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Massive Irregularities Uncovered in PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana: CAG Exposes False Certifications, Ghost Accounts

TPN Bureau |
December 21

New Delhi: The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has unearthed massive irregularities in the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PM-KVY)—a flagship Central government scheme meant to provide skill training to youth and promote self-employment. The audit report, tabled in the Lok Sabha on Thursday, reveals alarming misuse of funds, fake beneficiary records, and large-scale certificate fraud across states such as Bihar and Uttar Pradesh between 2015 and 2022.

According to the CAG's findings, skill certificates were issued to lakhs of individuals without imparting any formal training. In some cases, training centers had even been shut down before the issuance of certificates. Institutions reportedly branded these fraudulent credentials as "Best in Class" skill certifications, completely disregarding merit or attendance requirements.

The PMKVY, launched in 2015, was



implemented in three distinct phases over seven years to enhance the employability of India's youth through skill-based training. The Central government allocated about 14,450 crore for the programme to train 1.32 crore candidates across various sectors. However, the audit discovered that the system was riddled with anomalies and data manipulation at several levels. One of the most shocking revelations is the use of fake or duplicate financial records. The CAG report points out that bank accounts of 90,66,264 registered beneficiaries contained either blank or invalid account numbers.

In addition, 5,24,537

accounts were found to be duplicates including instances where 12,122 beneficiaries shared the same bank number, while 52,381 others had repeated or inconsistent entries. Even more startling, about 4,72,156 candidates were registered with the bank account number "1111111111". These severe discrepancies raise concerns over the authenticity of claims and disbursements made under the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system.

The CAG stated that funds were released to over 24.53 lakh certified candidates through DBT transfers, but only 17.69 lakh of them were actually trained. This means that nearly 7

lakh people almost 30 percent of those funded received money despite never completing any training programme. Officials highlighted that the irregularities point towards systemic failures, lax monitoring, and possible collusion between training partners and verification agencies. The report implies that poor oversight and the absence of robust data validation mechanisms enabled widespread misuse of public funds meant for skill development.

The CAG findings call into question the integrity of the PMKVY's implementation process, especially in states like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, where most of

the irregularities were concentrated. Political observers say this raises serious accountability issues for both state enforcement agencies and central monitoring bodies. The revelation could trigger a broader investigation into the misuse of Central skill development funds.

Opposition parties are expected to press for a detailed probe and seek answers on the misuse of taxpayers' money. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship may face pressure to revamp the PMKVY monitoring framework and ensure transparent beneficiary verification processes to restore public trust in the scheme's objectives.

Social Media Users Advised to Exercise Caution: Hyderabad Police Issue Stern Warning Against Fake News Circulation



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Hyderabad: In today's hyper connected digital world, social media has become an inseparable part of daily life. From the moment people wake up in the morning until they go to bed at night, they scroll through countless messages, posts, videos, and forwarded content. However, amidst this constant stream of information, many users fail to pause and verify the authenticity of what they read or share a mistake that could have serious consequences.

According to the Hyderabad Police, the spread of misinformation on social media platforms has reached alarming levels in recent times. The department has observed that false or misleading content often travels faster and farther than the truth, echoing the old saying, "A lie can travel halfway around the world while the truth is still putting on its shoes." This alarming trend is not only eroding trust but also causing tangible harm to individuals and communities.

The police have noted a significant rise in fake news posts, edited

videos, and misleading claims circulating across popular messaging apps and social networking sites. These posts, in many cases, target vulnerable groups such as women and children, subjecting them to humiliation, emotional distress, and reputational damage. To combat this growing menace, the Hyderabad Police have issued a public advisory urging netizens to act responsibly while using digital communication platforms.

The advisory outlines a set of key guidelines and warnings: Verify information before sharing. Users should ensure that any message, image, or video they forward is authentic and factually correct. Exercise responsibility in group chats. Those who manage or participate in WhatsApp, Telegram, or Facebook groups must moderate conversations to prevent the spread of harmful or false content.

Avoid sharing unverified or sensational claims. Doing so could invite legal consequences under cyber-crime and misinformation laws. Stay away from fake propaganda. Becoming part of a false narrative can

damage one's personal reputation and credibility. The police have made it clear that ignorance cannot be used as an excuse for forwarding false information. Anyone caught spreading misleading or inflammatory content will face legal action under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Information Technology (IT) Act.

This includes spreading communal incitement, defamation, or morphed visuals intended to defame individuals or institutions. Authorities also cautioned that sensationalism for the sake of attention or entertainment can quickly backfire, turning the offender into the subject of online ridicule and public outrage. Cyber experts emphasize that in the current digital era, fact-checking is not optional — it is a civic duty.

The Hyderabad Police concluded the statement with an appeal: social media is a powerful tool for communication and awareness, but it must be used with accountability and sensitivity. Responsible participation in online spaces can ensure that the internet remains a safe and credible medium for everyone.

Railways Rationalizes Passenger Fares; No Hike for Journeys up to 215 Km



New Delhi: The Indian Railways has announced a rationalisation of passenger fares effective December 26, 2025, introducing a minimal fare adjustment aimed at meeting rising operational and manpower costs. The new structure retains the current rates for short-distance travelers while introducing a marginal increase for longer routes. According to the new policy, there will be no increase in fares for suburban services or Monthly Season Tickets (MSTs), ensuring that daily commuters remain unaffected. Similarly, passengers traveling up to 215 kilometers in Ordinary Class will see no change in their ticket costs. For Ordinary Class journeys beyond 215 kilometers, fares will increase by 1 paise per kilometer. In the case of Mail and Express Non-AC classes, the rise will be 2 paise per kilometer, while

AC classes will also see a hike of 2 paise per kilometer. Railway officials clarified that this modest revision is designed to recover part of the escalating operational costs without burdening the common passenger excessively.

Illustrating the minimal impact, the Railways stated that for a 500-kilometer journey in Non-AC coaches, passengers will pay just Rs 10 extra compared to the existing fare. The rationalized fare structure is expected to generate around Rs 600 crore in additional revenue for the national transporter during the current financial year. Railways officials emphasized that the move is part of a broader effort to balance the organization's social obligations and financial sustainability. Over the past decade, the rail network has expanded significantly, both in terms of route length and services

offered.

To support this growth and ensure safety, the Railway has increased its workforce and invested heavily in infrastructure and technology. However, these expansions have led to a steep rise in expenditure. The manpower cost has surged to Rs 1,15,000 crore, while pension liabilities have grown to Rs 60,000 crore. Overall, the total operational cost has reached Rs 2,63,000 crore in the financial year 2024-25.

In response, the Railways is focusing on two key areas

Enhancing cargo loading and undertaking minimal, calculated adjustments in passenger fares. Officials highlighted that Indian Railways has now become the second largest cargo-carrying railway network in the world, reflecting massive improvements in freight efficiency and logistics capacity. The rationalisation comes at a time when

Railways has also demonstrated impressive operational efficiency. During the recent festival season, the network successfully mobilized over 12,000 special trains to manage record passenger volumes, ensuring smooth travel experiences across the country.

Railway authorities have reiterated their commitment to safety, service improvement, and cost optimisation while continuing to meet the social goal of affordable public transport. The modest fare adjustment, they said, will help sustain these missions without placing undue pressure on the traveling public.

The fare revision is, therefore, viewed as a balanced step maintaining affordability for short-distance and daily commuters while ensuring the national transporter remains financially viable amid rising operational demands.

TDP Finalized list of Lok Sabha presidents

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Amaravati: In a significant organizational move aimed at strengthening the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) ahead of key political battles in Andhra Pradesh, party chief and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has finalized the list of Lok Sabha constituency-level presidents and general secretaries. The official list, released by the party headquarters on Sunday, reflects Naidu's strategic approach to consolidating the party's base through a careful balance of social representation, administrative experience, loyalty, and grassroots strength. According to party sources, the appointments were made after extensive internal consultations with senior leaders and regional committees.

Chandrababu Naidu is said to have personally reviewed each candidate's performance, track record,

and community influence before finalizing the selections. The TDP leadership emphasized that the composition of the new organizational team seeks to blend youth energy with senior experience, ensuring effective coordination between the party and the government machinery.

Each Lok Sabha constituency now has an appointed president responsible for overall party coordination and mobilization, supported by a general secretary tasked with operational activities and communication. This two-tier leadership model is expected to strengthen the TDP's reach at the grassroots level, improve organizational discipline, and energize district-level cadres in preparation for upcoming elections and developmental programs. Sources within the party stated that special attention was given to caste and community equations to maintain political balance across regions. Naidu reportedly

ensured that representation was offered to leaders from backward classes, Scheduled Castes, minorities, and women, reflecting the party's inclusive vision for the state's political and social fabric. The list, according to insiders, signals the TDP's readiness to re-establish its organizational dominance after recent phases of political turbulence.

Several senior leaders have expressed satisfaction over the reorganization, describing it as a timely step to reinforce the party's internal structure. TDP leaders believe that the move will bring greater accountability among district units and sharpen the party's focus on constituency-specific issues, particularly those concerning farmers, youth, and welfare beneficiaries. Political observers view this reorganization as a strategic attempt by Chandrababu Naidu to consolidate his party's hold ahead of the local body elections and to prepare

the ground for the 2029 general elections.

With the state witnessing rapid shifts in political equations following the TDP-led government's return to power, strengthening the party's base across all parliamentary segments has become a top priority for Naidu. Speaking on the occasion, senior TDP officials remarked that the new appointments are not just administrative but symbolic of the Chief Minister's renewed focus on performance-based politics.

"Those who deliver results and maintain strong connections with the people will play key roles in the coming years," one senior leader said. With this decisive step, the Telugu Desam Party appears poised for an energized phase of political activity, reinforcing Chandrababu Naidu's strategy to tighten organizational discipline, promote grassroots leadership, and prepare for the next round of political challenges across Andhra Pradesh.

క్.క	పార్టీపేరి	అధ్యక్షులు	ప్రధాన కార్యదర్శి	13.	మహిళాపక్షం	వీరభద్ర గురుమూర్తి	గోపు సత్యనారాయణ
1.	అనంతపురి	బత్తుల తాతయ్య బాబు	లాలం తాత నారాయణ	14.	నర్సరావుపేట	వీర భావే సైరా	నర్సరావు తాతయ్య చౌదరి
2.	అరకం(ఎస్సీ)	మోహన్ శేఖర్	దర్శి లక్ష్మణరావు	15.	విజయవాడ	గద్దె తాతయ్య	చెన్నారాయణ చౌదరి
3.	శ్రీకాకుళం	మోహన్ రమేష్	వీరభద్ర వరద రావు	16.	చిత్తూరు	పుట్టాపర్తి రెడ్డి	పెన్నువరద వరదరావు
4.	విశాఖపట్నం	చోడ వెంకట పట్టాభిరాం	లొంగల కృష్ణ	17.	విజయవాడ	వీర రమణం	చెన్నారాయణ చౌదరి
5.	విజయనగరం	కిమర్ నాగార్జున	ప్రసాదుల వరప్రసాద్	18.	ఒంగోలు	వీరవెంకట రెడ్డి	కొలూరి నాగేశ్వరరావు
6.	అమలాపురి	గుత్తల సాయి	పాలం రాజు	19.	రాజంపేట	సుగవాస ప్రసాద్ బాబు	పలావీ భారత్ భావ
7.	ఏలూరు	బడేలీ రాధాకృష్ణ	ముత్తారెడ్డి జగదీశ్వర్	20.	తిరుపతి	వరదరాజు లక్ష్మి	దాండ్ల వరదరావు
8.	కాకినాడ	కృష్ణం నరేష్	వెంకీ శ్రీనివాస్ బాబా	21.	అనంతపురి	పుల నాగరాజు	జి.శ్రీధర్ చౌదరి
9.	కర్నూలు	మోహన్ రామరాజు	పెలూరి మోహన్ రావు	22.	హిందూపూర్	ఎం.ఎస్. రాజు	మహామయ్య
10.	రాజమండ్రి	లొంగల వెంకట రమణ చౌదరి	కావీ నరేష్	23.	కడప	చివినేని భావీష్	వై.ఎస్. జనార్దన్
11.	బాపట్ల	పెలూరి రాజశేఖర్ బాబు	నర్సరావు	24.	కర్నూలు	సుబ్బారావు రెడ్డి	పుల నాగరాజు యాదవ్
12.	గుంటూరు	పిల్ల మహేశ్వరరావు	వీరభద్ర శ్రీనివాసరావు	25.	నంద్యాల	గోపు చలరావు	ఎస్.ఎం.డి. పి.రాజ్

Chandrababu Naidu Extends Birthday Wishes to YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, Gesture Draws Wide Reactions

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Amaravathi: In a notable gesture that has drawn attention across Andhra Pradesh’s political circles, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu extended birthday greetings to his predecessor and YSR Congress Party president, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, on the latter’s 53rd birthday. Naidu conveyed his wishes through a post on X (formerly Twitter), marking a symbolic moment amid the state’s charged political atmosphere. “Birthday wishes to Shri Y.S. Jag-

an garu. May he live a long and healthy life,” Naidu wrote, a message that quickly went viral on social media.

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) chief’s post is seen as a rare expression of goodwill, given the history of deep political animosity and personal rivalry between the two leaders. The greeting comes in the backdrop of the 2024 Andhra Pradesh Assembly elections, in which the TDP-Jana Sena-BJP alliance secured a sweeping victory, decisively defeating Jagan Mohan Reddy’s YSR



Congress Party. Since Naidu’s government has assumed power, been reversing several controversial policies of the previous dispensa-

tion, further intensifying the adversarial tone between the political camps. However, Naidu’s message has been widely discussed as an instance of statesmanship transcending political boundaries.

Many netizens appreciated the gesture, calling it a “humanitarian act” that reflects political maturity. “Despite their differences, wishing an opponent good health shows true leadership,” one user commented. At the same time, certain sections expressed criticism, reminding Naidu of al-

leged wrongdoings during Jagan’s tenure and questioning the necessity of such civility. “This is politics; we cannot forget what people went through under his rule,” a comment read, reflecting ongoing polarization among the electorate.

Earlier in the day, Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena leader Pawan Kalyan and Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) chief Y.S. Sharmila also extended birthday wishes to Jagan Mohan Reddy. Meanwhile, YSRCP cadres celebrated their lead-

er’s birthday across the state by organizing social service events, including blood donation camps, food distribution programs, and community welfare activities.

