

WHY VANGAVEETI MOHANA RANGA REMAINS A POLITICAL WEAPON IN AP

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More than three decades after his assassination, Vangaveeti Mohana Ranga continues to occupy a powerful, and often controversial, space in Andhra Pradesh politics. Every year, on his death anniversary, leaders across party lines line up to pay floral tributes at his statues. The ritual has become routine, almost ceremonial. In election years, it turns into a political spectacle, with intensified visits, emotional speeches, and loud promises to “follow Ranga’s ideals.” Once the elections pass, however, little changes on the ground.

The enduring political relevance of Ranga is rooted largely in caste dynamics. Over the years, Ranga has come to be projected as an iconic Kapu leader, representing a community that is numerically strong but has long felt politically marginalised. While his supporters argue that Ranga fought for all backward sections, including Kapus, critics point out that these agitations also helped consolidate his own political base. In contemporary Andhra Pradesh politics, his legacy has been reduced to a powerful symbol used to mobilise Kapu sentiment, especially during politically



sensitive moments.

Despite frequent invocations of his name, Ranga’s ideological followers have steadily diminished. Many of those who stood with him during turbulent times did not rise as political leaders or accumulate wealth. Several lost their livelihoods, and some even lost their lives. A large section of these followers still believe they were abandoned after Ranga’s death, left without representation or recognition. The promise of empowerment that once inspired them remains largely unfulfilled.

A few political figures who were associated with Ranga in their younger days did go on to achieve prominence. Former MLA Malladi Vishnu and sitting MLA Bonda Umamaheswara Rao are often cited as examples. However, critics within Ranga’s support base allege that these leaders, now well-entrenched in mainstream

politics, are more focused on safeguarding their own careers than addressing the concerns of Ranga’s original followers. This perceived disconnect has further deepened the sense of betrayal among grassroots supporters.

After Ranga, the only leader who has managed to attract significant support from the Kapu community is Jana Sena Party chief Pawan Kalyan. His rise revived hopes among sections of Kapu youth who saw in him a potential mass leader capable of challenging established political structures. Yet, even Pawan Kalyan’s appeal operates in a vastly different political context, and comparisons with Ranga often remain emotional rather than ideological.

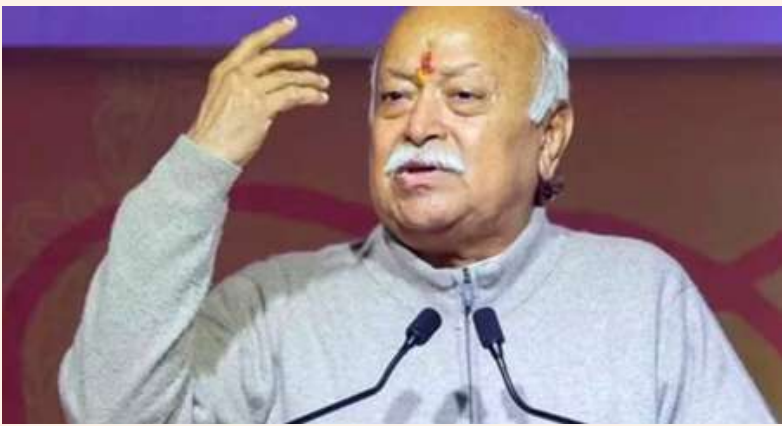
Attention has also consistently turned to Ranga’s family, particularly his son, Vangaveeti Radha Krishna. Despite carrying a powerful po-

litical legacy, Radha Krishna struggled to establish himself as a mass leader. He won an Assembly election only once and subsequently moved across parties, from Praja Rajyam Party to YSR Congress, and later to the Telugu Desam Party, where he currently remains. His political journey has been marked more by transitions than by consolidation. Even his supporters admit that his style of functioning and political aggression do not mirror his father’s. Associates often claim that Radha Krishna lacks the hunger for power or wealth that typically drives political success, which, while admirable, may have limited his rise.

Interestingly, Radha Krishna’s inability to fill his father’s political vacuum has opened the door to renewed speculation around Ranga’s daughter, Aasha Kiran. She recently returned to the public eye by or-

ganising and participating in Ranga’s death anniversary events in Visakhapatnam. Her appearance has triggered political buzz, with reports suggesting that she is exploring opportunities within a “safe” political party. The YSR Congress Party and Jana Sena are being seen as possible options, though no decision has been finalised so far.

Ultimately, Ranga remains a political weapon because his legacy still carries emotional weight, particularly among Kapus who continue to seek political power and recognition. For political parties, invoking Ranga is less about ideology and more about electoral arithmetic. Until his ideals translate into concrete policies and genuine leadership for his followers, Ranga’s name is likely to be remembered more as a symbol to be used than a vision to be fulfilled.



RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat Stresses Compassion and Inner Knowledge at Tirupati Science Congress

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Tirupati: Emphasising that forgiveness and compassion elevate human beings to higher moral ground, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Chief Mohan Bhagwat said humanity collectively owes a debt to the world, urging individuals to give back through wisdom and ethical living. Inaugurating the four-day Indian Science Congress at Sanskriti University in Tirupati on Friday, Bhagwat shared the stage with Union Minister Jitendra Singh and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu.

Addressing a packed gathering of scholars and students, he observed that true happiness lies beyond material comforts and stems from the harmony between body, intellect, and soul. Bhagwat warned that unchecked development often brings destruction alongside progress, as seen in industrialized nations. Scientific advancement, he said, must be guided by ethical consciousness and inner knowledge (jnana) rather than merely external understanding (vijana). “Knowledge should serve humanity, not dominate it,” the RSS chief remarked, highlighting the need for a

balanced interplay between material progress and spiritual depth. He underlined that physical needs alone cannot define development. “A truly developed society ensures the well-being of all, not just a few,” Bhagwat said, cautioning against social polarization between those living in comfort and those struggling with distress.

He called upon citizens to cultivate humility instead of arrogance a virtue that, he said, determines the true measure of one’s greatness. Bhagwat also spoke about India’s moral and intellectual role in the modern world, asserting that the nation has both the ability and responsibility to guide global civilization through its values, eth-

ics, and knowledge systems.

“India must rise not just economically but also spiritually, to reclaim its position as a ‘Vishwaguru’ the teacher of the world,” he declared. Highlighting India’s linguistic and cultural diversity, Bhagwat said scientific knowledge should be made accessible in every language to promote inclusive intellectual growth. India’s vision, he added, must combine economic progress, social balance, and spiritual wisdom to create a world rooted in peace and purposeful coexistence. “Dharma is embedded in the DNA of Indians,” Bhagwat concluded, appealing for unity in thought and action to make India a beacon of wisdom, strength, and compassion.



Chandrababu Naidu Urges Parents to Promote Indian Mythology Over Western Superheroes

Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu called on parents and teachers to instill pride in India’s heritage among children by teaching them about heroes from Indian epics instead of Western comic characters. Speaking at the Indian Science Congress held in Tirupati, he said that promoting the values embedded in Indian culture is essential to shaping morally conscious future generations. Naidu remarked that children are increasingly exposed to characters like Spiderman, Superman, and Batman, but often grow up unaware of the great personalities from India’s own traditions. “Hanuman is mightier than Superman, and Arjuna is a far greater warrior than Batman or Iron Man,” the Chief Minister told the audience, stressing that Lord Rama remains the ultimate embodiment of

virtue and human excellence.

He said that parents and teachers have the responsibility to teach children about Ramayana and Mahabharata, which are far more profound than modern movies like Avatar. The Chief Minister reminisced about the late N.T. Rama Rao (NTR), recalling how he brought mythological stories to life through cinema and reawakened cultural consciousness among people. “At a time when society was forgetting myths and traditions, NTR used his films to revive spirituality and ethics,” he said, describing him as a great leader who upheld values in both cinema and politics.

Naidu also praised former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee for laying the foundations of India’s development and commended Prime Minister Narendra Modi for advancing those efforts. He encouraged young inno-

vators to pursue original ideas that contribute to national progress, asserting that India is on track to become a superpower by 2047, the centenary of independence.

Highlighting the state’s upcoming initiatives, Naidu announced that Tirupati will soon host a Space City, Kurnool will house a Drone City, Anantapur will develop an Aerospace City, and Visakhapatnam will become a hub for a Medical Equipment Park. He also cited his earlier efforts in promoting the IT sector in Hyderabad, which had empowered Telugu professionals to earn high salaries globally. “Now, we are encouraging quantum computing in Amaravati and have attracted a \$15-billion investment from Google in Visakhapatnam,” he added.

Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh, who also spoke at the

event, highlighted India’s rapid strides in science and technology. He said India’s position in the Global Innovation Index has risen from 81st to 38th in a decade. The country now ranks eighth in the global space economy and has made remarkable progress in defense exports.

“There is massive global demand for India’s BrahMos missiles, and we have become a major exporter of COVID-19 vaccines,” Singh said. He credited the Modi government for increasing budget allocations to science and encouraging private participation in space and critical minerals sectors.

Naidu concluded that forums like the Indian Science Congress serve as vital platforms to discuss India’s progress, reinforce cultural pride, and unite innovation with tradition for the nation’s holistic growth

Velugonda Project to Be Completed by 2026, Says Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu



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Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Irrigation Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu has reaffirmed the government’s commitment to completing the long-pending Velugonda Project by 2026. The minister conducted a video conference on Thursday to review the current status of ongoing construction works and instructed officials to expedite the execution process to meet the set deadline. The meeting was attended by Irrigation Advisor Venkateswara Rao, Engineer-in-Chief Narasimharao Murthy, Project Chief Engineer, Superintending Engineers, Executive Engineers, rep-

resentatives of the executing agencies, and other senior officials.

Reviewing the progress, Minister Ramanaidu said that significant headway had been made in the lining works of Tunnel-2, a key component of the multi-district irrigation project. “So far, 3.2 kilometers out of the 7-kilometer-long Tunnel-2 lining works have been completed,” the minister informed. “Against the December target of 456 meters, we successfully completed 432 meters of lining.

The remaining 3.6 kilometers will be completed by June 2026 as per the revised schedule,” he added. Addressing a major technical hurdle, the minister said that the

committee appointed to examine the removal of the tunnel boring machine (TBM) stuck inside Tunnel-2 has submitted its report to the government. “We are taking necessary steps based on the committee’s recommendations to safely extract the blocked TBM and resume full-scale tunneling operations,” Ramanaidu stated.

The minister directed irrigation officials and the concerned agencies to immediately start lining works on the feeder canal and accelerate the construction of the retaining wall. He emphasized that all such works must be completed before the end of the current working season. Ramanaidu underscored that Chief

Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is personally monitoring the progress of the Velugonda Project and has instructed the irrigation department to ensure timely execution.

“Under the Chief Minister’s guidance, we are intensively supervising every stage of the project to achieve the goal of completing the Velugonda scheme by 2026,” he said. The Velugonda Project, once fully operational, is expected to provide irrigation and drinking water to several drought-prone regions of Prakasam, Nellore, and Kadapa districts, significantly boosting agricultural productivity and easing water scarcity in southern Andhra Pradesh.



Coalition Govt Extending Strong Support to Fishermen: Minister Dola Sri Bala

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T A N G U T U R U (Prakasam District): Andhra Pradesh Minister for Fisheries, Dola Sri Bala Veeranjanya Swamy, reaffirmed the state government's commitment to the welfare of fishermen, stating that the coalition government is determined to uplift the fishing community through a series of welfare and livelihood programs.

Speaking at a programme held at his camp office in Turpunayudupalem of Tanguturu mandal on Friday, the minister distributed traditional fishing nets to several fishermen. He said each unit's cost amounted to 2,43,700,



and nets were handed over to seven beneficiaries in the mandal. Swamy

announced that the government would soon provide motorized boats

along with engines to fishermen across the coastal region.

"Each boat with an engine is worth nearly 52 lakh. The government is taking steps to ensure these reach fishermen through transparent allocation procedures," he said. Highlighting the government's enhanced financial support, he compared the new policy with previous assistance. "Earlier, fishermen's families were given 4,500 as aid. Now, the new coalition government will provide 20,000 to active fishermen who go out for fishing," he said, describing the increase as a clear reflection of the government's pro-fishermen stance.

He further added that the government would extend pensions to fishermen from the age of

50, ensuring social security for those who dedicate their lives to the profession. "This measure will not only help retired fishermen sustain their livelihoods but also recognize their lifelong contribution to the state's marine economy," Swamy said. The minister also announced an upcoming subsidy scheme aimed at diversifying the income base of fishermen's families. Under this initiative, fishermen will be provided with auto-rickshaws at a 40% subsidy rate to help them generate alternate income during the non-fishing season.

"The fishing community forms an essential part of our economy and our society. Fish is a vital

source of nutrition and plays a major role in maintaining public health. The state government is fully committed to expanding the fisheries sector and adopting modern practices to enhance fish wealth (Mat-sya Sampada) in the state," he said.

Swamy emphasized that only the coalition government could deliver substantial support to fishermen. "Any meaningful economic and social assistance to fishermen's families is possible only through the coalition government led by our alliance. We work with sincerity and responsibility to improve their living standards," he stated, assuring continued support for infra-

structural development in the coastal fisheries sector. He reiterated that the Fisheries Department was implementing several welfare schemes and modernization projects to improve equipment, cold storage, processing, and export infrastructure to benefit fishermen directly. During the distribution programme, senior Fisheries Department officials, including District Joint Director Srinivas Rao and Fisheries Field Officer Ravi Kumar, were present.

Local leaders, TDP functionaries, and several fishermen attended the event and expressed their gratitude to the minister for his proactive initiatives.

New developments in parakamani case



TPN Bureau | December 26

Amaravati: A major development unfolded on Friday in the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Parakamani theft case, as the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) submitted an interim report to the Andhra Pradesh High Court. The report, prepared by the ACB Director General, contains detailed findings on the assets of the key accused, Ravi Kumar, and his family members.

According to sources, the ACB's findings outline significant financial irregularities linked to the accused, who was earlier identified in the alleged misappropriation of funds and valuables from the revered Parakamani, the TTD's temple treasury counting centre.

The interim report was formally handed over to the bench hearing the ongoing case in the High Court. Upon

receiving the report, the Andhra Pradesh High Court stated that it would examine the contents thoroughly before issuing any directives. The court further clarified that appropriate orders would be passed after a detailed review of the ACB's observations and evidence. During Friday's hearing, the bench also directed the state's Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to examine whether the circumstances merit the registration of a fresh First Information Report (FIR) in connection with the case.

Citing earlier Supreme Court verdicts, the High Court observed that based on the evolving circumstances, another FIR could be justified if new evidence or dimensions emerge in the investigation. The court emphasized that while most of the probe has already been

completed, certain key aspects still require deeper scrutiny before final conclusions can be drawn. The bench also heard arguments from both government counsel and representatives for the accused regarding the scope of the investigation and the role of the ACB.

The next hearing in the case has been scheduled for January 5. Legal observers suggest that by then, the High Court may take a firm view on the ACB's report and decide on any further legal or procedural actions required. With these proceedings, the TTD Parakamani theft case already under intense public and media scrutiny appears to be heading toward a decisive phase. The outcome of the ACB's interim report and potential High Court directives are expected to set the course for the next stage of this high-profile investigation.

Andhra Pradesh Government Orders Major Transfers in Municipal Administration Department

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Amaravathi: In a major administrative reshuffle, the Andhra Pradesh Government has issued transfer and posting orders for 11 key officials in the Municipal Administration Department. The coalition government released official proceedings on Friday evening, announcing new appointments for several Municipal Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners across the state.

The transfer exercise aims to strengthen urban governance, enhance administrative efficiency, and accelerate ongoing development projects in municipalities and municipal corporations. With the latest postings, several urban local bodies will witness new leadership taking charge, marking a shift in local-level management and policy execution. According to official sources,

D. Pavani has been appointed as the new Municipal Commissioner of Anantapur Municipality. Meanwhile, Abdul Rasheed, who was serving as the Chirala Municipal Commissioner, has been transferred from his present post. He will be replaced by Daniel Joseph, who will now take charge as the new Municipal Commissioner of Chirala. In another key



posting, S. Baby, the Municipal Commissioner of Nandikotkur, has been moved to the Department of Fisheries and Revenue.

G. Venkataramireddy has been appointed as the new Municipal Commissioner of Nandikotkur. The government has also posted P. Sridhar as the new Municipal Commissioner of Kanigiri. The present Kanigiri Commissioner, P.

Krishnamohan Reddy, has been directed to report to the General Administration Department (GAD) for further posting.

Officials in the Municipal Administration Department stated that these changes are part of the government's larger effort to improve accountability and ensure smooth implementation of urban development schemes under the new

coalition administration. The reshuffle also reflects the government's focus on bringing in dynamic officers to critical urban centers to speed up infrastructure, sanitation, and civic service delivery initiatives. The new officers are expected to assume charge immediately, with the changes likely to reflect on field-level administration in the coming weeks.

