



Ayesha Meera Case, A brutal example for our system's failure

TPN Bureau | December 27

The murder of Ayesha Meera, a young woman residing in a hostel in Vijayawada, continues to haunt Andhra Pradesh even after 18 long years, standing as a stark reminder of the failures of the criminal justice system. Despite multiple investigations, court proceedings, and public outcry, the case remains unresolved, with no final accountability fixed, deepening public distrust in law enforcement and political neutrality.

Ayesha Meera was found murdered under suspicious circumstances during the regime of then Chief Minister Dr Y.S. Rajasekhar Reddy. From the beginning, the case attracted widespread attention due to allegations of political interference. It was widely alleged that the prime accused was a politically influential individual, said to be the grandson of a senior Congress leader. These allegations, though never conclusively proven in court, shaped the public narrative and cast a long shadow over the investigation.

In what later emerged as a grave miscarriage of justice, the police arrested Satyan Babu, a small-time thief, and charged him with the crime. He spent nearly eight years in prison before sustained efforts by advocates, civil rights groups, and Ayesha Meera's parents led to a re-examination of the case. The High Court eventually ordered his release, observing that he had been falsely implicated and that the investigation was deeply flawed. The court's observations reinforced concerns that the real culprits were shielded while an innocent man paid the price with his youth and freedom.

The release of Satyan Babu, however, did not bring closure. Instead, it raised more troubling questions. If the man convicted was innocent, who committed the crime? Why did the investigation fail to move forward even after the court exposed serious lapses? These questions remain unanswered to this day.

Successive governments and police ad-

ministrations, regardless of the political party in power, have failed to identify or prosecute the real offender. Even the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which later took over the probe, could not provide a definitive conclusion that satisfied the victim's family. Ayesha Meera's parents have repeatedly expressed disappointment, alleging that powerful interests continued to obstruct justice.

Over the years, a disturbing story has circulated widely among the local public. According to these allegations, the hostel where Ayesha Meera was murdered was owned by relatives of the alleged accused. It is claimed that illegal activities were taking place there and that Ayesha Meera accidentally became aware of them. The narrative suggests that she was killed to silence her and that sexual assault was staged to divert attention from the alleged larger scandal. These claims, though unproven, have persisted due to the absence of transparency and credible closure from investigat-

ing agencies.

Adding to public anger is the belief that the alleged accused has been living abroad, leading a comfortable life, while Ayesha Meera's parents continue their struggle for justice. For many, this contrast symbolizes a system where power and connections outweigh truth and accountability.

The Ayesha Meera case is no longer just about one crime. It has become a symbol of how investigations can be derailed by political influence, how institutions can fail the vulnerable, and how delayed justice often amounts to justice denied. It has also exposed the human cost of such failures—an innocent man losing eight years of his life, and parents spending nearly two decades seeking answers for their daughter's death.

As the case approaches two decades, public faith in the system remains shaken. Without a fair, transparent, and independent reinvestigation, the Ayesha Meera case will continue to be cited as a painful example of systemic

failure—one that raises an uncomfortable but necessary question: can justice truly be delivered when power stands above the law?

• 18 years for death of Ayesha Meera

- Still no reveal of real culprit
- Political influence erased the crime
- The accused is grandson of a Deceased Congress Leader
- The incident happened under YSR regime
- Knowingly protected the accused, allegedly
- The Police framed an innocent and he got 8 years jail life
- The High Court made justice to him
- The accused is in abroad
- The parents struggling to get justice

CM Chandrababu Warns Against Rowdyism, Inaugurates District Police Office

TPN Bureau | December 27:

Tirupati: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Friday expressed strong displeasure over the alleged unruly behavior of YSRCP cadres, warning that his government would not tolerate any form of "political hooliganism."

Addressing police personnel after inaugurating the newly constructed District Police Office (DPO) in Tirupati, the Chief Minister said that remnants of the previous administration's lawlessness were still visible and must be completely eradicated to restore peace and public confidence. Deploring acts such as the sacrifice of animals and sprinkling blood on posters to mark political celebrations, Naidu said such superstitious and violent practices instill fear in society. "If they want to

celebrate their leader's birthday, they can do so within the law—but not through acts that disturb social harmony," he warned. Referring to the 2019-2024 YSRCP regime, Naidu alleged that many acts during that period desecrated the sanctity of Tirumala and hurt the sentiments of devotees.

"Anyone who disrespects Lord Venkateswara will face consequences in this very life," he remarked, urging police and TTD officials to remain vigilant during the ten-day Vaikuntha Ekadashi festivities to ensure Tirumala remains a crime-free, peaceful city. The Chief Minister directed officials to intensify surveillance on rowdy-sheets using modern technology and ensure both "visible and invisible policing." He recalled his earlier efforts to curb gang violence in Rayalaseema, adding that even

leaders of his own party had faced action for unlawful activities. "Criminals must realize that they can no longer escape the law," he said. Naidu criticized continuing indecent social media posts from YSRCP supporters, calling them "vulgar and anti-social." He cautioned that his government would deal firmly with murders and anti-social behavior, emphasizing that he would never encourage such leaders. Praising the local police, Naidu appreciated their strong stance against narcotics and smuggling, noting that 179 offenders had been jailed recently. He lauded the "No Helmet, No Petrol" initiative and commended the Collector and SP for promoting greenery in the new police campus with the cooperation of TUDA. Home Minister V. Anita informed the Chief Minister that after the DGP headquarters, Tirupati's new DPO is the largest in the state, built on a 30,200 sq. ft area. She requested similar support for constructing police offices across other districts.



CM Naidu Attends NTR Educational Institutions Annual Day in Hyderabad

TPN Bureau | December 27

Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu participated in the annual day celebrations of NTR Educational Institutions held in Hyderabad, Telangana, on Friday. The event, organised under the auspices of the NTR Memorial Trust, brought together students, faculty, alumni, and dignitaries in a vibrant celebration of educational excellence and social service.

The Chief Minister, accompanied by NTR Trust Managing Trustee Nara Bhuvaneswari, toured the campus and interacted with students and faculty members. Upon arrival, Naidu was accorded a warm welcome by the students, who presented a guard of honour. He appreciated the students' confidence and discipline, urging them to aim high and contribute meaningfully to society. Addressing the gathering, Naidu expressed pride in the progress and reputation of the NTR Trust and its educational institutions, which were established with a vision to provide quality education, promote empowerment, and extend humanitarian services.

"Education is the true foundation of development.

Institutions like NTR Trust Schools are nurturing not just academic talent but responsible citizens who can lead India into a brighter future," he said. The Chief Minister, along with his spouse Bhuvaneswari, keenly watched the cultural programmes performed by students.

The colourful presentations showcased the rich tradition of Indian art and culture while underlining themes of unity, service, and progress. The audience responded enthusiastically, appreciating the students' performances and creative expressions. An audio-visual presentation was screened, narrating the journey of the NTR Trust since its inception. The film highlighted the Trust's milestones in education, healthcare, women empowerment, and social development. It depicted the institution's commitment to extending support to underprivileged sections, alongside the leadership of Bhuvaneswari and the guidance of Naidu.

The presentation also acknowledged the contributions of Minister Nara Lokesh and his spouse Brahmani in steering various youth and innovation initiatives. Key initiatives of the Trust featured during the presentation included the operation of the Tha-

lassaemia Care Centre, provision of safe drinking water in rural areas, establishment of Stree Sakthi Centres for women empowerment, and organisation of skill development training to enhance employability. The Trust's proactive role in relief and rescue operations during natural calamities was also highlighted, reflecting its multi-dimensional approach to social service.

Former students Harikrishna and Uma Sri, who now hold senior positions in reputed organisations, shared their inspiring success stories. They credited the institution for shaping their careers and instilling in them the values of hard work, compassion, and leadership. Their testimonials drew applause from the audience and served as motivation for the current students.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhuvaneswari reaffirmed the Trust's dedication to expanding educational and community welfare activities. She said the Trust remains committed to offering holistic education that combines academics with ethics and empathy.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks and the national anthem, marking a day of pride and inspiration for the NTR Educational Institutions community.

Registrar Faces New Allegations of Misconduct; Justice Mandava Kiranmayi Reportedly Misled

TPN Bureau | December 27

Ongole: Fresh controversy has erupted around Registrar A.R.V.O., with serious allegations of misconduct and manipulation being raised by a whistleblower who claims that the official submitted false affidavits to the court and misled Justice Mandava Kiranmayi. The whistleblower has vowed to continue the legal battle against the alleged irregularities involving the Registrar and others associated with past election-related activities.

In a series of strongly worded statements shared on social media and messaging platforms, the whistleblower accused Registrar A.R.V.O. of not only deceiving the judiciary but also of violating appointment procedures prescribed under Letter No. 9954 of 2011. According to this rule, the post of Registrar should be filled only through an open public call for qualified applications, ensuring merit-based selection.

However, the complainant alleged that this

process was bypassed and that the position was instead irregularly assigned within the Drugs Control Department—an act described as contrary to established recruitment norms. The whistleblower further alleged that despite previous controversies and complaints about the Registrar's conduct, the authorities allowed the continuation of the same officer's tenure, allegedly due to the influence of an individual named William Carey.

"Even though false affidavits were filed to mislead the court, the game has not stopped yet," the statement read. "We will keep fighting with facts until justice is done. The collusion between William Carey and Dinesh Kumar in election irregularities will be exposed through appeals and election petitions," the message continued.

These allegations have rekindled debate about transparency and accountability in administrative appointments, particularly in departments handling sensitive

public functions. The mention of election-related malpractice also brings a political dimension to the case, suggesting that the issue could resurface in higher judicial forums or election tribunals in the coming months. Observers from legal and bureaucratic circles say the claims merit serious inquiry, especially since the allegations directly concern William Carey and Dinesh Kumar in election irregularities will be exposed through appeals and election petitions.

No official statement has been issued by the Drugs Control Department or the concerned appointing authority. Legal analysts note that the forthcoming appeals and election petitions, mentioned by the whistleblower, will likely determine the veracity of these claims and decide whether action will follow against the accused officials.

Administrative experts emphasize the need for the government to examine whether the ap-

pointment and continuation of the Registrar were indeed in accordance with procedural and constitutional norms. As of now, neither Registrar A.R.V.O. nor the officials named in the allegations have publicly responded to the charges. No official statement has been issued by the Drugs Control Department or the concerned appointing authority.

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YSRCP Leaders Create Uproar in Nallajerla: Goat Sacrifice Before Jagan Plexi Sparks Police Action

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Nallajerla: An unusual and disturbing political incident has come to light from Chodavaram village in Nallajerla mandal of East Godavari district, where ruling YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leaders allegedly performed a goat sacrifice in front of a flex banner of Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. The act, carried out late on Friday night, has led to widespread condemnation and swift police intervention.

Witnesses said the participants shouted provocative slogans, using phrases intended to incite excitement among onlookers. Videos of the ritual, recorded by the participants themselves, quickly spread across social media platforms, drawing public outrage. Following the incident, police rushed to the village



on Saturday morning. East Godavari Superintendent of Police (SP) Narasinha Kishore personally reviewed the situation and ordered immediate action.

By Saturday afternoon, seven YSRCP leaders believed to be involved in the incident were taken into custody. Police are currently investigating the motives behind the act and verifying whether it was planned by local leaders or carried out independently by enthusiastic followers. SP Narasinha Kishore emphasized that such superstitious and lawless acts have no place in modern society. "We will

take stringent action against anyone who performs animal sacrifices in public places or uses such acts to create fear or unrest," he said. He also warned political workers and supporters that conducting rituals involving animal sacrifice in front of public or political symbols would invite strict legal consequences. The district administration has increased surveillance in politically sensitive areas to prevent any repeat incidents. Senior police officers are monitoring social media for any further circulation of the videos or attempts to glorify the act. Locals ex-

pressed shock and concern over the incident, calling it "unacceptable and disturbing." Opposition parties have reportedly condemned the act, accusing the ruling party of encouraging blind hero-worship and superstition. The police are expected to file criminal charges under relevant sections related to animal cruelty, public nuisance, and actions likely to disturb public order. The incident has once again sparked discussions on the growing trend of extreme political idolization and the need for responsible leadership at the local level.

Andhra Pradesh Government Sanctions 128.33 Crore Relief for Onion Farmers

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Amaravati: In a major relief to farmers hit by the steep fall in onion prices, the Andhra Pradesh government has released 128.33 crore in financial assistance to support growers who suffered severe losses this season. The aid will benefit 37,752 registered onion farmers across the four Rayalaseema districts Kadapa, Anantapur, Kurnool, and Chittoor where onion production faced significant market distress due to price fluctuations and oversupply.

According to official sources, the financial

relief was sanctioned after a detailed assessment conducted by the Agriculture Department revealed widespread loss of returns for farmers despite stable productivity levels. The government decided to extend a compensation of 20 per quintal to eligible farmers who have registered their crop details under the e-Crop system. This initiative, officials said, underscores the government's commitment to safeguarding farmer interests and ensuring income stability amid volatile market conditions. By linking the relief disbursal to e-Crop registration data,

the administration has aimed to ensure transparency, accuracy, and the direct transfer of funds to genuine beneficiaries. Relief Focuses on Rayalaseema Farmers The Rayalaseema region, comprising mainly dryland areas, has been one of the principal onion-producing zones in Andhra Pradesh. However, the current marketing season witnessed a dramatic fall in wholesale onion prices, leaving many small and marginal farmers unable to recover even their input costs. In several local markets of Kadapa, Anantapur, and Kurnool, prices dropped be-

low 500 per quintal at the peak of harvest, compared to the average price of 1,200–1,500 received in previous years.

The government's decision to provide per quintal support is expected to partially offset these losses and improve farmers' confidence. Officials highlighted that all payments would be deposited directly into the bank accounts of eligible farmers within the next few days. Government Commitment to Farmer Welfare Speaking about the initiative, Agriculture Department authorities stated that Chief Minister Y.S.

Jagan Mohan Reddy has consistently emphasized farmer welfare as the government's top priority.

Over the past few years, several targeted measures including input subsidies, market intervention operations, and crop insurance support have been implemented to protect farmers from both natural and market-related adversities. This latest relief package, they added, is part of a larger ongoing effort to stabilize the agricultural economy in the state and ensure timely support to farmers cultivating perishable crops. The focus on e-Crop

linked disbursement also reflects Andhra Pradesh's growing use of technology in managing agricultural operations and delivering welfare benefits.

