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Vinukonda MLA GV Anjaneyulu Vows Rapid Development, Warns of Defamation Suit Against False Allegations



Bapatla Police Recover 373 Lost Mobile Phones Worth ₹74.6 Lakh in Three Months



2nd PHASE LPS CAUSED 3 PROBLEMS IN AMARAVATI

TPN Bureau | December 29

Amaravati: The flavour of Amaravati during the initial days of the alliance rule is diminishing day by day. Though the government under Mr. N. Chandrababu Naidu is trying to resolve issues and push the capital Amaravati forward, new problems are emerging. The three problems raised due to the second phase of land pooling for Capital Amaravati are:

1. Unrest among the farmers of Amaravati
2. Slowdown of real estate
3. Doubts over the progress of the capital

Unrest among the Farmers of Amaravati: After the announcement of the second phase of land pooling, farmers who had already given their lands in the first phase allegedly became angry. They questioned how the second phase was announced without allotting their plots and completing the allocation process. They feared that with more land being pooled, the demand for their plots would decrease. That is why the Chief Minister interacted with them directly once. Even then, their doubts were not cleared. Allegedly, they warned of protests during the CRDA office opening, which officials somehow managed to stop. They also met farmers from the second-phase areas and appealed to them not to accept the government's proposal. The death of a farmer in Mandadam clearly reflected the unrest among them.

Slowdown of Real Estate:

After the 2024 results, a real estate boom began, and developers moved very fast accordingly. However, after the announcement of the second phase, they suffered a setback. Buyers fell into uncertainty about when the project would be completed. As a result, they chose Mangalagiri Road, including Tadepalli and Kunchanapalli areas, to purchase plots or flats. Their view is that these areas have easy access to Vijayawada's infrastructure, whereas Amaravati will take a long time to develop such facilities. Because of this, real estate activity has slowed down. Builders are waiting to see speedy construction in Amaravati.

Doubts over the Progress of the Capital:

Here again, Mr. Chandrababu Naidu faced bad luck. In 2014, people forgot that this was a divided state with no economic support. Now too, people have forgotten the loss of five years under YS Jaganmohan Reddy in the name of three capitals. Everyone is keenly watching the progress of the capital. However, the second phase has again

acted as a speed breaker. On the other hand, there is no progress in the construction of the capital in the first phase, despite repeated statements by Minister Narayana. People doubt that it will once again be dragged on for a longer period.



Due to all these issues, the government has changed its strategy and fielded Union Minister Pemmasani in place of Minister Narayana. As Mr. Pemmasani is local and has a strong grip over local people, the government has taken this step, as per buzz. That is why he is often seen attending meetings related to Amaravati.

Even the YSRC has changed its strategy, as per buzz. What Mr. Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy said earlier that they intend to develop the area between Vijayawada and Guntur will be the official policy of the YSRC. They will continue to develop Amaravati and, at the same time, develop Visakhapatnam, a YSRC leader stated.



Garment Industry Can Empower Women Through Employment:

SERP Director Padmavathi



women's self-help groups (SHGs), garment manufacturing units, and marketing agencies to build an integrated ecosystem," she explained.

Padmavathi also mentioned that SERP is exploring collaboration with private garment producers and textile companies to provide necessary infrastructure, training, and market linkages. "We are focusing on skill development and entrepreneurship so that women can eventually become self-reliant entrepreneurs," she added. DRDA Project Director Shailaja,

Handlooms and Textiles Assistant Director Varaprasad, and Assistant Commissioner Shiva Prasad also attended the meeting.

They interacted with women tailors and assured institutional support for setting up small-scale production clusters in Uravakonda and nearby villages. Officials present at the meeting said that the Velugu Mission will provide continuous guidance to trained women, ensuring access to raw materials, sewing machines, and marketing platforms. They also discussed

forming cooperative production units to help local women collectively manage production and sales.

The meeting concluded with an appeal to women to actively participate in the state's employment promotion programs. The officials expressed confidence that the garment industry could become a major source of livelihood for women in both rural and semi-urban areas, strengthening their economic independence and contributing to the state's development initiatives.



Ministers should be punctual

TPN Bureau | December 29

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Cabinet Meeting: CM Naidu Pulls Up Officials, Reviews Key Development PlansIn a crucial review meeting on Monday morning, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu chaired a Cabinet meeting that witnessed strong remarks on administrative discipline and key developmental discussions. Expressing displeasure over the absence of senior officials during the session, the Chief Minister took a serious view of their non-attendance, emphasizing that all officers must be present during Cabinet proceedings without exception.

During deliberations on municipal matters, CM Naidu reminded the bureaucracy that accountability and punctuality are fundamental to effective governance. He directed the General Administration Department to ensure that all officials attend Cabinet meetings on time, noting that inefficiency or casual behavior would not be tolerated.

The Cabinet also discussed several development and administrative issues, including the declaration of Polavaram as a new district. Minister Kandula Durgesh raised a query on the rationale behind naming the district "Polavaram" when the actual Polavaram town is not part of it.

Responding to the question, CM Naidu clarified that the name was

retained considering the large number of project evacuees associated with the Polavaram project who reside in the region. He drew a parallel with the naming of NTR District, which does not include NTR's birthplace, saying that symbolic recognition often carries deeper emotional and historical significance.

The Chief Minister further stated that efforts were underway to ensure that every district in Andhra Pradesh would have at least one port to boost regional economic growth and connectivity. However, he noted that West Godavari district currently lacks a port facility and instructed senior IAS officer K. Krishna Babu to focus on resolving the issue and explore viable port development plans in the district. Highlighting the government's achievements, CM Naidu said that the state administration had successfully reduced electricity tariffs by 13 paise per unit since November, providing tangible relief to consumers. He also directed officials to expedite the development of airports at Kuppam and Dagadarthi to enhance regional air connectivity and attract industrial investment.

The Cabinet meeting underscored Naidu's focus on administrative accountability, infrastructure expansion, and balanced district development across the state, signaling his government's proactive approach in addressing both governance lapses and development priorities.



Yadiki Panchayat to Be Developed as Clean and Green

MLA J.C. Ashmitha Reddy

TPN Bureau | December 29

Yadiki: Tadipatri MLA J.C. Ashmitha Reddy announced his commitment to transforming Yadiki Gram Panchayat into a model "Clean and Green" village. Taking a proactive step toward this goal, the MLA personally launched a large-scale sanitation drive in the village on Monday, utilizing his own funds for the initiative.

The massive cleanliness program was carried out with substantial manpower and machinery support. Around 10 excavators, two Hitachi machines, and 15 tractors were deployed, along with nearly 70 sanitation workers. The drive focused on clearing drains, removing accumulated debris, and ensuring that wastewater does not stagnate anywhere in the panchayat limits.

MLA Ashmitha Reddy personally supervised

the works, interacting with the staff and instructing them to sustain cleanliness efforts on a daily basis. Speaking on the occasion, she emphasized that maintaining cleanliness and greenery reflects the overall development and health of the community. She said the initiative aimed not just at temporary cleanup but at building a culture of hygiene and environmental responsibility among residents. The MLA urged villagers to actively participate in maintaining public spaces and to support the "Clean and Green Yadiki" mission. Following the sanitation program, MLA Ashmitha Reddy laid foundation stones for several new CC roads across localities such as the Anjaneyaswamy Colony. These infrastructure projects are expected to significantly improve local connectivity and drainage.

He also inaugurated newly installed water pumping motors worth 20 lakh to ensure consistent water supply to households, demonstrating a holistic approach—covering sanitation, infrastructure, and public utilities. Officials from various departments, Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leaders, and local representatives accompanied the MLA during the visit. They appreciated the initiative, terming it an important step toward making Yadiki an example for other panchayats in Anantapur district.

The program reflects the MLA's emphasis on self-initiative, community engagement, and sustainable rural infrastructure. His focus, she reiterated, is on making every village in the Tadipatri constituency clean, livable, and environmentally friendly, aligning with the broader vision of rural transformation and public welfare.

Dr. Manthena Satyanarayana Raju Appointed as Government Adviser for Naturopathy

TPN Bureau | dec 30, 2025

Vijayawada: The Andhra Pradesh government has appointed noted naturopathy expert Dr. Manthena Satyanarayana Raju as the State Government Adviser for Naturopathy (Prakruthi Vaidyam). Official orders confirming the appointment were issued on Monday. The government has also announced the appointment of Pochampally Sridhar Rao as Adviser for Mass Communication, both to serve a term of two years. Dr. Manthena Satyanarayana Raju, a widely respected figure in the field of natural health and wellness, has decades of experience promoting holistic living through diet regulation, yoga, and lifestyle management. Over the years, he has become a household name across Andhra



Pradesh and beyond, guiding people toward natural healing and disease prevention methods rooted in Indian naturopathic traditions. He is the founder of Prakruthi Chikitsalayam, a well-known nature cure hospital located at Undavalli Karakatta near Vijayawada. The centre has earned recognition for its integrated approach toward health, emphasizing detoxification, fasting therapy, and balanced nutrition. Dr. Manthena also oversees a network of Arogyavalyam Centres in Vijayawada and Narasapuram, which provide wellness consultations, diet guidance, and residential naturopathy programs to patients from across the state. Dr. Manthena's appointment is seen as part of the government's broader effort to promote Prakruthi Vaidyam and alternative medicine sys-

tems in public health policy. Officials noted that his expertise and public outreach will help strengthen wellness initiatives and spread awareness about preventive healthcare and natural living practices among citizens. Alongside this, media veteran Pochampally Sridhar Rao has been appointed as Adviser for Mass Communication. With extensive experi-

ence in journalism and communication, Sridhar Rao is expected to contribute to the government's media strategy, ensuring effective dissemination of welfare scheme information and public service campaigns. His advisory role will focus on enhancing engagement between government departments and the public through streamlined communication chan-

2025: A Year of Glory, Grief, and Growing Prominence

TPN Bureau | dec 29, 2025

Visakhapatnam witnessed a dramatic year in 2025 — one that blended political prominence, international attention, rapid development, and heartbreaking tragedy. From high-profile visits and global sporting events to devastating incidents and climate extremes, the city stood at the centre of Andhra Pradesh's most defining moments of the year.

The year began on a high note with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the port city on January 8. His roadshow at the Andhra University Engineering College Grounds drew massive crowds, underscoring Visakhapatnam's political and strategic importance. Weeks

later, on February 27, the Teachers' MLC elections generated political buzz, with candidates from all major parties campaigning vigorously across the region's educational hubs. March turned the spotlight on sports as Visakhapatnam hosted an Indian Premier League (IPL) clash between Delhi Capitals and Sunrisers Hyderabad at the ACA-VDCA Stadium on March 30. The event not only thrilled cricket fans but also spurred discussions about upgrading the stadium. Under the supervision of BCCI Secretary Jay Shah and State IT Minister Nara Lokesh, modernization works gained momentum, signaling the city's growing role as a national sports destination. April brought both pride

and pain for the city. The Eastern Naval Command became the focal point of India-US defence cooperation as the joint tri-service humanitarian exercise, Tiger Triumph, commenced on April 1. The exercise underscored Visakhapatnam's strategic maritime significance in the Indo-Pacific region. However, tragedy soon overshadowed these developments. The brutal terror attack in Pahalgam that claimed the life of city resident Chandra Mouli deeply moved the state. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan visited the bereaved family on April 23 and 24, respectively, conveying condolences and promising support. Coinciding

with these events, Visakhapatnam endured one of its hottest days in recent memory, with mercury touching 43°C — a stark reminder of the worsening climate challenges confronting the coastal city. April ended on a sorrowful note when a stampede at the revered Simhachalam temple during a festive rush on April 30 claimed seven lives and

injured several others. The tragedy shocked the state, prompting calls for better crowd management and emergency preparedness at major temple events. From power-packed visits to human loss, Visakhapatnam's 2025 narrative was one of transition, a city straddling between progress and pain, resilience and reckoning.

Elderly Passenger Dies in Ernakulam Express Fire; Cash and Gold Recovered from Luggage

TPN Bureau | dec 29, 2025

Visakhapatnam: A devastating fire broke out on the Ernakulam Express near Elamanchili in Anakapalli district on Monday, leaving one passenger dead and two coaches completely gutted. The incident, which sent shockwaves among commuters and railway officials alike, occurred as the train was passing through the Elamanchili section of the Visakhapatnam division.

According to preliminary information, the fire was first noticed in one of the sleeper coaches around dawn. Passengers raised alarms as thick smoke engulfed the compartment,

prompting emergency brakes and immediate evacuation. However, in the chaos that followed, a 70-year-old passenger, identified as Chandrasekhar Sunder, a resident of Vijayawada, was unable to escape and tragically succumbed to the blaze.

After firefighters and railway personnel brought the situation under control, railway police began a detailed examination of the affected coaches. During the inspection, a significant quantity of valuables was recovered from Chandrasekhar Sunder's luggage. In the presence of his family members, officials verified the contents: 5.80 lakh in cash and several

gold ornaments, including chains, rings, and bangles. Several bundles of currency notes were found partially charred by heat and flames.

Officials from the Government Railway Police (GRP) and Railway Protection Force (RPF) have launched a joint investigation to determine the

cause of the fire. While a short circuit is suspected, authorities have not ruled out other possibilities. Samples have been collected from the scene for forensic analysis. Local police confirmed that no other passengers were reported missing or seriously injured, owing to the quick response

of fellow travelers and train staff, who helped in evacuating the compartments. Senior railway and district administration officials visited the site for a firsthand assessment. The gutted coaches were later detached, and the train resumed its journey after safety clearance. Expressing grief over the incident, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu lauded the prompt action of the Andhra Pradesh police and railway personnel in handling the emergency efficiently. He extended condolences to the bereaved family and directed officials to ensure a thorough probe and enhanced safety measures to prevent similar tragedies.



Future Skills Hub in West Godavari to Empower Youth, Women, Farmers, SHGs

TPN Bureau | dec 29, 2025

Vijayawada: Through national skills qualifications framework-aligned and industry-relevant curricula, the hub offers three future-ready skill pathways like AI-enabled digital and IT literacy, AI-powered digital marketing and Aqua-Tech (drone operations) Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates the 'Cyient AI & Future Skills Hub' at the Digital Building in Pedamainavanilanka of Narasapuram mandal in West Godavari district on Sunday.

By ARRANGEMENT KAKINADA: Union fi-

nance minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said the artificial intelligence (AI) powered Skill Hub at Pedamainavanilanka village in Narasapuram mandal of West Godavari district would empower youth, women, farmers, self-help groups and locals. They would be provided with future-ready skills aligned with livelihood opportunities, she said.

