



Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu Launches 'Mustabu' Program in Tallapalem, Emphasizes Personal Hygiene Education

TPN Bureau | December 20

Anakapalli District: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu visited Tallapalem village in Anakapalli district on Saturday as part of a state-wide initiative aimed at promoting cleanliness and personal hygiene among school students. The Chief Minister inaugurated the "Mustabu" program at the local Gurukula School and interacted extensively with students, teachers, and staff during the

event.

The "Mustabu" program launched simultaneously across all government and private schools in the state focuses on creating awareness among students about personal hygiene, cleanliness, and overall well-being. It forms part of the government's broader mission to nurture responsible citizens by instilling good habits and self-discipline from a young age. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said that students represent the "golden future of the state," and emphasized

that ensuring their health, hygiene, and education is the cornerstone of a progressive society.

He urged teachers and parents to actively participate in creating cleaner learning environments and to encourage students to take ownership of maintaining hygiene both at school and at home. Following the school event, Naidu joined sanitation workers on a cleanliness inspection walk through Tallapalem village. Accompanied by them on foot, he personally observed the cleanliness activities and visited

several lanes and public areas. This symbolic act, officials explained, was meant to highlight the government's commitment to the Swachh Andhra Pradesh mission and inspire citizens to contribute actively to keeping their surroundings clean.

Earlier in the day, the Chief Minister arrived at the Tallapalem helipad, where he was warmly received by state leaders and local representatives. Speaker K. Ayyanna Patrudu, Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha, Minister K. Kollu Ravindra (District In-charge Minister of Anakapalli),

and MLA Bandaru Satyanarayana Murthy were among the prominent leaders who welcomed him with flower bouquets and traditional honours. The visit drew enthusiastic participation from students, parents, and local residents, who lined the streets to greet the Chief Minister.

Officials noted that the "Mustabu" initiative marks a key step in transforming Andhra Pradesh's educational and social environment by integrating cleanliness and health awareness into everyday school culture.



ESIC's 'SPREE-2025' Scheme to End on December 31; 2.5 Lakh Workers in Andhra Pradesh Brought Under Social Security Net



Amaravathi: The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has announced that its ambitious 'SPREE-2025' (Scheme for Promoting Registration of Employers and Employees) will come to a close on December 31, 2025. The scheme, launched on July 1 this year by the Central Government, was designed to bring unregistered enterprises and workers under the ambit of ESIC's social security and health protection system. Speaking about the progress of the initiative, ESIC Andhra Pradesh Regional Director Malla Rama Rao said the campaign has achieved remarkable success across the state.

"So far, nearly 2.5 lakh workers in Andhra Pradesh have been registered under ESIC through the SPREE-2025 scheme. This enrollment ensures that they and their families gain access to comprehensive health care and social security

benefits," he stated. Rama Rao further highlighted that more than 2,000 establishments in the state benefitted from the one-time relief measures offered under the scheme.

These benefits included exemption from scrutiny of past records and audits related to previous non-compliance. The initiative aimed at easing the burden on small and medium enterprises that were willing to come forward and regularize their workforce under ESIC norms. The SPREE-2025 drive encouraged all employers with 10 or more employees—including those operating factories, shops, hotels, restaurants, theatres, manpower agencies, and private educational institutions—to register under the ESI Act.

The regional director emphasized that registration compliance provides a dual advantage: employers can contribute towards their employees' welfare while

ensuring legal coverage and continuity of business operations without the risk of future penalties for non-compliance. Under the ESIC framework, enrolled employees receive access to medical care for themselves and their family members, sickness benefits, maternity benefits, disability compensation, and dependents' benefits in case of employment-related injury or death.

Additionally, ESIC runs an extensive network of hospitals and dispensaries across the country, enabling insured workers to access quality healthcare at little to no cost. Malla Rama Rao urged employers who have not yet registered to take advantage of the scheme before its closure on December 31.

"The SPREE-2025 scheme provides a unique window of opportunity to bring workers into the formal social security net. Beyond this deadline, the usual rules regarding

compliance, inspection, and penalties will resume," he warned. The ESIC has also undertaken awareness campaigns to educate both employers and employees about the advantages of social insurance coverage. Officials have been conducting outreach drives and seminars across industrial clusters in Andhra Pradesh, particularly targeting unorganized sectors such as hospitality, retail, and education, where a large number of employees remain outside the formal welfare system.

With the SPREE-2025 scheme nearing its conclusion, stakeholders are hopeful that the initiative will mark a significant step towards universal social protection for India's workforce. For millions of workers transitioning from unorganized to organized employment, this scheme represents not just legal inclusion but a path toward health security and dignity in the workplace.

Key Twist in ASI's Son Venkata Naidu's Case – Police Recover Stolen Cars

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Chilakaluripet: A major development has emerged in the case involving Venkata Naidu, the son of a suspended Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI), connected to the fatal road accident at Chilakaluripet in Palanam district. Narasaraopet police have seized eight stolen cars linked to Naidu's gang, bringing them to the police station for further investigation. Earlier, ten vehicles had already been recovered, taking the total number of stolen cars traced to this gang to twenty-two.

Authorities are continuing efforts to recover the remaining vehicles. The gang is currently under police

custody, and investigations are ongoing. The incident that brought this case to light occurred on December 4 near Ganapavaram, close to the Chilakaluripet bypass in Nandendla mandal, where five engineering students tragically lost their lives in a road accident. CCTV footage obtained by the Chilakaluripet Rural Police revealed that Venkata Naidu's gang had stopped a heavy lorry, allegedly attempting to extort money illegally, which ultimately led to the accident.

Based on the surveillance footage, the accused were identified, detained, and interrogated, eventually uncovering Venkata Naidu's deep involvement in various criminal activities. Further investigation revealed

that Venkata Naidu is the son of ASI Srinivasa Rao, who served at the DSP's office in Narasaraopet. The SP has since suspended the ASI following confirmation of his son's misconduct.

In 2023, Venkata Naidu was accused in another case near Kottappakonda involving the exchange of 2,000 currency notes, where he reportedly duped individuals, looting 50 lakhs under the pretext of paying a 10 lakh commission and fleeing with the car and cash.

That case file, including the ASI's suspected role, has been pending at the SP's office for some time. Records indicate that ASI Srinivasa Rao had been stationed in Narasaraopet for over 15 years.

During this period, sources allege that

Venkata Naidu misused his father's influence to engage in several illegal operations including selling finance vehicles fitted with fake registration numbers at throwaway prices, participating in ganja trade, and running extortion rackets.

Reports also suggest that the ASI shielded his son repeatedly, enabling these unlawful activities to continue unchecked. Following these revelations, the ASI was initially transferred to Vellore police station and later suspended. Police believe more individuals may be involved in the vehicle theft and extortion operations led by Naidu's gang, and a detailed probe is underway to uncover the full extent of the network.

AP Receives special recognition for education

TPN Bureau | December 20

Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh: In a significant achievement for Andhra Pradesh's education sector, the Board of Intermediate Education, Andhra Pradesh (BIEAP) has received official recognition from the National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET). This development marks the first time in India that a School Education Board has been granted NCVET accreditation, setting a new precedent in the integration of vocational training with mainstream education.

Announcing the achievement, Andhra Pradesh Minister for Human Resource Development, Nara Lokesh, said the recognition was a matter of pride for the state. He emphasized that the accreditation represents a milestone in linking academic education with practical skill development, thus aligning the state's education system with national and global workforce standards.

"This recognition will enable BIEAP to issue nationally recognized skill certification to students across Andhra Pradesh," Lokesh said. "It is an important step towards a governance model that values both education and employable skills, ensuring that our youth are prepared for the future job market."

National milestone in vocational education

The National Council for Vocational Education and Training, functioning under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), certifies and regulates vocational education providers in India. The NCVET recognition for BIEAP authorizes the board to conduct vocational programs, assess competencies, and issue certifications that are valid nationwide. According to officials, this will create new pathways for students who wish to pursue skill-based careers alongside academic studies.



national institutes, and skill development agencies are being planned to expand the program to other trades in the near future. These will include areas such as information technology, healthcare, and renewable energy sectors identified as high-potential job generators in the coming decade.

Education analysts view this recognition as a transformative move that could redefine pre-university education in India. By embedding vocational qualification frameworks into the core curriculum, BIEAP

aims to create a more flexible and inclusive education system aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Lokesh concluded that the initiative reflects Andhra Pradesh's commitment to nurturing youth empowerment and supporting the state's industrial and economic growth.

"When education and skill development go hand in hand, we create not just graduates but professionals ready to lead tomorrow's industries," he said. With this achievement, Andhra Pradesh stands at the forefront of India's evolving education landscape, demonstrating how state-level innovation can set national benchmarks for integrating vocational excellence with formal learning.



AP Redefines Non-Highrise Buildings: Limit Raised to 24 Meters

TPN Bureau | December 20

Amaravathi: In a major policy shift aimed at simplifying construction norms and accelerating urban development, the Andhra Pradesh government has revised the definition of high-rise buildings in the state. According to the new guidelines, buildings up to 24 meters in height—approximately eight floors—will no longer be classified as "high-rise." Until now, any structure exceeding 18 meters, or about six floors, was treated as a high-rise building under state regulations.

This decision marks a significant reform in the state's urban and housing policy, designed to streamline the approval process for small and medium-scale constructions. Officials said the change was made after extensive consultation with urban planners and representatives from the real estate and housing sectors, who had long argued that

the previous 18-meter threshold was outdated and unnecessarily restrictive.

Under the previous system, buildings over 18 meters required a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Fire Department, often causing project delays. The new regulation raises the threshold to 24 meters, easing compliance requirements for mid-sized developers and builders. By reducing procedural bottlenecks, the government expects faster clearances and improved housing availability, particularly in tier-2 and tier-3 towns.

Urban Development Department sources said the reform would have both economic and social benefits. "The earlier height limit created unnecessary hurdles for mid-rise apartments and commercial projects," one official explained. "This revision gives builders more flexibility while maintaining safety and environ-



mental standards." Apart from height regulations, the state has also simplified road width and permission norms.

Buildings up to 15 meters high can now obtain build-

ing permits through an expedited single-window clearance system. This move is expected to increase transparency and reduce red tape in building approvals, making it easier

for individuals and small developers to proceed with their projects. In another significant pro-people reform, the government has introduced a symbolic approval fee of just one rupee

for the construction of houses measuring up to 50 square meters, primarily targeting economically weaker sections.

This initiative reflects the administration's focus on af-

fordable housing and its commitment to support low-income families in achieving their dream of homeownership. Experts in the real estate sector have welcomed the govern-

ment's decision, calling it a positive step toward promoting balanced growth.

"Raising the non-highrise limit to 24 meters will encourage vertical development in smaller towns without overburdening the regulatory system," said a senior architect from Vijayawada. "This could also attract more investment into the residential sector." The revised norms align with the state's broader goals of urban modernization and infrastructure expansion.

By granting more autonomy in lower height categories, Andhra Pradesh aims to foster a more investor-friendly environment while ensuring safety and compliance through efficient governance mechanisms. With these changes, the government hopes to simplify building permissions, promote inclusive development, and accelerate housing construction across the state—ushering in a new era for Andhra Pradesh's urban growth.

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu Praises "Mustabu" Hygiene Initiative During Alluri District

Tour Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu continued his district tour on Saturday, visiting various welfare and educational institutions across the state. As part of his ongoing visit to Alluri Sitharama Raju district, the Chief Minister reached the Taalpalam Social Welfare Residential School, where he interacted warmly with the girl students and reviewed the newly introduced "Mustabu" hygiene awareness corner.