While the political equations in Andhra Pradesh remain complex, Naidu’s simple yet significant wish has sparked conversations about civility in politics. In a state often marked by intense rivalries, the exchange served as a reminder that respect and humanity can still find a place in public life.

Amaravati to Emerge as India’s Quantum Technology Hub: CM Chandrababu Naidu Outlines Phased Roadmap

TPN Bureau | December 20

Guntur: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has unveiled a comprehensive, phase-wise roadmap for developing Amaravati Quantum Valley into a global center for research, innovation, and industrial growth in quantum technologies. The initiative aims to position Amaravati as the nerve center of India’s quantum revolution, combining research excellence, startup incubation, and global collaboration.

Foundation Phase (2026) The year 2026 will mark the Foundation Phase, focusing on building administrative systems, anchoring hardware infrastruc-

ture, launching academic programs, and identifying quantum talent. As part of this early-stage effort, the government has approved investments from several pioneering startups, including QPAI, Nostradamus Technologies, 42 Technology, Qubittech Smart Solutions, Cybranex Technologies, Centella Scientific, and Qclairvoyance Quantum Labs.

During this phase, Andhra Pradesh plans to install IBM’s Quantum System 2, a state-of-the-art computing platform that will anchor the region’s hardware capability. The government will introduce quantum education programs in collaboration with international insti-

tutions and train at least 200 specialists in quantum computing and related disciplines. Additionally, researchers will test 100 quantum algorithms to build a foundation for future expansion.

Expansion Phase (2027-2029) The Expansion Phase will accelerate industrial and research growth between 2027 and 2029. This stage will focus on scaling up hardware production, expanding academic and industrial research, and attracting large-scale investments. A Quantum Innovation Fund worth 1,000 crore will be launched to support startups and R&D ventures.

A National Quantum Startup Forum will also

be established to create a robust ecosystem for collaboration among researchers, investors, and entrepreneurs. The government aims for over 1,000 quantum algorithms to be tested annually during this period. By the end of 2029, Andhra Pradesh targets achieving 1,000 stable qubits, generating USD 1 billion in quantum investments, and crossing 5,000 crore in annual quantum exports — signaling India’s arrival on the global quantum map.

Leadership Phase (2030-2035) The Leadership Phase, covering 2030 to 2035, envisions international recognition and sustained export growth. Amaravati is expected to host pre-

mier global quantum events and set international benchmarks in research and innovation. Through the Amaravati Quantum Academy, the state plans to train 5,000 engineers, researchers, and technicians every year to meet the growing demand for specialized talent worldwide.

A key goal is to develop 100 quantum startups, supported by a living-lab ecosystem and regulatory sandboxes that foster experimentation within safe, controlled environments. Land Acquisition and Industrial Development To support large-scale hardware manufacturing, the Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corpora-



tion (APIIC) will allocate 200 acres near Amaravati for establishing dedicated quantum hardware industries.

This project is expected to create thousands of employment opportu-

nities across skilled and semi-skilled sectors while strengthening Amaravati’s role in India’s emerging quantum economy. This ambitious roadmap reflects the Naidu government’s

vision to drive technological self-reliance and innovation-led growth, making Amaravati a cornerstone of India’s next major technological frontier — the quantum era.

Pemmasani Inaugurates Gen Z-themed Post Office

TPN Bureau | December 21:

Pemmasani Inaugurates Gen Z-themed Post Office at VIT-AP Campus in a pioneering initiative aimed at modernizing the postal experience and connecting with younger generations, Union Minister of State for Rural Development Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani inaugurated a Gen Z-themed Sub-Post Office at the VIT-AP University campus in Amaravati on Saturday. Designed with a youthful, contemporary look and feel, the facility marks a significant step in the Department of Posts’ efforts to reimagine its traditional role in the digital age.

The newly transformed post office features a student-friendly ambience, blending modern aesthetics with functional spaces that cater to the communication and digital needs of today’s youth. Interactive service kiosks, self-service counters, digital payment facilities, and spaces for financial literacy awareness are part of the new model. The initiative seeks to bridge the gap between conventional postal operations and the

expectations of Generation Z, aligning the department’s services with the evolving lifestyle of young citizens.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Pemmasani commended the Department of Posts for its innovative approach in revitalizing India’s vast postal network. He noted that post offices are “no longer just about mail delivery” but evolving into “multi-service platforms that connect people, ideas, and opportunities.” Highlighting the importance of youth engagement, he said the Amaravati initiative reflects the government’s broader vision of making institutional spaces more inclusive, tech-driven, and youth-oriented.

Dr. Pemmasani also emphasized that such transformations play a crucial role in fostering entrepreneurial spirit, encouraging financial inclusion, and supporting digital literacy among students. With post offices now extending their services to banking, insurance, logistics, e-commerce facilitation, and philately, he said they are becoming relevant hubs for innovation



and entrepreneurship. Officials from the Department of Posts, VIT-AP University management, and local dignitaries attended the inaugural ceremony.

Students interacted with postal officials and explored the range of digital services available at the new Gen Z-themed facility. The department also announced plans to extend similar youth-focused postal centres to other major educational campuses across Andhra Pradesh in the coming months. The initiative underscores the vision of creating a vibrant interface between traditional institutions and modern technological trends—bridging generations through innovation while reaffirming the postal department’s role in India’s digital transformation journey.

Andhra Pradesh Pushes for New Godavari Water Tribunal in Talks with Centre

TPN Bureau | December 21:

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh government has renewed its demand for the constitution of a new tribunal to allocate Godavari river waters between the two Telugu states in the post-bifurcation era. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu raised this key issue during his recent visit to New Delhi, where he met Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil on Friday. During the meeting, Naidu reportedly discussed a wide range of subjects including approvals for inter-state and intra-state river-linking projects, clearance for pending irrigation proposals, and the resolution of inter-state water disputes. The question of a Godavari Water Tribunal emerged as one of the most significant and urgent topics on the agenda. According to the original Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal award, the undivided Andhra Pradesh was entitled to use 1,430 TMC (thousand million cubic feet) of dependable water at 75% reliability.

However, following the formation of Telangana in 2014, these allocations now need to be divided between the two successor states. Despite repeated requests, the Centre has not yet taken steps toward setting up a fresh tribunal to redefine and allocate shares. Both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana had earlier sought the establishment of a new tribunal during the Apex

Council meeting held on October 6, 2020, in New Delhi.

While Andhra Pradesh pressed for clarity on its post-bifurcation water entitlement, Telangana wanted a complete reassessment of the allocations. Although the Council later moved forward on issues related to the Krishna river, initiating the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal-II proceedings, the proposal for a Godavari Tribunal has remained dormant. The original Godavari award, often referred to as the “Godavari Agreement,” is based on a series of inter-state pacts entered into up to 1980. A key milestone was the tripartite agreement of August 7, 1978, between the then Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and undivided Andhra Pradesh governments.

Subsequent accords were consolidated under the Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal Award. Studies show that under the award conditions, undivided Andhra Pradesh had access to 1,430 TMC of dependable flows. Currently, Andhra Pradesh utilizes approximately 659.691 TMC under various completed irrigation projects, while ongoing construction projects are expected to require another 116.20 TMC. The state government also plans to make use of surplus floodwaters through new linkage schemes such as the proposed Polavaram-Nallamala Sagar Interlink Project.

Officials argue that a new tribunal



is essential to ensure equitable distribution and legally binding clarity on water sharing between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The state contends that with changing rainfall patterns, increased irrigation needs, and the emergence of new projects, the existing distribution framework no longer reflects ground realities. Telangana, too, has expressed support for the idea of a new Godavari tribunal, mirroring Andhra Pradesh’s stance that a transparent and updated allocation mechanism would help prevent future disputes.

However, the Centre’s inaction so far has left both states waiting for a concrete move. With the Krishna river dispute now under formal adjudication by the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal-II, Andhra Pradesh hopes that the Centre will soon issue a similar notification initiating the process for Godavari.

Rayalaseema Body Hails CM’s Appeal for Horticulture Mission Funds

TPN Bureau | Dec. 21

Anantapur: Rayalaseema Saguneeti Sadhana Samithi (RSSS) president Bojja Dasaratha Rami Reddy has welcomed Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu’s appeal to the Centre to allocate special funds under the Horticulture Mission for the rapid development of the backward districts of Rayalaseema and Prakasam. Addressing the executive

committee meeting of the Samithi held at Nandyal on Saturday, Rami Reddy said the Chief Minister’s renewed emphasis on horticulture had rekindled hopes among farmers who have long struggled with drought and low agricultural productivity.

He noted that Naidu’s vision to establish a comprehensive Horticulture Hub across the region could transform farm livelihoods if im-

plemented with strong institutional backing and timely financial support. “Rayalaseema has immense potential for cultivation of high-value crops such as mango, banana, pomegranate, and citrus fruits. The creation of a horticulture corridor could generate employment, boost exports, and ensure sustainable income for small and marginal farmers,” Rami Reddy

said. However, he expressed serious concern over the slow progress of key development pro-



grams announced in recent years. Despite substantial mentions in the Union Budget 2025-26 regarding the Purvo-

daya Scheme, the establishment of industrial hubs at Orvakal (Kurnool district) and Kopparthi (Kadapa district), and the commitment to developing backward districts as per the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, little ground activity has been visible, he said. Rami Reddy urged both the State and Central governments to fast-track project execution and avoid bureau-

cratic delays.

“Announcements alone do not change people’s lives. We need a time-bound action plan, regular monitoring, and transparent allocation of funds so that our farmers can see the benefits on the ground,” he asserted. The RSSS president also highlighted the significance of water management in boosting horticulture productivity. He called for expediting irriga-

tion projects like Handri-Neeva, GNSS, and Velugonda, which are vital for ensuring reliable water supply in the drought-prone region. Reiterating the Samithi’s commitment to the cause of Rayalaseema’s development, he said the organisation would continue to work with all political parties and stakeholders to secure equitable growth opportunities for the region.

“Our demand is not charity—it is long-pending justice to Rayalaseema’s farmers,” Rami Reddy declared. The meeting concluded with resolutions demanding that the Centre formally include Rayalaseema under all backward area packages and ensure dedicated funding for horticulture infrastructure, cold storage, and farmer training centres.



Nara Lokesh Stresses Strengthening of TDP, Allied Wings from Grassroots Level

Amaravati: Minister Nara Lokesh emphasized the urgent need to strengthen the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and its affiliated wings from the grassroots level upward. He urged senior functionaries and regional coordinators to focus on pending party committees, ensuring the organizational structure is reinforced ahead of upcoming political challenges. Lokesh held a high-level meeting with TDP's regional coordinators that lasted for nearly two hours on Sunday. During the session, he reviewed the party's strategy and gave key directives on building strong local teams, en-

hancing coordination, and expanding grassroots support networks. The meeting also reviewed the design models of new party offices proposed for district headquarters, with Lokesh personally seeking feedback from the coordinators. According to party sources, Lokesh presented a clear roadmap for strengthening internal systems across constituencies. He directed coordinators to pay special attention to the performance of affiliated TDP wings such as the youth, women, and farmers' units. "The revival and empowerment of these wings are crucial for sustaining the party's



mass contact at every level of society," Lokesh reportedly said. Addressing organizational efficiency, Lokesh instructed the coordinators to monitor how ef-

fectively local grievance programs are resolving public issues. He ordered the preparation of detailed reports on grievance redressal progress and mandated that

party leaders collaborate closely with district in-charge ministers during such programs. He further instructed that on the day of the District Development

Review Committee (DDRC) meeting, the party's coordination committee in each district should also convene to review internal matters and synchronize activities. Highlighting the need for acceleration in pending organizational tasks, Lokesh urged leaders to expedite the completion of all unfinished party committees from the village level up to the state unit. He also directed coordinators to finalize lists of eligible candidates for the remaining nominated positions, stressing merit and loyalty as key criteria. During the meeting, Lokesh also reviewed progress on the

construction of new TDP district offices. He advised coordinators to work with the concerned ministers to finalize land acquisition, design approvals, and construction timelines for swift completion. He emphasized that these offices should serve not just as administrative centers but also as hubs for public service and local problem resolution. In a sharp criticism of the previous YSR Congress (YSRCP) government, Lokesh condemned what he described as "politically motivated" cases filed against TDP leaders and activists. He called for immediate legal assistance to those

affected, directing party legal cells to ensure that all such cases are resolved at the earliest. "No activist or leader should feel neglected. It is our duty to stand by every member who has suffered injustice," Lokesh asserted. Concluding the meeting, Nara Lokesh reiterated the TDP's commitment to rebuilding a people-centric organizational network and revitalizing the party's structure across the state. He said, "Every coordinator should treat this as a mission to rebuild TDP at every village, strengthen the trust of the people, and prepare the organization for the future."

Kakani Govardhan Reddy Sparks Fresh Controversy, Targets Irrigation Officials in Nellore

TPN Bureau | December 21
Nellore: Former Minister and senior YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leader Kakani Govardhan Reddy has once again stirred controversy, this time for allegedly issuing open threats to officials of the Irrigation Department. According to reports, during a heated exchange, Reddy lashed out at senior officials, including Executive Engineer (SE) Desi Naik and Manager Gangadhar Reddy, accusing them of corruption and collusion with Telugu Desam Party (TDP) MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy. Sources claim that Kakani, angered by recent developments, warned the officers that he would make them "account for every rupee" and even went as far as to threaten that they would be compelled to "sell their assets to repay embezzled funds." These remarks have sparked outrage among administrative circles and prompted renewed political tension in the district. The controversy comes in the backdrop of a recent expose by TDP MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy,



who alleged large-scale corruption in the Sullurpeta and Sarvepalli irrigation projects during the previous YSRCP regime. Somireddy, accompanied by media personnel, visited several project sites and pointed out locations where he claimed works worth crores of rupees were billed without actual execution. According to Somireddy, irregularities in the

irrigation sector allegedly amount to over 150 crore. He stated that vigilance and audit enquiries have already revealed significant lapses, reinforcing claims of financial mismanagement during Kakani's tenure as minister. Observers note that while these allegations have been circulating for months, Kakani has not issued any direct response or clarification

regarding the accusations against him. Instead, his latest remarks against irrigation officers are being viewed as a counterattack aimed at diverting attention from the corruption charges made by the opposition. Political analysts in Nellore believe this development signals a renewed phase of confrontation between the ruling YSRCP and the TDP, particularly in light

of the latter's continued efforts to highlight alleged corruption under the previous state government. As the latest episode unfolds, it remains to be seen whether the state administration will take disciplinary action or launch an official inquiry into Kakani's conduct and the fresh allegations surrounding the irrigation department.