Future Market Support Measures
Officials have further indicated that the government is exploring long-term market management strategies, including the promotion of onion storage infrastructure and farmer producer organizations (FPOs) to strengthen bargaining power and minimize distress sales. Coordination with the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India

(NAFED) and local cooperative societies is also being considered to ensure price stabilization in future seasons.

With this move, the Andhra Pradesh government has reaffirmed its proactive approach to rural distress mitigation.



As the 128.33 crore relief reaches thousands of onion farmers across the Rayalaseema belt, it offers a timely boost to the farming community battling the uncertainties of agricultural markets.

Negligence Alleged in Vote Security During AP Pharmacy Council Elections: AP Pharma JAC Slams

TPN Bureau | December 27:

Vijayawada, : The Andhra Pradesh Joint Action Committee (AP Pharma JAC) has strongly criticized the Returning Officer for the Andhra Pradesh Pharmacy Council elections, accusing him of gross negligence and lack of transparency in handling the voting material. The JAC alleged that ballot boxes containing pharmacists' votes were stored and transported in an insecure manner, casting serious doubts on the integrity of the election process.

AP Pharma JAC leaders claimed that the Returning Officer failed to ensure proper sealing and safeguarding of the ballot boxes after polling. According to their allegations, the boxes were locked with frail, easily removable locks likened to students securing their hostel luggage with flimsy padlocks. They said that the absence of proper wax seals or official security tags made the entire procedure highly questionable and susceptible to tampering.

The JAC leaders further alleged that this negligence was not accidental but deliberate, claiming it reflected bias toward a particular group of candidates. "The way this election is being conducted is a mockery of

democratic principles," one of the JAC representatives said. "If such carelessness continues, there is no difference between holding an election and not holding one at all."

According to the JAC, the ballot boxes were transported to the counting center without any official supervision, documented security measures, or the presence of authorized representatives. This, they argued, goes against the norms laid down for the conduct of elections to statutory bodies. The JAC demanded immediate corrective measures from the authorities and urged the state government to intervene to ensure transparency. AP Pharma JAC leaders also criticized the Election Returning Officer for failing to uphold the sanctity of the democratic process. They expressed fears that the mis-handling of ballot materials could lead to manipulation of results, thereby invalidating the voice of the registered pharmacists who exercised their franchise.

Several pharmacists reportedly voiced concerns on social media and in meetings, questioning the fairness of the election. "The election process is supposed to be impartial and accountable. In this case, the com-



Farmers Who Gave Land for Amaravati to Receive Loans Without Old Link Documents

TPN Bureau | December 27:

Vijayawada: Union Minister of State for Rural Development Pemmasani Chandrasekhar on Saturday announced that banks have agreed to extend loans to farmers who gave their lands for the establishment of the Amaravati capital city, even if they lack land link documents for the past 30 years. This marks a significant relief for hundreds of farmers who had faced difficulties in securing loans due to documentation issues after contributing their land for the capital's development.

Speaking to reporters after a review meeting held at the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) office in Vijayawada, Pemmasani Chandrasekhar said the

Centre and the state government are committed to resolving long-pending issues concerning Amaravati farmers. He stated that the banking sector had responded positively to the farmers' concerns, agreeing not to insist on traditional link documents that trace ownership for multiple decades, as long as digital and revenue records confirm their participation in the land pooling scheme.

The meeting was attended by members of the three-member committee constituted by the state government to address the grievances of Amaravati farmers. The committee held extensive discussions with officials and farmers' representatives on issues such as compensation disbursal, loan eligibility, in-

frastructure completion, and re-validation of development agreements. Dr. Chandrasekhar noted that the farmers' contribution to the capital development project was invaluable and assured that efforts were being taken to safeguard their rights and support their livelihood. He appreciated the cooperation extended by public and private sector banks in facilitating agricultural loans, term loans, and crop loans without unnecessary procedural delays. Committee members briefed that the government was reviewing the progress of returnable plots, pending layout approvals, and proposals for extending development works in partially completed zones. They emphasized that addressing the farmers' financial and

legal concerns would be treated as a top priority to rebuild confidence in the Amaravati development process. Farmers who participated in the meeting expressed relief over the minister's assurance, stating that loan ineligibility had become a major hurdle in their agricultural operations and personal finances. With banks agreeing to simplify norms, many said they hope to resume farming and livelihood activities without further distress. The committee is scheduled to submit its report to the state government shortly, outlining the measures required to accelerate the resolution of Amaravati-related issues and strengthen coordination between farmers, banks, and state agencies.

Land assigned for Buddist Heritage

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In a major step toward conserving India's ancient Buddhist legacy, the Andhra Pradesh government has allotted five acres of land at Nagarjunakonda in NTR district for establishing the National Academy for Rural Buddhist Heritage Conservation and Development. The project aims to position the state at the forefront of India's movement to preserve and rejuvenate its rich but largely neglected rural Buddhist sites.

The announcement was made during the closing session of the three-day International Conference on the Preservation of Rural Buddhist Heritage, held recently in New Delhi. The conference culminated in the adoption of the Delhi Declaration, a comprehensive national framework for the conservation and inclusive revitalization of Buddhist heritage across India.

Renowned heritage expert Professor Amareswar Galla, Chief Curator of Amaravathi Her-



itage Town and visiting professor at the University of Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam, will lead the initiative. He emphasized that the proposed Academy would serve as a center for research, training, community engagement, and sustainable heritage management focusing on rural Buddhist monuments, monasteries, and cultural landscapes. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Galla said the Academy would integrate tradi-

tional knowledge systems with modern conservation science. "This initiative will empower local communities, promote heritage-based livelihoods, and reconnect rural India with its Buddhist roots," he noted. The AP government's approval of land at Nagarjunakonda home to one of the most important Buddhist archaeological sites in South India carries deep symbolic significance.

The region once thrived as a

major center of Buddhist learning under the Ikshvaku dynasty and continues to attract scholars and pilgrims from across the world. Officials from the Department of Tourism and Culture stated that the Academy would work closely with national and international institutions, Buddhist organizations, and UNESCO to develop a comprehensive model for rural Buddhist heritage management.

It will also initiate collaborative research, digital documentation, and capacity-building programs for heritage professionals and local youth. The establishment of the National Academy marks a milestone in Andhra Pradesh's cultural outreach and its commitment to protecting the state's diverse spiritual and archaeological heritage. Once operational, it is expected to serve as a hub linking local communities, researchers, and policymakers in advancing India's Buddhist conservation efforts.

Tragedy at Amaravati Gram Sabha: Farmer Collapses and Dies in Front of Minister Narayana

TPN Bureau | December 27

Amaravati: A tragic incident unfolded in the Amaravati Capital Region on Saturday during a gram sabha meeting held at Mandadam village, where Municipal Administration Minister Dr. P. Narayana was present. A local farmer, identified as Rama Rao, collapsed and died moments after he emotionally explained the injustice he allegedly faced in the distribution of plots under the Amaravati capital land pooling scheme.

According to witnesses, Rama Rao spoke passionately at the meeting, accusing officials and the minister himself of being responsible for the plight of several farmers who gave their lands for the capital project. Reports say that Rama Rao alleged that because of Minister Narayana's instructions, he and other farmers were allotted plots in water-logged ar-



eas instead of the prime zones near the Seed Access Road.

Visibly distressed, Rama Rao demanded that all affected farmers be allotted plots only along the Seed Access Road, arguing that dispersed and fragmented allotments were akin to "cutting our throats."

While narrating his grievance and expressing deep anguish, he

suddenly collapsed on the floor. People present at the venue, including local villagers and officials, rushed to his aid and performed CPR before shifting him to a nearby hospital. However, doctors later confirmed that Rama Rao had passed away.

The news of his sudden demise created a wave of shock and sorrow throughout the

meeting and the locality. The farmer's emotional outburst and subsequent death have stirred intense criticism and public outrage. Farmer associations condemned the incident, demanding justice for Rama Rao's family and immediate government intervention. They called for an inquiry into the alleged irregularities in plot al-

lotments and held officials accountable for the injustice that, they claim, pushed the farmer to emotional breakdown.

The Amaravati capital project, embroiled in controversy since its inception, once again finds itself at the center of political debate following this incident. Opposition parties are expected to raise the issue both in the media and on public platforms, questioning the government's handling of displaced farmers. As news of Rama Rao's death spreads, all eyes are now on the state government's response.

Minister Narayana has yet to issue a detailed statement, though officials have assured that the matter is being examined.

The tragic event has once again underscored the simmering tension surrounding the Amaravati farmers' grievances and the urgent need for a transparent and fair resolution process.

Amaravati Farmer Ramarao's Death Highlights Capital Neglect: CPM Leader Ch. Baburao

TPN Bureau | December 27

A tragic incident in Amaravati has sparked outrage and renewed criticism of both the state and central governments' inaction over the prolonged capital region disputes. Dondapati Ramarao, a farmer from Mandadam village in Guntur district, reportedly died of a heart attack on Saturday after expressing anguish during a meeting with officials regarding land pooling and road alignment issues.

According to reports, Minister P. Narayana, MLA Sravan Kumar,

and CRDA Additional Commissioner Bhargav Teja had convened a review meeting with local farmers. During the discussion, Ramarao voiced his frustration over unfulfilled promises and the government's decisions impacting Amaravati farmers. Moments later, he collapsed on the spot and was declared dead.

His body was later brought to his residence in Mandadam, where local CPM leaders paid their respects. Communist Party of India (Marxist) state committee member Ch. Baburao, accompanied by Guntur District Secretary Y. Netaji and

Capital Region Secretary M. Ravi, visited Ramarao's home to offer condolences. Speaking to the media later, Baburao alleged that successive governments have deceived the farmers who gave up their lands for the Amaravati capital project.

He said despite several appeals, their legitimate grievances have gone unheard for over a decade. Baburao accused the government of adopting anti-farmer policies by pushing for a second phase of land pooling while failing to complete development in the first phase. He demanded that the gov-

ernment immediately withdraw the new pooling plans and instead focus on delivering justice to the farmers who had already surrendered their land.

He also urged recon-

sideration of the pro-

posed road through

Mandadam village de-

spite existing 60-meter-

wide roads around it,

citing the move as un-

necessary and distress-

ing for residents who

have already lost land.

The CPM leader held

both state and central

governments responsible

for Amaravati's

stagnation. He criti-

cized the Telugu Desam

Party for turning the

capital project into a

publicity exercise during its earlier tenure and accused the current TDP government, as well as the previous YSRCP administration, of failing to live up to promises.

Baburao also con-

demned the BJP-led

Centre for not releasing

assured funds or grant-

ing legal recognition to

the capital despite rul-

ing for ten years. "Ramarao's death reflects the pain and despair of Amaravati's farmers," Baburao said, calling on the government to act immediately, resolve farmers' issues, and honor all commitments made to them.

BJP AP President P.V.N. Madhav Demands Protection for Hindus in Bangladesh

TPN Bureau | December 27

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh BJP President P.V.N. Madhav has called for immediate international attention and strong protective measures for Hindus in Bangladesh, expressing deep concern over the recent attacks and atrocities targeting the minority community. Addressing the media on Saturday, Madhav said the reports emerging from Bangladesh were "deeply disturbing" and demanded that the Bangladesh government take swift action to ensure the safety and dignity of the Hindu population.

He emphasized that religious minorities should not be subjected to violence or persecution and that "human rights have no borders." Madhav urged all political parties and public representatives in India to observe the developments in Bangladesh closely and speak out in support of the Hindu community facing violence there. He appealed to leaders across the political spectrum to raise their

voices on moral and humanitarian grounds, transcending partisan lines to defend the rights of persecuted minorities.

"The incidents being reported show a pattern of mob attacks and killings against Hindus," he said, adding that such actions cannot be justified under any circumstance. He appreciated the response of civil society, including prominent personalities from the Indian film industry,

who have condemned the violence through social media. Citing the public posts made by actresses Janhvi Kapoor and Kajal Aggarwal, and senior actress and former MP Jayaprada, Madhav remarked that their concern expressed online "provides some solace" to people pained by the continuing violence.

"It is heartening to see artists using their platform to highlight the plight of Hindus in Bangladesh," he said.

The BJP leader also welcomed the strong statement issued by India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) condemning the attacks and calling for the safety of minorities in Bangladesh. He said India has both a moral and diplomatic responsibility to raise the issue at appropriate international forums and ensure accountability.

Madhav urged the

Bangladesh govern-

ment to initiate strict

measures against those responsible for the attacks, restore confidence among minority communities, and uphold the rule of law. He also called upon human rights organizations worldwide to intervene and support justice for the victims. Concluding his remarks, Madhav reiterated that safeguarding minorities and preventing sectarian violence is crucial for regional peace and stability in South Asia.



They plotted my Assassination

TPN Bureau | December 27

Amaravati: Deputy Speaker Raghurama Krishnam Raju Levels Shocking Allegation Against IPS Officer Sunil Kumar Andhra Pradesh Deputy Speaker Raghurama Krishnam Raju (RRR) has once again stirred a political storm by making explosive allegations against senior IPS officer Sunil Kumar. The sharp war of words between the two has intensified in recent weeks, drawing the attention of both political and administrative circles across the state. Speaking to the media on Saturday, Raghurama Krishnam Raju alleged that a recent attack on him was the outcome of a conspiracy linked to Sunil Kumar's methods of functioning. In his shocking claim, RRR said, "They tried to kill me because I criticized Sunil Kumar's ways." He stated that after his assault, pres-

sure was brought upon doctors to prepare false medical reports that downplayed his injuries. According to RRR, a doctor identified as Prabhavathi was allegedly coerced into obtaining his signatures on fabricated documents to misrepresent his medical condition.

Using a sarcastic tone, he stated that Sunil Kumar was questioned for barely four hours before being let off. "It looked like they blessed him and sent him away," RRR said, casting doubt on the impartiality of the inquiry. He added that he was unaware whether the senior officer had been called for further questioning or not.

The verbal sparring between a high-ranking police officer and a top constitutional functionary has become one of the most discussed topics in Andhra Pradesh politics. Observers say the heated exchanges reflect growing friction between key administrative and political figures in the state. As both men continue to trade accusations, all eyes are now on the next phase of inquiry and the possible political fallout of this high-profile feud.

Don't worry Minister Assures Clarity on Raichoty District Headquarters Issue



TPN Bureau | December 27

Raichoty, December 27: Andhra Pradesh Minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy appealed to the people of Raichoty not to worry over the ongoing discussions regarding the district's administrative status. He assured that a final decision on the possible realignment of Raichoty has not yet been taken by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and emphasized that sincere efforts are being made to ensure that Raichoty continues as the headquarters of Annamaya district. Addressing local representatives, public leaders, and media persons in Raichoty on Saturday, the minister said the government is fully aware of the sentiments and expectations of the people. "Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has not made any final decision yet.

