



## State Gears Up for National Road Safety Month with Multi-Departmental Action Plan

TPN Bureau | December 20

**H**yderabad: Telangana Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar has called for a concerted and coordinated effort to make the National Road Safety Month, to be observed in January, a major success across the state, with the primary objective of reducing road accidents and preventing fatalities. Addressing district collectors through a video conference at the Secretariat, the minister outlined an extensive action plan involving multiple departments and stakeholders.

The review meeting was held in the presence of Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao, Special Chief Secretary Vikas Raj, and Transport Commissioner Ilambathi, among other senior officials. The minister emphasized that road safety must be treated as a collective responsibility and implemented with seriousness at every administrative level.

Highlighting the gravity of the issue, Ponnam Prabhakar stated that Telangana recorded 25,934 road accidents last year, resulting in 7,949 deaths.



an interactive manner. With support from UNICEF, traffic awareness lessons will also be integrated into school curricula.

The Transport Minister noted that special emphasis would be placed on educating new vehicle owners and newly licensed drivers about traffic rules. Unfit vehicles would be phased out under the vehicle scrapping policy. To address the high number of accidents on national highways, he called for discipline among motorists, proper use of radium reflectors during night-time parking or breakdowns, and strict enforcement against violations such as helmetless riding, non-use of seat belts, triple riding, and mobile phone usage while driving.

The effective implementation of the Centre's cashless treatment scheme for accident victims during the "golden hour" was also highlighted. Under this scheme, victims can receive free treatment up to 1.5 lakh for seven days. Additionally, the state plans to roll out the Rahveer Good Samaritan Scheme soon, offering a 25,000 cash reward to motorists who provide immediate assistance to accident victims.

Looking ahead, the minister said the state aims to earn national recognition during the 2025 Road Safety Month through innovative programs such as helmet bike rallies, walkathons, rangoli competitions, road safety pledges, health and blood donation camps, school-

level competitions, NCC-led awareness drives, media campaigns, and outreach through buses, theatres, radio, and cable networks. Identification and rectification of accident-prone corridors and black spots, along with installation of proper road signage at junctions, were also emphasized.

Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao underscored the need for grassroots-level awareness to reduce fatalities and called for strict action against overloading, which he said was a major contributor to recent accidents. Senior officials from various departments attended the meeting, reaffirming the government's commitment to making roads safer across Telangana.

## Public Service Commissions Are the Backbone of Governance: Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka

TPN Bureau | Hyderabad, Dec 20

**D**eputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu on Saturday said that Public Service Commissions (PSCs) are the backbone of the country's administrative system and play a crucial role in ensuring fair, transparent, and merit-based recruitment to public services. He was addressing the valedictory session of a two-day national conference of Public Service Commission chairpersons, members, experts, and officials.

Emphasising the importance of credibility, the Deputy CM said transparency is the lifeline of Public Service Commissions. From the preparation of question papers to final selection, every stage of the recruitment process must be clear, accountable, and free from doubt. He called for the extensive

use of technology to provide real-time information to candidates and strengthen public trust in recruitment systems.

Bhatti Vikramarka stressed that conducting examinations as per a strict annual calendar is essential. Delays in exams, he said, lead to frustration and uncertainty among youth, directly affecting their future. He noted that adherence to a job calendar enhances confidence in the system and praised the Telangana Public Service Commission for successfully implementing a structured job calendar, congratulating the commission's chairman and members on behalf of the state government.

Stating that PSCs are constitutionally independent bodies, he urged them to function without political influence and lead reforms. He concluded by calling for the conference deliberations to translate into ground-level action, asserting that the nation's future depends on the fairness and integrity of today's recruitment processes.



## Education is the Key to Eradicating Social Inequalities:

**D**eputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu

TPN Bureau | December 20

**M**edchal, Hyderabad: Speaking at the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Loyola Educational Institutions at Alwal on Saturday, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu emphasized that education is the most powerful tool to eliminate deep-rooted social inequalities in society.

Highlighting the government's vision, the Deputy Chief Minister said, "Our goal is to provide education that combines skills with human values. Deep human capital is the foundation for long-term development." He informed that work on the Skill University in Bharat Future City is progressing rapidly, and the State is transforming 100 ITIs into advanced technology centres to generate employment and boost Telangana's GDP.

To promote inclusive education, the government is constructing Young India Integrated Residential Schools across the State. Each school, built at a cost of 200 crore over 25 acres, will offer world-class facilities, and approvals have been given for 100 such schools. These institutions will allow students from all social sections to study together, fostering equality and opportunity.