YSRCP Leaders' Birthday Celebrations for Jagan Expose Deep Factional Rift in Kurnool and Chittoor Kurnool



December 21 (Andhra Jyothi): Internal discord within the ruling YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) has once again come to the surface, this time during celebrations marking party president and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's 53rd birthday. What was meant to be a show of unity and loyalty has instead turned into a reflection of serious factionalism among key YSRCP leaders across several districts. The controversy began in the Emigandur constituency of Kurnool district, where separate birthday events were organized by different YSRCP factions. Constituency in-charge Rajeev Reddy, Kurnool Parliament coordinator Butta Renuka, and senior party leader Rudra Goud each held their own celebrations, reportedly without consultation or coordination with one another. This division has sparked intense debate among party cadres, who are expressing confusion and disappointment over the lack of unity

at the leadership level. Party workers voiced concern that if senior leaders themselves could not come together for Jagan's birthday—a symbolic occasion celebrating the party chief's leadership and welfare-oriented governance—it could signal deeper cracks within the organization. "Such rival group activities only weaken the party's image," lamented several local activists, urging the high command to intervene swiftly and resolve internal disputes before they affect the party's grassroots network. Meanwhile, similar tensions erupted in Chittoor district, where YSRCP leaders were also divided in their birthday celebrations. Two rival factions reportedly held competing events, further exposing the simmering discontent. Deputy Mayor Chandrasekhar led one group in organizing celebrations at Girimpeta, where several influential local leaders joined him. His faction is said to have the backing of certain prominent figures within

the party, strengthening speculation about rising internal rivalries. Interestingly, banners displayed during Chandrasekhar's event omitted the image of Chittoor district YSRCP in-charge Vijayanand Reddy, which observers interpreted as a deliberate snub. Speaking to the media, Chandrasekhar stated that the divisions had arisen because leadership was failing to give due importance to local functionaries. He added that while factions were not intentional, neglect from coordinators had inevitably led to such groupings. Party insiders admit that growing dissatisfaction among second-tier leaders threatens to undermine the YSRCP's organizational discipline, especially in districts where the party once enjoyed overwhelming support. With discontent spreading just months after electoral setbacks, cadres are calling on the leadership to restore cohesion before the rifts deepen further.

Nara Lokesh Reviews TDP MLAs' Performance, Stresses Party Discipline

TPN Bureau | Dec 21
Amaravati: Education and IT Minister and TDP National General Secretary Nara Lokesh has directed regional coordinators to submit detailed performance reports on the party's MLAs, stating that the evaluation will be used to strengthen governance and party accountability. He made it clear that legislators failing to perform up to expectations would be called in for party counseling sessions. Emphasizing organizational discipline, Lokesh reminded coordinators that loyalty to the party is paramount. "The Secretariat is like a rented house, but the party is our permanent home. We may hold office for five years, but the party remains forever. Every leader must abide by party directives without exception," he said. Lokesh held an extensive review

meeting lasting over two and a half hours with TDP regional coordinators at the party's central office on Saturday. He clarified that coordinators play a crucial role in bridging communication between senior leaders and grassroots workers. From monitoring MLA performance to organizing review meetings with district in-charge ministers, he instructed coordinators to remain proactive and responsive. Lokesh directed that if any in-charge minister fails to respond to coordinators' calls, the matter should be reported directly to the party leadership. He also stressed that every time a DRC (District Review Committee) meeting is held by in-charge ministers, a party meeting should be conducted the next day with the presence of both the

minister and the regional coordinator. In districts handled by ally ministers, Lokesh suggested organizing the meetings jointly with the local MP. He instructed that all vacant party positions from village to constituency level be filled by the end of this month. The same timeline applies for pending appointments in temple committees, market yard boards, and PACS chairmanships. Lokesh asked coordinators to take immediate proposals for postings in APPSC, BC Corporation, and Wakf Boards. He made it clear that priority in both party and nominated positions should go to those who fought steadfastly when the TDP was in opposition. Any nominations recommended for leaders who joined after the coa-

lition came to power should be summarily rejected. Discussing MLA activities, Lokesh noted that performance has improved significantly over the last two and a half months. MLAs have been conducting grievance collection programs across constituencies and working to resolve local issues. He directed coordinators to ensure their continuous participation in government and party programs, particularly public welfare initiatives like Swachh Andhra and pension disbursement drives. On administrative matters, the meeting finalized design plans for district party offices, advising minor internal revisions. Each district and constituency center will have a party office built under a unified design. Site selection for these

offices must be completed by month-end. The meeting also discussed the appointment of a new chairman for Nellore Vijaya Dairy, with Lokesh delegating the responsibility of finalizing the candidate to State Party President Palla Srinivas Rao. Reviewing the party workers' insurance scheme, Lokesh revealed that compensation payments totaling 38 crore have been made since January this year. Regional coordinators Manta Satyanarayana Raju, Bhoomireddy Rangopal Reddy, Bheeda Ravichandra Yadav, Sujayakrishna Ranga Rao, Deepan Reddy, Kovela Ravindra, Vepada Chiranjeevi Rao, Mandalapu Ravi, and Pellakuru Srinivas Reddy participated in the meeting.



New app to ease transportation in AP

TPN Bureau | December 21

Andhra Taxi App to Offer Safe and Affordable Transport for Tourists in NTR District In a step toward improving tourism and transportation convenience, NTR District Collector S. Lakshmi Sha has announced the launch of a new government-backed mobile application and portal named “Andhra Taxi.” Designed to operate much like private ride-hailing apps in major cities, the Andhra Taxi app aims to provide tourists and residents of Vijayawada and surrounding areas with safe, reliable, and affordable travel options.

Sha stated that the app will soon be available for download on the Google Play Store. The application has been developed under government supervision to ensure transparency, passenger safety, and fair pricing. It is expected to play a crucial role in supporting tourism around Vijayawada’s Durga temple, Bhavani Island, and the Krishna riverfront, which attract thousands of visitors each month.

The Collector noted that tourists have frequently complained about overcharging by auto and cab drivers, resulting in negative travel experiences. Andhra Taxi seeks to address this by offering stand-

ardized fares and direct access to verified local drivers through multiple booking options WhatsApp, phone calls, the mobile app, or QR code systems. Key Features and Safety Measures Users can select vehicles based on their location in the app, which displays a list of registered and government-verified drivers nearby.

The Transport Department will authorize only vehicles with valid permits and fitness certificates to operate under the Andhra Taxi service. To ensure women’s safety, booking and vehicle details will automatically be shared with local police stations, allowing real-time mon-

itoring of travel activity. Data from all registered vehicles will be stored securely in the State Data Center, protecting user privacy while enabling efficient surveillance and response in emergencies.

Tourism and Economic Boost The Collector emphasized that the initiative not only benefits travelers but also provides steady employment opportunities for local auto and cab operators. By integrating transportation and accommodation services, the app allows tourists to book hotel rooms or complete travel packages in key tourist destinations within the NTR district. This integrated approach is expected to

boost the local economy and give small operators a reliable, government-endorsed platform to offer their services.

Drone Services for Farmers In an innovative move, the Andhra Taxi platform will soon include drone service options for farmers in rural areas of NTR district. These services are aimed at supporting agricultural needs such as crop monitoring, pesticide spraying, and data collection, signaling a broader vision for technology-driven public service under the district administration.

Collector Lakshmi Sha expressed confidence that the app will “curb exploitation, encourage transparency,



and strengthen tourism-linked livelihoods.” The initiative reflects the government’s com-

mitment to digital governance and citizen-friendly service delivery, setting a mod-

el that could soon be replicated in other districts across Andhra Pradesh.

Whale Rescued by Fishermen off Pudimadaka Coast in Anakapalli District

TPN Bureau | Dec. 21

Anakapalli,: A dramatic rescue unfolded off the coast of Pudimadaka in Achyutapuram Mandal, Anakapalli district, when local fishermen discovered that a whale had accidentally become trapped in their fishing net during their routine expedition on Saturday. According to eyewitnesses, the group of fishermen set out into the sea in the early hours, casting their nets as usual in hopes of a good catch.

Within a short time, they noticed unusually heavy movement in the nets and assumed they had trapped an exceptionally large haul of fish. However, as they began pulling the net closer to the boat, they realized that a massive whale had become ensnared. The fishermen immediately stopped hauling and decided to bring the creature closer to shore to prevent further injury. Once near the coast, they, with the help of other locals, carefully released the whale from the netting.



Due to its enormous size and exhaustion, the rescue took several hours. Witnesses reported that the whale appeared weak and was struggling for breath when freed. Local villagers, marine enthusiasts, and coastal authorities gathered at the site to assist in returning the whale safely to deeper waters. With concerted effort, ropes and small boats were used to guide the mammal back to sea.

The fishermen expressed relief and pride at being able to save the marine giant from distress. Speaking about the incident, one fisherman said, “At first, we thought we had caught a huge shoal of fish. We never imagined a whale could get caught in our nets. We just wanted to make sure it returned to the ocean alive.”

“Environmentalists have praised the swift

and humane action of the fishermen, emphasizing the importance of awareness among coastal communities to prevent accidental entanglement of large marine animals. This incident highlights the close connection between humans and the marine ecosystem along Andhra Pradesh’s coastline, where fishermen often encounter rare ocean creatures.

Officials are expected to visit the site to gather more details and assess whether the whale sustained any injuries. The species of the whale has not yet been identified, but locals described it as a grayish-blue mammal roughly 25 to 30 feet long. The event has drawn considerable attention in the region, serving as a reminder of the delicate balance between livelihoods and marine conservation.

APPTD Meeting held

TPN Bureau | December 21, 2025

Vijayawada: The Vigilance and Security Staff Welfare Association (APPTD), Andhra Pradesh, held its state executive meeting today at the Revenue Association Building in Vijayawada under the leadership of State President D. Ankinidu and State General Secretary T. Venkateswara Rao. The meeting focused on long-pending demands of vigilance and security personnel, including the proposal to rename the designation “Security Constable” as “PTTD Constable” to enhance professional dignity and identity within the department. During the session, the association unanimously appointed Gopparaju Venkateswarlu, President of AP JAC Amaravati, as the Honorary President of the APPTD Vigilance and Security Staff Welfare Association.

Senior police officials, including Janakula Srinivasa Rao, President of the Andhra Pradesh Police Officers Associa-

tion, attended as chief guests and addressed the gathering. Addressing the members, Gopparaju Venkateswarlu reaffirmed that AP JAC Amaravati would continue to support the Vigilance and Security staff in resolving departmental and administrative issues.

He emphasized the need for parity, fair recognition, and improvement of working conditions for the vigilance and security cadre under the PTTD. The meeting reviewed several key concerns faced by employees, including the designation change, injustices in previous pay scales, and the implementation of travel and uniform allowances. Members discussed strategies to take these issues to higher administrative levels for immediate redressal. In a gesture of appreciation, the association felicitated N. P. Rao, Head Constable, and N. S. V. D. Prasad, Constable, who recently won gold medals at the 7th State Athletic Meet held in Bapatla.

Chief Guest Gopparaju Venkateswarlu commended their achievements, describing them as a source of pride for the entire vigilance and security fraternity. The state-level event witnessed active participation from regional and zonal office-bearers, including presidents, secretaries, and senior committee leaders from various districts across Andhra Pradesh.

The leadership reiterated its commitment to collective welfare, urging the government to recognize the vital services provided by vigilance and security staff across all departments. Expressing gratitude at the conclusion of the meeting, State President D. Ankinidu and State General Secretary T. Venkateswara Rao thanked all participants, guests, and supporting organizations for their solidarity and assured continued advocacy for the rights and welfare of vigilance and security employees in the state.

TPN Bureau | December 21

Amaravati: True to his reputation for swift and decisive action, Minister Dr. P. Narayana has once again demonstrated his commitment to development and efficiency. Within just a week of giving his word, a brand-new BT road was constructed and completed at Vaddamanu village, one of the capital region villages under Amaravati’s development belt. During a meeting held on December 10 at Vaddamanu, Minister Narayana, along with local MLA Sravan Kumar, met with the farmers of the village to discuss the government’s ongoing land pooling program.

The initiative aims to

secure land for crucial infrastructure projects as part of Amaravati’s expansion including the railway line, railway station, inner ring road, and sports city. The government plans to pool around 16,666 acres of land across seven villages for these projects, with Vaddamanu being one of the key locations. At the same meeting, villagers expressed concern about the poor condition of the main road connecting their village to the N17 route. The road had become severely damaged with numerous potholes, making commutes difficult for residents.

Responding immediately to their request, Minister Narayana assured them that a new

road would be laid without delay — a promise he has now delivered on within record time. Following the minister’s instructions, CRDA officials and engineers inspected the road alignment the very next day. The Minister personally oversaw planning and directed technical teams to prepare cost estimates and initiate the project without bureaucratic delay. On December 14, construction work began in full swing, and by the morning of December 21, exactly one week later the new BT road was fully completed.

The newly laid road spans 1,148 meters in length and 4.5 meters in width, built with four durable layers to ensure long-term stability. The

total project cost stood at 98.7 lakh, funded by the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA). The dedication and coordination between the engineering teams, officials, and the Minister’s office were key to the project’s timely completion.

Minister Narayana, accompanied by Tenali MLA Sravan Kumar, will formally inaugurate the newly built road on Monday morning. Speaking ahead of the event, local villagers conveyed heartfelt gratitude to the Minister for his proactive approach and for honoring his commitment with visible results rather than mere assurances. Many residents said his leadership has restored confidence in the govern-

ment’s promises related to Amaravati’s development.

This project stands as yet another example of Minister Narayana’s results-driven governance model one that values action over announcements. Officials in the CRDA noted that his hands-on involvement and quick decision-making were instrumental in ensuring that the project was completed within just seven days.

As Amaravati continues to move forward with critical infrastructure projects, initiatives like the Vaddamanu road serve as reminders of how focused political will and administrative efficiency can together accelerate regional development.