During his visit, the Chief Minister examined the facilities arranged under the

"Mustabu" initiative, which promotes personal hygiene and cleanliness among students. Appreciating the innovative approach, Mr. Naidu lauded the Alluri district administration, saying that the Collector had introduced a commendable program that could serve as a model for other districts. He remarked that "Mustabu" brought in a new approach to hygiene and personal well-being among students, emphasizing that such creative efforts are essential for building a healthy and responsible younger generation.

Accompanied by Minister for HRD Nara Lokesh and other cabinet colleagues, the Chief Minister said that his government is fully committed to improving the quality of education and student welfare through practical, community-driven initiatives. "The golden future of our children is our responsibility," he declared, reaffirming his government's focus on holistic education that prioritizes both knowledge and personal discipline.

As part of the interaction session, a student named Guna Srivalli addressed the gathering and shared her thoughts with the Chief Minister. She expressed that the "Mustabu" program is a very good initiative as it encourages students to maintain personal hygiene and cleanliness. Srivalli also shared her ambition of becoming a principal of a social welfare school one day, drawing appreciation from the Chief Minister and the officials present.

The Andhra Pradesh government has decided to implement the "Mustabu" program across all government, private, and residential schools in the state starting from today. The initiative

aims to create awareness on hygiene practices among students, ensuring that every child understands the importance of personal cleanliness.

Through this program, the state hopes to nurture a generation that values discipline, self-care, and social responsibility. With the Chief Minister's emphasis on health, hygiene, and holistic growth, the "Mustabu" initiative marks another step toward transforming the state's educational environment into a cleaner, healthier, and more student-centered system.



Minister for Social Welfare Dola Bala Veeranjaneya Swamy has called upon citizens to actively participate in creating a "Plastic-Free Swarnandhra Pradesh."

TPN Bureau | December 20 Ponnaluru, Andhra Pradesh: He emphasized that collective public participation is crucial to turn the state's vision of a clean, green, and prosperous Andhra Pradesh into reality. The Minister, along with District Collector P. Rajababu, took part in the Swachh Andhra – Swarnandhra programme held in Ponnaluru on Saturday. As part of the event, he laid the foundation stone for the construction of internal roads and side canals worth ₹65 lakh in the village. Local leaders, officials, and villagers took part in the ceremonies with enthusiasm.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Veeranjaneya Swamy said that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu envisions building a clean, healthy, and economically developed state through people's participation. He underscored that

cleanliness and personal hygiene are not only government priorities but also moral responsibilities of every citizen. Highlighting the state government's focus on health and hygiene awareness among students, the Minister said the prestigious statewide "Mustabu" programme is being implemented to foster personal hygiene and healthy habits among school children.

He announced that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu will formally inaugurate the programme in a social welfare school in Anakapalli district, marking a new phase in student health initiatives across Andhra Pradesh. The Minister further said that the state government is placing special emphasis on village cleanliness and greenery through the Swachh Andhra campaign. He noted that the collaboration

between various departments and local bodies ensures that development works go hand in hand with environmental responsibility. Collector P. Rajababu, addressing the gathering, reiterated the importance of sanitation and community participation in maintaining clean surroundings.

He urged villagers to support ongoing initiatives aimed at improving public health and living conditions. Concluding his address, Minister Dola Bala Veeranjaneya Swamy reminded everyone that the cleanliness of the community begins with individual responsibility. He appealed to the people of Andhra Pradesh to contribute actively towards building a cleaner, greener, and plastic-free Swarnandhra Pradesh, aligning with the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu.



Andhra CM Chandrababu Launches 'Swarnandhra-Swachhandhra' Drive, Vows Plastic-Free State by June



TPN Bureau | December 20

TALLAPALEM (Anakapalli District): Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu asserted that any government initiative would remain temporary unless people actively participate, emphasizing that public involvement is crucial for sustainability. He made these remarks while launching the "Swarnandhra-Swachhandhra" campaign at Tallapalem in Anakapalli district on Saturday. Highlighting the importance of community engagement in environmental programs, the Chief Minister said that the success of cleanliness and sanitation drives depends on collective responsibility.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's earlier request for cleanliness reports as part of the Swachh Bharat Mission, Naidu mentioned that the Andhra Pradesh government had promptly submitted a detailed progress report in response to that call. "The coalition government, within just one year of coming to power, has introduced numerous reforms and implemented effective measures for a cleaner Andhra Pradesh," the Chief Minister noted.

He stressed that initiatives focused on public health require active citizen participation and behavioral change at the grassroots level. Naidu said the government is promoting a "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle" (3R) policy to manage waste efficiently. "We are moving ahead with a system that encourages people to hand over used plastics in exchange for money. Our goal is to convert waste into wealth, turning discarded materials into valuable resources," he explained.

To recognize their efforts, the government plans to present awards to the best-performing sanitation workers across the state. He announced that by June next year, Andhra Pradesh will be declared a plastic-free state, adding that the state secretariat has already implemented a complete ban on single-use plastics. Naidu informed that the government had removed about 8.6 million tonnes of garbage accumulated during the previous administration and has set up several recycling units across districts to manage waste more efficiently. As part of the state's cleanliness mission, Naidu directed

officials to ensure that no street should have visible garbage by January 26.

To achieve this, the government has deployed 26 Swachh Raths (cleanliness vehicles) and plans to expand the fleet to 100 vehicles, if necessary, to intensify door-to-door collection of dry waste. Significantly, Naidu also announced cash incentives for households that hand over segregated dry waste to local collection teams. He urged citizens to stop littering on roads and to develop a sense of civic responsibility.

"Our roads belong to all of us. People in urban areas should cooperate with door-to-door waste collection, while households can utilize wet waste for compost production at home," he advised. The Chief Minister said that the government will take the Swachhandhra initiative to a large scale, targeting five lakh houses in urban areas and ten lakh houses in rural regions, promoting waste segregation, composting, and recycling at the household level. "Clean Andhra Pradesh is our mission, but it can succeed only if every citizen becomes a participant," Naidu concluded.

Allegations Surface Against Deputy Speaker Raghu Rama Krishnam Raju; PV Sunil Kumar Demands Immediate Action

TPN Bureau | December 20

Amaravathi: A fresh political storm has erupted in Andhra Pradesh after PV Sunil Kumar made explosive allegations against Deputy Speaker Raghu Rama Krishnam Raju, calling for his immediate removal from office. In a strongly worded statement, Sunil Kumar claimed that not only Raju but his entire family had been involved in financial irregularities, describing them as "involved in 420 activities," a term commonly referring to fraudulent or deceptive practices under Indian penal law.

According to Sunil Kumar, he possesses several documents and pieces of evidence allegedly implicating the Deputy Speaker and his family in fraudulent activities. He stated that these materials were handed over to him by individuals close to the politician. "The day is not far when he will have to face jail time," Sunil Kumar asserted, warning that inaction by financial institutions could compel him to file implead petitions seeking judicial intervention.

He further cautioned that if a sitting Deputy Speaker of Andhra Pradesh were to be ar-



rested on charges under Section 420, it would bring disrepute not only to the state but also to Amaravati, the state's capital region. "Even if local media attempts to suppress this issue, national media will not remain silent," Sunil Kumar said, suggesting that wider attention to the case is imminent. Emphasizing the importance of accountability, he urged the state government and relevant authorities to take swift action to protect the reputation of Andhra Pradesh.

"The responsibility of safeguarding the honour of our state

and capital lies with all of us," he stressed. Sunil Kumar concluded by reiterating his demand that the Deputy Speaker be removed from office immediately in order to preserve the dignity of both the state government and Amaravati.

As of now, Raghu Rama Krishnam Raju has not issued any public response to the allegations. Official reactions from banking institutions or state authorities are also awaited. The situation continues to draw public attention amid calls for transparency and political integrity in the state's administration.

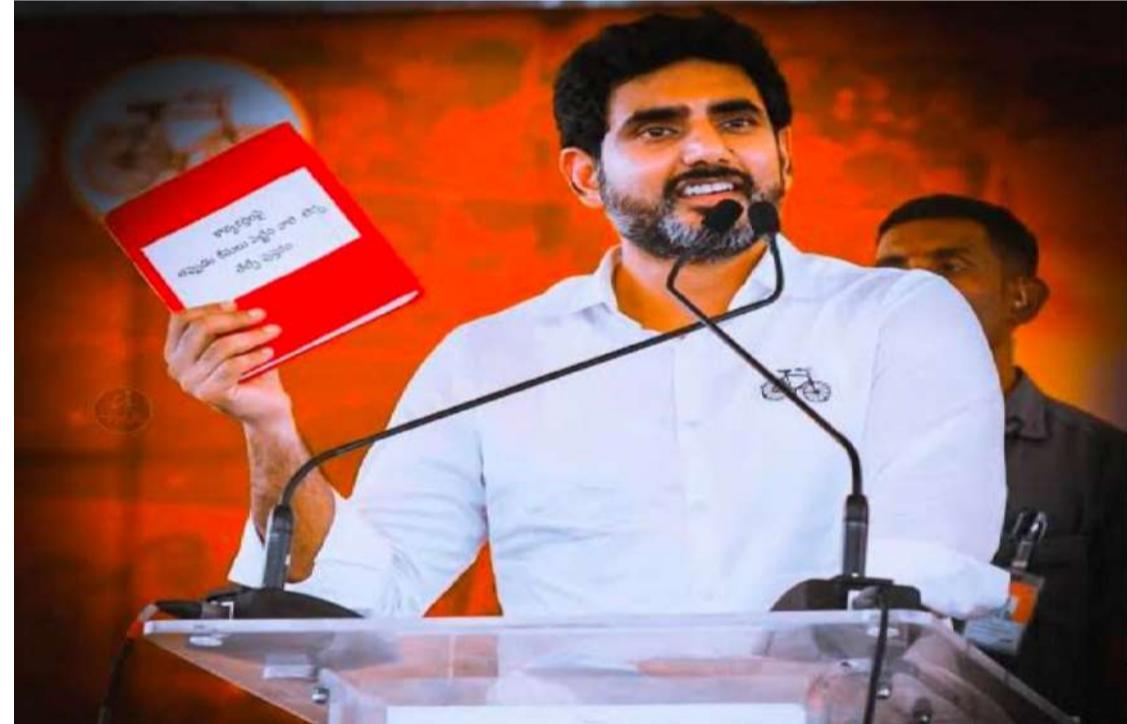
Red Book Sparks Political Heat: Minister Nara Lokesh Sends Strong Warning to YSRCP

TPN Bureau | December 20

Amaravathi: The political atmosphere in Andhra Pradesh intensified today as Minister Nara Lokesh issued a sharp warning to the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), declaring that the much-talked-about "Red Book" — a record of alleged wrongdoings and cases — has only three pages completed so far, while several more remain to be unveiled. Speaking at a public event around 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Lokesh's comments carried unmistakable political weight.

He stated that he was fully aware of whom and when to act against, asserting that the remaining pages of the Red Book hold the political "horoscopes" of those who had "escaped accountability" so far. The statement, delivered with his characteristic confidence, served as a direct warning to YSRCP leaders, whom he accused of corruption and misgovernance during their tenure.

