## AICC Leaders Congratulate CM Revanth Reddy on 'Telangana Rising 2047' Vision

TPN Bureau | Dec 11, 2025

AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge and Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi conveyed their congratulations to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on the successful unveiling of the "Telangana Rising 2047 Vision Document." The two senior AICC leaders met with the Chief Minister at their residences in New Delhi today, where CM Revanth Reddy provided a detailed briefing on the outcome of the two-day Telangana Rising Global Summit. The briefing highlighted the successful conduct of the summit and the formal release of the comprehensive Vision Document in the presence of leading business executives and global investors. Both Kharge and Priyanka Gandhi highly praised the Chief Minister for successfully establishing a long-term roadmap for the developmental trajectory of Telangana, which is the youngest state in the nation. They expressed profound delight over the significant achievement of

attracting huge investments and the successful finalization of various agreements with both local and international companies during the two-day global summit. This congratulatory meeting signals the national leadership's strong endorsement of the strategic economic planning and global outreach initiated by the state government. The Chief Minister's decision to present the results and the vision document personally to the party's central leadership underscores the political importance of these initiatives. The AICC leaders view the Vision Document as a testament to the new administration's commitment to sustained growth and development over the coming decades. The event in Delhi was attended by a cohort of Telangana leaders, including Minister Vivek Venkatswamy and several MPs: Suresh Shetkar, M. Anil Kumar, P. Balaram Naik, Dr. Mallu Ravi, K. Raghuveer Reddy, and Gaddam Vamshi Krishna, demonstrating unified party support for the Chief Minister's developmental agenda and strategic vision for the state's future.

## Telangana Must Lead in Numismatics and Heritage Studies: Dy CM Bhatti Vikramarka

TPN Bureau | Dec 11, 2025

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu asserted that Telangana must emerge as a frontrunner in the fields of numismatics (the study of coins) and heritage studies. He delivered this address while speaking at the national seminar titled "Coinage and Economy of Southern India," organized by the Numismatics Society at the Marri Channa Reddy Human Resource Development Institute on Thursday. The Deputy CM expressed his earnest hope that the two-day seminar would serve as an "intellectual lightning bolt," igniting new ideas rather than remaining solely an academic event. He called for increased cooperation among various institutions and encouraged young researchers to adopt interdisciplinary studies to propel Telangana to the forefront of heritage research. Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka underscored the Telangana Govern-

ment's deep commitment to heritage-based research, affirming that under the guidance of Tourism and Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, the state is determined to be developed into a central hub for scientific study, cultural preservation, and knowledge production. He celebrated South India's renowned coinage tradition, noting that coins from eras like the Satavahanas, Ikshvakus, Kakatiyas, and the Vijayanagara Empire are not merely metal pieces but "symbols of innovation, craftsmanship, and sophisticated statecraft." He likened coins to ancient "compressed data," containing the economic systems, political visions, technological knowledge, and trade routes of their time, joking that if archaeologists had discovered "ZIP files" in antiquity, they would have been called "coins." He also praised the Heritage Department for organizing the first-ever comprehensive national seminar on coins in the department's 114-year history.

## Congress Supporters Triumph in First Phase Sarpanch Polls: TPCC President jubilant

TPN Bureau | Dec 11, 2025

TPCC President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud expressed immense delight over the resounding victory of candidates supported by the Congress party in the first phase of the Panchayat Elections 2025. He asserted that the grand success, where over 90% of the seats in the first phase of Sarpanch elections across the state were won by Congress-affiliated candidates, is a clear testament to the people's faith in the Congress government. The TPCC President stated that these results mirror the aspirations of the populace and re-establish their immense confidence in the government's leadership. Mahesh Kumar Goud highlighted the significant role the Con-

gress party played in this electoral success, noting that the party took the Panchayat elections as a matter of high prestige. He disclosed that he personally played a key role in the election monitoring process for the party, working tirelessly to coordinate Ministers, MPs, MLAs, and local leaders. He attributed the success primarily to the strategic planning and execution of campaign strategies right down to the village level. He observed that the party's method of direct engagement and strengthening the organization at the grassroots level proved highly advantageous to the Congress. The TPCC President credited the two years of "Praja Palana" (People's Rule) under the leadership of CM Revanth Reddy, marked by welfare and development schemes, for successfully

reaching the people. He argued that the clear satisfaction of the rural electorate with the administration was distinctly reflected in the Panchayat election results. The commitment of CM Revanth Reddy and the Ministers to understanding and resolving village-level issues was instrumental in boosting the confidence of rural voters in the Congress party. Mahesh Kumar Goud declared that the people have chosen the slogan of "Welfare, Social Justice, and Development," symbolized by the spectacular victory of the Congress candidates in the Sarpanch elections. He noted the broad support the Congress received across the state from minorities, Dalits, tribals, women, farmers, and youth, signaling a new direction for the rural governance structure. The so-

cial justice factor was clearly visible in the Panchayat elections, and the preference of rural voters for development and welfare over other factors signals a new political culture in Telangana. While celebrating the victory, Mahesh Kumar Goud acknowledged that this success increases the party's responsibility, promising that the government is dedicated to accelerating rural development. He concluded that the Congress government will work to strengthen the Panchayati Raj system and transform every village into a center of developmental priority, confirming that these first-phase results are a clear reflection of the favorable environment created by the government's welfare programs and serve as a guide for the further strengthening of Congress in Telangana.

## Supreme Court Directs Ex-SIB Chief Prabhakar Rao to Surrender in Phone Tapping Case

TPN Bureau | Dec 11, 2025

The Supreme Court of India issued a stringent directive on Thursday, ordering T. Prabhakar Rao, the former Chief of Telangana's Special Intelligence Bureau (SIB) and a key accused in the high-profile phone-tapping case, to surrender before the police by 11:00 am on Friday. A bench comprising Justices B. V. Nagarathna and R. Mahadevan stated that this order was essential to facilitate the ongoing investigation into the offenses alleged against Rao. The bench explicitly directed the petitioner to surrender at the Jubilee Hills police station to the investigating officer, clarifying that the custodial interrogation must be conducted strictly in accordance with the law. The court, however, showed a measure of leniency regarding the accused's personal needs, granting him liberty to

receive food from his home as well as regular medication. During the hearing, Senior Advocate Sidharth Luthra, representing the state, informed the court that the iCloud accounts opened by Rao, despite a previous court order, did not contain any data, and the associated email addresses were inaccessible. The state government, on Wednesday, had already alleged that Rao was still withholding his crucial iCloud data. This directive from the Supreme Court follows a protracted legal battle. The apex court had previously granted Rao interim protection from

coercive action on May 29, provided he furnish an undertaking to return to India within three days of receiving his passport. Rao had moved the Supreme Court challenging an order by the Telangana High Court, which had previously dismissed his plea for anticipatory bail. Earlier, a Hyderabad court had issued a proclamation order against Rao on May 22, warning that he could be declared a "proclaimed offender" if he failed to appear before the court by June 20, a status that would allow the court to order the attachment of his properties. The case

involves a conspiracy where officials allegedly "misused" SIB resources for political purposes, putting citizens under surveillance during the previous BRS regime, unauthorizedly developing profiles, illegally monitoring them to favor a political party, and subsequently destroying records to eliminate evidence. Several suspended police officials, including a DSP of SIB, were arrested starting in March 2024 for allegedly erasing intelligence information from electronic gadgets related to the phone-tapping operation, though they were later granted bail.

