddapalli, Mulugu, and Eturnagaram.

## Vikarabad Collector Prateek Jain Inspects Polling Arrangements for Phase 1 Elections in Tandur Constituency



TPN Bureau | Dec 10, 2025

District Collector Prateek Jain of Vikarabad undertook a comprehensive tour of the Tandur constituency to personally inspect and ensure all necessary arrangements were in place for

the first phase of the upcoming local body elections, scheduled to take place the following day. The Collector's inspection covered several critical areas within the constituency, specifically focusing on villages located in the Peddemul

and Tandur mandals. This high-level visit was intended to leave no stone unturned in the meticulous preparations required for a successful and secure electoral process, demonstrating the administration's proactive approach to election management.

During his detailed tour, Collector Jain rigorously examined multiple facets of the election set-up. His primary areas of scrutiny included the overall election organization (enikaala nirvana), the physical setup and readiness of the designated polling centers (polling kendraala erpaatu), the strength and deployment of security measures (bhadhratha charyalu), and the essential logistical requirements, such as staff amenities and facilities (sibbandi vasathulu).

The meticulous nature of the inspection underscored the administration's commitment to upholding the highest standards of electoral conduct and operational readiness, prioritizing the safety and comfort of both voters and election personnel.

Following the comprehensive review, Collector Prateek Jain addressed the press and associated officials, stating unequivocally that all necessary measures have been taken (avasaramaina anni charyalu thees ukunnaamani) to ensure that the elections are conducted in a manner that is both free and impartial (svecchaagaanoo, nishpaksapaa thamgaanoo). He emphasized the paramount importance of transparency and fairness in the democratic process. Furthermore,

he issued direct and specific instructions to the concerned departmental officers, stressing the need to eliminate any potential deficiencies or flaws (elanti lo-palu lekundaa). His directive was clear: accelerate the arrangements to guarantee that the public can safely and securely exercise their right to vote (votu hakkanu vinayoginchukunnaa) without fear or inconvenience. The Collector's hands-on approach and clear communication served to boost the morale and preparedness of the administrative staff on the ground, ensuring every detail was accounted for.

The presence and physical inspection by Collector Jain in the Peddemul and Tandur regions were instrumental in intensifying the readiness of all officials (adhi-kaarulu sannadhatthanu marinth penchi). This immediate heightened state of alert and preparedness confirmed that the administration is taking proactive steps and acting swiftly to ensure that the initial phase of the elections proceeds peacefully and smoothly (prashaan-thamgaa saageku chukurugaa charyalu cheppattukunnaaru).

The Collector's visit successfully reinforced the commitment of the district administration to protecting the integrity of the voting process, ensuring robust security and upholding the fundamental rights of the electorate in the face of existing political tensions, guaranteeing a successful commencement of the first election phase across the constituency.

## BRS Leaders Protest Alleged Election Code Violation by Tandur MLA Manohar Reddy; Tensions Rise



TPN Bureau | Dec 10, 2025, A major political confrontation erupted in Gautapur village of Tandur Mandal, Vikarabad district, following accusations by Bharat Rashtriya Samithi (BRS) leaders that the sitting Congress MLA, Buyyani Manohar Reddy, had blatantly violated the stringent local body election code of conduct. The incident took place immediately after the mandated campaign period had officially closed. As per the specific rules governing the local body polls, all campaigning activities were officially required to cease by 5 PM on Tuesday evening. Despite this strict deadline, BRS leaders alleged that MLA Manohar Reddy proceeded to hold an unauthorized political gathering, thereby breaching the electoral silence period designed to ensure a calm and reflective voting environment.

The core of the BRS's protest centered on the claim that the Congress MLA was found meeting with a large contingent of approximately 150 party workers (sumaa-roo 150 mandhi kaar-

yakarthalatho) at the residence of a district-level leader belonging to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) within Gautapur village. The BRS leaders viewed this gathering as a clear attempt to influence voters or strategize outside the permissible time frame, directly undermining the principles of fair elections. Acting swiftly, BRS party members mobilized and confronted the MLA's gathering. The protest quickly escalated, with BRS functionaries forcefully obstructing the event and chanting strong slogans, repeatedly shouting "MLA Down Down!" (MLA Down Down!) and attempting to block the movements of the Congress leader and his supporters.

The confrontation transformed the village into a highly charged and volatile area, resulting in a tense atmosphere (udrikthatha vaat havara naam nelakondi). The severity of the BRS leaders' action highlights the political intensity surrounding the first phase of the elections and the zero-tolerance policy being adopted by opposition parties regarding

any perceived violation of the election guidelines. The BRS's aggressive intervention was a move to draw immediate public and official attention to the alleged misconduct, positioning themselves as guardians of the electoral process. Such incidents are particularly significant in local body elections, where even small gatherings can be seen as critical attempts to sway local voter sentiment and allegiance just hours before polling begins. The district administration and police forces would have subsequently been required to intervene rapidly to diffuse the situation, restore order, and investigate the validity of the alleged election code violation, ensuring the upcoming polls proceed without further political disturbance or intimidation. The incident serves as a stark reminder of the often-fragile nature of electoral peace in a highly competitive political landscape, demanding constant vigilance from the Election Commission and law enforcement agencies to maintain democratic integrity.

## Former MP V Hanumantha Rao Praises CM Revanth Reddy as a Visionary Leader Akin to Jawaharlal Nehru

TPN Bureau | Dec 10, 2025

Former Member of Parliament V. Hanumantha Rao (VH) of the Congress party offered extensive and high praise for Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, particularly applauding his recent performance at the Global Summit and his committed approach to staff well-being and cementing RTC's critical role in realizing the Chief Minister's long-term \$3 Trillion economy vision. The Minister also noted that new depots were established in Peddapalli, Mulugu, and Eturnagaram.

pioneered by Revanth Reddy. The former MP highlighted the CM's own humble background, noting that he was educated in government schools (Sarkar School lo chadivina CM), which informed his dedicated vision for organizing the Global Summit. He stated that the CM's vision has earned admiration from all quarters (Revant Reddy vision ni andaroo abhinadhincharu), solidifying his leadership.

VH lauded the CM's pioneering efforts in educational reform, particularly the move to establish Skill Development Schools to provide parallel education. This initiative is aimed at promoting equal education for all (andharikar saamaan-thara vidhyaa andhinchataaniki) rather than segregating students through separate hostels for SC/BC communities, fostering social equity. Reflecting on his long political career, V. Hanumantha Rao commented, "In my political experience, I have seen many CMs." He then characterized Revanth Reddy's administration as one that is firmly moving in the direction of "creating wealth and ensuring justice for everyone" (sampadha srusti nchhi andharikar nyayaam jarige dis-hagaa Revant paalana undhi). He reserved special mention for the CM's dedication to Osmania University.

## C M Revanth Reddy Has Made History With Commitment to Osmania University - TPCC

General Secretary Chanagani Dayakar

TPN Bureau | Dec 10, 2025

Chanagani Dayakar, the General Secretary of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC), released a statement filled with effusive praise for Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, unequivocally asserting that the CM has secured a place for himself in the state's "history" (charithra lo nilichhaadu) through his visionary decisions and unwavering commitment to Osmania University (OU).

Dayakar highlighted the monumental nature of the CM's intervention at the century-old institution, which was previously burdened by numerous deep-seated issues and financial neglect.

The TPCC General Secretary emphasized that the Chief Minister has successfully "completely removed the whirlpool of problems" (sudi gundaanu poorthigaa thol aginchaaru) that had plagued the 100-year-old university. Furthermore, he painted a stark contrast between the university's past and its promising future, describing how OU was previously "empty without funds" (nidhulu leka

bosipoyina OU) but is now set to be showered with "wealth" (sirulu kuripinchaaru) under the CM's direction. This transformation from a struggling, debt-ridden institution to one overflowing with resources is cited as a defining achievement of the current administration's focus on education.

Dayakar stressed the historical significance of the CM's focus on OU, stating that the honor Revanth Reddy has received is one that "no one has achieved in the past 75 years" (75 yella nundi evariki dhakkani gouravam), placing his achievement within the context of the entire post-independence era. The core of this praise is anchored in the CM's recent announcement of a monumental 1,000 crore development package for Osmania University. Dayakar enthusiastically declared that this massive investment initiative has provided "direction and a new destiny" (dasha dis-hani maarchindi) for the development of OU, positioning it for revolutionary growth and change after years of neglect.

# KTR Slams Congress 'Murder Politics' in Tungaturthi After BRS Worker Killed

TPN Bureau | Dec 10, 2025

BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) expressed severe outrage over what he termed the "murder politics" being conducted by the Congress party in the Tungaturthi constituency of Suryapet district. He strongly condemned the violent attack on BRS cadres in Lingampalli village, Nutankal mandal, which occurred in the run-up to the Panchayat elections. KTR expressed profound shock over the death of BRS worker Uppula Mallaiah in the attack. KTR warned, "The resort to physical attacks out of fear of losing elections through democratic means is proof of the

Congress party's moral degradation. The BRS party will in no circumstance tolerate the anarchy perpetrated by Congress hooligans fueled by the intoxication of power."

KTR confirmed that approximately 70 Congress activists allegedly launched a brutal and indiscriminate attack using sticks and stones, specifically targeting BRS leaders and workers in Lingampalli village last night. In the violent incident, Uppula Mallaiah lost his life, and at least 15 other BRS workers, including BRS Mandal President Munna Mallaiah Yadav, sustained severe injuries. Immediately upon learning of

the incident, KTR spoke via phone with former Minister G. Jagadish Reddy and local former MLA Gaddari Kishore to ascertain the ground realities. KTR reassured the party workers and leaders, promising that the BRS party would stand firmly with every worker and leader who works for the party, urging them not to lose heart. He further guaranteed that the party would provide all necessary support to the deceased worker's family and the injured. KTR demanded that the police take immediate and stringent action against the attackers and ensure that justice is delivered to the victims without delay.



## BRS Worker Killed in Congress Mob Attack Ahead of Panchayat Poll

TPN Bureau | Dec 10, 2025

Tension escalated in Lingampalli village, Nutankal mandal, Suryapet district, following a violent clash between supporters of the Congress and BRS parties, resulting in the death of a BRS worker just hours before the commencement of the first phase of Gram Panchayat elections. According to local reports and police, a scuffle between the two political groups tragically escalated into a brutal attack on Wednesday. Nearly 70 Congress workers allegedly assaulted BRS activists using sticks and stones. The BRS activist, Uppula Mallaiah, who

sustained severe, life-threatening injuries, died while being transported to Hyderabad for advanced medical treatment. At least 15 other BRS workers, including BRS Mandal President Munna Mallaiah Yadav, were also seriously injured in the violence. BRS leaders have publicly accused the Congress cadres of instigating the attack, driven by the fear of defeat in the impending Sarpanch election. The violent incident prompted an immediate and heavy deployment of police forces across the village to prevent any further escalation. The incident has heightened tensions significantly ahead of polling in the surrounding mandals, including Suryapet, Atmakur, Nutankal, Maddirala, Tungaturthi, Arvapalli, Nagarajam, and Tirumalgiri. The violence occurred despite repeated security warnings from Suryapet SP Narasimha, who had deployed additional forces in anticipation of trouble, particularly given that a former Sarpanch was murdered in the same village last year. Police have confirmed that additional forces have been stationed across all sensitive areas to maintain law and order and ensure the peaceful conduct of the elections.

## 90% of Unanimous Panchayat Victories are Congress Backed: PCC President

TPN Bureau | Dec 10, 2025, PCC President

Maresh Kumar Goud announced on December 10, 2025, that a total of 15% of the seats in the local body elections have resulted in unanimous victories. He highlighted that an overwhelming 90% of these unanimous winners are candidates supported by the Congress party. Speaking to reporters at Gandhi Bhavan on Tuesday, the PCC President asserted that the Congress administration is paving the way for the 'Gram Swarajya' envisioned by Mahatma Gandhi. He noted a positive trend where

educated youth, driven by a desire to serve their hometowns, are actively competing in the Panchayat elections. Goud cited the example of his own village, Rahat Nagar, where an ST candidate, Tirupati, was unanimously elected despite the seat being in the open category. Addressing political controversies, Goud criticized the BRS party for creating a fuss over the Congress government's plans to install the Telangana Talli statues in the Secretariat within a year of coming to power, and subsequently in all districts.

## KTR Slams CM Revanth Reddy in Siricilla Over Unfulfilled Poll Promises

TPN Bureau | Dec 10, 2025

BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) stated in Siricilla on December 10, 2025, that the people wish to see BRS chief KCR return as Chief Minister and are eagerly awaiting the next Assembly elections. During his visit, KTR participated in an outreach program, 'Atmiya Bharosa,' specifically for auto drivers, where he distributed insurance bonds. KTR fiercely criticized Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, accusing him of deceiving

the public despite making promises under oath to the gods. KTR pointed out that the promised 2 lakh farm loan waiver requires 50,000 crores, yet the government only waived loans worth 12,000 crores, benefiting just 25% of the farmers.