The Deputy Chief Minister stressed that mean-



ingful societal transformation is possible only through education, citing the State's CPEC (Social, Economic, Educational, Employment, Political and Caste) survey. "Human capital is the key to long-term development and leadership. Leading nations have demonstrated this principle," he said.

Reflecting on Loyola Academy's journey, he noted that its success over fifty years is not just in infrastructure but in shaping competent, value-driven citizens. He praised the Academy for maintaining its vision and enthusiasm despite changing generations, technologies, and expectations.

Recalling his address at the Telangana Rising Summit, he reinforced the simple productivity formula: Capital + Innovation = Productivity.

adding that human capital provides the deeper foundation on which both depend. He cited global examples—Britain, the United States, and Germany—to show that sustainable growth and leadership require investments in education, research, and skill development, not just infrastructure.

Addressing students, he urged them to focus on continuous learning and adaptability in a world where technologies and industries constantly evolve. "Education should not only enable earning a livelihood but also foster curiosity, critical thinking, and ethical understanding," he said.

He also stressed the importance of values in education, recalling how universities of the past shaped leaders who were socially conscious and academically brilliant.

## RTI Activist Seeks Mandatory Disclosure of Telangana Caste Survey Data

TPN Bureau | December 20

**H**yderabad: In a significant move invoking transparency and accountability, social activist and policy commentator Dr. Sravan Kumar Dasoju has approached the Telangana State Information Commission seeking immediate suo motu disclosure of the SEEPC (Social, Economic, Educational, Employment, Political and Caste) Survey and related expert committee reports that form the basis of the State's reservation policy.

In a detailed representation addressed to the Chief Information Commissioner, Dr. G. Chandrashekhar Reddy, IFS (Retd.), Dr. Dasoju alleged that the Government of Telangana has committed a continuing and systemic violation of the Right

to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, by withholding crucial policy-formative data from the public domain.

The State government recently conducted a statewide SEEPC survey, constituted dedicated commissions and expert committees, and initiated legislative measures to enhance Backward Classes (BC) reservations to 42 per cent. However, Dr. Dasoju pointed out that the complete survey reports, raw and disaggregated caste data, methodologies, sampling frameworks, and expert committee opinions have not been made public, despite being the sole empirical basis for major policy and legislative decisions.

"This is not a mere administrative lapse but a structural breach of Section 4 of the RTI Act," the representation stated. Section 4(1) of the representation was marked to the Chief Minister of Telangana, the President of India, the Governor of Telangana, senior state officials, and top Congress leadership, including Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge.

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The plea places renewed focus on transparency in policymaking and is expected to trigger wider debate on data disclosure and the right to information in Telangana.



## Gambhiraopet Congress Leaders Meet Minister Ponnam Prabhakar in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: Congress leaders from Gambhiraopet mandal of Rajanna Sircilla district paid a courtesy visit to Telangana Minister Ponnam Prabhakar at the Secretariat in Hyderabad on Saturday. The meeting focused on strengthening the party at the grassroots level and accelerating development activities in the mandal.

Addressing the newly elected Congress-backed sarpanches, deputy sarpanches and ward members, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar congratulated them on their electoral success and extended his best wishes. He said the people had placed their trust in them and urged the elected representatives to work sincerely for the all-round

development of their respective villages. Assuring full support, the minister said the government would stand firmly with local bodies to implement development works and welfare schemes effectively.

The minister called upon party leaders and representatives to intensify efforts to strengthen the Congress party in Gambhiraopet mandal and across Sircilla district. He stressed the importance of taking the welfare schemes and development programmes being implemented under the "Praja Palana" government to the doorstep of every citizen. "It is the responsibility of party leaders and cadres to ensure that people are fully aware of the benefits being delivered by



the government," he said.

Recalling his political journey, Ponnam Prabhakar said that when he was in the opposition, he had launched his padayatra from the Peddamma Temple in the Gambhiraopet region. He also highlighted that during his tenure as a

Member of Parliament, several key development initiatives were undertaken for the region.

Emphasising organisational strength, the minister told party workers that they themselves are the leaders and the backbone of the Congress party. He

urged them to hoist the Congress flag in every village and work with greater commitment in the upcoming MPTC and ZPTC elections. The meeting concluded with a renewed resolve to build a strong grassroots network and ensure sustained development in the region.