## Sports Minister Vakit Sreehari Highlights 26,000 Cr Investment in Sports at Global Summit

TPN Bureau | Dec 11, 2025

State Sports Minister Vakit Sreehari made a major announcement, revealing that the Sports Department had successfully attracted an enormous investment commitment totaling 26,000 crores during the recently concluded Telangana Rising Global Summit. Speaking to the media in Jadcherla, located in Mahbubnagar District, the Minister ex-

pressed immense satisfaction and joy over this unprecedented financial achievement, emphasizing that the Sports Department had never before secured such a massive investment. He unequivocally attributed this success to the strategic thinking and political foresight of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, praising him as a leader with a clear and definitive "vision" for both the sports sector and the holistic development of the state. Minister Sreehari highlighted

that the Telangana Global Rising Summit was a resounding success that

managed to successfully capture global attention and attract significant

international interest, underscoring the state's growing stature on the

world stage. He stressed that the 26,000 crore investment is a direct result of the government's sincere commitment to developing and promoting sports. Furthermore, the Minister outlined the government's ambitious long-term goals, stating that their primary focus is now on ensuring that Telangana athletes are meticulously trained and prepared to win medals in the 2036 Olympic Games. To achieve this, the government is committed to providing enhanced,

state-of-the-art training facilities and comprehensive support to the state's talented sportspersons. Transitioning to local political matters, Minister Sreehari leveraged the opportunity to appeal directly to the voters in Jadcherla. He urged the electorate to ensure a massive and decisive victory for the candidates who are officially supported by the Congress party in the ongoing local body elections. He argued that securing a majority for Congress-backed candi-

dates across the entire joint Mahbubnagar district, particularly under the able leadership of MLA Anirudh Reddy, would be the key to accelerating development and ushering in progress in the respective villages. The Minister concluded that the significant investment in the Sports Department and the overall success of the Global Summit are evidence that the state is on a rapid developmental track, which voters should support at the local level.

**POINT**

# Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy Raises BC Reservation Issue in Lok Sabha

TPN Bureau | Dec 11, 2025

MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy utilized his platform in the Lok Sabha to address a matter of critical social justice and political significance for the state of Telangana: the implementation of 42% reservations for Backward Classes (BCs). The MP's address served as a high-level appeal to the Central Government to intervene and expedite a legislative process that has been stalled for half a year, directly impacting the interests of millions of BC citizens in the state. He meticulously detailed the proactive measures already undertaken by the Telangana State Government, highlighting the clear commitment of the current administration towards empowering BC communities. The state government has not only decided to grant a substantial 42% reservation but has also taken definitive legislative steps. This reservation is intended to be applied across three crucial sectors: local body elections, educational institutions, and government employment, ensuring comprehensive social inclusion and upliftment. The most significant action cited by the MP was the successful passage of the necessary resolution within the State Assembly. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's Cabinet initially approved the measure, which was then introduced in the Assembly and subsequently passed unanimously, signaling complete consensus across the state's political spectrum regarding this progressive policy. Despite this clear political will and legislative approval at the state level, MP Reddy pointed out the persistent administrative bottleneck. He revealed that the crucial BC Reservations Bill was formally dispatched to the Governor's office a full six months ago for assent, yet a decision has not been taken, causing significant delays in implementation and mounting frustration among the community. Given the stalled state of the bill at the Governor's level, MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy issued a pointed and powerful appeal directly to the nation's highest executive authority. He called upon the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, to immediately leverage his authority and personally intervene in the matter. The appeal carried added weight as MP Reddy strategically referenced the Prime Minister's identity as an OBC leader, suggesting a moral imperative for him to support the cause of BC empowerment. The MP urged the Prime Minister to ensure the prompt approval of the BC Reservations Bills. He concluded his address by stressing the need for the Central government to urgently acknowledge and act upon the deep-seated sentiments and safeguard the fundamental interests of the BC communities in Telangana, urging a swift sign-off on the stalled BC Bills to translate the state's legislative consensus into tangible benefit for the people.

## Minister Sridhar Babu Invited to ATA Convention and Business Seminar

TPN Bureau | Dec 11, 2025

Telangana IT Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu was formally and cordially invited to participate in two significant events organized by the American Telugu Association (ATA). The invitation was extended on Thursday, December 11, 2025, by a high-level ATA delegation comprising President Jayanth Challa, Elect President Satish Reddy, and Media Coordinator Eshwar Banda. The delegation requested Minister Sridhar Babu to attend the prestigious 19th ATA Convention and Youth Conference as the Chief Guest. This massive convention, a major gathering of the Telugu diaspora, is scheduled to take place at the Baltimore Convention Center in the USA, running from July 31 to August 2, 2026. This participation is seen as a key opportunity to strengthen the state's international outreach. In addition to the US event, the ATA representatives invited the Minister to a local event: a Business Seminar to be organized at T-Hub, Hyderabad, on December 19, 2025.

This seminar forms a crucial part of ATA's service activities designed to benefit both Telugu states. During their respectful meeting, the ATA delegation thoroughly briefed Minister Sridhar Babu on the association's ongoing strategic efforts aimed at fortifying the relationship between America and Telangana across the vital sectors of business, technology, and startups.

They highlighted that the ATA Convention will attract a large contingent of the Telugu diaspora from the US, prominent entrepreneurs, and young innovators. The convention's packed agenda includes cultural events, dedicated youth conferences, high-level business conferences, and exclusive NRI seminars, all designed to foster community bonds and economic collaboration. The Minister's acceptance of these invitations is expected to boost international investment confidence and strengthen the connection between the non-resident Telugu community and the State Government's developmental goals.

# MP Vaddiraju Participates in Petroleum Standing Committee Meeting

TPN Bureau | Dec 11, 2025

Rajya Sabha Member and BRS Parliamentary Party Deputy Leader Vaddiraju Ravichandra actively participated in a pivotal meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The committee meeting, held on the evening of Thursday, December 11, 2025, in the Parliament Committee Hall, served as a crucial forum for scrutinizing and deliberating on the comprehensive aspects of the petroleum and natural gas sector, which holds immense economic and strategic importance for the nation. MP Ravichandra, known for his focus on key industrial and economic issues, engaged robustly with the detailed discussions that were tabled during the session. The wide-ranging agenda covered several complex and dynamic issues within the sector. Key areas of focus included the current status of production and efficient consumption of petroleum and natural gas products across the country, critical analysis of the price volatility caused by fluctuations in the international market and its cascading effect on domestic consumers, and the evaluation of consumer services, safety standards, and security protocols currently in place. Further detailed discussions centered on meeting the immediate energy requirements of the nation, maintaining stringent quality standards across all products and distribution networks, and implementing effective, forward-looking measures to enhance the overall quality and delivery of services to the end consumer. MP Ravichandra contributed valuable insights and provided a number of practical suggestions aimed at improving the sector's operational efficiency, stability, and its consumer-centric approach. His input focused on ensuring energy security, optimizing resource management, and balancing the needs of the industry with the affordability and safety concerns of the general public. The Standing Committee's work is vital for guiding government policy, and the participation of leaders like MP Ravichandra ensures that regional perspectives and practical challenges are integrated into national policy-making for a sector as essential as petroleum and natural gas.