AP Government Announces Relief for Medically Unfit RTC Employees

TTPN Bureau | December 26

Amaravati: In a major relief to Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) employees declared medically unfit, the state government has issued fresh orders providing alternative employment opportunities. The decision, aimed at protecting the livelihoods of affected workers, comes as part of the coalition government's broader employee welfare initiative following the merger of APSRTC with the state government.

According to an order

issued by Special Chief Secretary M.T. Krishna Babu, those who were declared medically unfit after January 1, 2020, will be offered alternative jobs either within the APSRTC or in other government departments, depending on their qualifications and eligibility. Until now, such provisions were limited only to drivers who were rendered medically unfit before the merger. Under the revised policy, employees falling under 21 categories in APSRTC who become medically unfit will now be eligible for



redeployment in equivalent or suitable positions. The new scheme covers conductors, drivers,

mechanics, record tracers, assistants, and

other staff categories. Officials said that if an employee does not meet the qualifications required for alternative posts within APSRTC, they would be considered for placement in other departments through the respective district collectors. The collectors have been instructed to identify suitable roles matching the educational or technical qualifications of these employees. Those who are not eligible for any alternative employment will receive additional monetary benefits as compensation. Further-

more, employees who choose voluntary retirement due to medical unfitness will also be granted additional financial benefits. The government has directed the APSRTC Managing Director and the Commissioner of Public Transport Department to take immediate follow-up action and ensure the new policy's uniform implementation across all districts. The decision has been widely welcomed by employee unions. Leaders from the APSRTC National Mazdoor Union (NMU), Employees Union (EU), and Labour

Council expressed their gratitude to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for addressing the long-pending issue of medically unfit staff. They hailed the move as a humane decision that recognizes the service of RTC employees who lost their fitness while performing their duties. Union leaders stated that the decision would not only improve morale among operational personnel but also ensure financial security for those who can no longer continue in physically demanding roles due to health conditions.

Farmer Dies of Heart Attack During Minister Narayana’s Public Meeting in Amaravati

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Amaravati: A tragic incident occurred on Friday when a farmer attending a public meeting with Andhra Pradesh Minister P. Narayana collapsed and died of a suspected heart attack. The meeting, held in Mandadam village of the Amaravati capital region, was organized to address local farmers’ grievances regarding land acquisition for road widening and other development projects.

The deceased, identified as M. Ramulu, a farmer in his late 60s, had attended the meeting to raise concerns about compensation and the return of plots under the state’s land pooling scheme. Eyewitnesses said Ramulu appeared highly distressed over the allocation of plots near the seed access road, which he and other farmers considered critical for their livelihoods. Short-



ly after presenting his concerns to Minister Narayana and local MLA Tenali Sravan Kumar, Ramulu suddenly collapsed. Villagers and officials immediately attempted cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and rushed him to a nearby hospital in Tadepalli. Doctors declared him dead on arrival. The unexpected death sent shockwaves through

the local community. Residents said Ramulu had been under immense stress due to ongoing land disputes and was worried about the future of his family’s land and compensation. Many described the atmosphere in the village as one of grief and disbelief. The public meeting had been convened to address growing unrest among villagers concerned about losing

their homes and fields to infrastructure projects associated with Amaravati’s development. Authorities are reportedly reviewing plans for the acquisition of nearly 100 households and several places of worship in the region, pending further consultations.

Minister Narayana expressed condolences to Ramulu’s family and assured that the govern-

ment remains committed to addressing farmers’ concerns. He emphasized that all decisions regarding land pooling and plot allocations would be made after careful consideration of local opinions and in compliance with existing guidelines.

Authorities have launched an investigation to determine the exact cause of Ramulu’s death, though preliminary indications suggest it was a cardiac event triggered by stress during the emotionally charged discussion. Farmer groups have called for more transparent and empathetic engagement from the government regarding land and compensation matters.

The incident has highlighted the mental and physical toll of prolonged land disputes and underscored the urgent need for better support mechanisms for farmers affected by development projects in the Amaravati region.

Union Minister Nadda Urges Andhra Pradesh to Adopt PPP Model for Healthcare Expansion

TPN Bureau | December 19

Amaravati: Union Health and Family Welfare Minister J.P. Nadda has sent a detailed letter to Andhra Pradesh Health Minister Y. Satya Kumar Yadav, urging the state government to intensify its adoption of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model to expand healthcare infrastructure and improve medical services across the state. The communication comes amid political debate in Andhra Pradesh over the best approach to develop new medical colleges and strengthen public health services. In his letter, Minister Nadda outlined the significant role that PPP projects have played in building critical infrastructure in India over the past two decades. He emphasized that the healthcare sector offers similar potential, where

collaboration between the government and private entities can accelerate the construction of new medical colleges, modernize existing hospitals, and enhance diagnostic, dialysis, and technology driven healthcare services.

The Union minister highlighted that the Centre is ready to provide substantial financial support through the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme. Under this framework, up to 60 percent of the total project cost can be supported for setting up medical colleges and related healthcare infrastructure. For pilot projects, the support could extend up to 80 percent of capital expenditure and 50 percent of operational costs during the initial five years. The VGF assistance would be shared equally between the Central and state governments, helping to reduce the



financial burden on Andhra Pradesh while encouraging private participation.

Minister Nadda also drew attention to the India Infrastructure Project Development Fund (IIPDF) scheme, which offers financial assistance of up to 5 crore per project for feasibility studies, technical advice, and project preparation. He recommended that the state government establish a dedicated PPP

Cell within the Health Department, which would serve as a nodal point for planning, coordinating, and monitoring PPP initiatives in close cooperation with the Union Health Ministry.

The letter reinforced the idea that PPP partnerships can provide not only capital and expertise but also improve the quality, efficiency, accountability, and accessibility of healthcare services. By

sharing responsibilities and risks, the model aims to deliver faster completion of health sector projects, optimize the use of existing facilities, and ensure higher standards of patient care.

Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav responded by thanking the Union minister for his guidance and assured continued efforts to develop healthcare infrastructure. The Andhra Pradesh government has plans to build multiple medical colleges under the PPP model and will work closely with the Centre to secure necessary approvals and support.

The Union minister’s letter reflects the Centre’s broader push for innovative financing mechanisms in social sectors and underscores the potential of PPPs to bridge gaps in health infrastructure while enhancing service delivery for the public.

YSRCP Leader Bala Vajra Babu Slams Chandrababu Naidu Government Over Amaravati Farmers



TPN Bureau | December 26

Amaravati / Guntur: Senior YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leader Bala Vajra Babu has strongly criticised the Chandrababu Naidu-led Andhra Pradesh government, accusing it of betraying farmers who gave up their lands for the Amaravati capital project. Addressing the media in Guntur district, he alleged that the current administration had failed to honour assurances made to land-donating farmers and had pushed them into uncertainty and hardship.

Bala Vajra Babu, who serves as the YSRCP coordinator for the Tadikonda constituency, said thousands of farmers had voluntarily pooled their lands with the hope of long-term benefits and development. However, he claimed that the government’s policies had instead caused distress, leaving many farmers without proper compensation, infrastructure, or clarity on their future. He alleged that promises made during elections and at public meetings

were yet to be fulfilled. The YSRCP leader said the government’s handling of the Amaravati issue exposed what he described as its anti-farmer attitude. He accused the ruling coalition of prioritising political interests over the welfare of farming families who sacrificed their livelihoods for the capital’s development. According to him, the lack of clear communication and delayed decisions had deepened anxiety among farmers in the region.

Bala Vajra Babu also criticised the government for what he termed selective development and neglect of rural communities. He claimed that farmers were being forced to repeatedly protest to seek justice, even years after giving up their land. He demanded that the government immediately address unresolved issues related to land pooling, plot allocation, and promised benefits.

The comments come amid ongoing political friction between the ruling Telugu Desam Party-led government and the

opposition YSR Congress Party. While the government maintains that it is committed to Amaravati’s development and farmers’ welfare, opposition leaders continue to question the pace of progress and the implementation of assurances.

Responding indirectly to such criticism, ruling party leaders have stated that the government is working to revive stalled projects and ensure balanced regional development. They argue that economic constraints and administrative challenges inherited from previous administrations have slowed progress, but insist that farmers’ interests remain a priority.

Political observers say the Amaravati land issue remains a sensitive and emotive subject in Andhra Pradesh politics. With opposition leaders intensifying their attacks and farmers demanding concrete action, the debate over capital development and agrarian justice is expected to dominate the political landscape in the coming months.

YSRCP’s Vellampalli Srinivas Slams Chandrababu Naidu Government Over Governance Issues

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Amaravati: Senior YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leader Vellampalli Srinivas has launched a strong attack on the Chandrababu Naidu-led Andhra Pradesh government, accusing it of failing on multiple fronts, including public welfare, employment, and equitable development across the state. In a statement to the media, Srinivas said the government’s policies had disappointed large sections of the population and widened existing socioeconomic disparities.

Addressing reporters in Amaravati, Vellampalli Srinivas alleged that despite assurances of good governance and development, the ruling Telugu Desam Party (TDP) had not delivered tangible benefits to ordinary citizens. He claimed that unemployment remained high and that youth in the state were increasingly frustrated due to lack of job opportunities and adequate support from the government.

Srinivas also criticised the state administration for its handling of farmers’ issues, particularly those related to land pooling and compensation in the Amaravati capital region. He argued that promises made to land-donating farmers had not been fulfilled, leading to ongoing distress in rural communities. According to him, the

government’s apparent neglect of agricultural concerns was creating unrest among farming families who had sacrificed land for the state’s development goals. The YSRCP leader further charged the government with neglecting the welfare of workers and marginalised communities. Srinivas claimed that social welfare schemes were either delayed or poorly implemented, failing to reach the intended beneficiaries. He highlighted that the lack of effective outreach and monitoring had weakened the impact of several flagship programmes. In his critique, Srinivas appealed to the people of Andhra Pradesh to hold the government accountable for its shortcomings. He said that the opposition would relentlessly raise issues of public concern and push for corrective measures that prioritised the needs of ordinary citizens over political interests.

Vellampalli Srinivas also touched on issues related to public

safety and infrastructure, stating that citizens expected better services from the government in delivering secure environments and modern facilities. He emphasised that good governance should be measured not by rhetoric but by visible improvements in people’s lives.

Responding to Srinivas’ comments, ruling party supporters defended the government’s performance, stating that developmental initiatives, infrastructure projects, and welfare programmes were underway and progressing steadily. They claimed that the administration was committed to inclusive growth and that critics would soon see results from ongoing reforms. Political analysts say that exchanges between the opposition and the ruling alliance are likely to intensify as both parties prepare for upcoming electoral contests, with issues such as employment, rural distress, and governance performance becoming central themes in public discourse.



High Court Takes Up Tirumala Parakamani Theft Case, Seeks Detailed Probe

TPN Bureau | December 26

Amaravati: The Tirumala Parakamani theft case has once again come under judicial scrutiny, with the Andhra Pradesh High Court reviewing the progress of investigations into the alleged misappropriation of foreign currency donations at the Tirumala temple’s Parakamani, the sacred counting centre for offerings made by devotees.

During a recent hearing, the High Court examined an interim report submitted by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) detailing the assets and financial background of the prime accused, C. V. Ravi Kumar, and his family members. The court observed that the report would be carefully examined before

issuing further directions and stressed the need for a thorough and transparent investigation given the sensitive nature of the case.

The court also asked the Crime Investigation Department (CID) to clarify whether a fresh First Information Report is required, considering developments in the case and earlier legal proceedings. Judges noted that while significant portions of the probe had progressed, certain aspects still required closer examination to ensure no procedural lapses.

The case dates back to April 2023, when Ravi Kumar, an employee associated with Parakamani operations, was allegedly caught attempting to steal foreign currency

from the donation counting area. An initial theft case was registered at Tirupati police station. However, the matter later became controversial after it was reportedly settled through a Lok Adalat compromise, under which the accused agreed to donate properties to the temple trust.

This settlement triggered widespread concern and legal challenges, with petitioners questioning how a serious theft involving temple donations could be closed without a comprehensive investigation. Acting on these petitions, the High Court directed both the CID and ACB to conduct parallel probes into the theft and the circumstances surrounding the compromise. The agencies



were also instructed to coordinate with central authorities where necessary.

Adding to the gravity of the case, a police inspector who was a key complainant in the matter was found dead under suspicious circumstances earlier this year. The incident raised fresh questions and intensified calls for an impartial and exhaustive inquiry.

The High Court emphasized that public faith in institutions like Tirumala Tirupati

Devasthanams must be protected and that any wrongdoing related to temple funds must be dealt with firmly. The matter has been posted for further hearing in early January, with the court expected to review additional findings and decide on the next course of action.

Legal observers say the case has far-reaching implications for accountability, transparency, and the handling of public donations in religious institutions.

Representation submitted to AP government for timely payments

TPN Bureau | December 26

AVijayawaada: A formal representation has been made to the Government of Andhra Pradesh seeking immediate intervention to ensure the timely payment of tribal allowances to doctors serving in Primary Health Centres (PHCs) located in notified tribal and agency areas across the state. The representation, submitted on Tuesday to Mrs. S. Jhansi, IAS, Commissioner, Tribal Welfare Department, highlights long-standing delays in the disbursement of tribal allowances, despite clear government orders already in force.

The memorandum was personally handed over by Dr. Ambati Naga Radhakrishna Yadav, Chairman of the YSRCP NTR District Doctors Wing, accompanied by

Tanubuddi Sekhar Reddy, Chairman of the YSRCP NTR District Trade Wing, at the Commissioner's office in Vijayawada.

Highlights of the representation

According to the representation, as per G.O.Ms.No.411 of the Health, Medical and Family Welfare (A2) Department dated November 5, 2001, doctors working in notified tribal PHCs are entitled to receive a tribal allowance as an incentive for rendering medical services in difficult, remote, and underserved areas. This provision was later revised through G.O.Ms.No.296 dated November 18, 2022, fixing the allowance at 3,500 per month for male doctors and 4,000 per month for female doctors. However, despite these clear directives, field-level im-



plementation remains inconsistent. Many doctors posted in tribal belts reportedly face months-long delays or complete non-payment of allowances. "The government's intention to

motivate and retain doctors in challenging tribal areas is being undermined by the irregular implementation of these sanctioned incentives," the memorandum observed.

A continuing concern amid protestsThis issue has been repeatedly raised by PHC doctors during recent demonstrations across the state in 2025. Their demands included the

clearance of pending tribal allowances, regularization of transfers in agency areas, and timely release of other service benefits. Doctors claim that while policy measures have

been progressive, administrative follow-up at the district level has fallen short, affecting morale among staff serving in remote regions with limited infrastructure and logistical support. Appeal to the Tribal Welfare CommissionerSpeaking after submitting the memorandum, Dr. Ambati Naga Radhakrishna Yadav said the representation was intended to draw the attention of the Tribal Welfare Department to the ongoing discrepancy between policy and practice. "We have requested the honorable Commissioner to initiate regular monitoring mechanisms so that PHC doctors posted in agency areas receive their dues without delay. Timely payment of allowances is not just a financial matter—it is a matter of respect and motivation for those

serving at the grassroots," he said.

He also expressed confidence that the Commissioner, known for her proactive engagement in welfare administration, would look into the matter and issue necessary directions to streamline the payment process. The YSRCP NTR District Doctors Wing emphasized that prompt action on this front will strengthen health-care delivery in tribal zones by improving staff retention and ensuring that public health services remain uninterrupted in these vulnerable regions.

The delegation also conveyed their appreciation to the Tribal Welfare Department for its continued efforts to improve the welfare of medical personnel serving in tribal Andhra Pradesh.

Illicit Liquor Case in Annamayya District: Court Grants Three-Day Custody for Five Accused

TPN Bureau | December 16

Annamayya District: A major development has taken place in the ongoing illicit liquor case that has grabbed attention across the region. The Excise Department has secured three-day police custody of five key accused, following a petition filed before the Thamballapalle Court seeking custody of seven individuals connected to the case. According to sources, the court held a detailed hearing on the Excise Department's petition and subsequently granted custody of five persons while rejecting the request for the remaining two.

The court's decision allows investigators to continue examining the alleged nexus and operations behind the illicit liquor racket that has been under investigation for several weeks. The five accused who were granted custody include A1 Addepalli Janardhan Rao, A26 Jagannathan Rao, A28 Tandra Ramesh, A27 Tirumala Shetty Srinivasa Rao, and A29 Shaik Allabakh.

All five accused were in judicial remand at



Madanapalle Sub-Jail before being handed over to the Excise officials. Following the court's orders, the Excise police took custody of the accused on Friday. They were first taken to a local government hospital for mandatory medical examination as per protocol. Once the medical procedures were completed, the officials transported them to the Madanapalle Excise Station for further questioning. Excise officials, along with the Special Investigation Team (SIT), are expected to interrogate the accused intensively over the next three days to trace the supply chain and identify other individuals suspected of involvement in the production and distribution of illicit liquor within the Annamayya region. Preliminary investigations have revealed that the accused played

significant roles in the procurement of raw materials, transportation, and distribution network of the illegal liquor operation.