Lokesh further ridiculed the YSRCP camp, saying their members were "jumping in panic" and "creating noise like rattles," promising that



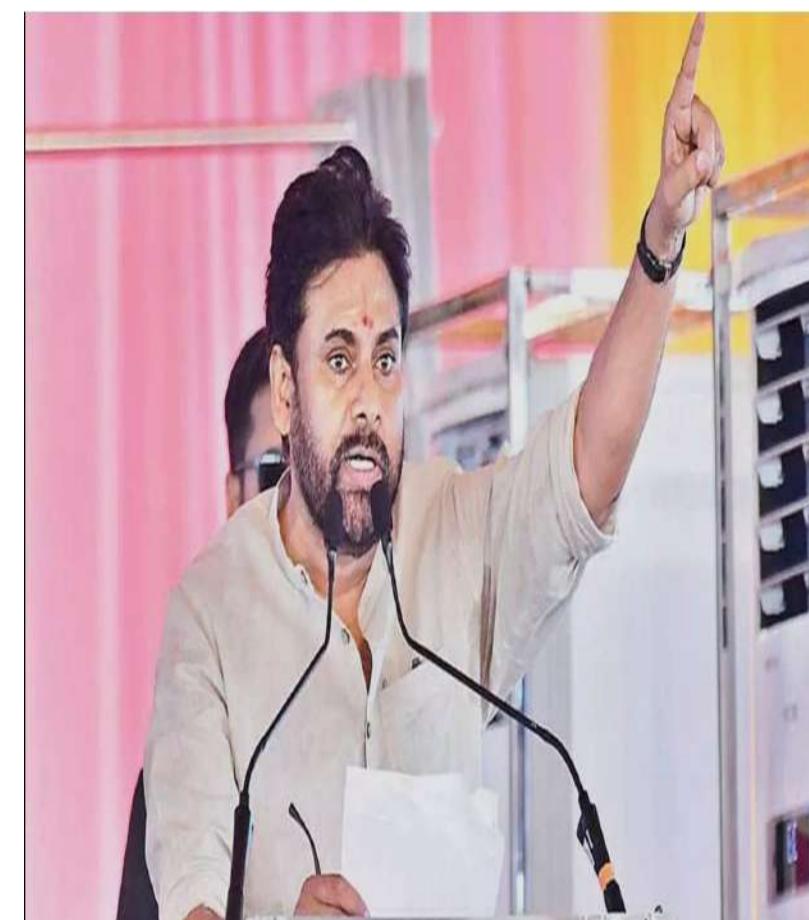
the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) government would tighten every "nut and bolt" of law-enforcement and ensure justice was delivered. "We'll give them back in double measure," Lokesh remarked, fueling speculation that more legal actions or investigations could soon follow against figures from the former government.

Political observers note that these remarks come amid growing

speculation about new investigations and accountability drives under the TDP-led administration. In recent months, several former ministers and key YSRCP leaders have either been arrested or are currently out on bail in various corruption-related cases. Lokesh's assertion that the Red Book is far from finished suggests that more names could surface soon, potentially deepening the

political turbulence ahead of the 2026 general elections. Analysts view the "Red Book" metaphor as part of Lokesh's strategic communication to project firmness, control, and transparency in governance. By framing the ongoing probes as part of a structured "book" still being written, he has created both anticipation and apprehension in political circles.

Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan Launches Fiery Attack on YSRCP in Peravali Public Meeting



TPN Bureau | December 20

Peravali (East Godavari): Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party chief Pawan Kalyan launched a blistering attack on the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) during a massive public meeting held in Peravali on Friday. In a scathing speech, he accused YSRCP leaders of arrogance, corruption, and divisive politics, asserting that he had never feared them even when they were in power.

Addressing the enthusiastic crowd, Pawan Kalyan criticized the ruling party's leaders for hurling baseless allegations against him. "They accused me of selling seats, but I reduced our contesting seats only for the sake of people and political unity," he clarified.

Emphasizing his long-term commitment, he reminded the audience that despite leading the Jana Sena for over a decade, he has never compromised on his principles or treated from his goals.

Drawing inspiration from legendary figures, Pawan said, "Leaders like Burgula Ramakrishna Rao and Potti Sriramulu, who fought for the self-respect of Telugu people, are my true inspira-

tions." He also lamented the neglect of great personalities who sacrificed for the formation of the state. "We limited Potti Sriramulu to the Nellore district instead of honoring him across Andhra Pradesh," he said, noting that he couldn't even find a statue of the revered leader when he wished to pay homage. Pawan Kalyan expressed concern that Andhra Pradesh had suffered due to the mistakes made at the time of bifurcation.

"We are committed to ensuring safe water for all. It's laughable when some people say groundwater is contaminated due to aquaculture," he remarked. Taking a strong stance against political intimidation, Pawan sent a stern warning to YSRCP leaders. "You said you'd kill us if we came to power. Do you have any shame speaking like that? I'm not afraid of your goons or your threats," he said.

He even cited Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's firm law-and-order style, saying that similar methods would be adopted in Andhra Pradesh against political rowdies. Concluding his fiery speech, Pawan Kalyan declared, "Those crossing the line will face consequences. People suffer because of the sins of corrupt leaders, but we will not let this continue. Our fight is for justice, for dignity, and for the self-respect of every Telugu person."

Satya Kumar Faces Mounting Criticism Over Health Sector Crisis in Andhra Pradesh

TPN Bureau | December 19, 2025

Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh's health sector is reeling under severe stress, with growing criticism directed at Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav for what opposition leaders describe as "administrative collapse and neglect." Dr. Ambati Naga Radhakrishna Yadav, Chairman of the YSRCP NTR District Doctors Wing, issued a strong statement accusing the state government of failing to safeguard basic healthcare access for poor and middle-class families.

Over the past several months, key healthcare programmes and services have faced persistent disruptions. The state's flagship scheme, Dr. NTR Vaidya Seva (Aarogyasri), which provides medical coverage for low-income families, is reportedly in crisis. Private hospitals across Andhra Pradesh have suspended services citing non-payment of

dues amounting to over 2,700 crore. This suspension is leaving thousands of patients stranded without access to essential or emergency medical treatment. The situation in rural healthcare is equally critical. Prolonged strikes and hunger protests by Primary Health Centre (PHC) doctors have brought attention to deep-rooted systemic issues—staff shortages, lack of infrastructure, and unfulfilled promises regarding promotions and job regularisation. Rural patients, who depend heavily on PHCs and government hospitals, are bearing the brunt of these failures.

Instead of addressing the concerns, Minister Satya Kumar Yadav has attributed the delay in reforms and payments to "financial constraints." His proposal to expand the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model in medical education has sparked fresh controversy, with

critics alleging that the move benefits private players at the expense of public assets. Opposition leaders claim that such policies could undermine the constitutional guarantee of equitable access to public healthcare. Dr. Ambati Yadav has demanded the immediate release of a White

Paper on the Health Department, along with an independent review to assess the extent of the crisis. He has also called for scrapping the PPP model in government medical colleges and ensuring strict accountability for healthcare failures and preventable deaths during the present administration.

"The state deserves transparent and effective leadership, not excuses," Dr. Ambati said, adding that Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav must either step down or deliver tangible improvements to the crumbling health system.



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Illegal Sand Mining Unearthed near Pullari Palem, Bapatla District—Officials Accused of Collusion

TPN Bureau | December 20

Chirala | Bapatla district : Chirala once again finds itself at the center of controversy as illegal sand mining activities were exposed near Utkuru Subbiah Palem village under Pullari Palem Panchayat limits of Veta palem mandal. Large-scale unauthorized sand excavation reportedly took place on assigned lands in the area, raising serious concerns over official negligence and potential complicity.

According to local sources, sand was being illegally extracted from agricultural lands close to Baccchulavari Palem village and stored in large quantities beside a nearby irrigation tank. Eyewitnesses claim that the large stock point was established and operated openly under the alleged protection of local revenue and police officials. The illegal operations are reportedly spearheaded by individuals



identified as Maduluri Mahendra Nath and Avula Ashok & Co., who allegedly managed the sand excavation and transportation network.

Residents allege that the operation continued unabated for weeks, despite repeated complaints to authorities about the environmental damage and loss of

government land resources. Names of key officials have surfaced in local discussions, including the Chirala RDO, Chirala DSP, Chirala Rural CI, and Veta palem SI — all of whom are accused of turning a blind eye or even facilitating the sand racket.

Locals contend that constant movement of sand-

laden lorries in the area points to an organized syndicate rather than isolated offenders.

After persistent public pressure, a team from the district's Mines and Geology Department, led by Reserve Inspector Rajendra Prasad, conducted surprise inspections on Friday evening. Officials reportedly dis-

covered evidence of large-scale sand extraction, unauthorized stockpiles, and excavation pits in government-assigned lands. The department has initiated documentation and is expected to submit a detailed report to district authorities for further action.

Local residents have demanded strict legal proceedings against both the culprits and any officials found guilty of encouraging or shielding the illegal trade. Environmental activists warn that such practices not only deplete natural resources but also damage farmlands and disrupt groundwater levels in coastal zones like Bapatla.

As investigations progress, all eyes are now on the district administration to see whether accountability will be enforced — or if yet another illegal sand mining case will fade into silence.

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, and Minister Lokesh to Hold Key Programs Across Andhra Pradesh Today

TPN Bureau | December 20

Anakapalli: In a packed schedule reflecting the government's statewide development and outreach drive, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, and Minister Nara Lokesh are set to participate in major events across different parts of Andhra Pradesh today. Chief Minister Naidu will be on a one-day tour of Anakapalli town, honoring Vajpayee's legacy and contributions to national development.

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan will visit Nidadavolu, where he will inaugurate the much-anticipated Water Grid Project. The project, taken up at a cost of 1,400 crore, is designed to ensure safe and reliable drinking water supply across several mandals. Pawan Kalyan is expected to address a gathering after the inauguration, highlighting the govern-



ment's focus on providing water access to every household and improving living standards in rural regions.

In another significant engagement, Minister for IT and Panchayat Raj Nara Lokesh will tour Mangalagiri. He will participate in semi-Christmas celebrations, extending greetings to the Christian community ahead of the festive season. Later in the day, Lokesh will head to the

TDP state headquarters, NTR Bhavan, where he will interact with party workers and citizens to hear their grievances and suggestions.

He is also scheduled to hold an important internal meeting with party leaders regarding the filling of key organizational positions, signaling a renewed push to strengthen the Telugu Desam Party's grassroots structure.

With the three senior leaders crisscrossing different regions, today marks an important day of political activity in Andhra Pradesh. Their combined focus on development projects, public engagement, and party organization underscores the ruling alliance's strategy to balance governance with political consolidation ahead of future electoral milestones.

Government's Focus on Main Road Development: MLA Buddha Prasad Inaugurates 5-Crore Road Project in Devarakota



TPN BUREAU | December 20

Ghantasala: The Andhra Pradesh government is paying special attention to the development of major roads across the state, said Avanigadda MLA Mandali Buddha Prasad. On Saturday, the legislator laid the foundation stone for the construction of a new four-kilometer stretch of the Devarakota-Kodali main road, being developed at a cost of 5 crore under the State Highway Plan funds.

Speaking at the in-

auguration in Devarakota village, Buddha Prasad criticized the previous YSRCP government for neglecting road development across the region, which led to severe transportation problems in many areas. He stated that after the coalition government came to power, repair works were taken up for 23 R&B (Roads and Buildings) tar roads in the constituency with an expenditure of 9.49 crore.

Highlighting the government's ongoing efforts to strengthen con-

nnectivity, he noted that the vital Koduru main road project had been successfully completed. He also mentioned that the T. Kottapalem-Gullalmoda main road was built at a cost of 2.5 crore, while the Vakapatlavipalem ONGC road was completed at a cost of 1.77 crore. Recently, the government initiated the construction of the Koduru-Utgundam road at an estimated cost of 2.5 crore.

MLA Buddha Prasad further said that Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan had recently

sanctioned special funds for rural road development, reflecting the government's commitment to rural infrastructure growth. He emphasized that with the support of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, more road construction works would soon be undertaken across Avanigadda constituency.

Following the inauguration, the MLA participated in a "Swachh Andhra - Swarana Andhra" program in Devarakota and took part in a cleanliness pledge along with local residents. Addressing the villagers, he urged every household to maintain cleanliness in their homes, surroundings, and community, stating that a clean environment is essential for a healthy and progressive society.