Sitharaman, along with the Union minister of state for steel and heavy industries Bhupathiraju Sriinivasa Varma, finance minister Payyavula Kesan, the water resources minister Nimmala Ramanaidu,

BJP state president PVN Madhav and others inaugurated the skill hub at Pedamainavanilanka — her adopted village. It gets the support of Cyient Foundation. Sitharaman said the centre has been established under the aegis of the Cyient Foundation with the objective of transforming it into a model AI-based rural skill and livelihood centre. She said, "PMLanka is not a remote village now. It is recognized as a main centre for AI-powered skill training." This initiative, she said, is designed to strengthen India's AI power rural transforma-

tion journey, support national priorities such as Digital India, Skill India, and Viksit Bharat 2047. "It operates on the premise of how government infrastructure can be leveraged through CSR partnerships to create scalable, inclusive development models."



She said that the centre features AI-powered systems and smart classrooms, a 40-system computer lab, drone training equipment, high-speed connectivity, licensed and open-source AI tools, and a centralized learning management system enabling struc-

tured training delivery, real time tracking, and outcome measurement. Through national skills qualifications framework-aligned and industry-relevant curricula, the hub offers three future-ready skill pathways like AI-enabled digital and IT literacy, AI-powered digital marketing and Aqua-Tech (drone operations)

Each track emphasizes hands-on learning through a 12-week training model, built on a 60 per cent practical and 40 per cent AI-assisted theoretical approach, she said and added that the participants in the training centre would be sup-

ported through certification and placement to ensure job readiness and sustainable livelihood outcomes.

Founder chairman of Cyient Ltd, BVR Mohan Reddy, said the AI-Future Skills Hub reflects their deep commitment to enabling rural communities to meaningfully participate in India's digital and AI-driven growth trajectory. The foundation, he said, has digitized more than 120 government schools and made 35,000 students digital literate.

Sitharaman inspected the construction works of the Anti-Erosion Wall at the village and hoped

Green signal on restructure of AP districts



TPN Bureau | dec 29, 2025

from Bapatla district to Prakasam district.

A new Markapur district has been created, combining the constituencies of Markapuram, Kanigiri, Giddalur, and Yerragonapalem. Railway Koduru has now been merged into Tirupati district.

Minister Satyaprasad announced that changes have been made in 17 out of the 26 districts, while the remaining nine will remain unchanged. He explained that the modifications were based on extensive public feedback and administrative convenience. The Naidu government has been providing good governance for the last 18 months with transparency and accountability as core principles.

He emphasized that during the previous YSRCP government, Government Orders (GOs) were not made available in the public domain, whereas the current administration has adopted an open governance policy ensuring accessibility of official documents.

He revealed that the Cabinet discussed a total of 24 agenda items in the meeting. Among the major decisions, the Cabinet approved the waiver of interest on loans amounting to 41 crore related to the Social Welfare Department.

Furthermore, the government has decided to install smart me-

ters in government offices as part of an energy efficiency initiative before implementing them on a wider scale. Major Restructuring of Districts The most significant discussion of the day centered around district reorganization across the state.

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Dr. Gopireddy Submits Petition to Collector and SP Seeking Action on Panchayat Issues in Rompicherla Mandal

TPN Bureau | December 29

Tadepalli/Narasaraopet, Palnadu District: YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) Palnadu District Working President Dr. Gopireddy Srinivasa Reddy on Monday submitted separate petitions to the District Collector and the Superintendent of Police (SP), urging immediate steps to resolve civic problems in Buchchi Papannapalem village under Rompicherla mandal. Dr. Gopireddy accused the coalition government of neglecting the basic needs of the people despite completing 18 months in office. He criticized officials for failing to provide even minimum infrastructure facilities in Buchchi Papannapalem, forcing residents to live in difficult conditions.

Speaking to the media after submitting the representations, he alleged that the village panchayat secretary remained inaccessible, even though the local body had funds of about 16 lakh. "Despite having sufficient funds, the



Panchayat has not paid sanitation workers their wages," he said.

He recalled that a similar complaint had earlier been submitted to the former Palnadu District Collector, who directed the District Panchayat Officer (DPO) to investigate the issue. "Though an inquiry officer was appointed, the panchayat secretary was never available whenever the officer visited the village and doesn't even respond to phone calls," Dr. Gopireddy claimed.

The YSRCP leader further alleged that the secretary falsely claimed that key panchayat records were missing and that a police complaint had been filed about the matter. "However, when we enquired at the police station, officials told us that no such case had been registered," he said. Dr. Gopireddy also pointed out that he and his colleagues had personally spent 1 lakh from their own funds to provide lighting and sanitation facilities in

the village. "Earlier, bills up to 4.5 lakh for works executed by former sarpanches are still pending, but the secretary is refusing to clear them," he added.

Responding to his petition, District Collector Kritika Shukla reportedly called the DPO and sought an explanation regarding the allegations. Dr. Gopireddy also raised concerns about political provocations in Narasaraopet town. He alleged that Telugu Desam Party (TDP) workers

had tied flex banners and pasted posters on the pillars around the statue of late Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy near Reddy College. "We have never disrespected N.T. Rama Rao's statues in such a manner," he remarked, urging the police to prevent activities that could vitiate the political atmosphere. The district SP assured that appropriate action would be taken. Several YSRCP leaders were present during the programme.

Sudden Tension at Bhavanipuram Punnam Ghat as Town Planning Officials Attempt to Demolish Avakaya Amaravati Festival Exhibition

TPN Bureau | December 29

Vijayawada: Vijayawada witnessed tense scenes on Monday at Bhavanipuram's Punnam Ghat when town planning officials attempted to demolish the structures of the Avakaya Amaravati Festival exhibition. The sudden enforcement move took many by surprise, especially the event organizers, who had already made extensive preparations for the three-day festival scheduled from January 8 to 10.

The festival organizers alleged that the authorities acted in haste, ignoring the notice period mentioned in the official communication. According to them, the notices issued by the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) clearly mentioned a seven-day compliance period, but the demolition team arrived abruptly, triggering strong protests from the organizers and support staff at the venue.

As officials began preparations for the demolition, the situation quickly turned



tense. The organizers and workers attempted to prevent the action, leading to heated arguments between the two sides. Police personnel were deployed to control the situation and prevent escalation. Speaking to reporters, the exhibition organizers expressed deep frustration and concern, claiming that they had invested around 5 crore in setting up the festival infrastructure.

"We have put in months of effort and invested crores of rupees

to organize this event. If the structures are removed suddenly, we will face severe financial losses," one organizer said. They demanded that the authorities reconsider their decision and allow the event to proceed as planned.

The organizers argued that the festival was aimed at promoting local culture, crafts, and traditional products such as Andhra's famous avakaya (mango pickle), and that arrangements were already completed for

exhibitors, stalls, lighting, and cultural programs. Many local entrepreneurs and small business vendors were also set to participate.

Meanwhile, municipal officials contended that the structures had been erected without proper planning permissions and that the action was part of a routine enforcement drive against unauthorized constructions along the Krishna riverfront.

They maintained that safety and regulatory compliance could not be

compromised, even for temporary events. Throughout the day, dozens of vendors and workers gathered at the venue, appealing for leniency. Both organizers and officials held brief discussions in an attempt to de-escalate the situation.

By evening, authorities temporarily halted the demolition amid ongoing talks, but uncertainty still loomed large over whether the Avakaya Amaravati Festival will be allowed to take place as scheduled.

Andhra Pradesh Minister Kollu Ravindra Blames Jagan Reddy for Jangareddygudem Tragedy, Calls Previous Government's Liquor Policy a "Murder by Corruption"

TPN Bureau | December 29

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Mines, Geology and Excise Minister Kollu Ravindra launched a scathing attack on former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, holding him squarely responsible for the 2022 Jangareddygudem spurious liquor tragedy in which 29 people lost their lives.

Speaking to the media on Monday, the minister described the incident as "nothing short of murder" resulting from the YSRCP government's corrupt liquor policies. Ravindra accused Jagan Reddy of presiding over an administration rooted in "adulteration, loot, and corruption" throughout his five-year rule. He alleged that the previous government monopolized liquor sales, introduced low-



quality brands, and inflated prices, pushing poor people toward illicit country liquor.

"The liquor trade was entirely controlled by YSRCP leaders. They made profits while people paid the price with their lives," he said. The minister criticized the former government's handling of the tragedy, claiming it failed to order any meaningful investigation despite vic-

tim families repeatedly stating that deaths were due to spurious liquor. "Instead of acting, Jagan Reddy shamelessly told the Assembly that nearly 90 people die every month from natural causes, which shows the moral decay in his policies," Ravindra alleged.

He added that a Special Investigation Team (SIT) inquiry later exposed the cover-up attempts. Highlighting the

reforms taken up by the current coalition government, Ravindra said all "fake brands" introduced during Jagan Reddy's tenure have been banned. "We have reintroduced quality liquor brands, matching prices with neighboring states. Affordable options such as .99 brands are now available," he said.

To maintain quality, the government has implemented a 13-level test-

ing process and introduced a "Suraksha App" to trace every bottle and curb adulteration. Accusing former YSRCP leaders of hatching conspiracies to malign the new government, Ravindra said attempts to revive illegal liquor manufacturing units were thwarted.

"These conspirators, with prior experience in Mookalacheruvu and Ibrahimpatnam, tried to shift the blame onto us but ended up in jail," he claimed. Citing a recent case in Nellore, the minister said a few individuals misled a senior citizen into purchasing liquor to create false social media narratives about "belt shops." In a stern warning, Ravindra said: "The government will not tolerate false propaganda. Those who attempt to mislead or disturb peace will face strict legal action."

Rift Over Rayachoti District Center Sparks Political Showdown

TPN Bureau | December 29

Rayachoti: A major political storm has erupted in Andhra Pradesh over the state cabinet's decision to revoke Rayachoti's status as a district headquarters. YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) state general secretary Gadikota Srikanth Reddy has vowed to continue the fight to retain Rayachoti as the district center, even declaring he is ready to sacrifice his life if necessary.

Accusing Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu of betraying the people of Rayachoti, Srikanth Reddy said the move exposed Naidu's "habitual backstabbing nature." He alleged that the decision to cancel the Rayachoti district center was a politically motivated act carried out by the ruling coalition.

"What is the use of shedding tears after the Cabinet meeting without opposing the decision?" he lashed out at Minister Ramprasad Reddy, criticizing his silence during the crucial cabinet discus-

sions. Srikanth Reddy announced that YSRCP workers and local residents will organize a massive rally in Rayachoti on Tuesday to protest the government's move. "We will continue our struggle until Rayachoti remains the district headquarters," he declared.

The controversy has sparked outrage among residents, who accuse Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu of breaking his pre-election promise. During the previous polls, Naidu had publicly assured that Rayachoti would remain the district center, but the latest cabinet decision has reversed that commitment.

Locals described it as a "betrayal" that would disrupt administrative convenience and hurt the region's development prospects. Inside the Cabinet, sources said high drama unfolded when the proposal to change the district headquarters came up for discussion. Despite being the minister representing the region, Ramprasad

Reddy reportedly did not voice any opposition. When mediapersons questioned him afterward about his silence, he avoided questions and left abruptly. Reports emerged suggesting that Reddy was moved to tears during the meeting, which critics described as a "political performance" lacking genuine resistance.

According to the cabinet's new restructuring plan, Rajampet will be merged into Kadapa district, and Madanapalle will be designated as the new district headquarters. Meanwhile, Railway Kodur will be integrated into Tirupati district. Srikanth Reddy called this division of the Anna-maiah district "an insult to the memory of Saint Annamayya," emphasizing that the move was both insensitive and politically driven.

Protests and political reactions are expected to intensify in the coming days as Rayachoti braces for large-scale demonstrations opposing the state government's decision.

Remand of Maoist Accused Extended Till January 12



TPN Bureau | December 29

Vijayawada: In a significant development, police in Vijayawada have achieved another breakthrough in their ongoing crackdown on Maoist activities. The remand period of a group of Maoist suspects, arrested earlier by the Patamata and Penamaluru police, has been extended till January 12 by a local court.

The extension was

sought by the police to facilitate further interrogation and gather additional evidence related to their anti-state operations. The existing remand of the accused was scheduled to end on Monday. However, investigating officials informed the court that the Maoist suspects were believed to possess crucial information that could throw light on the organization's latest movements, recruitment patterns, and any underground networks active in the region.

Citing the need for

further details regarding local supporters, logistics channels, and financial sources linked to Maoist operations across coastal and Rayalaseema districts.

Police teams from different districts are coordinating to cross-check the suspects' statements and trace possible hideouts or safe houses. Law enforcement agencies have intensified their surveillance in sensitive areas and are reportedly monitoring several individuals with suspected Maoist connections.

Senior police officers stated that the remand extension will play a crucial role in strengthening the investigation and help prevent possible Maoist resurgence in the state. The development marks another setback for the Maoists, who have been facing steady losses in Andhra Pradesh due to continuous police operations and intelligence-based arrests over recent months.

YSRCP Doctors Wing Slams Government Over Mismanagement in DME

TPN Bureau | December 29

Vijayawada: The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) NTR District Doctors Wing on Monday launched a scathing attack on the State government for its alleged failure in the field of medical education. Addressing the media at the YSRCP NTR District Office, Dr. Ambati Naga Radhakrishna Yadav, Chairman of the Doctors Wing, strongly condemned what he described as "utter chaos and mismanagement" prevailing in the Directorate of Medical Education (DME).

Dr. Ambati accused the government of turning the DME an institution meant to uphold academic standards and

professional discipline into a centre of factional politics and arbitrary decision-making. He alleged that internal rivalries, non-transparent functioning, and politically motivated appointments have crippled the apex body responsible for supervising government medical colleges, teaching hospitals, and nursing institutions across the State.

"When the very institution that should ensure quality standards, faculty training, and postgraduate supervision becomes a playground for favouritism and groupism, the future of medical education and patient care will inevitably collapse," Dr. Ambati said. He pointed out that

young doctors, medical students, and faculty members are facing growing uncertainty due to ad-hoc transfers, lack of merit-based promotions, and vindictive administrative actions.

The YSRCP Doctors Wing chairman criticised the government for failing to provide stable and professional leadership to the DME. He stated that postings and promotions are reportedly being influenced by political considerations rather than academic qualifications or service records, resulting in a loss of morale among medical professionals in teaching institutions.

He demanded an immediate, comprehensive inquiry into the functioning of the DME and its recent controversial decisions, with transparency in the inquiry's

findings. Dr. Ambati also urged the government to implement a time-bound action plan to upgrade infrastructure, improve faculty strength, and ensure quality training facilities. He concluded by warning that if the government fails to act swiftly, the YSRCP Doctors Wing, along with students and medical employees, will mobilize democratic protests to safeguard the future of medical education and public health in Andhra Pradesh.