The police aim to gather more evidence regarding financial transactions, production locations, and possible political or business links associated with the case. Authorities have also stepped up enforcement in nearby villages to prevent recurring instances of illicit liquor manufacture.

The Excise Department reiterated that strict action would be taken against anyone found participating in or facilitating such unlawful activities. The three-day custody period is expected to provide crucial leads to the investigation team as they continue their efforts to dismantle the network behind the illicit trade.

Three killed, three injured as private bus rams into stationary car near Guntur

TPN Bureau | December 26

Guntur: In a tragic road mishap late Thursday night, three people lost their lives and three others sustained injuries after a private travel bus rammed into a stationary car on the national highway near Ankireddypalem in Guntur district. The accident occurred under the jurisdiction of Nallapadu Police Station, leaving behind a scene of devastation and panic among motorists passing through the route.

According to police reports, the victims were returning from Tirupati when the accident took place. Their car had apparently stopped by the roadside due to a technical issue when a private travels bus, heading in the same direction, crashed into it at high speed. The impact was so severe that the car was completely man-

gled, killing three passengers instantly and injuring the other three occupants.

The deceased were identified as Sushila (64), Venkayya (70), and Mahesh (28), all belonging to Suryapet district in Telangana. The injured victims were immediately shifted to Guntur Government General Hospital for treatment. Police stated that their condition is stable but critical medical attention is being provided. Preliminary investigation suggests that overspeeding and driver negligence might have caused the accident.

Eyewitnesses told police that the bus was moving at a high speed and the driver tried to overtake another vehicle when it hit the stationary car. Nallapadu police arrived at the scene soon after being informed by passersby



and launched a rescue operation with the help of local residents. The bodies of the deceased were moved to the government hospital in Guntur for postmortem examination.

Police have registered a case and taken the bus driver into custody for questioning. Efforts are underway to determine whether the bus compa-

ny followed safety regulations and if the vehicle had the necessary permits and maintenance clearance. This incident has once again raised concerns about road safety on national highways, particularly during the night hours when heavy commercial traffic and private tour vehicles dominate the roads. Local authorities

have urged transport companies to ensure proper driver rest hours, vehicle maintenance, and adherence to speed limits to prevent such tragic accidents. Police have advised motorists to remain vigilant while parking or halting vehicles along busy national highway stretches, especially during night travel.

Bhuvaneshwari Lays Foundations for Multiple Development Projects

TPN Bureau | December 16

Nimmakuru: In a significant boost to infrastructure and welfare initiatives in her native village, Nara Bhuvaneshwari, Managing Trustee of NTR Trust and wife of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, toured Nimmakuru village in Krishna district on Friday. During her visit, she inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for several development projects aimed at improving healthcare and education facilities in the region.

Bhuvaneshwari laid the foundation stone for a 30-bed hospital to be built with an outlay of 6 crore under NABARD funds. The hospital, once completed, is expected to greatly enhance access to medical services for residents of Nimmakuru and surrounding villages. She also inaugurated a newly constructed boys' hostel, completed at a cost of 3.5 crore, which will serve as a residential facility for students pursuing education in the area.



Addressing a gathering after the ceremonies, Bhuvaneshwari emphasized the importance of education and goal-setting for young students. She advised them to cultivate leadership qualities, reminding them that students play a decisive role in shaping the future of the nation. "By the time you complete your schooling, set a clear purpose in life and strive toward it with discipline and de-

termination," she said. Recalling her childhood memories, Bhuvaneshwari spoke fondly of her visits to Nimmakuru during summer vacations. "We used to travel by RTC bus and often watched movies in Pamarru. Those were unforgettable days," she said, sharing nostalgic moments that resonated with the local audience. Highlighting the contributions of NTR Trust, she noted that

the organization continues to extend services in multiple sectors, including education, healthcare, women empowerment, and disaster relief. She reaffirmed her commitment to supporting development activities in her ancestral village and promised to bring unresolved local issues to the attention of the Chief Minister and the district authorities for prompt resolution. Local officials, villagers,

and representatives from NTR Trust participated in the events, expressing gratitude for the renewed focus on rural development. The day-long visit marked another step in strengthening NTR Trust's community engagement and reaffirmed Bhuvaneshwari's personal connection to Nimmakuru, the birthplace of legendary Telugu actor and former Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao.

Pemmasani Clarifies ROV works

TPN Bureau | December 16

Guntur: Union Minister Pemmasani Clarifies ROV Works Progress Continues-Work on the much-awaited Shankar Vilas Road Over Bridge (ROB) in Guntur is continuing without interruption, Union Minister for State for Railways, Dr. Pemmasani Chandrasekhar, has clarified. Addressing a press conference in Guntur on Friday, the minister said reports and rumours suggesting a halt in construction were incorrect.

He assured that the project was progressing as planned and nearing another crucial phase. Dr. Pemmasani said that the process of removing the old bridge structure over the railway

track would begin within the next two to three weeks. Once that phase is completed, work would proceed on the second half of the bridge to ensure smoother traffic flow.

He emphasised that the ROB project had already achieved good progress on one side, and after its completion, work would move to the opposite side with equal momentum. The minister also addressed local business concerns and clarified that the demand from some traders for constructing an iconic bridge design at the location was not feasible at this stage. "Constructing an iconic structure in this area would cause more displacement and losses to many traders and residents.

The current design is practical and intended to benefit a larger section of the population," he explained.

In response to questions on land acquisition delays, Dr. Pemmasani said that most required land parcels had already been secured, while acquisition proceedings were initiated for the remaining areas owned by a few traders who had not agreed to voluntarily part with their properties.

He assured that the government was following due legal process and offering fair compensation. The central government has allocated 30 crore specifically for land acquisition and related expenses, Dr. Pemmasani confirmed.

Techie Turned Ganja Smuggler Arrested in Anakapalle

TPN Bureau Anakapalle, December 26, 2025

Police in Anakapalle district have arrested a gang involved in illegal marijuana trafficking, including a former software professional who allegedly abandoned her IT career to join the drug trade. The operation, conducted by the Nathavaram police, led to the seizure of a large quantity of cannabis and vehicles used in the smuggling network. The key suspect has been identified as Gadi Renuka, a B.Tech graduate and former software employee. Police said Renuka, along with seven others, was apprehended following intelligence on their involvement in transporting cannabis across regions.

During the raid, officers recovered approximately 74 kilograms of dry marijuana, a car, and two motorcycles from the possession of the accused. The estimated value of the seized contraband is

around 33 lakh, according to authorities.

Officials said the gang included individuals from various localities who were allegedly coordinating to move cannabis to different markets. They reportedly used local transport routes through Anakapalle district to supply marijuana and may have been distributing it beyond state borders.

Speaking to the press, Nathavaram Deputy Superintendent of Police Srinivas Rao said the arrests came after a sustained investigation and surveillance of the gang's movements. He warned that narcotics trafficking would be dealt with strictly under the law and urged anyone involved in similar activities to cease immediately.

Renuka's transformation from a professional IT worker to an alleged smuggling operative has shocked the local community. Relatives and neighbors expressed



surprise, noting that she had pursued higher education and a respectable career before reportedly choosing to engage in illegal activity.

A formal case has been registered against all the arrested individuals, and police are continuing the investigation to uncover the full extent of the network and identify possible collaborators.

Authorities are also examining whether the gang had links to larger narcotics trafficking rings operating in other states.

The arrests and seizure underscore the growing challenge law enforcement faces in combating drug distribution networks, including those involving educated and formerly legitimate professionals who may be drawn into illegal enterprises for financial gain.

Officials emphasized that such activities will continue to be met with strict legal action to curb the spread of narcotics in the region.



Bhimavaram's New DSP Raghuveer Vishnu Holds Strategic Meeting with Deputy Speaker

TPN Bureau | December 26

Bhimavaram / Amravati: Newly appointed Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Raghuveer Vishnu officially assumed charge in Bhimavaram on Friday and held a strategic meeting with Andhra Pradesh Deputy Speaker Raghu Rama Krishna Raju to discuss law and order priorities, public safety, and community engagement initiatives.

The meeting, held at the Deputy Speaker's residence, focused on maintaining peace and security across Bhimavaram town and the Undi constituency. Deputy Speaker Raju urged the new DSP to carry out his responsibilities with integrity, impartiality, and diligence, emphasizing the importance of transparent policing to build public trust.

Crime prevention and community safety formed a major part of the discussion. Both officials stressed the need to strengthen community policing, improve surveillance

systems, and deploy CCTV cameras at strategic locations to enhance monitoring and rapid response. Traffic management was also highlighted, with plans to streamline vehicular movement in Bhimavaram town and reduce congestion and accidents, ensuring a safer environment for residents. Raghuveer Vishnu comes with a strong background in law enforcement, having served in the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) and gained international experience through his tenure with United Nations peacekeeping forces in Kosovo. His diverse experience is expected to contribute to efficient administration, better policing strategies, and responsive public engagement.

During the meeting, DSP Vishnu assured the Deputy Speaker of his commitment to working closely with local authorities, elected representatives, and the community to address grievances promptly and maintain peace. He highlighted plans to increase police

visibility, improve response times, and foster stronger connections between the police force and the public.

The meeting also reflected the Andhra Pradesh government's focus on strengthening grassroots policing and fostering collaboration between legislators and law enforcement officials to ensure safety and development go hand in hand. Community leaders and residents welcomed the engagement, seeing it as a proactive step toward reinforcing law and order and addressing local concerns effectively. Officials noted that such strategic interactions between law enforcement and political representatives are vital for ensuring that governance is responsive, crime is minimized, and the public feels secure. The leadership in Bhimavaram is now expected to leverage this coordination to prepare for upcoming civic events and festivals in a well-organized and safe manner.

Chandrababu Naidu Visits NTR Raju's Residence in Tirupati

TPN Bureau | December 26

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Friday visited the residence of NTR Raju, a senior and respected member of the Nandamuri family, in Tirupati. The visit was part of Naidu's ongoing engagements in the temple city and his efforts to connect with key figures associated with the Telugu Desam Party's legacy.

NTR Raju, a veteran known for his long-standing association with public life, received the Chief Minister at his home. The meeting was described as cordial and respectful, with Naidu offering personal greetings and discussing matters of mutual interest with Raju and his family. Several local leaders and party workers were present during the interaction. The visit reflects Naidu's commitment to maintaining close ties with senior party members and respected personalities connected to the Nandamuri family.

NTR Raju has been acknowledged for his experience and insights on regional political developments, and the meeting was seen as a gesture of goodwill and unity within the party during a period of significant political activity in Andhra Pradesh.

Earlier in the day, Naidu participated in other official engagements in Tirupati. During his interactions, he emphasized the importance of law and order and warned against rowdiness, underlining his administration's focus on public safety and disciplined governance. He also highlighted the importance of instilling cultural values and educating children about India's epic heritage and moral traditions as part of societal education.

Naidu is expected to attend additional official events in Tirupati and meet with local representatives to discuss development priorities and community concerns.



Supporters viewed his visit to NTR Raju's residence as a unifying moment that reinforced bonds between current leadership and veteran party stalwarts. Party sources indicated that the Chief Minister's engagements in Tirupati are being

carefully planned to strengthen both political relationships and administrative outreach. Observers noted that his presence in the temple city underscores his efforts to maintain continuity of leadership values within the Telugu Desam Party while addressing local issues and shaping public discourse ahead of the new

year. The visit also drew attention from local media and political analysts, who highlighted it as an example of Naidu's efforts to honor senior party figures while actively engaging with communities to ensure the government's developmental and administrative priorities are communicated effectively.

KIMS Clarifies Position on Adoni Medical College Tender Confusion in Andhra Pradesh



TPN Bureau | December 26

Amaravati: Amid growing debate over the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model for new medical colleges in Andhra Pradesh, KIMS Hospitals has issued a statement clarifying that it has no involvement in the tender process for the proposed Adoni Medical College and Hospital project. The announcement came following confusion about a bidder allegedly linked to the hospital network.

The Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS), Hyderabad, stated that it did not participate in or submit any bid for the Adoni medical college tender. As a publicly listed company, KIMS noted that any significant engagement in such projects would have required formal disclosure, which has not occurred.

The misunderstanding reportedly arose from the participation of Dr. Prem Chand, a former director at KIMS, who submitted a bid independently through his own private entity.

State health officials acknowledged that the Andhra Pradesh Medical Services & Infrastructure Development Corporation (APMSIDC) mistakenly associated Dr. Chand's bid with KIMS Hospitals, leading to the circulation of incorrect information. Authorities clarified that Dr. Chand's entity will be evaluated on its own merits, independently of KIMS Hospitals. Should the bidder meet all technical and financial requirements, the project may be awarded accordingly.

The incident has occurred against the backdrop of wider discussions on the PPP model for medical colleges, which has been a focal point in Andhra Pradesh's public debate. Proponents argue that PPPs can help expand healthcare infrastructure rapidly by leveraging private expertise and investment. The central government has also endorsed the PPP approach, providing mechanisms such as viability gap funding to encourage partici-

pation. Critics, however, have expressed concerns that PPPs could lead to the privatization of government services, limit access for economically weaker sections, and introduce uncertainty in project costs. Some observers also note that a modest response to tender invitations for several proposed colleges highlights investor hesitation.

In response to the confusion, state officials and health authorities emphasized that the tender evaluation process would proceed transparently, ensuring that all qualified bidders are assessed fairly. KIMS Hospitals' clarification is intended to dispel misinformation and allow the focus to remain on the proper evaluation of bids under the PPP framework. The statement has helped clear misconceptions in public discourse and reinforced the government's commitment to ensuring a transparent, accountable process for developing medical infrastructure in Andhra Pradesh.

High Court Issues Key Orders in Tirumala Parakamani Theft Case

TPN Bureau | December 26

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh High Court has issued several significant directives in the high-profile Parakamani theft case, which involves alleged irregularities at the currency counting centre of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD). The case first drew attention in 2023 after a clerk was accused of misappropriating foreign currency offerings at the temple.

On Friday, the High Court reviewed a mid-term asset report submitted by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) regarding the properties of the key accused, C.V. Ravi Kumar, and his family. The court accepted the report and said it would study the findings before issuing further directions, highlighting the need for a thorough examination of the accused's asset holdings.

In addition, the court directed the Crime Investigation Department (CID) to investigate



whether a fresh FIR should be registered in connection with the case. While much of the investigation appears nearly complete, the judges noted there remain critical unanswered questions about asset accumulation, alleged illegal transactions, and the possible involvement of other individuals. The court emphasised the necessity of a deeper inquiry before proceeding further.

The next hearing in the case has been scheduled for January 5, 2026, providing investigators additional time to present detailed evidence and clarifications on unresolved matters. The court's order underlines its commitment to ensuring a comprehensive and transparent probe rather than a superficial investigation.

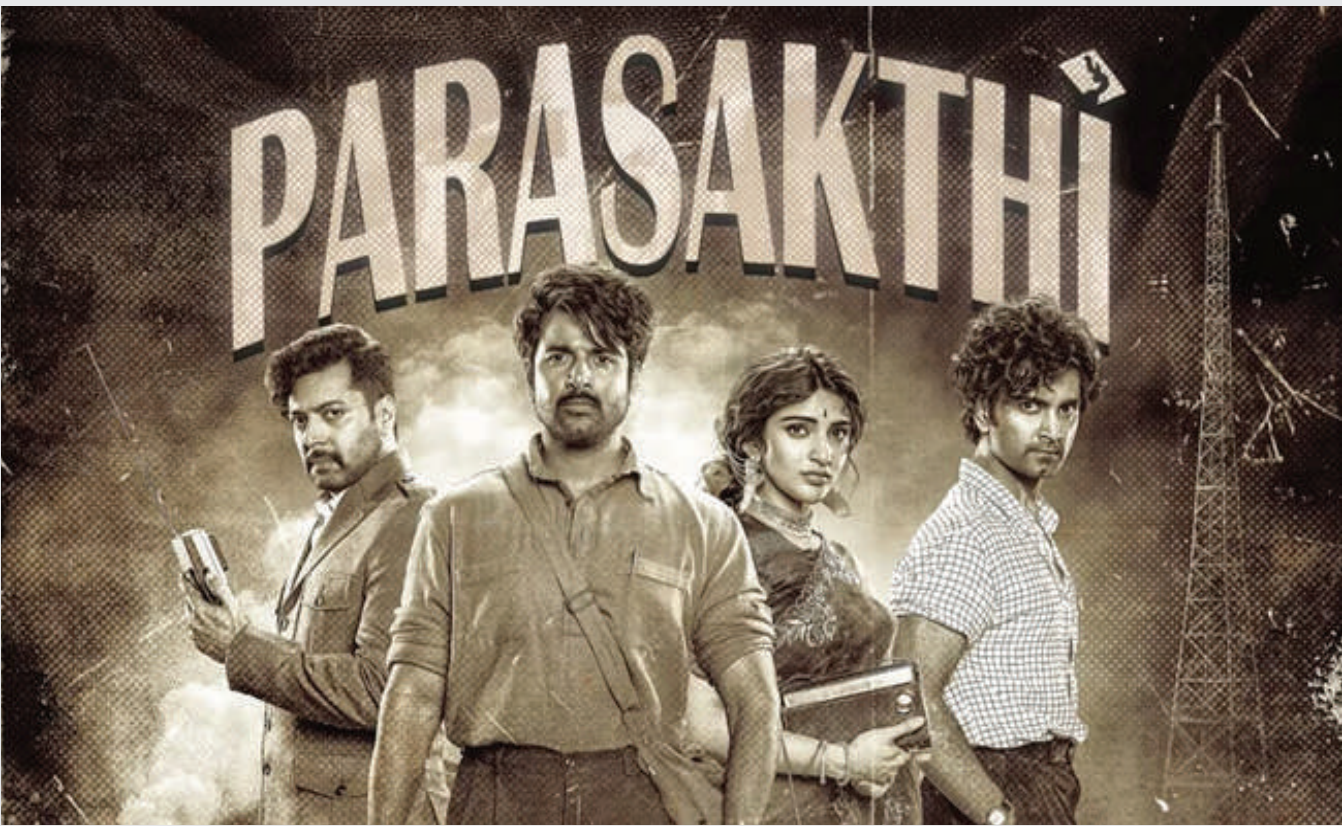
Earlier, the High Court had directed both the CID

and the ACB to register FIRs and investigate the 2023 theft case, following a petition challenging a Lok Adalat settlement that had previously ended formal proceedings. The court also authorised co-operation between the two agencies and encouraged information sharing with national enforcement bodies to strengthen the investigation.