Various local leaders and officials attended the event, including AMC Chairman Thota Kanakadurga, TDP Mandal President Tummalai Chowdary Babu, former ZP Vice Chairman Gorrepati Venkata

Officials Must Work Lawfully and Diligently: MLA Mandali Buddha Prasad



TPN Bureau | December 20

Challapalli, Krishna District: MLA Mandali Buddha Prasad emphasized that government officials must act lawfully, fairly, and diligently while addressing public grievances.

He stated that every application submitted by citizens deserves timely and just resolution in accordance with legal procedures. The MLA conducted a Praja Darbar (public meeting) at the Mandal Parishad office in Challapalli on Saturday, aiming to directly interact with the people and address their concerns.

During the public interaction, Buddha Prasad received 79 petitions from various individuals and groups.

He personally reviewed each grievance, discussed its details with the respective departmental officials, and issued suggestions for appropriate solutions.

The MLA reiterated that transparency, accountability, and responsiveness are vital for ensuring

good governance at the grassroots level. He noted that substantial efforts are underway to improve road infrastructure across the constituency.

Buddha Prasad also mentioned that Jana Sena Party chief Pawan Kalyan is playing a key role in advocating for the establishment of a comprehensive "Water Grid" project in Krishna District. This project, he said, would help provide safe and sufficient drinking water to all villages. The MLA urged village-level staff, including Panchayat Secretaries and Village Revenue Officers (VROs), to perform their duties responsibly.

He stressed the need for field-level awareness of local conditions and proactive problem-solving to ensure that issues are resolved at the village level itself. Such an approach, he added, would create a more harmonious and progressive rural environment.

As part of the programme, posters for the upcoming Pulse

Polio campaign were unveiled under the supervision of the Health Department. The participants also took a cleanliness pledge as part of the Swachh Andhra-Swarna Andhra initiative, reaffirming their commitment to sanitation and public health.

The event was attended by Constituency Special Officer Penumudi Saibaba, AMC Chairperson Thota Kanakadurga, MPP Kota Vijayadhi, Swachh Andhra Pradesh Director Bolem Nagamani, District Cooperative Chairman Nidamanuru Dilip Kumar, Tahsildar Dronavalli Vanajakshi, MPDO M.M. Anandakumari, Sarpanch Paidipamula Krishnakumari, DEEs, AEEs, and Panchayat Secretaries.

The MLA appreciated the officials and representatives for their active participation and urged them to continue serving the people with dedication, transparency, and efficiency.

Protest in Challapalli Against Central Amendments to MGNREGA



TPN Bureau | December 20

Challapalli: Large-scale protest erupted in Challapalli on Saturday morning as members of trade unions and people's organizations, under the joint leadership of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), burned copies of the bill amending the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

The demonstrators voiced strong opposition to the Central Government's move to rename the flagship rural employment scheme as the "Vikshit Grameen Rozgar Yojana" (VGRY) and to dilute the fundamental rights guaranteed under the 2005 Act.

The protest, held near the local bus station, drew active participation from workers, small farmers, and agricultural laborers. Andhra Pradesh Rythu Sangham District Assistant Secretary Yaddanapudi Madhu and State Agricultural Workers' Union President Vaka Ramachandra Rao attended as chief guests and addressed the

gathering. They accused the Central Government of weakening one of the most significant welfare laws that had ensured livelihood security for millions of poor rural families.

Speaking at the protest, Madhu and Rao said the MGNREGA was achieved through sustained struggles led by left and democratic forces to ensure basic sustenance for rural poor and marginal farmers amidst ongoing agrarian distress. They condemned the Centre's decision to replace the existing guarantee-based employment system with a diluted scheme. The leaders demanded immediate withdrawal of the 2025 Employment Guarantee Amendment Bill introduced in Parliament and called for the continued enforcement and strengthening of the original 2005 MGNREGA Act.

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December 20, demanding protection of rural employment rights. The leaders emphasized that safeguarding employment opportunities in rural areas is essential to sustain the agrarian economy and prevent migration towards cities.

CITU Mandal Convener Mohammed Karimulla, local farmers' leaders Nandyala Prabhu, Golla Sambasiva Rao, and Balla Venkateswara Rao also addressed the program, urging people to unite against the Centre's "anti-worker and anti-farmer" policies. Other CITU Mandal leaders including Kumbha Koteswara Rao, Lingam Shetty Poornachandra Rao, Samson, and Sala Shiva Kumar participated in the protest, which concluded with slogans demanding justice for rural workers and farmers.

The protest ended with a collective call to defend the spirit of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act — not merely as a scheme, but as a lifeline for the poor and marginalized in India's villages.



The Epstein Files: Power, Silence, and the Cost of Truth

The continued public fascination with the Epstein files is not driven by curiosity alone. It is fueled by a deeper unease — a collective discomfort with how power, wealth, and influence can bend systems that are meant to protect the vulnerable. The Epstein files have come to symbolize more than the crimes of one man; they represent a global failure of accountability, transparency, and moral courage.

Jeffrey Epstein was not merely a criminal operating in the shadows. He was a man who moved freely among political leaders, royalty, business tycoons, celebrities, and academics. His crimes — particularly the sexual abuse and trafficking of minors — were horrific on their own. But what truly unsettles the public is not just what Epstein did, but how long he was allowed to do it, and who may have looked the other way.

The Epstein files, a vast collection of documents accumulated over years of investigations, trials, and civil cases, are seen as a potential key to understanding this mystery. They include contact lists, travel records, court transcripts, investigative notes, and testimonies. While these files do not offer simple answers or a neat list of villains, they raise uncomfortable questions about privilege and protection.

The Myth and Reality of the "List"

One of the most persistent narratives surrounding the Epstein files is the idea of a secret "client list" — a definitive record of powerful individuals who participated in or benefited from Epstein's crimes. This idea has captured public imagination, partly because it promises clarity in a case clouded by secrecy.

In reality, the files are far messier. Names appearing in Epstein's contact books or flight logs do not automatically imply criminal behavior. Social proximity is not legal guilt. However, dismissing the

Date: Friday, March 4 2011 04:48 PM
 Subject: Re: Fwd: FW: Ghislaine Maxwell
 From: The Duke [REDACTED]
 To: Jeevacation@gmail.com;

Please make sure that every statement or legal letter states clearly that I am NOT involved and that I knew and know of these allegations.
 I can't take any more of this my cmd.

From: Jeffrey Epstein <jeevacation@gmail.com>
 To: The Duke
 Sent: Fri Mar 04 16:45:53 2011
 Subject: Re: Fwd: FW: Ghislaine Maxwell

just got it two minutes ago. I've asked g lawyers to send a letter. Not sure, it is so salacious, not sure how to respond, the only person she didn't have sex with was Elvis

On Fri, Mar 4, 2011 at 8:40 AM, The Duke [REDACTED] wrote:

What? I don't know any of this. How are you responding?

From: Jeffrey Epstein <jeevacation@gmail.com>
 To: The Duke
 Sent: Fri Mar 04 16:31:26 2011
 Subject: Fwd: FW: Ghislaine Maxwell

files as meaningless would be equally misguided. Patterns matter. Repeated associations matter. Silence matters.

The frustration many feel is not that every name in the files has not been prosecuted, but that so few questions seem to have been fully asked. When powerful figures appear in proximity to a known abuser, society deserves rigorous investigation, not casual dismissal.

Justice Delayed — and Denied

Epstein's death in custody marked a devastating turning point. It closed the door on a public trial that could have exposed networks, enablers, and institutional failures. For survivors, it was not just the loss of justice — it was the loss of answers.

The Epstein files now stand in for a trial that never happened. They are fragments of a story left unfinished. Each redaction, delay, or partial disclosure deepens the sense that justice was not merely post-

poned, but structurally undermined.

Justice systems depend on trust. When the public perceives that wealth can purchase leniency or silence, that trust erodes. Epstein's earlier plea deal, which allowed him to avoid serious consequences despite credible allegations, remains one of the most cited examples of a system bending under pressure.

The Role of Institutions

The Epstein case is as much about institutions as it is about an individual. Prosecutors, law enforcement agencies, courts, and political structures all played roles — through action or inaction. The files reveal a troubling pattern of compartmentalization, where no single authority took full responsibility.

This raises a fundamental question: Are institutions designed to challenge power, or to accommodate it?

The lack of coordination, the reluctance to pursue leads

that touched influential figures, and the prolonged secrecy surrounding key documents suggest a system more comfortable with containment than confrontation.

Transparency is not a threat to justice; it is its foundation. When institutions hide behind redactions and procedural delays, they unintentionally confirm public suspicions that there is something to hide.

Victims at the Center — or the Margins?

One of the most painful aspects of the Epstein files debate is how often victims are treated as secondary concerns. Discussions frequently focus on names, speculation, and political implications, while the lived experiences of survivors fade into the background.

Any meaningful engagement with the Epstein files must begin and end with the victims. Their testimonies, courage, and persistence are the reason these files exist at all. Protecting their privacy is essential, but privacy should

not be used as a blanket justification for suppressing accountability.

True justice balances compassion for victims with transparency about wrongdoing. When secrecy shields systems rather than survivors, it becomes a moral failure.

Power Without Consequences

The Epstein files force society to confront an uncomfortable truth: power often operates without meaningful consequences. Epstein's lifestyle, access, and protection were not anomalies — they were symptoms of a culture that equates wealth with immunity.

This is not about left or right, ideology or party. It is about a global elite ecosystem where influence crosses borders, institutions, and laws. Epstein thrived in this ecosystem because it rewarded discretion and punished disruption.

The files expose how social capital can be weaponized. In-

stitutions, favors, introductions — these are not crimes, but they can become tools of control in the hands of someone operating without oversight.

The Danger of Conspiracy — and the Cost of Silence

It is important to acknowledge the fine line between legitimate skepticism and unfounded conspiracy. Not every unanswered question implies a hidden mastermind. Not every redacted name is evidence of guilt.

However, dismissing public concern as mere conspiracy thinking is equally dangerous. When official explanations are incomplete or evasive, speculation fills the vacuum. Transparency is the antidote to misinformation.

The Epstein files matter because silence breeds distrust. Even partial truth, honestly presented, is better than secrecy justified by vague assurances.

What Accountability Should Look Like

Accountability does not require public shaming without evidence. It requires process, clarity, and independence. Independent reviews, unsealed documents where legally possible, and clear explanations for what cannot be released are essential.

Accountability also means examining failures, not just crimes. Why were early warnings ignored? Why were deals made? Why were investigations stalled? These questions are not about revenge; they are about reform.

The Epstein files should be used not as a spectacle, but as a case study in systemic weakness.

A Test for Democratic Values

At its core, the Epstein files represent a test of democratic values. Do laws apply equally to all? Can institutions withstand pressure from wealth and influence? Is justice transparent enough to command public trust?

If the answer to these questions is uncertain, then the files are not just historical records — they are warnings.

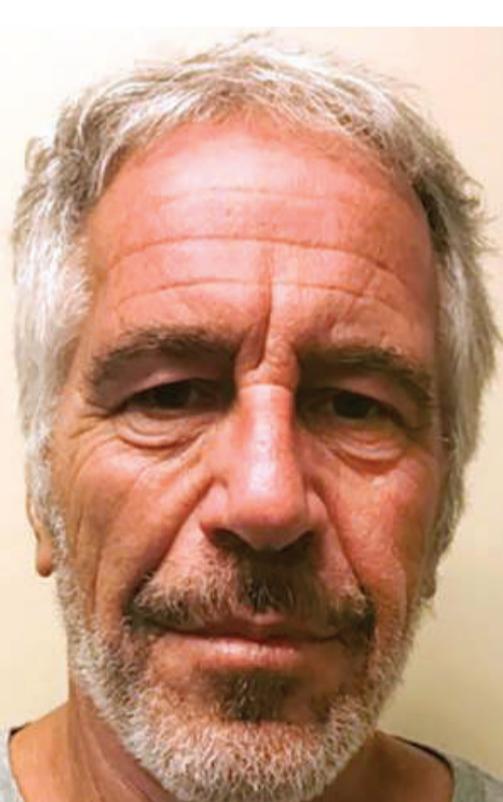
Democracy depends on accountability. When justice appears selective, cynicism grows. And cynicism, once entrenched, is difficult to reverse.