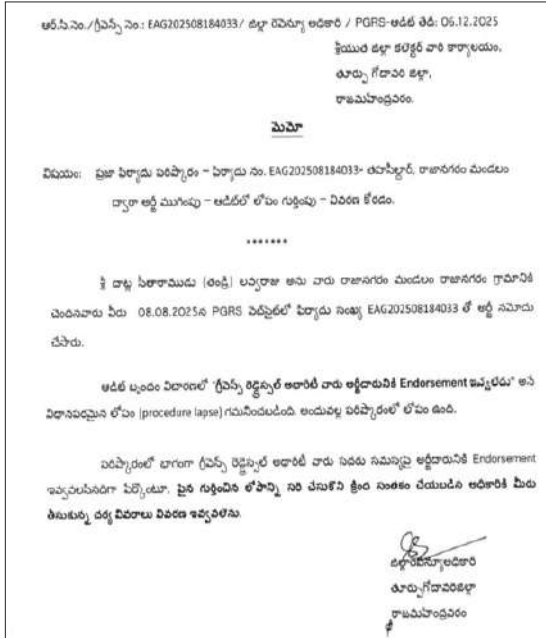


Raja Nagaram Tahsildar Issued Five Memos for Lapses in PGRS Complaint Handling

TPN Bureau | December 21

Vijayawada: Serious procedural lapses in addressing public grievances have landed Raja Nagaram Tahsildar (MRO) in trouble, as the District Revenue Officer (DRO) has issued five memos citing negligence and violation of prescribed procedures. The action followed an audit held on December 6, 2025, which scrutinized the functioning of the grievance redressal system (PGRS) across the mandal office. According to official sources, the DRO found that several complaints filed between June 30 and August 8, 2025, through the PGRS portal were either left unresolved or disposed of without proper follow-up.

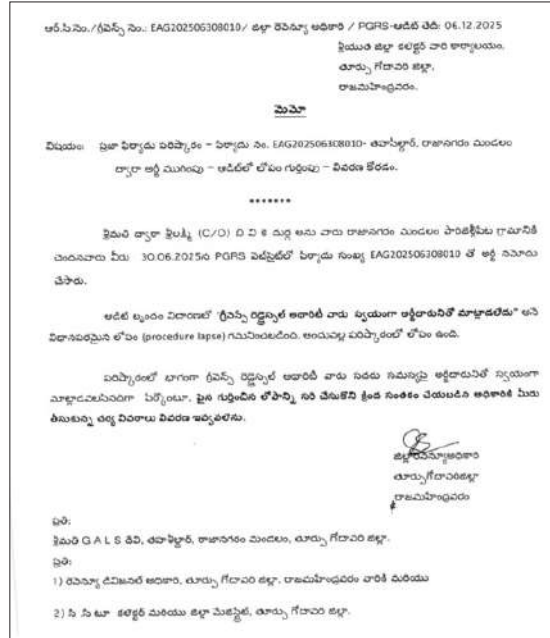
The audit team noted that the Tahsildar had failed to personally communicate with complainants and did not issue official endorsements after disposing of cases—both mandatory steps in the grievance process. Identical Lapses in Multiple Complaints During the audit, five specific complaints were examined. Each revealed simi-



lar lapses, indicating a pattern of negligence. In a case filed on June 30 by Srilakshmi of Farijellipeta village, the audit found that the Tahsildar had not interacted directly with the complainant. Complaints registered on July 7, 18, and 21 also showed identical issues, with no communication or procedural documentation. Similarly, in a petition lodged on August 8 by Chatla Seetharamudu from Raja Nagaram vil-

lage, the MRO failed to issue an endorsement after closing the complaint.

The DRO described these as “procedural lapses” and stated that merely closing files under the pretext of resolution is unacceptable. He stressed that every grievance must be addressed transparently, with proper documentation and citizen engagement. Direction to Submit Explanation In the memos, the DRO instructed the tahsildar to furnish a de-



tailed explanation for each complaint, clarify the steps taken, and immediately rectify the identified lapses.

The officer also reiterated that direct interaction with complainants and issuance of written endorsements are mandatory requirements under the government’s grievance redressal policy.

Warning on Reputation and Accountability District revenue authorities emphasized

that negligence in handling PGRS complaints undermines public trust and tarnishes the government’s reputation. The DRO warned that stricter monitoring will be enforced henceforth to ensure every public grievance is handled promptly and in compliance with administrative protocols. Officials added that lapses of this nature could trigger further disciplinary measures if not corrected immediately.

Nara Brahmani Launches Mangalagiri Premier League Season 4 at Bhogi Estates Stadium

TPN Bureau | December 21

Tadepalli: The much-awaited Mangalagiri Premier League Season 4 kicked off on Sunday at the Nara Lokesh Sports Ground located within Bhogi Estates, Tadepalli. The cricket tournament, organized annually to mark the birthday celebrations of Minister Nara Lokesh, was formally inaugurated by his wife, Nara Brahmani, in a spirited ceremony that drew large crowds and political leaders.

Upon her arrival at the venue, Nara Brahmani was warmly welcomed by local alliance leaders, party support-

ers, and sports enthusiasts. She paid floral tributes to the statue of late N.T. Rama Rao (NTR), the legendary actor-politician and founder of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), whose ideals continue to inspire the younger generation of the Nara family and supporters across Andhra Pradesh.

The atmosphere at the stadium reflected both festive energy and sporting enthusiasm, with colorful banners, cheers from the players' teams, and cultural performances marking the beginning of the cricket league. In her address, Nara Brahmani expressed happiness over



the continued success of the tournament, emphasizing the importance of sports in bringing youth together and

promoting a healthy lifestyle. She announced that the tournament has grown into a cherished tradition aligned with

Nara Lokesh's commitment to youth empowerment and community development.

"Every year, we or-

ganize this cricket competition as part of Lokesh garu's birthday celebrations to encourage young talent and to

celebrate the spirit of sportsmanship," she said. She also declared that prizes worth 10 lakh would be distributed among the winning teams and outstanding performers. Following the formal proceedings, Brahmani joined the players for a brief, light-hearted cricket session, showcasing her enthusiasm for the sport and interacting warmly with participants.

Her presence at the ground energized players and spectators alike, symbolizing the Nara family's ongoing engagement with youth-oriented initiatives. The event witnessed the par-

ticipation of several prominent figures, including Member of Parliament Sana Satish and actor Siddharth Nikhil, among other dignitaries and local leaders.

Organizers stated that the tournament would continue over the coming days with multiple teams competing in league and knockout rounds. With the launch of Mangalagiri Premier League Season 4, Tadepalli once again turned into a hub of sporting excitement and community celebration, underscoring how cricket continues to unite people across boundaries of politics and profession in Andhra Pradesh.

Nara Bhuvaneshwari Inaugurates Mega Health Camp in Rampachodavaram

TPN Bureau | December 21

Rampachodavaram: In a major public health initiative aimed at bringing quality healthcare to remote tribal areas, NTR Trust Managing Trustee Nara Bhuvaneshwari inaugurated a mega medical camp at Rampachodavaram in Alluri Sitarama Raju district on Sunday. The camp, organized under the auspices of NTR Trust in collaboration with GSL and GSR Hospitals, drew an overwhelming response from local residents, especially from tribal hamlets in and around the region.

Bhuvaneshwari was given a warm and traditional welcome by the local tribal communities, who greeted her with a vibrant horn dance and cultural performances reflecting the unique traditions of the area. Expressing her appreciation, she commended the enthusiasm of the tribal people and reaffirmed the Trust's commitment to improving healthcare access in interior regions of Andhra Pradesh.

Speaking at the occasion, Bhuvaneshwari informed that the NTR Trust has so far con-



ducted 16,365 health camps across various parts of the state, extending free medical services to over 22.64 lakh beneficiaries. She emphasized that the Trust's initiatives have made a significant difference in the lives of underprivileged communities by providing timely healthcare support. In total, medicines worth 2.97 crore have been distributed free of cost to patients through these camps, she added.

The Rampachodavaram camp featured 12 specialized medical services covering general medicine, pediatrics, gy-

necology, ophthalmology, dental care, orthopedics, cardiology, ENT, dermatology, and physiotherapy, among others. Hundreds of local residents turned up at the camp to avail diagnostic services, consultations, and medicines. Teams of doctors and medical staff from GSL and GSR Hospitals examined patients throughout the day, ensuring that everyone who attended received proper attention and care.

During her visit, Nara Bhuvaneshwari personally interacted with the local residents and listened to their healthcare

concerns. She also vaccinated several children with polio drops, symbolically marking the campaign's focus on preventive care and child health. Her gesture drew appreciation from parents and community leaders alike, who thanked her for bringing essential medical services directly to their doorstep.

Addressing the gathering, she highlighted the role of mobile medical camps initiated by the NTR Trust, which have played a key role in delivering healthcare to remote and inaccessible tribal regions. These

mobile units, she said, have ensured that even people living in the most interior forest areas have access to medical care without having to travel long distances. Local leaders, district officials, and representatives from the participating hospitals praised the efforts of the NTR Trust for organizing the camp and acknowledged its broader mission of supporting the health and well-being of marginalized populations.

The initiative showcased the Trust's commitment to social responsibility and humanitarian service, continuing the legacy of the late Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao, whose vision inspired the establishment of the Trust. As the day-long event concluded, hundreds of families left with medicines, advice, and renewed confidence in better health.

The success of the Rampachodavaram medical camp reaffirmed how consistent outreach and collaboration between voluntary organizations and medical professionals can greatly uplift rural healthcare infrastructure across Andhra Pradesh.

Jagan's birthday in Narasaraopet

TPN Bureau | December 21

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) President Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's 54th birthday was celebrated with great enthusiasm in Narasaraopet, Palnadu district, under the leadership of Dr. Gopireddy Srinivas Reddy, the district YSRCP Working President. The celebrations, held on Sunday at the district party office, drew hundreds of enthusiastic party workers and supporters.

Dr. Gopireddy and other leaders cut a massive cake to mark the occasion and conveyed their heartfelt wishes to Jagan Mohan Reddy. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Gopireddy said that the people of every constituency in the region observed Jagan Mohan Reddy's birthday as a festival, reflecting their continued support and admiration for the YSRCP chief. Dr. Gopireddy further declared

that the widespread celebrations were a sign of people's confidence in Jagan Mohan Reddy's leadership.

"The people are comparing the governance of Jagan Mohan Reddy's term with the current rule of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. It is clear that the people are waiting to bring back Jagananna as Chief Minister in 2029," he said, expressing confidence that YSRCP will sweep the upcoming elections and that he himself would secure victory in Narasaraopet. Marking the occasion, the district YSRCP office hosted a mega blood donation camp, where nearly 100 youth volunteers donated blood.

In addition, fruits were distributed to patients at the district government hospital. Party workers also organized an annadanam (free meal distribution) program for children at an orphanage on Sattanapalli Road and held similar charity events in

about ten villages across the constituency. In a special initiative, Dr. Gopireddy also organized a free mega medical camp at the local Sushmitha Ortho and Trauma Care Hospital.

The camp focused on orthopedic and neurological treatments. He said that in honor of Jagan Mohan Reddy's birthday, the hospital arranged free medical consultations, diagnostic check-ups, X-rays, bone density tests, and even surgeries. All medicines and treatments were provided free of cost to patients who attended the camp.

Dr. Gopireddy lauded the collective efforts of the YSRCP cadre for turning the celebrations into a meaningful community service event. He expressed gratitude to all the volunteers who contributed to the blood donation and welfare activities, emphasizing that serving people is the true spirit of Jagan Mohan Reddy's ideology.

Grand Celebration in Mangalagiri on Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's Birthday

TPN Bureau | December 21

Mangalagiri (Guntur District): The YSR Congress Party celebrated former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's birthday with great enthusiasm and unity at the party office in Mangalagiri constituency on Sunday. The event, organized under the leadership of party coordinator Donthireddy Vemareddy, MLC Murugudu Hanumanth Rao, and former APCO Chairman Chillapalli Mohan Rao, drew a large number of leaders, women members, and party activists from across the region.

The celebrations began with the party leaders cutting a huge cake and extending heartfelt birthday greetings to Jagan Mohan Reddy, acknowledging his service and commitment to the people of Andhra Pradesh. The atmosphere was vibrant with



cheers, slogans, and floral tributes, symbolizing the deep admiration that the cadre continues to have for their leader. Speaking on the occasion, Vemareddy, Hanumanth Rao, and Mohan Rao said that Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's birthday was being celebrated all across the state by YSRCP workers and supporters in grand fashion.

They praised Jagan's leadership for focusing on welfare schemes that directly benefited the

poor and marginalized sections of society during his tenure. The leaders expressed that people across Andhra Pradesh now realize the mistake they made in the last election, which cost them the continuation of development and welfare policies introduced by the previous YSRCP government.

They affirmed that citizens have begun to understand the value of Jagan's administration and are eager to bring him back to power in the

next election to restore the state's progress. Vemareddy pointed out that Jagan's governance was centered on transparency, welfare, and people's trust, ensuring dignity and equality for every household.

MLC Hanumanth Rao said that the party workers must take this realization among the people as an inspiration to strengthen the grassroots network and prepare for an inevitable comeback. Chillapalli Mohan Rao added that

the renewed confidence among the public is a reflection of the impact Jagan left in the hearts of the people.

Party state leaders, district representatives, constituency in-charges, women's wing members, and a large number of enthusiastic supporters participated in the celebrations, marking the event as a testament to Jagan's enduring popularity and the YSRCP's continued unity.



Macherla (Palnadu District), TPN:

Emphasizing the importance of immunization for healthy child development, MLA Julakanti Brahmananda Reddy stated that two drops of the polio vaccine can ensure a healthier life for children. He made these remarks during his visit to a Pulse Polio Immunization camp organized at the Primary Health Centre in the Gowda Colony of Macherla on Sunday.

The MLA personally administered polio drops to several infants and observed the ongoing vaccination process at the camp. Speaking on the occasion, Reddy recalled that polio had once crippled an entire generation, causing se-

vere physical disabilities and emotional suffering for families. With the introduction of the global vaccination drive, however, he noted that the disease has been almost completely eradicated worldwide.

Highlighting public health as a top priority, Reddy urged parents to ensure that every eligible child receives the two drops of the polio vaccine without fail. He commended the efforts of healthcare workers and volunteers for reaching remote areas and conducting door-to-door awareness campaigns.

"It is through their dedication that the country has successfully fought this dreadful disease," he said. The MLA also inter-

acted with medical officers, ANMs, municipal staff, and volunteers, appreciating their role in implementing the government's health initiatives effectively. He called for sustained efforts to prevent any recurrence of polio and encouraged continued participation in national immunization programs.