KTR directly challenged CM Revanth Reddy, questioning the status of the two lakh jobs promised during the elections. He accused the CM of falsely claiming the jobs created during the BRS tenure as his own. KTR expressed anger that the

Chief Minister is still resorting to lies two years after assuming power, and he furiously charged the CM with giving "420 promises" but failing to implement a single one. This visit is part of the BRS's continuous efforts in opposition, which has been

## Harish Rao Slams Global Summit as 'Utter Flop' and 'Real Estate Expo'

TPN Bureau | Dec 10, 2025

Former Minister T. Harish Rao launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, labeling the recently concluded Global Summit as an "utter flop" show executed at the cost of crores, built on "fabricated stories" of investment. Harish Rao lashed out at the government's Vision Document, stating it lacks both a 'Vision' and a 'Mission' to achieve any goals, calling it a 'Visionless Document.' He accused Revanth Reddy, who often speaks of 'Cure, Pure, and Rare,' of being the 'Chor' (thief) who is looting Telangana. Harish Rao alleged that the Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) signed at the summit involve "dark agreements and numerical trickery," offering nothing beneficial to the public. He challenged the Chief Minister to issue a White Paper detailing exactly how many crores of investments, how many companies grounded, and how many jobs for Tel-



angana youth resulted from the multiple countries and summits he has attended and hosted over the last two years. Harish Rao called the poor attendance, noting that none of the 18 invited Chief Ministers or 5,000 foreign delegates attended, only the CM's partner D.K. Shivakumar, forcing the use of MBA students and Congress workers as attendees. Harish Rao accused the government of initiating a new "Real Estate Scam" following the alleged scams in power and liquor, by creating a beautiful narrative around the 'Future City' at Pharma City land to promote real estate development towards the 'Fourth City,' claiming that lands were bought by the CM's benamis beforehand. He also questioned the status of the 40,232 crore investment from the January 2024 Davos visit, the AI Global Summit MoUs, and the 1.78 lakh crore investment announced after the January 2025 Davos trip, demanding transparency. He warned that the government's "trash policies" are causing Hyderabad-based pharma companies like Sigachi Industries and Virupaksha Organics to shift to Andhra Pradesh, showing that development achieved under KCR is being destroyed for commissions and shares. Harish Rao also raised concerns about the CM rolling out the red carpet for Adani and Ambani's representatives, contradicting Rahul Gandhi's views, and questioned the MoUs signed with Karan Adani after the controversy over a previous 100 crore donation check was returned.

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## Kavitha Slams Kukatpally MLA for Personal Attacks, Focuses on Public Issues

TPN Bureau | Dec 10, 2025, Telangana Jagruthi President Kavitha responded to the personal attacks made against her by Kukatpally MLA A Madhavarao Krishna Rao, stating on December 10, 2025, that his actions "betray his frustration." Speaking to the media on Wednesday, Kavitha promised to provide a detailed explanation with evidence to counter all the allegations made by the MLA.

She clarified that she had merely highlighted the problems that have existed in Kukatpally for the past 15 years. She asserted that she would not be affected by the MLA's words and that the people are observing everything. Kavitha announced that her 'Jagruti Janam Baata' (Jagruti's Path to the People) program would tour Hyderabad district for five days, focusing on public issues. As part of the initiative, she visited the Boinpally Government School in Cantonment today. While acknowledging that the school was improved under the 'Maana Ooru - Mana Badi' program, she noted the critical missing infrastructure, specifically

the lack of a compound wall and CCTV cameras, which she pledged her organization would provide. She also pointed out that the Anganwadi Centre operating within the school lacked helper staff. The 'Janam Baata' program is centered on two key areas: education and health (Vidya, Vaidyam), inspecting the basic facilities in schools and hospitals. Additionally, the initiative is collecting data on issues faced by people without houses or house plots. Kavitha stated that Jagruthi will address the problems within its capacity as an organization and put pressure on the

government to resolve the remaining issues. She also announced scholarships from Jagruthi for the top ten students. She concluded by stating that since the opposition is apathetic and the ruling party is neglecting concerns, Jagruthi is acting as the voice of the people (Janam Galam).



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# Atrrium Injection Death Case Solved: Five Arrested, Including Hospital MD and Staff

TPN Bureau | Dec 10, 2025

The Chandrayangutta Police achieved a significant breakthrough in the case concerning the suspicious deaths of two auto drivers, Syed Irfan, aged 29, and Jhangir Khan, aged 25, who tragically collapsed and died after illegally consuming an Atrrium 25 mg anesthesia injection. The investigation led to the apprehension of five individuals, including three who were directly involved in the illegal procurement and administration of the drug, and two key staff members from ABS Hospital in

Chikkadpally, highlighting severe institutional negligence. The sequence of events on December 2, 2025, began when Irfan sought a "Terminate" injection, which he and Jhangir habitually used. Jhangir arranged for the drug through Yamjala Kalyan, who contacted Jarpati Shiva Shankar @ Chintu, the supplier. Shiva, unable to provide Terminate, sent photos of the stronger Atrrium 25 mg anesthesia vials, which Jhangir agreed to purchase for 2,000/-.

Late that night, near Farooq-e-Azam Masjid, the four met, and Irfan filled three syringes. After Irfan injected 1 ml into Saif Bin Akram, who immediately felt dizzy, Kalyan fled the scene. Moments later, Irfan and Jhangir took the remaining injections and collapsed into unconsciousness, leading to their deaths.

The subsequent investigation traced the source of the stolen controlled substance back to ABS Hospital. The accused, Choudhary Akash, a 23-year-old ward boy at the hospital, confessed that he stole a pack of four Atrrium 25 mg ampoules during his OT cleaning duties on November 26, 2025, but failed to secure

the remaining vials, creating the opportunity for Akash to steal the drugs. Similarly, Mohammed Vikaruddin (21), a Surgeon's Assistant, was also booked for contributing to the lapse in securing the medication. The hospital management was cited for violating the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act by failing to secure controlled drugs and not generating proper bills. The Addl. Dy Commissioner of Police, Sri K. Sreekanth, commended the efforts of the investigating team led by ACP A. Sudhakar and SHO R. Gopi.



## NPP Urges Youth to Join Politics to Combat Dynasty and Opportunism

TPN Bureau | Dec 10, 2025

Gavvala Bharath Kumar, the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana Coordinator for the National People's Party (NPP), made a powerful appeal to the youth, urging them to actively enter politics and dedicate themselves to the progress of the country. Speaking at an event in Hyderabad on December 10, 2025, held to welcome the National People's Party leaders, including National Youth President Nickey Nongkhaw and NPP National General Secretary Paking Bage, Bharath Kumar issued a stern warning against what he termed the corrosive influence of "opportunistic and dynasty politics," labeling them a grave threat to the na-



tion's future. He asserted that the youth must transform themselves from being mere vote banks into active and committed leaders. Bharath Kumar, who shared his own journey from a downtrodden background, expressed pride in addressing the Telangana youth and

paid tribute to the late former Speaker of India, P. A. Sangma, for his lifelong dedication to tribal and weaker communities.

Coinciding his address with International Human Rights Day, he called for concrete action to ensure that

equality is realized in practice, not just in rhetoric. Bharath Kumar sharply criticized established political parties for treating the younger generation solely as electoral commodities. He then meticulously outlined a platform of practical policy priorities strong-

ly supported by the NPP. These priorities are centered on public welfare and include measures to effectively control escalating education and medical fees, provision of better retirement and health benefits for all employees, ensuring retirement security for Anganwadi and ASHA workers, implementing reasonable working hours for police personnel, establishing crucial farm support centers, and ensuring the timely release of DA and PRC for government staff. Furthermore, he emphasized the party's commitment to providing free legal aid at the mandal level and enacting protections for contract and private-sector workers while addressing workplace stress.

## DCA Cracks Down on Illegal Drug Sales: 180 Medical Shops Receive Notices

TPN Bureau | Dec 10, 2025

The Drugs Control Administration (DCA), Telangana, executed a major, state-wide special drive on December 10, 2025, with the core objective of curbing the rampant and indiscriminate sale of critical prescription drugs, including habit-forming medicines, abortion kits, and antibiotics, in retail medical shops. The stringent inspection campaign focused primarily on verifying strict compliance with regulations concerning Schedule H and Schedule H1 drugs, ensuring that retail outlets dispensed these powerful medicines only upon presentation of a valid and legitimate prescription issued by a Registered Medical Practitioner (RMP). DCA officers emphasized the paramount importance of proper record-keeping, mandating the maintenance and immediate production of prescription registers, as well as purchase and sales bills for all drugs stocked. The drive was also aimed at detecting the stocking of expired



drugs and verifying that all prescription dispensing activities were conducted under the direct supervision of a Registered Pharmacist.

Following intensive inspections across the state, DCA officers uncovered widespread non-compliance, leading to the detection of severe violations in 180 retail medical shops. The recorded discrepancies were multi-faceted and alarming, including the unauthorized dispensing of Schedule H and Schedule H1 prescription medicines to customers without requiring a valid RMP prescription. Furthermore, shops were found stocking expired drugs, failing to maintain or produce mandatory prescription drug registers and sales records, and engaging in

## Tarnaka Development and OU Slum Crisis: Deputy Mayor Seeks 25 Crore Budget

TPN Bureau | Dec 10, 2025

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Deputy Mayor Smt. Mothe Srilatha Shoban Reddy, accompanied by TTIUC State President Sri Shoban Reddy, held a courtesy meeting with the Honorable Chief Minister of Telangana, Sri Revanth Reddy, during his visit to Osmania University (OU) on December 10, 2025.

The core purpose of the meeting was to formally present a detailed representation outlining several critical and long-standing issues severely impacting the residents of the Tarnaka Division and to urgently seek their resolution. The Deputy Mayor brought to the Chief Minister's attention the decades-old human crisis faced by thousands of families residing in approximately nine slum settlements that occupy nearly 90 acres of land within the Osmania University limits. She stressed that these fam-

ilies have suffered deteriorating living conditions for the past 70 years due to the lack of basic civic amenities, the continuous negligence of previous governments, and the withdrawal of essential facilities by the university administration.

Beyond the specific slum and hospital issues, the Deputy Mayor sought special attention for the overall developmental needs of the Tarnaka Division and requested the immediate allocation of a special budget of 25 crore dedicated entirely to infrastructure improvements, including crucial works on roads, drainage systems, street lighting, parks, and other essential civic amenities. The Chief Minister, in response to the comprehensive representation, assured the Deputy Mayor that he would immediately engage in discussions with the Vice-Chancellor to initiate appropriate and timely action to address the outlined demands.

## Brutal Murder Solved: Man Arrested for Stabbing Woman Who Rejected Him



TPN Bureau | Dec 10, 2025

The Warasiguda Police successfully solved a case of brutal murder that occurred on December 8, 2025, at Bapuji Nagar, Musheerabad, Secunderabad, with the apprehension of the accused, Dukka Uma Shanker, a 24-year-old tiles worker. The accused is now being produced before the Hon'ble Magistrate for judicial custody. The case was registered following a report by Smt. Jadaga Laxmi, the mother of the victim, Pavitra. The family, who migrated from Sriku-

lam for daily wage labor, had tentatively accepted a marriage proposal for Pavitra from Uma Shanker, their distant relative, a year prior. However, tragedy struck on December 8, when the complainant, her two daughters, and the accused were present in the house while the complainant's husband was at work. All of a sudden, Uma Shanker arrived without intimation and immediately began a heated argument, questioning Pavitra as to why they had traveled to Vijayawada recently without his knowledge or permission.

The situation violently

escalated when Pavitra rejected his aggressive questioning. In a fit of rage, Uma Shanker, who had brought a sharp-edged knife with the explicit intention to kill, violently stabbed the deceased Pavitra on the throat. After committing the heinous act, he fled the scene, discarding his phone and the murder weapon on the spot. The investigation team, under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner of Police, East Zone, immediately launched a search operation, meticulously utilizing CCTV footage, which provided crucial information regarding the accused's movements. On December 10, 2025, the team

successfully located and apprehended the accused as he was moving towards Skandagiri temple, Chikalgudlu. Upon questioning, Uma Shanker confessed his guilt, stating explicitly that he killed the deceased at her residence because she had rejected him. Following the confession, the Investigation Officer (I.O.) conducted a confessional-cum-seizure panchnama and successfully recovered a cash amount of 1,10,000/-, a Realme Smart Phone, and the deceased's wallet, which contained her SBI Rupay Card, Aadhaar Card, PAN Card, and Central Bank Rupay Card.

the highest rush commencing within the next two months. The ultimate objective behind this initiative is to actively discourage the use of private vehicles, thereby alleviating severe traffic congestion and reducing pervasive air pollution within the city. Transport Minister Sri Ponnambalam Prabhakar highlighted the corporation's primary goal:

to meet the transportation requirements of the public in sync with the city's continuous expansion. He emphasized that the comprehensive list of 373 colonies

was finalized based on extensive ground surveys and public requests. The Minister urged the public to rely on the safe RTC services, advising them against dependence on personal vehicles. For route information and real-time tracking, commuters are encouraged to utilize the 'TGSRTC Gamyam' app. The total 373 colonies are distributed with 243 in the Hyderabad Region (highest in Dilsukhnagar with 55) and 130 in the Secunderabad Region (highest in Jeedimetla with 36).