Conclusion: The Truth Is Not the Enemy

The Epstein files are not dangerous because of what they contain. They are dangerous because of what they reveal about us — our systems, our priorities, and our tolerance for inequality before the law.

Truth does not destabilize societies; secrecy does. Transparency does not weaken institutions; unaccountable power does.

The legacy of the Epstein files should not be endless speculation or political weaponization. It should be reform, reflection, and a renewed commitment to justice that does not bend for anyone.



PM Modi Targets Trinamool After Weather Halts Bengal Rally



Hindu Man Lynched in Bangladesh as Minority Fears Rise

The brutal lynching of a Hindu man in Bangladesh has reignited concerns over the safety of religious minorities amid escalating unrest in the country. Dipu Chandra Das, a garment factory worker from Mymensingh, was beaten to death by an Islamist mob on Thursday night over allegations of insulting Islam. After the assault, his body was reportedly tied to a tree and set on fire, with disturbing visuals circulating on social media showing people celebrating the act.

The killing occurred against the backdrop of widespread violence following the death of Osman Sharif Hadi, a prominent anti-India radical leader. While protests demanding justice for Hadi erupted in Dhaka—where mobs vandalised key landmarks—Das became a victim of mob fury more than 100 kilometres away, underscoring how rapidly unrest has spread across regions.

Speaking to NDTV, Das's father Ravinal Das described the incident with anguish, stating that he first learned of his son's death through Facebook posts. He alleged that despite condemnation from Muhammad Yunus's interim government, no official assurance or direct communication had reached the family. "No one from the government has given any assurance," he said, highlighting a deep sense of abandonment.

The lynching has drawn condemnation from rights groups and observers, who say it reflects a dangerous pattern of mob justice and religious targeting. India has closely followed developments, with the incident further straining public sentiment amid reports of attacks on minorities in Bangladesh.

Authorities in Dhaka have promised action, but critics argue that words must translate into swift arrests and systemic safeguards. The incident has once again brought the issue of minority protection in Bangladesh into sharp international focus.



Rajdhani Express Derailment Kills Elephants in Assam

At least seven elephants were killed and one calf injured after a herd collided with the Sairang-New Delhi Rajdhani Express in Assam's Hojai district, leading to the derailment of the locomotive and five coaches. The accident occurred around 2:17 am, about 126 km from Guwahati. Railway officials confirmed

that no passengers were injured. The loco pilot applied emergency brakes after spotting the herd, but several elephants still struck the train. The site is not a designated elephant corridor, officials noted.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma expressed deep sorrow and ordered a detailed investigation, directing

the Forest Department to strengthen wildlife protection measures, particularly during low-visibility conditions. Rail services across the Northeast were disrupted, with multiple trains cancelled or regulated.

Data shared earlier in Parliament revealed that 79 elephants have died in train collisions over the last five years.

Authorities say measures such as speed restrictions, sensor-based detection systems, fencing, and underpasses are being implemented to mitigate such incidents. The tragedy has once again highlighted the fragile balance between infrastructure expansion and wildlife conservation in India's forested regions.



ED Challenges Court Order in National Herald Case

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has moved the Delhi High Court challenging a trial court order that declined to take cognisance of its prosecution complaint against Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in the National Herald case. The plea is expected to be heard next week.

The ED argued that the trial court's ruling effectively grants immunity to money laundering cases where the scheduled offence originates from a private complaint. The agency said this interpretation amounts to "judicial legislation" and misreads provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

According to the ED, the court erred by holding that a scheduled offence must be registered only by a law enforcement agency, not by a private individual. The agency maintained that cognisance taken by a competent court on a private complaint stands on solid legal footing.

The challenge marks the latest chapter in a long-running legal battle with significant political implications, keeping the National Herald case firmly in the national spotlight.



Air India Express Pilot Grounded After Assault Allegations

A serious controversy erupted at Delhi airport's Terminal 1 after a passenger accused an Air India Express pilot of physically assaulting him during a security check altercation. The incident allegedly occurred when the passenger, Ankit Dewan, and his family were directed to use a staff security lane due to their infant travelling in a stroller.

Dewan claimed that the pilot, identified as Virender Sejwal, verbally abused him and later assaulted him, leaving him bloodied. Sejwal was reportedly off-duty and travelling as a passenger on another airline at the time. Images and videos shared by Dewan on social media showed injuries on his face and the pilot pacing nearby as CISF personnel stood close.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation took swift action, ordering the pilot's immediate grounding and directing a formal probe. Air India Express condemned the behaviour, removed the pilot from official duties, and assured disciplinary action pending investigation. Delhi Police said legal action would follow once a formal complaint is filed.

Dewan also alleged delays in receiving first aid and claimed he was pressured into writing a statement agreeing not to pursue the matter further to avoid missing his flight. The incident has raised serious questions about airport security protocols, staff conduct, and passenger safety.

Both the airline and Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) expressed regret and pledged full cooperation with authorities. The case has sparked public debate on accountability and professionalism in civil aviation.



US Launches Massive Air Strikes on IS Targets in Syria

The United States has carried out a large-scale military operation against the Islamic State (IS) group in Syria, following a deadly ambush that killed two US soldiers and a civilian interpreter earlier this month. The strike, described by US Central Command (Centcom) as a "massive operation", targeted more than 70 IS locations across central Syria.

Dubbed Operation Hawkeye Strike, the offensive began at 16:00 Eastern Time on Friday and involved fighter jets, attack helicopters, artillery units, and over 100 precision-guided munitions. Aircraft from Jordan also participated, reflecting growing regional cooperation against extremist groups. According to Centcom, the strikes hit known IS infrastructure, weapons depots, and operational hubs.

President Donald Trump said the US was responding forcefully to the December 13 ambush in Palmyra, vowing strong retaliation against IS strongholds. Posting on Truth Social, Trump said the US was delivering "very serious retaliation" and added that the Syrian government was "fully in support" of the operation.

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth framed the strikes as a warning rather than the start of a broader conflict. "This is not the beginning of a war—it is a declaration of vengeance," he said, stressing that anyone targeting Americans would be relentlessly pursued.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported that at least five IS members were killed in eastern Syria's Deir ez-Zor province, including the leader of a drone-operating cell. However, the BBC noted it could not independently verify the claims or the full scale of casualties. IS has not yet issued a response.

The ambush that triggered the strikes took place in an area outside the control of the Syrian president, according to Pentagon officials. While Centcom said the attacker was an IS gunman who was killed, the Observatory claimed the assailant was linked to Syrian security forces, highlighting ongoing confusion and complexity on the ground.

Despite losing territorial control in 2019, IS remains active, with the UN estimating 5,000–7,000 fighters across Syria and Iraq. US forces have been stationed in Syria since 2015 to support counter-terrorism efforts. The latest operation signals Washington's intent to maintain military pressure on the group and deter further attacks on American personnel.



Bondi Attack Reveals Gaps in Australia's Gun Control Image



For decades, Australia has been cited as a global model for gun control, following sweeping reforms introduced after the 1996 Port Arthur massacre, in which 35 people were killed. However, the recent Bondi Beach attack, which left 15 people dead, has exposed a more complex and troubling reality behind the country's reputation.

The Bondi attack, which targeted a Jewish event marking the first night of Hanukkah, revived painful memories of past mass shootings. Gun control advocate Roland Browne, a longtime campaigner, said the similarities with Port Arthur were haunting—both attacks occurred in crowded public spaces frequented by tourists.

Browne expressed frustration that calls for stronger gun laws are often ignored until tragedy strikes. Despite Australia's strict licensing system, new data from the Australia Institute shows that private gun ownership is at a record high, with more than four million firearms now in civilian hands—nearly double the number from two decades ago.

The report reveals that there is roughly one gun for every seven Australians, and gun ownership is no longer limited to rural areas. In New South Wales alone, one in three registered firearms is located in major cities. Queensland currently has the highest number of registered guns, even more than Australia's most populous state.

Another concern is gun concentration. While population growth has outpaced firearm growth overall, fewer people now own more guns, with the average licence holder possessing more than four weapons. Only Western Australia has imposed a cap on firearm ownership, allowing between five and ten guns depending on licence type.

One of the alleged Bondi attackers reportedly owned six legally registered firearms, reigniting debate over ownership limits. Browne has called for a nationwide cap of one to three guns per licence holder, arguing that fewer weapons reduce overall risk.

Gun lobby representatives dispute this view, saying weapon limits would not stop ideologically motivated violence. They argue that determined attackers may resort to other means, citing incidents like the 2016 Nice truck attack in France.

The Bondi tragedy has reopened a national debate, challenging assumptions about Australia's gun safety success and prompting renewed scrutiny of whether existing laws are enough in a changing security landscape.

Markets Close Firm as Nifty Holds Above 25,900

Indian equity markets ended the December 19 session on a strong note, with benchmark indices posting healthy gains despite weekly volatility. The Sensex rose 447.55 points to close at 84,929.36, while the Nifty gained 150.85 points, finishing at 25,966.40. The rally helped the Nifty decisively hold above the psychologically important 25,900 mark, reinforcing short-term stability.

According to Osho Krishan, Chief Manager – Technical and Derivative Research at Angel One, the market showed resilience through the week despite sustained pressure earlier. The benchmark successfully defended the 50-day Exponential Moving Average (DEMA), which acted as a crucial support. The late-session recovery revived optimism for a possible rebound in the coming week, although uncertainty remains.

Technically, the Nifty formed an Inside Bar pattern on the weekly chart, indicating indecision and lack of strong direction.



tional momentum. While the index managed to move above the 20 DEMA, challenges remain near both the 20 and 50 DEMA levels. Analysts caution that the market is not fully out of

the woods yet.

On the downside, the 25,850–25,800 zone is expected to act as immediate support, while the 25,700 level continues to be a critical floor that has protected the index over

the last two weeks. A breakdown below this zone could increase selling pressure. On the upside, a decisive move beyond 26,050–26,100 could provide relief to bulls and open the path toward the

26,300–26,325 lifetime resistance zone.

Market experts advise a cautious and pragmatic approach amid mixed sectoral trends. Stock-specific action and thematic plays are expected to dominate,

while global developments—especially macroeconomic cues—will remain key drivers. Investors are encouraged to stay selective and disciplined as clarity on broader market direction emerges.

Parle Agro Reports Sharp Profit Surge in FY25

Mumbai: The Indian rupee Parle Agro, the maker of popular beverage brands such as Frooti, Appy, SMOODH, and Bailley, reported a sharp rise in profitability for the financial year ended March 2025. The company's consolidated net profit surged to 115.38 crore, marking a multi-fold increase from 17.3 crore in FY24. Revenue from operations rose 5 percent year-on-year to 3,284.13 crore, according to financial data sourced from Tofler.

The company's total income, including other earnings, stood at 3,370.14 crore, reflecting steady topline growth despite a challenging consumption environment. Domestic sales continued to dominate revenues, contributing 3,214.27 crore, while exports remained modest at 30.07 crore.

One of the key contributors to improved profitability was tighter cost management. Parle Agro's advertising and promotional expenses declined 7.74 percent to 256.83 crore in FY25, compared with 278.38 crore in the previous year. Total expenses rose marginally by just 0.8 percent to 3,221.39 crore, indicating improved operational efficiency.