I will personally meet the Chief Minister in Vijayawada and explain the situation in detail. Every effort will be made to convince him to retain

Raichoty as the Annamaya District headquarters," he said. Reddy urged citizens, employees, and local organizations not to resort to agitation or spread apprehensions until the official announcement is made. He reiterated that the state government under Chandrababu Naidu is committed to acting in the larger public interest, giving priority to the views and developmental needs of each region.

"People need not get anxious. This government functions for the welfare and development of its people. We will act in a manner that safeguards the interests of Raichoty and Annamaya district," he stated emphatically. The minister also pointed out that the formation of new districts and subsequent administrative adjustments are complex processes that require careful evaluation of geographic, economic, and governance factors before any final call is taken.

He noted that while demands for new dis-

Govt Shelves Plans for Greater Vijayawada, Greater Tirupati for Now

TPN Bureau | December 27

Vijayawada: The Andhra Pradesh government has decided to temporarily put on hold the proposals to upgrade Vijayawada and Tirupati into "Greater" municipal corporations. Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Dr. P. Narayana announced that the decision was taken following directions from the Centre not to undertake delimitation exercises until the national census is completed.

Speaking to the media on Saturday, Minister Narayana said that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has reviewed the proposals and decided to defer further action for the time being. "There are certain administrative and legal difficulties in proceeding with the merger

of surrounding areas before the new census is over," Narayana explained. "The Centre has categorically instructed states not to conduct delimitation or expand municipal limits until the updated census figures are available," he added.

According to the minister, the idea behind creating Greater Vijayawada and Greater Tirupati was to strengthen urban governance and plan for future growth through unified civic administration. However, the delimitation of municipal boundaries requires updated population data, which can only be derived from the next census.

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu reportedly told officials that undertaking any major territorial restructuring before the census could lead to inconsistencies in population representation, resource allocation, and service delivery.

"The Chief Minister made it clear that census data will be crucial for any such exercise.



Therefore, the proposal will be revisited only after the enumeration process is completed," Narayana stated. The minister clarified that the government remains committed to im-

proving civic services and infrastructure in all urban areas, including Vijayawada and Tirupati, irrespective of the "Greater" tag.

Ongoing urban development projects, such as

drainage modernization, water supply expansion, and solid waste management, will continue as planned. "Even without the formal Greater designation, developmental initiatives

will not be slowed down," Narayana assured. The plan to create Greater Vijayawada was intended to merge several suburban municipalities and gram panchayats from Krishna and parts of Guntur districts, bringing them under a unified administrative framework.

Similarly, the Greater Tirupati proposal sought to integrate nearby local bodies in Tirupati Urban Development Authority (TUDA) limits into one large municipal corporation to ensure coordinated urban planning and infrastructure development. However, Central government guidelines related to delimitation, following the decision to hold the 2021 Census later than expected, have delayed such reorganization efforts and ensuring equitable development of all regions.

Once the census data is out, the government will reconsider both the Greater Vijayawada and Greater Tirupati models with a clear legal and demographic framework," an official said. For now, the state plans to concentrate on strengthening urban amenities within existing municipal limits and ensuring equitable development of all regions.

RMC Carnival Opens Grandly in Rajamahendravaram; Minister Durgesh Emphasizes

TPN Bureau | December 27



sary measures to encourage artists and institutions of art.

The carnival featured diverse attractions including musical concerts, colorful lighting displays, food stalls showcasing authentic Andhra cuisine, selfie booths, and recreational games for children. The minister, accompanied by District Collector Keerthi Chekuri, local MLAs, and other dignitaries, visited various stalls, tasted traditional delicacies, and interacted with local artists. Cultural troupes later entertained the audience with dynamic performances. Durgesh highlighted that the venue, named in honor of freedom fighter Brahmagyosula Subrahmanyam, had a legacy of community gatherings and was now witnessing its revival through such events. He remarked that the carnival brought festive cheer to the city and inspired citizens to reconnect with their cultural roots.

The minister announced plans to organize one major cultural festival every month up to the Godavari Pushkaralu in 2027, reviving Rajamahendravaram's past cultural glory. He also promised that classic events such as the Nandi Natakotsavam would soon be reinstated at the Annam Kalakshetram with full government support. District Collector Keerthi Chekuri praised the carnival as a welcome initiative that promoted art and culture while offering citizens a joyful experience.

Legislators Adireddy Srinivas and Battula Balaramakrishna, RUDA Chairman Boddu Venkatramana Chowdary, Municipal Commissioner Rahul Meena, and several senior officials were among those who attended the event, along with thousands of enthusiastic residents.

A new controversy of posts in Social media

TPN Bureau | December 27

Guntur: A fresh controversy has erupted in Andhra Pradesh after an objectionable social media post targeting Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan went viral. The post, which contained inappropriate remarks and a distorted portrayal of the Deputy CM's recent interaction with an elderly woman, has sparked widespread outrage among Jana Sena Party leaders, cadres, and his supporters.

According to reports, the man behind the post allegedly morphed or misrepresented a photograph of Pawan Kalyan meeting an elderly woman from Ippatam village in Tadepalli mandal, Guntur district. The Deputy CM had re-

cently visited the woman, Nageswaramma, to fulfill a promise he had made earlier. During the visit, Pawan Kalyan greeted her respectfully, bowed at her feet, and embraced her affectionately as a gesture of humility and compassion. He also extended financial assistance of 50,000 to her family and an additional 1 lakh for her grandson's education.

The meeting had earlier drawn appreciation on social media for its emotional warmth and sensitivity. However, the latest indecent post has drawn sharp condemnation across political circles and among the public. Jana Sena supporters accused the individual of deliberately attempting to malign the Deputy CM's personal image and political stature. They argued that such posts not only reflect moral degradation but also indicate a growing trend of politically motivated cyber abuse.

Following the uproar, local Jana Sena leaders and activists filed a formal complaint with the Guntur police demanding stringent legal action against the person responsible. They urged the authorities to apply relevant sections of the Information Technology Act and other criminal provisions to curb the spread of abusive and defamatory content online. The police have reportedly taken note of the complaint and initiated an inquiry to trace the individual who uploaded the offensive material.

CM Chandrababu Naidu Consoles Family of Amaravati Farmer Dondapati Rama Rao

TPN Bureau | December 27

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday personally reached out to the family members of capital region farmer Dondapati Rama Rao, who passed away on Friday after suffering a heart attack during a meeting with government officials regarding the N-8 road issue at Thullur in Guntur district. According to reports, Minister for Municipal Administration Dr. P. Narayana and MLA Sravan Kumar had convened a meeting on Friday with local farmers to discuss developmental activities and concerns over the proposed N-8 road alignment related to Amaravati's infrastructure projects. During this meeting, farmer Rama Rao suddenly collapsed due to a heart attack.

Despite immediate efforts to rush him to a nearby hospital, he was declared dead on arrival. Upon learning of the tragic incident, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu called the bereaved family on Saturday to personally express his condolences and extend support from the government. He reportedly spoke to the late farmer's relatives, offering words of comfort and assuring them that the state government would stand by the family during this difficult time. "The government is with you in this hour of grief," the Chief Minister told them, according to sources.

He instructed Minister Narayana and MLA Sravan Kumar to remain in close contact with the family and ensure that all necessary support, including financial and welfare assistance, is ex-

tended without delay. CM Naidu also directed officials to examine the circumstances that led to the incident and to take steps to address the grievances of the concerned farmers. Rama Rao, a farmer from the Amaravati capital region, had been one of the many landowners who had given their land for the development of the capital city.

Local residents and farmer groups expressed grief over his sudden death, recalling his active participation in the capital development discussions and his long-standing support for Amaravati's progress. Political leaders and members of the farming community in the region conveyed their condolences to the grieving family. Several leaders are expected to visit Thullur to meet the family in person.

The Chief Minister re-

iterated that his government remains committed to protecting the interests of Amaravati farmers and ensuring their welfare. He emphasized that the development of the state's capital region would be carried out in a manner that upholds the trust and sacrifices of the farmers who contributed their land for the public good. This incident has brought renewed attention to the challenges faced by Amaravati farmers, who have been instrumental in supporting the capital city's vision but have also endured years of uncertainty and delayed progress.

CM Naidu's outreach to the family is seen as both a gesture of empathy and a reassurance of his government's dedication to the welfare of all those connected with the capital development project.

Political Turmoil Erupts in Srikakulam: MLC Duvvada Srinivas Accuses Dharmana

TPN Bureau | December 27

Srikakulam: Political tensions within the ruling YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) in Srikakulam district reached a boiling point as the rift between MLC Duvvada Srinivas and the influential Dharmana brothers took a dramatic turn. The ongoing feud, simmering for months, intensified after Duvvada was suspended from the party, allegedly at the behest of the Dharmana family.

Duvvada Srinivas, known for his outspoken criticism of the Dharmana brothers, has accused them of orchestrating a series of moves to sideline and target him politically. In recent weeks, he has repeatedly alleged that the brothers were involved in irregularities and conspiracies within the party's local leadership.

The controversy flared up again when an audio clip surfaced on social media two days ago. In the viral recording, a YSRCP worker from Nimmada is reportedly heard warning Duvvada's

wife, Divvela Madhuri, that a plan was being made to physically attack Duvvada. The worker allegedly claimed that the Dharmana brothers were strategizing to execute an attack near Narsanapeta or Nimmada in the coming days. In a dramatic move late Friday night, Duvvada Srinivas staged a protest on the national highway. Standing on the road, he alleged that a conspiracy was underway to eliminate him and accused the Dharmana brothers of plotting to instigate violence against him. "They are preparing goons to attack me. Let them come if they dare," Duvvada declared in a live-streamed outburst from the highway. Holding the Dharmana brothers directly responsible for any harm to his life, Duvvada demanded immediate police protection and accountability. He announced that he would meet the Srikakulam district Superintendent of Police to file a formal complaint on Saturday. Meanwhile, Duvvada's "highway challenge" video has gone viral across social media platforms, drawing widespread attention and sparking heated discussions among YSRCP cadre and the public.

Party leaders have so far maintained silence on the internal dispute, even as the incident exposes deep fractures within the ruling party's district unit. The escalating conflict between Duvvada Srinivas and the Dharmana brothers is now poised to test the party's ability to contain internecine rivalries ahead of crucial political developments in Andhra Pradesh.



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Tension Erupts in Machilipatnam Over Restrictions on YSRCP Rally During Vangaveeti Ranga Death Anniversary

TPN Bureau | December 27

Machilipatnam: Tensions prevailed in Machilipatnam town on Saturday following restrictions imposed by the police on the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leaders' proposed rally to mark the death anniversary of former MLA Vangaveeti Mohana Ranga Rao. The situation briefly turned heated after former minister and senior YSRCP leader Perni Venkataramaiah (Nani) strongly objected to the curbs, leading to a stand-off with the police before permission was eventually granted.

According to reports, the local administration had placed restrictions on rallies and public processions citing security reasons. With both the ruling coalition leaders and YSRCP planning separate rallies in the town to pay tribute to Ranga, the police sought to maintain



order by allowing only one event at a time. Officials stated that the stipulation aimed to avoid any possible confrontation between rival supporters and ensure smooth conduct of the programs.

The police instructed the YSRCP leaders to organize their rally only after the completion of the coalition's scheduled procession. Barricades were erected at key junctions, and additional police forces were deployed across Machilipatnam to prevent untoward incidents. Tension escalated as YSRCP leaders and activists gathered in large numbers near their party office, demanding immediate permission to proceed with their own rally.

Former minister Perni Nani, visibly furious over the police decision, criticized the authorities for what he described as biased restrictions. "We have chosen a different route

for our rally. So why are they imposing unnecessary conditions?" he questioned while addressing party cadres. The YSRCP leader alleged that the police were acting unfairly under political pressure from the coalition government and were deliberately obstructing the opposition's right to hold a peaceful gathering. Police officials, however, maintained that the decision was purely administrative and driven by law and order considerations.

"There is no discrimination.

YSRCP, provided that

participants adhered to time limits and avoided main traffic routes already occupied by the coalition's event. Once the clearance came through, YSRCP cadres began their rally from the party office amid loud slogans praising Vangaveeti Ranga and party leadership.

The event concluded without any major disturbance, though heavy police presence remained throughout the town as a precautionary measure. The administration later stated that both rallies concluded peacefully and lauded the cooperation of political leaders in avoiding any law and order disruption.

Meanwhile, political observers noted that the brief confrontation once again underscored the rising political temperature in Krishna district, where Ranga's legacy continues to evoke deep emotional and political resonance.

Adikavi Nannaya University Mired in Controversies: Research Stagnation and Nepotism Alleged

TPN Bureau | December 27

East Godavari: Adikavi Nannaya University, named after the first poet of Telugu literature, continues to draw attention for all the wrong reasons. Once expected to emerge as a hub of academic excellence and research, the university is now caught in a web of controversies, nepotism, and allegations of administrative irregularities. During a recent visit to Rajahmundry, State Education Minister Nara Lokesh openly expressed concern that research activity in many universities has almost disappeared.

His remarks, observers say, aptly describe the state of affairs at Nannaya University. Despite more than a decade of



existence, the institution's name fails to appear in the top 100 of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), raising serious questions about its performance in teaching and research. From the beginning, the university has faced allegations of irregular appointments, political interference, and violation of rules.

Critics argue that instead of focusing on improving academic standards and research output, some administrators have allegedly turned the campus into a center for favoritism, promoting relatives and close associates. The latest controversy involves an ad hoc faculty member said to be a close relative of a senior university official. Reports claim the

faculty was appointed without a clear notification or adherence to minimum qualifications. It is further alleged that despite irregular attendance, the individual continues to exercise undue influence over university affairs—often acting on par with senior faculty and even intervening in administrative matters. Complaints lodged by non-teaching staff and faculty members mention other irregularities: relatives of officials visiting affiliated

colleges for inspections, unauthorized supervision of construction works, and misuse of university resources.

Celebration of personal events, including birthdays, reportedly sponsored by private college managements, has drawn criticism for breaching institutional norms. According to sources, university employees have already submitted written complaints to the Education Minister, Chief Minister, and Governor seeking intervention. However, no concrete action has yet been reported. Experts warn that unless transparent recruitment, accountability, and a renewed focus on research are ensured, Adikavi Nannaya University risks further decline.

They emphasize that sustaining academic freedom and curbing nepotism are essential if the university hopes to restore its reputation and live up to the legacy of its illustrious namesake.