Medical and health department officials, municipal representatives, leaders from allied political parties, and a large number of activists attended the event. The program concluded with an appeal to the public to cooperate fully in the Pulse Polio campaign and contribute to maintaining India's polio-free status.

Mother Tongue Is Not a Barrier, It Is the Bridge

India's Education System Needs



The State of the Education Report for India 2025 makes one truth unmistakably clear: language lies at the heart of India's learning crisis as well as its solution. Titled "Bhasha Matters: Mother Tongue-Based Education in India", the report challenges a long-standing assumption in Indian schooling—that early education delivered in dominant or "aspirational" languages automatically improves learning outcomes. Instead, it presents compelling evidence that the continued neglect of mother-tongue instruction has deepened learning gaps, reinforced inequality, and weakened foundational education across the country.

India's linguistic diversity is unparalleled. Thousands of languages and dialects are spoken across its regions, yet the classroom remains stubbornly monolingual or narrowly multilingual. For millions of children, the language of instruction is not the language of thought, home, or community. This disconnect, the report argues, is not a marginal issue—it is a systemic failure that undermines comprehension, participation, and confidence during the most critical years of learning.

The Cost of Ignoring the Child's First Language

The SOER 2025 highlights a sobering reality: a significant

proportion of Indian children enter school without familiarity with the language used for teaching. When young learners are forced to decode unfamiliar words before understanding concepts, learning becomes mechanical rather than meaningful. This results in poor foundational literacy and numeracy, learning deficits that accumulate over time and often culminate in dropout or disengagement.

The report emphasizes that language disadvantage disproportionately affects children from tribal communities, rural areas, migrant families, and economically weaker sections. While privileged students may overcome early language barriers through home support or private schooling, marginalized children bear the brunt of a system that treats linguistic diversity as an inconvenience rather than an asset.

Education systems are meant to level the playing field. When language itself becomes an entry barrier, schooling risks reproducing social inequality instead of dismantling it.

Mother-Tongue Instruction: Evidence, Not Emotion

The argument for mother-tongue education is often dismissed as sentimental or politically motivated. The SOER 2025 firmly counters this per-

ception by grounding its recommendations in cognitive science and global evidence. Children learn best when taught in a language they understand. Concepts introduced in a familiar language are grasped faster, retained longer, and applied more effectively.

Crucially, mother-tongue instruction does not hinder the acquisition of additional languages. On the contrary, the report stresses that strong foundational learning in the first language accelerates second- and third-language acquisition. Multilingual education, when well designed, produces learners who are cognitively flexible, culturally grounded, and linguistically confident.

Thus, the debate is not about choosing between local languages and global competitiveness. It is about sequencing and pedagogy—ensuring that children first learn how to learn before being pushed to learn in unfamiliar languages.

Policy Promise vs Classroom Reality

India's National Education Policy 2020 acknowledged the importance of mother-tongue education, particularly in the early years. However, the SOER 2025 notes that implementation remains uneven and largely symbolic. Many states lack trained teachers fluent in local languages.

Teaching-learning materials are scarce or poorly developed. Teacher education programmes rarely equip educators with multilingual pedagogical skills.

As a result, the idea of mother-tongue instruction often remains confined to policy documents rather than classrooms. English-medium education continues to be equated with quality, despite evidence to the contrary. Parents, driven by aspirations for social mobility, frequently opt for schools that promise English proficiency, even if it compromises comprehension in the early years.

The report argues that without systemic support, parental choice alone cannot drive meaningful change. What is needed is a coordinated national mission that aligns curriculum design, teacher training, assessment methods, and community engagement around multilingual education.

Language, Identity and Dignity

Beyond learning outcomes, the report makes a powerful case for the cultural and social value of mother-tongue education. Language is inseparable from identity. When children see their language excluded from formal education, it signals that their culture is inferior or irrelevant. This silent message erodes self-worth and belonging.

India's linguistic heritage is not merely a cultural artefact—it is living knowledge embedded in oral traditions, local histories, and indigenous wisdom systems. Education that sidelines these languages risks severing children from their communities and erasing invaluable knowledge traditions.

By contrast, schools that embrace linguistic diversity become spaces of inclusion and respect. They affirm that education is not about assimilation into a dominant culture, but about empowering learners where they are.

The Way Forward

The SOER 2025 proposes clear and actionable steps: a national mission on mother-tongue and multilingual education, sustained investment in teacher recruitment and training, development of quality learning materials in local languages, and active community participation in curriculum development.

Technology, the report notes, can play a transformative role—by enabling digital content creation in multiple languages and supporting teachers in multilingual classrooms. But technology must complement, not replace, strong pedagogical foundations.

Most importantly, political will is essential. Language policy in education must rise above ideological debates and

electoral calculations. The question is not which language should dominate, but how every child can be given a fair start.

Conclusion

The State of the Education Report for India 2025 does more than diagnose a problem—it challenges India to rethink the very foundations of its education system. Mother-tongue instruction is not a step backward into parochialism; it is a step forward toward equity, quality, and meaningful learning.

If India is serious about improving learning outcomes, reducing dropouts, and achieving true educational inclusion, it must begin where learning begins—

with the language of the child. Anything less would be an abdication of responsibility to millions of young learners whose potential remains locked behind a language they do not yet understand.



-Ram mohan Nimmaraju, Ex Journalist, Social Worker or Secretary - HELP organization

A Simple Talk Before Marriage Can Save a Lifetime of Trouble

Weddings are full of fun, food, and flowers. But what happens after the party is over? Today, many marriages end in fights and separations. There is a simple idea to help: pre-marriage counselling with a lawyer.

Think of it like this: before you start a long journey, you check the map. Before marriage, you should check if you and your partner are ready for the journey together. A lawyer can help with this, not to make a legal case, but to help you both talk clearly and honestly.

How Does It Work?

The lawyer gives both of you a set of simple, important questions to fill out separately. These questions serve as a guide to understanding each other's minds. For example:

- Why do you want to get married?
- Do you want children? How many?
- How will you handle money?
- What makes you angry or upset?
- How do you expect



to share household work?

Why a Lawyer?

A lawyer is neutral. They are not from your family or your partner's

family. They help you discuss these topics without fear or shyness. Their role is to make sure both of you understand each other clearly.

Also, when you write

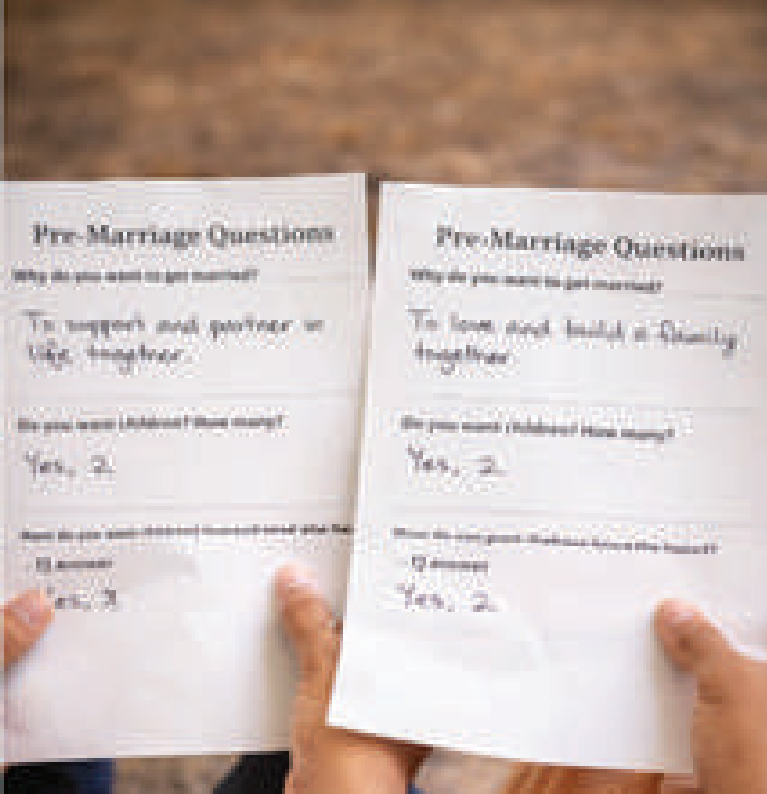
down your answers, you are more likely to be truthful. Why? Because if later there is a big problem like if someone hid something important, these papers can be used as proof. This

encourages both to be honest from the start.

Isn't This Too Formal for Love?

Love is important. But marriage is also a serious

life partnership. Talking openly before marriage makes love stronger. It is not about doubt; it is about building trust. Finding out about big differences before marriage is better



than fighting about them after.

What's the Benefit?

This kind of counselling helps avoid future quarrels. Many couples fight because they never talked about money, careers, or living with in-laws before marriage. By talking about it now, you fix problems before they start. It's like fixing a small hole in a boat before sailing.

Final Thought

Marriage is a beautiful promise. Making that promise with a clear understanding is the best gift you can give each other. A simple, lawyer-guided conversation before marriage can help build a happy, lasting relationship. It's not about expecting problems rather it's about being prepared to handle life together, with eyes wide open.



- By Alaparathi Ashritha, pursuing 4th year BBA LLB at K.L University, Guntur

BJP Dominance In Maharashtra Local Polls



The ruling Mahayuti alliance registered a sweeping victory in the Maharashtra local councils and nagar panchayats, followed by elections in over 20 additional bodies on December 20. Vote counting began at 10 am and quickly indicated a decisive trend in favour of the ruling alliance. Despite expectations of a tough contest due to agrarian distress, partial implementation of welfare schemes for women, and farmer dissatisfaction over financial aid, the opposition failed to capitalise on these issues electorally.

Polling was conducted on December 2 for 264 municipal councils and nagar panchayats, followed by elections in over 20 additional bodies on December 20. Vote counting began at 10 am and quickly indicated a decisive trend in favour of the ruling alliance. Despite expectations of a tough contest due to agrarian distress, partial implementation of welfare schemes for women, and farmer dissatisfaction over financial aid, the opposition failed to capitalise on these issues electorally.

facilitating the Mahayuti's victory and sarcastically congratulated it for its role. He also issued a warning to BJP allies Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar, claiming that the BJP would eventually sideline them after consolidating power. Senior Shiv Sena UBT leader Ambadas Danve echoed similar sentiments, alleging that the ruling parties relied on money and muscle power to secure their win.

for the welfare-driven vision of the NDA governments at both the Centre and the state, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis emphasised that he avoided negative campaigning, focusing instead on explaining development plans, which he said resonated with voters.

Modi And Kharge Clash Over Infiltration Issue

The political confrontation between the BJP and Congress intensified over the issue of illegal immigration, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge exchanging sharp remarks. Speaking in Assam's Namrup, where he inaugurated development projects including a major fertiliser plant, PM Modi accused the Congress of indulging in anti-national activities by encouraging illegal Bangladeshi immigrants to settle in Assam for vote-bank politics.



The Prime Minister alleged that the Congress opposed voter list revisions to protect illegal settlers and claimed that his government was committed to safeguarding the identity, land, and cultural pride of the Assamese people. He further stated that despite correcting many historical mistakes made by Congress over the last 11 years, significant work remained to restore the country fully.

The BJP has repeatedly highlighted this as a governance and national security concern.

double-engine government. According to Kharge, responsibility for border security and infiltration prevention rests entirely with the ruling party.

national forces and would back any genuine action taken in the national interest.

Illegal immigration from Bangladesh remains a highly sensitive issue in Assam, with authorities deporting over 400 illegal infiltrators, including Rohingya, in the past year.

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge strongly rejected the Prime Minister's accusations, calling them an attempt to divert attention from governance failures. He questioned how the opposition could be blamed when the BJP was in power both at the Centre and in Assam under what it calls a

Kharge condemned PM Modi's statements, saying the Prime Minister habitually shifts blame to the opposition whenever his government fails to deliver. He clarified that the Congress does not support infiltrators or anti-

The exchange reflects the deepening polarisation between the two major parties ahead of upcoming elections. Immigration, identity, and national security continue to be key political flashpoints, especially in border states like Assam, where public sentiment remains sharply divided on the issue.

Terror Search Operations Intensify In Udhampur

Security forces and Jammu and Kashmir Police launched extensive search operations in Udhampur district after reports emerged that two unidentified terrorists had visited a village house for food. The incident occurred in Chore Motu village of Majalta tehsil, located around five kilometres from the site of a recent encounter between terrorists and security forces.



According to official sources, the terrorists visited the house of a local resident, Mangtu Ram, on Saturday evening and took food before disappearing into nearby forested areas. This development raised serious security concerns, prompting authorities to cordon off the village and initiate intensive searches.

In response, a large-scale joint operation was launched, stretching from the international border to mountainous regions along the Line of Control. The operation forms part of a broader area domination exercise aimed at preventing infiltration and eliminating hiding militants.

to infiltrate across the border. Officials have noted a resurgence of activity at terror launch pads in areas opposite Jammu, Samba, Kathua, and Rajouri districts.

The international border in Sialkot and Zafarwal sectors, while about 60 are located across the Line of Control.

The visit followed a deadly encounter earlier in the week in which a police officer was killed. Two of the three terrorists involved in that encounter were believed to have been injured but managed to escape under the cover of darkness and dense forest terrain. Security agencies suspect that the same group may be responsible for approaching villagers for food and

Intelligence inputs suggest that terrorists may be exploiting foggy weather conditions

A senior BSF officer recently revealed that Pakistan has reactivated around 72 terror launch pads near the border, months after suffering damage to its infrastructure during India's Operation Sindoor. Of these, 12 are active near

The incident underscores the persistent security challenges in the region and highlights the role of villagers, terrain, and weather in counter-terrorism efforts. Authorities continue to appeal for public cooperation while maintaining heightened vigilance.

Pilot Assault Case Sparks Controversy



A controversy erupted after an Air India Express pilot, Captain Virender Sejwal, was accused of assaulting a passenger at Delhi Airport's Terminal 1 following a dispute over queue jumping. The incident quickly gained traction on social media, prompting public outrage and official action by the airline.

tation and used abusive and casteist language, along with threats against the pilot's family.