## TGSRTC Launches 'Hyderabad Connect' to 373 New Colonies

TPN Bureau | Dec 10, 2025

The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) has unveiled a major new operational plan, branded as 'Hyderabad Connect,' aimed at significantly enhancing public transportation services for residents in the rapidly expanding areas and new colonies across Hyderabad. The initiative, announced by Vice Chairman and Managing Director Sri Y. Nagireddy, IPS, following a high-level review meeting, is set to extend crucial bus connectivity to a total of

373 new colonies within the limits of the GHMC, with services commencing immediately this December. This substantial expansion follows extensive field surveys conducted by officials across 30 circles and 150 wards in the city's periphery to accurately identify the urgent transportation needs of the public. This strategic rollout is projected to benefit approximately 7,61,200 citizens residing in these newly connected colonies, addressing a long-standing gap in public transport infrastructure.

A key focus of the 'Hyderabad Connect' program is establishing direct bus routes from these colonies to major employment hubs, including Hi-Tec City, Gachibowli, the Financial District, and Uppal, specifically catering to the needs of office employees and software professionals. This improved connectivity is expected to result in significant savings in both travel time and cost for commuters. The program will be implemented in three distinct phases, with the first phase covering colonies experiencing

the highest rush commencing within the next two months. The ultimate objective behind this initiative is to actively discourage the use of private vehicles, thereby alleviating severe traffic congestion and reducing pervasive air pollution within the city. Transport Minister Sri Ponnambalam Prabhakar highlighted the corporation's primary goal:

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# Alprazolam Seized in Nizamabad; Two Arrested by Eagle Force

TPN Bureau | Dec 10, 2025, The Regional Narcotics Control Cell (RNCC), Nizamabad Team, of the EAGLE Force, Telangana, successfully apprehended two individuals and seized a significant quantity of illegal Alprazolam in Armoor town, Nizam-

bad Commissionerate. Based on reliable intelligence regarding the banned psychotropic substance, the RNCC sleuths maintained close surveillance in Armoor town for a week, specifically tracking the movements of suspect Ravutla Rama-

goud. Acting on the developing leads, the EAGLE Force team successfully apprehended two persons at a local toddy shop:

Ravutla Ramagoud @ Praneeth Goud (34, Real Estate) and Mosampally Ashok Goud (46, Toddy

Business). Following their confession, the team proceeded to the residence of a third individual, Ravutla Prashant Goud (40, Toddy Business), in Mahalakshmi Colony, Armoor, and successfully seized 500 grams of Alprazolam. However, the

main accused, Ravutla Prashant Goud, managed to evade capture and is currently absconding, with intensive efforts underway to trace and apprehend him immediately. The two arrested accused persons and the seized contraband have been

handed over to the Station House Officer (SHO), Armoor Town, for further legal action. The EAGLE Force issued an urgent appeal to the public of Telangana, urging them to remain highly vigilant against the illegal circulation of Alprazolam and other psy-

chotropic substances, emphasizing that their misuse poses a serious threat to public health and fuels organized crime.

The Force requested citizens to actively support law enforcement by promptly reporting

any information related to the illegal manufacture, possession, sale, or transport of narcotics via their Toll-Free Number (1908), WhatsApp (87126 71111), or email, underscoring the collective mission to build a "Drug-Free Telangana."

## District Collector Inspects Election Distribution Center in Ichoda



TPN Bureau | Dec 10, 2025, District Collector Rajarshi Shah conducted an inspection of the distribution center set up for the Gram Panchayat elections at the local Zilla Parishad High School in Ichoda Mandal, Adilabad District. The distribution center is specifically designed for the upcoming ordinary Gram Panchayat elections. During his visit, the District Collector provided several crucial instructions to the Returning Officers (ROs),

Presiding Officers (POs), and other employees participating in the election duties. He advised the staff that Master Trainers are available at the center to address any doubts or queries they may have regarding the electoral process. Collector Shah emphasized his strong desire for a peaceful election process and expressed hope that the voting would achieve 100% polling this time. He extended his sincere thanks and appreciation to every official involved in the election duties for their dedication and commitment. The inspection was attended by several key officials, including nodal Officer and SC Corporation Executive Director (ED) Manohar, Ichoda MPDOs Nagam Naresh and Ramarao, and Ichoda In-charge MRO Ramesh, among others. The visit ensured that all logistical and training arrangements for the election distribution were in place before the polling day.

## Young Innovator from Telangana Shines with Eco-Friendly Invention

TPN Bureau | Dec 10, 2025

Outstanding young talent from Telangana was showcased at the Global Summit Expo, where Gagan Chandra, a 10th-class student from the Social Welfare Residential School (TSWREIS) in Nagarkurnool, presented his innovative project. Gagan has successfully designed and built a 3-in-1 Hybrid Eco Cycle, an eco-friendly invention that demonstrates significant practical utility. The cycle is powered by three modes: solar energy, battery power, and traditional pedal power. It is capable of reaching a speed of up to 30 km/hr and incorporates modern security and utility features, including central locking and GPS tracking. A remarkable aspect of this invention is its affordability, as it was built at a low cost of just 25,000. The exhibition of Gagan Chandra's talent at the Telangana Rising Global Summit Expo was acknowledged as a source of pride for the region. This achievement highlights the continuous commitment of the Government of Telangana, under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Arumula, to encourage

young innovators and actively nurture the development of future technology leaders within the state's educational institutions.

5. SEC Rani Kumudini Briefs Media on Panchayat Poll Arrangements

TPN Bureau | Dec 10, 2025

State Election Commissioner (SEC) Rani Kumudini informed the media on December 10, 2025, that all necessary arrangements have been completed for the Panchayat elections polling scheduled for Thursday. Addressing the preparedness for the polls, she stated that matters concerning security and law and order are being managed and monitored by the police department. The SEC confirmed that the counting of votes will take place immediately after the completion of polling. Providing details on the election process so far, she revealed that a significant number of villages have seen unanimous elections, with 398 villages in the first phase and 495 villages in the second phase being elected unopposed. In terms of security and vigilance against illegal activities.

## Kishan Reddy Slams Telangana Govt Over Arrest of BJP Social Media Convener



TPN Bureau | Dec 10, 2025, Union Minister Kishan Reddy strongly condemned the Telangana government on December 10, 2025, asserting that the process of suppressing the voice of the opposition is continuing under the current Congress administration, just as it did under the previous BRS government. The Union Minister criticized the government for conducting a Global Investment Summit in Hyderabad while simultaneously claiming to uphold simple policies

and rule of law. He pointed out the hypocrisy in the arrest of the BJP Telangana Social Media Convener late at night. The arrest was made because the government reportedly could not tolerate a poster that starkly highlighted the government's failures. Kishan Reddy questioned the state government's actions, asking, "How do such on-e-sided arrests enhance Telangana's credibility?" He warned that if potential investors perceive the state as being governed by an intolerant, dictatorial regime that suppresses dissenting voices, they would be hesitant to come forward with investments. He concluded that the people of Telangana would not forgive these dictatorial tendencies. Separately, N. V. Subhash, the Chief Official Spokesperson for the BJP Telangana State, issued a statement on Tuesday, vehemently condemning the police for the "unjust arrest" of BJP Social Media State Convener Sumiran along with Komatraju and Saikiran Goud.

## Police Complete Robust Security Arrangements for Phase I Panchayat Elections

TPN Bureau | Dec 10, 2025

District Superintendent of Police (SP) Akhil Mahajan, IPS, announced that the district police system has completed stringent and comprehensive security arrangements for the Gram Panchayat elections. The first phase of elections will be held across six Mandalas in the district, covering 166 villages with 225 polling stations, supported by 39 clusters and 34 routes. The SP confirmed that a robust police force of 938 personnel has been deployed across the district for effective security coverage. SP Mahajan personally led Flag Marches in 38 villages, educating the public on the importance of the right to vote

and urging them to vote fearlessly and not succumb to inducements. Effective immediately, Section 144 (163 BNSS) is in force around all polling stations to prevent unlawful assembly, disturbances, or riots, and the public is urged to vote peacefully and return home promptly. So far, 598 individuals who were identified as potential trouble-makers or likely to cause election-related disturbances have been bound over under legal provisions. Additionally, 20 weapons held by individuals in the district have been deposited safely with the authorities in preparation for the polls. The security deployment involves personnel from various forces, including

the Forest Department, TGSAP, and ACTPC staff. The bandobust strategy includes setting up security forces at Polling Stations, Clusters, Route Mobiles, Striking Forces, and Special Striking Forces to ensure a peaceful atmosphere. Of the 128 Critical Polling Locations (40 in Phase I), special party forces are deployed. Furthermore, communication systems (VHF sets) have been installed in 31 Shadow Areas (10 in Phase I) where regular communication networks are weak. The overall bandobust is managed by three Additional SPs, four DSPs, 21 CIs, and 48 SIs, along with women staff, Home Guards, and other armed personnel. Strict rules



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# Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Electoral Rolls in India: An Explanatory Overview



The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls is a key initiative undertaken by the Election Commission of India (ECI) to ensure the accuracy, inclusivity, and integrity of voter lists across the country. While routine electoral roll updates—known as summary revisions—are conducted annually, the SIR is a far more comprehensive, time-bound exercise involving house-to-house verification of voters. Typically, it is conducted ahead of major elections to eliminate errors, include eligible citizens, and remove duplicates, deceased persons, and other ineligible entries. The process underscores India's commitment to democratic fairness and reflects the increasing emphasis on data-driven governance in electoral processes.

the ECI to conduct a "special revision of the electoral roll," which forms the statutory basis for SIR.

4. Registration of Electors Rules, 1960: Lays down procedural guidelines for voter enrolment and revision. Although the term "Special Intensive Revision" is not explicitly mentioned in these rules, it has evolved as a distinct, large-scale revision methodology combining summary updates and full enumeration features.

This legal framework establishes both the authority and responsibility of the ECI to conduct intensive voter verification exercises to safeguard the principle of "one person, one vote."

#### Objectives of Special Intensive Revision



The primary aim of SIR is to maintain accuracy, inclusion, and legitimacy in India's electoral system. Its objectives can be categorized as follows:

1. **Accuracy:** Remove duplicates, deceased voters, ineligible entries, and incorrect information to ensure the roll reflects the real electorate.

2. **Inclusion:** Incorporate all eligible citizens, particularly first-time voters, migrants, and previously excluded individuals.

3. **Demographic Adjustment:** Reflect the impact of urbanization, migration, and newly eligible voters (18+), ensuring rolls match contemporary demographic realities.

4. **Legitimacy and Public Trust:** Strengthen confidence in elections by ensuring transparency and fairness in

voter registration.

5. **Pre-Election Preparedness:** Clean rolls help reduce litigation, streamline polling logistics, and facilitate smooth elections, including booth allocation and resource planning.

#### Special Intensive Revision Process

The SIR follows a structured, multi-phase process designed to ensure thorough verification and minimal exclusion:

1. **Notification and Planning:** The ECI issues a formal notification specifying the qualifying date for eligible voters. For instance, in Bihar's 2025 SIR, the qualifying date was 1 July 2025, ensuring all citizens turning 18 by 1 October 2025 were eligible.

2. **House-to-House Enumeration:** Booth Level Officers (BLOs) visit each household within their assigned polling area. Pre-filled enumeration forms are distributed to existing voters, and new eligible residents are encouraged to submit their details.

3. **Submission of Documents:** To strengthen verification, voters registered after a previous revision cutoff (e.g., January 2003 in Bihar) are required to submit proof of date and place of birth, as well as parentage information. This is stricter than routine procedures.

4. **Verification, Additions, and Deletions:** Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) scrutinize submissions, identify deceased persons, duplicates, and ineligible voters for deletion, while simultaneously processing new inclusions. In Jaipur, for example, 741 new polling booths were created to accommodate demographic changes revealed by the SIR.

5. **Draft Roll Publication and Objections:** A draft electoral roll is published for public scrutiny. Citizens can raise objections, and a grievance redressal mechanism addresses disputes. In the Bihar SIR, the Supreme Court mandated publication of deleted names to maintain transparency.

6. **Final Roll Constitution:** After processing objections and completing verifications, the final electoral roll is published and frozen for the forthcoming election. Only special cases warrant later adjustments.

#### Key Features of SIR

SIR is distinguished from routine updates by several unique features:

1. **Comprehensive Household Focus:** Unlike summary revisions, every household is contacted for verification.

2. **Time-Bound Execution:** The process is carried out within a fixed schedule, especially ahead of major elections.

3. **Special Focus on Marginalized Groups:** Emphasis is placed on migrants, youth, first-time voters, and persons

with disabilities.

4. **Digital Integration:** Tools such as SMS alerts, online portals, and mobile applications facilitate efficient enumeration.

5. **Stricter Document Verification:** Voters added post-last intensive revision must provide documentary proof, ensuring authenticity and reducing fraud.

#### Case Study: Bihar SIR 2025

Bihar's 2025 SIR provides a practical insight into the scale and complexity of such exercises:

• Over 8 crore voters were subjected to re-verification.