National-Level Ongole Bullock Cart Races Enthrall Crowds in Narasaraopet



TPN BUREAU | December 27

The national-level Ongole bullock cart races being held under the supervision of MLA Dr. Chadalawada Aravind Babu at Dr. Kodela Siva Prasada Rao Sports Complex in Narasaraopet, Palnadu district, entered their third day on Saturday with great enthusiasm and fanfare. These races, showcasing the strength and stamina of the famed Ongole

breed, have drawn immense participation and public attention over the past three days.

On the third day, MLC Marri Rajasekhar and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) district president Jan Saida formally inaugurated the proceedings. They lauded the meticulous organization and appreciated the spirited participation of the competitors. Bull owners from both Telugu states Andhra Pradesh

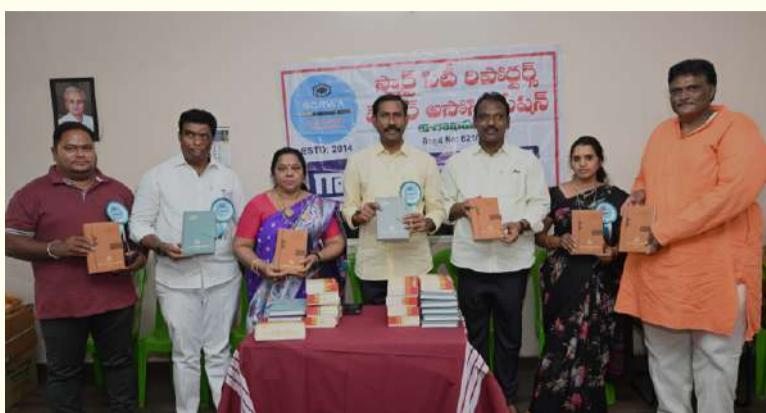
and Telangana competed fiercely to exhibit the superior power and agility of their prized Ongole bulls. Spectators witnessed thrilling moments as the bullock carts thundered across the arena in a blend of speed, coordination, and traditional pride.

The event has become a celebration not only of rural sportsmanship but also of the deep cultural heritage associated with Ongole bulls, re-

cognized worldwide for their resilience and breed quality. Addressing the audience, MLC Marri Rajasekhar and TDP district chief Jan Saida praised MLA Aravind Babu for organizing the event in a well-structured and disciplined manner.

The event venue turned into a festive ground as farmers, local residents, and political leaders gathered in large numbers to witness the prestigious competition. The organizers expressed satisfaction with the overwhelming turnout and the participants' enthusiasm. They noted that such events inspire younger generations to appreciate indigenous breeds and traditional sports, strengthening the rural cultural fabric. The Ongole breed's strength and grace took center stage throughout the event, making the Narasaraopet competitions not just a sporting attraction but also a proud symbol of Andhra Pradesh's agrarian spirit and cultural heritage.

News should be credible



TPN Bureau | December 27

Visakhapatnam : Telugu Desam Party (TDP) State President and Gajuwaka MLA Palla Srinivasa Rao emphasized that the true value of journalism lies in credibility.

Addressing members of the Smart City Reporters Welfare Association (SCRWA) at Gajuwaka on Saturday, he said that media plays a crucial role in shaping public opinion, and people tend to believe what they read and watch through print and electronic platforms.

Palla Srinivasa Rao attended the event as the chief guest and unveiled the SCRWA Diary-2026, marking the beginning of the New Year celebrations.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that journalists must remain vigilant and act responsibly while reporting news. "Media serves as a bridge between the public and the government. Journalists should ensure that they deliver facts without distortion," he re-

marked, warning that irresponsible or false news stories can cause lasting damage to society. Reiterating that journalism is the fourth pillar of democracy, Palla urged the fraternity to stand as a backbone of society by upholding truth and integrity in their work.

During the event, the guests distributed diaries and sweets to SCRWA Gajuwaka unit members as part of the New Year celebrations. The program concluded with the felicitation of TDP State President Palla Srinivasa Rao, who was honored with a shawl and memento by the association members in recognition of his support to the journalist community.

The event was attended by Civil Supplies Director and Gajuwaka TDP In-Charge Prasadula Srinivas, BJP District Vice President Dina konda Krishnaraju, Gajuwaka Vice President Korukonda Padma, SCRWA Treasurer Karri Satyanarayana (Satya), Vice President Sirisha, Secretary Vasanth, Executive Member Jayaram, and several others.

Chandrababu Naidu Pays Tributes to Late NTR Raju in Tirupati



TPN Bureau | December 27

tirupathi: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) national president Nara Chandrababu Naidu on Friday paid rich floral tributes to the portrait of NTR Raju, a long-time loyalist of the late Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao and a former member of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) board.

The senior leader, who passed away recently, was remembered for his decades-long association with the party and his unwavering commitment to the ideals of NTR.

Naidu visited the residence of NTR Raju in Tirupati, where he met the bereaved family members and conveyed his heartfelt condolences. He spent time with NTR Raju's son, TDP State Media Coordinator Sridhar Varma, and other relatives, comforting them and assuring his support

Reddy, Pulivarthi Nani, Sunil, SAP Chairman Ravi Naidu, Tatayagunta Gram Panchayat Chairman Mahesh Yadav, and Tirupati Municipal Vice Chairman RC Mani Krishna were among those who accompanied the Chief Minister. Several MPs, MLAs, and prominent TDP leaders also participated, expressing their grief and solidarity with the bereaved family.

Party leaders recalled NTR Raju's steadfast commitment to the TDP and his deep reverence for its founder N.T. Rama Rao. They said his passing not only deprived the family of a guiding force but also left a void within the party cadre.

The gathering observed a moment of silence in his memory, paying homage to a figure whose life embodied loyalty, humility, and dedication to the Telugu Desam Party's vision.

The Pillar of Indian Democracy: The Emergence and Legacy of the Congress Party

On December 28, 1885, the Indian National Congress (INC) was founded under the leadership of Allan Octavian Hume. While it began as a platform for social and political reform, the Congress Party would soon transform into the backbone of India's struggle for independence and later, its democratic governance. The party's journey is more than a political narrative—it embodies a saga of sacrifice, vision, and a steadfast commitment to the welfare of the people. From the fight for freedom to nation-building, from social justice initiatives to economic and technological reforms, the Congress Party has remained a bridge between India's past, present, and future aspirations.

The Congress Party and the Freedom Struggle

The Congress Party emerged as a unifying force for India's freedom movement. In the early years, it focused on reforms within the British administration, but it gradually became the central force challenging colonial authority. Leaders and activists of the Congress made extraordinary sacrifices for the cause of independence. Mahatma Gandhi endured multiple imprisonments and fasts to uphold the principles of non-violence and civil disobedience. Jawaharlal Nehru spent nearly nine years in jail, and leaders like Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Rajendra Prasad, and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad faced prolonged incarcerations and threats to life. Ordinary party workers and students also joined movements like the Non-Co-operation, Civil Disobedience, and Quit India Movements, risking their lives and livelihoods. The brutal Jallianwala Bagh massacre in 1919 intensified the resolve of Congress leaders and solidified the party's role as the guiding force in India's freedom struggle.

Nehru also laid the groundwork for India's knowledge economy. By establishing premier institutions such as the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), he created centers of excellence that nurtured talent and innovation. Education and scientific research became pillars of India's progress, providing the intellectual infrastructure for future generations.

Beyond armed and non-violent resistance, Congress leaders focused on mobilizing society, creating awareness, and inspiring ordinary citizens to engage in the nation's destiny. They championed social reforms, education, and the upliftment of marginalized communities, ensuring that India's liberation would also pave the way for a more just society. The sacrifices of these leaders laid the ethical and moral foundation for the Congress Party's subsequent governance.

Post-Independence Governance: Laying the Foundations of Modern India

With independence in 1947, the Congress Party transitioned from a freedom movement to a governing entity, tasked with nation-building. Under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru, India witnessed the establishment of a democratic, secular, and planned economy. Nehru's vision emphasized industrialization, scientific temper, and technological advancement. Large-scale infrastructure projects like the Bhakra Nangal, Damodar Valley, Hirakud, Nagarjuna Sagar, and the Kosi irrigation projects transformed India's agricultural landscape and ensured food security. These projects were not mere constructions; they were instruments of social change, stabilizing rural economies and providing livelihoods.

Indira Gandhi, India's first female Prime Minister, took bold and transformative steps to address structural inequalities. Recognizing the plight of the rural poor, she launched the "Garibi Hatao" campaign, emphasizing pov-



Indira Gandhi:
Championing Social
Justice and Rural
Development

erty alleviation and equitable distribution of resources. This was not a mere electoral slogan; it was a manifesto of governance aimed at empowering marginalized communities. Under her leadership, banks were nationalized to facilitate access to credit for farmers and small entrepreneurs. Policies were enacted to expand rural development, implement welfare schemes, and ensure food security. These measures shifted the focus of governance from urban elites to the common people, reinforcing the democratic ethos that the Congress Party stood for.

Rajiv Gandhi and the Technological Revolution

Rajiv Gandhi's tenure marked a turning point in India's modernization and

technological advancement. At a time when foreign technology was often viewed with skepticism, he championed computerization in government offices, banks, railways, and airlines. Telecommunications were expanded to rural areas, enabling access to STD and ISD services, while the establishment of C-DOT (Centre for Development of Telematics) laid the foundation for India's telecommunications revolution. Rajiv Gandhi's vision encouraged IT education, software exports, and innovation, positioning India as a global technology hub. Furthermore, constitutional amendments like the 73rd and 74th empowered local self-governance, decentralizing authority and reinforcing grassroots democracy.

Manmohan Singh: Welfare, Stability, and Inclusive Growth

During the UPA regimes under Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Congress Party implemented transformative programs that balanced economic growth with social welfare. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) provided a guaranteed 100 days of work annually for rural households, creating a safety net and strengthening the rural economy. The Right to Information (RTI) Act enhanced transparency, while the Right to Education (RTE) Act ensured free and compulsory education for children aged 6 to 14. The National Food Security Act (NFS) guaranteed subsidized food grains to millions, and the Forest Rights Act (2006) recognized the land and resource rights of indigenous communities. These initiatives, alongside strong financial management during the global economic downturn of 2008, demonstrated the Congress Party's commitment to inclusive development.

Congress vs. Contemporary Governance

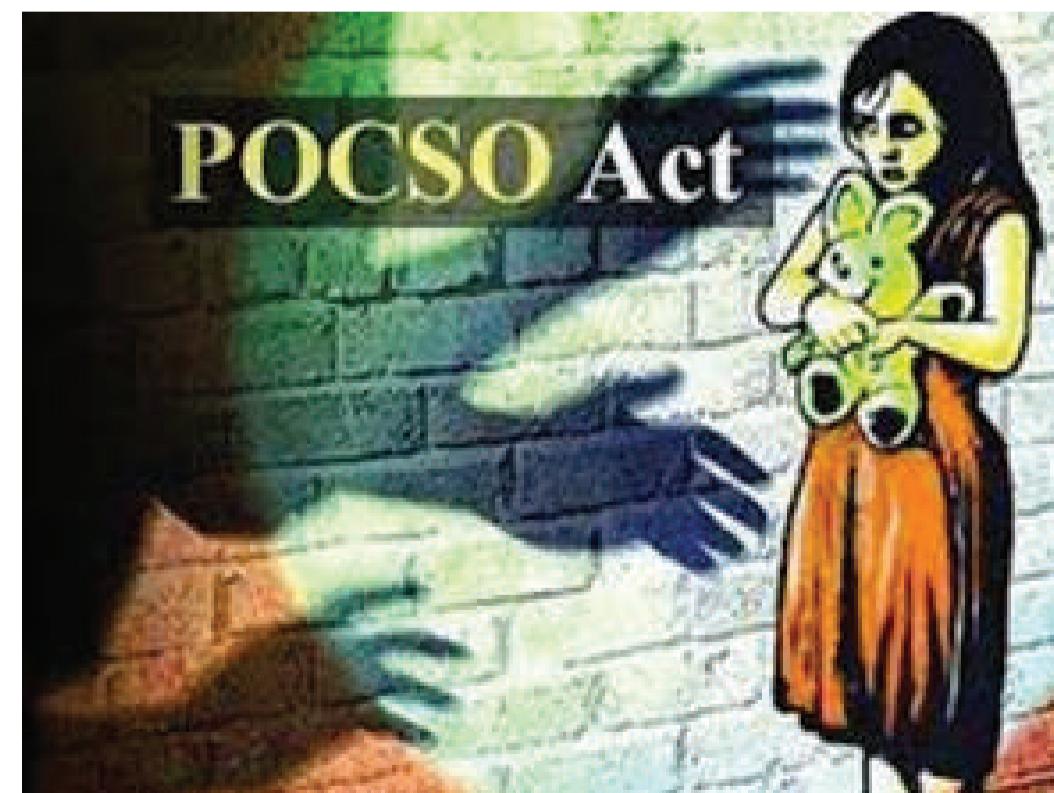
Critics argue that successive non-Congress governments, including the current administration, have pursued policies favoring privatization and market elites at the expense of welfare programs, rural development, and public institutions. Issues such as rising inflation, weakening public sector institutions, and contentious agricultural laws highlight the ongoing relevance of Congress-inspired policies focused on equity and public welfare. The legacy of the Congress Party serves as a reminder that governance should prioritize social justice, economic inclusion, and the preservation of democratic institutions.

Conclusion: Upholding Democratic Values

The Congress Party is more than a political organization; it is a custodian of India's democratic values, social justice, and inclusive development. From the sacrifices of freedom fighters to the visionary policies of modern governance, its legacy reflects a continuous effort to balance progress with equity. Regional successes, such as in Telangana, underscore the party's enduring relevance and capacity to offer a model of governance rooted in the welfare of the people.

As India navigates complex economic, social, and political challenges, the Congress Party's history of principled leadership, transformative policies, and commitment to democracy provides both inspiration and a blueprint for the future. Celebrating its foundation is not merely an exercise in nostalgia—it is a reaffirmation of India's democratic ideals, the sacrifices of countless individuals, and the ongoing quest for a just and equitable society.

Pendency to Protection: Evaluating the State of POCSO Justice in India



Child sexual abuse represents one of the most egregious violations of childhood, inflicting long-term physical, psychological, and social harm. In India, where children constitute over 37 percent of the population, protecting minors from such atrocities is not merely a legal obligation but a moral imperative. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, was enacted to provide a comprehensive framework for addressing sexual offences against children. However, the increasing number of reported cases has exposed the systemic limitations of the Indian judicial process, particularly in terms of pendency, disposal, and conviction rates. The Centre for Legal Action and Behaviour Change for Children (C-LAB) has highlighted these issues, revealing a complex interplay between institutional reform, resource constraints, and societal responsibility.