## Congress Calls for Statewide Protests to Defend MGNREGA, Says Minister Seethakka

Hyderabad, December 20, 2025:

Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister Dr. Danasari Anasuya Seethakka has called upon Congress cadres, progressive forces, democratic groups, sarpanches, farmers, labourers, and women to participate in large numbers in the statewide protest programmes being organised by the Congress party to protect the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

In a press statement issued on Saturday, Minister Seethakka urged party workers and citizens to make Sunday's protests a success, alleging that the BJP-led Central government is deliberately weakening the employment guarantee scheme that provides livelihood security to rural poor. She accused the Centre of attempting to undermine a landmark welfare legislation intro-

duced by the Congress-led UPA government nearly two decades ago to ensure at least 100 days of wage employment annually to every eligible rural household.

The minister questioned the Centre's recent actions in Parliament, asking why critical changes to the scheme were pushed through hastily without adequate discussion in the Lok Sabha. She alleged that the Narendra Modi-led government was adopting "backdoor methods" to dilute the Act and strip rural workers of their legally guaranteed rights.

Highlighting the social importance of MGNREGA, Seethakka stated that nearly 90 per cent of workers under the scheme belong to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and women. At the national level, she said women account for about 60 per cent of the workforce under the scheme, while in Telangana the figure

stands at 62 per cent. She added that around 20 per cent each of beneficiaries in the State belong to SC and ST communities, warning that any weakening of the scheme would disproportionately affect these vulnerable sections.

The minister further alleged that the BJP government has consistently reduced the number of workdays available under the scheme. Compared to the previous year, she claimed that 45 crore workdays were cut nationwide, including a reduction of five crore workdays in Telangana alone. Though the Centre claims that up to 125 days of work can be provided under the renamed "Garib Rojgar Mantri Yojana," Seethakka alleged that in reality, workers have rarely received even 50 days of employment in any given year, a fact she said was acknowledged by the Centre itself in Parliament.

She also criticised the

Centre for shifting the financial burden of the scheme onto states. Earlier, the Centre bore 100 per cent of the cost, but now provides only 60 per cent of the funding, forcing states to shoulder the remaining 40 per cent, she alleged.

Accusing the BJP of removing Mahatma Gandhi's name from the scheme and attempting

to "bid farewell" to employment guarantee itself, Seethakka asserted that the Congress would not allow an attack on the rights of the rural poor. She called for a united, non-partisan struggle to protect MGNREGA, describing it as a symbol of dignity, economic freedom, and self-respect for marginalised communities.



Joint Director Murali Krishna, senior official Kula Shekhar, along with other department officials and Congress party leaders.

Once completed, the International Export Fish Market at Kohed is expected to significantly strengthen Telangana's fisheries export ecosystem and position the State as a leading hub for fish trade and exports in the region.

According to Srihari, the government has set a target to complete the project by March 2027. He directed officials to prepare detailed timelines and ensure that all works are carried out transparently and effi-

ciently. The market is expected to create employment opportunities and boost ancillary activities such as transportation, cold storage, processing, and export logistics.

The inspection programme was attended by local MLA Malreddy Ranga Reddy, Telangana State Fisheries Corporation Chairman Mettu Sai Kumar, Fisheries Director Nikhila, IAS,

journalists, the minister informed that he has already discussed the matter in detail with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. While previous delays were caused due to Supreme Court orders and legal complexities, the government has overcome these hurdles.

He promised that next year, journalists will receive positive news regarding the allotment of

housing plots, emphasizing the government's responsibility to safeguard the dignity and welfare of the journalist community.

Collective Progress Encouraged

Minister Ponguleti expressed happiness at the successful conduct of the TWJF district mahasabha. He commended the federation leaders and members for

## International Export Fish Market Proposed at Kohed Village in Rangareddy District

Rangareddy, December 20, 2025:

Telangana Fisheries Minister Vakiti Srihari on Saturday inspected the site proposed for the construction of an International Export Fish Market at Kohed village in Abdullapurmet mandal of Rangareddy district. The project, planned over an area of 13 acres, is expected to play a key role in strengthening the fisheries sector and enhancing fish exports from the State.

During the visit, officials explained the detailed construction and operational plans of the proposed market to the minister. After reviewing the layout, Minister Srihari suggested several changes to the planning to ensure that the facility meets international standards and functions efficiently. He

stressed the importance of adopting modern infrastructure and technology to make the market global and competitive.

Addressing the media, the minister said the fish market would be developed as a fully air-conditioned facility and clarified that there would be no foul smell or inconvenience to nearby residents. He urged local people not to have any misconceptions regarding the project. "This will be a modern, enclosed, air-conditioned market. Local residents will not face any problems," he assured.