• Approximately 4 lakh volunteers and BLOs were mobilized.

• Voters registered after January 2003 were required to provide proof of birth and parentage.

• The Supreme Court directed public disclosure of deleted names, ensuring transparency.

• Booth rationalization included creating new polling stations to accommodate demographic changes, improving access and reducing crowding.

• Civil society organizations, such as the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), raised concerns regarding potential exclusion due to strict documentation requirements.

• Booth rationalization included creating new polling stations to accommodate demographic changes, improving access and reducing crowding.

• Political Controversy:

Opposition parties often raise concerns that SIR may be used to manipulate voter lists for electoral advantage. The Bihar SIR witnessed PIL challenges in the Supreme Court on this ground.

#### The Role of the Election Commission and State Officials

Election Commission of India (ECI)

The ECI supervises the SIR at a national level. Its responsibilities include:

• Issuing notifications and schedules.

• Supervising house-to-house verification and document scrutiny.

• Overseeing grievance redressal and final roll publication.

• Ensuring inclusion of all eligible voters and elimination of errors, under its constitutional authority.

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO)

The CEO of each state or union territory executes SIR locally, coordinating:

• District Election Officers, Electoral Registration Officers, and Booth Level Officers.

• Staff training and mobilization of volunteers.

• Public awareness campaigns.

• Data collection, moni-

#### Challenges and Criticisms

Despite its benefits, SIR is not without challenges:

1. **Risk of Disenfranchisement:** Demanding additional documents may inadvertently exclude legitimate voters, particularly the poor, migrants, and marginalized groups.

2. **Timing Issues:** Conducting SIR immediately before elections can create confusion and allegations of political bias.

3. **Procedural Ambiguity:** The term "Special Intensive Revision" lacks explicit mention in existing rules, sometimes causing legal disputes.

4. **Resource Constraints:** Implementing house-to-house enumeration at scale requires substantial manpower, training, and technological support.

5. **Digital Divide:** Rural, low-literate, or remote citizens may struggle with online submissions and digital verification.

6. **Political Controversy:** Opposition parties often raise concerns that SIR may be used to manipulate voter lists for electoral advantage. The Bihar SIR witnessed PIL challenges in the Supreme Court on this ground.

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## SIR ROW: RAHUL GANDHI LEADS THE PROTEST



toring, and reporting to the ECI.

#### SIR and Upcoming Elections: 2025-26 Roll Revision

Following Bihar's SIR, the ECI has initiated the next phase across 12 states and Union Territories, including Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, and Puducherry. Key features:

1. Over 51 crore voters will be covered.

2. The process began on 4 November 2025, with the final roll to be released on 7 February 2026.

3. Voter eligibility proof includes 13 types of documents, including Aadhaar cards—a reform introduced after Bihar's SIR experience.

4. Assam is excluded due to the ongoing NRC exercise.

5. This phase represents one of India's largest voter verification drives since 2002, highlighting the SIR's increasing scale and technological integration.

#### Way Forward: Strengthening the SIR Process

To improve the effectiveness and fairness of SIR, several reforms are suggested:

1. **Clear Legal Guidelines:** Detailed rules on timelines, documentation, and inclusion criteria can reduce disputes.

2. **Minimal Documentation Barriers:** Avoid blanket demands for documents unless justified to prevent disenfranchisement.

3. **Technology Integration:** Use mobile apps, GIS mapping, and online grievance portals to enhance efficiency and transparency.

4. **Targeted Inclusion**

With reforms emphasizing legal clarity, inclusivity, technology integration, and stakeholder participation, SIR can ensure that India's electoral rolls remain robust, credible, and reflective of its diverse population, thereby upholding the principle of "one person, one vote" at the heart of its democracy.



#### Benefits of SIR

The SIR delivers multiple advantages for India's electoral system:

1. **Reduces Ghost Voters:** Removing duplicates and outdated entries improves the fairness and credibility of elections.

2. **Reflects Demographic Changes:** Migration, urbanization, and population growth are accurately represented.

3. **Increases Inclusivity:** Marginalized populations, youth, and migrants are incorporated into the voter list.

4. **Enhances Transparency and Trust:** Citizens' confidence increases when they see a robust, inclusive voter roll.

5. **Optimizes Election Logistics:** Clean rolls help plan polling stations, reduce ballot errors, and streamline polling operations.

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# SHAH-RAHUL CLASH DOMINATES LOKSABHA DEBATE ON ELECTORAL REFORMS



A heated confrontation between Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi took centre stage in the Lok Sabha during a crucial debate on electoral reforms on Wednesday. What began as a discussion on voter list revisions quickly spiralled into a sharp personal and political duel, marked by historical references, barbed accusations, and an eventual Opposition walkout.

The flashpoint arose when Gandhi interrupted Shah's address and challenged him to debate the allegations he had raised in recent press conferences regarding irregularities in electoral rolls. These press conferences—one infamously described by Gandhi as a “Hydrogen Bomb”—had accused the government and the Election Commission of facilitating “vote chori” or vote theft.

**Shah Hits Back:**  
“Parliament Will Not Run on Your Wishes”

Shah, visibly irritated by Gandhi's repeated interjections, firmly rejected the Opposition leader's challenge and accused him of at-

## Shah Revives Historical Attacks on Nehru-Gandhi Family

“I have been elected to legislative assemblies and Parliament for 30 years,” Shah said. “The Leader of the Opposition says he wants me to answer this or that first. Let me make this very clear: Parliament will not work based on your wishes. I will decide the order in which I say things. He should listen patiently. Everything will be answered, but he cannot determine my speech.”

Gandhi retorted that Shah's stance was “defensive and fearful,” insisting that the minister had avoided responding to why the government had granted immunity to Election Commissioners for actions taken during their tenure. He accused Shah of “cherry-picking” issues and sidestepping the core allegations he had raised publicly.

Shah refused to be baited, saying he would not respond to “provocations,” and countered that “vote chori” truly occurs when public mandates are violated—a veiled reference to previous Congress governments.

tempting to dictate the flow of Parliamentary proceedings.

seding senior judges to appoint a more favourable Chief Justice, calling it another example of manipulating democratic processes.

He also repeated the long-standing allegation that Sonia Gandhi had once voted before she became an Indian citizen. As Congress MPs objected loudly, Shah maintained, “I have merely stated a fact.”

## The Voter List Battle and EVM Criticism

Shah also targeted the Opposition for what he termed hypocritical criticism of electoral rolls. “The voter lists are absolutely fine when you win,” he said mockingly. “You wear new clothes and take oath. But when you fall flat, like in Bihar, suddenly the voter list becomes a problem. These double standards will not fly.” He defended the government's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, arguing that its purpose was to update the lists and remove ineligible or illegal entries. He accused the Opposition of resisting the exercise to “ensure illegal immigrants remain on voter lists.”

Continuing the attack, Shah accused Indira Gandhi of super-

mently rejected this claim, arguing that their objections stem from a lack of transparency in EVM architecture and discrepancies in voter databases.

## Opposition Walks Out; Gandhi Slams “Non-Answers”

As Shah continued to speak, Opposition MPs—led by the Congress—staged a dramatic walkout. Outside Parliament, Gandhi told reporters that the Home Minister had delivered a “defensive speech” and failed to address any of the substantive issues raised by the Opposition.

“He did not speak about transparent voter lists, he did not clarify concerns regarding EVM architecture, and he ignored the solid evidence we placed in our press conferences,” Gandhi said. “Instead, he indulged in diversions and personal attacks.”

The heated exchange underscored the widening gulf between the government and the Opposition on electoral reforms—an issue likely to dominate political discourse in the months ahead, as the nation braces for upcoming elections.

## MODI-RAHUL'S MEETING TRIGGERS BUZZ; ITS ON CIC APPOINTMENTS



An unusually long 88-minute meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Thursday sparked intense speculation across Parliament, currently in session for the Winter sittings. The interaction, originally scheduled to discuss the appointment of a new Chief Information Commissioner (CIC), extended well beyond the expected duration, leaving MPs curious about whether the discussion broadened into other political matters.

As per the Right to Information (RTI) Act, appointments to the Central Information Commission, Election Commission, and certain Vigilance posts are decided by a high-level committee consisting of the Prime Minister, one Union minister nominated by him, and the Leader of the Opposition. For this meeting, Union Home Minister Amit Shah was the nominated minister.

Rahul Gandhi arrived at the Prime Minister's Office at 1 pm, and the meeting began shortly after at 1:07 pm. As the clock ticked past an hour, murmurs began spreading through both Houses of Parliament.

These selection meetings are typically brief, usually lasting not more than 20 to 30 minutes.

When Gandhi exited the meeting after nearly an hour and a half, it was confirmed that the deliberations went beyond the CIC position. The committee had also discussed the appointments of eight Information Commissioners and one Vigilance Commissioner—a significant number given the current staffing crisis within the Central Information Commission.

Sources later indicated that Rahul Gandhi objected to all the rec-

ommended appointments, and submitted his objections in writing. Such objections, however, are not unprecedented. Opposition representatives, including Mallikarjun Kharge and Gandhi himself in earlier years, have routinely recorded their dissent on grounds of transparency and suitability.

The Central Information Commission is currently functioning with severe resource shortages. Since the retirement of Chief Information Commissioner Hiralal Samariya on September 13, the CIC has been without a

chief. Only two Information Commissioners—Anandi Ramalingam and Vinod Kumar Tiwari—remain on duty, resulting in a heavy backlog of cases.

According to official figures on the CIC website, the commission is currently burdened with 30,838 pending appeals and complaints, a number that has been rising steadily due to vacant positions. Information Commissioners play a critical role in enforcing the RTI Act, and delays in hearings have slowed down the flow of information to citizens.

Under Section 12(3) of the RTI Act, the com-

mittee chaired by the Prime Minister is responsible for recommending names for appointment as the Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners. Once selected, the names are forwarded to the President for approval.

Although sources close to the government maintain that the 88-minute discussion stayed within the defined agenda of appointments, the unusually long meeting gave rise to speculation among MPs and observers. With Parliament witnessing heated exchanges over electoral reforms, institutional appointments, and accountability, many wondered whether the leaders also touched upon the ongoing controversies surrounding electoral processes.

Neither the PMO nor the Congress issued any additional comment on the meeting's content.

With the Winter Session entering a critical phase, the prolonged Modi-Rahul meeting—coupled with Gandhi's written objections—has added a new layer of political intrigue to an already tense parliamentary atmosphere.

## Goa Nightclub Inferno Probe Reveals Escape Trail, Fake SIM, Missing Luxury Cars



In a significant development in the ongoing investigation into the December 6 nightclub inferno in Goa—a tragedy that claimed at least 25 lives—authorities have uncovered evidence suggesting that two of the establishment's owners attempted to flee the country even as rescue efforts were underway.

According to investigators, brothers Saurabh and Gaurav Luthra, co-owners of Birch by Romeo Lane in Arpora, logged into the MakeMyTrip booking platform at 1:17 AM on December 7, a time when firefighters and police teams were still battling the blaze and searching for trapped victims.

Records indicate the duo swiftly booked tickets and later boarded IndiGo flight 6E 1073 from Delhi to Phuket, departing at 5:30 AM the same morning—less than five hours after the fire was first reported.

The brothers' flight to Thailand has raised serious concerns about deliberate evasion.

“He did not speak about transparent voter lists, he did not clarify concerns regarding EVM architecture, and he ignored the solid evidence we placed in our press conferences,” Gandhi said. “Instead, he indulged in diversions and personal attacks.”

The heated exchange underscored the widening gulf between the government and the Opposition on electoral reforms—an issue likely to dominate political discourse in the months ahead, as the nation braces for upcoming elections.

Authorities have also expanded their search for a fourth co-owner, Surinder Kumar Khosla, a British national who is currently under an LOC. Officials believe his cooperation will be crucial to reconstructing the events leading up to the blaze and understanding discrepancies in the nightclub's operations.

New revelations have surfaced regarding a mobile number used by the Luthras.

Investigators discovered that the SIM card associated with their communications was registered in the name of Ram Hari Singh, a former driver employed by the family. When an NDTV team visited the address linked to the number, Singh was absent. Later reached by phone, Singh

confirmed that he worked as a driver for Saurabh Luthra for two years before being dismissed during the 2020 COVID-19 lockdown. He stated he has had no contact with the family since then and had no knowledge that any SIM card was issued using his identity.

Further suspicions have arisen over the Luthras' vehicles. Sources indicate the brothers owned three cars until 2020, but by the time of their escape, they were believed to possess over four luxury cars—all of which are now missing. Investigators are examining whether the vehicles were hidden or relocated deliberately prior to the brothers' departure for Thailand.

The family's recently constructed, multi-crore residence in Goa presents a similar picture of abandonment. When police entered the property following the fire, it was found completely deserted except for a lone dog.

As the probe deepens, authorities are piecing together what increasingly appears to be a coordinated effort to evade accountability. The Goa Police, bolstered by central agencies, continue to pursue all leads as pressure mounts to bring the fugitives back to India and deliver justice to the victims of one of the state's deadliest nightclub tragedies.