Captain Sejwal, through a statement issued by a law firm, denied wrongdoing and claimed the incident had been misrepresented as a professional conflict. He clarified that he was travelling as a passenger, not on duty, and that the matter was purely personal between two individuals. The statement alleged that the other passenger, Ankit Dewan, initiated the confrontation

Ankit Dewan, however, alleged that Captain Sejwal physically assaulted him after a verbal argument over the use of a staff security queue. Dewan claimed he was travelling with his family, including a four-month-old child, and was advised by airport staff to use the staff queue. He said the pilot insulted him and later beat him, leaving him injured. Dewan also alleged that he was coerced into signing a statement agreeing not to pursue legal action to avoid missing his flight and losing expensive holiday bookings.

parties voluntarily signed a mutual statement in the presence of CISF personnel, who offered them the option to file complaints. The CISF later confirmed that the matter was resolved mutually and without coercion.

Despite the pilot's defence, Air India Express took swift action, removing him from duty pending an internal investigation. The airline condemned any form of violent behaviour and stated that disciplinary action would follow based on inquiry findings.

The case highlights the growing impact of social media narratives, workplace accountability, and the fine line between personal disputes and professional conduct, especially when public figures are involved.

Infant Death Highlights Healthcare Failure



A deeply disturbing incident from Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district exposed serious gaps in the state's healthcare and emergency transport systems. An Adivasi Ho family was forced to carry their four-month-old child's body home in a vegetable bag after being unable to secure a mortuary van from the district hospital.

family requested a mortuary van but were allegedly told that none were available. According to Dimba, hospital staff warned that transporting the body openly would not be allowed on public buses. Eventually, hospital staff reportedly pooled Rs 400 to purchase a vegetable bag and bus tickets, placed the infant's body inside the bag, and instructed the parents to travel nearly 80 kilometres back to their village.

In response, Jharkhand Health Minister Irfan Ansari announced corrective measures, including the procurement of four mortuary vehicles for every district hospital at a cost of Rs 15 crore. He also claimed that an internal inquiry found that the family left without waiting for the ambulance and that one vehicle was non-functional while another was already in use.

Dimba Chatomba and his wife Roybari, residents of a remote village near Chaibasa, had taken their infant to the Sadar Hospital after the child developed severe illness. Despite receiving treatment, the baby died on December 19. Hospital records confirmed the death but did not mention the cause.

The incident sparked widespread outrage, with locals and activists condemning the indignity faced by the grieving family. Neighbours stated that the unavailability of mortuary vehicles was common, often due to poor road conditions or drivers demanding extra

The incident highlights systemic failures in healthcare access, especially for tribal and rural communities. It has reignited discussions on poverty, infrastructure neglect, and the urgent need for dignified healthcare services, even after death.

Following the death, the

Saudi Arabia Records Execution Surge



Saudi Arabia has carried out a record number of executions for the second consecutive year, prompting widespread condemnation from human rights groups. According to UK-based organisation Reprieve, at least 347 people have been executed this year, surpassing last year's total of 345. The group described this as the bloodiest year since it began monitoring executions in the kingdom.

The latest executions involved two Pakistani nationals convicted of drug-related offences. Reprieve reports that roughly two-thirds of those executed this year were convicted of non-lethal drug crimes, a practice the United Nations considers incompatible with international human rights standards. More than half of those executed were foreign nationals, raising concerns that migrant workers are disproportionately affected.

Among those executed were women, a journalist, and individuals who were minors at the time of their alleged crimes. Human rights organisations have highlighted cases involving torture, forced confessions, and lack of legal representation. Reprieve described the Saudi justice system as one where abuse is endemic and ac-

countability is absent.

The surge in executions follows the lifting of an unofficial moratorium on drug-related executions in late 2022. Since then, families of death row inmates have spoken of living in constant fear, with executions often carried out without prior notification. Relatives are typically not informed in advance, not given the bodies, and not told burial locations.

Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, has overseen significant social reforms, including easing restrictions on women and opening the country to global tourism and entertainment. However, human rights groups argue these changes mask an increasingly harsh crackdown on dissent and civil liberties.

Despite international criticism, Saudi authorities maintain that the death penalty is imposed only after exhaustive judicial processes and only for the most serious crimes. The UN and multiple rights organisations have called for an immediate moratorium on executions, warning that Saudi Arabia's current approach undermines global human rights norms.

Kate Winslet On Fame And Intrusion



Kate Winslet has reflected on the intense media scrutiny she faced after rising to global fame as Rose in Titanic, describing the experience as frightening and overwhelming. Speaking on BBC Radio 4's Desert Island Discs, the actor said paparazzi intrusion reached extreme levels, including phone tapping, surveillance, and even people rummaging through her bins to speculate about her diet.

Winslet said her life was turned upside down after Titanic's release in 1997. While the filmmaking experience itself was positive, she admitted she was not emotionally prepared for the sudden global attention. Media coverage frequently focused on her body, using what she described as abusive language and unrealistic, digitally altered images.

She revealed that negative comments about her appearance began long before fame. As a child, she was mocked by peers and discouraged by authority figures who suggested she would only be cast in stereotypical roles. These experiences led to unhealthy dieting dur-

ing her teenage years.

During periods of intense media pressure, including her divorce from director Sam Mendes, Winslet relied on small comforts and close friendships to cope. She spoke candidly about how everyday routines and support from neighbours helped her survive emotionally challenging times.

Winslet also criticised the media's manipulation of her image, recalling moments when she saw heavily edited magazine covers that bore little resemblance to her real appearance. She said she spoke out because she did not want young women to chase unattainable standards based on false representations.

Now preparing for her directorial debut, Winslet noted that gender bias persists in the film industry. She said women are still spoken to differently than men in leadership roles, often receiving patronising advice that would never be directed at male directors. Her response to such remarks today, she said, is simple and confident, reflecting the self-assurance she has gained over time.

US Seizes Venezuelan Oil Tanker Again



The United States has seized a second oil tanker that recently departed from Venezuela, escalating tensions between Washington and Caracas. The operation, confirmed by the US Department of Homeland Security, comes just days after President Donald Trump announced a blockade targeting sanctioned oil tankers entering and leaving Venezuela. The vessel was intercepted in international waters by the US Coast Guard, following a similar seizure earlier in the month.

According to US officials, the tanker was carrying oil belonging to PDVSA, Venezuela's state-run oil company, which is under US sanctions. Although the ship itself was not listed as a sanctioned vessel, the White House clarified that its cargo was sanctioned, describing the tanker as part of Venezuela's so-called shadow fleet. The US claims such fleets are used to covertly transport oil and generate revenue for President Nicolás Maduro's government.

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem shared footage of the operation on social media, showing US helicopters landing on the Panamanian-flagged ship named Centuries. Records indicate the ship has previously sailed under Greek and Liberian flags, a practice often associated with efforts to evade tracking and sanctions.

Venezuela strongly condemned the seizure, calling it an act of theft and kidnapping. The Maduro government accused the Trump administration of attempting to steal Vene-

zuelan resources and vowed to take the matter to the United Nations Security Council and other international bodies. Maduro has repeatedly denied US allegations that his government is linked to drug trafficking or terrorism.

The seizure follows increased US military activity in the Caribbean, including deadly strikes on alleged Venezuelan drug-smuggling boats. These actions have drawn scrutiny from US lawmakers, as the military has not publicly

provided evidence linking the targeted vessels to drug trafficking. US officials argue the operations are necessary to dismantle criminal networks and restore regional security.

Venezuela, which holds the world's largest proven oil reserves, relies heavily on oil exports to fund government operations. The repeated tanker seizures and the announced blockade further strain its already fragile economy and deepen geopolitical tensions between the two countries.

Epstein Files Leave Survivors Uneasy

The partial release of documents related to convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein has left many survivors disappointed and concerned. Although US law required the Department of Justice to release all Epstein-related materials by the end of the week, many documents were released with heavy redactions, and others were briefly published before being removed.

Survivors and advocacy groups fear that the incomplete disclosures may obscure the full extent of Epstein's crimes. Epstein survivor Liz Stein accused the justice department of undermining the transparency law, warning that a slow and fragmented release could distort the truth.



Another survivor, Marina Lacerda, said many victims remain nervous

and sceptical about whether meaningful information will ever be fully disclosed.

The released materials include photographs of Epstein with prominent figures, images of his

properties, and documents referencing high-profile individuals. Authorities have stressed that being named or pictured does not imply wrongdoing, and many individuals mentioned

have denied any involvement in Epstein's crimes.

The Department of Justice has defended the redactions, citing legal obligations to protect victim identities, ongoing investigations, and national security concerns. Officials said more than 1,200 victims or relatives were identified, necessitating careful handling of sensitive material.

However, legal experts argue the extensive redactions risk fuelling conspiracy theories rather than dispelling them. Lawmakers who pushed for the release have criticised the justice department for failing to explain the redactions adequately, with some threatening legal consequences for non-compliance.

Human rights advocates acknowledge the importance of protecting victims but say survivors themselves are eager for accountability and transparency. Many believe full disclosure is essential not only for justice but also to prevent similar abuses in the future.

Deadly Tavern Shooting Shocks South Africa

A mass shooting at a tavern in Bekkersdal near Johannesburg has left nine people dead and ten injured, triggering a large-scale manhunt. Police said around 12 armed attackers arrived in two vehicles during the early hours of Sunday morning and opened fire indiscriminately on patrons.

Seven men and two women were killed in the attack, which authorities described as unprovoked. Some victims were shot while trying to flee, including a taxi driver who had stopped nearby. Residents described scenes of chaos, with injured people being transported to medical facilities using wheelbarrows due to the severity of the situation.



South Africa continues to struggle with extremely high levels of violent crime. Police statistics show an average of 63 murders per day between April and September this year. While motives for the Bekkersdal shooting remain unclear, gun violence is often linked to gangs, alcohol-related dis-

putes, and illegal firearms.

Local officials and residents expressed frustration and fear, saying gunfire has become a nightly occurrence in the area. Community leaders blamed understaffed po-

lice forces and called for military intervention to restore safety.

Experts estimate that alongside three million legally owned firearms, South Africa has at least an equal number of illegal weapons in circulation.

Advocacy groups warn that mass shootings have increased significantly since 2020, particularly at taverns and informal drinking spots.

The attack has reignited national debate on gun control, policing resources,

and community safety. As authorities search for those responsible, residents are left mourning the victims and questioning whether enough is being done to protect ordinary citizens from escalating violence.

Limited Impact of US MFN Drug Pricing on Indian Pharma



Policy Announcement

US President Donald Trump has announced the implementation of Most Favored Nation (MFN) drug pricing, a policy aimed at reducing prescription drug costs for American consumers. Under this framework, prices of certain medicines in the US will be aligned with the lowest prices paid by other developed nations. The policy was unveiled alongside pricing agreements with nine major global pharmaceutical companies, including GSK, Merck, Novartis, and Sanofi.

Focus on Patented Drugs

According to analysts and industry experts, the MFN pricing policy is primarily targeted at patented and innovative drugs, which are typically sold at higher prices. These drugs are largely produced and marketed by multinational pharmaceutical giants rather than Indian companies. As a result, the immediate exposure of Indian pharmaceutical firms to this pricing reform is expected to be minimal.

India's Role in Generics

India plays a crucial role in the global pharmaceuti-

cal supply chain, particularly in generic medicines. It is the largest supplier of generic drugs to the United States, accounting for a significant share of prescriptions filled there. Since generic drugs are already competitively priced and not the main target of the MFN policy, Indian manufacturers are unlikely to face near-term pricing pressure.

Analyst View

Experts believe that while the MFN policy could reshape pricing dynamics in the long term, especially if it expands

beyond patented drugs, there is no immediate cause for concern for Indian pharma firms. Any potential impact would depend on future policy extensions and implementation details.

Overall Assessment

In the short term, Indian pharmaceutical companies remain insulated due to their strong focus on generics, stable demand from the US, and limited involvement in high-cost patented medicines. The MFN policy is therefore seen as a targeted reform with limited spillover effects on India's pharma sector.

SBI Home Loan Portfolio Nears ₹10 Trillion Milestone



Strong Growth Momentum

State Bank of India is on track to cross ₹10 trillion in home loan outstanding in FY26, driven by robust housing demand and a supportive low-interest-rate environment. The home loan segment has become SBI's largest business unit.

Current Position

As of November 2025, SBI's home loan portfolio crossed ₹9 trillion, growing steadily from ₹1 trillion in 2011. The bank closed FY25 with a home loan book of ₹8.31 trillion, registering a 14.4 percent annual growth.

Asset Quality Strength

SBI has maintained strong asset quality in housing loans, with gross NPAs at just 0.72 percent at the end of FY25. Proactive monitoring and conservative lending practices have helped keep defaults low.

Role of RAM Segment

Retail, Agriculture, and MSME loans together form 67 percent of SBI's total loan book and crossed ₹25 trillion in September. Growth in this segment has been a key driver of the bank's overall credit expansion.

Revised Credit Outlook

With improving economic conditions, SBI has raised its credit growth guidance for the current fiscal year from 12 percent to 14 percent. MSME loans are growing at nearly 18 percent, while retail and agriculture are expanding at around 14 percent.

Outlook

SBI's diversified loan portfolio, strong demand for housing finance, and stable asset quality position it well for sustained growth in the coming years.

Elon Musk Crosses Historic \$700 Billion Net Worth



Record-Breaking Milestone

Elon Musk became the first individual in history to surpass a net worth of \$700 billion after a favorable ruling by the Delaware Supreme Court restored his Tesla stock options.

Court Decision Impact

The ruling reinstated Musk's 2018 compensation package, previously voided by a lower court. Forbes subsequently added nearly \$70 billion to his wealth estimate, valuing his net worth at around \$749 billion.

Tesla's Central Role

Musk owns about 12 percent of Tesla's common stock, valued near \$199 billion. Including the restored options, his total Tesla holdings are estimated at \$338 bil-

lion, making it his most valuable asset.

Other Major Assets

Musk also holds an estimated 42 percent stake in SpaceX, valued at around \$336 billion. SpaceX is reportedly considering an IPO as early as 2026.

Wealth Gap Widens

Musk's fortune now exceeds that of the world's second-richest person by nearly \$500 billion, highlighting his unprecedented dominance at the top of global wealth rankings.

Long-Term Outlook

With additional performance-linked compensation potentially worth up to \$1 trillion, Musk's wealth trajectory remains unmatched in corporate history.