The Parakamani case involves the alleged mis-

appropriation of foreign currency offerings at the Tirumala temple, raising concerns over procedural lapses and the legality of the settlement reached in Lok Adalat. The High Court's recent orders signal a renewed judicial push to uncover the full facts and determine accountability in what has become one of the most closely watched corruption-related probes in Andhra Pradesh.

Cinema Meets Politics: Jana Nayagan vs Parasakthi and Tamil Nadu’s Political Pulse



The Pongal season in Tamil Nadu — traditionally a time for families to celebrate cinema — is poised to be unlike any other in recent memory. This year, two of Kollywood’s most anticipated films, Jana Nayagan and Parasakthi, are not just competing for box-office supremacy; they have become proxies in a burgeoning political battleground that may foreshadow the contours of the 2026 Tamil Nadu assembly elections.

At first glance, the Pongal face-off between these films fits within a familiar cinematic ritual: big stars, big releases, and fervent fandom jostling to decide which film will triumph. But this year’s clash carries an added layer of symbolic significance. The timing, titles, and associated personalities are shaping what might be the most politically freighted box-office rivalry in recent Tamil cinema

history.

The Set-Up: A Star Turned Politician

Jana Nayagan carries extraordinary weight even before it hits theaters. It stars Vijay, one of Tamil cinema’s most bankable and beloved stars, whose recent decision to step into politics has shaken up a political landscape long dominated by the Dravidian parties — primarily the DMK and AIADMK. Vijay’s transition from mass entertainer to political figure has blurred the lines between reel and real.

Vijay has declared that Jana Nayagan will be his “last film” before dedicating himself fully to his political aspirations. The film’s narrative, reportedly involving a righteous hero confronting systemic corruption and injustice, aligns closely with the larger political narrative Vijay is cultivating: that of a people’s champion willing to challenge entrenched power structures.

Commercially, Jana Nayagan is expected to be a massive draw. Vijay’s recent track record and fervent fan base make him arguably one of the most bankable stars in India, and all indications point toward strong box-office performance. In the context of 2026, however, the film is far more than a commercial product; it is an early test of Vijay’s political capital and public resonance.

The Counterpunch: Parasakthi and Historical Resonance

Waiting in the wings is Parasakthi, a film that evokes historical and ideological gravitas through its title alone. The original 1952 Parasakthi is a cornerstone of Tamil cinema and Dravidian politics: scripted by M. Karunanidhi and starring Sivaji Ganesan, it featured powerful critiques of social inequality, religious orthodoxy, and moral hypocrisy. Its courtroom monologues

became rallying cries in the Dravidian movement and helped shape the political culture of the state.

While the 2026 Parasakthi, starring Sivakarthikeyan, is unlikely to recreate the original’s groundbreaking political rhetoric, the choice of title is strategic. The name carries historical weight and an unmistakable connection to the ideological roots of Dravidian politics — a claim the DMK has long cultivated for itself.

Adding to the resonance, the film’s release date was deliberately set immediately after Jana Nayagan, ensuring direct competition during the lucrative Pongal festival period. Many observers interpret this timing as a calculated maneuver rather than mere commercial scheduling.

Why the Clash Matters

The collision of Jana Nayagan and Parasakthi is about more than box-office numbers. For Vijay and his

supporters, a smashing opening for Jana Nayagan would not just affirm the film’s commercial power but also signify broader cultural and political momentum. It would suggest that Vijay’s transition from cinema to politics resonates deeply with audiences — a vital early indicator for the 2026 elections.

For the DMK and its allies, Parasakthi carries a different set of stakes. By invoking a film intertwined with the party’s ideological heritage and positioning it to challenge Vijay’s blockbuster at a critical moment, they are asserting that the Dravidian legacy remains politically and culturally relevant. A strong performance by Parasakthi, even if not eclipsing Jana Nayagan in pure numbers, could blunt the narrative of Vijay’s inevitability and reinvigorate support among key demographics.

The strategic maneuvering around release dates

also reflects a tactical duel. Advancing Parasakthi to coincide with Jana Nayagan is a bold competitive gesture — designed not only to compete for screens and attention but to signal that the DMK is unafraid to confront Vijay head-on.

Industry and Public Reaction

The industry itself will feel this tension in the scramble for screens. Exhibitors must decide how to allocate limited theater space between two colossal releases, while producers of smaller films may find themselves caught between powerful interests, pressured to choose sides or reposition their releases. On social media, fans of both films have already engaged in heated debates. Vijay supporters see Parasakthi’s release timing as an attempt to undermine their hero’s final cinematic outing, while defenders of Parasakthi argue the clash is a legitimate business deci-

sion. Online discourse highlights both fan loyalty and frustration with the politicization of what should ostensibly be entertainment.

Beyond the Numbers: Cultural and Political Symbolism

Cinema has historically played a profound role in Tamil Nadu politics — as evidenced by filmmakers-turned-politicians like M.G. Ramachandran and Karunanidhi. The clash between Jana Nayagan and Parasakthi may be the most explicit example yet of film functioning as a political tool. The era when cinema shaped political identity is now intersecting with an era where political identity shapes cinema.

The stakes are not confined to ticket sales. The Pongal box-office battle may foreshadow broader electoral dynamics — from the appeal of charismatic outsiders to the resilience of established ideological narratives. Whether Jana Nayagan leaves theaters with overwhelming triumph or whether Parasakthi’s historical weight tempers its rival’s dominance, the outcome will be analyzed and politicized for months to come.

Conclusion: A Glimpse of 2026

As Tamil Nadu heads toward elections, the Jana Nayagan vs Parasakthi clash is proving to be more than a cinematic showdown. It is a cultural moment, a political signal, and a reflection of how deeply intertwined film and politics remain in the state’s public life. For fans, it promises entertainment; for strategists, it offers a bellwether. For ordinary viewers, it may become a symbol of competing visions for Tamil Nadu’s future, signaling how cinema continues to serve as a mirror for the state’s political aspirations and cultural identity.

Vaibhav Suryavanshi: Too Exceptional to Be Sheltered — India’s Youngest Cricketing Conundrum

In an era where sporting prodigies emerge with startling regularity, few stories have captured the public imagination quite like that of Vaibhav Suryavanshi. At just 14, the Bihar born left hander has accomplished feats that most professional cricketers spend their entire careers chasing. His rapid rise has sparked a profound conversation within Indian cricket: is he too good to be protected, or is his meteoric ascent exactly why protection — thoughtful nurturing rather than cautious restraint — is essential?

The boy from Samastipur has burst onto the cricketing landscape at a pace that defies conventional development pathways. Over the past year, Suryavanshi has accumulated records, accolades, and headlines. He became the youngest centurion in men’s T20 cricket, smashing an astonishing century at the age of 14 years and a few days in the Indian Premier League. He followed that with the fastest century in youth One Day Internationals, and went on to set new benchmarks in List A cricket, even breaking established players’ records in domestic matches. His performance statistics — an average and strike rate that rival seasoned professionals — suggest a talent far beyond his years.

Yet it is precisely this brilliance that presents Indian cricket with a complex dilemma. Suryavanshi’s early success has led to frantic debate on how best to handle a player who seems destined for stardom. Should he be fast tracked

into the senior national team, or should his growth be tempered with caution and patience? Supporters of acceleration argue that his performances merit immediate elevation, especially in formats where his explosive batting style could be transformative. After all, his prowess against high quality bowlers in competitive environments demonstrates a rare composure under pressure.

But the question of whether India should “protect” him takes on a deeper meaning. Protecting a young prodigy is not about shielding him from competition; it is about safeguarding his long term development — mentally, physically, and technically. Cricket history offers cautionary tales of prodigies whose early promise fizzled under the weight of fame and expectation. The twin stories of Vinod Kambli and Prithvi Shaw are often cited: immense talent, early success, but careers that stumbled due to a combination of pressure, inconsistency, and psychological strain. These cases underscore that talent, even extraordinary talent, is not a guarantee of sustained success without the right environment.

The case for protection therefore isn’t rooted in skeptics’ doubt of Suryavanshi’s abilities, but in the very real challenges faced by young athletes thrust into the spotlight. At 14, he is still maturing — physically and emotionally. His cognitive development, his ability to process complex experiences, and his personal

identity are still taking shape. When fame arrives before the foundation is fully formed, the risk is that it overshadows growth rather than fosters it. This is where the notion of protection needs nuance. Protection should mean nurturing rather than sheltering, and it must be thoughtful, structured, and holistic.

For Indian cricket administrators, selectors, coaches, and mentors, the task is clear but difficult: design a pathway that allows Suryavanshi to flourish without overwhelming him. This means exposing him to the best competition available while ensuring that the focus remains on learning, resilience, and adaptability rather than just performance outcomes. It means integrating him into red ball cricket — the traditional format that tests skill, temperament, and endurance — even as he pursues success in white ball formats. Because while T20 cricket has transformed the sport and captured global audiences, a player’s longevity and adaptability are often forged in the longer game.

Additionally, support structures around Suryavanshi must be robust. Coaches attuned to psychological development should work alongside technical trainers. His family and close mentors should play a central role in his career decisions, not merely as cheerleaders but as stabilizing influences. Education, life skills training, and opportunities outside of cricket should not be sidelined. For every cricketing achievement, there should

be a parallel emphasis on emotional well being and personal balance.

Critics of protection might argue that exceptional talent — by definition — demands exceptional opportunities. If Suryavanshi is ready for international competition, then he deserves to be tested at the highest level. This perspective holds merit: some athletes indeed thrive when challenges are presented early. History is not bereft of youthful champions who rose quickly and carved out legendary careers. But each success story also embeds the invisible hand of careful management behind it — mentors who recognized that exposure without support can be damaging.

It is here that the debate should shift from the binary of protect versus promote to a more nuanced model that blends ambition with care. Rapid advancement need not be sacrificed at the altar of safety; rather, advancement should be guided, calibrated, and accompanied by supportive infrastructure.

Suryavanshi’s journey also calls Indian cricket to broaden its imagination. Traditionally, youth development pathways have been structured, but often rigid. The arrival of a prodigy at such a young age tests those structures. It forces administrators to ask whether established protocols are adequate to nurture talent of this caliber. Are age group tournaments, training academies, and coaching curricula equipped to handle these outliers? Are policies in place to

ensure that players like Suryavanshi do not burn out or become prey to external pressures from media, fans, and commercial interests?

This conversation extends beyond one individual. It touches on the very fabric of how India nurtures its sports talent. Should the focus remain solely on performance statistics and match results, or should there be equal emphasis on long term career sustainability and emotional resilience? A balanced approach recognizes that the two are not mutually exclusive but in fact synergistic.

As selectors contemplate whether to integrate Suryavanshi into senior squads — especially in upcoming T20 series and global events — they must weigh both his readiness and the potential consequences. Accelerating his exposure to top tier international cricket could fast track his growth, but without a safety net, it could equally expose him to setbacks that a more measured approach might have avoided.

What is certain is that Vaibhav Suryavanshi has already redefined expectations. At an age when most teenagers grapple with studies, friendships, and identity, he is rewriting records and challenging cricketing conventions. He stands as a symbol of modern sport’s capacity to surprise, to disrupt, and to elevate talent in astonishing ways. His rise is a reminder that brilliance can emerge from the most unexpected corners — a small town in Bihar becoming the birth-



place of a global cricketing sensation.

But brilliance alone is not enough. What follows brilliance — the support system, the development pathway, the psychological grounding — will determine whether Suryavanshi’s name becomes enshrined among cricket’s greats or becomes another cautionary tale of unfulfilled potential.

In the end, the question is

not whether Vaibhav Suryavanshi is too good to be protected — it is whether Indian cricket is ready to protect him in a way that enables greatness without compromising growth. The true measure of a sporting ecosystem is not how it discovers talent, but how it nurtures and sustains it through the inevitable trials ahead. In that task lies the future of one of cricket’s most extraordinary young talents.

Ankita Bhandari Murder Case Sparks Fresh Controversy in Uttarakhand



The high-profile Ankita Bhandari murder case in Uttarakhand has once again stirred political and legal turmoil, as new FIRs (First Information Reports) have been filed and audio-video clips circulating on social media have reignited public debate over alleged links to political figures. The case, which originally involved the 2022 killing of 19-year-old Ankita Bhandari, a receptionist in Rishikesh, continues to draw intense scrutiny.

The latest developments center on viral audio and video clips that appear to implicate senior political leaders in connection with the murder. In response, Uttarakhand police have registered two new

FIRs against individuals alleged to have disseminated misleading content. Those named in the complaints include a former BJP legislator and a woman who reportedly shared the snippets widely.

Among the figures mentioned in the viral material is BJP national general secretary and state in-charge Dushyant Kumar Gautam. Gautam has strongly denied any wrongdoing, calling the clips “misleading and malicious” and asserting that they are part of a deliberate attempt to tarnish his reputation. He has requested the state home department to remove the controversial material from online platforms and take action against those spreading false-

hoods. Gautam also stated that if any allegations against him were proven true, he would resign from public life, reflecting the pressure and seriousness with which he is addressing the controversy.

The resurgence of the case has prompted political backlash, with opposition leaders calling for an investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) under Supreme Court supervision. They argue that only an impartial inquiry can resolve lingering doubts and ensure justice. Protests and political exchanges have intensified across Uttarakhand, with critics alleging that the viral clips point to a larger cover-up involving influential individuals.

The original murder case itself shocked the public. Ankita Bhandari was killed in September 2022 at the Vanantra Resort in Rishikesh, where she worked. Three men, including the resort owner's son, were convicted for her murder in 2025, igniting nationwide debate about women's safety and political influence.

As investigations into the new FIRs and viral content proceed, the case continues to stir emotions, highlighting the complex intersections of crime, politics, social media, and public trust in the justice system in India. The renewed focus may open new avenues for legal scrutiny while also deepening political tensions ahead of future elections.

India Reaffirms Commitment to Extradite Lalit Modi and Vijay Mallya

India's government has reaffirmed its resolve to bring back high-profile economic offenders Lalit Modi and Vijay Mallya to face legal proceedings in the country, following a viral video of the two men in London. The footage shows the former IPL commissioner and the fugitive businessman together at a celebration, with Modi jokingly referring to them as “the two biggest fugitives of India,” sparking public criticism and renewed scrutiny of long-running extradition efforts.

The video, reportedly from Mallya's birthday party, shows both men in good spirits. Modi introduces himself and Mallya with a light-hearted tone, a moment that quickly spread across social media. Critics said the clip trivialized serious allegations against them, reigniting debate about India's ongoing efforts to secure their return.

Responding to the video, a spokesperson for the Ministry



of External Affairs (MEA) stated that the government remains fully committed to bringing back fugitives who have fled Indian justice. Officials noted that discussions are ongoing with foreign governments and legal authorities to facilitate their return so they can face trial for the charges pending under Indian law.

Lalit Modi, aged 62, left India in 2010 amid allegations of

large-scale tax evasion, money laundering, and irregularities linked to the Indian Premier League, which he helped establish. He was declared a fugitive economic offender in 2019 after failing to return to face investigations. Vijay Mallya, 69, fled India in 2016 following allegations of fraud and default on loans tied to the now-defunct Kingfisher Airlines and was also branded a fugitive economic offender in 2019. He

owes Indian banks an estimated thousands of crores of rupees in defaulted loans.