Woman creates Bustle

TPN Bureau | Dec. 29

Nuzvid: A Telangana woman from Miryalguda created tense scenes at Nuzvid in Eluru district on Sunday after staging a prolonged dharna at two police stations, demanding that police stop the proposed marriage of her live-in partner and arrest him for allegedly abandoning her.

Protest at Nuzvid stations

The woman, accompanied by relatives and a few advocates, first reached the Nuzvid Town Circle Police Station, alleging that a man from Pothireddy-pally village in Nuzvid rural mandal, with whom she had been in a live-in relationship, was now trying to marry another woman. She appealed to the officials to intervene and halt the marriage, insisting that she be given justice before any new alliance was allowed.

CI cites jurisdiction limits

Circle inspector Satya Srinivas reportedly informed the protesters that the case did not fall under the Town Circle's jurisdiction and advised them to approach the Nuz-



vid Rural Police Station for appropriate action. During heated arguments, one of the accompanying advocates allegedly confronted the CI, following which he was briefly taken into custody and counselled before being let off.

Dharna shifts to rural station

After talks with the CI, the woman, her relatives and the advocates shifted their protest to the Nuzvid Rural Police Station, where they continued the sit-in late into the night. The group reiterated their demand that police register a case, prevent the man's proposed marriage, and initiate legal steps against him for allegedly deceiving the woman after years of cohabitation.

Background of live-in relationship According to sources, the woman had earlier married another man, and a petition related to that marriage

Koneru Humpy clinches bronze at FIDE Women's World Rapid Championship 2025 in Doha

TPN Bureau | December 29, 2025

Vijayawada | Doha: Indian Grandmaster Koneru Humpy once again proved her enduring mastery on the global chess stage by securing the bronze medal at the FIDE Women's World Rapid Championship 2025, held in Doha. The veteran from Andhra Pradesh concluded the 11-round event with an impressive 8.5 points, tying with China's Zhu Jiner and Russia's Aleksandra Goryachkina before finishing third on tie-breaks based on Buchholz and opponent ratings. Goryachkina emerged as the women's world rapid champion after winning the playoff, while Zhu Jiner finished second. Humpy's final-round draw against compatriot B. Savitha Shri ultimately denied her a third world rapid crown, following her glorious victories in 2019 and 2024. Despite missing out on gold, the performance underscored her consistency and resilience at the highest level of competition.



This latest medal adds to Humpy's remarkable legacy, making her the first woman to claim five career medals at the World Rapid Championships — a record that cements her place among the all-time greats of women's chess. Her achievement also reinforces India's growing reputation as a powerhouse in international chess, with multiple players now delivering podium finishes in both open and women's sections. In a congratulatory message on X, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu praised Humpy for her sustained excellence and global impact. He lauded her bronze medal as "a mark of resilience and a testament to Indian brilliance on the world stage," adding that her success continues to inspire millions across the

Roshni Apporangi Korati Becomes First Woman IAS Officer to Take Charge as Deputy Chairperson of Visakhapatnam Port Authority



TPN Bureau | December 29

Vijayawada: In a historic development, IAS officer Roshni Apporangi Korati (Assam-Meghalaya cadre) on Monday assumed charge as the Deputy Chairperson of the Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA), becoming the first-ever woman IAS officer to hold this prestigious post in the port's long history. Roshni's appointment has drawn wide attention not only for its milestone significance but also for

its deeply personal connection to the institution. Her father served as the headmaster of the Visakhapatnam Port High School, and now, decades later, his daughter takes on a top leadership role in the same organization, a symbolic moment underscoring dedication across generations. Born on April 3, 1984, Roshni completed her early education in Visakhapatnam and holds a Master's degree in Journalism and Mass Communication from

Andhra University, where she graduated with a gold medal. Colleagues from her alma mater describe her as a student of exceptional discipline and clarity of purpose, qualities that have marked her career in public administration. Since joining the Indian Administrative Service, she has built an impressive track record at the district, state, and central levels.

Roshni served as Additional Deputy Commissioner, and later as

Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate of Jorhat district in Assam, where she earned recognition for efficient governance and community-driven initiatives. Before her latest appointment, she was on central deputation to Andhra Pradesh as Joint Development Commissioner of the Visakhapatnam Special Economic Zone (VSEZ).

Her tenure at VSEZ was noted for promoting industrial facilitation, ease of doing business, and inclusivity.

Dr. Arasavilli Aravind Honoured with Doctorate in International Education from KL University

TPN Bureau | December 29

VA remarkable achievement in the field of education has brought pride and inspiration to Andhra Pradesh, as Exxeella Education Group Chairman Dr. Arasavilli Aravind has been awarded a Doctorate in International Education from KL University, Vijayawada. Dr. Aravind, who previously completed his Master of Business Administration (MBA) in the United States, has built an illustrious career focused on promoting global learning opportunities and cross-border educational excellence.

With extensive international experience, he has consistently emphasized that education is not merely a qualification but a transformative force that shapes the direction of a student's life. His doctoral research focused on international education systems, global university academic frameworks, and evolving opportunities for students worldwide.

Through this rigorous study, Dr. Aravind developed a deeper understanding of how to connect aspiring students from India with leading universities across continents including the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Europe, and other global education hubs.

standing of how to connect aspiring students from India with leading universities across continents including the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Europe, and other global education hubs.

Following this academic milestone, Dr. Aravind expressed renewed commitment to guiding students with greater responsibility, offering precise advice on choosing universities, planning academic courses, and mapping

out career pathways. For many youngsters from Andhra Pradesh, his organization Exxeella Education Group has been a trusted bridge to world-class universities abroad. In his long-standing efforts, Dr. Aravind has mentored thousands of students, helping them secure admissions, scholarships, and successful academic placements across several international institutions. His personalized approach and comprehensive under-

standing of global academic standards have earned him widespread respect among educators and parents alike. Driven by the belief that "a student's success transforms an entire family's future," Dr. Aravind continues to inspire many through his commitment to quality education, ethical guidance, and student empowerment.

Leaders from the education sector, academic administrators, and international partners

have congratulated Dr. Arasavilli Aravind on this prestigious achievement, describing it as a testimony to his visionary leadership and dedicated service to global learning.

As he continues his journey, Dr. Aravind stands as a role model for future educationists, demonstrating how academic passion and practical experience can combine to create meaningful impact in the world of international education.



Vinukonda MLA GV Anjaneyulu Vows Rapid Development, Warns of Defamation Suit Against False Allegations

TPN Bureau | December 29

Vinukonda (Palnadu District): State Chief Whip and senior legislator GV Anjaneyulu has reiterated that the comprehensive development of Vinukonda remains his lifelong ambition, asserting that the constituency will witness accelerated progress in the coming three years.

Addressing a press conference on Monday after laying the foundation stone for a new power substation at the Titco Housing Colony on Vellatur Road, Anjaneyulu condemned what he termed "baseless allegations" made by former MLA Brahmanayudu against Shivashakti Biotech Company.

Anjaneyulu staunchly defended the reputation of Shivashakti Biotech, highlighting its long track record of excellence and national recognition. He noted that the company had

received Best Product Awards from four successive Chief Ministers, demonstrating its credibility and contribution to the agricultural sector.

Warning against malicious propaganda, he stated that if Brahmanayudu continued spreading misinformation, a defamation suit would be filed. "The farmers know the truth they will not believe these false accusations," he stressed. The MLA accused Brahmanayudu of attempting to tarnish the government's image out of frustration over the visible development and welfare activities being undertaken by the state's coalition government. He dismissed the former MLA's claims of a shortage of urea and complex fertilizers, asserting that not a single farmer in the region had encountered such scarcity. "During YSRCP's rule, Brahmanayudu acted like a dictator. It is ironic that he



now speaks about moral values," Anjaneyulu remarked. Recalling past incidents, Anjaneyulu said Brahmanayudu's tenure was marked by cases filed against farmers and rowdy sheets opened against TDP leaders. He also criticized the politicization of administrative actions, saying that when municipal authorities removed YSRCP flex boards blocking public roads, the former MLA wrongly portrayed it as political vendetta.

Outlining his development vision for Vinukonda, Anjaneyulu announced plans to complete major infrastructure and civic

works shortly. He revealed that new shopping complexes would be built on MSP Colony land, and the Joshua Library would soon be completed. Under the AMRUT Scheme, a 210-crore drinking water project for the town would also be finished, ensuring clean water supply to all residents.

He further stated that the Ramaligeshwara Swamy temple and the adjoining ghat road atop the hill would be developed, adding that comprehensive spiritual and civic improvements would mark Vinukonda's transformation. "The progress and prosperity

of Vinukonda is not just my promise it is my life goal," he declared.

Speaking on the occasion, GDCC Bank Chairman Makkena Mallikarjun Rao supported Anjaneyulu's comments, accusing Brahmanayudu of making unfounded statements because he could not tolerate the rapid development achieved in the past 18 months. He reminded that Anjaneyulu and the local MP facilitated all necessary permissions for the Varikipudi Shala irrigation project and exposed corruption in the GDCC Bank during the previous regime.

The meeting saw participation from local leaders, including Jana-sena leaders Naga Srinu Royal and Nishankara Rao Srinivasarao, Municipal Chairman Dastagiri Shakeel, and several TDP leaders, reflecting a show of unity behind the ongoing development drive in Vinukonda.

Collector Krithika Shukla Directs Officials to Prioritize Grievance Redressal in Palnadu District

TPN Bureau | December 29

Narasaraopet (Palnadu District), Dec. 29: District Collector Krithika Shukla has directed all departmental officers to give top priority to resolving public grievances received through the Praja Samasya Parishkara Vedika (Public Grievance Redressal System - PGRS). She emphasized the need for timely and quality resolution of pending applications to ensure effective governance and strengthen public trust in the administration. As part of the district-level Praja Samasya Parishkara Vedika program held at the Collectorate in Narasaraopet, the Collector personally received petitions from citizens belonging to various mandals of Palnadu district.

A total of 121 petitions were submitted by applicants seeking official intervention and support. District Revenue Officer and other senior officials from various departments participated in the program. Collector Krithika Shukla interacted with petitioners, listened to their grievances in detail, and assured them that appropriate action would be taken at the earliest. She also instructed officials to coordinate effectively across departments to address interlinked grievances.

During the meeting, the Collector stressed that every petition must be dealt with professionalism, transparency, and accountability. Officials were asked to ensure



that all grievances are registered properly in the PGRS portal and resolved within stipulated timelines. She advised them to carry out periodic audits of grievances received and pending cases within their respective departments.

These audits, she said, would help identify recurring issues and improve the efficiency of grievance handling.

Krithika Shukla further directed officers to focus on direct communication with applicants to understand the root causes of their problems and keep them informed about the progress of their cases. "Public satisfaction depends on the sincerity and speed of our response.

Every officer must work to eliminate un-

necessary delays," she said. The Collector also instructed departments to clear all pending petitions without further delay and ensure that no grievance remains unresolved within their jurisdiction. The initiative is part of a larger effort by the district administration to build a responsive and citizen-friendly governance system in Palnadu.

MLA Bhashyam Praveen Conducts Praja Darbar in Malladi under "100 Villages in 100 Days" Programme



TPN BUREAU | December 29

Pedda kurapadu (Palnadu District): As part of his ongoing "100 Villages in 100 Days" outreach initiative, Pedda kurapadu MLA Bhashyam Praveen continued his direct interaction with the public to address local problems. On Monday, marking the 25th day of the programme, the MLA held a Praja Darbar (public grievances meet) at Malladi village in Amara-

vati mandal.

During the programme, MLA Praveen personally received petitions and listened to the grievances of local residents. He assured immediate action on issues related to revenue, housing, pensions, and village infrastructure. The MLA conducted a detailed discussion with departmental officials to ensure the swift resolution of pending matters and directed them to act promptly.

Several farmers of Malladi village brought to the MLA's attention that about 150 acres of land were wrongly classified as assigned land. They urged him to resolve the matter at the earliest. Responding to their appeal, Praveen promised to take necessary steps and ensure justice to the cultivators soon. The MLA advised eligible citizens to apply for welfare benefits such as pensions and housing plots, emphasizing that

the government's welfare programmes under the coalition government should reach all deserving families.

He said the essence of the "Praveen at the People's Doorstep" campaign was to bring the administration closer to the people and ensure on-the-spot solutions to local issues. Later, Praveen held a review meeting with the Malladi village secretariat staff. He directed them to maintain close coordination with the villagers and respond promptly to grievances. He said every staff member should be accessible to the public, interact respectfully, and make sure welfare services are delivered efficiently.

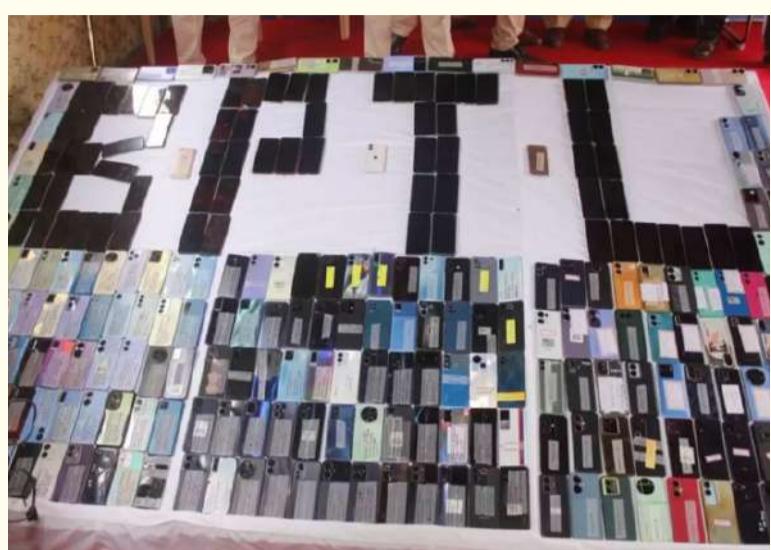
The MLA instructed officials to focus on cleanliness in the village and speed up the development of roads and drainage facilities.

He also emphasized that power supply issues must be prevented to avoid inconvenience to residents.

He stressed the need for officials to support farmers and resolve agricultural problems without delay.

The event saw participation from Mandal Tahsildar Meesala Daniel, Deputy MPDO Padmaja, District TDP President Shaik Jani, Mandal TDP President Manchineni Raja, Amaravati Water Users' Association Chairman Bhavirishetty Venkateswara Rao, along with leaders Tulasi Koteswara Rao, Battineni Veerabrahmam, Bhavirishetty Venkata-ramayya, Challa Sadasiva Rao, and several officials and local representatives.

Bapatla Police Recover 373 Lost Mobile Phones Worth 74.6 Lakh in Three Months



TPN Bureau | December 29

Bapatla: In a remarkable achievement, the Bapatla district police have recovered 3,301 missing mobile phones worth around 7.17 crore.