# KTR Demands Withdrawal of 'Anti-Farmer' Central Seed Bill Draft

TPN Bureau | Dec 11, 2025

BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) launched a fierce attack on the Central Government's proposed Seed Bill draft, characterizing it as fundamentally "anti-farmer" and unduly favoring the interests of large corporate entities. He issued a strong demand for the bill's immediate withdrawal, arguing that its provisions would inflict severe damage upon the farming community. KTR made it clear that the BRS party's official stance is complete opposition to the draft. He called upon the Centre to halt any further action on the bill and proceed only after engaging in comprehensive, genuine consultations with all major stakeholders, including farmer unions, agricultural experts, seed specialists, and political parties. KTR highlighted the critical deficiencies and dangers he perceives in the draft legislation. A major concern is the bill's ambiguity regarding counterfeit seeds, noting a lack of clear mechanisms to curb their circulation and a failure to provide a specific, guaranteed timeframe for delivering compensation to farmers who incur losses due to fake seeds. He pointed out clauses that appear to empower corporate companies to dictate seed prices, effectively eroding the authority of state governments to regulate prices, a power they previously held. KTR further criticized the law for structuring accountability only along the supply chain—holding sellers responsible—and not imposing responsibility directly on the powerful manufacturing companies for the production of counterfeit seeds. He noted the absence of provisions for severe consequences such as national blacklisting of offending companies, heavy financial penalties, or strict imprisonment. A significant cultural and economic concern raised was the bill's failure to protect the rights and traditions of farmer groups who locally prepare and cultivate their own seeds. Alarmingly, KTR warned that the draft simplifies regulations to allow foreign companies to sell their seeds in India without mandatory trial testing, a provision he argues severely threatens the country's domestic seed security and sovereignty. KTR condemned the bill for excluding state governments and state agricultural universities from playing a meaningful role, suggesting it leads to federal overreach and weakens the ability of states to create laws tailored to local agricultural conditions. In his proposed amendments, KTR stressed that the final Seed Bill must be farmer-centric, prioritizing their welfare over "Ease of Business" for corporations. He urged the Centre to ensure seed sovereignty and biosafety, avoid granting central dominance over state agricultural matters, and implement strict regulations guaranteeing that farmers affected by fake seeds receive compensation up to the maximum potential yield per acre within a specified period. He also announced that the BRS would soon hold a roundtable meeting with former Agriculture Minister Niranjan Reddy and MP Vinod Kumar to offer further expert input.

## Sports Minister Vakit Sreehari Highlights 26,000 Cr Investment in Sports at Global Summit

TPN Bureau | Dec 11, 2025

State Sports Minister Vakit Sreehari made a significant announcement in Jadcherla, Mahbubnagar District, revealing that the Sports Department had successfully attracted a massive investment commitment of 26,000 crores during the recently held Telangana Rising Global Summit. Speaking to the media, the Minister expressed immense satisfaction with this unprecedented figure, emphasizing that an investment of this magnitude had never previously been secured for the Sports Department. He strongly asserted that this achievement underscores the State Government's absolute sincerity and vision in promoting and developing the sports sector. Minister Sreehari specifically credited Chief Minister Revanth Reddy as the visionary leader whose approach made such a large-scale investment possible, stating that the Chief Minister has a clear and focused vision for both sports and the overall development of the state.

He highlighted that the Telangana Rising Global Summit successfully captured the attention of the global community, and the 26,000 crore investment is a testament to the state's growing appeal. The Minister further elaborated on the government's ambitious plans, stating that their long-term goal is to actively train and prepare athletes to win medals in the 2036 Olympic Games. Accordingly, the government is committed to providing enhanced, state-of-the-art training and support facilities to the state's talented sportspersons. Transitioning to local matters, the Minister appealed directly to the voters in Jadcherla, urging them to ensure a massive victory for the candidates supported by the Congress party in the ongoing local body elections. He argued that securing a majority for Congress-backed candidates across the joint Mahbubnagar district, particularly under the leadership of MLA Anirudh Reddy, would ensure accelerated development and progress in the villages.

## CM Revanth Reddy Pays Tribute to Former President Pranab Mukherjee

TPN Bureau | Dec 11, 2025

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy traveled to New Delhi on December 11, 2025, to pay his sincere< homage on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the former President of India, Pranab Mukherjee. The Chief Minister visited the late leader's residence in Delhi and offered his solemn tributes by placing floral garlands at the portrait of Pranab Mukherjee. During the observance, CM Revanth Reddy eulogized the former President, praising him as a truly great leader who devoted many decades of his life to dedicated public service. The Chief Minister took the moment to recall and honor the immense and multifaceted contributions Pranab Mukherjee made to the nation throughout his distinguished career, which spanned various high-level positions before culminating in the presidency. This act of paying tribute underscores the importance of honoring national figures and political traditions. The ceremony was attended by a delegation of key state leaders and MPs, demonstrating a show of respect from the Telangana political leadership. The attendees included Minister Gaddam Vivek Venkatswamy, along with several Members of Parliament, namely Dr. Mallu Ravi, Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, Gaddam Vamshi, and Anil Kumar Yadav, as well as other prominent leaders such as Rohin Reddy. Their presence collectively marked the solemn occasion and reiterated the respect for the former President's legacy.

# 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 Gadari 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, Tungathurthi, Arvapalli, Nagaram, and Tirumalagiri. 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 Mahesh 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 criticizing the Congress government for failing to implement the guarantees promised during the 2023 Assembly elections that brought Revanth Reddy to power, confining the BRS to the opposition benches after ten years in government.

## 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 Telangana youth resulted from the multiple countries and summits he has attended and hosted over the last two years. Harish Rao called the praise given to the development achieved during the KCR regime by former British PM Tony Blair and former RBI Governor Duvvuri Subbarao at the Global Summit platform a "slap in the face" for Revanth Reddy. Harish Rao asserted that the event resembled a "Real Estate Expo" organized to sell lands rather than a genuine Global Summit. He claimed the event, like the previous AI Summit, was a flop PR stunt orchestrated to divert attention from the two years of the government's failures. He ridiculed 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.

## 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 Madhavaram 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 'Ma na 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).

# Former Sarpanch Addresses Year-Long STP Failure At Dundigal 2bhk

TPN Bureau | dec 11, 2025

Former Sarpanch of Dundigal, Kavali Ganesh, an ex-President of the United Quthbullapur Mandal Sarpanches' Forum, has stepped forward to address the severe problems facing residents of the Dundigal 2BHK double bedroom housing complex in the Dundigal Circle area. The complex is home to approximately 3,990 beneficiaries who have been enduring significant distress due to a persistent and major civic failure.

The core of the problem lies with the malfunctioning Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), which has been the source of severe inconvenience for a considerable time. This infrastructure failure has led to a major sanitation crisis in the colony, resulting in a pervasive and intolerable foul odor and the extensive stagnation of sewage water. Consequently, the area has seen a drastic increase in the spread of mosquitoes, creating an unhygienic environment. The accumulation of

these problems has unfortunately resulted in the residents facing serious and escalating health issues.

In an effort to resolve the crisis urgently, Kavali Ganesh, under the guidance of Quthbullapur constituency Incharge Kolan Hanmanth Reddy, took the lead in addressing the issue. Their primary action was to formally submit a detailed plea to the Superintendent Engineer (Operations) of the Medchal Circle, P. Karunakar Babu. The petition strongly

urged the engineer to prioritize the STP issue at the Dundigal double bedroom colony and to take immediate and appropriate corrective measures. Former Sarpanch Ganesh expressed strong public criticism, stating that for a full year, the issues at the Dundigal double bedroom complex have remained exactly that—issues—and have not been successfully resolved by the authorities. However, he did convey a positive note, mentioning that the officials had offered a fa-

vorable response, assuring the delegation that they would work to resolve the problems as quickly as possible. The effort was supported by other local leaders, including the former MPTC of Dundigal, Bandari Mahesh, and Donthi Mahesh Mudiraj, who were also present during the submission of the petition. The collective political intervention aims to secure a swift and concrete resolution to this pressing public health and sanitation emergency.