Srihari said the international export market would serve as a major hub for exporting fish sourced from the Godavari and Krishna rivers, as well as from nearly 26,000 water bodies



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## Telangana Government Promises Swift Resolution of Journalists' Accreditation and Housing Issues

Khammam, December 20, 2025:

Telangana Revenue, Housing, and Information Minister Ponguleti Srihari assured journalists that the state government is committed to resolving long-standing issues related to accreditation cards and housing allotments. The announcement came during the Telangana Working Journalists

Federation (TWJF) district mahasabha held at the SR Convention Hall, Khammam. Due to urgent official work in Hyderabad, the minister addressed the gathering via phone.

Accreditation Cards to be Issued Soon

Minister Ponguleti stated that the process for issuing accreditation cards for journalists across the state has

reached its final stage. He announced that government orders (GOs) regarding the cards will be released within the next ten days. "All eligible journalists will receive their accreditation cards, and there is no need for anyone to worry," he assured.

Housing Allotments Update

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nals, the minister informed that he has already discussed the matter in detail with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. While previous delays were caused due to Supreme Court orders and legal complexities, the government has overcome these hurdles.

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## Excise Promotions and Transfers to Be Taken Up Together Soon: Commissioner C. Harikiran

Hyderabad, December 20:

Prohibition and Excise Commissioner C. Harikiran has announced that the long-pending process of promotions and transfers in the Telangana Prohibition and Excise Department will be undertaken simultaneously in the near future, bringing clarity and relief to employees across the department.

Addressing a meeting of the Telangana Excise NGOs Central Forum held on Saturday at the Abkari Bhavan conference hall, the Commissioner said the department is committed to ensuring a transparent and time-bound approach to promotions, postings, and transfers. He stated that all pending matters related to service progression would be addressed in a comprehensive manner rather than in a piecemeal fashion.

During the meeting, Commissioner Harikiran was felicitated by excise employees with a shawl and a memento in recognition of resolving several long-standing personnel issues. As part of the recent exercise, promotions were granted to 79 employees out of a total workforce of 551 in the department. In addition, postings were issued to all employees who had received promotions but were awaiting placements.



create a motivated workforce by ensuring fair career advancement opportunities and timely administrative decisions.

After the formal session, NGOs leaders and excise officials from various districts across Telangana were felicitated for their service and contributions. The meeting witnessed the participation of Joint Commissioners Chandrayya, Sridhar, Srinivas, and Sheelam Srinivas, along with Assistant Secretary (Services) Nagalakshmi.

TNGOs Central Forum President M. Gnaneshwar, Secretary Anil Kumar, Treasurer Kranti Kumar, district presidents, and other office-bearers also attended the meeting in large numbers.

The announcement has been welcomed by excise employees, who have been seeking clarity on promotions and transfers for a considerable period.

The department's assurance of conducting the process in a single phase is expected to bring administrative stability and improve morale among staff, officials said.

## GHMC Reaffirms Commitment to National Energy Conservation Movement

Hyderabad, 19th December 2025: In a strong reaffirmation of its commitment to sustainable development and climate action, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has pledged full support to the National Energy Conservation Movement. The initiative is aimed at delivering long-term benefits to citizens while promoting environmentally responsible urban governance.

With a population exceeding one crore and expected to soon touch 1.12 crore, GHMC is one of the largest municipal corporations globally. It plays a pivotal role in civic administration, urban planning, sanitation, road infrastructure, and now, energy efficiency.

Prioritizing Energy Efficiency (EE) and Energy Conservation (EC), the Corporation seeks to improve living standards, promote sustainable economic growth, and significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

As part of this agenda, GHMC has successfully retrofitted approximately 5.53 lakh energy-efficient LED street lights across the city in collaboration with Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)—a Joint Venture of Central Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry of Power. The project, implemented under the flagship Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP) launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, is among the largest LED street lighting programmes in India's metropolitan cities.

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to promote energy efficiency, urban cleanliness, waste management, and environmental protection. In particular, the Cool Roof Pilot Project at the University of Hyderabad, implemented by TSREDCO with BEE support, covers 36,746 square feet and is projected to save 7,000 kWh of energy annually.

GHMC highlighted the measurable benefits of its energy initiatives, including annual energy savings of 238.83 million units (MU), peak demand reduction of 59.49 MW, annual cost savings of 193.45 crore, and an annual reduction in CO2 emissions of 0.19 million tonnes. With support from the Municipal Administration & Urban Development Department, GHMC has completed the retrofitting of 5.53 lakh LED street lights, contributing to broader state and national energy goals.

GHMC reaffirmed that it remains committed to aligning urban governance with national climate objectives, global best practices, and citizen-centric sustainability outcomes, ensuring that Hyderabad evolves into a model smart and energy-efficient city while safeguarding environmental and social well-being.