Over the past decade, the reporting of child sexual abuse cases in India has steadily increased, reflecting heightened public awareness and greater access to justice. Yet, this growth in reporting has placed tremendous strain on the criminal justice system. Between 2021 and 2025, while the disposal of all criminal cases increased marginally by nine percentage points, POCSO case disposals rose significantly by 38 percentage points, culminating in a historic 109 percent disposal rate in 2025. This milestone represents a critical tipping point: for the first

time, courts not only managed to address newly registered cases but also cleared a portion of the backlog from previous years.

Despite this encouraging trend, pendency remains a major challenge. At the end of 2023, there were 2,62,089 POCSO cases pending in Indian courts, nearly half of which had been pending for over two years. Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and West Bengal alone accounted for three-fourths of cases pending beyond five years. Such delays are not merely administrative concerns; they have profound psychological ramifications. Child survivors of sexual abuse often experience anxiety, depression, sleep disturbances, and social withdrawal, all of which are exacerbated by prolonged legal proceedings. Parents and caregivers also face emotional strain and financial hardship, while the social stigma associated with these cases adds another layer of trauma.

The creation of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), including exclusive e-POCSO courts, has been a strategic response to these challenges. These courts have demonstrated higher disposal rates—averaging 9.51 cases per month compared to 3.26 in regular courts—indicating their potential to expedite justice. The extension of the FTSC scheme until 2026 and the proposed addition of 600 new e-POCSO courts underscore the government's commitment to reducing backlogs and ensuring

timely justice. It is estimated that with these additional courts, the pending 2,62,089 cases could be cleared within four years, with an annual budgetary requirement of INR 494 crore from the Nirbhaya Fund.

However, efficiency in disposal does not automatically translate to justice in outcome. Conviction rates remain alarmingly low. Since 2019, the national conviction rate for POCSO cases has decreased from 35 percent to 29 percent, with FTSCs recording a mere

19 percent in 2024. This stark reality reflects deeper systemic and procedural inadequacies, including ineffective investigation, prosecutorial challenges, and inconsistent judicial practices across states. State-level disparities are significant; while Meghalaya and Mizoram reported relatively high conviction rates of 45 percent and 34 percent respectively, states like Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Maharashtra, and Telangana lagged with rates below 7 percent. Such variations high-

light the urgent need for standardization in investigative procedures, prosecutorial efficiency, and court practices.

The persistence of low conviction rates also raises questions about the quality of evidence collection, victim protection, and the sensitivity of court procedures. Delays and inefficiencies can lead to secondary victimization, where the child's repeated retelling of trauma during adjourned hearings intensifies psychological harm. Therefore, the pursuit of justice

must balance the need for expedited disposal with procedural integrity and child-centric court practices.

Addressing the pendency and low conviction rates requires a multi-pronged approach. First, continuation and expansion of FTSCs and e-POCSO courts are essential. These specialized courts must be supplemented with adequate staffing, infrastructure, and training to ensure that case handling is both swift and sensitive to the needs of child survivors.

Second, state judiciaries lagging behind must receive targeted technical and administrative support, including forensic and investigative training, to enhance efficiency and consistency.

Third, meticulous monitoring of conviction and acquittal rates is crucial, supported by robust data analytics to identify systemic gaps and best practices.

Finally, technology can play a transformative role: AI-powered legal research, case management systems, and document retrieval tools can expedite judicial processes while maintaining ethical safeguards.

Public awareness remains equally important. Despite amendments in the POCSO Act, including stringent punishments and the introduction of the death penalty for certain offences, the act's deterrent effect is contingent on widespread knowledge and societal vigilance. Educational campaigns, community engagement, and integration of child safety curricula in

schools can empower children to report abuse while reinforcing the societal mandate to protect minors. The government's initiatives, such as the POCSO Rules 2020 and targeted awareness campaigns, provide a foundation, but sustained efforts are needed to shift cultural perceptions and reduce underreporting.

In conclusion, India stands at a pivotal moment in its response to child sexual abuse. The year 2025 marks the first instance when POCSO case disposals exceeded registrations, signaling progress in judicial capacity and backlog management. Yet, the path from pendency to protection is fraught with challenges. Low conviction rates, state-wise disparities, and the psychological toll of prolonged trials underscore the need for systemic reforms, child-centric court practices, and technology-enabled efficiency. By continuing to invest in specialized courts, ensuring procedural fairness, enhancing public awareness, and fostering accountability across states, India can transform this tipping point into a sustainable trajectory toward a justice system that not only clears backlogs but delivers timely, equitable, and sensitive protection for its most vulnerable citizens. The goal is clear: timely justice is not just a matter of numbers—it is a commitment to restoring dignity, safety, and hope to children who have already suffered enough.

Digvijaya Singh's Remarks on BJP-RSS Organisational Strength Spark Political Controversy

New Delhi: A political storm erupted on Saturday after senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh publicly acknowledged the organisational strength of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its ideological parent, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). His comments triggered sharp reactions from both the opposition and his own party, reopening debates on internal organisation and leadership styles in Indian politics.

The controversy began after Singh shared an old black-and-white photograph from the mid-1990s showing Prime Minister Narendra Modi seated on the floor alongside veteran BJP leader L.K. Advani during a political event in Gujarat. In his post, Singh remarked that the journey of a grassroots worker rising through the ranks to become Chief Minister and eventually Prime Minister demonstrated "the power of organisation." The statement was widely interpreted as praise for the BJP-RSS system, which is often criticised by the Congress for its ideology and functioning.

The BJP was quick to capitalise on Singh's remarks, describing them as an admission of the BJP's superior organisational structure. Party leaders accused the Congress of lacking internal democracy and strong grassroots networks, contrasting it with what they described as the BJP's disciplined cadre-based



model. The comments were also used to target Congress leadership, with BJP spokespersons questioning whether the remarks reflected deeper dissatisfaction within the Congress ranks.

Within the Congress, reactions were divided. While some leaders distanced themselves from Singh's statement, others privately acknowledged that the party has struggled with organisational coherence and grassroots mobilisation in recent years. Political observers noted that Singh had tagged several senior Congress leaders in his post, which many interpreted

as a subtle call for introspection and reform within the party.

As criticism mounted, Digvijaya Singh issued a clarification, stating that his remarks were limited strictly to organisational capacity and not an endorsement of the RSS's ideology. He reaffirmed his long-standing opposition to the RSS and maintained that his ideological position remained unchanged. According to Singh, recognising an opponent's organisational strength did not amount to political approval or support.

The episode has once again highlighted internal challenges facing the Congress, particularly as it seeks to rebuild its organisational base ahead of crucial state elections and future national contests. Analysts believe the controversy reflects a broader debate within the party over leadership, internal democracy, and the need for structural reforms to counter the BJP's well-oiled political machinery.

While the row may fade from public attention, it has reignited a larger conversation on how political parties organise themselves and the role strong grassroots networks play in shaping long-term electoral success.

Gig Workers' Nationwide Strike Likely to Disrupt New Year's Eve Deliveries

New Delhi: App-based delivery partners and gig workers across India are preparing for a nationwide strike on New Year's Eve, raising concerns over possible disruptions to food delivery, quick commerce and e-commerce services during one of the busiest nights of the year. The strike follows a similar protest held on Christmas Day, when delivery operations in several cities were affected as workers voiced grievances over declining earnings and unsafe working conditions.

Gig worker unions and collectives say the strike is aimed at drawing attention to longstanding issues faced by delivery partners working for major food delivery, grocery and e-commerce platforms. According to union representatives, workers are increasingly burdened by low per-order payments, rising fuel and maintenance costs, and unpredictable incentive structures that make it difficult to earn a stable income. Many workers claim that despite longer working hours, their take-home pay has



steadily reduced over time.

A major point of contention is the push for ultra-fast delivery models, including short delivery-time guarantees that workers say force them to rush through congested city roads, increasing the risk of accidents and physical stress. Delivery partners argue that such targets compromise road safety and place unfair pressure on workers, who are penalised if they fail to meet strict timelines.

Another key grievance is the lack of job security and transparency. Workers allege that

their accounts can be suspended or deactivated without proper explanation, often following customer complaints or minor performance issues. Such suspensions, they say, cut off their only source of income with no clear mechanism for appeal or redressal.

Unions are demanding fair and transparent pay structures, an end to unrealistic delivery targets, better safety measures, accident insurance and access to basic social security benefits such as health coverage and pensions. They are also calling for recognition

of gig workers as partners with rights, rather than independent contractors with limited protections.

The proposed New Year's Eve strike could have a significant impact on restaurants, cloud kitchens and retail businesses that depend heavily on app-based deliveries during holiday peaks. Consumers may face delays, reduced service availability or higher delivery times, particularly in major metropolitan areas.

Platform companies have so far not made detailed public statements on the planned strike. In past instances, some firms have attempted to manage disruptions through temporary incentives or alternative delivery arrangements, though workers argue that such measures fail to address core issues.

As demand for online deliveries surges during the year-end celebrations, the looming strike highlights the growing tension between digital platforms and the workforce that powers India's rapidly expanding gig economy.

Operation Aaghast 3.0: Massive Police Crackdown Ahead of New Year in Delhi

New Delhi: As the national capital prepares for New Year celebrations, the Delhi Police have launched an extensive crime-prevention drive under Operation Aaghast 3.0, leading to the arrest and detention of hundreds of people in a coordinated crackdown across vulnerable parts of the city. The operation is aimed at ensuring public safety and preventing criminal activities during the year-end festivities.

Police officials said the drive was carried out late at night across several areas of South and South-East Delhi, involving coordinated raids, intensive vehicle checks and area domination exercises. As part of the operation, hundreds of suspects were arrested under various laws, including cases related to illegal liquor, narcotics, gambling and arms possession. In addition, a large number of individuals were taken into preventive custody to deter potential offences during the busy festive period.

Authorities stated that the crackdown specifically targeted habitual offenders, organised crime networks and individuals involved in activities



that typically increase during large public gatherings. Many of those detained were identified as repeat offenders with previous criminal records, while others were linked to property crimes, vehicle thefts and street-level illegal activities.

During the operation, police recovered illegal weapons, live ammunition and sharp objects, along with substantial quantities of illicit liquor and narcotic substances. Cash believed to be connected to gambling activities, stolen mobile phones and several suspected stolen vehicles were also seized. The recoveries, offi-

cials said, reflect the scale of criminal activity that authorities aim to curb before New Year's Eve.

Senior police officers described Operation Aaghast 3.0 as a preventive and deterrent measure, designed to send a strong message that criminal activity will not be tolerated during the festive season. They added that heightened patrols, checkpoints and surprise inspections will continue in the coming days, especially in crowded markets, entertainment hubs and residential areas.

Residents and local community representatives have wel-

comed the increased police presence, expressing hope that the intensified security measures will reduce incidents of street crime, drunken driving and anti-social behaviour commonly reported during holiday celebrations. Police have urged citizens to cooperate with security checks and report any suspicious activity to help maintain law and order.

With large crowds expected across the city on New Year's Eve, Operation Aaghast 3.0 underscores the Delhi Police's focus on proactive policing to ensure a safe and peaceful transition into the New Year.

Shiv Sena Councillor's Husband Hacked to Death in Broad Daylight, Incident Caught on Camera



Raigad, Maharashtra: In a shocking incident that has sparked outrage and fear, the husband of a newly elected Shiv Sena councillor was brutally hacked to death on a busy road in Khopoli town of Raigad district. The daylight murder, which was captured on camera, has raised serious concerns over rising political violence and public safety.

The victim, identified as Mangesh Sadashiv Kalokhe, was attacked on Friday morning shortly after he dropped his children at school. According to police, a group of assailants armed with swords, sickles and an axe chased him on a crowded road before overpowering him. The attackers repeatedly struck Kalokhe, killing him on the spot, as passersby looked on in shock. The entire incident was recorded on nearby surveillance cameras, which are now a key part of the investigation.

Kalokhe was the husband of Manasi Kalokhe, a Shiv

councillor who was recently elected to the Khopoli Municipal Council. Preliminary investigations suggest the murder may be linked to political rivalry following recent local body elections. Police sources said there had been longstanding enmity between the victim and some local political opponents, which may have escalated into violence.

Based on a complaint filed by the victim's family, police have registered a case of murder and criminal conspiracy under relevant sections of the law. Several suspects have been named, and teams have been formed to track down those involved in the attack. While some accused have been identified, others are still absconding, prompting police to conduct raids at multiple locations.

The incident triggered tension in the area, with Shiv Sena workers and local residents gathering near the police station demanding immediate arrests and strict action against the culprits.

Supporters of the councillor alleged that the killing was a planned and targeted attack driven by political vendetta. Police officials said additional forces were deployed in Khopoli to prevent any escalation of unrest and to maintain law and order.

Senior police officers have assured that the case is being investigated thoroughly and that no one involved will be spared, regardless of political affiliation. They added that forensic evidence, CCTV footage and witness statements are being examined to reconstruct the sequence of events and establish the motive behind the crime.

The brutal murder has once again highlighted concerns over violence linked to local politics and the safety of elected representatives and their families. As the investigation continues, residents of Khopoli remain anxious, hoping for swift justice and stronger measures to prevent such incidents in the future.

Udaipur Gang Rape Case: Disturbing Details Emerge as Police Intensify Probe



Udaipur, Rajasthan: Shocking details have emerged in a gang rape case reported from Udaipur, where a woman employee of a private IT firm has accused senior company officials of sexually assaulting her inside a moving car. The incident has triggered widespread outrage and raised serious questions about workplace safety and abuse of power.

According to the police, the incident occurred after an office-related celebration. The survivor, who holds a managerial position in the company, alleged that she was offered a lift home by colleagues, including the company's chief executive officer and others. During the journey, she reportedly lost consciousness. When she later regained awareness, she found herself injured and in severe pain.

A medical examination conducted soon after confirmed sexual assault. Doctors noted multiple injuries on her body, including injuries to her private parts. The survivor also informed the

police that her undergarments and some personal belongings were missing, strengthening the allegation of sexual violence. The medical findings have been recorded as key evidence in the case.

Investigators said that the survivor approached the police after piecing together the sequence of events and realising the seriousness of what had occurred. Based on her complaint, the police registered a case of gang rape and criminal conspiracy under relevant sections of the law.

Three people, including the CEO of the IT firm, a senior female executive, and the executive's husband, have been arrested in connection with the case.