These recoveries were not limited to Andhra Pradesh alone but extended to several other states as well. The SP appreciated the coordinated efforts of local and interstate police departments for their support in tracking and returning the devices. Elaborating on the process, Umamaheswar explained that each case of mobile loss was treated seriously under a structured investigation plan.

Dedicated personnel tracked the IMEI numbers of the lost phones, leveraging advanced digital tools and technical support systems.

Once located, the phones were verified and returned to their legal owners after due documentation. The SP urged citizens to promptly report incidents of mobile loss at their nearest police station. He advised complainants to provide essential

details such as the device's IMEI number, purchase invoice, and contact information to facilitate quick recovery.

Alternatively, victims can also register their complaints online through the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal at www.ceir.gov.in. He further cautioned mobile users to take preventive security measures by immediately blocking their SIM cards and changing mobile numbers linked to bank accounts to avoid financial risks or misuse. He also advised obtaining new SIM cards and updating banking and other digital records without delay.

SP Umamaheswar reiterated that Bapatla police remain committed to citizen welfare and technological adoption in law enforcement. The department's proactive efforts reflect its dedication to building public trust and ensuring the security of personal property through the effective use of technology.

Tragic Double Loss in Hindupur: Mother Dies After Childbirth, Newborn Killed in Ambulance Crash



TPN Bureau | December 29

Hindupur: In a heart-rending tragedy, a family in Hindupur suffered two devastating losses within hours on Sunday when a woman died due to post-delivery complications and her newborn daughter was killed in a road accident while being transported home in an ambulance carrying the mother's body.

Najma, a resident of Basanapalli Auto Nagar in Hindupur mandal, had been admitted to the Hindupur Government Hospital for delivery. She gave birth to a healthy baby girl but developed severe post-delivery complications soon after. Doctors at Hindupur referred her to the Government General Hospital in Anantapur for advanced treatment as her condition deteriorated.

Despite efforts by medical staff, Najma succumbed while undergoing treatment, leaving her family in deep grief. As relatives prepared to bring Najma's body back to her hometown, tragedy struck again on the return journey.

The twin tragedies have cast a deep pall of sorrow over Basanapalli Auto Nagar, where relatives, friends, and neighbours gathered to mourn the unimaginable loss. Locals described the incident as "a cruel twist of fate," lamenting how the family lost both mother and child on the same day—the newborn perishing moments before reaching her home for the first time.

Community members called for enhanced safety measures for ambulance travel during foggy conditions to prevent similar mishaps in the future. Authorities are expected to submit a detailed report following the completion of investigation and post-mortem procedures.

Investigation to determine whether the crash occurred solely due to fog-induced poor visibility or if driver negligence also played a role.

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Shattered Childhood Dreams: Minor Pregnancies as a Grim Mirror of Social Failure

At a time when South India prides itself on high literacy rates, rapid urbanisation, and global recognition in the IT sector, an uncomfortable and disturbing reality is quietly unfolding beneath the surface. Teenage pregnancy—particularly among minors—has emerged as a stark contradiction to the region's narrative of progress. The recent revelation that 2,324 minor girls became pregnant in Karnataka over the last three years, with 749 cases reported by October this year alone, is not merely a statistic. It represents thousands of shattered childhoods, derailed futures, and a collective moral failure that society can no longer afford to ignore.

This crisis is not confined to Karnataka. The ripple effects are clearly visible in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, where similar trends—often underreported—continue to surface. The sharp rise in minor pregnancies forces us to confront an unsettling truth: economic growth and digital advancement mean little if they fail to protect the most vulnerable members of society.

The Digital Mirage and the Trap of Early Exposure

In today's hyper-connected world, smartphones and internet access have reached the palms of even the youngest users. While digital tools have the potential to empower, in the absence of guidance they often become instruments of harm. Social media platforms flooded with sexually suggestive reels, explicit content disguised as entertainment, and web series that glamourise adult relationships are shaping young minds long before they are emotionally or physically prepared.

Minors, particularly adolescent girls, are drawn into a vortex of curiosity and confusion. Exploiting this vulnerability are predatory individuals who use the language of love and trust to manipulate young girls. What begins as online interaction often escalates into physical exploitation. Many minors are unaware that, under the law,



their consent carries no validity. Decisions made in moments of emotional vulnerability permanently alter their lives, pushing them into motherhood before they even understand adulthood.

The digital age has advanced faster than our ability to educate children about its dangers. Parents, schools, and communities have collectively failed to create safe boundaries, leaving minors exposed to risks they are ill-equipped to handle.

Institutional Apathy and Silent Suffering

Some of the most shocking incidents have emerged from places meant to protect children. Recent cases from districts such as Yadgir and Shimoga, where minor girls gave birth inside hostel bathrooms of government residential schools, expose the

depth of systemic negligence. A ninth-grade student carrying a pregnancy for nine months without being noticed by teachers, wardens, or health staff is not just an oversight—it is an indictment of the entire system.

These incidents reveal two critical failures: lack of supervision and the absence of safe spaces for children to speak. Physical changes, emotional distress, and behavioural shifts went unnoticed, suggesting that monitoring mechanisms exist only on paper. Even more troubling is the fact that many girls did not seek help, fearing shame, punishment, or disbelief.

Sex education remains a taboo topic in many Indian households and schools. This silence breeds ignorance, leaving minors unaware of their own bodies, rights, and

available support systems. When awareness is replaced with fear and secrecy, desperation leads to unsafe, life-threatening outcomes such as concealed pregnancies and unattended deliveries.

A Public Health Crisis in Disguise

Teenage pregnancy is not merely a social issue—it is a severe public health emergency. The bodies of minors are often not physically developed enough to endure pregnancy and childbirth safely. As a result, maternal mortality risks increase significantly, along with complications such as severe anaemia, infections, and psychological trauma.

Children born to adolescent mothers frequently suffer from low birth weight, malnutrition, and developmental challenges. This creates

a cycle of vulnerability that extends across generations. In rural and backward regions of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, early pregnancies—often linked to child marriages—force girls to drop out of school, permanently cutting off access to education and economic independence.

Once education is disrupted, these young mothers are pushed into lifelong dependency and poverty. The nation not only loses individual potential but also weakens its social and economic fabric.

Legal Frameworks Undermined by Social Compromise

India's Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act is one of the strictest laws designed to safeguard minors. Yet, despite its provisions, many

offenders escape accountability. The reason lies not in the law itself but in society's willingness to undermine it.

Fear of social stigma, loss of "family honour," and community pressure often push victims' families toward compromise. Informal settlements and forced marriages between victims and perpetrators are shockingly common. Such practices embolden offenders, signalling that crimes against minors can be negotiated away.

While governments offer compensation schemes, insurance, and welfare support, no monetary assistance can restore lost childhoods or erase psychological scars. Weak enforcement, delayed investigations, and lack of evidence further deny victims the justice they deserve.

Collective Responsibility and the Road Ahead

Addressing this silent epidemic requires far more than reactive governance. It demands a comprehensive societal transformation. Schools must introduce age-appropriate, scientific sex education that focuses on bodily awareness, consent, and personal safety. Teachers should be trained to identify signs of abuse and emotional distress.

Parents must build trust-based relationships with their children, encouraging open dialogue rather than imposing fear-driven discipline. Digital literacy should be prioritised, with clear boundaries on smartphone usage and active supervision of online behaviour.

Grassroots workers such as Anganwadi and ASHA staff must be empowered to monitor vulnerable households and report early warning signs. Community participation is crucial—victims must be supported, not stigmatised.

Minor pregnancies are not isolated incidents; they are indicators of a society failing its children. When a minor becomes a mother, the future of an entire nation is placed at risk. Recognising this crisis as a collective responsibility is the first step toward change. Silence is no longer an option. Only sustained, unified action can dismantle this quiet catastrophe and safeguard the dreams of the next generation.



By Venka Gari Bhoomayya
Senior Journalist – Analysis
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A Simple Talk Before Marriage Can Save a Lifetime of Trouble

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

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

How Does It Work?

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

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

Why a Lawyer?

A lawyer is neutral. They are not from your family or your partner's family. They help you discuss these topics without fear or shyness. Their role is to make sure both of you understand each other clearly.

Also, when you write down your answers, you are more likely to be truthful. Why? Because if later there is a big problem like if someone hid something important, these



What's the Benefit?

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

Final Thought

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



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

papers can be used as proof. This encourages both to be honest from the start.

Isn't This Too Formal for Love?

Love is important. But marriage is also a serious

life partnership. Talking openly before marriage makes love stronger. It is

not about doubt; it is about building trust. Finding out about big differences be-

fore marriage is better than fighting about them after.

Hindu Family's Houses Set Ablaze in Bangladesh Amid Rising Attacks on Minorities

Several houses belonging to a Hindu family were set on fire in southern Bangladesh, triggering renewed concern over the safety of religious minorities amid a reported rise in targeted attacks. The incident occurred late at night in Dumritala village of Pirojpur district, where at least five houses within a single family compound were gutted by the blaze. According to local residents and family members, the fire broke out while the occupants were asleep. Flames spread rapidly through the structures, destroying household belongings, furniture, documents, and valuables. Although no human casualties were reported, the family lost all their possessions, and several domestic animals perished in the fire. Members of the affected family alleged that the incident was not accidental. They claimed that some doors of the houses had been locked from the outside, preventing a quick escape. Eight people trapped inside were forced to flee by cutting through tin sheets and bamboo fencing, narrowly avoiding serious injury. The family has since taken shelter with relatives, expressing fear over their safety.

Police and district officials reached the spot soon after the incident and launched an investigation. Senior police officials stated that preliminary findings suggest the fire may have been deliberately set. Several suspects have



Credit: @World_Breaking... on X

been detained for questioning, and authorities said further arrests could follow as the probe continues. Officials also assured the family of security and promised strict action against those responsible. The arson attack comes amid growing reports of violence against minority communities in different parts of Bangladesh in recent months. Human rights groups have pointed to a pattern of attacks involving vandalism, arson, and intimidation, often triggered by allegations

related to social or religious disputes. Such incidents have heightened anxiety among Hindu families, particularly in rural areas. Community leaders and rights activists condemned the attack and urged the government to ensure justice and protection for vulnerable communities. They emphasized the need for swift investigations and stronger preventive measures to deter communal violence. Government authorities have reiterated their commitment to maintaining communal

harmony and safeguarding minority rights. However, observers say repeated incidents have raised questions about enforcement and long-term solutions to protect minorities from targeted violence.

As investigations continue, the affected family awaits justice and assistance to rebuild their lives, while the incident has once again highlighted the broader challenge of ensuring safety and equal rights for minority communities in Bangladesh.

Supreme Court Stays Delhi High Court Bail to Ex-MLA Kuldeep Sengar in 2017 Unnao Rape Case

The Supreme Court on Monday stayed the Delhi High Court's order granting bail to former Uttar Pradesh MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar in the 2017 Unnao rape case, making it clear that the convicted politician should not be released from prison. The apex court's intervention came after the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) challenged the High Court decision that had suspended Sengar's life sentence.

A bench of the Supreme Court observed that the matter involved serious questions of law and required closer examination. The court directed that Sengar would continue to remain in custody while it hears the CBI's appeal against the High Court order. The bench also allowed the rape survivor to intervene in the proceedings, recognizing her right to be heard in the case.

Kuldeep Sengar, a former legislator from Uttar Pradesh, was convicted for the kidnapping and rape of a minor girl in 2017. The case had drawn nationwide attention due to allegations of political influence, and is serving a sentence for



intimidation of the victim's family, and multiple related criminal cases. A trial court had sentenced Sengar to life imprisonment under provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

In a separate case linked to the same incident, Sengar was also convicted for the custodial death of the victim's father and is serving a sentence for

that offence as well. Both convictions have made the Unnao case one of the most prominent examples of criminal accountability involving a political figure.

The Delhi High Court had recently granted conditional bail to Sengar while suspending his sentence, citing legal interpretations related to the definition of a "public servant." This decision sparked strong reactions and prompted the CBI to

approach the Supreme Court, arguing that the suspension of sentence was legally flawed and could undermine the seriousness of the crime.

During the hearing, the Supreme Court expressed concern over the reasoning adopted by the High Court and indicated that the issue required detailed judicial scrutiny. The top court granted Sengar time to file his response to the CBI's plea, while ensuring that he remains incarcerated in the interim.

The Supreme Court's stay has been welcomed by the survivor and her family, who have consistently voiced concerns about safety and justice. Legal experts say the ruling reinforces the principle that bail and sentence suspension in cases involving grave offences must be approached with caution.

As the case moves forward, the decision is being closely watched for its implications on criminal jurisprudence, victims' rights, and the accountability of influential individuals accused of serious crimes.

Shashi Tharoor Condemns Tripura Student's Killing, Says No Indian Should "Feel Foreign in Own Land"

Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor has strongly condemned the alleged racially motivated killing of a student from Tripura in Dehradun, calling the incident a "national disgrace" and urging the nation to confront the deeper issues of prejudice and discrimination faced by people from the Northeast. The remarks come amid growing public outrage and political reactions following the death of the 24-year-old MBA student, who succumbed to injuries sustained during an attack earlier this month.

In a detailed post on social media, Tharoor described the killing not as an isolated act of violence but as a symptom of ingrained ignorance, prejudice and a failure of Indian society to recognise and respect its own diversity. He highlighted that the victim, a proud Indian from Tripura, was reportedly subjected to racial slurs such as "Chinese" and "momo" before being assaulted, underscoring how deep-seated biases can escalate into deadly outcomes.

Tharoor appealed for reflection and reform, urging citi-



zens and leaders alike to work towards building a society where "no Indian is made to feel foreign in their own land." He called for schools to educate students about the histories and cultures of all Indian communities and for media outlets to portray people from the Northeast with dignity rather than resorting to stereotypes. The Congress leader also challenged political and religious figures to speak out against such violence, warning that silence in

the face of prejudice amounts to complicity.

The comments by Tharoor echo concerns expressed by other national figures and opposition leaders who have called for urgent action to address what they describe as rising hate crimes against residents from the northeastern states. These leaders have urged the government to take substantive measures to prevent similar incidents and ensure accountability for those responsible.

Officials in Uttarakhand, including the state's chief minister, have spoken with the victim's family, assuring them that strict action will be taken against the accused. Law enforcement agencies have arrested several suspects, though one individual remains at large, with a reward announced for information leading to his capture.

The killing has ignited debate across the country about racial profiling, social exclusion and the vulnerability of minority groups, particularly those from the Northeast, who have long voiced concerns about discrimination in other parts of India. Tharoor's statement underscores the urgency of confronting these issues not just through legal channels but by changing societal attitudes and fostering greater empathy and inclusion.