Market Capitalisation Gains Led by TCS and Infosys

Weekly Market Movement

The combined market capitalisation of six of India's ten most-valued companies rose by ₹75,256.97 crore last week, despite the BSE Sensex declining by 338.3 points or 0.39 percent. This divergence highlights stock-specific movements rather than broad-based market strength.

Biggest Gainers

Tata Consultancy Services emerged as the biggest winner, with its valuation increasing by ₹22,594.96 crore to ₹11.87 lakh crore. Infosys followed closely, adding ₹16,971.64 crore to reach a valuation of ₹6.81 lakh crore. State Bank of India also saw strong gains, with its market cap rising by ₹15,922.81 crore.

Other Positive Movers

Reliance Industries added ₹12,314.55 crore to its valuation, while Bharti Airtel gained ₹7,384.23 crore. Larsen & Toubro recorded a marginal increase of ₹68.78 crore. These gains reflect investor confidence in select large-cap stocks despite broader market



weakness.

Firms Facing Declines

On the downside, HDFC Bank saw the sharpest erosion, losing ₹21,920.08 crore in market value. LIC's valuation declined by ₹9,614 crore, while ICICI Bank and Bajaj Finance

also witnessed notable losses.

Valuation Rankings

Reliance Industries retained its position as India's most-valued company, followed by HDFC Bank and Bharti Airtel. TCS and Infosys continued to dominate

the IT sector rankings, underscoring their leadership among large-cap firms.

Key Takeaway

The week highlighted selective buying in IT and energy stocks, even as the overall market sentiment remained cautious.

Vedanta Demerger and Strong Dividend Commitment

Dividend Philosophy

Vedanta Group chairman Anil Agarwal reaffirmed his strong commitment to shareholder returns, stating that dividends are central to the group's philosophy. He emphasized that dividend payouts will continue regardless of the company's restructuring plans.

Demerger Approval

The National Company Law Tribunal has approved Vedanta's plan to demerge into five separate listed entities. These include Vedanta Ltd for base metals, Vedanta Aluminium, Talwandi Sabo Power, Vedanta Steel and Iron, and Malco Energy for oil and gas operations.

Shareholder Benefits

Post-demerger, shareholders will receive one share in each new entity for every share held in Vedanta Ltd. Agarwal believes this structure will unlock value, sharpen business focus, and enhance long-term growth.

Dividend Track Record

Vedanta has been among India's top dividend-paying large-



cap stocks. In recent years, it paid ₹29.50 per share in FY24 and around ₹46 per share in FY25. For FY26 so far, interim dividends total ₹23 per share.

Expansion Plans

The group plans to invest \$20 billion over the next

4-5 years across oil and gas, aluminium, zinc, silver, power, steel, and fertilisers. Key targets include doubling aluminium capacity, expanding zinc and silver production, and significantly increasing oil output.

Strategic Vision

Agarwal described Vedanta as a "banyan tree" with each business capable of growing independently into a large enterprise. The demerger is aligned with global trends toward pure-play resource companies.

Securities Markets Code Bill Redefines Sebi Powers



Time Limit on Investigations

The proposed Securities Markets Code Bill introduces an eight-year statutory limit on Sebi's power to initiate inspections and investigations. This aims to prevent prolonged regulatory uncertainty for market participants.

Exceptions and Safeguards

The time bar will not apply to cases with systemic impact on the securities market. This ensures that serious violations affecting market integrity can still be pursued.

Faster Enforcement Framework

The Bill mandates that investigations be completed within 180 days, with extensions requiring written justification and approval. Interim orders will also have limited validity, improving procedural efficiency.

Investor Protection Measures

A new Ombudsperson-led grievance redressal mechanism has been proposed to strengthen investor protection. However, concerns have been raised about increased workload for Sebi and the Securities Appellate Tribunal.

Financial Restructuring of Sebi

The Bill requires Sebi to transfer 25 percent of its annual surplus to a Reserve Fund for expenses, with the remaining surplus going to the Consolidated Fund of India.

Overall Impact

The legislation seeks to consolidate three existing securities laws, enhance legal certainty, and balance regulatory power with accountability.

Vivo V70 and X Series India Launch Plans Surface



Multiple Launches Planned

Vivo is reportedly gearing up to introduce several smartphones in India in early 2026. These include the Vivo V70 series, Vivo X200T, and Vivo X300 FE.

Launch Timeline

According to tipster Abhishek Yadav, Vivo may launch the V70, V70 Elite, and X200T models in late January 2026. The

X300 FE is expected to arrive later.

Pricing Expectations

The Vivo V70 is tipped to launch around ₹45,000, while the V70 Elite may be priced near ₹50,000. The X200T could cost approximately ₹55,000, and the X300 FE around ₹60,000, though final pricing may vary.

Specifications Overview

The Vivo V70 has appeared on multiple certification platforms. Listings suggest it could feature up to 12GB RAM, 256GB storage, Android 16, and a Snapdragon 7 Gen 4 processor.

Market Positioning With competitive pricing and strong specifications, Vivo appears to be targeting the upper mid-range and premium segments aggressively in early 2026.

Starlink Satellite Anomaly Triggers Controlled Reentry



Incident in Orbit

A SpaceX Starlink satellite suffered a failure shortly after launch and has since been tumbling uncontrollably in low Earth orbit. The satellite lost contact at an altitude of around 418 kilometres.

Cause of Failure

SpaceX confirmed that the satellite's propulsion system was likely damaged, leading to fuel venting and loss of control. This caused the

spacecraft to alter its orbit and release small debris fragments.

Debris and Safety Measures

The released debris is described as slow-moving and trackable, posing no threat to the International Space Station or its crew. SpaceX is coordinating with NASA and the US Space Force to monitor the situation.

Controlled Descent

Although the satellite

is tumbling, it remains largely intact and is expected to burn up completely in Earth's atmosphere within a few weeks. Its descent path stays below the ISS orbit.

Preventive Action

Following the incident, SpaceX activated safety protocols and deployed software updates across its Starlink fleet to reduce the risk of similar anomalies in the future.

OnePlus 15T Emerges as Compact Flagship Contender



Upcoming Addition

OnePlus is reportedly preparing to expand its flagship 15 series with a new model called the OnePlus 15T. Leaks suggest this device will be positioned as a compact flagship, balancing powerful hardware with a relatively smaller form factor. Trial production of accessories has reportedly begun, indicating that the launch cycle may already be underway.

Display and Design

According to tipster Digital Chat Station, the OnePlus 15T is expected to feature a 6.3-inch flat display with 1.5K resolution. The panel is likely to be AMOLED and could support a high 165Hz refresh rate, placing it among the smoothest displays in the premium segment. The phone is also tipped to come with a metal frame, enhancing durability and premium appeal.

Performance and Security

The device is rumoured to be powered by the Qualcomm Snapdragon 8 Elite Gen 5 processor, making it a top-tier performer. For security, OnePlus may include a 3D ultrasonic fingerprint sensor embedded under the display, a feature generally reserved for flagship smartphones.

Camera Capabilities

On the photography

front, the OnePlus 15T is said to feature a dual-camera setup on the rear, comprising a 50-megapixel primary sensor and a 50-megapixel telephoto lens. The inclusion of a telephoto sensor indicates a focus on optical zoom and portrait photography.

Battery and Extras

One of the most striking rumours is the battery size, which is said to exceed 7,000mAh. If

accurate, this would be exceptional for a compact flagship. Reports also mention a magnetic snap-case accessory in white or grey colour options.

Launch Timeline

The OnePlus 15T is expected to debut in China in the first half of 2026. It may later arrive in India under the name OnePlus 15s, though official confirmation is still awaited.

Oppo Reno 15 Pro Mini India Launch Details Leak

Compact Flagship Strategy

Oppo appears to be entering the compact flagship space with the Reno 15 Pro Mini. Recent leaks indicate that the company is planning to launch the device in India, marking a shift toward premium yet smaller smartphones in its Reno lineup.

Expected Launch Window

According to tipster Gadgetsdata, the Oppo Reno 15 Pro Mini could launch in India by late December 2025 or January 2026. The device reportedly carries the model number CPH2813.

Display and Performance

The smartphone is said to feature a 6.32-inch flat OLED display with 1.5K resolution and a 120Hz refresh rate. Under the hood, it is expected to be powered by the MediaTek Dimensity 8450 processor, positioning it as a high-performance device.



Advanced Camera Setup

Camera hardware appears to be a major highlight. The Reno 15 Pro Mini is tipped to sport a triple rear camera system, including a 200-megapixel primary sensor, a 50-megapixel

ultra-wide lens, and a 50-megapixel telephoto camera with 3.5x optical zoom. A 50-megapixel front camera is also expected.

Battery and Durability

The handset may sup-

port 80W fast charging and wireless charging. It is also rumoured to carry an IP69 rating, offering high resistance to dust and water.

Design and Build

Leaks suggest the

device could debut in a Glacier White colour with a unique ribbon-style finish. It may weigh around 187 grams and measure approximately 7.99mm in thickness.

Samsung Galaxy Z Flip 8 May Debut Exynos 2600

New Chipset Integration

Samsung is reportedly considering equipping its upcoming Galaxy Z Flip 8 with the newly launched Exynos 2600 processor. This would mark another generation of Samsung's flip phone using an in-house chipset.

Reason Behind the Move

Industry sources suggest that rising memory and component costs may be driving Samsung to rely more on Exynos processors. Using its own chipset could help the company better control production costs.

Exynos 2600 Highlights

The Exynos 2600 is built on a cutting-edge 2nm fabrication process using Gate-All-Around technology. It features a powerful multi-core CPU configuration, with clock speeds reaching up to 3.8GHz, and an Xclipse 960 GPU based on ARMv9.3 architecture.

AI and Camera Support

The chipset includes a 32K MAC NPU for en-



hanced AI processing. It supports up to 320-megapixel single-camera sensors and high-resolution

displays with refresh rates up to 120Hz.

Launch Expectations

The Galaxy Z Flip 8 is expected to be unveiled in July 2026, alongside the Galaxy Z Fold 8. Unless

major issues arise with the chipset, the Exynos 2600 is likely to power the device.

Shubman Gill Dropped from T20 World Cup Squad

Surprise Omission

Shubman Gill's exclusion from India's T20 World Cup 2026 squad came as a major shock, especially since he was India's T20I vice-captain and a regular opener alongside Abhishek Sharma. Officially, the BCCI cited poor form and team combination issues, but reports suggest deeper strategic reasons behind the decision.

Decision Taken in Advance

According to reports, Gill was not informed in advance about his omission and only found out once the squad was announced. The Ajit Agarkar-led selection committee had reportedly decided on his exclusion a few days earlier after closely evaluating conditions and team balance.

Pitch Conditions a Key Factor

The nature of pitches expected during the T20 World Cup 2026 played a crucial role. With India scheduled to play matches at multiple venues, pitches are likely to slow down as the tournament progresses.



This increases the importance of explosive powerplay batting, an area where selectors felt Gill lagged behind others.

Preference for Explosive Openers

Selectors placed greater faith in Sanju Samson, Abhishek Sharma, and Ishan Kishan for aggressive starts.

Their ability to score quickly during the powerplay was considered more suitable to the expected conditions than Gill's relatively steady approach.

Finishing Concerns

India's heavy dependence on Hardik Pandya as a finisher was another concern. To ease that burden, Rinku Singh was recalled, strengthening the lower-middle order.

This further reduced room for Gill in the final squad.

Official Explanation

Chief selector Ajit Agarkar clarified that Gill's omission was purely due to combinations and not a reflection of his talent.

He stressed that selecting only 15 players inevitably means tough calls.

Overall Picture

While Gill remains a key figure in India's Test and ODI plans, the T20 setup appears to be moving toward a more power-hitting template, costing him a spot for now.

Sameer Minhas Shines Bright in U19 Asia Cup Final



Match-Winning Knock

Pakistan opener Sameer Minhas delivered a sensational performance in the U19 Asia Cup final, smashing 172 runs off 113 balls against India. His innings powered Pakistan to a massive 347 for 8 in the final.

Family Connection

Sameer is the younger brother of Pakistan T20I cricketer Arafat Minhas. While Arafat is a left-arm spinner, Sameer is a right-handed opening batter who also bowls leg-spin.

Tournament Star

This was Minhas' second century of the tournament, underlining his consistency and temperament. He had earlier scored 177 not out against Malaysia, announcing himself as one of the event's standout players.

Dominance Against India

In the final, Minhas attacked India's bowlers relentlessly, especially targeting the new-ball attack. He reached his century in just 71 balls and looked poised for a double hundred.

Eventual Dismissal

His innings ended at 172 when he was deceived by a slower delivery, but the damage was already done.

Background and Journey

Born in December 2006 in Multan, Sameer Minhas progressed through Pakistan's age-group system, representing regional Under-13, Under-16, and Under-19 teams before earning national selection.

Rising Prospect

Minhas' performances have firmly placed him among the most promising young batters in Asian cricket.

Messi's India Visit Cost and Chaos Explained



Massive Financial Outlay

Lionel Messi's India tour cost approximately ₹100 crore, according to the main organiser Sataдру Dutta. Messi reportedly earned ₹89 crore, while ₹11 crore was paid as tax to the Indian government.

Security Breakdown

Dutta revealed that Messi was unhappy with being touched and hugged by attendees, despite prior warnings from his security team. The lack of crowd control forced Messi to leave earlier than planned.

Political Fallout

West Bengal Sports Minister Aroop Biswas faced criticism for allegedly allowing close access to Messi and later resigned pending investigation.

Ticket and Access Issues

Although only 150 ground passes were initially issued, the number

reportedly tripled after an influential individual intervened, contributing to the chaos.

Financial Investigation

The SIT froze over ₹20 crore in Dutta's bank accounts and seized documents related to ticket sales and sponsorships. Authorities are verifying whether the funds were legitimately sourced.

Fan Anger and Vandalism

Thousands of fans who paid high ticket prices were left disappointed as Messi became barely visible on the field. The situation escalated into vandalism at the stadium.

Ongoing Probe

A Special Investigation Team is now examining security lapses, financial irregularities, and administrative failures surrounding the event.

Suryakumar Yadav Faces Pressure After Gill Exit

Poor Run of Form

India's T20I captain Suryakumar Yadav is under increasing scrutiny following Shubman Gill's omission. In 19 T20I innings this year, Suryakumar has managed just 218 runs at a strike rate of 123.2, his weakest performance phase since his international debut.