# Hydraconserves ₹750 Crore Government Land From Encroachment

TPN Bureau | dec 11, 2025

The Hyderabad Urban Development and Regulatory Authority (HYDRA) successfully executed an operation on Thursday, December 11, resulting in the protection and reclamation of a significant tract of government land. The action took place in Nizampet Village, which falls under the Bachupally Mandal in the Medchal - Malkajgiri district. The land in question covers an area of 10 acres within Survey No. 191. This public property is estimated to hold a substantial value of over ₹750 crores. HYDRA's intervention was prompted by reports and complaints received from local residents regarding the en-

croachment and illegal occupation of the government land. Responding promptly to these reports, HYDRA initiated an investigation on the ground. This probe was conducted jointly

with the local Revenue Department officials to accurately assess the situation and confirm the extent of the unauthorized occupations. The investigation conclusively confirmed

that encroachment was indeed taking place on the valuable public land. Following the confirmation of the illegal occupations, HYDRA Commissioner Shri A.V. Ranganath issued direct and firm instructions to proceed with the reclamation. The operation focused on the removal of all temporary and unauthorized constructions. Specifically, the team worked to dismantle and remove structures such as sheds and compound walls that had been illegally erected on the 10-acre property. A crucial part of the Commissioner's directive was the careful execution of the operation to ensure that no action was taken against permanent residential dwellings,

focusing solely on clearing the illegal encroachments. Upon successful removal of the structures, HYDRA took immediate steps to secure the land permanently. The entire boundary of the 10 acres was marked and protected with fencing, and official signboards were erected. These measures serve as a clear demarcation and a strong deterrent against any future attempts at land grabbing, thereby ensuring the long-term preservation of the valuable government asset for public use. This swift and effective enforcement action demonstrates HYDRA's commitment to upholding land regulations and protecting public resources across the region.

# MP Kavya Seeks ₹133.5 Crore Central Fund To Upgrade Twin Cities' Sewerage System

TPN Bureau | dec 11, 2025

Member of Parliament Kadiyam Kavya met with Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Shri C. R. Patil, in New Delhi to advocate for urgent central funding to address a critical infrastructure and environmental crisis in Hyderabad and Secunderabad. The MP highlighted the dramatic transformation of the twin cities due to rapid and intensive development, specifically noting the construction of numerous multi-storey buildings. This surge in construction has led to a significant increase in population density, placing an immense and unsustainable strain on the city's existing infrastructure. MP Kavya pointed out that the sewage drainage system is largely

outdated, having been constructed long ago without commensurate upgrades to handle the current volume of waste. The consequence of this infrastructure deficit is the continuous overflowing of drainage lines across the city.

Furthermore, she detailed the severe environmental impact resulting from this failure: the untreated sewage water is directly polluting and contaminating the local lakes and rivers. She stressed that this problem of water pollution is particularly acute within the geographical boundaries of her constituency, the Malkajgiri Parliament area, and is worsening in the newly established colonies across the region. The MP emphasized that the resulting water contamination is directly lead-

ing to an escalation of various health problems among the populace, necessitating a robust and permanent solution. To facilitate this vital infrastructure overhaul, MP Kavya submitted a formal request to the Union Minister for the sanction of ₹133.5 crores in financial aid. This funding is requested to be disbursed through the National River Conservation Directorate (NRCD) and channeled to the Hyderabad Metro Water Works and Sewerage Board (HM-WSSB). The funds are earmarked for essential work to upgrade the city's sewage management system, aiming to curb overflows, mitigate environmental damage, and safeguard public health from water-borne diseases and poor sanitation.
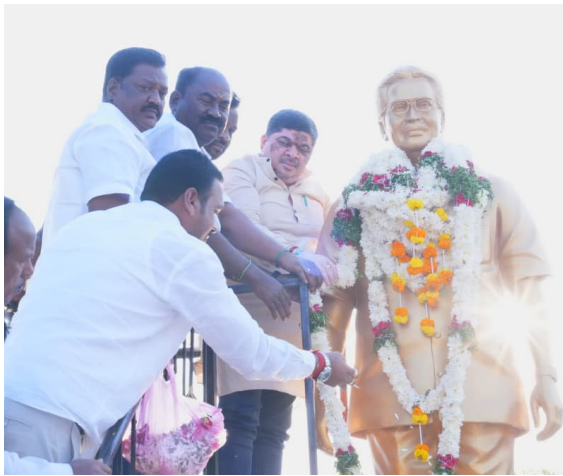
# Minister Prabhakar Pays Tribute To Former MLA Bomma Venkanna's Legacy

TPN Bureau | dec 11, 2025

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, along with other prominent political leaders, paid a heartfelt tribute to the late former MLA of Indurthi, Bomma Venkanna, on the occasion of his birth anniversary. The tribute was held at the late leader's statue in Nagaram Chowrasta, where the Minister offered his respects. Minister Prabhakar spoke about the late leader's profound impact, describing him as an individual

who tirelessly fought for the social justice movement and the upliftment of the weaker sections (Balheen Vargalu), a dedication the Minister recalled observing from his own student days. He acknowledged Bomma Venkanna's critical role in the region's development, specifically noting his advocacy for the Gorevelly Project, which was a key public demand raised during the late Rajasekhar Reddy's Padayatra in the area.

Minister Prabhakar

also shared a personal connection, highlighting that Bomma Venkanna had served as a guide and mentor to him on numerous occasions throughout his career. He formally pledged to continue working towards the ideals and goals set by Bomma Venkanna. Concluding his tribute, the Minister reaffirmed his commitment to the development of the region and promised to stand in strong support of the local farming community (Raitangam).

# Hydracommissioner Urges Youth To Embrace Social Welfare In Disaster Training

TPN Bureau | dec 11, 2025

The Commissioner of the Hyderabad Urban Development and Regulatory Authority (HYDRA), Shri A.V. Ranganath, delivered a keynote address at a training program for 'Yuva Apada Mitra' (Youth Disaster Friend) volunteers. The training session, which took place at the Platinum Jubilee Hall of Osmania University on Thursday, December 11, focused on promot-

ing active civic participation among young people. Commissioner Ranganath emphasized that a better society is fundamentally built upon the actions of responsible citizens. He challenged the notion of apathy, urging individuals, particularly the youth, to move past the attitude of "why should I concern myself?" and instead dedicate time and thought to the cause of social welfare and the

common good. He stressed that this change in mindset is vital for the community's resilience. The 'Yuva Apada Mitra' scheme, sponsored by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), is designed to train students from various colleges to act as frontline responders during natural calamities. The training equips them not only for self-preservation but also for the critical

task of safely rescuing and protecting their peers, neighbors, and the wider community during emergencies like floods and fires. The Commissioner highly commended the students for their participation in the program, viewing their involvement as a very auspicious development. He congratulated them for undertaking training that enables them to save lives, highlighting the crucial role that

awareness of surroundings plays in managing emergencies. Ranganath pointed out that by participating in the efforts to prevent the loss of life and property, the volunteers are engaged in a noble cause for which they should be immensely proud. He assured them that HYDRA is providing all the necessary, high-quality training required for them to form a robust network of community-based first responders.