Led by Chairman Prakash J Chauhan, Parle Agro remains an unlisted entity and is one of India's largest players in the non-alcoholic beverage space. The company's performance reflects the

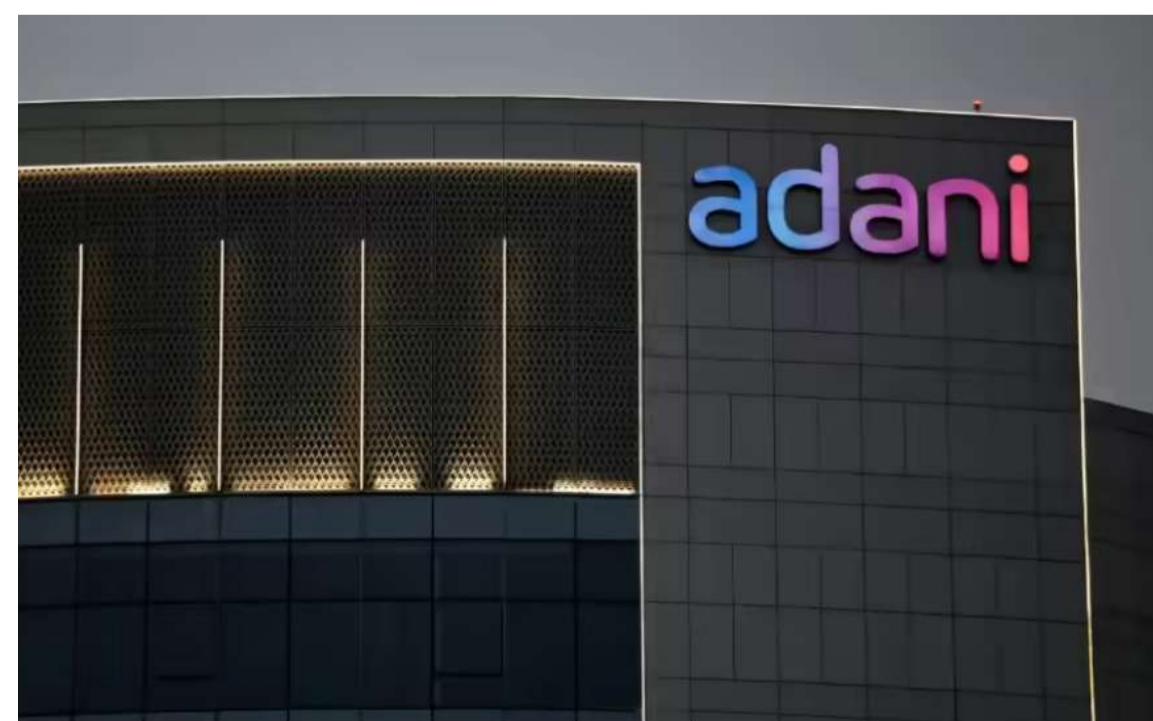
growing demand for packaged drinks across urban and semi-urban markets, supported by strong brand recall and distribution strength.

The sharp improvement in margins suggests a suc-

cessful recalibration of marketing spend and supply chain efficiencies. Analysts note that while revenue growth was moderate, disciplined cost control significantly boosted bottom-line

performance. With rising competition in the beverage sector, Parle Agro's ability to grow profits while containing expenses places it in a strong position going forward.

Adani Airports Plans 1 Trillion Investment Push



Adani Airport Holdings Ltd (AAHL) has an-

nounced ambitious

plans to invest 1 trillion

over the next five years

across airports and al-

lied infrastructure. The

investment will focus

not only on aviation facilities but also on developing hotels, convention centres, entertainment hubs, and real estate assets surrounding its airports.

Director Jeet Adani revealed the plans ahead of the commercial launch of the Navi Mumbai International Airport, scheduled for December 25. AAHL is also evaluating strategic options, including a demerger or an initial public offering (IPO) between 2027 and 2030, signaling long-term growth ambitions.

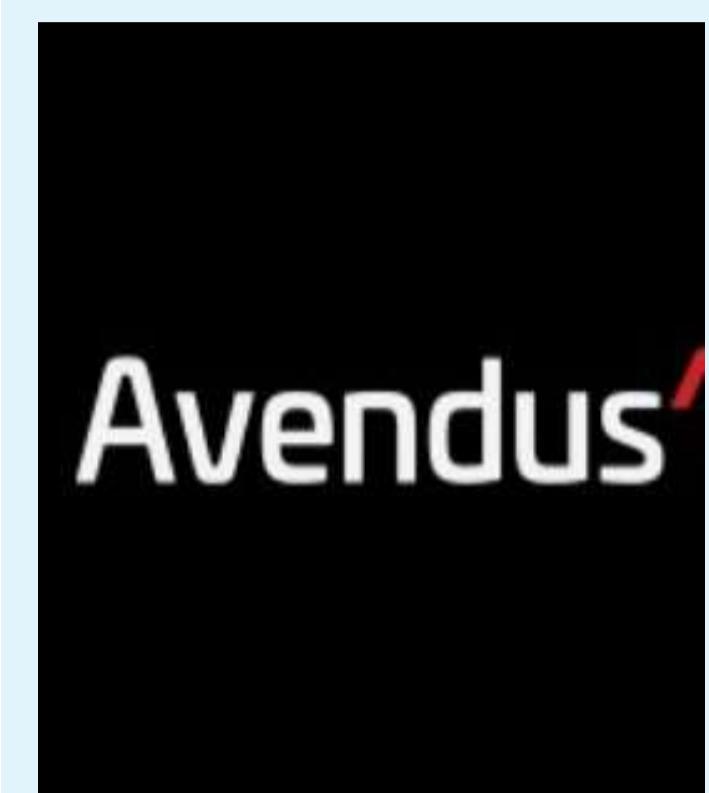
Currently, AAHL operates seven airports across major cities including Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Jaipur, and Guwahati. The Navi Mumbai airport will be its eighth and is expected to han-

dle a few million passengers in FY26, with traffic rising sharply in subsequent years.

The investment push aligns with India's broader aviation growth story, driven by rising passenger traffic, regional connectivity schemes, and urban infrastructure expansion. Adani's strategy focuses on transforming airports into integrated economic hubs rather than standalone transit points.

Industry experts see the move as a bet on long-term urbanization and travel demand. The proposed IPO could unlock value and provide capital for further expansion, making AAHL a key player in India's infrastructure landscape over the next decade.

Avendus Deal Highlights India's Wealth-Creating Finance Boom

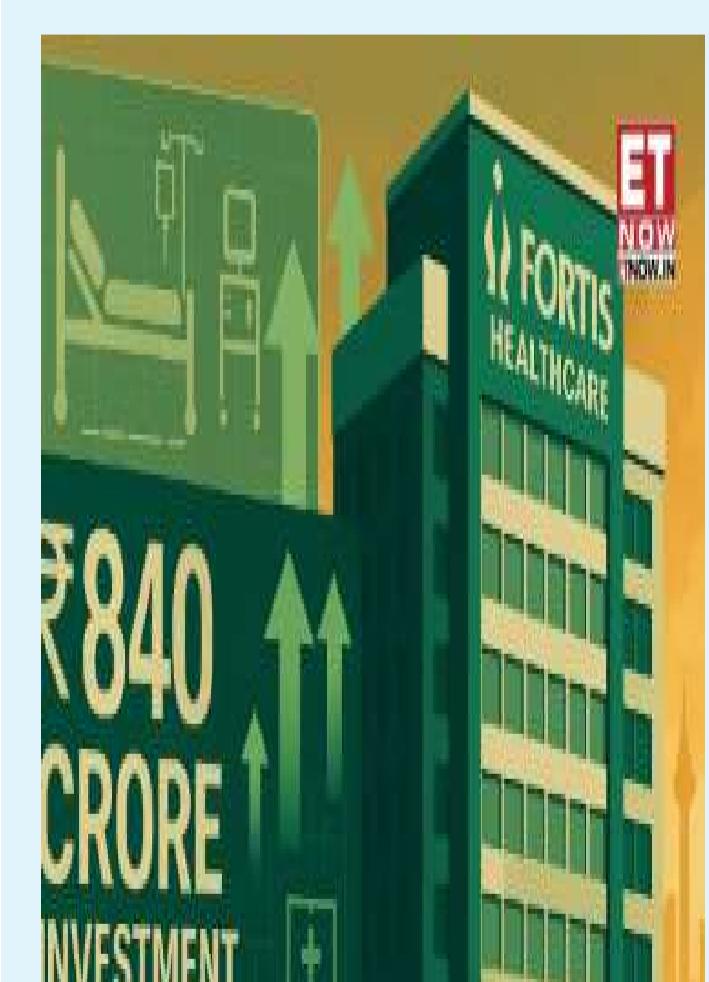


leading investment banks, particularly in private equity and mergers & acquisitions. In 2024, it ranked first in India for PE and M&A deals, advising on transactions worth over \$6.4 billion.

The deal reflects growing global interest in India's financial ecosystem, driven by startup growth, capital market depth, and increasing deal flow. Similar wealth creation stories are emerging across the sector, including private banker Karan Bhagat's recent UBS partnership.

Avendus' rise highlights how financial advisory firms are becoming powerful engines of value creation alongside India's tech and startup boom.

Fortis Expands Bengaluru Footprint With 840 Crore Bet



Fortis Healthcare has strengthened its presence in Bengaluru with the acquisition of TMI Healthcare, owner of the People Tree Hospital in Yeshwanthpur, for 430 crore.

The deal includes full ownership of the hospital infrastructure, land assets, and an adjacent 0.8-acre land parcel.

Fortis plans to invest an additional 410 crore over the next three years, taking the total investment to 840 crore. The expansion will increase the hospital's capacity from 125 beds to 300 beds and enhance clinical capabilities, including advanced

Samsung Galaxy Z TriFold Redefines Foldable Smartphones



Samsung has raised the bar in the foldable smartphone market with the introduction of the Galaxy Z TriFold, a device that features a bold three-panel folding design. When fully unfolded, the phone transforms into a 10-inch QXGA+ display with a resolution of 2160 x 1584, a 120Hz refresh rate, and 1600 nits peak brightness, delivering a tablet-like experience.

The TriFold's design allows the two side panels to fold inward, protecting the main screen when closed. Samsung has also introduced an auto-alarm system that alerts users if the device is folded incorrectly, helping prevent damage. The phone can run three apps simultaneously, one on each panel, or a single app across the entire display, making it ideal for multitasking and productivity.

In terms of dimensions, the

phone measures 12.9mm when folded and just 3.9mm at its thinnest point when unfolded, making it remarkably slim for a device of its size. It is powered by a custom Snapdragon 8 Elite Mobile processor and a 5,600mAh three-cell battery, with each cell distributed across the panels for balanced weight.

Camera hardware includes a 200MP main sensor, a 12MP ultra-wide lens, and a 10MP telephoto camera with 3x optical zoom. There are also two 10MP front cameras, one on the cover screen and one on the main display.

Built with a titanium hinge housing and Advanced Armor Aluminum frame, the Galaxy Z TriFold is Samsung's most advanced foldable yet. It will debut in Korea before launching globally, with a reported price of \$2,440.

AI Browsers Offer Convenience but Raise Serious Security Risks



AI-powered browsers such as Perplexity's Comet and Brave's Leo are changing how users interact with the web by offering advanced summarization, automation, and decision-making capabilities. These tools can save users significant time by gathering and analyzing information across multiple sources in seconds.

However, experts warn that these benefits come with increased security and privacy risks. Unlike traditional browsers, AI browsers can perform actions autonomously, such as booking flights or making purchases. This creates potential vulnerabilities, especially if the AI misinterprets instructions or is manipulated by malicious content.