The MEA emphasized that the passage of time or public posturing abroad does not diminish India's pursuit of justice. Officials highlighted that legal and diplomatic processes involving extradition and co-operation with foreign legal systems are complex, requiring due process. Nevertheless, they stressed that efforts to bring the fugitives back remain active.

The viral video has reignited public debate on social media and among commentators about the pace of legal action and the challenges India faces in securing extraditions. While the government's reaffirmation aims to reassure citizens of its commitment, observers note that international legal hurdles and diplomatic negotiations will continue to influence the trajectory of these high-profile cases in the months ahead.

Pawar Factions Move Toward Reunion Ahead of Key Maharashtra Municipal Elections

A surprising political development is unfolding in Maharashtra as the two rival factions of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) — led by Sharad Pawar and his nephew Ajit Pawar — appear to be moving toward an electoral alignment, significantly altering the dynamics ahead of the Pune Municipal Corporation elections and influencing wider civic contest strategies across the state. This shift comes just weeks before local body elections in 29 civic bodies, including major contests in Pune and the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC).

The two sides, long divided following Ajit Pawar's split from Sharad Pawar's faction in 2023 to ally with the BJP-led Mahayuti government, have been in seat-sharing talks for the Pune civic polls. Leaders from both factions are reported to have met to discuss a possible reunion in the municipal elections, potentially contesting together against the BJP



and other rivals.

The possible alliance reflects a strategic recalibration after recent local election performances where the NCP factions found themselves on different footing politically. Sharad Pawar's NCP faced challenges in some local body results, while Ajit Pawar's separate faction has been asserting its independent strength within the state's political landscape.

Despite public speculation about a reunion, the Sharad Pawar-led faction has been cautious. Party working presi-

dent Supriya Sule stated that alliance talks are still preliminary and will not proceed until concerns among party workers are fully addressed. She emphasized that there is no final decision yet and that clarity is needed on strategy and seat distribution before any formal agreement is reached.

The potential rapprochement has prompted reactions among other parties, too. The Congress, observing the talks between the NCP factions, has reportedly prepared to contest the Pune civic polls independently if a reunited NCP joins

forces, indicating the fluid nature of opposition alliances in the state.

The backdrop to these developments includes evolving alliances ahead of the BMC elections, where other regional players — including the Shiv Sena factions — are also negotiating partnerships and seat shares. This complex electoral landscape reflects broader shifts in Maharashtra politics, where local body contests often become testing grounds for larger state and national strategies.

As political leaders fine-tune their electoral blueprints, the notion of the Pawar family reconciling their respective NCP factions for the Pune municipal polls has captured public and pundit attention. Whether this tentative coordination will translate into a formal alliance remains to be seen, but it is already reshaping how parties are preparing for what could be a defining moment in Maharashtra's civic elections.

Ranveer Singh's Dhurandhar Crosses ₹1,000 Crore Worldwide at Box Office



Bollywood has witnessed one of its biggest successes of the year as Dhurandhar — starring Ranveer Singh, R. Madhavan, Akshaye Khanna, and an ensemble cast — has officially crossed the ₹1,000 crore mark globally. Released on December 5, 2025, the action-spy thriller has become one of the highest-grossing Indian films of the year, impressing audiences both domestically and internationally.

Industry trackers report that Dhurandhar has earned over ₹650 crore domestically in India within its first 21 days. The Christmas holiday period boosted ticket sales, helping push the total worldwide gross past the ₹1,000 crore milestone — a rare achievement in Indian cinema.

The film's success is notable for its steady rise: it opened with a strong start and rapidly gained momentum through positive word-

of-mouth, viral moments, and robust weekend audience turnout. It has surpassed several major releases of 2025 and established itself as one of the standout hits of the year.

In India, the movie continues to perform strongly in theaters, with domestic earnings approaching the ₹700 crore mark as it enters its fourth week. Its sustained performance, despite competition from other holiday releases, reflects its broad appeal and continued audience interest.

Overseas markets have also contributed significantly to the film's earnings. The film's action-packed narrative and ensemble cast attracted viewers in North America, Europe, and Australia, further cementing its international footprint.

Dhurandhar now joins an elite group of Indian films that have crossed the ₹1,000 crore worldwide mark, un-

derscoring both its commercial success and cultural impact. Analysts note that this milestone highlights Ranveer Singh's global box office appeal and reflects Bollywood's growing ability to produce blockbusters that resonate across diverse markets.

Director Aditya Dhar and the production team are celebrating the achievement, with reports already suggesting a sequel planned for March 2026, capitalizing on the film's enduring popularity and franchise potential.

In an era where global box office numbers are closely followed, Dhurandhar's entry into the ₹1,000 crore club stands out as one of the most impressive cinematic accomplishments of 2025. Audiences continue to flock to theaters, demonstrating the film's lasting appeal and its status as a landmark release in recent Indian film history.

India Condemns Lynching of Dipu Chandra Das in Bangladesh, Calls for Minority Protection



India's government has strongly condemned the brutal killing of Dipu Chandra Das, a 25-year-old Hindu factory worker who was lynched by a mob in Myensingh, Bangladesh earlier this week. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) described the incident as a matter of grave concern, urging Bangladeshi authorities to bring the perpetrators to justice and ensure the safety of minority communities.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal emphasized that reports of violence against religious minorities — including Hindus, Christians, and Buddhists — cannot be dismissed as media exaggeration or isolated events. He cited documentation of thousands of incidents of minority violence in Bangladesh in recent years, saying that the pattern of hostility is a serious concern. The ministry reiterated that maintaining law and order and protecting all citizens is ultimately the responsibility of the Bangladeshi government.

The lynching of Dipu Chandra Das — who was assaulted by a mob, tied to a

tree, and later set on fire following unverified allegations of blasphemy — has triggered widespread outrage both within India and internationally. At least ten suspects have been arrested in Bangladesh in connection with the murder, and Bangladeshi officials are investigating the case. Indian authorities and rights groups are pressing for a thorough and transparent judicial process.

In India, the killing has sparked significant protests. Hundreds of people demonstrated near the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi, condemning the lynching and demanding justice and protection for minority communities. Similar protests have taken place in other Indian cities, with demonstrators calling for accountability and increased diplomatic pressure on Dhaka.

The incident has also drawn reactions from public figures and civil society, who described the act as barbaric and called for stronger safeguards against communal violence. Veteran actress Jaya Prada urged people to break their silence

and condemn violence against Hindus and other minorities. On social media, actor Janhvi Kapoor called the lynching “barbaric” and stressed the need to confront all forms of extremism.

The killing of Dipu Das has highlighted ongoing concerns about minority safety in Bangladesh and strained diplomatic ties between the two countries. India's condemnation reflects its continued advocacy for human rights and regional stability, even as Dhaka navigates internal unrest and political transitions. Indian foreign ministry officials are closely monitoring developments and engaging with Bangladesh authorities to ensure justice and protections are upheld.

This episode has reignited discussion on the importance of protecting vulnerable communities and ensuring that allegations of violence are addressed swiftly, transparently, and with due respect for the rule of law. India's strong public stance underscores the value of human rights and communal harmony in the region.

Severe Rainstorms in California Cause Floods, Mudslides, and Three Fatalities



Heavy rainstorms across large parts of California over the Christmas period have caused widespread flooding, mudslides, and the deaths of three people, officials confirmed on Thursday. The severe weather, expected to persist through Friday, has brought heavy rainfall, forcing evacuations, road closures, and widespread disruption across the state.

Some areas of Los Angeles County recorded up to 11 inches of rain, triggering flash floods and mudslides that damaged homes, vehicles, and infrastructure. Emergency services have been working around the clock to rescue residents trapped by rapidly rising waters, including individuals stranded in vehicles on flooded roads. Several communities remain cut off as local authorities assess damage and clear blocked routes.

California's Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency on Wednesday, covering Los Angeles and other southern counties, to mobilize state resources and expedite relief efforts. The declaration allows for quicker deployment of emergency personnel, National Guard units, and critical supplies to the affected areas.

Power outages have compounded the disruption, with approximately 100,000 residents reported without electricity as of Thursday evening. Utility companies are working to restore service, but officials warned that repair efforts could be slowed due to ongoing severe weather

conditions.

Authorities have urged residents to exercise caution, avoid travel in affected areas, and follow evacuation orders when issued. Emergency shelters have been opened to provide temporary accommodation for displaced residents, and local agencies continue to monitor river levels, mudslide risks, and other hazards.

Meteorologists have described the storm as part of a larger atmospheric pattern bringing heavy rainfall to the U.S. West Coast, emphasizing that further rainfall could exacerbate flooding and landslide risks. Residents are being advised to prepare for continued rainfall and to remain vigilant, particularly in vulnerable low-lying and hillside areas.

The deadly storms have highlighted ongoing challenges for California in managing extreme weather events, as climate change continues to contribute to intense precipitation and wildfire-prone dry periods that compound the state's vulnerability. Local officials stressed the importance of preparedness and community response to minimize further casualties and property damage.

As cleanup and rescue operations continue, emergency services, local governments, and state agencies are coordinating efforts to support affected communities, provide essential aid, and restore normalcy while closely monitoring the storm's progression through the coming days.

United States Launches “Powerful and Deadly” Strikes on Islamic State in Nigeria



In a dramatic escalation of international counter-terrorism operations, the United States military has carried out a series of airstrikes against Islamic State (ISIS/ISIL) militants in northwest Nigeria. U.S. President Donald Trump announced on Christmas Day. The strikes, described by Trump as “powerful and deadly,” underscore Washington's renewed willingness to project military force abroad in pursuit of extremist groups, eliciting reactions from governments and analysts around the world.

President Trump stated that the strikes targeted ISIS elements accused of “viciously killing, primarily innocent Christians” in the region. He pledged that the United States would not tolerate such violence and hinted at the possibility of additional military action if extremist attacks continue. The operation marks one of the most significant U.S. air campaigns in Africa in recent years.

According to U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM), the operation was conducted in Sokoto State, a northwest region of Nigeria where ISIS-linked groups have been active. While U.S. officials initially stated the action was carried out “at the request of Nigerian authorities,” that claim was later clarified. Nigerian officials confirmed cooperation with the United States aimed at countering terrorism. The Nigerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the operation reflected collective efforts to tackle violent extremism confronting the country.

The strike reportedly involved precision weapons, including cruise missiles fired from U.S. naval assets in the Gulf of Guinea, with multiple ISIS militants killed. Pentagon leadership

praised the execution of the mission, while stressing that further details on targets and casualties would not be released immediately due to operational security.

Global reaction has been mixed. Western European capitals welcomed the move as a blow against extremist networks that pose a threat beyond Nigeria's borders. Meanwhile, some African diplomatic circles emphasized the need for respecting Nigerian sovereignty and ensuring that counter-terror efforts do not inflame regional tensions. Nigeria itself framed the operation as part of a cooperative security effort, noting that violent extremist groups have affected people of all faiths and communities in the country.

Security analysts caution that while the strikes may weaken specific ISIS cells, the root causes of militancy in Nigeria — including socio-economic disenfranchisement, long-standing communal conflicts, and porous borders — will require sustained political and humanitarian engagement in addition to military pressure. Success against ISIS or its affiliates, they argue, depends on coordination between foreign partners and Nigerian institutions.

The U.S. action in Nigeria comes amid a broader global counter-terrorism focus that has seen Washington target extremist networks from the Sahel to the Middle East. For many observers, the Nigeria strikes signal a renewed American willingness to back military action in regions long plagued by insurgency, even as debates continue over the effectiveness and long-term strategy of such interventions.

High-Stakes Diplomacy: Trump and Zelenskyy Prepare for Critical Meeting to End Ukraine War

In a potentially pivotal moment for global geopolitics, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has announced plans to meet with former U.S. President Donald Trump “in the near future” as part of ongoing efforts to negotiate an end to the nearly four-year conflict with Russia. The announcement follows a series of discussions between Ukrainian officials and U.S. envoys, reflecting renewed diplomatic momentum in a war that has reshaped European security and global strategic alignments.

Zelenskyy confirmed that both leaders have agreed on a high-level meeting, with hopes that significant progress — potentially even before the New Year — could emerge from direct engagement. He emphasized that “a lot can be decided before the New Year,” underscoring the urgency felt by Kyiv and Washington to make tangible headway after protracted negotiations and lingering battlefield



stalemates.

This announcement follows productive sessions between Zelenskyy and U.S. special envoys, including top advisers connected to Trump's administration. Discussions have revolved around diplomatic frameworks, innovative peace proposals, and formats for future negotiations, even as territorial disputes and control of key regions remain contentious points with

Moscow.

While the exact date and venue for the Trump-Zelenskyy meeting have not yet been confirmed, officials from both sides have signaled optimism. U.S.-Ukraine negotiators have reportedly been working on a comprehensive peace plan intended to create security guarantees, freeze frontline hostilities, and remove structural barriers to a sustainable resolution.

Zelenskyy's willingness to meet directly with Trump reflects both the complexity of the issues at hand and the belief that leadership-level dialogue is critical to bridging gaps that lower-level talks have struggled to close.

However, the path to peace remains fraught. The Kremlin has so far shown reluctance to abandon its demands, particularly over territorial control in eastern Ukraine.

Simultaneously, military engagements continue on the ground, with ongoing clashes and strikes reminding the world that diplomacy must contend with realities on the battlefield.

International observers view the planned meeting as a potential diplomatic milestone. If successful, it could mark a shift from protracted negotiations to tangible breakthroughs in resolving one of the most consequential conflicts in recent decades. Yet analysts caution that a comprehensive peace deal will require sustained negotiation efforts, compromise from both Kyiv and Moscow, and continued engagement from global stakeholders.

As the world watches closely, the Trump-Zelenskyy meeting represents both a symbol of hope and a test of diplomatic resolve in resolving a war that has reshaped the geopolitical landscape and inflicted profound human suffering across Eastern Europe.

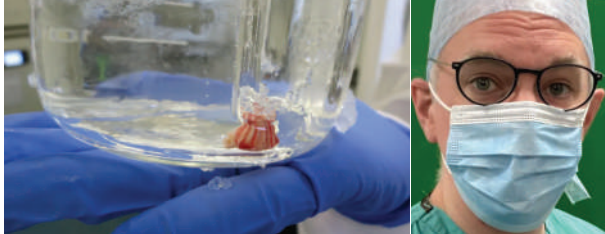
Inside Cutting-Edge Brain Surgery: A Glimpse at Alzheimer’s Research

In a rare glimpse behind the curtain of modern neuroscience, researchers in Edinburgh are taking bold steps to explore whether Alzheimer's disease can ever be cured. The initiative involves collecting tiny sections of human brain tissue during surgeries, which would normally be discarded, to study the disease at its most fundamental level.

At Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, the atmosphere in the operating theatre is tense but controlled. Medical staff move with precision, while machinery hums and beeps around them. The patient, sedated and covered, lies on the operating table as a MRI scan illuminates the tumor deep within his brain. The cancer, originating in

the colon, had metastasized to the central nervous system. Surgeons must cut through the cortex—the outer layer of the brain responsible for memory, language, and thought—to reach the tumor below.

Professor Paul Brennan, leading the neurosurgery team, explains the delicate balance required: the opening must be large enough to reach the tumor but minimal to protect surrounding healthy tissue. With surgical drills, the team removes a flap of skull, revealing the pink, pulsing surface of the brain beneath. The operating theatre is a mix of scientific intensity and clinical calm, where every movement matters. Standing nearby, Dr.



Claire Durrant, an Alzheimer's researcher at the University of Edinburgh, prepares a container of ice-cold artificial cerebrospinal fluid. This fluid mimics the natural environment of the brain, keeping the tissue alive for research after it is removed. Unlike most surgeries where such tissue is considered medical waste, Edinburgh is among the few centers worldwide where it is preserved for dementia research.

When the time comes, a small section of cortex, about the size of a thumbnail, is carefully placed into the container. This tissue provides scientists with a unique opportunity to study human neurons directly, rather than relying solely on animal models or artificial cells. Such research could reveal how Alzheimer's develops at a cellular level, opening doors to new treatments or even preventive strategies.

This approach highlights the intersection of cutting-edge surgery and pioneering neuroscience, where life-saving medical procedures simultaneously fuel efforts to understand one of humanity's most challenging diseases. While a cure for Alzheimer's remains elusive, initiatives like this represent a promising path toward breakthroughs, offering hope that one day, the devastating effects of dementia might be slowed, halted, or reversed.

The collaboration between neurosurgeons and dementia researchers in Edinburgh demonstrates that in the battle against Alzheimer's, every piece of insight—no matter how small—could be a critical step forward.

Arkansas Powerball Jackpot Winner Nets Record-Breaking Prize on Christmas Eve

A Powerball lottery player in Arkansas has won an estimated \$1.817 billion prize in the Christmas Eve drawing, marking one of the largest jackpots in U.S. lottery history. The staggering prize — among the top four in Powerball's history — has reignited interest across the country, as thousands of players eagerly checked their numbers in the final major draw of the year.