As the case continues to unfold, both political and civil society voices are calling for broader societal reflection on how India can uphold its constitutional ideals of equality and respect for all citizens, regardless of region, ethnicity or appearance.

Sadhguru Calls for Strengthening Siliguri Corridor, Says India Must Turn 'Chicken's Neck' into 'Elephant's Neck'

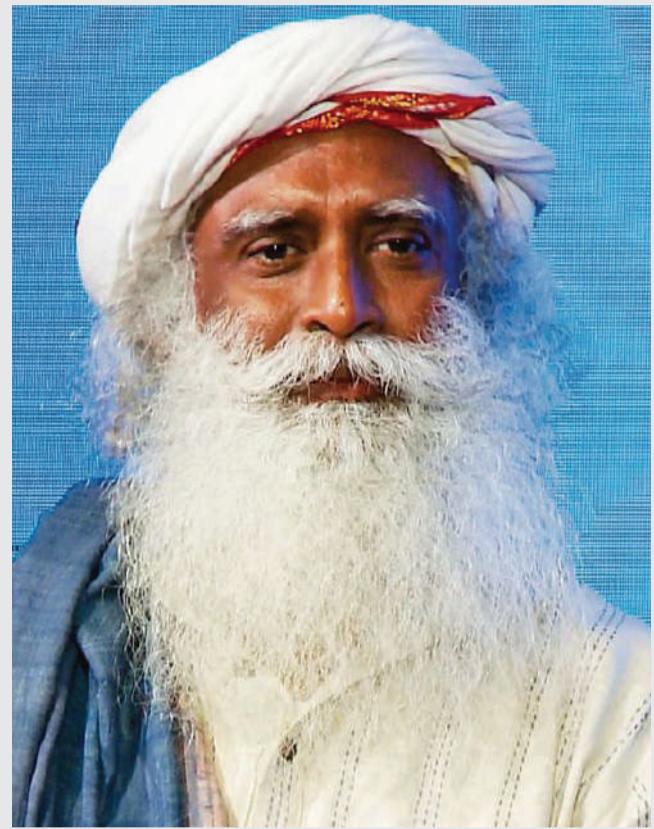
Spiritual leader and public intellectual Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev has called for decisive steps to strengthen the strategically sensitive Siliguri Corridor, popularly referred to as India's "chicken's neck," stating that the narrow land stretch should be transformed into an "elephant's neck" to ensure long-term national security and territorial resilience.

Speaking at a public interaction, Sadhguru described the Siliguri Corridor as a historical anomaly that emerged after the partition of the Indian subcontinent. He noted that the corridor's narrow geography has long been viewed as a strategic vulnerability, as it serves as the sole land link connecting India's northeastern states with the rest of the country.

The Siliguri Corridor, located in northern West Bengal, is bordered by Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and China, making it geopolitically significant. At certain points, the corridor narrows to just over 20 kilometres, a fact that has frequently featured in strategic and defense discussions.

Sadhguru said such a vital connection should not remain fragile and exposed, urging India to invest in strengthening its infrastructure and strategic depth in the region.

Using a metaphor, Sadhguru remarked that if a nation treats a "chicken's neck" with care and foresight, it can be made as strong and resilient as an elephant. He argued that territorial security inevitably involves costs and complex decisions, but avoiding them could leave the country vulnerable in the long run. According to him, national security must be viewed as a continuous responsibility



rather than a temporary concern.

He also reflected on the broader idea of borders and sovereignty, acknowledging that while the ideal of a borderless world may appeal philosophically, present-day geopolitical realities demand strong and secure national boundaries. Sadhguru stressed that safeguarding territorial integrity is essential for peace, stability and development.

His remarks have reignited discussion around the Siliguri Corridor, which has periodically come under public attention due to regional tensions and strategic assessments. Analysts have long pointed out the importance of enhancing road, rail, communication and de-

fence infrastructure in the area to ensure uninterrupted access to the Northeast.

While the government has undertaken several infrastructure and connectivity projects in the region over the years, Sadhguru's comments have added a high-profile voice to calls for further strengthening the corridor. Observers say such statements highlight the growing public awareness of strategic geography and its role in national security.

The Siliguri Corridor remains central to India's strategic planning, and discussions around its future continue to underline the importance of balancing development, security and regional stability in a complex geopolitical environment.

Supreme Court Stays Controversial '100-Metre Definition' for Aravalli Hills Amid Environmental Outcry



GAJENDR

Filmmaker Sheraz Mehdi, who has earned appreciation as a director, actor, music composer, and storyteller, is all set to return with his next venture O Andala Rakshasi, where he dons the dual role of hero and director. Backed by producer Surinder Kaur under the Sky Is the Limit banner, the film is gearing up for a grand theatrical release on January 2. Ahead of its release, the team held a pre-release event, highlighting the film's strong content and engaging narrative.

Speaking at the event, Sheraz Mehdi expressed strong confidence in the project. "We are releasing O Andala Rakshasi on January 2 on a large scale. Once in a year, a truly good film comes along, and our film is one such work," he said. Praising the ensemble cast, Sheraz noted that Vihanshi Hegde, Kriti Verma, Neha Deshpande, Akhila, Geetha Reddy, Sne-

ha, Priya Deshpande, Suman, and Thammareddy Bharadwaj have all delivered remarkable performances. "This is a film with excellent content. The audience will not feel bored even for a minute. It is entertaining and also carries a strong message, with outstanding twists. It will especially appeal to women," he added.

Story and dialogue writer Bhashya Sree said the film would leave audiences with a positive and lasting impression. "O Andala Rakshasi is made around the idea of how today's young women should be. Audiences will walk out of the theatre feeling good," she said. Praising Sheraz Mehdi, she added that his work as director, music director, and hero has created "pure magic." She also lauded Kriti Verma and Vihanshi Hegde for their performances and urged audiences to watch the film in theatres on January 2.

Actress Kriti Verma thanked Sheraz Mehdi for the opportunity, expressing hope that the film would resonate with audiences. "We are coming before the audience on January 2. With God's blessings and the support of viewers, I believe our film will become a big hit," she said.

Vihanshi Hegde shared her excitement about the project, describing the film's central theme. "When girls are cheated, their beauty turns into a demon—that is O Andala Rakshasi," she explained. She added that she loved the story and thanked Sheraz Mehdi, Bhashya Sree, and producer Surinder Kaur for believing in her.

With its promise of strong content, engaging entertainment, and meaningful storytelling, O Andala Rakshasi is set to arrive in theatres on January 2, aiming to connect deeply with audiences, especially women.

U.S. Lawmaker Says “Can We Just Do America?” as Trump Hosts Zelenskyy and Netanyahu at Mar-a-Lago



A prominent U.S. congresswoman has publicly criticized former President Donald Trump's high-profile meetings with world leaders, questioning why the United States is focusing on international conflicts instead of domestic issues. The remarks come as Trump convened successive talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida, aimed at advancing diplomatic efforts on two of the most pressing global crises.

Republican Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia took to social media to express her frustration, writing, “Zelensky today. Netanyahu tomorrow. Can we just do America?” Her comment reflects a growing divide within parts of the Republican Party over foreign policy priorities, especially as Trump continues to engage directly with leaders involved in ongoing wars and peace negotiations.

Trump's meeting with Zelenskyy focused on a proposed peace framework to end the prolonged conflict between Ukraine and Russia, which began with Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022. Zelenskyy, who is pushing for long-term security guarantees and a negotiated settlement, has emphasized the need for Western support to deter future aggression and create conditions for stability. Critics of U.S. involvement argue that such extensive diplomatic engagement and potential commitments of American resources risk drawing the United States deeper into foreign disputes at a time when

domestic concerns — including inflation, healthcare and infrastructure — remain top priorities for many voters.

Shortly after the Zelenskyy talks, attention turned to Trump's scheduled meeting with Netanyahu, amid continuing instability in the Middle East. Netanyahu's visit was planned against the backdrop of efforts to solidify ceasefires and address potential escalations involving Gaza and broader regional tensions. These discussions have attracted international interest, given their implications for peace efforts and U.S. influence in the region.

Greene's criticism underscores a broader debate within U.S. politics regarding America's role on the world stage. Advocates of a more inward-focused policy argue that Washington should concentrate on domestic needs and limited foreign entanglements, a stance that resonates with elements of the “America First” approach popularized during Trump's presidency. Opponents counter that U.S. leadership in global diplomacy is essential for maintaining stability and protecting international norms.

The meetings at Mar-a-Lago mark the sixth time Trump and Netanyahu have convened this year, while Trump's engagements with Zelenskyy signal continued U.S. involvement in seeking a resolution to the Russia-Ukraine conflict. As these diplomatic efforts unfold, the debate over balancing international commitments and domestic priorities is likely to remain a central theme in U.S. political discourse heading into 2026.

US Pledges \$2 Billion for UN Humanitarian Aid Amid Sharp Cuts in Foreign Assistance



The United States has pledged \$2 billion in humanitarian funding to the United Nations, even as it significantly reduces overall foreign aid commitments and calls for sweeping reforms within UN agencies. The announcement comes at a time when global humanitarian organizations are facing severe funding shortages amid rising conflicts, displacement, and climate-related disasters worldwide.

US officials said the funding will be channelled through a central humanitarian pool managed by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Under this approach, funds will be distributed to various UN agencies and emergency operations based on assessed priorities. The US administration has described the move as part of a broader effort to improve efficiency, reduce overlap, and ensure better accountability in humanitarian assistance.

At the same time, Washington has made it clear that UN agencies must restructure to cope with reduced resources. Senior US officials warned that organizations will need to “adapt, shrink, or cease operations” if they fail to reform, reflecting a tougher stance on international aid spending. The message has raised concern among humanitarian groups, who argue that funding cuts risk undermining life-saving operations.

Although the \$2 billion pledge keeps the United States among the world's largest humanitarian donors, it represents a substantial decline compared with previous years, when US contributions to UN aid efforts were several times higher. Aid agencies say the re-

duction comes at a critical moment, with millions of people facing food insecurity, displacement, and health emergencies across regions such as Africa, the Middle East, and parts of Asia.

Several major UN agencies have already announced staff reductions and scaled-back programmes due to budget shortfalls. Humanitarian officials warn that fewer resources could mean reduced food aid, medical assistance, and shelter support for vulnerable populations. Some agencies have cautioned that ongoing crises may worsen if funding gaps are not urgently addressed.

US authorities argue that the revised funding strategy prioritizes impact over volume, aiming to deliver targeted assistance while ensuring taxpayer funds are used effectively. Officials also stressed that other donor countries must increase their contributions to share the burden of global humanitarian responsibility.

The funding shift has triggered debate among diplomats and aid experts over the future of multilateral humanitarian assistance. Supporters of reform say structural changes are long overdue, while critics fear that drastic funding reductions could weaken the global response to emergencies.

As humanitarian needs continue to rise worldwide, the effectiveness of the new funding model and the ability of UN agencies to adapt will be closely watched. The outcome could shape the future of international aid and determine how millions of vulnerable people receive support in the years ahead.

Chinese Ship Travels 37,000 km Across Three Oceans to Deliver Cranes to West Africa



A Chinese cargo vessel has completed an extraordinary journey spanning three oceans and more than 37,000 kilometres to deliver heavy cranes from China to West Africa, underscoring both the scale of global maritime logistics and China's expanding role in international infrastructure shipments. The voyage, which lasted approximately three months, took the ship from a major Chinese port through the Indian Ocean, around the Cape of Good Hope, and across the Atlantic Ocean before reaching its final destination.

The ship, loaded with several giant port cranes, set sail from China as part of a contract to supply critical equipment for the development of a deep-water harbour in a West African country. These cranes are

essential for container handling and efficient port operations and are expected to significantly boost the importing and exporting capacity of the host nation. Port officials and government representatives at the destination greeted the arrival with a ceremony attended by local dignitaries and logistics specialists, highlighting the cranes' importance to future economic growth.

Maritime experts say the journey exemplifies the challenges and complexities of modern international shipping, particularly for oversized industrial equipment. Weather patterns, sea conditions, and fuel management must all be carefully coordinated over such long distances. In this case, the vessel navigated the Indian Ocean, rounded

the southern tip of Africa, passed through the volatile Cape of Good Hope, and crossed the South Atlantic before entering the Gulf of Guinea, one of the world's busiest maritime regions.

The delivery is part of a broader trend in which Chinese firms are increasingly involved in building infrastructure in Africa, including ports, railways, highways, and energy facilities. These projects are often tied to larger economic partnerships and financing arrangements between China and African governments. Supporters argue that such cooperation accelerates development and improves trade connectivity, while critics raise concerns about debt sustainability and long-term economic dependence.

Officials from the receiving country highlighted the cranes' expected impact on the local economy, noting that improved port infrastructure will reduce cargo turnaround times, attract larger vessels, and

with port authorities at each stop. The delivery also comes at a time when global maritime routes are adjusting to shifting trade patterns, with ports in Africa gaining prominence as transhipment hubs. Analysts say the successful voyage may encourage similar large-scale deliveries in the future, especially for nations seeking to expand infrastructure capacity without local manufacturing capabilities.

As the cranes are unloaded and installed, expectations are high that the enhanced port facility will play a key role in regional trade and economic expansion, cementing the strategic significance of long-distance maritime logistics in an increasingly interconnected global economy.

Zelensky Proposes National Referendum on 20-Point Peace Plan to End War with Russia



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has proposed that a comprehensive 20-point peace plan aimed at ending the war with Russia be put to a national referendum, marking a significant shift in how Kyiv seeks to secure public endorsement for a prospective settlement. The peace plan, discussed in ongoing talks with international partners including the United States, is intended to create a diplomatic framework for ending the conflict that began in early 2022.

Zelenskyy told reporters that the proposed peace plan requires legitimacy that goes beyond decisions made by elected representatives alone, and that a referendum would allow the entire Ukrainian electorate to express its will directly on the terms of any agreement. He described this approach as a way to ensure the strongest possible historical backing for a settlement that must be accepted by millions, rather than solely by members of parliament.

The president explained that holding a nationwide vote would necessitate a cessation of hostilities, with officials estimating that at least 60 days of ceasefire would be needed to create secure conditions for the referendum to take place. Zelenskyy noted that Russia's position toward such a vote has been negative, in part because a sustained ceasefire would be required to give Ukrainian authori-

ties the security infrastructure needed to organize and conduct the vote.

The peace plan itself, which has evolved through months of diplomatic engagement, was initially envisioned with broader input and has been refined in consultation with the United States and European partners. Zelenskyy highlighted that such guarantees be durable and legally binding, learning from past security arrangements that failed to prevent renewed aggression.

While most elements of the peace plan are reportedly nearing consensus among Ukraine and its partners, unresolved questions remain, particularly regarding the future status of occupied regions and how to address strategic sites like the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant.

These complex issues underscore why Zelenskyy believes public participation is essential before any final resolution is implemented.