One of the most crucial pieces of evidence is footage recovered from a dash camera installed in the vehicle. Police believe the recording captured portions of the incident and conversations linked to the crime.

Forensic teams are examining the footage along with mobile phone data and other digital evidence to establish the exact timeline and roles of the

accused.

Senior police officials said the investigation is being handled with utmost seriousness, given the gravity of the crime and the positions held by the accused.

The arrested individuals have been produced before a court and remanded to police custody for further questioning. Authorities have also indicated that additional arrests are possible if the probe reveals the involvement of others.

The case has sparked anger among women's rights groups and civil society organisations, who have demanded swift justice and strict punishment for the accused. Many have pointed out that the alleged involvement of top company officials highlights the vulnerability faced by women in professional environments.

As the investigation continues, the incident has once again brought the spotlight on sexual violence, misuse of authority, and the urgent need for stronger safeguards to protect women, both in workplaces and public spaces.

AMD Stock Pauses as Investors Eye China Exports, AI Chip Roadmap, and Analyst Targets

Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) ended the final trading week of 2025 with its stock showing relative stability, as investors weighed several factors that could influence the company's performance in 2026. Shares hovered around the \$215 mark amid holiday-thinned trading volumes, with market participants closely watching potential catalysts for the new year.

A key focus for AMD is its exposure to China's export market. U.S. export controls on advanced AI chips have created uncertainty for chipmakers, limiting sales to major Chinese customers. Any easing of these restrictions could unlock substantial revenue opportunities for AMD, particularly for its data-center AI accelerators, which have been tailored to meet regulatory requirements. Analysts suggest that even modest progress on export approvals could serve as a significant upside catalyst for AMD's stock.

Equally important is AMD's AI chip roadmap. The company has made strategic investments in next-generation AI processors designed for servers and cloud applications, a segment witnessing rapid growth. Partnerships and product launches planned for early 2026 are expected to strengthen AMD's position in the competitive semi-



conductor landscape. With demand for AI infrastructure rising globally, AMD is well-placed to capitalize on the expanding market for high-performance computing solutions.

Wall Street analysts hold a cautiously optimistic view. Many have reaffirmed bullish price targets, citing AMD's robust financial performance, growing market share in server CPUs, and competitive positioning against rivals. However, some analysts warn of near-term risks, including supply chain constraints, competition from larger players, and the un-

certainty surrounding regulatory approvals for international sales. These factors contribute to potential volatility in the stock as trading resumes after the holiday break.

Market dynamics also play a role. The so-called "Santa Claus rally" period, characterized by low liquidity and year-end portfolio adjustments, can amplify price swings. Investors are also attentive to broader macroeconomic developments, including Federal Reserve announcements and interest rate expectations, which can affect technology sector valuations.

particularly for high-beta stocks like AMD.

In conclusion, AMD's stock performance at the close of 2025 reflects a balance between long-term optimism and short-term uncertainty. While the AI chip roadmap and potential access to the Chinese market provide strong growth prospects, regulatory, supply chain, and competitive factors continue to shape investor sentiment. As 2026 begins, AMD's stock is likely to react to these developments, with export approvals and AI product rollouts serving as key drivers for market performance.

More Than 50 Small Cap Stocks Jump Between 10% and 34% as Broader Market Outperforms

Indian equity markets extended their resilience in the final trading week of 2025, with broad market indices outperforming the headline benchmarks and driving strong gains in small cap stocks across sectors. Investors witnessed a notable rally in several smaller companies, even as benchmark indices delivered modest overall returns in a holiday shortened week.

The BSE Smallcap index rose about 1 percent, while the BSE Midcap and Largecap indices also advanced, though at more tempered paces. In contrast, the headline indices posted marginal gains: the BSE Sensex added just over 100 points and the Nifty50 climbed modestly, reflecting broad but cautious buying amid thin year end trading.

What stood out most was the outperformance of more than 50 small cap stocks, which delivered impressive gains ranging from approximately 10 percent to as much as 34 percent over the week. These rallies were driven by stock specific developments, select sector momentum, and a

broader appetite for companies that are often seen as more sensitive to domestic economic recovery and growth prospects.

Sectoral trends showed mixed fortunes. The Nifty Defence index led the gains, rising more than 3 percent, indicating strong interest in companies tied to defence and strategic sectors. The Nifty Metal index also posted solid returns, rising nearly 3 percent, while the Nifty Media index made modest gains. On the flip side, defensive segments like PSU Banks saw slight declines, and key sectors such as IT and Pharma edged lower, reflecting selective sector rotation by market participants.

Market analysts attributed the broader market resilience and small cap strength to a mix of domestic demand optimism, supportive liquidity conditions in India, and investor hopes of a more accommodative monetary policy in 2026. Despite persistent foreign institutional investor (FII) selling, which saw significant outflows during the week, domestic institutional in-

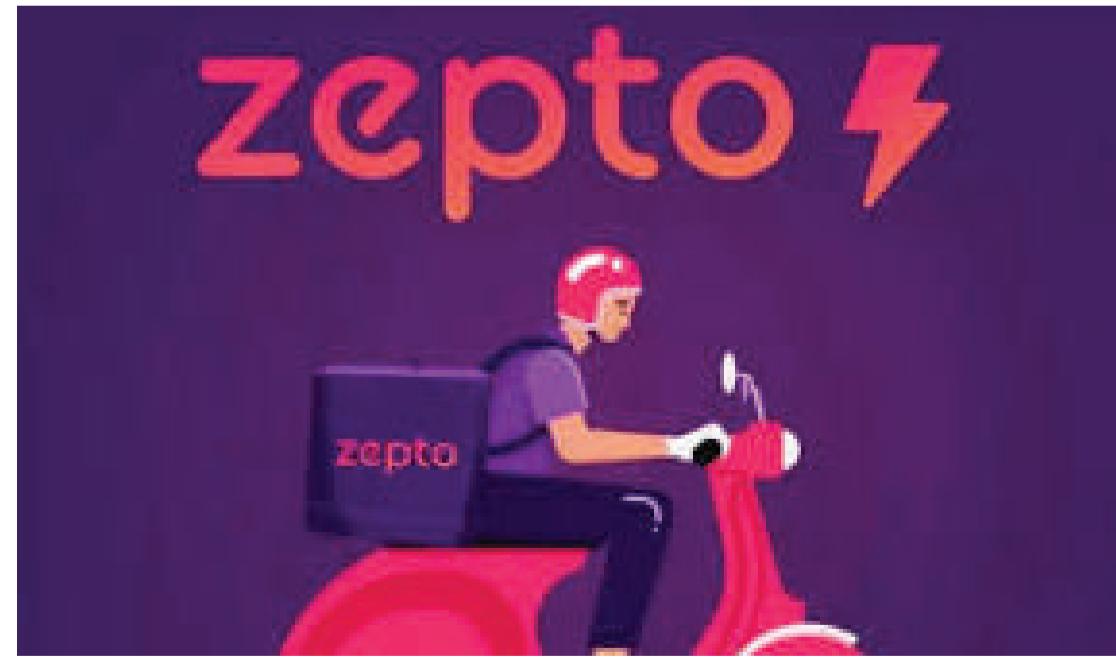


vestors (DIIs) stepped in as net buyers, providing the backing needed to sustain buying interest across a broad range of stocks.

Other macro factors also played a role. The rupee remained under pressure but was stabilized through central bank interventions, while global cues such as strong U.S. economic data and lower crude oil prices helped shape cautious optimism among domestic investors.

Overall, the week's market activity underscored a broader theme: while benchmark indices may be moving in a narrow range due to year end liquidity constraints, underlying market breadth is strengthening, as reflected in the sharp rallies among small cap stocks. This divergence suggests that traders and investors are actively seeking value opportunities beyond large caps, even as they await fresh catalysts in the new year.

Zepto Files Confidential IPO with SEBI, Eyes ₹11,000 Crore Fundraising



Establishing itself as a formidable player in the competitive quick-commerce landscape.

While enhancing the company's visibility in the public market.

Zepto's financial performance reflects strong revenue growth, driven by rising demand for convenient, rapid grocery delivery. While profitability remains a long-term goal, access to public capital is expected to accelerate growth, fund infrastructure development, and enhance marketing efforts. Analysts expect that investor appetite for this IPO will be high, given Zepto's brand recognition, rapid market expansion, and the broader inter-

est in technology-driven consumer services.

As India's primary markets continue to see increased activity, Zepto's upcoming IPO is poised to become a defining moment for the quick-commerce sector. The combination of regulatory approval, investor interest, and operational scale will determine the success of one of the most anticipated listings in 2026, highlighting both the maturity of India's startup ecosystem and the growing appetite for transformative consumer technology companies.

Indian Markets Trim Gains as Year-End Rally Fizzles; Sensex and Nifty End Lower



to support buying activity, even as foreign institutional investors registered net outflows. This combination resulted in a narrow trading range for the Nifty, indicating consolidation in the market as participants awaited new triggers.

Analysts highlighted that underlying technical support around key levels, such as 26,000 on the Nifty, remains significant. Sustaining these levels could bolster investor confidence as the market moves into early 2026.

While headline indices showed muted performance, selective interest in midcap and smallcap stocks persisted, indicating pockets of optimism among investors willing to explore growth opportunities beyond largecaps.

Looking ahead, market participants will monitor the upcoming Q3 earnings season, macroeconomic indicators, and Reserve Bank of India policy updates, which are expected to influence market direction in the new year. Additionally, global economic cues, including crude oil prices and U.S. economic data, will play a crucial role in shaping investor sentiment and the performance of Indian equities.

In summary, while the year-end rally softened on December 26, underlying market breadth remained healthy, highlighting cautious optimism amid selective buying. Investors are expected to navigate early 2026 with a focus on earnings trends and macroeconomic developments, setting the tone for the next phase of equity market performance.

Railway Stocks Surge Up to 10% on Fare Hike and Budget Optimism



Shares of railway-linked companies such as Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd (RVNL), Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC), and Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) rallied sharply in Indian markets, with some gaining as much as 10-12 percent on Friday.

The surge comes amid a combination of revised passenger fares and investor optimism ahead of the upcoming Union Budget 2026-27, which is expected to boost railway infrastructure investment.

A key trigger for the rally was the implementation of a revised passenger fare structure by Indian Railways, effective from December 26. While the fare increases were modest, they are expected to generate additional revenue for the national transporter in the current financial year. Market participants viewed this as a positive step toward enhancing financial sustainability for Railways and related public sector undertakings.

Analysts noted that even small incremental revenue could improve earnings visibility for companies like IRCTC, which derive income from ticketing, catering, and tourism services.

Investor interest was also supported by pre-budget expectations. Market participants are anticipating higher government allocations toward railway modernization, station redevelopment, electrification, and expansion projects such as dedicated freight cor-

ridors. The prospect of increased capital expenditure and supportive policy measures has historically boosted sentiment in railway and infrastructure stocks.

During the session, RVNL emerged as one of the biggest gainers, leading the sector's advance. IRFC and IRCTC also witnessed strong buying interest, attracting both institutional and retail investors. Many stocks that had underperformed earlier in the year saw renewed demand, driven by bargain-hunting, technical buying, and optimism surrounding future budgetary support.

Despite the rally, analysts cautioned that the gains appear largely sentiment-driven. Sustainable long-term returns for railway stocks will depend on the actual implementation of infrastructure projects, continued revenue growth, and clarity on government budget allocations. Investors are advised to consider both the positive sentiment and the execution risks before entering positions in these counters.

Overall, the surge in railway stocks highlights the market's sensitivity to policy signals and revenue triggers. While short-term momentum is strong, the sector's performance over the next few months will largely hinge on budgetary announcements, project execution, and earnings visibility, making it a key area to watch as India moves into 2026.

Samsung May Source BOE Displays for Galaxy Phones and Smart TVs



Samsung is reportedly considering a renewed partnership with Chinese display maker BOE Technology Group to supply panel for both its Galaxy smartphones and smart TVs. This move comes as Samsung looks to diversify its component suppliers and manage rising costs for key hardware like displays.

BOE, one of the world's largest display manufacturers, has previously supplied LCD and OLED panels for Samsung devices, particularly for mid-range Galaxy phones and TV panels. A legal dispute between BOE and Samsung Display over OLED patents led to a temporary pause in collaboration, but that dispute has since been resolved. Executives from both companies have reportedly held talks to explore deeper collabora-

tion once again.

Under the renewed discussions, BOE could supply small-sized OLED panels for future Galaxy smartphones and large LCD panels for Samsung's smart TV lineup. While Samsung Display has traditionally been the primary supplier of premium OLED screens for flagship Galaxy S and Galaxy Z foldable series, rising component costs are prompting the company to consider alternative suppliers as a strategic move.

BOE already supplies display panels to several major global smartphone brands, including Oppo, Huawei, and Vivo, and has also been part of Apple's supply chain for certain iPhone models. Re-entering Samsung's supply chain at scale would mark a major boost for BOE after years

of legal tension between the two companies.

For Samsung, diversifying suppliers could help offset price pressures on components such as memory, processors, and sensors, which have been rising globally. For BOE, renewed collaboration with Samsung would strengthen its position in the global display market and expand its reach in the premium segment.

While neither Samsung nor BOE has officially confirmed the deal, the industry is watching closely. This development could reshape how display panels are sourced for some of the world's most popular smartphones and televisions in the coming years, potentially impacting pricing, availability, and innovation in the display space.

OpenAI and Anthropic Give Developers a Holiday Gift with Doubled AI Usage Limits



As the year winds down, AI enthusiasts and developers have reason to celebrate. OpenAI and Anthropic have rolled out temporary measures that double the usage limits for their flagship AI tools, ensuring creators can push their projects to the limit before 2026 begins.

OpenAI's initiative focuses on Codex, its AI-powered coding assistant. Codex helps users generate, edit, and understand code using natural language instructions. For a limited time, developers using Codex will enjoy twice their usual rate limits, a boost that will remain active until January 1, 2026. The move is aimed at helping programmers handle larger workloads, experiment with new coding ideas, and complete projects without hitting frustrating usage caps.

Anthropic is offering a similar boost for its Claude AI platform, specifically for Claude Pro and Claude Max subscribers. From December 25 to December 31, these users will experience

doubled usage across web, desktop, and mobile applications. This temporary upgrade mainly benefits individual subscribers, leaving team and enterprise plans at their standard limits.

Both companies frame the increase as a holiday gesture to appreciate developers who rely on these AI tools for coding, prototyping, research, and experimentation. High usage limits are particularly valuable during the busy end-of-year period, when deadlines and personal projects often collide. Developers can now explore more ambitious tasks without worrying about interruptions or restrictions.