The winning ticket matched all five white balls along with the red Powerball number, beating odds of roughly one in 292 million. While the winner's identity and exact location have not been disclosed, organizers confirmed that the ticket was sold in Arkansas, making this only the second time such a massive Powerball prize has been claimed in the state.

The jackpot grew over several months due to repeated rollovers when no player matched all six numbers. The allure of a life-changing sum drove widespread ticket sales, with the game played across 45 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Powerball remains one of the nation's most popular lotteries and frequently captures national attention with its enormous prizes.

Winners of large Powerball jackpots can choose between two payout options: an annuity spread over 29 years or a lump-sum cash payment at a reduced amount. In this case, the lump sum is expected to be approximately \$834.9 mil-



lion before federal and state taxes. Historically, most winners have opted for the immediate cash payout, giving them access to a substantial sum upfront. The last larger Powerball jackpot was in 2022, when a California player won \$2.04 billion, the largest in both Powerball and U.S. lottery history. The Arkansas win now ranks just below that record, highlighting the growing scale of lottery prizes in recent years. Lottery officials have emphasized that winners often remain anonymous in many states to protect privacy, and it is unclear whether the Arkansas ticket holder will reveal their identity. Additionally, winners face federal tax withholdings of 24%, along with possible state taxes, which can reduce the total amount ultimately received.

News of the win has sparked widespread excitement and speculation across the U.S., as people imagine how such a monumental fortune could transform someone's life. The enormous prize serves as a reminder of the extreme odds of winning, yet also underscores the enduring appeal of lotteries as a vehicle for big dreams and hope during the holiday season.

Tragic Deaths of Two Indian Students in Canada Raise Safety Concerns



Two Indian nationals have been killed in separate incidents in Canada within a span of two weeks, leaving the Indian community and authorities deeply concerned about the safety of international students abroad. Canadian police have confirmed that the two cases are being treated as unrelated, with investigations ongoing in both.

The most recent incident occurred on December 23, 2025, when 20-year-old Indian student Shivank Avasthi was shot dead near the University of Toronto Scarborough campus. Police responding to reports of gunfire found Avasthi with fatal injuries in the Highland Creek Trail and Old Kingston Road area. He was pronounced dead at the scene, and investigators believe the suspects fled before authorities arrived. The motive for the shooting remains unclear, and authorities are actively pursuing leads.

Avasthi, who was pursuing a PhD, lived in Toronto and had been part of the local academic community. The Consulate General of India in Toronto expressed deep anguish over the loss and is in close contact with his family, working with Canadian authorities to provide support.

Just days earlier, another Indian national, 30-year-old Himanshi Khurana, was found dead inside a residence in downtown Toronto. Police initially responded to a missing person report for Khurana, and the following morning discovered her body. The case has been declared a homicide, and a first degree

murder warrant has been issued for a suspect believed to be known to the victim. Canadian law enforcement is conducting a manhunt in connection with the killing.

The back-to-back tragedies have alarmed the Indian student community in Canada, prompting calls for greater focus on the safety of international students who form a significant part of the country's academic and cultural fabric. Social media reactions from students and community groups reflect a mix of grief, outrage, and worry about personal safety on and off campus.

These incidents also come amid broader concerns about violence affecting foreign nationals. While Toronto remains one of Canada's largest and most diverse cities, police say both deaths are being treated as individual cases with no evidence linking them to each other or to any specific group. The Indian government has reiterated its commitment to supporting its citizens abroad, urging Canadian authorities to conduct thorough investigations and ensure justice. Families of both victims are receiving consular support as they navigate the aftermath of their loved ones' untimely deaths.

As investigations continue, these tragic events have sparked wider discussions on the safety protocols for international students and the responsibilities of host nations to protect those who travel far from home in pursuit of education and opportunity.

Quant Based Funds Emerge as the New Battleground for Mutual Fund Investors

In a significant evolution within India's mutual fund landscape, quantitative investment strategies — once the domain of hedge funds and institutional players — are rapidly gaining traction among retail and high net worth investors alike. Fund houses and asset management companies are increasingly promoting quant based funds as a compelling alternative to traditional actively managed schemes, sparking what analysts are calling the next competitive frontier in fund investing.

Quant funds employ algorithm driven models and data analytics to make investment decisions, relying on mathematical rules rather than human discretion. These strategies analyse vast quantities of market data, identifying patterns and trends that can potentially deliver more consistent risk adjusted returns. In markets characterised by volatility and rapid information flow, this systematic approach is appealing to investors seeking discipline and objectivity.

Industry insiders say the rising popularity of quant funds reflects broader shifts in investor behaviour. After years of strong equity market performance, investors are now more discerning, focusing increasingly on risk management, consistency,



ency, and downside protection rather than just chasing headline returns. Quant strategies, with their emphasis on model driven decisions, promise to reduce emotional bias and overreliance on individual fund manager calls — factors that can significantly impact performance during turbulent phases.

Mutual fund houses are responding aggressively to this demand. Over the past year, several firms have launched or expanded their suite of quant oriented schemes, ranging from equity quant funds to hybrid and thematic quant strategies. Marketing efforts highlight features

such as data backed asset allocation, systematic rebalancing, and enhanced risk controls, positioning these offerings as modern investment tools for today's markets.

Investment analysts note that one of the appealing aspects of quant funds is their transparency in strategy execution. Unlike traditional active funds, where performance can hinge on the discretion of portfolio managers, quant portfolios follow clearly defined rules encoded in algorithms. This level of process clarity can be especially attractive to millennial and digital first investors who value measurable, data informed decision making.

However, experts also advise caution. While quant strategies offer many advantages, they are not immune to market anomalies or structural shifts that fall outside the scope of historical data. As with all mutual fund investments, understanding the underlying model parameters, risk profile and potential scenarios where the model may underperform is crucial for investors.

Investor adoption of quant funds has been accelerating, with flows into these schemes increasing quarter over quarter. Many view this trend as part of a broader diversification strategy, combining traditional active funds, passive index funds and now quant funds within a balanced portfolio.

In summary, quant based mutual funds are swiftly becoming a battleground for asset managers and a point of choice for investors seeking systematic, rules based exposure to markets. As technology, data analytics and market sophistication continue to advance, quant strategies are likely to remain at the forefront of innovation in India's mutual fund industry — offering investors new pathways to pursue long term financial goals.

IPO Market Set for a Quiet Week; SME Listings Poised to Steal the Spotlight

The Indian primary market is gearing up for a relatively uneventful week ahead, with major mainboard IPOs scarce on the calendar. Investors and analysts alike are preparing for lighter action on the large cap front, while smaller enterprise listings — especially on the SME platform — are expected to draw increased interest and activity.

With broader market volatility and macroeconomic indicators still in watchful mode, many large issuers have opted to delay tapping the public markets. This has resulted in a slim pipeline of mainboard IPOs for the upcoming week, prompting market participants to recalibrate expectations. While subdued mainboard activity could be interpreted as a pause driven by valuation discipline, it also reflects caution among promoters waiting for more favourable market conditions.

Against this backdrop, the SME IPO segment is poised to shine. Around 10 SME listings are scheduled to open, offering investors an opportunity to explore businesses at relatively early stages of growth. These smaller issuers span sectors such as technology services, manufacturing, healthcare, and consumer services, and are expected to garner attention for their niche positioning and growth potential.

For many retail investors, SME IPOs offer an accessible entry point to the equity markets, often with lower subscription amounts compared to mainboard issues. While these listings typically carry higher risk due to smaller size and shorter operating histories, they also present chance for meaningful appreciation if the underlying businesses perform well post listing.

Market experts say that investor interest in SME listings has been gradually increasing as participants seek diversification beyond traditional large cap stocks. With prominent initial offerings lacking in the next few sessions, these SME issues could attract greater scrutiny and subscription activity. Some analysts



believe that strong listing gains in recent SME IPOs have boosted confidence among retail and HNI (high net worth individual) investors, encouraging them to explore opportunities in this segment.

Institutional participation in SME IPOs is generally limited, placing more emphasis on retail sentiment. As a result, subscription patterns over the coming week will serve as a barometer of confidence among smaller investors. Performance of these SME stocks on listing day and shortly thereafter will be closely watched for indications of

broader appetite in the SME space. Overall, while the upcoming week may appear quiet from a mainboard issuance perspective, the flurry of SME listings is set to inject activity into the primary market. Investors keen on exploring early stage opportunities may find these offerings intriguing, though seasoned advice and thorough due diligence remain essential given the inherent risk profile of smaller listings. In sum, the IPO calendar may be thin on big names, but it is fertile ground for emerging enterprises to make their mark with public investors.

Indian Markets Poised for Muted Start as GIFT Nifty Signals Caution



Indian equity markets are expected to open on a subdued note, with early indications from GIFT Nifty futures pointing toward a flat or slightly negative start for benchmark indices like the Nifty 50 and Sensex. Traders are approaching the session cautiously, balancing domestic sentiment with global cues as the year-end trading period sees lighter volumes.

Asian markets have mostly traded higher, with indices in Japan and South Korea showing gains, although some exchanges remained closed for holiday observances, contributing to thinner trading activity. The positive regional trend provides some support to Indian markets, but domestic participants are adopting a wait-and-watch approach in the absence of fresh domestic catalysts.

Institutional activity has been mixed. Foreign portfolio investors have been net sellers in recent sessions, while domestic institutions have stepped in with net buying. This divergence highlights the differing strategies of investor classes as they navigate evolving market conditions.

Sector performance has remained uneven. Heavyweight stocks in financials and metals have provided support, while some information technology and defensive sector shares have faced profit booking. Analysts note that profit-taking near record highs is tempering bullish sentiment and contributing

uting to a cautious trading environment.

Mid-cap and small-cap stocks have shown pockets of strength even as large-cap indices consolidate around recent levels. Historically, December has seen the Nifty post positive returns, but sustained momentum in the current context will depend on new triggers such as strong corporate earnings or policy signals from global central banks.

Currency markets are expected to trade largely flat, reflecting stability in the rupee alongside steady regional currencies and a stable dollar index. Commodity markets, particularly silver, have seen notable gains, adding another variable for investors to consider.

Overall, Indian markets are positioned for a cautious session with modest movements likely at the open. Traders are keeping an eye on sector flows, institutional activity, and potential domestic and global triggers that could set the tone for the rest of the trading day. Despite global optimism, a careful approach is being favored as participant's balance year-end positioning with ongoing market uncertainties.

Motilal Oswal Sees Steady Market Growth in 2026; Emphasises Quality and Selectivity



As Indian equity markets enter 2026, Motilal Oswal Financial Services has outlined a cautiously optimistic outlook, stressing that quality and selectivity will be key drivers of market returns over the next year. The perspective comes amid elevated valuations, mixed sector performance, and evolving economic conditions shaping investor sentiment.

Following a relatively muted 2025, where mid- and small-cap stocks underperformed while large caps dominated, Motilal Oswal expects Indian equities to deliver steady, earnings-led growth in 2026. While benchmarks like the Nifty 50 ended the year near record highs, valuations remain above long-term averages. The firm recommends a disciplined focus on high-quality companies with strong balance sheets and resilient earnings prospects.

Sectors such as financials, consumer discretionary, automobiles, industrials, and capital goods are likely to benefit from improving corporate earnings and structural reforms. Financials are preferred due to healthy credit growth and improving return ratios. Consumer-focused stocks are supported by broadening demand and rising revenues, while industrials and capital goods are expected to gain from government-led infrastructure initiatives and localisation efforts in manufacturing and technology services.

Motilal Oswal also cautions against overexposure to sectors where valuations are stretched,

particularly in small and mid-cap segments that saw significant gains in previous years but faced consolidation in 2025. Investors are advised to take selective exposure based on fundamental strength rather than broad sector bets.

Supportive liquidity conditions, an accommodative monetary policy, and resilient domestic demand are expected to provide a favourable backdrop for markets. With inflation relatively stable and the Reserve Bank of India maintaining a constructive policy stance, companies with strong pricing power and sustainable cash flows are likely to see broadening earnings momentum.

The firm's strategy emphasises balancing risk and return through quality stock selection, diversified portfolios, and active monitoring. Investors are encouraged to back companies with visible profits, robust fundamentals, and defensive balance sheets capable of weathering volatility.

As markets navigate global uncertainties and domestic economic shifts, Motilal Oswal's outlook for 2026 reflects a measured confidence in India's long-term growth story — one shaped by structural reforms, revitalised investment flows, and an evolving earnings cycle that rewards patience and strategic selectivity.

Digital Revolution to Drive Next Phase of Mutual Fund Growth, Experts Say



India's mutual fund industry is poised for a new growth chapter, driven not by traditional distribution networks alone but by an accelerating digital transformation that is reshaping investor behaviour and broadening access to financial markets. Industry experts believe that digital technologies, combined with changing demographics and rising financial awareness, will be among the most powerful catalysts for fresh inflows into mutual funds in the coming years.

Over the last decade, India's mutual fund sector has seen remarkable expansion, fuelled by increasing participation from retail investors, rising household savings, and stronger regulatory frameworks. However, the next phase of expansion is expected to be further propelled by rapid digital adoption. From online account opening to seamless transactions and real time portfolio tracking, digital platforms are drastically lowering barriers that once deterred many prospective investors.

One of the most notable trends is the surge in new investors entering the market through digital channels. Younger investors, particularly millennials and Gen Z, are more comfortable with mobile apps and online platforms, often managing their investments entirely through smartphones. This cohort values convenience, transparency, and speed — attributes that digital mutual fund platforms excel in providing. As a result, asset management companies (AMCs) are increasingly focusing on enhancing digital experiences to attract and retain this tech savvy investor base.

Experts point out that digital onboarding has significantly improved financial inclusion, enabling investors in smaller towns and cities to participate in the mutual fund ecosystem without needing physical interaction with financial advisors. For many first time

investors, digital platforms offer educational tools, simplified risk profiling, and curated product recommendations, making the investment journey less intimidating.

The growth of Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) has also been buoyed by digital convenience. Automated monthly investments — often started with just a small amount — have become a popular entry point for new and existing investors alike. With reminders, dashboards, and easy modification features, digital SIP interfaces encourage regular investing habits and long term wealth creation.

Regulatory initiatives supporting digital finance have further reinforced this trend. With robust e KYC systems, secure payment gateways, and simplified compliance processes, the industry has ensured that digital mutual fund investing is both safe and efficient.

AMCs are also leveraging big data, artificial intelligence, and personalized marketing to tailor offerings based on investor behaviour. By analysing patterns and preferences, fund houses can recommend products that align more closely with individual goals, risk appetite, and investment horizon — a personalization that many traditional channels struggled to deliver.

Despite these advances, experts caution that investor education remains critical. As first time digital investors enter the market, understanding product risks, expense ratios, and long term strategies will be key to sustaining growth without exposing investors to uninformed decisions.

In conclusion, as India's mutual fund industry evolves, digital platforms are expected to play a central role in shaping its trajectory. By driving convenience, widening access, and engaging a new generation of investors, the digital push could set the stage for sustained industry growth in the years ahead.

AVG Logistics Shares Surge 8% on Strategic LNG Partnership with Baidyanath LNG



Shares of AVG Logistics Limited rallied sharply as the company announced a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Baidyanath LNG Private Limited, a firm specializing in liquefied natural gas (LNG) infrastructure. The stock jumped nearly 8% intraday, reflecting investor optimism about the company's growth prospects and entry into the cleaner fuel segment of transportation.

Under the agreement, AVG Logistics will collaborate with Baidyanath LNG to deploy LNG-powered fleets and expand access to LNG refueling stations across key industrial corridors. This move is aimed at promoting LNG as an alternative to conventional diesel in sectors such as steel, FMCG, cement, and other high-volume logistics operations. The partnership combines infrastructure development with operational deployment, positioning AVG as a leader in sustainable logistics solutions.

For AVG, the collaboration represents both a sustainability initiative and a business strategy. LNG burns cleaner than diesel, reducing carbon emissions and potentially lowering operating costs in long-haul freight transport. This aligns with the company's broader objective of improving efficiency and maintaining competitiveness amidst rising fuel prices and tightening environmental regulations.

Baidyanath LNG will provide AVG with dedicated LNG fleets, fueling infrastructure access, and technical exper-

tise, while AVG leverages its extensive logistics network to promote LNG solutions to existing and prospective clients. Analysts note that this setup could enhance operational efficiency and support margin expansion in the medium to long term.

The move also reflects a broader trend in the logistics sector toward cleaner and cost-effective energy adoption. Companies are increasingly exploring partnerships that integrate infrastructure and services to balance profitability with environmental responsibility.

Founded in 2010, AVG Logistics provides multimodal solutions encompassing road and rail transport, warehousing, and supply chain management for a wide range of corporate clients. Its push into LNG aligns with growing investor interest in sustainable logistics and energy-efficient technologies.