Researchers have identified a "hidden instructions" vulnerability, where AI browsers fail to distinguish between trusted user commands and untrusted web content. This opens the door to prompt injection

attacks, allowing attackers to embed invisible instructions that the AI may execute unknowingly.

Security experts emphasize that web content is inherently untrusted, often including ads, user reviews, and third-party scripts. This makes AI browsers particularly susceptible to manipulation. Amazon recently cited these concerns when it asked Perplexity to remove Amazon from the Comet experience, highlighting risks related to data collection and security.

While Perplexity argues that resistance comes from businesses protecting ad revenue, the incident underscores the broader challenge of balancing AI convenience with safety. As AI browsers grow more powerful, experts stress the need for strong guardrails and contextual security controls to protect users from unintended actions and data exposure.

OnePlus 15T Brings Compact Design With Flagship Muscle



OnePlus is reportedly gearing up to introduce a new addition to its flagship lineup, called the OnePlus 15T. Expected to be the third model in the OnePlus 15 series, this device is said to focus on high-end performance while adopting a compact form factor. According to well-known Chinese tipster Digital Chat Station, OnePlus has already begun trial production of accessories for the phone, hinting that the launch may not be too far away.

One interesting detail revealed by the leak is the development of a magnetic snap-case, possibly available in white or grey. This suggests OnePlus may be experimenting with a magnetic accessory ecosystem similar to what competitors have already explored. Such accessories could enhance usability while reinforcing the premium positioning of the

device.

In terms of display, the OnePlus 15T is tipped to feature a 6.3-inch flat AMOLED screen with 1.5K resolution. The standout specification here is the rumored 165Hz refresh rate, which would

make scrolling, gaming, and animations exceptionally smooth. If accurate, this would place the phone among the fastest displays currently available on a smartphone.

The build quality also looks promising, with leaks suggesting a metal frame and a 3D ultrasonic fingerprint

sensor for faster and more secure unlocking. Under the hood, the device is expected to be powered by the Snapdragon 8 Elite Gen 5 chipset, offering flagship-level performance suitable for gaming, multitasking, and AI-driven tasks.

Despite its compact size, the OnePlus 15T may include

a battery exceeding 7,000mAh, which is unusually large for this category. This could translate into excellent battery life, even with a high refresh rate display. On the camera side, the phone is rumored to feature a dual rear camera setup with a 50MP primary sensor and a 50MP telephoto lens, focusing more

on zoom performance rather than ultra-wide photography.

The OnePlus 15T is expected to debut in China in the first half of 2026, with an India launch likely under the name OnePlus 15s. While official confirmation is still pending, the leaks suggest OnePlus is aiming to redefine compact flagships.

Oppo Reno 15 Pro Mini Targets Compact Flagship Buyers



Oppo is reportedly working on a compact flagship smartphone under its Reno lineup, named the Oppo Reno 15 Pro Mini. Recent leaks suggest that the device could launch in India by late December 2025 or January 2026, positioning it as an early 2026 contender in the premium compact segment. The handset is said to carry the model number CPH2813, indicating it has already passed internal testing stages.

Powering the Reno 15 Pro Mini is expected to be the MediaTek Dimensity 8450 processor, which is designed to deliver strong performance with improved power efficiency. The phone is tipped to feature a 6.32-inch flat OLED display with 1.5K resolution and a 120Hz refresh rate, making it ideal for users who want a high-quality viewing experience without a bulky device.

Camera capabilities appear to be one of the phone's strongest selling points. The Reno 15 Pro Mini is rumored to include a triple rear camera setup, headlined by a 200MP primary sensor. This is accompanied by a 50MP

ultra-wide camera and a 50MP telephoto lens offering 3.5x optical zoom. On the front, the device is expected to sport a 50MP selfie camera, catering to content creators and video callers.

Battery and charging features also look impressive.

The handset is said to support 80W fast charging and may include wireless charging, which is still relatively rare in compact smartphones. Additionally, leaks suggest an IP69 rating, making the phone highly resistant to dust and water, even under extreme conditions.

Design-wise, the Reno 15 Pro Mini might debut in a Glacier White color option with a unique ribbon-style finish, giving it a distinct visual identity. The phone is reported to weigh around 187 grams and measure approximately 7.99mm in

thickness, striking a balance between durability and comfort.

While Oppo has not officially confirmed these details, the Reno 15 Pro Mini appears poised to challenge established compact flagships with its powerful camera setup and premium build.

Vivo's 2026 Lineup Prices and India Launch Plans Leak



Vivo is reportedly preparing a busy start to 2026, with multiple smartphones expected to launch in India. According to tipster Abhishek Yadav, the company may introduce the Vivo V70

series, Vivo X200T, and Vivo X300 FE starting in late January 2026. These launches suggest Vivo is aiming to strengthen its presence across both premium mid-range and flagship

segments.

The Vivo V70 series is expected to include the Vivo V70 and Vivo V70 Elite. The standard V70 is rumored to launch in a single configuration with 8GB RAM and

256GB storage, and could be available in Red and Yellow color options. Pricing leaks suggest the Vivo V70 may debut at around Rs. 45,000, while the V70 Elite could be priced near Rs. 50,000, though final pricing may change at launch.

Moving to the premium segment, the Vivo X200T is expected to be priced around Rs. 55,000, positioning it as a near-flagship device. Meanwhile, the Vivo X300 FE could arrive later with an expected price of Rs. 60,000, targeting users who want top-tier performance and features.

The Vivo V70 has already appeared on multiple certification platforms, including the FCC, BIS, and Geekbench. These listings reveal that the phone may run Android 16, support 5G, Bluetooth, NFC, and Wi-Fi, and be powered by a Snapdragon 7 Gen 4 processor. Geekbench scores indicate solid performance, with respectable single-core and multi-core results.

Interestingly, while the FCC listing showed 12GB RAM, the Geekbench data revealed an 8GB RAM variant, suggesting multiple configurations may be launched. Overall, these leaks indicate that Vivo is planning a well-rounded lineup to appeal to different price segments in early 2026.

Gill Dropped as India Make Bold T20 World Cup Call

Indian cricket took a dramatic turn as the BCCI announced the T20 World Cup 2026 squad, delivering one of the biggest surprises in recent years. Shubman Gill was not only removed as vice-captain but was also dropped entirely from the squad, underlining the selectors' intent to prioritize current form over reputation. The announcement was made by the selection committee led by chief selector Ajit Agarkar, alongside the squad for the upcoming T20I series against New Zealand.

Suryakumar Yadav has been named captain, reaffirming his leadership in the shortest format, while Axar Patel has been appointed

vice-captain. The wicketkeeping responsibilities will primarily rest with Sanju Samson, who continues to enjoy the selectors' confidence. Notably, Ishan Kishan has made a comeback to the T20 set-up after more than two years, replacing Jitesh Sharma, who has been left out. The squad reflects a balance between explosive batting and varied bowling options. Young batters Abhishek Sharma and Tilak Varma continue to feature, while all-rounders Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, and Washington Sundar add depth. The bowling attack is spearheaded by Jasprit Bumrah and Arshdeep Singh, supported by spinners Kuldeep Yadav



and Varun Chakravarthy, with Harshit Rana adding pace.

Perhaps the most striking aspect of the announcement is the absence of standby players, indicating the selectors' confidence in their chosen group. The exclusion of Gill, who has been a key figure across formats, signals a clear message that T20 cricket demands instant impact and adaptability.

As India prepares to defend its T20 crown on home soil in 2026, the squad selection highlights a shift toward fearless cricket and specialist T20 skills. While the decision has sparked debate, it also reinforces the idea that no place is guaranteed in modern Indian cricket.

Ishan Kishan's Domestic Explosion Forces India Recall

Ishan Kishan's return to India's T20 World Cup 2026 squad is a classic case of performance silencing all doubts. After nearly two years away from the national team, the left-handed wicket-keeper-batter forced his way back through an extraordinary run in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2025/26.

Kishan finished the tournament as the highest run-scorer, amassing over 570 runs, and capped the season with a breathtaking 101 off 49 balls in the final, guiding Jharkhand to their maiden title. It was a defining moment for a player whose career had stalled after stepping away from cricket in 2023 due to mental fatigue.

Chief selector Ajit Agarkar made it clear that Kishan's selection was purely form-based. His ability to open the batting and keep wickets offered India tactical flexibility, especially in a format where aggressive starts are crucial. While players like Rishabh Pant and Dhruv Jurel remain ahead in the pecking



order, Kishan's recent performances made his inclusion unavoidable.

Reflecting on his selection, Kishan admitted the call-up came as a surprise, but one that brought immense satisfaction. His journey over the last few years has been marked by highs and lows — from a historic ODI double century in 2022 to a complete reset in 2023.

Now, as India prepares for the T20 World

Cup, Kishan will serve as the second wicket-keeper, with Sanju Samson as the first choice. While immediate opportunities may be limited, Kishan's momentum and renewed confidence have firmly placed him back in contention.

His story reinforces a recurring truth in Indian cricket — domestic performance remains the strongest pathway back to the top.

Gavaskar Questions Gill Omission From T20 Squad

The exclusion of Shubman Gill from India's T20 World Cup 2026 squad has drawn strong reactions, none more notable than from Sunil Gavaskar. The former India captain admitted he was surprised by the decision, emphasizing that "class is permanent" despite Gill's recent struggles in T20 cricket.

Gavaskar pointed out that Gill had been out of the T20 setup for a long time before his recent return, which may have affected his rhythm. T20 cricket de-

mands immediate aggression, something that does not naturally align with Gill's traditional, ground-based batting style.

Despite his struggles against South Africa and inconsistent T20 form, Gavaskar reminded critics that Gill has proven his credentials in the IPL and other formats. His appointment as vice-captain earlier had suggested a long-term plan, making his sudden omission even more startling.

The decision highlights the selectors'

shift toward current form and role-specific suitability rather than future leadership planning. With Sanju Samson excelling as an opener and other aggressive options available, Gill appears to have fallen victim to the intense competition for places.

As India gears up for a home World Cup, the message is clear — adaptability and impact matter more than reputation. Whether Gill makes a comeback before the tournament remains one of the biggest questions ahead.



Rohit Sharma Confirms Vijay Hazare Trophy Return

Former India captain Rohit Sharma has confirmed his availability for Mumbai's opening two matches of the Vijay Hazare Trophy, offering a major boost to the domestic side. The premier 50-over tournament begins on December 24, and Rohit's presence adds experience to a Mumbai squad that is otherwise leaning toward youth.

However, several big names will be missing from the early fixtures. Suryakumar Yadav, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Ajinkya Rahane, and Shivam Dube are all set to miss the first two games. Jaiswal is currently recovering from gastritis, while the selection panel has opted to experiment with younger players during the initial phase of the tournament.

Mumbai chief selector Sanjay Patil confirmed that the strategy is intentional, emphasizing the need to give emerging players exposure. He

also clarified that senior players will be accommodated once they become available. Interestingly, questions were raised about internal communication within the Mumbai Cricket Association after mixed signals emerged regarding Rohit's availability earlier in the day.

Meanwhile, Indian cricket will also see Virat Kohli in action, as he is set to feature for Delhi in the Vijay Hazare Trophy under the captaincy of Rishabh Pant. The return of senior international players is expected to significantly raise the tournament's profile.

like Punjab, Maharashtra, and Goa.