## SUPREME COURT'S 30% WOMEN'S QUOTA FOR BAR COUNCILS WELCOMED, BUT COMPLIANCE FEARS LOOM



The Supreme Court's landmark direction mandating 30 percent reservation for women in State Bar Councils has been widely welcomed as a long-awaited reform in the legal profession. However, despite the general optimism, several senior women advocates have raised concerns about whether State Bar Councils will fully comply with the spirit and letter of the order.

On Monday, the Supreme Court ordered that 30 percent of the seats in every State Bar Council must be reserved for women. Of these, 20 percent will be filled through direct elections, while 10 percent may be filled through co-option, particularly where the number of eligible candidates is insufficient. The Court also directed that councils must proactively submit co-option proposals when required.

The move is being hailed as a significant push toward gender equity in legal governance structures, long criticised for being dominated by entrenched male leadership. Yet, legal experts warn that without strict monitoring, the reform may remain symbolic.

Advocate Yogamay MG, one of the petitioners, expressed cautious optimism.

She warned that there is a real risk of the directive being diluted or delayed by councils reluctant to change existing power structures.

“Some State Bar Councils may try to postpone elections or introduce procedural hurdles. There is a real risk of delay or dilution,” she said.

She stressed that while the Bar Council of India (BCI) can coordinate the implementation, its “political na-

ture and internal interests” may make it difficult for the BCI alone to ensure strict compliance. Yogamay suggested a joint monitoring mechanism—with periodic compliance reports submitted to the Supreme Court, and the BCI handling the execution—to maintain uniformity and prevent delays across states.

Senior Advocate Mahalakshmi Pavani outlined other practical challenges: the possibility of token co-option, the uneven distribution of women lawyers across states, and potential resistance from entrenched power groups within the legal community.

She emphasised the need for “robust implementation” and urged the BCI to take proactive steps. “This order is a powerful key; now the lock must be turned,” she said, expressing faith in the leadership of the BCI.

Meanwhile, Advocate Pragya Baghel, Secretary of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), raised the issue of social perception and potential backlash. “People may think you came only via reservation,” she said, pointing to the prejudices women may face even after earning elected positions.

Responding to concerns that reservations might in-

advertently place unprepared candidates in leadership roles, Dr. Charu Mathur, counsel for the petitioners, said the reform opens long-denied doors. “Women will be more resilient—and at least the doors are now open,” she said.

However, Senior Advocate Nandini Gore, a partner at Karanjawala & Co and a prominent advocate for women's welfare in the judiciary, voiced a different concern: the possible emergence of proxy candidates. She warned that powerful members of the Bar may push their wives, daughters, or relatives to occupy the reserved seats merely to retain influence. “If such a situation arises, it would reduce these elected women to mere puppets,” she cautioned.

While the Supreme Court's order marks a transformative moment, advocates underline that its success lies not just in legislation but in transparent implementation, strict timelines, and active monitoring. Whether Bar Councils will rise to the challenge remains an important question for the future of gender equity in the legal profession.

## María Corina Machado's Daughter Accepts Nobel Peace Prize Amid Secrecy Over Opposition Leader's Whereabouts

Amid intense speculation and uncertainty, the daughter of Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado accepted the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize on her mother's behalf during a deeply emotional ceremony in Oslo on Wednesday. Machado, who has spent the past two years in hiding following Venezuela's disputed 2024 presidential election, was unable to attend despite earlier indications she would travel to Norway.

Machado was honoured for "her struggle to achieve a just and peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy" in Venezuela. The Nobel Institute confirmed she is "safe" and expected to arrive in Oslo later on Wednesday night or early Thursday morning—too late to participate in the ceremony.

Her daughter, Ana Corina Sosa, delivered a powerful speech to a packed hall that included members of Norway's royal family. At the start of her address, Sosa reflected on the personal toll of her mother's absence, describing the pain of not having seen her for two years. "As I wait for the moment to hug her, to kiss her, to embrace her... I think of the other daughters and sons who do not get to see their mothers," she said, her voice breaking.

Sosa then read the Nobel lecture written by Machado, who has remained a symbol of defiance in the face of Nicolás Maduro's government. The speech expressed profound hope for Venezuela's future. "Venezuelans will hug again. Fall in love again. Hear our streets fill with laughter and music," Sosa read. "All the simple joys the world takes for granted will be ours... Because in the end, our journey towards freedom has always lived inside us. We are returning to ourselves. We are returning home."

The audience responded with a standing ovation, reflecting the global solidarity Machado's struggle has inspired.

Machado has been in hiding since July 2024, when she rejected the results of Venezuela's presidential election—an election widely condemned



as fraudulent both domestically and internationally. After Maduro claimed victory, nationwide protests erupted, resulting in the arrest of around 2,000 people, including many from Machado's opposition coalition. Facing the threat of detention herself, Machado disappeared from public view but continued to give interviews and share messages online, urging her supporters not to give up.

Her last public appearance was in January, when she spoke at a rally denouncing Maduro's swearing-in for a third term. Her family—including two of her children and her mother—are already in Oslo, anxiously awaiting reunion after years of forced separation.

Speculation about her ability to attend the Nobel ceremony had intensified in recent months, especially amid reports that she faced a travel ban. In an audio recording shared by the Nobel Institute prior to the ceremony, Machado declared: "I will be in Oslo, I am on my way." But the secrecy surrounding her movements remained absolute. Nobel officials admitted they had no information about her precise whereabouts earlier in the day.

How Machado managed to leave her hiding place and travel toward Europe also remains unknown. Her supporters hope that her eventual arrival in Oslo will mark the beginning of renewed international pressure on the Maduro government.

For now, her Nobel Prize—accepted by her daughter—has injected fresh momentum into Venezuela's pro-democracy movement and reminded the world of the personal cost borne by those resisting authoritarian rule.

## South Korea Protests After Chinese and Russian Warplanes Enter Its Air Defence Zone



South Korea has lodged formal complaints with the Chinese and Russian defence attachés in Seoul after warplanes from both countries briefly entered its Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) on Tuesday. The incursion involved seven Russian and two Chinese military aircraft, prompting Seoul to scramble fighter jets as a precaution, though the planes did not violate South Korea's sovereign airspace, officials said.

According to South Korea's Ministry of Defence, its jets were deployed to "take tactical measures in preparation for any emergencies" after the foreign aircraft entered the zone. While some countries require foreign planes to identify themselves in their ADIZ, these zones are not considered sovereign airspace under international law.

The Russian aircraft entered the ADIZ near Ulleung Island and Dokdo, while the Chinese planes approached near Ieodo, a submerged rock off the South Korean island of Jeju, according to a Joint Chiefs of Staff official cited by South Korean media. Both sets of aircraft later regrouped near Japan's Tsushima Island.

"Our military will actively respond to aircraft activities from neighbouring countries in the Kadiz in compliance with international law," South Korea's defence ministry said on Wednesday when lodging the complaints.

The incident comes amid ongoing tensions over territorial claims in the region. Both South Korea and Japan claim sovereignty over Dokdo, while Ieodo is a point of contention between Seoul and Beijing. These islands have repeatedly been flashpoints for diplomatic and military friction, particularly as nations establish overlapping ADIZs.

China confirmed the deployment, describing it as part of a joint patrol with Russia in the East China Sea and

Western Pacific airspace. A national defence spokesman in Beijing said the exercise was part of an "annual cooperation plan" between Moscow and Beijing to address regional challenges and maintain regional peace and stability."

Such ADIZ incursions are not unprecedented. Since 2019, both Chinese and Russian military aircraft have entered South Korea's ADIZ without prior notification, often during joint exercises. Russia has consistently stated that it does not recognize South Korea's ADIZ, describing it as unilaterally established and asserting that it does not create legal obligations for other nations.

In March this year, South Korea also deployed fighter jets after several Russian aircraft flew into the ADIZ near Dokdo and Ulleung Island, highlighting the recurrent nature of these airspace tensions.

The issue underscores broader security challenges in Northeast Asia, where overlapping ADIZs and territorial disputes have become a feature of regional geopolitics. South Korea maintains that while foreign aircraft can traverse the ADIZ, notification and identification procedures are essential for preventing miscommunications.

Experts say such patrols by Russia and China serve multiple purposes: demonstrating military presence, testing South Korea's response, and signaling regional influence in the East China Sea and Western Pacific. With both nations increasingly cooperating on joint exercises, Seoul has stressed vigilance, while urging adherence to international norms to avoid escalation.

The Ministry of Defence emphasized that South Korea's responses remain defensive, and that the country is committed to monitoring and regulating its ADIZ in accordance with international law.

## US MAY REQUIRE TOURISTS TO SUBMIT FIVE-YEAR SOCIAL MEDIA HISTORY UNDER NEW PROPOSAL

In a move that could significantly reshape international travel to the United States, American authorities have proposed requiring tourists from dozens of countries—including the UK—to submit five years' worth of social media history as a condition for entry. The proposal, unveiled by US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), would apply to travellers eligible for visa-free entry under the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA).

The measure comes as President Donald Trump's administration intensifies efforts to tighten US borders, citing national security concerns. Analysts, however, caution that the plan could create new barriers for visitors, raise privacy concerns, and potentially harm travellers' digital rights.

Under the proposal, ESTA applicants would be required to disclose social media identifiers used over the past five years. Additional information requested would include telephone numbers used over the last five years, email addresses used over the last ten years, and ex-



panded details about family members. The proposal did not specify which platforms or additional account information travellers might need to provide.

Currently, the ESTA requires limited biographical data and a \$40 fee, allowing multiple entries into the US over a two-year period. The programme is available to citizens of approximately 40 nations, including the UK, Ireland, France, Japan, and Australia.

The policy shift is framed in reference to a January executive order titled "Protecting the United States From Foreign Terrorists and Other Na-

tional Security and Public Safety Threats." The Trump administration has already implemented similar social media disclosure requirements for applicants seeking student visas and H1B visas. Yet experts warn the new requirements could slow ESTA approvals and disrupt travel.

A State Department official defended the expanded scrutiny, stating that Americans expect their government to "make every effort to make our country safer." Visa-screening officers have been instructed to identify individuals who may support designated terrorist groups or engage in unlawful extremist activity.

The proposed change comes at a time when the United States anticipates a surge in international visitors for the 2026 FIFA World Cup—co-hosted with Mexico and Canada—and the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. Yet experts warn the new requirements could slow ESTA approvals and disrupt travel.

Sophia Cope of the Electronic Frontier Foundation criticised the plan, arguing it could "exacerbate civil liberties harms" and create disproportionate risks for travellers with politically sensitive online histories. Immigration law firm Fragomen cautioned that the proposal may lead to increased processing times and ad-

ministrative burdens. The measure also follows a broader tightening of US immigration and travel controls. Officials have recently signaled that the current travel ban affecting 19 countries across Africa, the Middle East, and the Caribbean may be expanded. That announcement came shortly after a shooting incident in Washington DC in which an Afghan national was identified as a suspect.

Travel industry analysts say such policies have already dampened tourism. According to the World Travel & Tourism Council, the US is the only economy among 184 surveyed expected to witness a decline in international visitor spending in 2025. Fall-out from trade tensions has also been felt, with many Canadians boycotting US travel in protest of Trump-era tariffs. October marked the tenth consecutive month of declining Canadian travel to the US; historically, Canadians have accounted for nearly a quarter of all foreign visitors, spending over \$20 billion annually.

The proposal will remain open for public comment for 60 days before a decision is finalised.

## European Sperm Donor With Hidden Cancer Gene Mutation Fathered Nearly 200 Children, Investigation Reveals

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 De-

fence 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," brokered by Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim. In October, a formal ceasefire ceremony was held in Malaysia, with former US 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. Cambo-

dia 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.

## Australia Enforces World's Strictest Social Media Ban for Children Under 16



Australia's unprecedented social media ban for children officially came into force on Wednesday, leaving many teenagers woken up to find their accounts disabled—while others boast they have already slipped past the new restrictions. The world's first law requires platforms including Meta, TikTok and YouTube to take "reasonable steps" to ensure no Australian under the age of 16 can hold an account, even with parental consent.

The Albanese government argues the sweeping ban is essential to shield

young people from harmful content, predatory algorithms and escalating online risks. Supporters say the policy marks a historic moment in global online safety reform. Critics warn it is unworkable, easily bypassed and could isolate vulnerable teenagers who rely on digital spaces for support.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, calling the day "one of the proudest of my leadership," said Australia was leading a global movement to rein in tech giants. "This is Australia showing enough is enough," he declared.

The Albanese govern-

ment first to fall under mandatory age restrictions. Others have been warned they will be added soon. Social media firms, not parents or children, face liability, with fines reaching up to A\$49.5 million (US\$33 million) for serious breaches.

Online Safety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant said compliance checks begin Thursday. "Tomorrow, I will issue information notices to the 10 major platforms," she said, adding that preliminary findings on how platforms are implementing age limits will be published before Christmas.

Countries from Denmark and Malaysia to Greece, Singapore and Brazil are monitoring the Australian rollout closely, as governments worldwide debate how to curb online harms without cutting off digital access.