# Minister Prabhakar Honors Unanimously Elected Vanga Ramaiah Pally Leaders

TPN Bureau | dec 11, 2025

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar attended a significant event in Vanga Ramaiah Pally Gram Panchayat, located in the Husnabad Mandal, to honor the newly elected local body leaders. The event was held to congratulate and felicitate the leaders who secured their positions through a collective and unified decision by the village. The Minister specifically honored the new-

ly elected Sarpanch, Bhukya Rajeshwari Tirupati, who achieved a unanimous election for the post. He also extended his congratulations to the Deputy Sarpanch, Dundugula Raju, and all the newly elected Ward Members. In his address, Minister Prabhakar praised the people of Vanga Ramaiah Pally for their consensus-based decision to unanimously elect their Sarpanch. He underscored the importance of this unity,

advising the elected representatives to maintain their harmonious working relationship and to cooperate fully to ensure the comprehensive development of their village. Minister Prabhakar concluded his remarks by giving an assurance to the community that the government is fully committed to the development of Vanga Ramaiah Pally and will work to advance the village in all possible ways.

# Telangana Gram Panchayat Polls Phase One: 46.39% Turnout in Karimnagar

TPN Bureau | dec 11, 2025

The first phase of the Telangana local body elections recorded a moderate to strong turnout across various districts, indicating active participation from the rural electorate. In Karimnagar district, the reported voter turnout reached 46.39 per cent by 11:00 AM. The district manages a total of 91 Gram Panchayats with a total of 1,53,195 eligible voters, which breaks down into 74,618 males, 78,670 female voters, and seven others. By the 11:00 AM polling update, a total of 71,066 votes had been successfully polled. In the adjacent Jagtiyal district, the polling activity was slightly more vigorous, recording a voter turnout of 47.63 per cent by 11:00 AM. Jagtiyal has a larger total electorate of 2,18,194, comprising 1,02,238 males, 1,15,955 females, and one other voter. As of the morning deadline, a total of 1,03,936 votes were cast in the district. Across the entire state in this first phase of elections, a substantial total of 12,960 candidates were competing for the various Sarpanch posts, while 65,455 candidates were in the fray for the Ward Member positions. More than 56 lakh voters across the state were eligible to participate, with voting taking place across 37,562 polling centres spread throughout 189 mandals. Voting commenced in the morning and was scheduled to continue until 1 p.m., with the critical counting of votes set to begin immediately afterwards at 2 p.m. Following the official counting and declaration of results, a mandatory meeting of the newly-elected ward members will be convened to elect the Deputy Sarpanches. Although Gram Panchayat elections are officially and legally conducted on a non-party basis, this initial phase is widely viewed and politically analyzed as a crucial test for the stability and popular support of the ruling Congress party, as well as the organizational strength of the opposition parties, BRS and BJP. The official poll notification was initially issued for 4,326 Sarpanch posts and 37,440 Ward Member posts. However, records indicate that five Sarpanch posts and 169 Ward Member posts received no nominations at all. Furthermore, a total of 396 Gram Panchayats and 9,633 Ward Members were elected unanimously, highlighting local consensus in many areas. Elections for one Gram Panchayat and 10 Ward Members were also temporarily stayed by the Courts due to various petitions. The final total eligible electorate for Phase I stood at 56,19,430, consisting of 27,41,070 males and 28,78,159 females. Telangana State Election Commissioner Rani Kumudini provided assurances that all necessary arrangements were fully in place to ensure peaceful, free, and fair elections across the board.

Over one lakh polling staff were deployed for duty. To provide real-time oversight and security assurance, direct webcasting was arranged in 3,461 Gram Panchayats, enabling District Collectors (acting as District Election Authorities) and General Observers to monitor the polls live. Security deployment was extremely robust, with over 50,000 police personnel mobilized from Civil Police, Armed Reserve, Telangana State Special Police (TGSP), and staff temporarily deputed from other departments like Forest and Excise. Director General of Police B. Shivadhar Reddy confirmed that extensive and adequate security measures were also arranged at all counting centres due to the immediate start of the counting process after polling concluded. Finally, enforcement teams reported significant activity, having seized cash, liquor, drugs, precious metals, and other inducements collectively worth 8.20 crore during the ongoing election process, and a total of 229 FIRs have been officially registered for various violations of the Model Code of Conduct. (400 words)

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# Health Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha Inaugurates Private Hospital in Sangareddy

TPN Bureau | dec 11, 2025, The State Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Damodar Rajanarasimha, officially inaugurated the newly established Dr. Shyam ENT & General Hospital located in the Revenue Colony on the bypass road in the Sangareddy District Centre. During the opening ceremony, the Minister conducted a comprehensive inspection of all the hospital's various departments. He took the time to carefully examine the modern equipment that has been installed in the facility, emphasizing its role in supporting advanced medical care for the community. Furthermore, the Minister personally interacted with the doctors, taking the opportunity to inquire about and gain detailed knowledge of the full range of medical services the hospital plans to offer to the general public. Speaking on this occasion, Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha highlighted the state government's overarching focus on essential sectors. He explicitly stated that the Telangana State Government, operating under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, is committed to giving immense priority to both the education and health sectors across the state. The Minister underscored the government's dedicated efforts to enhance public healthcare accessibility and quality, assuring the public that the government is fully committed to providing modern medical services free of charge to all citizens in every government hospital. He further stressed that these state-provided services are currently being upgraded to ensure they are comparable in quality to those offered by well-equipped corporate hospitals, making high-quality healthcare universally available.

Concluding his official address, the Minister offered his sincere congratulations and praise to the management, doctors, and all the nursing staff of the private Dr. Shyam Hospital. He specifically applauded them for actively stepping forward to provide specialized ENT and general medical services, complete with all necessary modern facilities, to the people of the Sangareddy District Centre within the private healthcare sector, marking a significant expansion of healthcare options for the local community.

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# DCA Raid on Unlicensed Fertility Centre Seizes Drugs Worth 5.82 Lakhs

Press Note No. 89/DCA/2025 | Date: 11-12-2025

The Drugs Control Administration (DCA), Telangana, successfully executed a decisive raid on an unlicensed premises, the Mythri Sri Fertility Centre in Hanamkonda, which resulted in the significant seizure of a large stock of illegally held medicines. The seized drugs, which were discovered to be stocked for sale in contravention of the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, are officially estimated to be worth 5.82 lakhs. The operation was carried out on December 10, 2025, following the receipt of credible intelligence by the DCA regarding the unauthorized and illegal stocking and sale of medicines at the premises, specifically located beside the Head Post Office near Ambedkar Circle in Hanamkonda. During the successful raid, DCA officers found a substantial quantity of medicines that were clearly intended for sale, thereby violating the provisions of the Drugs Rules. The stock included a total of 35 varieties of medicines, comprising crucial preparations such as steroids and various hormone preparations that are used specifically in the treatment of infertility. The entire seized stock, valued at 5.82 lakhs, was immediately secured by the authorities. The dedicated raiding team comprised key DCA personnel, including Dr. G. Rajyalakshmi (Assistant Director, Warangal), Sri J. Kiran Kumar (Drugs Inspector, Hanumakonda), and Sri A. Balakrishna (Drugs Inspector, Jangaon). Following the seizure, DCA officers meticulously collected samples for rigorous analysis. The DCA confirmed that a further, in-depth investigation will be carried out, and appropriate legal action will be taken under the law against all individuals and entities found to be involved in this illegal activity. Following the incident, the DCA issued an important advisory, providing a strong reminder to all qualified and registered medical practitioners (RMPs) that while Schedule K of the Drugs Rules does offer a limited exemption from needing a drug license for supplying medicines to their own patients—provided the RMP is not operating an open shop or selling over the counter—they are still mandatorily required to strictly comply with several crucial rules, including purchasing medicines only from licensed dealers or manufacturers with clear purchase bills listing drug names, quantities, and batch numbers, maintaining a proper register recording key details for all medicines issued, and preserving these registers for a minimum period of two years. The public is urged to be aware of these legal mandates to guarantee safe and regulated access to essential medicines and is also encouraged to report any suspected illegal drug activities via the DCA Toll-Free Number 1800-599-6969.