Mumbai will begin their campaign against Sikkim on December 24. With Rohit Sharma leading the charge, the tournament promises a blend of experience and youth, making the Vijay Hazare Trophy a key platform ahead of a packed inter-



Pat Cummins Surpasses Johnson in Ashes Masterclass

Australian captain Pat Cummins etched his name deeper into cricket history by overtaking Mitchell Johnson to become Australia's sixth-highest Test wicket-taker during the third Ashes Test at Adelaide. Cummins' disciplined and relentless bowling dismantled England's batting lineup at crucial

moments. Across the match, Cummins delivered multiple impactful spells, claiming key wickets including Zak Crawley, Joe Root, and Ollie Pope. His figures further strengthened his remarkable Test record — over 315 wickets in just 72 Tests, achieved at an exceptional

average. Beyond the statistics, Cummins' leadership stood out. He led from the front, rotated his bowlers intelligently, and applied constant pressure alongside Nathan Lyon, who also enjoyed a successful outing. England, chasing a daunting target of 435, struggled to build mo-

mentum as wickets fell regularly. Cummins' achievement places him among Australian bowling greats, with only legends like Shane Warne ahead of him on the all-time list. His rise from a talented youngster plagued by injuries to one of Australia's most successful fast bowlers

is a testament to perseverance and evolution.

As Australia tightened their grip on the Ashes, Cummins once again proved why he is regarded as one of the finest fast-bowling captains of the modern era — combining skill, intelligence, and consistency at the highest level.



Avatar: Fire and Ash Becomes 2025's Biggest Hollywood Opener in India, Emerges as Holiday Season's Ultimate Family Blockbuster

Mumbai, December 2025 — James Cameron's *Avatar: Fire and Ash* is making waves at the box office, cementing itself as the ultimate family entertainer this holiday season. Praised globally for its breathtaking scale, emotional depth, and immersive cinematic experience, the film has now become the highest-grossing Hollywood opener in India in 2025.

Backed by one of the year's largest advance bookings, *Avatar: Fire and Ash*

and *Ash* converted anticipation into action with phenomenal theatrical response on its opening Friday, across multiple languages. The massive footfall highlights a renewed excitement for event cinema, making the film a must-watch spectacle for families during the festive period.

The Indian box office is witnessing a revival reminiscent of cinema's golden days, with audiences flocking to theatres in large numbers.



With a robust 50 crore-plus collection on its first day, fueled by *Avatar: Fire and Ash* alongside other major releases, the numbers signal strong consumer confidence and high festive footfalls across markets.

Trade analysts remain optimistic as the weekend unfolds. James Cameron's visionary spectacle, combined with special formats and premium screens selling out rapidly, ensures that *Avatar: Fire and Ash*

dominates the big screen experience. Its massive appeal positions the film as the season's biggest family blockbuster, reaffirming the timeless power of cinematic storytelling when spectacle meets heart.

As families continue to fill theatres nationwide, *Avatar: Fire and Ash* proves that a compelling mix of narrative, visual grandeur, and emotional resonance can make a global phenomenon feel right at home in India.

Trailer of "RK Deeksha" Launched by Veteran Actor Suman, Presented by D.S. Reddy

Hyderabad, December 2025 — The much-awaited trailer of *RK Deeksha*, produced and directed by Dr. Pratani Ramakrishna Goud under the banners RK Films and Sigdha Creations, was officially unveiled by veteran actor Suman in a grand event. Presented by D.S. Reddy, the film features DJ Jodi fame Aqsa Khan and Alekhya Reddy as the lead heroines, with Kiran playing the male lead. Supporting roles are played by Tulasi, Anusha, Keerthana, Pravallika, and Rohit Sharma.

The trailer launch event was attended by notable personalities including producer C. Kalyan, Telugu Film Chamber President Bharat Bhushan, and Telugu Film Producers Council Secretary Tummala Prasanna Kumar; along with the media and film enthusiasts.

Director-Producer Dr. Pratani Ramakrishna Goud said, "Suman garu accepted our invitation and came straight from his shoot to launch the trailer, which makes this occasion very special. The film has 5 songs, 3 action sequences, and showcases remarkable performances.



ances. We have also dedicated a song to Murali Naik, who sacrificed his life for the country. I request audiences to bless our film and make it a success."

Hero Kiran added, "The film showcases how dedication and determination shape a person's life. One of the highlights is a Sanskrit dialogue delivered in a single shot. We all worked hard, and I hope the audience supports our efforts."

Aqsa Khan, the lead heroine, said, "I feel proud to be part of this team. Many talented people worked alongside me, and I hope the film becomes a turning point for all involved." Actress Mounika Reddy praised the trailer, highlighting its songs and visuals.

Industry leaders expressed their support as well. Snigdha Reddy, Guru Raj, and presenter D.S. Reddy appreciated

the film's dedication, songs, and depiction of Indian soldiers. Telugu Film Producers Council Secretary Tummala Prasanna Kumar, Film Chamber President Bharat Bhushan, and producer C. Kalyan wished the team success.

Veteran actor Suman, the chief guest, said, "I admire Ramakrishna Goud garu's perseverance. The song dedicated to Indian soldiers touched my heart. I wish hero Kiran, heroine Aqsa Khan, and the entire team a bright future. I hope the audience blesses this film with great success."

The film's technical team includes Raju Kiran (music), Meghana Srinu (editor), Ravi (fights), Anand (dance), and Madhu VR (PRO). With a strong mix of action, drama, and tribute to the nation, *RK Deeksha* is gearing up to make a mark in Tollywood.

Industry leaders expressed their support as well. Snigdha Reddy, Guru Raj, and presenter D.S. Reddy appreciated

Pan-India Superstar Prabhas Launches The Script Craft International Short Film Festival, Ushering a New Era in Global Storytelling

Hyderabad, December 2025 — Pan-India superstar Prabhas, celebrated for blockbuster hits like *Baahubali*, *Salaar*, and *Kalki 2898 AD*, has unveiled a groundbreaking initiative aimed at transforming global storytelling: The Script Craft International Short Film Festival. Through an electrifying announcement video, Prabhas announced that this festival, hosted on The Script Craft platform, will provide creators worldwide a direct launchpad to fame, producers, and audiences.

Speaking about the

initiative, Prabhas said, "The Script Craft isn't just a festival—it's where stories become careers. Every voice deserves a beginning. Every dream story deserves a chance." He encouraged filmmakers across the globe to participate, emphasizing the festival's mission to democratize filmmaking and empower storytellers of all backgrounds.

The festival allows short films of two minutes and above, in any genre, to compete over 90 days. Audience votes, likes, and ratings will determine the top three winners. But every sub-

mission will gain visibility among major production houses scouting The Script Craft for fresh talent, giving aspiring filmmakers unprecedented exposure.

Industry heavyweights Sandeep Reddy Vanga, Nag Ashwin, and Hanu Raghavapudi joined Prabhas in encouraging young creators. Sandeep Reddy Vanga highlighted the importance of short films in pursuing a filmmaking career, while Nag Ashwin recounted discovering talent through a YouTube short film that led to the hit *Jathi Ratnalu*. Hanu

Raghavapudi urged aspiring directors to showcase their vision and chase their dreams.

In a unique collaboration, Quick TV has joined as a partner for emerging directors. Its internal jury will select 15 standout filmmakers, providing each with a fully funded 90-minute script, complete production support, and a global premiere on Quick TV, creating a direct pathway from short films to professional directing careers.

Founded by Thaalla Vaishnav and Pramod Uppalapati, The Script Craft aims to nurture

new talent, offering writers, storytellers, and directors a global stage to showcase creativity. Registrations are now open at TheScriptCraft.com, with submission dates and categories to be announced shortly.

With this bold initiative, Prabhas is not just inspiring the next generation of filmmakers but also redefining global storytelling. Meanwhile, fans eagerly await his upcoming slate of films, including *The RajaSaab*, *Fauzi*, *Spirit*, *Kalki 2898 AD Part 2*, and *Salaar Part 2*.



THE SCRIPT CRAFT
Bringing Stories to Life

INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

Rising Star Meera Raaj Shines Bright in South Cinema

Hyderabad, December 2025 — Mesmerizing beauty, charm, and a vibrant screen presence have made Meera Raaj one of the most talked-about new faces in South Indian cinema. Despite hailing from North India, she has seamlessly carved a distinct identity in Tollywood, earning admiration for her confidence, dedication, and growing acting prowess.

What sets Meera Raaj apart is her commitment to authenticity. Known for immersing herself fully into her characters, she emphasizes the importance of language in acting—a principle she lives by in her work. In her latest Telugu film, *Son of Meera*, she has impressed audiences with her flawless pronunciation and natural dialogue delivery. This dedication has garnered widespread appreciation and reinforced her reputation as a talented and hardworking performer.

Looking ahead, Meera Raaj is gearing up for the pan-India project *Kanchana 4*, sharing screen space with stars like Pooja Hegde, Raghava Lawrence, and Nora Fatehi. She describes this opportunity as a defining milestone in her career, expressing heartfelt gratitude toward director and actor Raghava Lawrence: "Lawrence sir trusted me with this role, and that means everything to me. His support motivates me to give my absolute best."

In her pursuit of excellence, Meera Raaj is also learning Tamil to ensure her performance feels natural and culturally rooted. This dedication highlights her professional



ism and passion for cinema, as she continuously strives to grow and adapt.

With a blend of beauty, talent, discipline, and hard work, Meera Raaj is transforming every opportunity into a breakthrough. Audiences and industry insiders agree that she has firmly established herself as a rising star in South Indian cinema, proving that sincerity and dedication can bridge any gap—even across regions.

As her momentum builds, it is clear that Meera Raaj is on a promising path to becoming a leading heroine in Tollywood and beyond. South cinema has indeed found another bright, shining star in her.

Hyderabad, December 2025 — The much-anticipated film *Bomma Hit*, starring Abhinav Manikantha in the lead role, was formally launched today in Hyderabad with a traditional pooja ceremony. Produced by Gurrala Sandhya Rani under the banner Anjaniputra Films as Production No. 1, the film marks the directorial debut of Rajesh Gaddam. Pooja Yadam will be seen as the female lead.

At a press meet following the launch, the cast and crew shared their excitement and aspirations for the film.

Hero Abhinav Manikantha, who has acted as a child artist in several super hits and is now stepping into lead roles, said, "This is my second film as a hero. *Bomma Hit* will be a complete entertainer with situational comedy and emotion. I hope audiences enjoy it as much as they have enjoyed other entertainment films recently."

Director Rajesh Gaddam expressed his enthusiasm for his Tollywood debut, stating, "Our producer Sandhya

Rani garu has been tremendously supportive. The film will entertain and also carry a meaningful message. We aim to complete the shoot soon and are planning for a summer release."

Producer Gurrala Sandhya Rani added, "Bomma Hit is our first

will resonate with audiences and become a hit."

Other actors shared their thoughts as well. Muralidhar Goud, who plays the hero's father, said the film combines storytelling, entertainment, and songs, while Pooja Yadam, the heroine, called it a promising

and expressing confidence that it will live up to its name.

The film boasts a talented ensemble cast, including Abhinav Manikantha, Pooja Yadam, Muralidhar Goud, Sanjay Swaroop, Hyper Aadi, Jabardasth Avinash, Tasty Teja, Vani

Kuthanapalli is the editor, Vamsikanth Rekhana scores the music, Elalupu Nagarani is the art director, and Sanare pens the lyrics. The film's public relations is managed by Basimsetty Veerababu.

With a strong story

line, entertaining se



production under Anjaniputra Films. With a solid story, engaging characters, and the support of our talented team, we are confident it

family entertainer. Popular comedians Hyper Aadi and Jabardasth Avinash added humor and excitement, praising the film's catchy title

Shalini, and 'Mad' Ravi Antony, among others.

On the technical front, Mallikarjun Naragani handles cinematography, R. M. Vishwanath

quences, and a talented

talented team, *Bomma Hit* is poised to become a promising addition to Tollywood's lineup of family entertainers.