Critics warn that a referendum would be challenging to organise amid ongoing conflict, but supporters argue it could strengthen domestic unity and send a powerful signal internationally about Ukraine's determination to pursue peace on terms endorsed by its citizens.

As discussions continue, Zelenskyy's call for a public vote could reshape the diplomatic trajectory of efforts to end Europe's longest ongoing war in decades, placing Ukrainian public opinion at the centre of any future peace process.

Gold, Silver, and Copper Prices See Sharp Decline After Record Rally

Major commodity markets witnessed a sudden correction on December 29, 2025, as gold, silver, and copper prices fell sharply after an unprecedented rally. Metals that had reached record highs over the past year experienced declines of up to 13 percent, reflecting a combination of profit-taking, changing market sentiment, and policy shifts.

Gold, which had been hovering near lifetime highs, saw a drop of nearly 2 percent, while silver declined around 8 percent from its peak. Copper, an important industrial metal and economic barometer, experienced the steepest fall, slipping approximately 13 percent after recent all-time highs. The sudden reversal comes after a year of strong demand and tight supply, which had fueled the rally in both precious and base metals.



Market analysts identify several factors behind the pullback. First, profit-taking played a central role. Investors who had benefited from the rally chose to lock in gains rather than risk holding positions at elevated levels. Over the past year, metals had been supported by expectations of interest rate cuts, geopolitical tensions, and ongoing supply constraints, prompting extended upward momentum. Once prices reached extreme levels, profit-taking became inevitable.

Second, easing geopolitical and policy tensions contributed

to reduced safe-haven demand. With signs of stabilization in major conflict regions and improved supply prospects from key producers, investors felt less urgency to allocate funds to gold and silver as a hedge against uncertainty. This reduction in demand from traditional safe-haven investors added to the downward pressure.

Technical factors also played a role. In the case of silver, increased margin requirements in futures markets forced some traders to liquidate positions, amplifying selling pressure. For

industrial metals like copper, speculative positions unwound quickly as traders reassessed global growth expectations and demand projections, particularly in energy and manufacturing sectors.

Despite the recent decline, prices remain significantly above levels observed at the start of the year, reflecting continued underlying demand. Gold and silver benefit from long-term interest from central banks and investors seeking portfolio diversification, while copper remains supported by strong

structural demand in renewable energy, electric vehicles, and industrial infrastructure.

The recent correction serves as a reminder of the volatility inherent in commodity markets. Extended rallies are often followed by sharp adjustments driven by sentiment, technical factors, and evolving global developments. Investors and market watchers will now closely monitor central bank policies, geopolitical events, and industrial demand indicators to gauge the trajectory of metals prices in 2026.

Centre Aims to Reduce Debt-to-GDP Ratio to Around 55% in FY27

The Indian government is planning to lower its debt-to-GDP ratio to approximately 54.5-55 percent in the fiscal year 2026-27, a marginal improvement from the estimated 56.1 percent for the current year. This initiative reflects New Delhi's continued commitment to fiscal consolidation, aiming to strengthen macroeconomic stability while boosting investor confidence in public finances.

The debt-to-GDP ratio measures the total central government debt relative to the size of the economy. A lower ratio signals a reduced debt burden compared with economic output, which can help maintain investor trust, reduce borrowing costs, and support overall economic resilience. Analysts consider a gradual decline in this ratio as a positive sign of fiscal prudence.

In line with the Union Budget for FY26, the government has shifted its primary fiscal focus from the annual fiscal deficit to the debt-to-GDP ratio. This strategic move allows policymakers to take a longer-term approach to fiscal sustainability. By targeting a declining debt trajectory rather than solely focusing on year-to-year deficits, the government seeks to maintain financial predictability while retaining flexibility to respond to changing economic conditions.

The exact path of debt reduc-



tion will depend on India's growth performance, which will be reassessed after the release of advance GDP estimates for FY26. Officials have indicated that a moderate consolidation approach is expected, balancing fiscal discipline with continued support for growth-enhancing expenditures. This approach allows the government to maintain investments in infrastructure, health, and social welfare without exacerbating borrowing pressures.

Economists note that reducing the debt ratio has broader implications for India's sovereign

credit profile and market perception. A lower debt-to-GDP ratio can improve the country's sovereign rating over time, potentially reducing interest costs on future borrowings and enhancing India's attractiveness to foreign and domestic investors. It also creates fiscal space for strategic investments, helping support long-term economic growth.

Achieving the targeted reduction will require strict fiscal execution. While nominal GDP growth provides support to the denominator of the ratio, careful expenditure management and revenue mobilisation will be

critical. Rating agencies have projected that if nominal growth remains robust and fiscal prudence is maintained, India can continue a downward trend in its debt ratio toward medium-term targets.

By focusing on the debt-to-GDP ratio as a key fiscal anchor, the government signals a commitment to fiscal responsibility, especially amid global uncertainties. A clear and credible debt trajectory is expected to strengthen investor confidence, support macroeconomic stability, and provide a solid foundation for policy planning in FY27.

Sensex and Nifty Slip Amid Year-End Caution, FII Selling, and Global Uncertainty

Indian equity markets witnessed a cautious session on Monday, with benchmark indices giving up early gains and closing lower amid subdued trading and lingering investor anxiety. The BSE Sensex fell around 300 points from its day's high, while the Nifty 50 slipped below the 26,050 level, reflecting a combination of domestic and global factors weighing on sentiment.

Market participants pointed to thin year-end trading volumes as a key reason for the slide. With several institutional investors and mutual funds winding up their portfolios before the holiday season, liquidity remained constrained, amplifying the impact of even modest selling pressure. Retail investors also maintained a cautious stance, reducing market momentum.

Another factor contributing to the decline was continued foreign institutional investor (FII) selling. FIIs, who play a significant role in driving large-cap stock performance, remained net



sellers of Indian equities, putting downward pressure on the broader market. Sustained outflows have been a recurring theme in recent sessions, limiting any sustained recovery.

Global market cues also played a role in shaping domestic sentiment. Sluggish trading in major overseas indices and uncertainty around global economic growth prompted Indian investors to adopt a risk-averse approach.

Weak performance in the US and European markets, coupled with

mixed data from Asia, meant that domestic indices lacked external support.

Rising crude oil prices further compounded concerns, with higher energy costs feeding into inflation expectations and potentially affecting corporate profitability. Sectors sensitive to input costs, including transport and manufacturing, saw pressure, while defensive sectors offered limited support to the indices.

On the sectoral front, financials and infrastructure stocks

were among the underperformers, reflecting both global cues and domestic caution. Conversely, commodity-linked sectors saw modest buying interest, aided by stable global commodity prices. However, these gains were insufficient to offset overall market weakness.

Analysts suggest that key support levels around 26,000-25,950 for the Nifty will be closely monitored in the coming sessions. As long as these levels hold, markets may continue to trade in a range-bound manner, with selective accumulation in quality large-cap stocks. A breach of these supports could trigger further selling pressure in the near term.

Investors are also looking ahead to corporate earnings updates, policy developments, and global economic indicators in early 2026, which are expected to provide fresh triggers for market direction. In the meantime, cautious trading and risk management remain the focus as the year draws to a close.

India's Industrial Production Rises 6.7% in November, Highest in Two Years



India's industrial sector showed a strong rebound in November 2025, with industrial production growing 6.7 percent year-on-year, marking the highest growth rate in two years. The latest data from government statistical agencies indicate a significant recovery in manufacturing and mining activities, reflecting renewed momentum in the economy and business confidence heading into the final quarter of the year.

The manufacturing sector emerged as the key driver, expanding around 8 percent in November. Increased production of basic metals, motor vehicles, pharmaceuticals, and fabricated metal products contributed to the strong performance, highlighting the resilience of India's manufacturing base and its ability to respond to rising domestic and export demand.

The mining sector also posted healthy growth, rising over 5 percent. Higher extraction of minerals, particularly iron ore and other metallic resources, supported downstream industries and construction activity. This pickup in mining reflects improved utilization of industrial inputs and stronger industrial demand.

Electricity generation, however, saw a modest contraction, reflecting seasonal fluctuations in demand and variations in power consumption patterns. Despite this, the overall industrial growth remained robust due to gains across other sectors.

Looking at the use-based classifica-

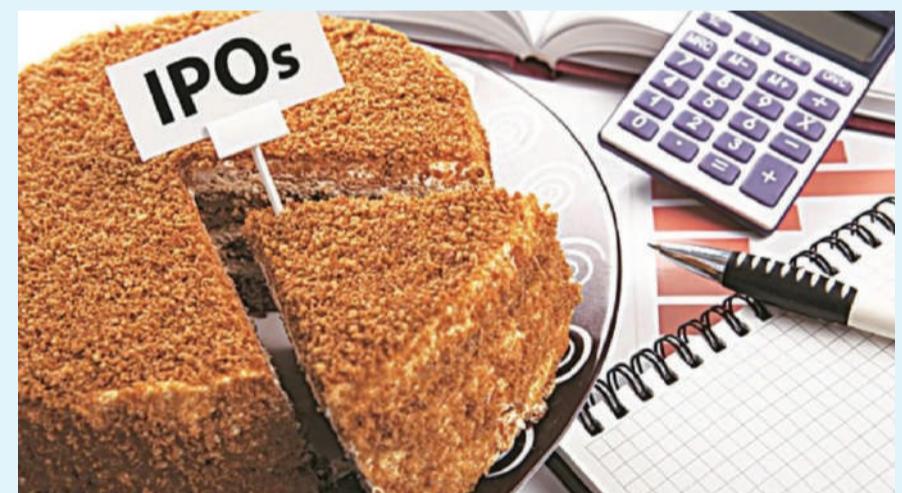
tion of industrial production, growth was broad-based. Capital goods, intermediate goods, infrastructure and construction goods, as well as consumer durables, all registered meaningful gains. This pattern suggests that both producer investment and consumer demand are contributing to the rebound in industrial activity.

Economists have welcomed the November figures as a positive signal for India's economic momentum. After relatively moderate growth in October, the sharp rise in November underscores improving business sentiment and operational activity in factories. Analysts note, however, that some of the high growth rate may reflect base effects from the same month last year, and they expect a moderation in the pace of expansion in the coming months.

The strong industrial output adds to other signs of economic stability, including solid consumer spending and continued strength in the services sector. Policymakers view these figures as encouraging for sustaining overall growth and supporting employment in industrial and allied sectors.

As India heads into 2026, the November surge in industrial production is expected to bolster confidence among businesses and investors alike, providing a foundation for continued expansion and signaling that the country's industrial engine is regaining traction amid global uncertainties.

India's IPO Fundraising Surges to ₹1.95 Trillion in 2025, Highest in Two Years



India's capital markets witnessed a remarkable year in 2025, with the initial public offering (IPO) segment emerging as a key driver of market activity. A total of 373 IPOs, including 103 mainboard and 270 SME listings, collectively raised ₹1.95 trillion, marking the highest fundraising total in two years and highlighting strong investor appetite for equity offerings.

The growth in IPO fundraising was broad-based, spanning companies of various sizes and sectors. Mid-sized enterprises contributed significantly to the total, while small and medium enterprises leveraged SME platforms to access public capital in record numbers. Both institutional and retail investors participated actively, reflecting confidence in the equity markets despite global economic uncertainties.

The manufacturing and financial services sectors were among the top contributors to the surge. Established financial institutions and non-banking financial companies led some of the largest deals, drawing strong demand from investors. At the same time, newer and smaller companies used the market to raise capital for expansion, signaling the maturation and depth of India's IPO ecosystem.

Analysts note that the high level of fundraising is not solely driven by a few large issues. Rather, a combination of medium and smaller-sized IPOs helped broaden the market base, while the average deal sizes for mainboard offerings

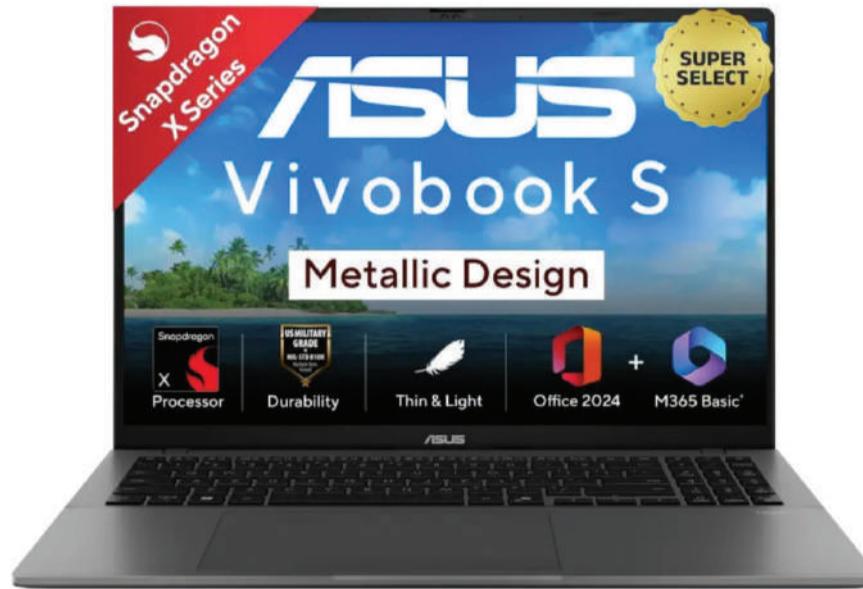
increased over the past year. SME listings, in particular, more than doubled in average size compared with previous years, demonstrating growing investor interest in emerging firms.

The record fundraising also reflects a structural upcycle in India's primary markets. Over the last decade, mainboard IPOs have grown steadily, while SME offerings have expanded even faster, pointing to sustained capital formation and deepening market participation.

Regulatory support, improved governance frameworks, and investor-friendly policies have further strengthened market confidence. Looking ahead, industry projections suggest that 2026 could see continued momentum in India's IPO market, with potential fundraising reaching up to ₹4 lakh crore. Companies across diverse sectors are expected to access the market to fund growth initiatives, repay debt, or expand operations. Analysts believe this trend will further solidify India's position as one of the most active and dynamic IPO markets globally.

Overall, 2025 has been a landmark year for India's capital markets, with record IPO fundraising demonstrating the country's growing economic resilience and the increasing role of equity markets in financing corporate growth. The performance also underscores investor optimism and the strong demand for quality investment opportunities across both large and emerging companies.

The Day ASUS Almost Became a Memory Maker — At Least in Our Imagination



Every so often, the tech world collectively pauses and asks a question that sounds bold, logical, and just believable enough: What if a big hardware brand decided to do everything itself? Recently, that question revolved around ASUS and an unexpected idea — the company making its own RAM to escape the ongoing global memory shortage.