Under the new law, ten major platforms—among them Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, X, YouTube and Snapchat—are the

first to fall under mandatory age restrictions. Others have been warned they will be added soon. Social media firms, not parents or children, face liability, with fines reaching up to A\$49.5 million (US\$33 million) for serious breaches.

But among teenagers, the reaction is far more negative. Many argue the ban removes their primary means of connection, especially for those who are LGBT+, neurodiverse or living in remote areas.

"My closest friend is 30km away, and the next is over 100km," said 15-year-old Breanna. "When our Snapchat is taken away, so is our communication."

Experts also warn the policy may push teenagers towards riskier online spaces or incentivise them to bypass age checks through VPNs, fake IDs or alternative platforms. Some parents say education and better moderation would have been more effective.

Sydney father-of-two Ian expressed the ambivalence felt by many adults: "There's a good idea behind it... But is this the right way to go about it? I'm not sure."

# Adani Green Sees Rs 2,778 Crore Block Deal; Institutional Investors Scoop Up Shares



Mumbai: Adani Green Energy witnessed a significant block deal worth Rs 2,778 crore on Wednesday, executed at Rs 970 per share, marking one of the largest secondary transactions in the renewable energy sector in recent months. The shares were sold by TotalEnergies Renewables, which offloaded approximately 2.86 crore shares.

The entire block was absorbed by a diverse mix of institutional investors,

mutual funds, family offices, and high-net-worth individuals, reflecting sustained investor interest in the Indian renewable energy space.

Among the major buyers, Quant Mutual Fund emerged as the largest purchaser, acquiring 1.23 crore shares. Other notable buyers included BNP Paribas Financial Markets, which picked up 15.49 lakh shares, Vanguard Emerging Markets Index Fund with 10.18 lakh

shares, and Edelweiss Mutual Fund, which added 10.30 lakh shares to its portfolio.

The deal underscores the strong institutional appetite for renewable energy companies, particularly those with robust project pipelines and international collaborations.

Adani Green, a key player in India's renewable energy sector, has been expanding rapidly, with an emphasis on solar and wind power projects

across the country.

Market analysts noted that the transaction reflects confidence in Adani Green's long-term growth prospects despite broader market volatility. "The absorption of this large block by high-quality institutional investors is a positive signal for the sector," said Anil Kumar, equity analyst at Prudent Capital. "It indicates that funds are willing to back renewable energy leaders that have strong execution capabilities and stable cash flows."

TotalEnergies' decision to sell the stake is seen as part of its strategic portfolio management, allowing the firm to reallocate capital to other international energy projects while still maintaining a long-term partnership with Adani Green. The French energy major had been a shareholder in Adani Green as part of its global renewable energy investments.

The deal comes amid a broader surge in institutional participation in India's renewable energy sector, driven by favorable government policies, increasing demand for green energy, and the country's ambitious net-zero targets by 2070. Mutual funds and

global investors have been actively seeking exposure to Indian renewable energy companies, attracted by policy stability, strong growth potential, and long-term contracts.

Shares of Adani Green reacted positively in the early trade on Wednesday, reflecting investor confidence following the block deal. Market participants noted that liquidity from such large block deals can improve the stock's trading profile and attract further institutional attention.

With this transaction, Adani Green strengthens its position in the market as one of India's leading renewable energy companies, backed by both domestic and international institutional investors. Analysts believe continued strategic partnerships and robust project execution could further enhance shareholder value in the medium to long term.

As India accelerates its transition toward renewable energy, block deals like this highlight the increasing role of institutional investors in supporting sustainable infrastructure while participating in one of the fastest-growing sectors of the economy.

## Federal Reserve Set for Third Rate Cut, But Future Moves Uncertain Amid Division

Washington, D.C.: Federal Reserve officials are widely expected to implement a third consecutive interest-rate cut on Wednesday, but signs point to this potentially being the last reduction for the near term. The US central bank faces internal divisions over the trajectory of monetary policy, driven by lingering inflation concerns and the risks of over-stimulating the economy.

Over the past 15 months, the Fed has cut its benchmark interest rate by a cumulative 1.5 percentage points, with two reductions coming this autumn alone. While these cuts were designed to support economic activity amid slowing growth, officials now caution that further reductions could push rates below a neutral level—the point at which monetary policy neither accelerates nor restrains economic expansion.

Several Fed policymakers have expressed the view that current rates are already close to neutral, raising concerns that additional cuts could overheat the

economy or exacerbate inflationary pressures. These differences are expected to produce a split decision at Wednesday's meeting, with analysts predicting as many as three dissents in favor of holding rates steady.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell faces the delicate task of forging consensus among officials with opposing perspectives. Some members of the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) believe the Fed remains slightly restrictive, while others see current policy as appropriately balanced. This divide is likely to make any clear forward guidance challenging, with Powell hesitant to signal further moves early next year.

Compounding the challenge is the absence of fresh economic data, a result of the recent government shutdown that lasted throughout October and much of November. Key statistics, including November labor market figures and inflation data, will not be released until December 16 and 18, respectively. Policymakers will

need to make decisions in the absence of current data, relying on older metrics and projections to guide policy.

"This leaves the Fed in this position of having to walk a fine line," said Diane Swonk, chief economist at KPMG. "They need to support the economy without overstimulating it, and the lack of timely data makes that an even more delicate balancing act."

Investors are watching closely, as the Fed's decisions have global ramifications, influencing currency markets, bond yields, and international capital flows. The prospect of a rate

pause after Wednesday's meeting could affect expectations for the US dollar and impact emerging markets that rely on dollar-denominated capital.

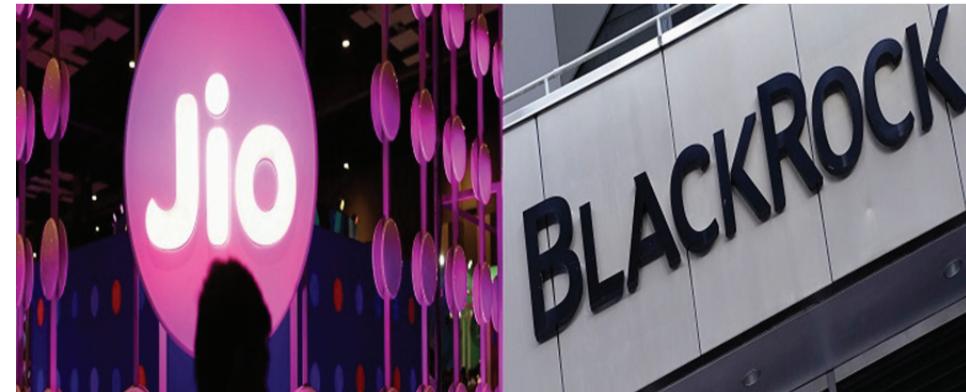
Economists note that while a third cut is expected, any commitment to future reductions will likely be conditional on incoming economic data. Inflation trends, consumer spending, and employment figures will play a decisive role in shaping the Fed's approach in early 2026.

Powell's public statements following the meeting are anticipated to emphasize flexibility and caution, underscoring the

Fed's focus on navigating a divided committee and a complex economic landscape. Market participants will also scrutinize the updated economic projections and the committee's "dot plot" forecasts, which indicate individual policymakers' expectations for future rate movements.

With inflation still above the Fed's target and economic growth showing signs of moderation, officials are expected to maintain a data-dependent approach, signaling that any further easing will be measured and contingent on evidence of slowing economic momentum.

## Jio Financial and BlackRock Pump Rs 229 Crore Each Into Digital Asset Management JV



Mumbai: Jio Financial Services and BlackRock, the world's largest asset manager, have jointly infused a total of Rs 458 crore into their 50:50 partnership, Jio BlackRock Asset Management, as the two companies step up efforts to establish a leading digital-first asset management platform in India.

Both partners subscribed to 22.9 crore shares each at a face value of Rs 10 per share, amounting to Rs 229 crore per entity through a rights issue. The capital infusion will primarily sup-

port the joint venture's business expansion, operational scaling, and technology-driven initiatives, positioning it to compete aggressively in the fast-growing Indian mutual fund and investment management sector.

The JV, formed in early 2024, is part of Jio Financial's broader ambition to leverage its digital ecosystem—which spans telecom, payments, and fintech services—to create a seamless platform for financial services. With BlackRock's global expertise in asset

management, the partnership aims to provide Indian investors with a mix of international investment products and locally tailored solutions.

The infusion is also expected to help the JV accelerate product development, enhance distribution channels, and strengthen its digital infrastructure to serve retail and institutional client segments, and this JV allows us to combine BlackRock's investment expertise with Jio's digital reach," the firm said.

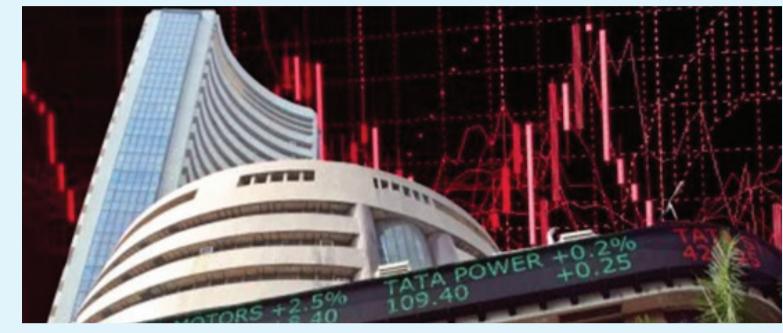
The Indian asset management sector has been expe-

riencing strong inflows, driven by growing retail participation, rising financial literacy, and the adoption of digital platforms. Analysts note that digital-first platforms are gaining an edge by offering convenience, low costs, and personalized investment options, making the Jio-BlackRock venture a potentially formidable player.

This capital infusion marks a major milestone for the JV, enabling it to accelerate its roadmap and compete with established asset managers in India. By leveraging digital innovations and global investment strategies, Jio BlackRock Asset Management is poised to redefine how Indians invest, making wealth creation more accessible and technology-driven.

With this latest funding round, the JV signals its readiness to scale rapidly, expand its offerings, and set the stage for long-term growth in India's booming asset management landscape.

## Sensex Falls 275 Points; Meesho Debut Soars 53% Amid Market Volatility



Mumbai: The Indian stock market witnessed a broad-based decline on Wednesday, with the S&P BSE Sensex dropping 275 points (0.32%) to close at 84,391.27, while the NSE Nifty 50 slipped 82 points (0.32%), ending at 25,758. This marks the third consecutive session of losses, with both benchmark indices down roughly 1.6% over the past three trading sessions amid sustained foreign fund outflows and global economic uncertainties.

Market participants are also keeping a close eye on global cues, particularly the ongoing Federal Reserve meeting in the United States. While the Fed is widely expected to cut interest rates, analysts caution that policymakers remain divided on the path forward, adding to market uncertainty.

**Global markets presented a mixed picture on Wednesday:**

- Stoxx Europe 600 fell 0.2% as of 9:30 a.m. London time.
- S&P 500, Nasdaq 100, and Dow Jones futures were largely unchanged.
- MSCI Asia Pacific Index rose 0.2%, while MSCI Emerging Markets Index gained 0.3%, signaling selective optimism in the Asia-Pacific region.

Analysts noted that continued foreign portfolio outflows, coupled with concerns over a potential U.S.-India trade deal, have kept domestic markets on edge. "Investors remain cautious ahead of the Fed decision and are closely monitoring global economic signals. Mid- and small-cap stocks are particularly sensitive to external shocks," said Ramesh Iyer, Senior Analyst at Axis Securities.

Overall, the market displayed a risk-off sentiment, with investors preferring to lock in profits in high-flying IT and consumer stocks while allocating selectively to growth-oriented IPOs like Meesho. With global cues remaining uncertain and domestic headwinds such as foreign outflows and policy developments, analysts expect volatility to persist in the near term.

## DGCA Sets Up 8-Member Oversight Team to Monitor IndiGo Amid Crew Shortage Crisis



New Delhi: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has intensified scrutiny on IndiGo, India's largest airline, by establishing an eight-member oversight team to closely monitor operations, following a surge in flight cancellations due to crew shortages.

The move comes after IndiGo, controlled by Rahul Bhatia, faced significant operational disruptions, with hundreds of flights delayed or canceled over the past week. Aviation safety regulators noted that crew unavailability had a cascading effect on the airline's schedule, affecting passengers and prompting safety concerns.

According to the DGCA order issued on Wednesday, the oversight team will comprise a Deputy Chief Flight Operations Inspector, senior Flight Operations Inspectors (FOIs), and two additional FOIs. Of these, two members will be stationed at IndiGo's corporate office daily to monitor critical operational metrics and ensure that the airline addresses staffing and scheduling challenges efficiently.

The team's mandate is comprehensive. They are tasked with reviewing IndiGo's total fleet, average stage length (distance traveled by an aircraft on one leg), pilot strength, network coverage, crew utilization in hours, and crew under training. Additionally, the oversight team will track flights per day, unplanned leave, total sectors affected due to crew shortages, and the availability of cockpit and cabin crew on standby at each base.

The DGCA's intervention signals growing regulatory concern about IndiGo's operational resilience, especially during peak travel periods. "The aim is to ensure that flight safety and passenger service standards are maintained while addressing systemic crew management issues," the order stated.