Today's share price gain underscores investor confidence in AVG Logistics' strategic direction. While broader market indices showed mixed performance, the strong rally in AVG stock highlights how corporate partnerships tied to sustainability and fuel innovation can positively influence investor sentiment.

Overall, the collaboration with Baidyanath LNG positions AVG Logistics at the forefront of cleaner, technology-driven logistics solutions in India, signaling both short-term market enthusiasm and long-term growth potential for the company.

Honor Power 2: The Smartphone That Seems Determined to Outlast You



In an era where most smartphones begin the day at 100 percent and end it begging for a charger, Honor appears ready to challenge battery anxiety head-on. The upcoming Honor Power 2, recently spotted in performance tests and early leaks, looks less like a regular phone and more like a long-distance runner built for endurance rather than short sprints. Early benchmark sightings suggest the Power 2 is powered by a capable mid-to-upper-range processor, paired with a generous 12GB of RAM. This combination hints at smooth everyday performance, easy multitasking, and enough power to handle gaming sessions without breaking into a digital sweat. The phone is also expected to run the latest version of Android with Honor's customised interface, offering a polished and familiar user experience straight out of the box. But the real headline act here is the battery. The Power 2 is rumoured to carry an enormous

power cell that could redefine what "all-day battery life" really means. If the leaked figures are accurate, this device could comfortably stretch across multiple days of use, making it ideal for travellers, heavy users, or anyone who simply hates hunting for charging points. It's the kind of phone that makes power banks feel slightly redundant. Despite its focus on endurance, Honor doesn't seem willing to sacrifice style. Design leaks point to a modern look with a bold rear camera module and clean lines, suggesting that the phone won't resemble the bulky, rugged devices often associated with massive batteries. Colour options are expected to include both classic and eye-catching finishes, giving users the freedom to choose between subtle and statement. On the camera front, the Power 2 appears to aim for reliability rather than excess. A high-resolution main camera is expected to handle every-

day photography with ease, while the front camera should be more than capable for selfies and video calls. It's not trying to be a professional camera replacement, but it promises to be dependable and consistent — much like the phone's overall philosophy. The display is tipped to be large and vibrant, making it well suited for streaming, reading, and gaming. Combined with the phone's massive battery, this could turn the Power 2 into a pocket entertainment hub that doesn't panic when the screen stays on for hours. Ultimately, the Honor Power 2 feels like a quiet rebellion against the industry's obsession with thinness at the cost of practicality. It doesn't scream for attention with flashy gimmicks. Instead, it makes a simple promise: it will keep going when others give up. And in today's fast-draining smartphone world, that alone makes it an offbeat contender worth watching.

OnePlus Turbo Series: When a Smartphone Decides to Go Full Throttle



OnePlus seems ready to shake things up again, this time with a smartphone lineup that sounds more like a performance car than a pocket gadget. The newly confirmed OnePlus Turbo series, now open for pre-orders ahead of its official launch, signals the brand's intention to push speed, stamina, and smoothness to the foreground—without pretending to be subtle about it. The word "Turbo" isn't just marketing flair here. Early details suggest the series is built around raw performance, with a powerful processor designed to handle heavy gaming, fast multitasking, and long hours of use without slowing down. Paired with ample RAM, the phone is expected to deliver the kind of responsiveness that makes even impatient users feel satisfied. App switching should be instant, animations fluid, and games comfortably playable at high settings. Battery life appears to

be another major talking point. The Turbo series is rumoured to feature an unusually large battery, hinting at a device that could last well beyond a single day of intensive use. For gamers, binge-watchers, and chronic scrollers, this could mean fewer frantic searches for a charger and more uninterrupted screen time. Fast charging is also expected, staying true to OnePlus's reputation for getting users back to full power quickly. On the front, the phone is likely to sport a large OLED display with an ultra-high refresh rate, making everything from social media scrolling to fast-paced games feel noticeably smoother. High brightness levels and vivid colours should make it equally comfortable for indoor use and outdoor viewing. It's the kind of screen that quietly spoils you—once you use it, going back becomes difficult. The camera setup, while not the main headline, is expected to be de-

pendable. A capable main sensor should handle everyday photography with ease, capturing social moments, travel shots, and casual videos without fuss. This isn't a phone trying to replace professional cameras; instead, it focuses on speed and reliability, much like the rest of its design philosophy. Visually, the Turbo series is expected to follow a clean, modern OnePlus design language, with a sturdy build and minimal distractions. It doesn't aim to look flashy for the sake of it, but rather confident—like a device that knows exactly what it's good at. With pre-orders already open and anticipation building, the OnePlus Turbo series feels like a statement: performance doesn't have to be complicated. Sometimes, all a phone needs to do is be fast, last long, and feel smooth every time you touch it. And if early signs are anything to go by, this Turbo is ready to deliver exactly that.

When a Phone Folds Too Much: Samsung's Trifold Dream Meets Reality

In the fast-moving world of smartphones, folding screens were once considered magical. Then they became normal. Now, Samsung has tried to outdo itself with a phone that folds not once, but three times. The Galaxy Z Trifold arrived wrapped in futuristic promise, whispering about a future where your phone could turn into a tablet, a mini-laptop, or something in between. But in a dramatic twist fit for an offbeat tech tale, the phone's biggest party trick turned out to be its biggest weakness. The trouble began during a popular online durability test, where phones are scratched, burned, and bent in the name of science and spectacle. While Samsung's earlier foldables had survived such trials with only minor bruises, the Trifold chose a more theatrical exit. When pressure was applied from the back, the sleek device bent in a way no engineer would ever want to see. Moments later, the display failed, the frame cracked, and the futuristic dream quite literally folded in on itself.



What makes this episode especially ironic is Samsung's long campaign to convince users that foldable phones are tougher than they look. The Trifold was designed with multiple hinges, ultra-thin glass, and a complex internal structure meant to distribute stress evenly. On paper, it sounded like a marvel of modern engineering. In practice, however, three folds meant three stress points, and the phone simply couldn't handle

being flexed the "wrong" way. Social media quickly turned the incident into comedy. Some joked that the device had "folded under pressure" just like a nervous intern. Others imagined users accidentally breaking it while pulling it out of a tight pocket or sitting down too fast. Memes flourished, sympathy was scarce, and the Trifold became an unexpected symbol of technology trying to run before it

could walk. To be fair, no one bends their phone with both hands in daily life. Samsung has pointed out that extreme durability tests don't reflect real-world usage. And that's true. But such tests tap into a deeper fear consumers have about experimental gadgets: what happens when innovation outruns practicality? The Galaxy Z Trifold's failure doesn't mean foldable phones are doomed. Instead, it highlights the

delicate balance between ambition and reliability. Sometimes, pushing boundaries leads to breakthroughs. Other times, it leads to a cracked screen and a viral video. For now, Samsung's trifold experiment stands as a reminder that while the future may be flexible, it still has limits. And occasionally, even the smartest technology learns the hard way that folding too much can be one fold too far.

iQOO Z11 Turbo: A Mid-Range Phone with Main-Character Energy

In a smartphone market crowded with look-alikes, the upcoming iQOO Z11 Turbo seems determined to announce itself loudly, confidently, and perhaps a little cheekily. Early details suggest this is not a phone content with playing safe. Instead, it wants to be fast, tough, flashy, and long-lasting—all at once—like a gadget that drank one energy drink too many and decided to challenge the entire mid-range segment. At the heart of the Z11 Turbo is a powerful chipset expected to deliver flagship-level performance. This positions the phone as a dream machine for mobile gamers and multitaskers who want speed without paying premium prices. Apps are expected to launch instantly, games to run smoothly, and everyday scrolling to feel satisfyingly slick. The "Turbo" in the name, it seems, is not just decora-



tive branding. But raw speed is only part of the story. The phone is also rumored to carry an enormous battery that could make power banks feel insecure. With capacity well above what most smartphones offer, the Z11 Turbo appears built for users who hate charging anxiety. Long gaming sessions, endless video streaming, and marathon scrolling sessions

may finally meet their match in a device that simply refuses to run out of juice. The camera setup adds another layer of ambition. A high-resolution main camera is expected to headline the rear module, promising detailed photos that look impressive both on social media and when zoomed in. While megapixels don't always guarantee magic, iQOO seems keen to at-

tract users who want their phone to double as a pocket photography tool. Selfie lovers aren't ignored either, with a capable front camera tipped to handle video calls and content creation with ease. Visually, the phone is expected to feature a sharp OLED display with vibrant colours and smooth motion. Whether it's gaming, movies, or doom-scrolling at mid-

night, the screen is designed to look good while being easy on the eyes. Adding to its tough-guy persona, the device is also said to come with strong water and dust resistance, making it surprisingly rugged for a phone that also wants to look stylish. Pricing is where the Z11 Turbo becomes especially interesting. Despite its heavyweight specs, it is expected to sit in the mid-range bracket, undercutting many premium rivals. That makes it feel like an overqualified candidate applying for an entry-level job. If the final product lives up to the early buzz, the iQOO Z11 Turbo could be one of those rare phones that feels slightly rebellious—too powerful, too bold, and too ambitious for its own category. And in a market that often feels predictable, that's exactly what makes it worth watching.

Google's NotebookLM Is Learning to Lecture — And It Might Sound Like a British Professor

Google's experimental AI note-taking tool, NotebookLM, appears to be taking a confident step from casual conversation to classroom authority. A new "Lecture" mode, spotted in development, suggests that the tool may soon be able to turn documents and research material into continuous audio lectures lasting up to 30 minutes. In short, your notes won't just summarise themselves anymore — they'll start teaching you. Until now, NotebookLM's audio feature has leaned toward a friendly, podcast-style format, with two AI voices chatting through key points. The upcoming lecture mode changes the tone completely. Instead of back-and-forth banter, users may get a single, steady voice delivering a structured explanation from start to finish, much like a university lecture — mi-



nus the crowded hall and uncomfortable chairs. What makes this feature especially offbeat is its sense of theatrical flair. Alongside the longer lecture format, Google appears to be experimenting with new voice accents, including a British English option. That means your study notes could soon be read aloud in a calm, polished tone that feels straight out of an old academic institution. Whether that makes

learning more effective or just more entertaining remains to be seen, but it certainly adds personality to an otherwise serious tool. The idea behind lecture mode seems simple but powerful: not everyone learns best by reading. For students, researchers, and professionals juggling packed schedules, listening to a detailed explanation while commuting, exercising, or

doing household chores could be a game-changer. Instead of skimming through dense PDFs, users could let an AI narrator guide them through the logic, context, and key arguments at a comfortable pace. There is also a subtle shift in how AI is being positioned here. NotebookLM is no longer just a smart assistant that answers questions; it is edging closer to the role of a tutor. By offering

different audio styles — from quick summaries to debates and now long lectures — Google seems to be testing how far people are willing to trust AI as a learning companion. Of course, the feature is still under development, and there's no official word on when or if it will be released to everyone. But the concept alone raises interesting questions. Will people actually sit through a 30-minute AI lecture? Will the British accent become the unofficial favourite? And could this mark the beginning of AI replacing not just note-taking, but note-explaining? For now, NotebookLM's lecture ambitions remain a preview of what learning tools might look like in the near future — where your notes don't just sit quietly on the page, but confidently stand up and start talking back.



Vijay Hazare Trophy Lights Up With Records, Young Stars and High-Drama Encounters

The Vijay Hazare Trophy continued to deliver high-quality cricket as teams across the country battled for supremacy in India's premier domestic one-day tournament. Friday's matches produced a perfect mix of jaw-dropping individual brilliance, tense finishes, and moments of concern, underlining why the competition remains a vital platform for both established stars and emerging talent.

The standout performance of the day came from 14-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi, who scripted history with a breath-taking innings for Bihar. Displaying maturity far beyond his age, the young batter smashed a stunning 190 off just 84 balls, sending the ball to the boundary with remarkable ease. His knock, studded with a flurry of sixes and fours, helped Bihar post an astonishing total of 574 for 6, the highest team score ever recorded in the tournament. The innings not only set new records but also announced Suryavanshi as one of the brightest prospects in Indian cricket. Bihar went on to register a massive victory, underlining their dominance in the contest.

Elsewhere, the clash between Delhi and Guja-



rat turned into a gripping affair. Veteran batter Virat Kohli once again showcased his class, anchoring Delhi's innings with a composed half-century. His calm presence in the middle, combined with sharp fielding efforts in the closing stages, played a crucial role as Delhi defended a modest total in a nail-biting finish. The match highlighted Kohli's ability to influence games even when condi-

tions are challenging.

Mumbai, meanwhile, experienced a mixed day on the field. Young batter Angkrish Raghuvanshi suffered an injury while attempting a diving catch, bringing a hush over the stadium as he was taken off for medical attention. Adding to Mumbai's woes, captain Rohit Sharma was dismissed without scoring, an unusual sight for fans accustomed to seeing him

dominate attacks. Despite individual setbacks, Mumbai's depth ensured they remained competitive.

In other matches, teams like Tamil Nadu, Bengal, and Karnataka continued their strong campaigns with solid all-round performances. Reliable top-order contributions and disciplined bowling spells ensured tight contests and valuable points in the group stages.

As the Vijay Hazare Trophy progresses, the tournament continues to underline the depth of talent in Indian cricket. From seasoned internationals to fearless teenagers, the competition offers a stage where reputations are built and futures are shaped. With the knockout rounds approaching, fans can expect even more intensity, drama, and memorable performances in the days ahead.

Virat Kohli Enters 'God Mode', Breaks List A Batting Records



In a display of sheer mastery, Indian cricket superstar Virat Kohli has rewritten history in one-day cricket. During Delhi's Vijay Hazare Trophy match against Gujarat, Kohli scored a composed 77 runs, a performance that not only helped his team but also elevated him to the highest career average in List A cricket, surpassing the legendary Australian finisher Michael Bevan.

Kohli's career List A average now stands at 57.87, narrowly overtaking Bevan's record of 57.86. This milestone underscores Kohli's incredible consistency and longevity across domestic and international cricket. Fans and analysts alike have hailed this achievement as a testament to his relentless hunger for runs and remarkable technical skill.

The 37-year-old has been in phenomenal form recently. Over his last six List A innings, he has amassed 584 runs at an av-

erage of 146, earning praise for his "God Mode" phase. His recent performances demonstrate that, even at this stage of his career, Kohli remains one of the most difficult batters to dismiss in the world. Against Gujarat, Kohli's innings combined textbook timing with aggressive strokeplay. He anchored the innings while maintaining a brisk scoring rate, a balance that has become his hallmark. This display of skill reaffirmed why he is regarded as one of the greatest batters in limited-overs cricket.

Cricketer statisticians now place Kohli above other elite players, including England's Sam Hain, India's Cheteshwar Pujara, and Rituraj Gaikwad, in terms of List A batting averages. This remarkable achievement highlights his ability to maintain elite performance over a long career, a feat few have accomplished.

The context of the record adds to its significance. Questions about his longevity in the one-day format have been answered emphatically as Kohli continues to combine consistency with aggression. His ability to evolve with the game while maintaining high standards has set him apart in modern cricket.

In addition to breaking Bevan's record, Kohli recently became the fastest player in history to reach 16,000 List A runs, surpassing even Sachin Tendulkar. These milestones further cement his status as one of cricket's all-time greats.

As the Vijay Hazare Trophy continues, Kohli's record-breaking form has added excitement and anticipation for fans. At a time when many players consider winding down, Kohli is climbing higher, demonstrating that excellence is not a phase but a lifelong pursuit in the modern era of cricket.

Teen Sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi to Miss Vijay Hazare Match, Set to Receive Rashtriya Bal Puraskar

In a heart warming twist to the ongoing Vijay Hazare Trophy, teenage batting prodigy Vaibhav Suryavanshi will be conspicuously absent from his team's upcoming fixture — not due to injury or poor form, but because he is being honoured with one of India's highest civilian awards for children. Suryavanshi, who has captured the nation's imagination with his record breaking performances, is scheduled to receive the Rashtriya Bal Puraskar, a prestigious recognition given annually to exceptional children excelling in various fields including sports.

Suryavanshi's rise this season has been nothing short of meteoric. The 14 year old's breathtaking century earlier in the tournament, where he delivered a stunning innings filled with power and precision, catapulted him into the spotlight and sparked comparisons with some of the greats of the game. His ability to



dominate bowlers with maturity far beyond his years not only helped his team post massive totals but also delighted fans and pundits alike.

Despite the excitement surrounding his performances, team management confirmed that Suryavanshi will sit out his team's next Vijay Hazare Trophy match due to the award ceremony

schedule. The Rashtriya Bal Puraskar, presented by the Government of India, celebrates young achievers who have shown extraordinary talent, resilience and dedication. For Suryavanshi, who has already become a local hero in his home state and across the cricketing world, this honour solidifies his impact beyond the boundary ropes.

Coaches and teammates expressed pride in Suryavanshi's achievement, describing it as "well deserved" and "a moment that transcends cricket". They emphasised that while his absence will be felt on the field, the recognition brings positive attention to grassroots sports and highlights the importance of nurturing young

talent.