For a brief moment, it felt like a plot twist worth cheering. RAM prices have been climbing, supply has been tight, and AI data centres are hoarding memory like it's digital gold. Against this backdrop, the rumour suggested that ASUS might step into memory manufacturing by the second quarter of 2026, potentially easing pressure on laptop and PC production. It was a comforting thought — one company riding in to save countless frustrated PC builders.

But reality, as it often does, arrived quietly. ASUS clarified that it has

no intention of entering DRAM manufacturing. And honestly, that makes sense. Making RAM isn't like assembling laptops or designing motherboards. It requires enormous fabrication plants, years of research, and investments so large they make even tech giants hesitate. This isn't vertical integration — it's industrial heavy lifting.

Still, the rumour itself says something interesting about the moment we're living in. Memory shortages have become so disruptive that consumers and industry watchers alike are imagining radical solutions. When the supply chain stumbles, even unlikely ideas start to sound reasonable. In that sense, the ASUS speculation was less about the company and more about collective frustration.

What ASUS is doing, instead, is adapting. Like many manufacturers, it's working closely with memory suppliers, adjusting configurations, and managing invento-

ries to keep products moving. This behind-the-scenes balancing act may not grab headlines, but it's what keeps laptops shipping and gaming rigs alive during turbulent times.

There's also an offbeat irony here. ASUS is famous for RAM branding through its gaming sub-brands, RGB-heavy modules, and performance tuning partnerships. To many consumers, it already feels like a memory company. That illusion made the rumour even easier to believe.

In the end, ASUS didn't become a memory manufacturer — but the idea lingered just long enough to expose how strained the tech ecosystem has become. It showed how shortages blur the line between speculation and hope, and how even a rumour can briefly offer relief in an industry hungry for stability.

Sometimes, the most revealing tech stories aren't about what happens, but about what people wish would happen.

When a Wedding Almost Stopped for a Missing Sindoor — and Blinkit Saved the Day



Weddings are often dramatic, but a recent Delhi wedding added a real-life plot twist worthy of a Bollywood scene. Just after the pheras, the couple realized a tiny yet crucial item — the sindoor, or vermillion powder — was missing. In Hindu weddings, the sindoor application is a symbolic and essential ritual, and its absence briefly brought the ceremony to a halt.

Panic? Slightly. Family brainstorming? Absolutely. But the solution wasn't running through traffic to find a local shop. Instead, someone had a modern idea: order it online and hope for a miracle. That's where Blinkit, the quick-commerce delivery service, stepped in as the unsung hero.

Within minutes of placing the order, a Blinkit delivery executive arrived at the mandap with the vermillion in hand. The crowd erupted in applause as the groom completed the sindoor ritual amidst laughter, cheers,

and relief. It was a reminder that sometimes, technology can save the day in the most traditional of settings.

Social media reactions poured in, blending humor with admiration. Many dubbed the delivery partner a "silent superhero," acknowledging that saving a wedding in minutes is a form of modern heroism. Others joked that classic cinematic wedding moments — dramatic dashes, heroic declarations, and suspenseful pauses — are now being replaced by bicycle riders, phone apps, and lightning-fast delivery. Fans imagined weddings abroad without such services, picturing guests in full panic mode without instant delivery options.

The incident also reflects how integrated quick-commerce services have become in urban life. Beyond groceries and daily essentials, these platforms are now delivering ritual salvation at moments when

OpenAI's High-Pay Safety Role Signals a New Economic Phase for Artificial Intelligence

OpenAI's decision to hire a senior executive for a newly defined role — Head of Preparedness — with an annual compensation package that can exceed half a million dollars highlights a major shift in the economics of artificial intelligence. As AI technologies move closer to widespread commercial deployment, companies are increasingly investing not just in innovation, but in risk management and long-term sustainability.

The role focuses on identifying and mitigating potential dangers posed by advanced AI models before they are released. This includes preparing for misuse, cyber threats, and broader systemic risks that could affect industries and governments. From an economic standpoint, this reflects the growing recognition that unchecked AI failures could result in massive financial liabilities, regulatory penalties, and reputational damage.

The high salary attached to the position underscores the intensifying competition for specialized talent in the AI sector.

As AI becomes a core driver of productivity across sectors such



as healthcare, finance, education, and defense, companies are willing to pay a premium for professionals who can combine technical expertise with strategic foresight. This trend is reshaping wage structures within the tech industry, where safety and governance roles are emerging alongside traditional engineering positions as top-tier earners.

From a broader market perspective, OpenAI's move signals a maturation of the AI economy. Early phases of

technological revolutions typically prioritize rapid growth and market capture. However, as industries stabilize, attention shifts to compliance, risk control, and sustainable scaling. The creation of a preparedness division reflects this transition, suggesting that AI firms now view safety as a core economic value from AI is distributed globally.

Additionally, governments worldwide are considering stricter AI regulations. By proactively investing in preparedness, companies like OpenAI may gain strategic advantages in navigating regulatory

frameworks and influencing future policy standards. This alignment between corporate governance and public oversight could play a key role in shaping how economic value from AI is distributed globally.

Ultimately, OpenAI's high-profile hiring decision reflects a deeper economic reality: as artificial intelligence becomes embedded in everyday economic activity, the cost of safety is becoming inseparable from the cost of innovation.

When a Smartphone Sneaks In Through Paperwork: The Curious Case of the Vivo X300 Ultra



Smartphones no longer announce themselves with trumpets and teaser videos alone. Sometimes,

they quietly walk in through government paperwork. The Vivo X300 Ultra has done just that, making an unexpected appearance on a certification database — and instantly becoming the centre of speculation, excitement, and educated guesswork.

Certification listings are not designed to thrill anyone. They exist to ensure devices follow rules, meet standards, and behave responsibly. Yet, in the tech world, these dry documents have become treasure maps. When the X300 Ultra surfaced there, fans didn't see forms and model numbers — they saw possibilities.

The "Ultra" tag alone is enough to set expectations sky-high. It suggests a phone that refuses to compromise, one that aims to sit at the very top of Vivo's smartphone pyramid. While official details remain under wraps, whispers around the device paint it as a

camera-obsessed flagship, built for users who believe every photo deserves professional-grade treatment — even if it's just a cup of coffee.

Speculation hints at a massive, high-refresh-rate display, the kind that makes scrolling feel like gliding on ice. Under the hood, the phone is expected to pack a powerful processor capable of handling heavy gaming, multitasking, and the increasingly demanding world of on-device AI features.

A large battery is also part of the rumor mill, because nothing says "Ultra" like a phone that refuses to die before bedtime.

What makes this sighting particularly interesting is what it suggests beyond specs. Certification outside China hints at the possibility — not a promise, but a hope — of a wider global release. For fans who've watched Ultra-level phones remain region-locked dreams, this appearance feels like

a small crack in the wall. There's also something oddly charming about how modern anticipation works. Before a phone is touched, priced, or officially acknowledged, it already has an identity shaped by leaks, expectations, and imagination.

The Vivo X300 Ultra, at this stage, exists partly as hardware and partly as a story told by enthusiasts filling in the blanks.

Of course, reality may differ. Launch dates change, features evolve, and prices surprise. But for now, the X300 Ultra has achieved something important without saying a word: it has reminded everyone that in the smartphone world, even a quiet regulatory listing can spark loud excitement.

Sometimes, the most interesting tech announcements don't arrive with fireworks — they arrive as footnotes that refuse to be ignored.

The Samsung Galaxy A07 5G: A Budget Phone That Accidentally Stole the Spotlight



Some smartphones arrive with dramatic launches, laser lights, and carefully scripted applause. Others simply slip into the public eye through a technical listing, quietly revealing themselves before the official invitation is sent out. The Samsung Galaxy A07 5G belongs firmly in the second category — a modest device that has managed to spark curiosity without trying too hard.

The phone recently appeared in a developer database, offering an early look at its design and core specifications. At first glance, the Galaxy A07 5G looks reassuringly familiar. Its design mirrors Samsung's no-nonsense approach to budget phones, complete with a dual-camera setup on the back and a water-drop notch on the front. Thick bezels frame the display, reminding users that this phone is built for practicality rather than prestige. This isn't phone chasing innovation for inno-

vation's sake; it's chasing relevance.

Early details suggest the device runs a recent version of Android and is paired with a capable mid-range processor designed for efficiency rather than raw power. Translation? It should handle everyday tasks — social media, video streaming, messaging, and casual gaming — without com-

plaint. For most users, that's more than enough.

What makes the Galaxy A07 5G interesting isn't what it does differently, but what it does consistently. It reflects a shift in consumer priorities.

In a world of rising prices, buyers increasingly want reliability, battery life, and longevity. Samsung appears to be leaning into this mindset,

offering a phone that focuses on essential features while keeping costs in check.

There's also something

refreshing about the way the A07 5G has entered the conversation. No hype machine. No exaggerated promises. Just a quiet appearance that lets people imagine how

it might fit into their daily lives.

It's the kind of phone that doesn't demand attention but earns it over time.

Ultimately, the Galaxy A07 5G represents a growing category of smartphones designed for real-world use, not spec-sheet bragging rights. It may

never dominate headlines, but for millions of users looking for an affordable gateway into the 5G era, this understated device could be exactly what they've been waiting for.

Sometimes, the most interesting stories belong to the phones that don't shout — they simply show up.

Vijay Hazare Trophy 2025 26: Exciting Encounters and Emerging Stars Shine

The Vijay Hazare Trophy 2025 26 witnessed another thrilling day of one-day domestic cricket on Monday, with standout performances, close finishes, and emerging talents taking center stage. The tournament continues to showcase the depth and quality of India's cricketing talent, with several young players making a strong impression.

In one of the Group matches, Bihar recorded a dominant win over Meghalaya, chasing a target of 218 in just 32.3 overs. Teen sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi played a blistering knock of 31 off just 10 balls, providing Bihar with a rapid start. His aggressive innings set the tone, and Piyush Singh's unbeaten century ensured a comfortable finish for the team, highlighting Bihar's growing strength in domestic cricket.

Meanwhile, Delhi edged past Saurashtra in a high-scoring thriller. Despite losing star wicketkeeper-batsman early in the chase, Delhi showed resilience. Crucial contributions from the middle order, including an unbeaten cameo from Navdeep Saini, helped the team reach the target with just a few balls remaining. Delhi's victory emphasized their experience and ability to handle pressure situations.

A major upset came



from Punjab, where the Abhishek Sharma-led side suffered a five-wicket loss to Uttarakhand. Punjab posted a competitive total but struggled with the ball, allowing Uttarakhand's captain Kunal Chaudhary to score a match-winning century. This victory was a statement performance for Uttarakhand, keeping them in contention for the knockout

rounds.

Mumbai maintained their winning momentum, defeating Chhattisgarh by nine wickets. In the absence of veteran Rohit Sharma, Mumbai's young batting lineup chased a modest target effortlessly. This win marked their third consecutive victory in Group C and reinforced Mumbai's reputation as one of the tournament

favorites.

The tournament has also been defined by remarkable records. Bihar posted a historic men's List A score of 574/6, powered by Suryavanshi's explosive batting, including a 36-ball century — one of the fastest in List A history. Performances like these are drawing attention to the future stars of Indian cricket.

As the group stages progress, teams are focused on securing their positions ahead of the knockout phase. With fierce competition and several players making their mark, fans can expect more thrilling matches, high-scoring encounters, and unforgettable moments in the race for the prestigious Vijay Hazare Trophy.

Ashes 2025 26: R Ashwin Defends MCG Pitch After Chaotic Two-Day Test



The fourth Test of the 2025 26 Ashes series at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) ended in a dramatic fashion, drawing global attention and sparking debates about pitch conditions in modern Test cricket. England's four-wicket victory in just two days not only ended their 14-year wait

for a Test win on Australian soil but also highlighted the unpredictable nature of the MCG pitch and the challenges it posed for batsmen.

Australia, already leading the series 3-0, entered the match confident of a comprehensive win. However, the bowler-friendly pitch, with an unusual

covering of grass and seam movement, saw 36 wickets fall in just six sessions, leaving no batter able to score a half-century across four innings. The short duration of the match and the dominance of seam bowlers sparked widespread criticism and discussion among fans, analysts, and former players alike.

Amid the controversy, former India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin took a measured approach, refusing to condemn the MCG pitch. Speaking publicly, he emphasized that both teams faced identical conditions and that adapting to foreign pitches is an essential part of Test cricket. Ashwin described the match as akin to "a racing thriller," highlighting the excitement and unpredictability that make Test cricket unique.

Ashwin also addressed what he called "double standards" in pitch criticism, noting that similar bowler-friendly surfaces in other countries often draw less attention or are judged differently. His remarks reflected a broader conversation about fairness and consistency in how pitches are evaluated, and the responsibility of teams to adapt rather than complain.

Despite Ashwin's diplo-

matic stance, the International Cricket Council (ICC) rated the MCG pitch as unsatisfactory, issuing demerit points to the venue. Such ratings carry potential long-term implications for one of cricket's most iconic grounds, emphasizing the importance of maintaining balanced and competitive surfaces for Test matches.

The series now moves to the fifth and final Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground, scheduled to begin in early January. Both teams will be eager to conclude the Ashes on a more competitive and balanced note, but the MCG Test is already being remembered for its fast-paced drama, seam-friendly conditions, and England's historic win. Ashwin's measured response serves as a reminder that while controversies may flare, the core of Test cricket lies in adaptability, resilience, and the unpredictable thrill that keeps fans engaged.

PCB Chief Mohsin Naqvi Responds to India's 'No-Handshake' Policy in Indo-Pak Cricket



The ongoing tension between India and Pakistan in cricket has taken the spotlight again, with Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Mohsin Naqvi offering a blunt response to India's informal "no-handshake" policy. The stance, observed by the Indian teams in recent tournaments, including the Asia Cup, has prevented players from shaking hands with their Pakistani counterparts after matches.

Speaking in Lahore, Naqvi addressed the issue directly, stating that Pakistan would respect India's decision not to engage in customary handshakes but would not pursue such gestures unilaterally. "If they don't want to shake hands, then we have no particular desire to do so either," he remarked. He emphasized that any interaction between the two sides should occur on an equal footing, reflecting Pakistan's commitment to

dignity and parity in sporting encounters.

The policy first drew attention during the Asia Cup, when both the Indian men's and women's teams refrained from post-match handshakes, citing solidarity with victims of recent terror attacks in India. The approach has since carried over into subsequent youth and senior competitions, fueling debates on sports-

manship and the influence of politics in cricket.

Naqvi made it clear that Pakistan's position is guided by the principle that cricket and politics should remain separate, a stance repeatedly endorsed by Pakistan's political leadership. He noted that while Pakistan respects India's choices, it will not compromise its own dignity or appear

one-sided in matters of sportsmanship.