IndiGo has seen rapid expansion in recent years, emerging as the dominant carrier in India's domestic aviation sector. However, the airline has also faced challenges in retaining pilots and crew amid aggressive hiring and rising industry demand, leading to sporadic cancellations and operational bottlenecks.

Industry experts believe that the DGCA's oversight is a proactive step to prevent escalation of disruptions, particularly as the airline prepares for the busy holiday season. The regulators' presence at the corporate office will allow real-time monitoring of crew deployment and operational compliance, ensuring that any shortfall in resources is promptly addressed.

Passengers have already expressed frustration over delays and cancellations, and analysts say continued disruption could impact IndiGo's brand reputation and financial performance, especially given competition from other carriers in the market.

The DGCA has emphasized that safety remains the top priority and that oversight is meant to strengthen operational planning, not penalize the airline. The regulators will continue to monitor developments and may take further measures if systemic issues persist.

With this intervention, IndiGo will be under unprecedented regulatory supervision, highlighting the challenges of balancing rapid expansion with operational reliability in India's fast-growing aviation sector.

## Oppo Reno 15C Listed Online Ahead of Launch; Specifications, Colourways, and Variants Revealed



Oppo is gearing up to expand its Reno 15 lineup with the addition of the Oppo Reno 15C, which is now confirmed to debut in China this December. While the company initially teased the device during the unveiling of the Reno 15 series, it withheld detailed specifications at the time. Now, a new listing on a Chinese certification platform has revealed the handset's key features, design elements, and possible launch date.

According to a report by Gizmochina, the Oppo Reno 15C has surfaced on the China Telecom website with the model number PMD110, shedding light on its hardware and colour options. The listing suggests that the smartphone may go on sale in China starting December 19, although Oppo has not officially confirmed this launch date.

The Reno 15C is expected to feature a 6.59-inch display with a 1.5K (1,256 x 2,760 pixels) resolution, offering enhanced clarity compared to standard Full-HD+ panels. The screen is also tipped to support a 120Hz refresh rate, providing smooth scrolling and improved

responsiveness, particularly beneficial for gaming and multimedia consumption.

In terms of optics, the smartphone could come equipped with a triple rear camera setup, comprising a 50-megapixel primary sensor, a 50-megapixel secondary sensor, and an 8-megapixel camera. For selfies and video calls, the listing indicates a powerful 50-megapixel front camera, positioning the Reno 15C as a compelling option for content creators and photography enthusiasts.

The China Telecom listing further reveals that Oppo plans to offer the Reno 15C in three colourways: Aurora Blue, Academy Blue, and Starlight Bow. These shades appear to cater to users seeking a stylish yet understated aesthetic. The device may arrive in two memory configurations—12GB RAM + 256GB storage and 12GB RAM + 512GB storage—giving users flexibility depending on their storage needs.

Performance-wise, the Reno 15C is listed with Qualcomm's Snapdragon 7 Gen 4 chipset, indicating a mid-range but capable processor designed to

deliver solid multitasking and power efficiency. Recent leaks from industry tipsters also align with these details, suggesting that the phone will act as an "entry-level" option within the Reno 15 series, offering core Reno features at a more affordable price point.

On the design front, Oppo has teased a square-shaped rear camera module housing three lenses. The phone is also expected to sport the Oppo branding centered near the bottom of the back panel. Additional design cues include a USB Type-C port, speaker grille, and SIM card tray positioned at the bottom edge, as well as a sleek metal frame running along the sides.

With the expected launch just days away, anticipation continues to build as more details emerge. Oppo is likely to confirm the official specifications, pricing, and availability soon as part of its December lineup announcement. For now, the Reno 15C appears poised to strengthen Oppo's mid-range offerings with a balanced mix of performance, design, and camera capabilities.

## Google Pixel 10a Reportedly Passes Verizon Certification; Key Specifications Revealed Ahead of Launch



Google's upcoming mid-range smartphone, the Pixel 10a, appears to be inching closer to launch, following reports that the device has successfully passed Verizon's certification process. The development, shared by noted tipster Evan Blass (@evleaks), suggests that the Pixel 10a is now approved for use on the major US carrier's network—an indicator that the official debut may take place in the coming months. The certification has also revealed several important hardware details about the smartphone, which will succeed the Pixel 9a introduced in March.

According to the leaked documents, the Pixel 10a will retain much of the familiar design and functionality of its predecessor while offering enhancements in display, performance, and connectivity. The handset is said to feature a 6.3-inch full-HD+ AMOLED display with a dynamic refresh rate ranging from 60Hz to 120Hz. This marks an upgrade over earlier budget Pixel models that were limited to lower refresh rates. The panel is also rumoured to support a peak brightness of 2,000 nits, significantly boosting outdoor visibility and HDR performance.

In the camera department, Google appears to be sticking with the tried-and-tested dual-camera system. The Pixel 10a is tipped to come equipped with a 48-megapixel primary camera with an f/1.7 aperture, alongside a 13-megapixel ultrawide lens offering a 119.7-de-

gree field of view and an f/2.2 aperture. For selfies and video calls, the device is expected to house a 13-megapixel front camera with an f/2.2 aperture. These specifications mirror those of the Pixel 9a, indicating Google's focus on refining computational photography rather than drastically altering hardware.

Under the hood, the Pixel 10a is expected to feature 8GB of RAM paired with 128GB of internal storage. Powering the device could be Google's in-house Tensor G4 chipset, which is also rumoured to appear in the more premium Pixel 10 series. This chipset is expected to improve performance efficiency and AI processing capabilities, strengthening Google's emphasis on on-device intelligence.

A standout aspect of the Pixel 10a is its sizeable 5,100mAh battery, which is expected to provide longer backup than its predecessor. The Verizon listing also confirms support for 5G and LTE Cat 19, ensuring robust connectivity across major networks. While de-

tails on charging speed were not revealed, the Pixel 10a is likely to follow Google's typical mid-range charging standards.

Design-wise, recent renders indicate that the Pixel 10a will adopt a similar aesthetic to the Pixel 9a, featuring Google's signature camera bar and a minimalist matte finish. Subtle refinements to ergonomics and build quality are expected but not confirmed.

One of the most significant expectations surrounding the Pixel 10a is Google's commitment to long-term software updates. Reports suggest that Google may offer up to seven years of software support, putting the device in line with the industry's growing focus on sustainability and longevity.

With its certification complete and leaks rapidly expanding, the Pixel 10a now appears poised for an imminent launch. More official details are expected to surface soon as Google prepares for its next wave of mid-range hardware releases. While de-

## Realme Narzo 90 Series to Launch in India in Third Week of December; Key Specifications Confirmed



Realme is gearing up to expand its Narzo smartphone lineup in India with the launch of the Narzo 90 5G and Narzo 90x 5G in the third week of December. The company has already begun teasing the design of both smartphones, and ahead of the official launch, a dedicated microsite on Amazon has now confirmed several major specifications and features of the upcoming models. The Narzo 90 series will be available for purchase exclusively via Amazon.

One of the biggest highlights of the new series is the introduction of a massive 7,000mAh 'Titan Battery' on both handsets. Realme claims that the new battery design delivers superior durability along with extended backup, making the Narzo 90 lineup one of the most power-packed offerings in its segment. Both phones will also support 60W wired fast charging, ensuring quick top-ups. However, the standard Narzo 90 5G model will

go a step further with additional features such as bypass charging and wired reverse charging, allowing users to charge other devices directly from the phone.

The Narzo 90 5G also appears to be positioned as the more rugged variant, boasting IP66, IP68, and IP69 ratings for dust and water resistance—an uncommon feature in its price category. Realme has also shared battery endurance claims for both models.

According to the company, the Narzo 90 5G can deliver up to 143.7 hours of music playback, 8.1 hours of gaming, 24 hours of online video streaming, and 28.2 hours of video calling on a single charge.

Meanwhile, the Narzo 90x 5G also promises strong longevity, offering 136.2 hours of music playback, 23.6 hours of online video playback, 27.7 hours of messaging, 61.3 hours of voice calling, and 17.1 hours of navigation. These numbers highlight Realme's clear focus on power efficiency and dependable all-day battery life.

Both smartphones will feature modern, hole-punch display designs. The Narzo 90 5G will come with an exceptionally bright panel capable of hitting 4,000 nits, one of the highest brightness levels in its category. The Narzo 90x 5G will sport a display with 1,200 nits peak brightness and a 144Hz high refresh

## Google Reportedly Testing Built-In AI Mode Inside Chrome for Seamless On-Browser Assistance



Google is reportedly experimenting with a major upgrade to its AI capabilities by integrating a new version of its AI Mode tool directly into the Chrome browser. The feature, spotted in the latest Chrome Canary build, appears to allow users to interact with Google's AI without opening a new Search page, marking a significant shift toward native, on-browser artificial intelligence integration.

According to a report by Windows Report, the revamped AI Mode opens as a "Contextual Tasks" page within Chrome itself. This suggests that the tool is running independently from Google Search, potentially signaling a future in which Chrome offers built-in AI assistance similar to emerging AI-first browsers. This internal interface can be accessed via a special Chrome address, confirming that the feature currently operates in a restricted testing environment.

In its upgraded form, AI Mode reportedly allows users to perform a variety of tasks directly

within Chrome. These include typing queries, uploading PDFs or images, and receiving detailed responses—all within a single page. Users can also ask the AI to analyse webpage content, summarise documents, or answer contextual questions about what they are viewing. Unlike the previous version, which redirected users to Google Search results, this new interface contains the entire interaction inside the browser.

Testers also found additional functionality that doesn't appear in the Search-linked AI Mode. In one instance, when a user selected an open tab and asked AI Mode to summarise its content, the tool provided an accurate summary without opening a new tab or navigating to another website. This suggests Chrome's native AI can access active tabs directly, functioning similarly to AI browsers like Perplexity's Comet and Chat-

GPT Atlas, which are designed around AI-driven navigation and content understanding. The report further claims that Google has included image generation capabilities in this internal AI build. Testers were able to generate images using models labeled Nano Banana or Nano Banana Pro, depending on whether the user holds a Google AI Pro or Ultra subscription. Even this feature runs entirely inside Chrome's internal

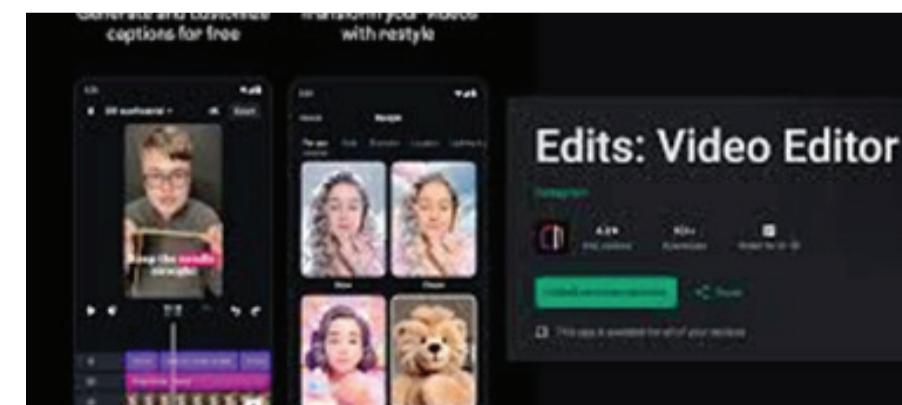
AI page, without requiring access to Search or external applications.

While the full scope of AI Mode's capabilities is not yet known, the tool's expanding feature set suggests Google may be positioning Chrome to compete more directly with newer AI-powered browsers. With rival platforms offering integrated summarisation, context-aware assistance, and generative tools, Google's move indicates an effort to future-proof Chrome for an AI-first browsing experience.

Since the feature is currently available only within the Canary development build, it remains inaccessible to general users—including those on Chrome's beta channel. Google has not yet commented officially on the testing phase or its plans for a wider rollout.

If brought to the stable version of Chrome, the new AI Mode could significantly enhance productivity for millions of users by providing AI-powered assistance natively, without the need for additional extensions or separate web pages.

## Instagram Rolls Out New Templates, Storyboards, and iOS Lock Screen Widget for Its Edits App



Instagram is expanding the capabilities of its standalone video creation app, Edits, with a fresh round of updates aimed at giving creators more control, creativity, and convenience. Launched earlier this year, the app has quickly evolved into a dedicated platform for crafting short-form videos, and the latest feature rollout reinforces Meta's focus on improving creator tools across its ecosystem.

According to a post shared by the Instagram Creators account on Threads, the Edits app now includes new video templates, enhanced customisation options, an intuitive storyboard feature, and an iOS lock screen widget. Several of these additions are already live for users in select countries, with more tools expected soon.

One of the biggest upgrades in the new update is the introduction of new templates that allow creators to build videos quickly using trending

music, pre-arranged time clips, and fresh font styles. These templates are designed to help both new and experienced creators produce polished videos in minutes. Importantly, users can now share their own custom-made templates, enabling others to adopt or remix them. This feature is rolling out this week globally, though access to the full template library may vary by region.