This holiday boost also reflects broader industry dynamics. AI platforms are facing intense competition and growing demand, and temporary enhancements like doubled limits can attract new users while retaining loyal subscribers. Experts note that long-term solutions, such as mid-tier subscription plans offer-

Google's Space-Based AI Data Center Faces Challenges Amid Orbital Congestion

Google is reportedly exploring one of the most futuristic ideas in technology: establishing AI-powered data centers in space. The concept involves launching satellites equipped with advanced computing hardware to process large-scale AI workloads above Earth, using solar energy as a continuous power source. While the plan could revolutionize data processing and energy efficiency, scientists warn that Earth's increasingly crowded orbit could pose significant risks.

The project, internally dubbed Project Suncatcher, would place dozens of satellites in sun-synchronous low Earth orbit, where they can receive near-constant sunlight. These satellites are designed to work together as a coordinated data-processing network, potentially reducing the need for massive, energy-hungry terrestrial data centers. The idea is ambitious: harness space's untapped energy and bandwidth to power the next generation of AI applications.

However, experts caution that the orbital environment is becoming ex-



tremely congested. Thousands of active satellites, along with decommissioned spacecraft and fragments of debris, populate low Earth orbit. At the high speeds at which satellites travel — roughly 28,000 kilometers per hour — even a small collision can create catastrophic damage and trigger a cascade of debris, known as Kessler syndrome, which could make entire orbital regions hazardous for other spacecraft. Google's plan is par-

ticularly sensitive because its satellites would operate in tight formations, just hundreds of meters apart, to maintain a synchronized AI network. While this is necessary for data sharing and system efficiency, it leaves little margin for error in case of collision threats or emergency maneuvers. Analysts note that recent years have seen hundreds of thousands of collision-avoidance maneuvers worldwide, and the addition of a dense constellation like

Google's could further strain orbital safety. To make the concept viable, companies like Google will need highly sophisticated collision-avoidance technologies, international coordination for orbital traffic management, and proactive measures to remove or mitigate space debris. Experts emphasize that without these safeguards, even a groundbreaking project could inadvertently worsen the already critical issue of orbital crowding.

Despite these challenges, the idea of space-based AI computation remains tantalizing. If successful, it could significantly reduce terrestrial energy consumption, increase processing efficiency, and open new possibilities for space-based innovation. Yet, the project underscores a critical lesson: as humanity reaches for the stars, the orbital environment itself must be managed carefully to ensure the safety and sustainability of future space ventures.

Realme Neo 8 Rumored to Launch in January 2026 with Flagship Specs

Realme is reportedly preparing to launch its next-generation smartphone, the Realme Neo 8, in China as early as January 2026, with a global rollout expected later in the year. The device is expected to be a major upgrade over its predecessor, the Neo 7, and may launch in other markets, including India, under a different name such as the Realme GT 8.

Leaks suggest that the Neo 8 will be powered by Qualcomm's Snapdragon 8 Gen 5 chipset, positioning it as a high-end or flagship-level device. This represents a significant performance upgrade compared to last year's Neo 7.

One of the standout features is a massive 8,000 mAh battery, which promises extended battery life. The phone is also expected to support 80 W fast charging, allowing quick recharges despite the large battery capacity.

The display is rumor-



ed to be a flat AMOLED or LTPO panel with approximately 1.5K resolution and a 120 Hz refresh rate, providing smooth visuals for gaming, streaming, and daily use.

Premium features may

include an ultrasonic display fingerprint scanner, a metal frame with glass back, and IP68 dust

and water resistance, offering durability and a premium feel.

Camera details are still emerging, but the Neo 8 is expected to feature multiple lenses, with a likely 50 MP main sensor accompanied by additional sensors for wide-angle and possibly macro photography.

Realme may also expand the Neo 8 lineup with variants such as the Neo 8 Turbo, Neo 8 SE, and Neo 8x, catering to different price segments and performance requirements throughout 2026.

Overall, the Realme Neo 8 appears to combine flagship-level performance, a large battery, and a premium design, making it one of the most anticipated smartphones of early 2026. Fans and tech enthusiasts are eagerly awaiting its official launch to see how it performs against competitors in the high-end smartphone segment.

Oppo Reno 15 Series to Expand with New Reno 15C Model, Expected India Launch Early 2026



Oppo is set to expand its popular Reno 15 series 5G lineup with the addition of a fourth model called the Reno 15C, which is expected to launch in India in early 2026. The Reno 15C will join the existing Reno 15, Reno 15 Pro, and Reno 15 Pro Mini models, giving buyers more options in the mid-range and premium segment. The series is being positioned as Oppo's flagship style offering for early 2026, with a focus on performance, display quality, and long-lasting battery life.

Leaks and industry reports suggest that the Reno 15C will feature a 6.57-inch Full-HD LTPO display with a 120Hz refresh rate, delivering smooth visuals and vibrant colors for gaming, streaming, and everyday use. The handset is expected to be powered by the Qualcomm Snapdragon 6 Gen 1 chipset, coupled with up to 12GB

of RAM and 256GB of internal storage, offering robust performance for multitasking and demanding applications.

A major highlight of the Reno 15C is its 7,000 mAh battery, which is expected to provide long hours of usage without frequent recharging. The device is also tipped to support

80 W fast charging, ensuring that even with such a large battery, it can be quickly recharged for convenience.

In terms of photography, the Reno 15C is likely to feature a triple rear camera setup, headlined by a 50 MP main sensor, alongside an 8 MP ultrawide lens and a 2 MP macro lens, complemented by a 50 MP front camera for selfies and video calls.

The design is expected to be sleek, with a thickness of around 8.14 mm and a weight between 189-195 grams. The addition of the Reno 15C is likely to strengthen the lineup further, giving buyers an option that balances premium specifications with affordability. Early 2026 will see Oppo aggressively positioning this series to capture attention in India's highly competitive smartphone market, making the Reno 15C one of the most awaited devices of the year.

refinements for the Reno 15 series. Early reports indicate that the Reno 15C could be priced under ₹40,000 in India, making it an attractive choice for consumers seeking high battery capacity, smooth performance, and modern features without stretching to flagship prices.

With the Reno 15 series, Oppo aims to combine performance, design, and endurance to compete strongly in the mid-range and upper mid-range segments. The addition of the Reno 15C is likely to strengthen the lineup further, giving buyers an option that balances premium specifications with affordability. Early 2026 will see Oppo aggressively positioning this series to capture attention in India's highly competitive smartphone market, making the Reno 15C one of the most awaited devices of the year.

Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma Earn Just ₹60,000 Per Match in Vijay Hazare Trophy – A Modest Payday for Cricket Legends

Even the biggest cricket stars in India sometimes earn surprisingly modest fees in domestic tournaments. Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, two of the most celebrated cricketers globally, were paid just ₹60,000 per match for playing in the Vijay Hazare Trophy 2025-26. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) follows a standardized payment structure for domestic competitions, which is based on experience and number of matches rather than star power.

In the Vijay Hazare Trophy, players are classified according to the number of List A matches they have played. Those with over 40 matches, which includes both Kohli and Rohit, fall into the "senior" category. If selected in the playing XI, these players earn ₹60,000 per match. Reserve players receive half of this amount. Despite their immense fame and earnings elsewhere, their domestic pay is capped by this system.

For context, their international earnings under BCCI central contracts are exponentially higher. As Grade A+ players, Kohli and Rohit receive annual retainers of ₹7 crore each, along with per-match fees of ₹6 lakh for ODIs, ₹15 lakh for Tests, and ₹3 lakh for T20 internationals. Their IPL contracts are even more lucrative, with retainers and match fees



amounting to multi-crore deals—a stark contrast to the domestic one-day competition.

Beyond the standard match fee, Vijay Hazare players can earn daily allowances for travel, food, and accommodation, as well as prize money when their teams progress and Man of the Match bonus-

es, which are often around ₹10,000. While these perks help, they still pale in comparison to the earnings from international and IPL cricket.

For Kohli and Rohit, however, participation in the tournament is not about money. Their involvement brings immense visibility and cred-

ibility to domestic cricket and inspires young players. The duo's presence elevates the competition, draws fans' attention, and encourages budding cricketers to aim higher.

Their engagement underscores a vital aspect of Indian cricket: even legends remain connected to grassroots competitions,

demonstrating commitment beyond financial incentives. The Vijay Hazare Trophy may offer a modest paycheck, but for fans and young cricketers, seeing superstars like Kohli and Rohit on the field is invaluable, showcasing dedication, professionalism, and passion for the sport.

Kevin Pietersen Criticizes MCG Pitch After 20 Wickets Fall in Ashes Test



The fourth Test of the 2025-26 Ashes series at the Melbourne Cricket Ground has stirred debate both on and off the field, with former England star Kevin Pietersen voicing his frustration over the pitch conditions. Day one of the Test saw an extraordinary 20 wickets fall, leaving fans and analysts shocked at how quickly both Australia and Eng-

land struggled with the bat. Australia was bowled out for 152, while England could manage just 110 in their first innings, making it one of the most dramatic opening days in recent Ashes history.

Pietersen, known for his forthright opinions, highlighted what he sees as a double standard in the way pitches are scrutinized internationally. He

pointed out that Indian pitches are frequently criticized when wickets tumble early, yet similar conditions in Australia often escape the same level of scrutiny. His comments sparked a wider discussion on fairness in pitch preparation and evaluation, suggesting that the same standards should apply no matter which country is hosting

the match.

The rapid fall of wickets at the MCG highlighted how bowler-friendly the surface had become. The pitch's extra grass and moisture generated significant movement, making batting extremely difficult and tipping the balance heavily toward the bowlers. Fans and commentators alike noted that the conditions produced a thrilling spectacle, but also questioned whether such a surface maintained the traditional balance between bat and ball that Test cricket is meant to uphold.

Former players, analysts, and cricket enthusiasts joined Pietersen in debating the fairness of the pitch. Many argued that while a challenging surface can create exciting cricket, consistently extreme conditions risk turning batting into a lottery and diminish the skill element that defines Test matches. Pietersen's blunt observation, urging

fair treatment of pitch assessments across all nations, struck a chord with the cricket community.

Beyond the statistics and controversy, the incident emphasized the larger question of how international cricket ensures consistency in playing conditions. In high-profile series like the Ashes, where national pride and historical rivalry are at stake, the role of pitch preparation becomes as crucial as the performances on the field.

Pietersen's remarks have reignited conversations about technology, umpiring, and pitch standards, reminding everyone that cricket is about balance, fairness, and respect for the game. The Melbourne Test may be remembered not only for its dramatic collapses but also for sparking a renewed discussion on how conditions should be set fairly, ensuring thrilling yet equitable contests for both teams.

Stuart Broad Gets Emotional as England Ends 5,468-Day Wait for Test Win in Australia



In a moment that captured the essence of cricket's oldest rivalry, former England fast bowler Stuart Broad was visibly moved in the commentary box as England secured a historic Test victory in Australia, ending a drought that lasted nearly 15 years. The landmark win came during the fourth Ashes Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, where England chased down a modest target of 175 runs to claim a morale-boosting victory, finally breaking a streak of disappointment that had lasted 5,468 days since their last triumph on Australian soil.

Although Australia had already secured the Ashes series with a 3-1 lead, the Melbourne win was a significant achievement for England, fans, and cricket historians. For supporters of the visiting team, it provided a much-needed moment of celebration after years of touring strug-

gles and near-misses Down Under. Broad's reaction in the commentary box mirrored that relief. Cameras captured him smiling, soaking in the achievement, and visibly moved by the significance of the moment. His joy was a stark contrast to previous Ashes campaigns, during which his

tense expressions and moments of visible frustration had often reflected the team's struggles. England's Boxing Day Test win represented far more than just three points on the scoreboard. It symbolized a break in a long-standing pattern of frustration, as the team had endured 18 consecutive Tests without a victory in Australia. The last win in the country dated back to January 2011, making this triumph all the more emotional and symbolic. Fans, players, and former stars alike shared in the joy of finally witnessing England conquer the historic challenge of winning on Aus-

tralian soil.

For Broad, now a commentator rather than an active player, the emotional moment was especially poignant. Having been part of many Ashes battles, both triumphant and painful, he experienced the victory vicariously, but with deep connection and pride. His reaction highlighted how cricket is more than statistics and results; it is about history, legacy, and the passion that the Ashes evoke. Even from the commentary box, Broad's emotion served as a reminder that cricket's most memorable stories are often shaped by persistence, resilience, and the joy of finally overcoming long-standing challenges.

England's win at the MCG was not just a statistical achievement—it was a triumph of spirit, determination, and the enduring magic of the Ashes, captured perfectly in Stuart Broad's heartfelt response.

Ashes Controversy: Marnus Labuschagne Frustrated After Contentious Dismissal at MCG



The fourth Test of the 2025-26 Ashes series at the Melbourne Cricket Ground delivered more than just exciting cricket—it sparked controversy that has become the talk of fans and analysts alike. The focal point of the drama was Australian batsman Marnus Labuschagne, who was dismissed in a manner that left him visibly frustrated and reignited debates over umpiring decisions and the role of technology in modern cricket.

During Australia's second innings, Labuschagne came in at a crucial juncture after an early collapse, aiming to stabilize the innings. In the 18th over, he edged a delivery from England pacer Josh Tongue toward the slip cordon. Joe Root's sharp catch appeared clean, but Labuschagne hesitated, signaling he wasn't fully convinced the ball had carried. The on-field umpire referred the decision to the third umpire, and after reviewing multiple angles, the ruling went in England's favor, with the third umpire determining that the ball had not touched the ground before Root secured it.

Labuschagne's reaction—shaking his head and walking off the field with visible frustration—captured the emotions of a player who takes immense pride in his craft. Fans, commentators, and former players have since debated whether the available footage conclusively proved the catch, with some suggesting certain angles left room for doubt. The incident has once again

highlighted the delicate balance between human judgment and technology in cricket, particularly in high-stakes matches like the Ashes.

The dismissal came at a pivotal moment, adding pressure on Australia's batting lineup and shifting momentum in England's favor. England capitalized on the breakthrough, exploiting movement and bounce on the MCG pitch to bowl Australia out for a low total in their second innings, setting up a manageable target. The match quickly became a dramatic contest, with the controversial decision fueling discussions both on commentary panels and across social media.

For Labuschagne, the moment was more than just a dismissal—it symbolized the challenges he has faced in this Ashes campaign, where consistency has been hard to find and pressure is relentless. His visible frustration reflected not only personal disappointment but also broader concerns over the consistency and interpretation of the Decision Review System.