Fans have flooded social media with messages of support and congratulations, celebrating not just his cricketing prowess but his embodiment of youthful ambition and discipline. Many see the award as symbolic — a reminder that sport can be a powerful avenue for personal growth, national pride, and inspiration for countless young aspirants.

The Vijay Hazare Trophy will continue without Suryavanshi for that match, but his presence looms large in the tournament narrative. As cricket lovers await his return to the crease, many are already speculating about how his career might unfold after this remarkable start. For now, Vaibhav Suryavanshi will trade his cricket whites for a ceremonial robe and step onto the stage to receive a national tribute — an affirmation that his impact reaches far beyond runs and records.

IPL 2026: Venkatesh Iyer May Not Start for RCB Despite Big Signing



Kl Rahul Was Clinical in His Approach, Locked In Control: Anil Kumble

Royal Challengers Bengaluru's marquee signing of Venkatesh Iyer grabbed headlines during the recent IPL mini auction, but reports now suggest the all-rounder might not feature in the starting playing XI when the defending champions kick off their title defence. Former India captain and RCB mentor Anil Kumble explained that team balance and continuity could see Iyer gradually eased into the squad rather than immediately slotted into the first XI.

RCB secured Iyer for a significant sum, reflecting the franchise's belief in his dual abilities with both bat and ball. Despite this, Kumble emphasized that the team's priority is maintaining the winning core from last season. Introducing a new player too early could disrupt the harmony of a cohesive unit, he noted. Iyer's inclusion provides strategic depth, but it does not guarantee an immediate starting role.

The franchise also strengthened its squad with additional talents, increasing competition for spots and ensuring coverage for key positions. With experienced players already performing well, some new recruits,

including Iyer, may have to wait for their opportunities. Former India batting coach Sanjay Bangar echoed the sentiment, noting that while Iyer has impressed in recent seasons, careful integration into the team might be the best approach.

Head coach Andy Flower is reportedly delighted with Iyer's presence, highlighting the all-rounder's leadership qualities and potential to positively influence the dressing room. The management seems focused on long-term planning, valuing Iyer's skill set while ensuring team harmony remains intact.

As RCB prepares for the 2026 IPL season, fans will be watching closely to see how Iyer's role develops. Although he may not feature in the first playing XI, his versatility and depth make him a vital asset for one of the tournament favourites, ready to step in when the team needs him most.

This cautious approach reflects RCB's philosophy of balancing bold acquisitions with team cohesion, ensuring the defending champions enter the season with both stability and flexibility.

Ashes Drama: Australia Gains Upper Hand After 20 Wickets Fall on Rain Hit Day 1 of Fourth Test



In a riveting blend of swing, seam and tension packed moments, Australia stormed ahead of England on a rain affected first day of the Fourth Ashes Test in Adelaide. With 20 wickets tumbling and weather interruptions playing their part, both sides experienced the thrill and unpredictability that only this historic rivalry can deliver.

After England won the toss and elected to bat, Australia's bowlers immediately set the tone on a lively pitch that offered early movement. The new ball did the hard work, and England's top order failed to settle. Aided by probing lines from the hosts' pace attack, England slipped to a precarious position as wickets began to fall at regular intervals. Sloppy edges, disciplined bowling, and a few confident Australian catches combined to keep England on the back foot throughout the day.

By stumps, England were bundled out with only modest resistance from the lower order, failing to post a score they would have been proud of at this venue. The collapse renewed questions about England's ability to handle high quality pace bowling on green Adelaide surfaces — a challenge that has haunted many a touring side over the years. Australia's attack, sharp and relentless, showcased a blend of experience and youthful energy as they battled to take early command.

Once the English innings concluded, Australia began their own batting response. Still navigating the effects of earlier rain and a pitch that remained unpredictable, the hosts lost early wickets against some disciplined English bowling.

England managed to strike back, grabbing key breakthroughs to keep the contest alive.

However, Australia's middle order managed to steady the ship and ensured that by the end of play, the home side held a slender lead. With several batting points still up for grabs and momentum shifting with each session, the match situation promises a fascinating battle over the next four days.

The large number of dismissals on Day 1 — 20 in total — reflected not only challenging conditions but also the intense pressure both teams applied with ball in hand. The Adelaide pitch, known for aiding seamers early on, lived up to its reputation and set the stage for a gripping Ashes test. With clouds looming and interruptions affecting both batting lineups, adaptability has already proven crucial.

Fans at the ground and those watching around the world were treated to enthralling cricket, punctuated by moments of outspoken celebration, tight appeals, and strategic exchanges between captains. While neither side fully dominated, Australia's slight edge going into Day 2 — bolstered by crucial lower order runs and disciplined bowling — gives the hosts momentum in this storied rivalry.

As the series progresses, both teams will look to capitalize on key performances from their bowlers and leaders. With the Ashes hanging in the balance, every session promises drama, resilience, and the kind of competitive spirit that defines this classic cricketing contest.

‘Raju Gaari Pelli Ro’ Brings Electrifying Wedding Energy to Anaganaga Oka Raju



The festive mood around Anaganaga Oka Raju has intensified with the release of its second single, “Raju Gaari Pelli Ro,” a vibrant wedding anthem that is quickly becoming one of the most talked-about songs of the season. Packed with color, energy, and mass appeal, the song has struck a chord with audiences and added fresh excitement to the film’s promotional journey.

Featuring star entertainer Naveen Polishetty and Meenakshi Chaudhary, the song showcases high-octane performances filled with infectious enthusiasm. Both actors light up the screen with effortless charm and spirited dance moves, emerging as the major highlights of the number. Their on-screen chemistry, combined with the celebratory setting, elevates the song into a full-fledged wedding spectacle.

Staged on a lavish scale, Raju Gaari Pelli Ro is choreographed by the ever-reliable Sekhar Master, whose energetic and crowd-friendly dance steps bring a perfect blend of tradition and mass entertainment. The song is further enriched by the presence of the ensemble cast, including Rao Ramesh and others, who add depth and fun to the wedding sequence. The result is a visually grand and joyous celebration that mirrors the spirit of a larger-than-life Telugu wedding.

After the blockbuster response to the first single “Bhimavaram Balma,” expectations were high for the second track—and the makers have delivered yet another winner. Raju Gaari Pelli Ro is sung by Anurag Kulkarni and Sameera Bharadwaj, whose lively vocals perfectly complement the festive mood. The song’s lyrics, penned by Chandrabose, add cultural flavor and emotion, while Mickey J Meyer’s energetic composition ties everything together with a foot-tapping rhythm.

The track stands out for its rich production values, colorful costumes, and elaborate sets, all of which enhance the celebratory vibe. Every frame bursts with joy, capturing the essence of a wedding celebration that is both traditional and cinematic. The song’s mass appeal is evident from the positive response it has received across digital platforms, with fans praising its choreography, music, and visual scale.

So far, all promotional content from Anaganaga Oka Raju has been met with overwhelming enthusiasm, indicating strong buzz ahead of the film’s release. With the theatrical release drawing closer, the team is gearing up to unveil more engaging updates and promotional material to keep the excitement alive.

Produced by Suryadevara Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya under the banners of Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas, and presented by Srikara Studios, the film marks the directorial debut of Maari. With Mickey J Meyer composing the music, the film promises a wholesome blend of entertainment, emotion, and celebration.

Anaganaga Oka Raju is slated for a grand theatrical release on January 14, 2026, coinciding with the Sankranti festival. With songs like Raju Gaari Pelli Ro setting the tone, expectations are high for the film to deliver a festive entertainer that resonates with audiences across age groups.

Amaravathiki Ahwanam Unveils New Poster on Christmas, Post-Production in Full Swing

Horror thrillers continue to dominate the box office, and the upcoming film Amaravathiki Ahwanam is gearing up to capitalize on the genre’s growing popularity. Promising an edge-of-the-seat cinematic experience, the film has already generated positive buzz, with its title and early promotional content receiving encouraging responses from audiences.

Starring Siva Kantamneni, Dhanya Balakrishna, Ester, Supritha, and Harish in lead roles, Amaravathiki Ahwanam also features seasoned actors Ashok Kumar, Bhadram, Gemini Suresh, and Nagendra Prasad in pivotal roles. The film is directed by GVK and produced by K.S. Shankar Rao and R. Venkateswara Rao under the Light House Cine Magic banner. It is presented by G. Rambabu Yadav, with production supervision by noted producer Muppa Venkaiah Chowdary.

Shot extensively across Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Madhya Pradesh, the film has wrapped up its principal photography and is currently progressing rapidly through post-production. Marking the festive occasion of Christmas, the makers released a brand-new poster and glimpse, extending holiday wishes while heightening anticipation for the film.

Speaking on the occasion, lead actor Siva Kantamneni expressed confidence in the project, stating that the title and concept have already struck a chord with audiences. He praised the ensemble cast and credited director GVK for delivering a strong narrative that gives equal importance to every character. He also revealed that VFX work is underway and assured that the film will offer a gripping theatrical experience.

Director GVK highlighted the recent success of horror films and said Amaravathiki Ahwanam would stand apart with its unique story and engaging narration. He lauded the contributions of cinematographer J. Prabhakar Reddy, editor Saibabu Talari, and music director Padmanabh Bharadwaj for enhancing the film’s eerie atmosphere.

With post-production nearing completion, the team is planning an extensive promotional campaign ahead of a grand theatrical release.



The first look poster of the highly anticipated Telugu film Wanted Boyfriend (Vaste Vadhalam), produced under the Indra Company banner, was launched with grandeur at Rambabu Studio in Srinagar Colony on the occasion of Christmas. The poster was unveiled by renowned producer Tummalapalli Ram Satyanarayana, marking the official announcement of this fresh cinematic venture.

Speaking at the event, Ram Satyanarayana praised Subbareddy for taking the initiative to present a new film under Indra Company, emphasizing the importance of introducing new directors and artists to the industry. He also expressed his hope that the film would achieve success similar to small-budget hits like Little Hearts and Raju Weds Rambai.

Director and producer Korral Subbareddy shared that the film caters to the growing demand for content that resonates with the youth. He explained that Wanted Boyfriend (Vaste Vadhalam) combines romance, trust, betrayal, crime, and suspense to create an emotional, youthful crime-romantic drama, which he believes will connect with audiences of all ages.

Representatives of Indra Company revealed that cinematographer Surya from Mumbai will deliver stunning visuals, while music directors Vijay Bolla and Arjun Dev are crafting a soundtrack designed to heighten the emotions and appeal to younger audiences. The shooting is scheduled to commence in Hyderabad and Goa from March, and the film will also introduce a new heroine to Telugu cinema.

Starring Madan Babu alongside heroines Priyanka, Sushma, V.G.R. Sakshi, and Mahira, and supported by actors like Imam Wali, Sunitha, Ankel Gopalakrishna, and Phani, the film promises a blend of engaging performances, compelling music, and captivating visuals. With its intriguing storyline and youthful appeal, Wanted Boyfriend (Vaste Vadhalam) is poised to be one of the most talked-about Telugu films of 2026.

Korral Subbareddy’s ‘Wanted Boyfriend (Vaste Vadhalam)’ First Look Unveiled on Indra Company Banner



Hyderabad, December 26, 2025:

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Shambhala Wins Audience Applause; Director Ugandhar Muni Shares Insights



The Telugu film Shambhala, starring Aadi in the lead role, is enjoying a successful theatrical run following its release on December 25. Backed by strong word-of-mouth from premiere shows, the film opened to impressive Day One collections and continues to attract steady crowds at theatres. Directed by Ugandhar Muni and produced by Mahidhar Reddy and Rajashekhar Annabhimoju under the Shining Pictures banner, the film has emerged as one of the notable recent successes.

Speaking to the media, director Ugandhar Muni revealed that the idea for Shambhala took shape nearly three years ago. He first shared the concept with producer Rajashekhar Annabhimoju, with whom he has worked closely for several years. The story later received the support of producer Mahidhar Reddy, paving the way for the film’s production.

The director said he approached the story with a strong sense of responsibility. “I was very clear that no one’s beliefs or sentiments should be hurt. From the beginning, my focus was on balancing science and spirituality in a respectful and meaningful way,” he explained.

Expressing happiness over the audience response, Ugandhar Muni said witnessing packed theatres and ‘House Full’ boards has been a surreal experience. He noted that the film is also receiving encouraging feedback in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Several industry personalities, including actors and filmmakers, have called to congratulate the team on the film’s success.

The director heaped praise on lead actor Aadi, calling him a complete performer who brought sincerity and intensity to the role. Despite facing injuries during the shoot, Aadi remained committed and delivered a performance that has resonated with audiences.

On the technical front, Shambhala has received acclaim for its visuals and sound. Cinematographer Praveen K. Bangari, composer Sricharan Pakala, and the sound team played a key role in enhancing the film’s impact.

Ugandhar Muni also disclosed that the team conducted extensive research on meteor impact zones, studying incidents in Brazil to lend authenticity to the narrative. Looking ahead, the director confirmed that his next project will also be under the Shining Pictures banner, with details to be announced soon.

perience during the holidays.

So far, the film has crossed the impressive ₹130 crore mark at the Indian box office, a milestone that reflects its massive reach and sustained audience interest. Industry analysts point out that the film’s performance is particularly noteworthy given the competitive holiday release window, underscoring the franchise’s unparalleled pull in the Indian market.

The strong word-of-mouth has played a crucial role in sustaining the film’s momentum. Audiences have praised the film’s scale, visual grandeur, and James Cameron’s visionary direction, leading to repeat viewership in several urban centres.

With its continued dominance through the Christmas season and steady collections thereafter, Avatar: Fire and Ash stands tall as a defining cinematic success of the year. The film has not only set new benchmarks for Hollywood releases in India but has also reaffirmed India’s importance as a key global market for large-scale international cinema.

Shambhala Registers Record-Breaking Start for Aadi Saikumar

Hyderabad, December 26, 2025 – Aadi Saikumar has scored a career-defining opening with Shambhala, which has stormed the box office with a record-breaking first day. The film delivered the highest opening-day numbers of the actor’s career, instantly positioning itself as one of the surprise holiday successes of the season.

Directed by Ugandhar Muni and produced by Mahidhar Reddy and Rajashekhar Annabhimoju, Shambhala released amid growing curiosity and quickly converted that buzz into strong footfalls from the very first show. Trade circles were particularly taken aback by the scale of the response, as the film opened in a relatively limited number of theatres.

Reports from across Telugu-speaking regions indicate that multiplexes in major cities and single screens in smaller towns

witnessed encouraging occupancies through the day. As evening and night shows began, several centres reported near-packed and full-house screenings, reflecting strong audience interest. The momentum continued to build show after show, driven by positive early reactions.

Despite its controlled release strategy, Shambhala posted an impressive worldwide gross of approximately 3.5 crore on its opening day. The unexpected demand has already prompted exhibitors to add additional screens and shows from the second day, signalling growing confidence in the film’s box-office potential.

What makes the opening particularly noteworthy is the nature of the audience response. Rather than relying solely on star power or conventional commercial hooks, Shambhala appears to

have connected through its distinctive storytelling. Viewers have praised the film’s unconventional narrative structure, which steers clear of familiar formulas and unfolds at a measured, immersive pace.

Aadi Saikumar’s performance has emerged as one of the film’s biggest talking points. Audiences and critics alike are applauding his restrained and confident portrayal, with many describing it as among his most mature and refined performances to date. The film’s technical strengths, including its visual treatment and sound design, have also drawn appreciation, adding to the overall cinematic experience.

Word-of-mouth has been largely positive since early shows, helping the film maintain strong momentum throughout the day. Social media chatter has further amplified inter-



est, particularly among younger audiences looking for content-driven cinema during the festive season.

With the advantage of the Christmas holiday window and steadily expanding screen count, Shambhala is well placed

for a sustained run at the box office. If the current trend continues, the film could mark a significant turning point in Aadi Saikumar’s career and reinforce the growing appetite for fresh, offbeat narratives in mainstream Telugu cinema.

Avatar: Fire and Ash Dominates Indian Box Office, Becomes Biggest Hollywood Film of 2025

James Cameron’s much-anticipated spectacle Avatar: Fire and Ash has firmly cemented its position as the biggest Hollywood release of 2025 in India, delivering a phenomenal box office performance and once again proving the enduring strength of the iconic Avatar franchise among Indian audiences.

The film witnessed an exceptional surge during the Christmas holiday season, emerging as the undisputed leader at the box office. On Christmas Day, Avatar: Fire and Ash outperformed all competing releases across lan-

guages, maintaining strong occupancy levels in multiplexes as well as single-screen theatres. Trade experts note that the film has not only opened big but has also shown remarkable consistency, setting the stage for a powerful second weekend.

One of the standout aspects of the film’s success has been its universal appeal. During the festive period, Avatar: Fire and Ash became the top choice for family audiences, attracting viewers across age groups. The immersive storytelling, cutting-edge visual ef-



fects, and emotionally resonant narrative have struck a chord with Indian moviegoers, making it a preferred big-screen ex-