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# Adilabad SP Reviews Security For Phase One Gram Panchayat Elections

TPN Bureau | dec 11, 2025

Adilabad District SP Akhil Mahajan IPS conducted a detailed inspection of the polling centres involved in the first phase of the Gram Panchayat elections, which took place across six different mandals in the district. The elections were specifically held in the mandals of Ichoda, Sirikonda, Utnoor, Indravelli, Gadiguda, and Narnoor. The SP personally visited and oversaw the security arrangements and procedures at the various polling centres that participated in this critical first phase of the local body elections. To ensure robust and effective monitoring and security management across all six mandals, DSP-level officers were specially appointed with the responsibility of supervising the entire election process in their assigned areas. The SP officially reported that a significantly strong security presence (bandobust), involving a large deployment of 938 personnel, was strategically established across all 166 Gram Panchayats that went to polls. Crucially, special party forces were strategically utilized to manage security in the areas officially designated as problematic or sensitive, thereby ensuring precautionary measures were in place to actively prevent any potential undesirable events from occurring. A significant and specific directive was issued by the SP regarding post-election conduct: all forms of victory rallies are strictly not permitted immediately following the announcement of the election results. He provided a clear guideline that, subject to obtaining formal permission from the concerned authorities, victory rallies may be organized on a designated day at a later date, but they must be conducted without the use of any fireworks (tapakayalu). This measure is a preventative step intended to actively maintain peace and order throughout the district following the intense period of vote counting and result declaration.

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# MP Kiran Kumar Reddy Raises Handloom Issues, Calls For 100 Cr Fund To Combat Pochampally Ikat Duplication

TPN Bureau | dec 11, 2025

Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, the Member of Parliament for Bhuvanagiri, actively participated in the Consultative Committee Meeting of the Ministry of Textiles, where the central topic of discussion was the vital "Handloom Sector." The meeting featured the attendance of several key dignitaries, including the Union Minister Shri Giriraj Singh, Minister of State for Textiles Shri Pabitramargareta, Textiles Secretary Smt. Neelima Sharma Rao, and Handlooms DC Dr. M. Beena. During his presentation, MP Reddy brought several critical issues facing the sector to the committee's urgent attention. He highlighted the fact that the unorganized/unauthorized sector, particularly the handloom segment, constitutes a massive employer, accounting for a substantial 92% of the total workforce in the entire Indian textile industry. He emphasized the significant and growing distress experienced by millions of workers, especially women, who are currently struggling to cope with the rapidly rising production costs and escalating investment requirements necessitated by the introduction of modern technology and machinery. He strongly stressed that the economic situation of these traditional weavers has been severely compromised, issuing a stark warning that without the provision of timely and adequate assistance, their invaluable traditional skills risk declining entirely within the coming decade. Focusing specifically on the situation in Telangana, MP Reddy pointed out that the state's handloom sector holds a key and foundational role in the state economy, having earned both national and international recognition for its unique, high-quality weaves such as the famous Pochampally Ikat and Narayanpet fabrics. He noted that thousands of families across the state rely solely on this sector for their complete livelihood. He acknowledged the support mechanisms provided by state entities like TSCO, which offers assistance through raw material supply, marketing support, and various welfare schemes. The MP then highlighted what he termed the most severe and damaging threat currently facing the industry: the rampant Duplication of Pochampally Ikat. He reported that approximately 15,000 looms out of Telangana's 30,000 handlooms are dedicated to producing Pochampally Ikat, which directly or indirectly supports a large population of 50,000 families. He stated that the unauthorized, widespread manufacture of duplicate Pochampally Ikat sarees has been actively growing for the past 20 years and has, unfortunately, fully captured the market over the last 10 years. This duplication is now severely damaging the original handloom industry in 40 surrounding villages, which produces silk and cotton sarees collectively valued at approximately 1,000 crores annually (a portion of which is exported). He cited a devastating statistic: a genuine silk saree valued at 10,000 can be duplicated at a production cost of only 60 0. He further explained that powerloom owners are able to quickly copy new designs developed by master weavers and release them into the market at drastically cheaper prices, causing a massive and irreversible decline in demand for the original handloom silk and cotton sarees. He lamented that despite the weave obtaining GI (Geographical Indication) status in 2004, the current GI protection system is proving ineffective due to serious implementation failures. This critical situation has resulted in thousands of weavers' lives being cast into uncertainty, leading to increasing migration and a significant loss of traditional weaving skills. To permanently and comprehensively resolve the pervasive Ikat duplication crisis, MP Reddy made a specific, four-point appeal for Central Government intervention: the establishment of a special Corpus Fund with an initial allocation of 100 crores; the mandated use of this fund to attach an Authentication Tag to all genuine Pochampally handloom sarees; the launch of a nationwide brand campaign featuring a Brand Ambassador across TV, social media, and hoardings; and the implementation of a strong legal framework and system to take swift and decisive action against all duplicate manufacturers.

# 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.

## Legal and Constitutional Basis of SIR

The authority of the ECI to conduct a Special Intensive Revision is grounded in both the Constitution of India and the Representation of the People Act, 1950. The key legal provisions include:

1. **Article 324:** Grants the ECI superintendence, direction, and control of elections to Parliament and State Legislatures. This broad mandate enables the Commission to take decisions ensuring free, fair, and credible elections.

2. **Article 326:** Guarantees adult suffrage for all citizens aged 18 years and above in elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.

3. **Section 21(3)** of the Representation of the People Act, 1950: Explicitly empowers 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:

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

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

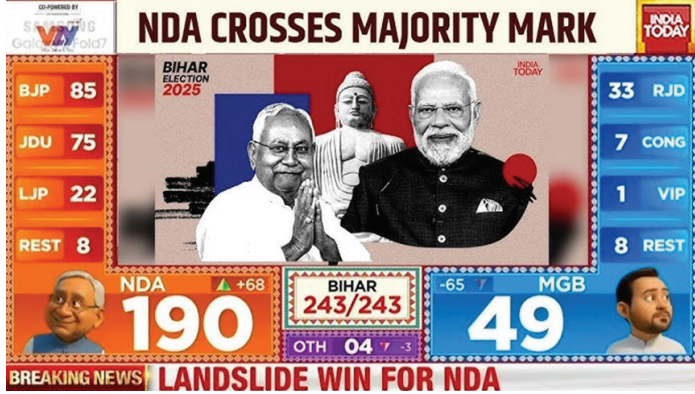• **Special Focus on Marginalized Groups:** Emphasis is placed on migrants, youth, first-time voters, and persons with disabilities.

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

• **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.

• 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.