The incident underscores how, in modern cricket, technology can amplify emotions as much as it resolves disputes. Labuschagne's controversial dismissal will be remembered not just for its impact on the match, but as a reminder of the fine line between human judgment, technological aid, and the passion that fuels the sport, especially in the historic and fiercely contested Ashes series.

England's Ashes Triumph Shakes Up World Test Championship Standings — Implications for India



England's stunning Boxing Day victory over Australia at the Melbourne Cricket Ground has done more than break a 15-year drought on Australian soil—it has also significantly affected the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) 2025-27 standings, sending ripples through the race for a place in the final.

Before this match, Australia had maintained a flawless record in the current WTC cycle, winning every series and boasting a perfect points percentage. Their loss to England in a four-wicket thriller ended that streak, reducing their points percentage and opening the door for other teams to close the gap. While Australia remains at the top of the table, their first defeat has injected fresh excitement into the championship race.

England, meanwhile, gained a crucial boost in the WTC standings. Coming into the match, they were mid-table with a mixed record, and this win not only improved their points percentage but also restored confidence ahead of the remaining Ashes contests. Despite the lift, England still trails behind teams like India, Australia, and New Zealand, meaning they will need consistent results to contend for a top-two finish and a spot in the WTC final.

For India, England's unexpected success presents both an opportunity and a challenge. India currently holds a competitive position in

the WTC rankings with a solid points percentage, but with Australia dropping points, the relative advantage for India grows slightly. Success in upcoming series is crucial for India to maximize this opportunity, as teams above them continue to hold higher percentages that can affect the race to the final.

New Zealand and South Africa also benefit indirectly from Australia's slip, drawing closer in the points table and keeping their championship hopes alive. The WTC's reliance on points percentage rather than total points ensures that even a single match result can have a large impact on standings, especially when a dominant team like Australia is involved.

With the final Test of the Ashes series still to be played in Sydney, the WTC landscape remains dynamic. Every match from now until the end of the current cycle could determine which two teams advance to the championship final. India's focus must remain on consistency and strong performances, as England's win underscores the importance of every point in the global standings.

England's Melbourne victory serves as a reminder that cricket is not just about historic wins but also about strategy and positioning in the broader context of international competitions like the World Test Championship, where a single match can redefine the title race.

Actor Sivaji Appears Before Telangana Women's Commission Over Controversial Remarks

Hyderabad, December 27, 2025 –

Tollywood actor Sivaji appeared before the Telangana State Commission for Women today to respond to controversial comments he made about women's clothing during a recent promotional event for his film *Dhandora*. The remarks had drawn widespread criticism for being derogatory and disrespectful toward women, prompting the Commission to summon him for clarification.

At the hearing, Sivaji addressed questions from the panel and provided his explanation regarding the context of his statements. While he had earlier issued an apology, stating that his intention was misinterpreted, the Commission sought further clarification to ensure accountability. Videos from the session show the actor attending the meeting and responding to the inquiries posed by



the panel.

Sivaji's comments had sparked a strong public reaction, with social media users and public figures emphasizing that women's attire is a matter of personal choice and that public statements should not demean or undermine women. The Telangana State Commission for Women took suo motu cognizance of the incident, stressing that statements by public figures carry responsibility and that

respect and equality for women must be upheld in all spheres.

The incident has become a significant talking point within the Telugu film industry and broader society, igniting discussions on the importance of responsible public speech and respect for women's rights. The Commission is expected to take further action depending on the outcome of the inquiry and the clarifications provided by Sivaji.

Priyanka Mohan Joins '666: Operation Dream Theatre'; Makers Reveal First-Look Posters



The buzz around the much-anticipated film *666: Operation Dream Theatre* has intensified with the latest announcement that actress Priyanka Mohan has joined the star-studded cast. To celebrate her entry, the makers have unveiled two intriguing first-look posters, offering fans a glimpse into her enigmatic character.

In the first poster, Priyanka is seen against the backdrop of a golden full moon, dressed in a lavender blouse paired with a floral skirt. The visual combines a vintage aesthetic with contemporary styling, hinting at a narrative that could involve elements of time travel, as suggested by the earphones featured in her look.

The second poster presents her in a retro-inspired avatar, complete with pearl jewelry, gloves, a floral dress, and a broad-brimmed hat. The soft tones and classic styling evoke the charm of timeless cinema, adding layers of mystery to her character while maintaining an aura of elegance and intrigue.

The visuals suggest a cinematic universe where fantasy, mystery, and style intersect, raising anticipation ahead of the film's release. Fans have already been captivated by previous updates, including first looks of Dr. Shiva Rajkumar and Dhananjaya, massive set designs, and vintage film equipment, all of which contribute to the movie's immersive

world. Produced by Dr. Vaishak J. Gowda under the banner Vaishak J Films, *666: Operation Dream Theatre* is directed by Hemanth M. Rao. Music Director Charan Raj and cinematographer Advaitha Gurumurthy are helming their respective departments, while Vishwas Kashyap oversees production design and Inchara Suresh handles costumes.

The film, also starring Dhananjaya and featuring Dr. Shiva Rajkumar in a key appearance, has completed three shooting schedules. With its high-budget vision and a simultaneous release planned in Telugu and Kannada, *666: Operation Dream Theatre* promises to deliver a thrilling cinematic experience.

Aadi Saikumar's Mystical Thriller 'Shambhala' Set for Hindi Release on January 1

After captivating Telugu audiences, Aadi Saikumar's latest film *Shambhala* is now poised to make its Hindi debut on January 1, 2026. Following its December 25 release in Telugu, the mystical thriller has created a buzz with its gripping narrative and genre-blending storytelling, making the Hindi release an eagerly awaited event for northern audiences.

Producers Mahidhar Reddy and Rajashekhar Annabhimmoju confirmed that the Hindi version is currently awaiting censor certification. The announcement has heightened curiosity and anticipation among moviegoers beyond the Telugu-speaking regions. Riding high on its initial success, expectations are strong for the film to replicate its performance on a wider platform.

In the Telugu states, *Shambhala* has emerged



as a commercial success, grossing ₹5.4 crore within its first two days, including premiere shows. This marks the biggest opening of Aadi Saikumar's career so far. A key factor in the film's success has been its strong word-of-mouth appeal, with audiences praising its unique approach that blends mysticism, devotion, horror, and suspense without relying on typical commercial

tropes. Director Ugandhar Muni has been lauded for creating a chilling, immersive narrative set in a 1980s village backdrop. The film's tightly crafted suspense, complemented by well-executed visual effects, keeps viewers engaged from start to finish.

Aadi Saikumar's performance has been widely appreciated, with critics and audiences alike noting it as one of his most compelling portrayals. His ability to convey fear, determination, and devotion in equal measure has contributed significantly to the film's impact.

With the Hindi release on the horizon, *Shambhala* aims to capture the imagination of a pan-Indian audience, bringing Aadi Saikumar's gripping performance and the film's mystical thrills to viewers across the country.

'Patang' Movie Receives Rave Reviews; Cult Producer SKN Urges Everyone to Watch

The recently released

sports drama *Patang*, presented by renowned producer D. Suresh Babu and produced under the banners Rishan Cinemas and Monsoon Tales, has been garnering widespread acclaim. Directed by Praneeth Pappatipati, the film features key performances from popular director-actor Gautam Vasudev Menon and celebrated singer-actor SP Charan, alongside a talented ensemble cast.

The movie's success meet was held on Saturday in Hyderabad, attended by Cult Producer SKN and actor Sandeep Kishan. SKN praised the film, calling it "one of the most beautiful movies in recent times," lauding its genuine emotions and heartfelt storytelling.

Producers emphasized the importance of audience support for quality cinema, noting that prominent personalities have already backed the

approach. "The movie's kite competition scenes reminded me of Sankranti," SKN remarked. "Patang is a most lovable entertainer, and audiences' time won't go wasted. I plan to book a screen in a multiplex soon to showcase this film to my friends and social media followers for free because promoting quality cinema is important."

Sandeep Kishan echoed similar sentiments, praising the film's promotional content and the team's sincere efforts. "The trailer is excellent, and the movie itself is sweet like a festive treat. I'm giving 500 tickets to fans and encourage everyone to watch it in theaters," he said.

Producers emphasized the importance of audience support for quality cinema, noting that prominent personalities have already backed the

film. Associate Producer Ramya added, "Patang has received wonderful reviews. Its signature scenes touch every heart. It's a beautiful, youthful entertainer that deserves appreciation. We are releasing it overseas on January 1."

Director Praneeth Pappatipati expressed delight

at the positive response. "Even if some theatres are not nearby, audiences who make the effort to watch the film will not be disappointed," he said.

Pranav Kaushik, part of the production team, added, "The audience's support is vital for a small film like ours. *Patang* is crafted with high

quality, passion, and dedication, offering a complete theatrical experience. We are thrilled with the response so far."

The success meet was attended by Ramya, Sampath, Vijay Shekhar, Nani Bandreddy, Pranav Kaushik, Suresh, Vamsi Poojith, Preethi Pagadala, and Praneeth Pappatipati.

Sanjjanaa Galrani Reflects on Her Bigg Boss Season 9

Journey: "This Victory Belongs to My Supporters and Family"



Actress Sanjjanaa Galrani, who emerged as one of the Top 5 finalists in *Bigg Boss Season 9*, recently opened up about her emotional journey on and off the reality show. Speaking exclusively to the media, Sanjjanaa shared how a challenging incident five years ago had shaken her life and career, but her resilient nature helped her fight back and achieve this significant milestone.

"This victory is not mine alone. It belongs to my supporters and my family," she said, visibly emotional, as she recounted the highs and lows of her career and personal life. She expressed heartfelt gratitude to her family, well-wishers, and fans who stood by her during trying times.

Sanjjanaa revealed that her time in the *Bigg Boss* house taught her valuable life lessons and inspired her to embark on a fresh chapter in her career. She credited the show with restoring her confidence and enabling her to walk with her head held high once again.

The actress also spoke about her admiration for the show's host, Akkineni Nagarjuna, stating that she has become an even bigger fan after her experience on the show. She hinted at new opportunities in Telugu cinema, confirming that she has already received several inquiries for upcoming projects.

Prabhas' *Bujjigadu* made in Chennai, delighting the audience. She concluded by saying she intends to move forward in a way that makes everyone who supported her proud.

Sanjjanaa also extended special thanks to Visionary Vows for organizing the media interaction and ensuring the event's success. Her journey from adversity to triumph stands as a testament to resilience, earning her admiration from fans and industry insiders alike.

"Playing Khudiram Bose, Who Ascended the Gallows at 18, Is My Life's Greatest Honor": Rakesh Jagarlamudi



Hyderabad, December 27, 2025 –

The Pan-India biopic *Khudiram Bose* brings to life one of India's youngest revolutionaries, who sacrificed his life at just 18, with debutant actor Rakesh Jagarlamudi portraying the legendary freedom fighter. In an exclusive interview, Rakesh shared his journey of embodying this national icon and the emotional responsibility that came with it.

"When I first heard the story, my heart was racing. The thought of an 18-year-old smiling while facing the gallows for his country deeply moved me. Being chosen to portray Khudiram Bose filled me with immense pride but also a profound sense of responsibility," Rakesh recalled. Though he secured the role through his father, producer Vijay Jagarlamudi, Rakesh stressed that truly honoring the character required intense preparation.

He underwent 90 days of rigorous training, including acting workshops at the Mayukha Film Institute under veteran actor Uttej Garu, extensive physical training, and studying historical texts about Khudiram Bose. He was inspired by Bose's pioneering efforts to popularize the slogan "Vande Mataram," his association with Sister Nivedita, and

his role in carrying the first Indian flag designed by her.

Rakesh revealed that filming the climax—the execution scene—was the most challenging. "Portraying a boy who laughs in the face of death for his country was emotionally draining. It has made me braver and more determined to stand up for truth in real life," he said.

Working alongside legends such as Padma Shri Thota Tharani, Mani Sharma, Rasool Ellore, and Marthand K. Venkatesh, and senior actors like Atul Kulkarni, Vivek Oberoi, and Nasser, provided a masterclass in filmmaking. Rakesh also shared fond memories of his bond with Superstar Rajinikanth, who personally blessed the film.

The film received a moving response at a special screening in Parliament and at the International Film Festival of India in Goa, where it earned a five-minute standing ovation. Rakesh emphasized that patriotism is more than words—it is about action.

Khudiram Bose is now streaming for free on the Government of India's OTT platform Waves, in Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, and Bengali. Rakesh hopes audiences will watch and honor the sacrifices of the freedom fighters. "Vande Mataram! Jai Hind!"

Charming Star Sharwanand Launches Trailer of MGR Tukaram's Kaagitham Padavallu



Hyderabad, December 27, 2025 –

The much-anticipated trailer of the beautiful love story *Kaagitham Padavallu*, directed by MGR Tukaram, was officially launched by charming star Sharwanand. Produced under the banners of SLN Cine Creations, Pranadhi Creations, and Nav Narayana Cine Creations by Keerthana Naresh, T.R. Prasad Reddy Venkatrajulu, and Gayitramma Anjanappa, the film has already received a tremendous response from the previously released glimpses.

At the trailer launch, Sharwanand praised director Tukaram for his passion and dedication. "Tukaram came into the industry without any background but with immense passion for filmmaking. Watching the teaser, it's evident how sincerely he has worked. The trailer immediately makes you want to watch the full film. Vardhan's performance doesn't feel like a debut; he is very promising. I wish the entire team great success," Sharwanand said.

The trailer, which begins with the powerful dialogue, "Love is like fire. It can be a lamp that lights up two lives... or a spark that can set the forest ablaze," immediately captured audience attention. The depth of the love story connects with viewers, while the chemistry between the lead pair, Vardhan and Krishnapriya, is beautifully portrayed. Their on-screen emotions are heart-touching, drawing audiences into the narrative.

MGR Tukaram's direction has been widely appreciated for its finesse, with grand visuals, immersive background music, and a perfect blend of emotions and action. The trailer has successfully built curiosity about the film, promising a touching romantic journey.

The film features music by AIS. Noulaf Raja, cinematography by Rudrasai, editing by Jeswin Prabhu, costumes by Kiran, and executive production by M. Hima Bindu. The screenplay and direction are by MGR Tukaram, with dialogues penned by Rehman and promotional activities managed by PRO Tejaswi Sajja. Starring Vardhan and Krishnapriya in the lead roles, *Kaagitham Padavallu* is set to release soon, promising a visually stunning and emotionally engaging cinematic experience for audiences.