Instagram also revealed that a dedicated templates section will appear in the app for some creators located in select

countries, including the US, UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Ireland. This curated section will showcase additional template styles and ideas. The company has not confirmed when or if these expanded template options will reach India, indicating that the rollout may remain geographically limited for now.

Another major addition is the new storyboard feature, which transforms idea stickies into structured visual planning boards. This tool will allow creators to map out their video flow using teleprompter cues, clip placeholders, and written notes. The feature is particularly valuable for creators who prefer to organise their content ahead of time or manage more complex video concepts.

The Edits app is also gaining deeper integration with Instagram's video ecosystem. Users can now import public Reels directly into their projects, enabling them to remix, react to, or modify these videos within Edits. Instagram noted that proper credit will al-

ways be given to original creators when their Reels are used, preserving attribution and respecting community guidelines.

To further enhance personalisation, the update includes new text editing features, such as the ability to add a secondary colour to the background or outline of text and captions. This allows creators to fine-tune the visual style of their videos with more precision.

For iOS users, Instagram is introducing a brand-new lock screen widget for Edits. With this widget, iPhone users can launch the Edits camera instantly or add sticky notes to the app directly from their lock screen, making spontaneous content creation more accessible than ever.

With these updates, Instagram aims to make Edits a more powerful and versatile tool, helping creators streamline their workflow while exploring new ways to express themselves.



## Shahid Afridi Backs Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, Says They Are Backbone of Indian ODI Team

Former Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi has come out strongly in support of Indian batting legends Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, dismissing calls to sideline them from the ODI side. Afridi emphasized that the duo forms the backbone of the Indian lineup and should continue playing until the 2027 World Cup, according to a report by Telecom Asia Sport on Monday.

Afridi praised the pair for their consistent performances in recent ODI se-

ries. "It's a fact that Virat and Rohit are the backbone of the Indian batting line-up, and the way they have played recently, it can confidently be said that they can play until the 2027 World Cup," he said.

Afridi also criticized Indian head coach Gautam Gambhir, highlighting past on-field clashes. "The way Gautam started his stint, it looked like he thought that what he thinks and says is right, but after some time, it was proved that you are not always right," Afridi said.

Afridi was equally complimentary of Rohit Sharma's recent milestone, where he surpassed Afridi's own record for most sixes in ODI cricket. Rohit

hit his 355th six during the second ODI against South Africa at Raipur, breaking Afridi's record of 351 sixes in 398 matches. "Records are meant to be broken, and this too is now bettered. I am happy that a player whom I have always liked has broken this record," he said.

Reflecting on his early interactions with Rohit, Afridi recalled playing alongside him in the 2008 Indian Premier League for the Deccan Chargers. "During practice sessions,

I watched him bat, and his class impressed me. I knew that one day Rohit would play for India, and he has proved himself as a classy batter," he added.

Afridi's comments underscore the respect and admiration international players have for India's senior stars. With Kohli and Rohit still in prime form, Afridi's message is clear: these stalwarts are vital to India's ODI ambitions and their presence in the team should remain uninterrupted.

## Jitesh Sharma Credits Sanju Samson for Mentorship Ahead of India's T20I Victory Over South Africa

India's wicketkeeper-batter Jitesh Sharma opened up about his close bond with Sanju Samson after being named the first-choice wicketkeeper for the opening T20I against South Africa in Cuttack. Despite competing for the same spot, Jitesh described their relationship as warm, respectful, and rooted in mutual growth.

Speaking about Samson's influence, Jitesh said, "I am very grateful that he is in the team and I am under him. Frankly speaking, he is like an elder brother to me and I think because of healthy competition, your talent comes out. I think it's good for the team also."

Jitesh acknowledged the immense depth of talent in Indian cricket and stressed that he and Samson share the same goal of contributing to the team's success. "There is so much talent in the Indian team. You can feel it. Sanju Bhai is out and I am playing. He is a great player. One of the great players. If I have to compete with him, I have to play shoulder to shoulder and bring my A game," he added.

He further highlighted that their bond goes beyond competition. "I think we both are trying to play for India, not for other teams. We are like brothers. We share lots of experience with each other. He helps me a lot whenever I do keeping or batting. That's the thing," Jitesh noted.

Jitesh has been a regular in India's T20 setup since the third T20I against Australia during the tour Down Under.



(23 off 21) also contributed significantly. For South Africa, Lungi Ngidi was the pick of the bowlers with 3/31, supported by Lutho Sipmala (2/38). Chasing 176, South Af-

rica never got going and were bundled out for 74 in 12.3 overs. Only Dewald Brevis offered resistance with 22 off 14 balls. India's bowling was led by Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep

Singh, Varun Chakravarthy, and Axar Patel, who took two wickets each, while Hardik Pandya and Shivam Dube chipped in with one apiece.

The comprehensive win

gave India a 1-0 lead in the five-match T20I series, with Jitesh Sharma's partnership with Samson proving to be an important factor both on and off the field.

## Hardik Pandya's All-Round Heroics Lead India to 101-Run T20I Victory, Credits Girlfriend for Support



India's all-rounder Hardik Pandya starred with both bat and ball as the Men in Blue thrashed South Africa by 101 runs in the first T20 International of the five-match series on Tuesday at Cuttack.

Asked to bat first, India found themselves in a precarious position at 78/4 in the early overs. Pandya, however, played a blistering unbeaten 59 off just 28 balls, propelling India to a competitive 175/6 in 20 overs. Later, with the ball in hand, he chipped in with a crucial wicket, helping India bundle out the Proteas for a paltry 74 runs and seize a 1-0 lead in the series.

Following the match, Hardik took a heartfelt moment to acknowledge the role of his partner, Mahieka Sharma, in his life and career. In a video posted on BCCI TV, he said, "A special mention to my partner. A lot of great things have happened; she's been nothing but the best to me ever since she came into my life."

He further added, "I think I have been a very honest and real person in my life, which has helped me a lot. I don't really sugarcoat anything. It's never about the other person or how others think—it's just about how I feel from inside."

With India taking a 1-0 lead, the series continues with the second T20I, and all eyes will be on Pandya to see if he can maintain his all-round heroics against the Proteas.

## Smriti Mandhana Returns as India's Vice-Captain for T20I Series Against Sri Lanka



India's star batter Smriti Mandhana is back in action, ready to lead by example as she has been named vice-captain of the Indian women's T20I side for the upcoming series against Sri Lanka, beginning December 21. This series marks India's first bilateral contest since the Women's World Cup final on November 2, where Mandhana played a pivotal role in India's victorious campaign.

Her inclusion as vice-captain signals not only her cricketing prowess but also the trust the team management places in her leadership abilities.

Mandhana, who has recently gone through a turbulent personal period, called off her marriage with music composer Palash Muchhal. Despite these challenges, she has quickly refocused on cricket, demonstrating remarkable resilience and dedication. On Wednesday, Mandhana reunited with India captain Harmanpreet Kaur at a public event, where she opened up about her mindset and motivation as a cricketer and leader.

"Well, to be fair, I mean, as Harman said, the love for the game, and I don't think I love anything in life more than cricket. When you go out to bat or represent your country, no other thoughts are there. Once you put on the Indian jersey, the only thing you want to do is represent India and win the match," Mandhana said, reflecting her unwavering focus.

She also spoke about the sense of responsibility that comes with wearing the Indian jersey. "The biggest motivation is that when you put on the jersey and India is written on it, you just keep all your problems aside and focus on the field. You have a responsibility as one among two billion people representing

your country. Just that thought is enough to give you razor-sharp focus and help you perform at your best," she added.

Mandhana also addressed team dynamics and disagreements, stressing that healthy debates are part of a winning environment. "I don't look at it as issues because everyone wants to win the game. Everyone has their own opinion on how we will win. If we don't have those discussions or arguments, it means we aren't passionate enough. Healthy disagreements show commitment to winning for the team," she explained. Her perspective highlights the importance of collaboration and communication within the squad, even when opinions differ.

Mandhana's role as vice-captain comes at a crucial time for Indian women's cricket. The team is transitioning from the high of the World Cup to preparing for upcoming international fixtures, and her experience, skill, and leadership are expected to play a pivotal role in guiding younger players. She is renowned for her aggressive batting style and ability to anchor innings, and her presence in the team provides both stability and inspiration.

Fans and analysts alike are eager to see Mandhana back on the field, combining her signature flair with leadership responsibilities. With the series against Sri Lanka, India aims to continue their winning momentum, and Mandhana's return strengthens both the team's batting lineup and its strategic depth. Her story of resilience and focus serves as a powerful example for aspiring cricketers and fans, emphasizing that dedication to one's sport can help overcome even personal challenges.

## Venkatesh Teams Up with Trivikram Srinivas for 'Aadarsha Kutumbam'; Shooting Begins



Veteran actor Venkatesh is all set to collaborate with director Trivikram Srinivas for the first time, and the upcoming family entertainer has been titled 'Aadarsha Kutumbam'. The makers officially announced the title as shooting for the film

commenced on December 10. Produced by Suryadevara Radhakrishna under the banner of Harika and Hassine Creations, the film is slated for a summer 2026 release.

Fans are excited to see Venkatesh bring the classic 'Aadarsha Ku-

tumbam' title back to life, this time under the direction of Trivikram Srinivas.

iven Trivikram's track record of delivering both critical and commercial hits, and Venkatesh's immense fan base, expectations are high.

**Sandeep Raj's 'Mowgli' to Release on December 13; Pre-Release Event Held in Hyderabad**



Following the success of 'Color Photo', director Sandeep Raj is back with his new film 'Mowgli', starring Roshan Kanakala, Sakshi Madolkar, and Bandi Saroj Kumar in lead roles. The much-anticipated movie is set to release on December 13, and the makers hosted a pre-release event in Hyderabad on Wednesday night to mark the occasion.

During the event, Sandeep Raj addressed the audience and media, sharing an emotional note about his journey. He revealed that despite the success of his debut film, he had to stay at home and wait for the right opportunity to direct his second movie. His heartfelt words reflected both gratitude and the chal-

lenges faced in making 'Mowgli', emphasizing the persistence and patience required to bring the project to fruition.

The pre-release event also saw the presence of actor Rana, who attended as the chief guest. Rana expressed his best wishes to the team and hoped that the film would become a major success at the box office. His support added excitement to the event and highlighted the camaraderie within the Telugu film industry.

'Mowgli' is expected to appeal to audiences with its engaging storyline and performances. With a talented cast led by Roshan Kanakala, the film is being promoted as a compelling drama that combines emotion, suspense, and entertainment. The

makers have already generated buzz through teasers and promotional content, raising expectations among fans.

The pre-release event

not only celebrated the upcoming release but also offered a platform for the team to connect with media and audiences, building anticipation ahead of the theatrical release. The emotional moments shared by Sandeep Raj, along with Rana's presence, made the evening memorable for everyone involved.

With its official release just around the corner, 'Mowgli' is poised to capture the attention of Telugu cinema lovers, and industry insiders are watching closely to see if it matches the success of Sandeep Raj's debut.

# Balayya's 'Akhand-2' Finally Set for Release; New Teaser Out



strong fan base for the protagonist, creating high expectations for the sequel. With the teaser's release, the makers aim to generate buzz and build anticipation ahead of the film hitting theaters.

The production team has confirmed that the movie will release across various theaters this Friday, allowing fans to experience the grandeur on the big screen. Advance bookings have already started in many regions, indicating a strong audience interest.

The filmmakers are confident that 'Akhand-2' will match or even surpass the success of the first installment, thanks to its engaging storyline, action-packed sequences, and Balakrishna's powerful performance. The movie is expected to be a major box-office contender this holiday season, drawing audiences across all age groups.

Overall, the official announcement of the release date and the launch of the teaser have reignited excitement among fans, ensuring that 'Akhand-2' will be one of the most anticipated films of the year in Tollywood.

## Darling Prabhas' Most Awaited Film Set for January 9, 2026 Release



day experience.

As the release date approaches, promotional activities and teasers have already created tremendous buzz online, with

fans eagerly counting down the days. The combination of Prabhas' star power, a fresh horror-comedy theme, and a festive release window has posi-

tioned the film as one of the most awaited releases of 2026.

All eyes are now on January 9, when theaters across the country will

welcome audiences for what promises to be a thrilling and entertaining cinematic experience with Prabhas at his entertaining best.

## Ravi Teja's New Movie Song Released from 'Mass Jathara'; Film to Release for Sankranti



cial, a time when Telugu audiences flock to theaters to watch family-friendly blockbusters and festive

releases. The film promises a mix of action, comedy, and entertainment, a formula that has been a con-

sistent hallmark of Ravi Teja's career.

The makers of the film

leasing songs and promotional content to build momentum ahead of the theatrical release. The latest song is expected to further increase anticipation and attract audiences to theaters during the holiday season.

Industry insiders say that 'Mass Jathara' has the potential to become one of the major festive blockbusters, thanks to Ravi Teja's massive fan following and the combination of high-energy music, colorful visuals, and entertaining storytelling.

As the countdown to Sankranti 2026 begins, fans are eagerly awaiting the release of 'Mass Jathara' and the remaining songs from the film. With the latest track already making waves, the movie is poised to make a strong impact at the box office.