The comments come in the wake of several tense Indo-Pak matches, particularly at youth levels, where disagreements and heated exchanges on the field have sparked strong reactions from players, officials, and cricket enthusiasts. Analysts suggest that Naqvi's remarks are an attempt to strike a balance between acknowledging India's stance and maintaining cordial relations in one of cricket's most storied and high-stakes rivalries.

edging India's stance and maintaining Pakistan's image as a confident and fair competitor.

By adopting a stance of mutual non-engagement rather than confrontation, the PCB aims to manage relations without escalating tensions, while signaling that gestures of goodwill must be reciprocal to have meaning. This approach highlights the delicate intersection of sport and diplomacy between the two nations, where cricket often mirrors broader political dynamics.

As both boards prepare for future encounters in bilateral series or multi-lateral tournaments, the handshake issue remains symbolic of the larger rift. While it may not affect on-field competition, the controversy underscores the continuing challenge of maintaining cordial relations in one of cricket's most storied and high-stakes rivalries.

Ashes 2025 26: Ben Duckett's Cheeky Reply to Australian Fan Goes Viral



During the fourth Test of the 2025 26 Ashes series at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), England batter Ben Duckett became the center of a viral off-field moment after a playful exchange with an Australian supporter. The incident, which occurred amid a tense and highly competitive Test, captured the imagination of cricket fans worldwide and added a lighter side to an otherwise dramatic match.

As Duckett patrolled the boundary while fielding, an enthusiastic Australian fan shouted at him, offering a beer in a cheeky reference to previous off-field antics and matches. The fan's remark was intended as a humorous sledge, a nod to the intense rivalry between the two nations.

Rather than taking offense, Duckett responded with good humor, acknowledging the taunt with a playful gesture that immediately drew cheers from his teammates and amused spectators in the stands. His measured, witty response quickly went viral on social media, highlighting the sportsmanship and character of the young England batter.

The moment occurred during a Test that was remarkable for its fast pace and dramatic swings. England, trailing 3-0 in the series, faced immense pressure against a strong Australian side. The MCG pitch, known for favoring seam bowlers, produced a gripping contest where batsmen struggled to settle. England's eventual victory by four

wickets not only snapped a 14-year losing streak in Australia but also demonstrated the team's resilience and ability to perform under pressure.

Duckett contributed 34 runs during the chase, playing a pivotal role in helping England reach the target of 175. While his on-field performance was crucial, it was his off-field reaction to the fan's sledge that resonated widely, showing that humor and composure can coexist with fierce competition. Cricket analysts praised the incident as an example of how players can engage with fans while maintaining professionalism, turning a potentially tense moment into one of entertainment and connection.

Moments like these underscore the enduring appeal of the Ashes series. While the matches are fiercely contested and often produce historic outcomes, they also offer glimpses of levity, camaraderie, and shared enjoyment between players and spectators. Duckett's viral exchange serves as a reminder that cricket is not only about runs and wickets but also about interaction, fan engagement, and the memorable stories that emerge from both on-field heroics and off-field moments.

As the series moves to its final Test in Sydney, Duckett's quick-witted response will remain one of the most talked-about episodes, celebrating the lighter side of one of cricket's most intense rivalries.

India Women Extend Dominance with 30-Run Win Over Sri Lanka Women



India's women's cricket team continued their dominant run in the five-match T20I series against Sri Lanka Women, defeating the visitors by 30 runs in the fourth match on Sunday at the Greenfield International Stadium in Thiruvananthapuram. The win gave India an unassailable 4-0 lead, with one match remaining in the series.

Batting first, India's openers set the tone with a commanding partnership. Smriti Mandhana scored 80 runs, while Shafali Verma contributed 79, combining for a 162-run opening stand, the highest in India's Women's T20I history. Their aggressive and controlled batting laid the foundation for India's formidable total of 221 for 2 in 20 overs, one of the highest scores in women's T20 cricket.

India's innings was further strengthened by Richa Ghosh, who provided crucial late-innings runs, helping to accelerate the score and maintain momentum. The combination of power hitting and smart shot selection kept Sri Lanka under constant pressure throughout the match.

In response, Sri Lanka started positively, with captain Chamari Athapaththu playing a determined innings, scoring a half-century, and opener Hasini Perera offering solid support at the top. However, India's bowlers maintained control, regularly breaking partnerships and keeping the scoring rate in check. Sri Lanka eventually finished at 191 for 6 in their 20 overs, falling

short of India's total by 30 runs.

Among the Indian bowlers, Vaishnavi Sharma impressed with her spell, taking 2 wickets for 24 runs and striking at key moments to derail Sri Lanka's momentum. The disciplined bowling attack complemented the batting performance, showcasing India's all-round strength and team balance.

The victory reflected a complete team effort. While India dominated with the bat and ball, the team also displayed improved fielding and game awareness, further reinforcing their position as the superior side in the series. The senior players and captain praised the collective performance, highlighting the team's depth and versatility in both batting and bowling departments.

With the series now virtually won, India will look to carry this momentum into the final T20I, aiming for a series whitewash. The team's all-round excellence — strong top-order batting, consistent contributions from the middle order, and disciplined bowling — demonstrates their growing confidence and dominance in women's T20 cricket.

This victory not only underlines India's supremacy over Sri Lanka in the ongoing series but also sends a strong message about the team's readiness and depth ahead of upcoming international competitions. Fans and experts alike will be eager to see if India can complete the clean sweep in the final match and continue their remarkable form in the shortest format.

Telugu Family Drama "Sahakutumbanam" to Release on New Year's Day 2026



The Telugu film "Sahakutumbanam" is all set for a grand worldwide release on January 1, 2026, perfectly timed to ring in the New Year with family entertainment. Produced under the banner HNG Cinemas LLP, the film is written and directed by Uday Sharma, with Mahadev Goud and Nagarathna serving as producers. The film stars Ram Kiran and Megha Akash in lead roles, supported by a stellar ensemble cast including Nata Kiriti Rajendra Prasad, Brahmanandam, Satyam, Subhalekha Sudhakar, Rajasri Nair, Racha Ravi, Giridhar, Tagubothra Ramesh, and Bhadram, among others.

"Sahakutumbanam" brings together an accomplished technical team, promising a high-quality cinematic experience. Music has been composed by Mani Sharma, while Madhu Dasari handles cinematography and Shashank Mali is the editor. The film features choreography by Chinni Prakash, Bhanu, and Vijay Polaki, with lyrics penned by Ananth Sriram. Action sequences have been choreographed by Anji and Karthik, and art direction is by P. S. Varma.

The film's trailer, released earlier, has already generated positive buzz on social media, garnering encouraging responses from audiences. Originally scheduled for an earlier release, the team postponed it due to unavoidable circumstances, now aligning the launch with the New Year festivities to maximize the celebratory spirit. On the

Emmanuel Reflects on His Bigg Boss Journey: "Actors Who Can Keep Acting for Days Are Yet to Be Born"



Popular actor Emmanuel, known for his work in Jabardasth, recently shared his thoughts on his memorable journey as a Top 4 finalist on Bigg Boss. Speaking exclusively to the media, he expressed deep gratitude for the experience and reflected on the lessons he learned during the show.

"Bigg Boss has given me so much," Emmanuel said. "I will cherish this experience forever. The bond I formed with my fellow participants, especially Sanjana, is something I will carry with me for a lifetime."

Addressing the common perception that all participants in Bigg Boss are merely acting, Emmanuel remarked, "People

often say contestants are acting, but the truth is, there aren't actors in the world who can keep performing for hours, days, or even weeks continuously. The show tests your patience, emotions, and endurance in ways that no scripted performance ever could."

Emmanuel's appearance on Bigg Boss allowed audiences to see a different side of him—humble, relatable, and enduring under pressure—while reaffirming his place as a crowd favorite. With the lessons and bonds formed on the show, Emmanuel is now ready to channel his Bigg Boss experience into new professional opportunities, promising to entertain and inspire fans in the years to come.

nuel said he had no regrets. "Congratulations to Kalyan, the winner of Bigg Boss. I am genuinely happy for him and have no disappointment about not securing the first place," he added.

Jagapathi Babu's transformation is remarkable. Sporting disheveled grey hair, thick spectacles, and a rugged appearance, the look reflects years of struggle and hardship, offering a glimpse into the depth of his character. The filmmakers have hinted that Appalasoori will play a pivotal role in the narrative, showcasing Jagapathi Babu's versatility and acting prowess.

Peddi stars Mega Powerstar Ram Charan in the lead role, with Janhvi Kapoor as the female lead. The ensemble cast also includes notable actors like Shiva Rajkumar and Divyendu Sharma, while Boman Irani has been confirmed in a key role, adding further

Prabhas' The Raja Saab Trailer 2.0 Released, Fans Excited Ahead of Sankranti



The makers of the highly anticipated Telugu film The Raja Saab have released Trailer 2.0, sparking excitement among fans and film enthusiasts across the country. The new trailer, unveiled on Monday, offers a thrilling glimpse into what promises to be one of Sankranti 2026's biggest cinematic spectacles.

Starring Pan India star Prabhas in a dynamic avatar, The Raja Saab blends horror, comedy, romance, and action into an engaging narrative. The 3 minute trailer highlights grand visual effects, striking production design, and Prabhas' diverse looks, which have already set fan communities abuzz with anticipation.

Directed by Maruthi and produced by People Media Factory and IVY Entertainment, the film follows Prabhas' character as he enters a mysterious mansion and confronts supernatural forces tied to a family legacy. The ensemble cast includes Sanjay Dutt, Zarina Wahab, Boman Irani, along with Malavika Mohanan, Nidhi Agerwal, and Riddhi Kumar in pivotal roles, adding depth and charm to the story.

The trailer opens with lighter, comedic sequences, gradually moving into darker, horror-driven moments, keeping viewers engrossed with its eerie ambiance and compelling background score. Fans have praised Prabhas' intense performance, noting that his portrayal in the film is both power-

ful and nuanced, showcasing his versatility as an actor.

Set for release on January 9, 2026, coinciding with the Sankranti festival, The Raja Saab is expected to attract large audiences in both Tollywood and pan Indian markets. Reports suggest strong advance bookings, reflecting the

high anticipation and fan loyalty surrounding the film.

Prabhas' decision to explore a fantastical horror-comedy genre has resonated with viewers looking for a fresh cinematic experience. With its mix of thrilling sequences, mass appeal, and a stellar supporting cast, The Raja Saab is

poised to be a visual spectacle and major festival entertainer when it hits theatres next month. As fans countdown to the release, expectations are high for a film that combines humor, suspense, and action, promising to make The Raja Saab a memorable addition to Prabhas' illustrious filmography.

Director Praneeth Pattipati Thrilled as Audiences Soar with 'Patang'



Director Praneeth Pattipati is overjoyed with the audience response to his debut film 'Patang', a sports drama centered on kite competitions. Produced under Cinematic Elements, Rishan Cinemas, and Monsoon Tales, and presented by D. Suresh Babu, the film has been produced by Vijay Shekhar Anne, Sampath Maka, Suresh Kothinti, and Nani Bandreddy. Speaking to reporters on Monday, Praneeth said, "The appreciation for Patang is truly gratifying. Seeing audiences enjoy it makes me feel all the hard work has paid off. The climax, in particular, gives the

thrill of watching a live match in a stadium." Praneeth, a Hyderabad native and DFTech graduate from Ramanand Film School, shared that he chose kite competitions as the central theme because it is a native sport. "While films with sports like rugby have been made, kite flying is our own tradition. The CG work, especially for the climax, took two years—it was challenging but worth it to make the kites look convincingly real," he explained. On the support from producers over the last three years, he added, "They never compromised on quality. Their

investment made the film vibrant and visually rich." He also acknowledged industry appreciation from stalwarts like SKN, Sundeep Kishan, Bellamkonda Suresh, and Dil Raju. Addressing release challenges, Praneeth admitted, "Initially, I was upset about not securing enough theatres during the Christmas season. But as word-of-mouth grew, the support strengthened. The theatres where the film is running are seeing full houses."

Praneeth also spoke about director Gautham Vasudev Menon joining the film, after other industry names were una-

available. "He enjoyed the dialogues and perfectly suited the role," he said.

The director shared that working with newcomers suited the story, and that he wrote the story and dialogues himself.

Looking ahead, he teased his next project: "It will be ten times funnier than Patang." With a wide overseas release planned for January 1, Praneeth expressed confidence that audiences abroad will enjoy the film as much as they are in India. Reflecting on his journey, he said, "I learned a lot—more than filmmaking, marketing is crucial." 'Patang' continues to capture hearts with its youthful energy, thrill-seeking kite competitions, and heartfelt storytelling, establishing Praneeth Pattipati as a promising new voice in Telugu cinema.

Ram Charan's Peddi Unveils Jagapathi Babu's Powerful First Look as "Appalasoori"



The makers of the highly anticipated Telugu film Peddi have released a striking first look of veteran actor Jagapathi Babu, portraying the character Appalasoori, further fueling excitement for the Pan India release slated for March 27, 2026.

Jagapathi Babu's transformation is remarkable. Sporting disheveled grey hair, thick spectacles, and a rugged appearance, the look reflects years of struggle and hardship, offering a glimpse into the depth of his character. The filmmakers have hinted that Appalasoori will play a pivotal role in the narrative, showcasing Jagapathi Babu's versatility and acting prowess.

Peddi stars Mega Powerstar Ram Charan in the lead role, with Janhvi Kapoor as the female lead. The ensemble cast also includes notable actors like Shiva Rajkumar and Divyendu Sharma, while Boman Irani has been confirmed in a key role, adding further

star power and anticipation to the project.

Directed by Buchi Babu Sana, Peddi is described as a rural sports drama that blends traditional life with cricket, weaving intense emotion and high-stakes storytelling.

The film also features music by legendary composer A.R. Rahman, expected to enhance the cinematic experience with immersive and vibrant compositions.

Fans have reacted with excitement on social media, praising Jagapathi Babu's intense first look and eagerly awaiting teasers

Telugu Film Mowgli Set for OTT Release After Theatrical Run



The Telugu romantic action drama Mowgli, starring Roshan Kanakala and Sakkshi Mhadolkar, is gearing up for its OTT release shortly after its theatrical debut on December 13, 2025. Directed by Sandeep Raj, the film has attracted attention for its jungle-based narrative, youthful cast, and a mix of romance, action, and emotional drama. Produced by People Media Factory, Mowgli tells the story of love, survival, and resilience set against dense forests. Roshan Kanakala plays a rugged protagonist, while Mhadolkar makes her Telugu debut. The antagonist, portrayed by Bandi Saroj Kumar, adds intensity to the narrative, contributing to the suspenseful and adventurous tone of the film. Although the film received a modest response at the box office, it reportedly recovered its production costs due to a relatively low budget and consistent performance during the first