Captaincy Shield

Reports suggest that Suryakumar retained his place largely due to his leadership role. Despite his prolonged dip in form, the selectors showed faith in him as captain, while Gill paid the price for similar struggles.

Clear Warning Issued

According to a PTI report, Suryakumar has effectively been given an ultimatum. If he fails to rediscover form soon, he



could lose not only his influence in the dressing room but also his place in the side.

Gambhir's Influence

The report highlights head coach Gautam Gambhir's strict approach, where results matter

above all else. The message is clear that reputation and captaincy will not guarantee selection if performances do not

improve.

Samson's Retention

While Gill was dropped, Sanju Samson retained his spot and was included in the Playing XI for the final T20I against South Africa. His quick 37 off 22 balls strengthened his case as a dynamic top-order option.

Selection Philosophy

The selectors appear to be backing impact over stability, especially at the top of the order. Suryakumar's ability to adapt and deliver match-winning innings will be crucial in the coming months.

Bigger Implication

Gill's omission may signal a tougher selection environment where even senior players are not immune to being dropped if form does not justify their place.

Mohsin Naqvi's Presence Could Spark Controversy

Expected Attendance

Mohsin Naqvi, chairman of both the Asian Cricket Council and Pakistan Cricket Board, is expected to attend the Under-19 Asia Cup final between India and Pakistan in Dubai. His presence is likely to draw attention due to past controversies.

Role at the Final

Naqvi is expected to watch the match live and lead the closing ceremony, including presenting the trophy to the winners. This follows his pattern of attending major ACC tournament finals.

Past Trophy Dispute

Controversy stems from the senior Asia Cup final earlier in 2025, where India defeated Pakistan but declined to accept the trophy from Naqvi due to geopolitical sensitivities. The trophy was later kept at ACC headquarters and remains undelivered.

Recent Contrast

In November 2025, Naqvi freely presented the Rising Stars Asia Cup trophy to Pakistan Shaheens in Doha, celebrating openly on the field. This contrast



has kept him at the centre of Asian cricket debates.

Sensitive Setting

The U19 final represents another delicate moment. With India and

Pakistan facing off, Naqvi's actions during the presentation ceremony will be closely watched by fans and officials alike.

Symbolic Importance

The event is not just about junior cricket but also about diplomacy and optics in Asian cricket administration.

What Lies Ahead

Any misstep could reignite tensions, making Naqvi's role at the final one of the most scrutinised aspects of the match.

Kalyan Padala Crowned Winner of Bigg Boss Telugu Season 9 in Thrilling Grand Finale

Hyderabad, December 21, 2025

The popular reality television show Bigg Boss Telugu Season 9 came to an exciting conclusion on Sunday evening, with Kalyan Padala emerging as the winner after weeks of intense competition, drama, and public voting. The grand finale, hosted once again by veteran actor Nagarjuna Akkineni, kept millions of viewers on the edge of their seats as five finalists battled it out for the coveted trophy and prize money.

Kalyan Padala, a commoner contestant, was announced as the champion in a tightly contested finale that featured strong performances from all finalists. His journey from a regular participant to the title holder captured widespread attention and support from the audience, especially after he outpaced other finalists including Thanuja Puttaswamy, Demon Pavan, Emmanuel, and Sanjjana Galrani.

The finale episode marked the culmination of a 105 day journey that began in early September and kept audiences hooked with high voltage tasks, emotional moments, heated arguments, and strategic plays. Across this period, Kalyan emerged as a consistent performer whose calm demeanor and strategic gameplay resonated with many viewers, particularly after a late season surge in votes placed him ahead of the competition.

Thanuja Puttaswamy finished as the runner up, narrowly missing out on the top spot. Her strong presence in the house and dedicated fanbase ensured she remained in the title hunt until the very end, pushing Kalyan in a close contest that lasted until the final announcement.

The other finalists also delivered memorable performances throughout the season. Demon Pavan, known for his unique personality and competitive spirit, secured a notable position before being eliminated



just shy of the top two. Emmanuel, a fan favorite for his entertainment quotient, exited the show in a visibly emotional moment that drew reactions from both the audience and industry peers. Sanjjana Galrani, although finishing fifth, was applauded for her energy and leadership in various tasks throughout the season.

Kalyan's victory signifies a notable achievement for commoner contestants, who have increasingly gained prominence on the show. His win highlights how public support and consistent performance can outweigh celebrity status, underlining the inclusive appeal of Bigg Boss Telugu's format.

According to broadcast reports, the winner received a substantial cash prize along with the official title and trophy presented by host Nagarjuna. The exact prize package included a combination of prize money

and additional awards that added to the stakes of the competition, making the finale even more rewarding for the champion.

The Season 9 finale also drew significant attention across social media platforms, with fans celebrating Kalyan's success and discussing the performances of all finalists long after the broadcast ended. Many viewers praised the show's format for bringing diverse personalities to the forefront and delivering engaging entertainment throughout its run.

With the conclusion of this season, discussions have already begun among fans and critics alike about the next season, potential changes to the format, and predictions for future contestants. For now, though, all eyes remain on Kalyan Padala, whose victory will be remembered as one of the most compelling arcs in the history of Bigg Boss Telugu.

"I Wanted to Be a Cricketer" — Actor Opens Up

Hyderabad, December 2025

Young Telugu actor Roshan recently shared a surprising revelation in an interview, stating that his initial dream was to become a professional cricketer. "Ever since I was a child, I always wanted to pursue cricket as a career," Roshan admitted, reflecting on his early ambitions.

He revealed that both his personal interest and his father's encouragement fueled this dream. However, opportunities and his growing passion for cinema eventually steered him toward the film industry, where he now enjoys considerable success.

Currently, Roshan is busy with his upcoming film Champion, directed by Pradeep Advaita and starring Anaswara Rajan as the female lead. The actor expressed his gratitude toward the film's producer, Dattu, for giving him this opportunity.

Speaking about his journey, Roshan said, "Cinema has now become like family to me — Swap



na, Priyanka, and Dattu sir have supported me every step of the way."

He also revealed his future plans, saying, "In the next couple of years, I aim to work on at least two to three films without any break to continue building my career."

From Bat to Big Screen

Roshan shared that during his childhood, sports, especially cricket, played a major role in his life. While he invested effort and discipline in pursuing cricket, the allure of cinema eventually captured his heart, leading him to make a successful transition to acting.

His personal story serves as an inspiration to young fans, showing how childhood dreams can evolve and transform into new opportunities. Once a boy dreaming of running on cricket fields, Roshan is now captivating audiences on the big screen.

With the release of Champion approaching, fans are eagerly waiting to see Roshan bring his energy and dedication from sports to cinema. His journey from aspiring cricketer to rising Tollywood star continues to inspire and entertain.

Esha Promises to Raise the Bar in Horror-Thrillers: Producers Bunny Vas and Vamsi Nandipati

Hyderabad, December 2025:

After delivering blockbuster cult hits like Little Hearts and Raju Weds Rambai, the dynamic duo of Bunny Vas and Vamsi Nandipati is all set to thrill audiences once again with their latest horror-thriller, Esha. Produced under Vamsi Nandipati Entertainment and Bunny Vas Works, the film is slated for a grand theatrical release on December 25.

The film stars Akhil Raj in a triple-hero role, alongside debutante Hebba Patel in the lead female role. The supporting cast includes Srir Hanumanth, Babloo, and Prithviraj, among others. The movie is produced by Hema Venkateswara Rao under the banner of HVR Productions and presented by renowned producer KL Damodara Prasad. Directed by Srinivas Manne, the recently released trailer has already received a phenomenal response from audiences.

In a recent interaction with the media, producers Bunny Vas and Vamsi Nandipati shared insights about the film:

On choosing content over obligation:

Bunny Vas emphasized, "This isn't about obligation. We only take



on projects if we truly believe in the content. If it doesn't work, we immediately explore alternative routes. Esha is a film we backed purely on faith in its content."

Why venture into horror this time?

Vamsi Nandipati explained, "The movie grips you right from the first ten minutes. It's a complete horror-thriller with a unique twist in the last fifteen minutes. Audiences will feel the excitement and fear throughout."

Meeting audience expectations:

Bunny Vas expressed confidence, saying, "Even if some of my earlier films failed, the audience reception never did. We are certain Esha will meet viewers' expectations. We took the first copy, and it reassured us of the film's potential."

Comparison with previous hits:

Vamsi Nandipati clarified, "Esha shouldn't be compared with Little Hearts or Raju Weds Rambai. It's a different genre, and the experience is fresh. The opening sequences are particularly stunning."



Plans for 2026:

Bunny Vas revealed, "I have three films lined up in 2026—one with Geetha Arts and two under Bunny Vas Works. We continue to innovate with publicity strategies for small films, and the content really drives the audience response."

About the horror factor:

Vamsi Nandipati added, "While Esha is a horror-thriller, it's not limited to a niche audience. The last 20 minutes have a unique twist that will resonate with everyone. The film also incorporates real-life incidents

that make it feel relatable."

On theatrical experience and premiere plans:

Both producers stressed that the theatrical experience will be gripping, promising not to disappoint viewers. Vamsi Nandipati confirmed pre-release premieres and assured strong collaboration with TV partners for wider reach.

With its combination of suspense, thrill, and emotional connect, Esha is poised to redefine horror entertainment for Telugu cinema audiences this holiday season.

'Patang' Captures Hearts with Trailer, Producers Thrilled by Response

Hyderabad, December 2025:

The much-anticipated film Patang, presented by the prestigious Suresh Productions under D. Suresh Babu, is all set to soar into theaters on December 25. Set against the vibrant backdrop of kite competitions, the film is being promoted as a youthful comedy-sports drama, co-produced by Cinematic Elements, Rishan Cinemas, and Monsoon Tales. Producers Vijay Shekhar Anne, Sampath Maka, Suresh Kothinti, and Nani Bandedreddi are backing the project, while Praneeth Prathipati helms the director's chair.

The film stars Instagram sensation Preethi Pagadala and Zee Sa Re Ga Ma Pa runner-up Pranav Kaushik in lead roles, alongside Vamsi Pujith. Renowned filmmaker and actor Gautham Vasudev Menon and popular sing-

er-actor S. P. Charan feature in pivotal roles.

The recently released trailer has garnered an overwhelming and unexpected response from audiences. To celebrate the trailer's success, the makers hosted a press meet and an exclusive event.

Speaking at the event, actor Vamsi Pujith said, "Everyone who watched the trailer gave us amazing feedback. The energy and positivity captured in the trailer will be felt throughout the film. The kite competition scenes are crafted at a world-class level. This movie will entertain audiences with its youthful and colorful vibe."

Lead actress Preethi Pagadala added, "I'm thrilled to be part of Patang. It feels wonderful to see so many people talking about the trailer. The trailer has created a lot of excitement, and I'm

confident the audience will enjoy the film even more."

Actor Pranav Kaushik reflected on his journey, saying, "This film has been an emotional journey for all of us. Entering the film industry with love, I faced many challenges. Making a kite-themed sports drama wasn't easy. When audiences watch the movie, they'll see the dedication of the director and producers. Even those who initially critiqued the trailer are now appreciating it. We hope audiences support us, and I wish all films releasing on December 25 do well—cinema should always win."

Producer Vijay Shekhar Anne described the experience as "a thrilling journey, much like a roller coaster, and overall, it has been a fantastic experience."

Producer Suresh Koth-



inti said, "Despite some delays, we are proud of the quality of the film. It was made with great commitment and unity, and we're confident it will delight audiences as a youthful entertainer."

Producer Ramya added, "This young team worked tirelessly to bring this project to life. I believed in the content, which is why I associated with it. Everyone says the film is perfect for the festive season. Like many small films, we faced daily challenges, but the fi-

nal result has been widely praised."

Producer Sampath Maka commented, "We believed in the content and stayed committed. The industry is highly competitive, but we are confident that Patang will stand out as one of this year's successful releases."

Producers Nani Bandedreddi and others also attended the press meet, sharing their excitement and confidence in the film's upcoming theatrical release.

Natural Star Nani Unveiled Gripping New Mystical Trailer Of Aadi Shambhala

Aadi Saikumar's mystical thriller Shambhala: A Mystical World, directed by Ugandhar Muni and produced by Rajasekhara Annabhimoju and Mahidhar Reddy under the Shining Pictures banner, is gearing up for a grand theatrical release on December 25th, perfectly timed for Christmas. With every promotional asset—including the teaser, trailer, and songs—creating a strong buzz, expectations around the film have steadily soared. Adding further excitement, Natural Star Nani today unveiled the brand-new Aadi Shambhala Mystical Trailer.

*After launching the trailer, Nani said, "Congratulations to Team Shambhala. I just watched the trailer, and this is exactly the kind of film audiences have been wait-

ing for. Choosing an English song for this kind of genre was a very great move. I've known Aadi for a long time—he's a terrific actor and dancer. I think Shambhala is the film that will take Aadi to stardom. Shambhala's success should be father's success, son's success, and entire team's success. The trailer looks very promising."

The trailer opens on a striking visual of a comet crashing into Earth near a deeply religious village, resulting in a massive explosion. From this extraordinary impact emerges a mysterious stone said to possess control over the five natural elements. Enter a geo-scientist, a firm non-believer in divine forces, who arrives to investigate the inexplicable events unfolding in the village. What follows is an in-

triguing and intense clash between science and Shastra, faith and logic, setting the stage for a gripping narrative.

This newly released trailer is distinctly different from the earlier one, offering a fresh and immersive experience through its storytelling and presentation. Director Ugandhar Muni showcases impressive command over the narrative, skillfully blending devotional and mystical elements while maintaining suspense and intrigue throughout.

Aadi Saikumar delivers one of his finest performances to date. Sporting a striking makeover, the promising actor completely immerses himself in the role, bringing depth and conviction to his character. Archana Iyer plays the female lead



opposite Aadi, while Swasika, Ravi Varma, Madhuranand, and Siva Karthik lend solid support in key roles.

Art director JK Murthy deserves special appreciation for authentically creating the mystical world of Shambhala, while cinematographer Praveen K Bangari elevates the film with stunning visuals. However, it is Sricharan Pakala's powerful background score that truly amplifies the narrative.

His unique and pulsating music enhances the suspense, making the trailer both gripping and atmospheric. The film's production values are visibly rich and robust, reflecting the makers' strong commitment to quality.

Overall, the mystical trailer has significantly raised the bar and heightened anticipation, positioning Shambhala: A Mystical World as one of the most intriguing releases of the season.