## 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.

## Challenges and Criticisms

Despite its benefits, SIR is not without challenges:

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

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

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

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

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

• **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, monitoring, 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:

• Over 51 crore voters will be covered.

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

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

• Assam is excluded due to the ongoing NRC exercise.

• 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 Measures:** Special camps for migrants, disabled, and first-time voters, with multilingual awareness campaigns.

5. **Stakeholder Consultation:** Engagement with political parties, civil society organizations, and community groups ensures inclusivity.

6. **Public Disclosure and Monitoring:** Publish details of deletions and inclusions to reduce fears of disenfranchisement.

7. **Post-Roll Audit:** Sample audits to verify inclusion of marginalized groups and correct errors before elections.

8. **Integration with Delimitation and Polling Station Rationalization:** Ensure that constituency boundary changes and new booths are accurately reflected.

The Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls is a cornerstone of India's democratic process, balancing accuracy, inclusivity, and transparency. By combining house-to-house verification, strict document checks, and modern technology, SIR strengthens public trust in elections and enhances the efficiency of polling operations. However, its scale, timing, and procedural challenges require careful management to avoid disenfranchisement, logistical difficulties, and political controversy.

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.

# 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 attempting to dictate the flow of Parliamentary proceedings.

"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.

### Shah Revives Historical Attacks on Nehru–Gandhi Family

The Home Minister escalated his attack by invoking what he described as historical instances of "vote theft" involving the Nehru–Gandhi family. According to him, the earliest such episode occurred during the selection of India's first Prime Minister.

"Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel had 28 votes from provincial Congress units, and Jawaharlal Nehru had only two. Yet Nehru ji became the Prime Minister," Shah claimed, leading to loud protests from Opposition benches.

He further cited the 1975 judgment of the Allahabad High Court that invalidated Indira Gandhi's election from Rae Bareli. "To hide this vote chori," Shah alleged, "she brought a law to ensure no case could be filed against the Prime Minister. The Leader of the Opposition talks of immunity for Election Commissioners—what does he say about the immunity Indira Gandhi gave herself?"

Continuing the attack, Shah accused Indira Gandhi of superseding 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."

The Opposition vehemently 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.

# 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. An active Interpol Blue Corner Notice remains in place to track their movements abroad. Meanwhile, on Wednesday, the Rohini Court in Delhi heard a transit anticipatory bail plea filed by the Luthras. Their petition sought four weeks' protection from arrest and interim relief to facilitate their return to India without being taken into immediate custody.

While the Luthras remain abroad, law enforcement has made progress in detaining another co-owner. Ajay Gupta, one of the four partners of the nightclub, was produced before a Delhi magistrate after being traced by Goa Police. Gupta had earlier been declared missing, prompting the issuance of a Look Out Circular (LOC) when police failed to locate him at his residence. After undergoing a medical examination, Gupta will be transported to Goa for formal arrest and questioning.

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 Luthra brothers. 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 confiscated, 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.

# 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 recommended 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 committee 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.

# 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 nature 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 inadvertently 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. Yet, she expressed hope that the profession would rise above such manipulation.

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 detainment 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 attaches 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 miscalculations.

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 for skilled workers.

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 discourage 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. Fallout 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.
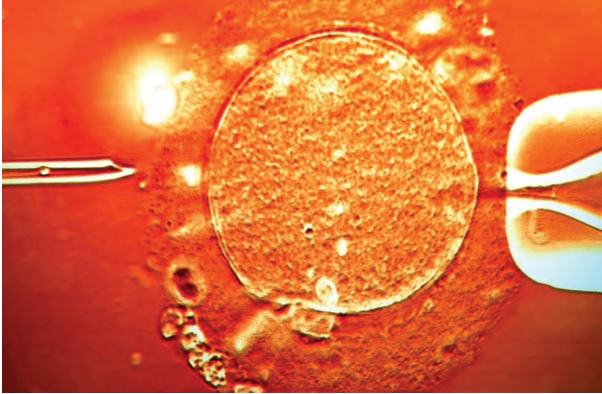
Beyond the immediate casualties, the border clashes have taken a heavy toll on children living in affected areas. Thai teacher Siksaka Pongsuwan highlighted the hidden victims of the conflict: children whose education and daily routines are repeatedly interrupted. Nearly 650 schools across five Thai 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 U.S. President Donald Trump present, where he hailed the agreement as a historic achievement. However, just two weeks later, Thailand suspended parts of the agreement after two of its soldiers were injured by a landmine near the border. 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 waking up to find their accounts disabled—while others boast they have already slipped past the new restrictions. The world-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,

flanked by parents, advocates and media figures who helped champion the reform. "I think this will stand alongside the other great reforms Australia has led the world on."

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.

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.

Across Australia, there is widespread agreement that social media giants have failed to protect children from harmful content, cyberbullying and exploitation. Supporters of the ban include parents, clinicians and students like 12-year-old Tasmanian schoolgirl Florence "Flossie" Brodribb, who said the ban would give children a healthier environment. "Our brains are going through one of the biggest rewiring periods

of our lives… Social media is designed to take advantage of that," she said. "Young people deserve better."

But among teenagers, the reaction is far more negative. Many argue the ban removes their primary means of connection, especially for those who are LGBTQ+, neurodivergent 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
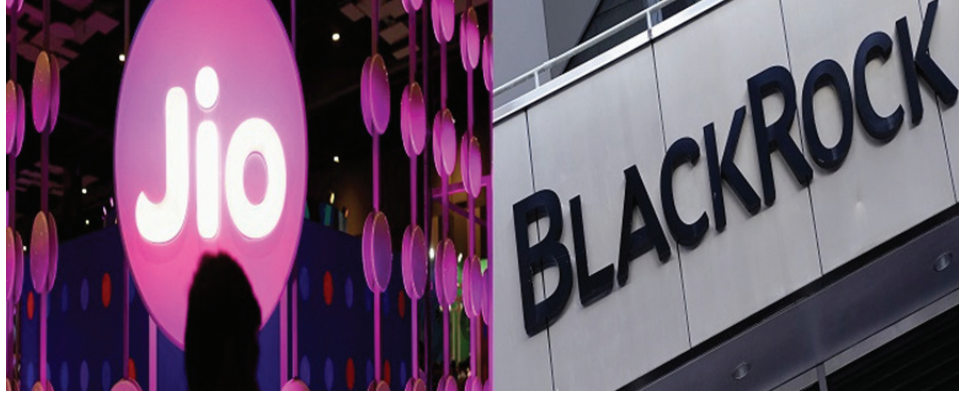


need to make decisions in the absence of current data, relying on older metrics and projections to guide policy.

"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.

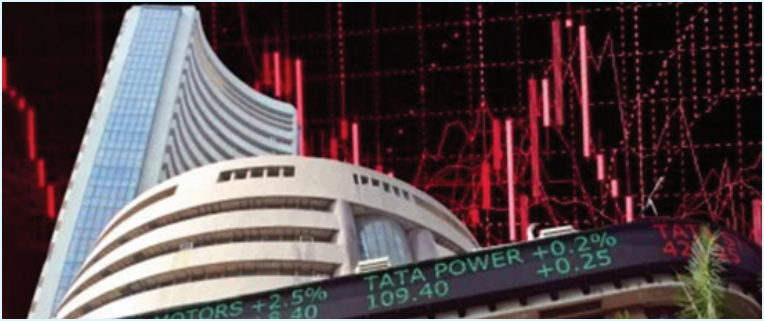# Jio Financial and BlackRock Pump Rs 229 Crore Each Into Digital Asset Management JV



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 support 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 clients efficiently. The focus will be on making investment management accessible, transparent, and cost-effective, leveraging Jio's vast customer base and digital touchpoints.

Speaking on the capital raise, a spokesperson for Jio Financial said: "This infusion reflects our commitment to building one of India's most ambitious digital-first asset management platforms. With BlackRock's deep global experience and our digital capabilities, we are well-positioned to offer innovative investment solutions to millions of Indian investors."

From BlackRock's side, the firm emphasized that the partnership with Jio is a strategic move to tap into India's rapidly growing financial services market, which is expected to witness exponential growth over the next decade. "We see significant potential in India's retail and institutional investor 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 experiencing 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.

On the 30-share Sensex, Eternal, Trent, Bharti Airtel, Infosys, and Tech Mahindra emerged as the biggest laggards, shedding between 1% and 3%. Financial stocks, which form the backbone of the index, declined 0.5%, while the IT sector witnessed a sharper fall of 0.9%. The selling extended to the broader market, with small-cap and mid-cap indices retreating 0.9% and 1.1%, respectively, reflecting cautious investor sentiment.

Among sectoral movers, InterGlobe Aviation, the operator of IndiGo, tumbled 3.3% after the government instructed the airline to trim 10% of its scheduled flights, following over 2,000 cancellations last week due to operational disruptions. The directive weighed on aviation stocks, which have been under scrutiny for service reliability issues.

On the flip side, newly listed Meesho made a sensational market debut, surging 53% above its offer price. The e-commerce company's asset-light, zero-commission marketplace model was well-received by investors, underlining strong demand for growth-oriented technology stocks in India despite broader market weakness.

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 × 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-degree 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 details 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.

# 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.

The Narzo 90 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 rate, catering especially to gamers and users who prefer fluid scrolling.

In the camera department, both phones will be equipped with a 50-megapixel primary rear camera. Realme is also adding multiple AI-powered photography tools across the series, including AI Edit Genie, AI Editor, AI Eraser, and AI Ultra Clarity, designed to enhance image quality and simplify post-processing. While the Narzo 90 5G will feature a square triple-camera module, the Narzo 90x 5G will sport a rectangular dual-camera setup, giving each model a distinct design identity.

With powerful batteries, fast charging, enhanced AI features, and bright displays, the Realme Narzo 90 series is shaping up to be a compelling addition to the mid-range smartphone segment. As the launch date approaches, Realme is expected to reveal more details, including pricing and availability.

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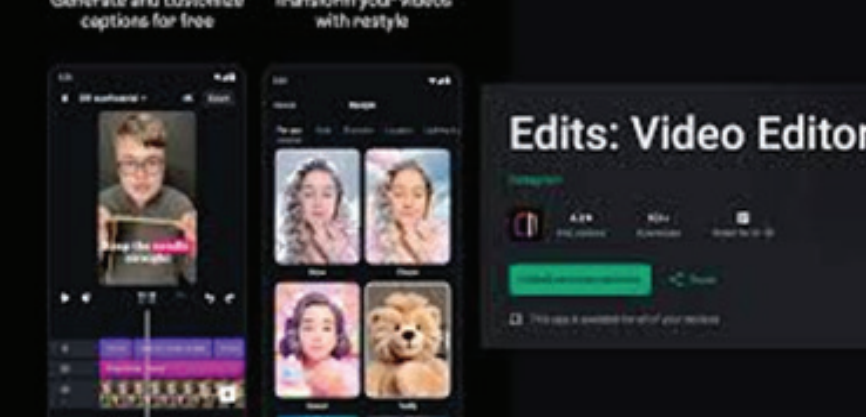
If brought to the stable version of Chrome, the new AI Mode could significantly enhance productivity for millions of users by providing AI-powered assistance natively, without the need for additional extensions or separate web pages.

# 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 always 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.

He also suggested strategic resting of the stars in less challenging games to preserve them for major series. "You need to preserve both these stars, and when India is playing against a weaker team, they can try some new players and rest Virat and

Rohit," Afridi added.

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.

On the field, India posted a formidable 175/6 after opting to bat first. Hardik Pandya starred with an unbeaten 59 off 28 balls, while Tilak Varma (26 off 32) and Axar Patel



(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."

Earlier, Hardik had expressed his anger on social media over paparazzi behavior towards Mahieka Sharma. He criticized photographers for crossing boundaries while capturing her in a Bandra restaurant, calling it "disrespectful and intrusive."

In an Instagram story, he wrote, "I understand that living in the public eye comes with attention and scrutiny—it's part of the life I've chosen. But today something happened that crossed a line. Mahieka was simply walking down a staircase when paps decided to capture her from an angle that no woman deserves to be photographed from. A private moment was turned into cheap sensationalism."

Hardik's performance not only showcased his on-field brilliance but also highlighted his commitment to personal values off the field, earning him praise from fans for both his cricketing exploits and his stand against invasive media behavior.

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.

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

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

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

## 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 'Akhanda-2' Finally Set for Release; New Teaser Out



After weeks of speculation and controversy, Balakrishna's 'Akhanda-2' is finally set to hit theaters. The makers have officially announced that the movie, the much-awaited sequel to the 2021 blockbuster 'Akhanda', will release on December 12. Directed by Boyapati Srinu, the film

had faced delays due to financial challenges, which have now been resolved, clearing the path for its theatrical release.

In anticipation of the release, the production team has dropped a new teaser, titled "Akhanda-2 Release Teaser", which has already generated excite-

ment among fans. The teaser showcases high-octane action sequences, dramatic moments, and glimpses of Balakrishna in his larger-than-life avatar, reaffirming the mass entertainer vibe that the Akhanda franchise is known for. It also highlights the supporting cast

and sets the stage for the intense storyline expected in the sequel.

The release of the teaser comes at a time when fans were eagerly waiting for updates after the prolonged delays. The earlier film, 'Akhanda', was a massive commercial success and established a

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 'Akhanda-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 Akhanda-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

The excitement among fans of Darling Prabhas is reaching a fever pitch as his most anticipated film is slated to hit theaters on 9th January 2026. With the Sankranti season bringing multiple releases, expectations for this movie are running higher than for any other festive release this year, largely due to Prabhas' immense fan following.

The film promises to showcase Prabhas in a new avatar, combining his mass entertainer persona with elements of horror-comedy, a genre he has rarely explored in his recent projects. Audiences are particularly curious to see him in a lighter, more comedic role while still delivering the charisma and larger-than-life energy he is known for.

Industry experts predict that the fan base alone will drive impressive footfalls, making it a potential blockbuster of the Sankranti season. With a mix of suspense, comedy, and high-octane entertainment, the film aims to cater to a wide range of audiences, from die-hard Prabhas fans to family viewers seeking a fun holi-



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

Fans of Telugu cinema are in for a treat as Ravi Teja's upcoming movie, 'Mass Jathara', gears up for a grand release this Sankranti. Adding to the excitement, the makers have released a new song from the film, which has already begun creating a buzz among fans and music lovers.

The song, which features Ravi Teja in his signature energetic style, showcases high-octane action sequences and vibrant choreography, staying true to the mass entertainer persona that the actor is known for. The catchy tunes and engaging visuals have resonated well with audiences on social media, prompting fans to share and comment enthusiastically.

'Mass Jathara' is positioned as a Sankranti spe-



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 have been strategically re-

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.