# People Will Judge Revanth Reddy for Governance Failures, Says KTR

Hyderabad, December 20:

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) on Saturday launched a sharp attack on the Congress government and Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, asserting that while the Chief Minister may indulge in political theatrics, it is ultimately the people of Telangana who will hold him accountable for what he termed as failures, betrayals, and arrogance in governance.

Addressing an extended media interaction at Telangana Bhavan, KTR spoke at length on political values, defections, Backward Class (BC) reservations, governance issues, and the future strategy of the BRS under party president K. Chandrashekhar Rao (KCR). Referring to recent political controversies, KTR remarked that Revanth Reddy may "play football with anyone," but the public would surely "play football with him politically" for his actions and decisions.

KTR stressed that politics must be conducted

with dignity and values, drawing a clear line against dragging family members into political discourse. He said BRS culture does not permit personal attacks on family members, women, or children, recalling that KCR had always condemned such practices even in the past. Responding to questions on a recent controversy involving Revanth Reddy's family, KTR said he wished them good health and longevity, reiterating that political battles should remain confined to leaders and policies.

On BC reservations, KTR accused the Congress of a "blatant betrayal," alleging that the party promised 42 per cent reservations for BCs in local body elections but reduced it to 17 per cent at the time of implementation. He claimed BRS had provided greater political representation to BCs by allotting a higher number of tickets in both Assembly and parliamentary elections compared to Congress. He also questioned the Congress government's failure to implement BC reservations in education, employment, contracts, and



skill development, despite having the authority to do so through executive orders.

Alleging a "secret understanding" between Congress and the BJP, KTR questioned the silence of central agencies

on corruption allegations against the Telangana Chief Minister. He claimed this silence pointed to an unspoken alliance, accusing the state Congress of functioning as an "ATM" for national political interests.

KTR also targeted political defections, challenging the Chief Minis-

ter to ask defected MLAs to resign and face by-elections if they had moral courage. He accused defectors of misleading the Speaker while openly aligning with the Congress for personal gain.

Expressing concern over governance and



economic performance, KTR said Telangana's industrial reputation was suffering, with investors shifting to neighbouring states due to policy uncertainty and administrative confusion. He criticised the Congress government for what he termed as in-

consistent environmental policies and for focusing on symbolic changes instead of substantive governance.

Announcing the party's future course, KTR said the Congress government's honeymoon period was over and declared that KCR would

soon lead a people-centric movement across the state. He expressed confidence that growing public dissatisfaction would bring BRS back to power in 2028, asserting that recent electoral trends reflected rising anger against the ruling Congress.

## Harish Rao Launches Scathing Attack on Telangana CM Revanth Reddy at Sangareddy Felicitation Event

SSangareddy, December 20, 2025:

Former Telangana minister and senior BRS leader T. Harish Rao on Friday launched a blistering attack on Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, accusing him of misleading the public, neglecting farmers, and undermining democratic processes out of fear of electoral defeat. He was addressing a felicitation programme for newly elected sarpanches, deputy sarpanches, and ward members in the Sangareddy Assembly constituency.

Congratulating the elected representatives, Harish Rao claimed that despite what he alleged as intimidation, money power, and misuse of authority by the Congress party, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) had emerged strong in the local body elections. He said the BRS secured over 40 per cent of the sarpanch seats across the State, amounting to



more than 4,000 positions, which he described as a clear demonstration of the party's grassroots strength.

Taking strong exception to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's claims of Congress victories, Harish Rao alleged that figures were being exaggerated. He accused the Chief Minister of even counting BRS-backed sarpanches as Congress wins. "If there were a Nobel Prize for political falsehoods, it should be awarded to Revanth Reddy," he remarked, drawing loud applause from party workers.

The former minister

also criticised the Congress government's handling of agriculture, alleging severe mismanagement. He said farmers were suffering due to delays in fertiliser supply, irregular power, and the alleged skipping of Rythu Bandhu payments and crop bonuses. Harish Rao mocked the government's push for digital

systems, stating that farmers were being asked to depend on apps and online bookings even for essential fertilisers. "Has the Chief Minister ever tilled land or understood a farmer's hardship?" he asked.

He contrasted the situation with the previous BRS regime, claiming that during former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao's tenure, farmers had assured electricity, irrigation water, and doorstep fertiliser delivery. He alleged that since the Congress came to power, farmers were being forced to stand in long

queues for fertilisers and were facing uncertainty over crop support schemes.

Harish Rao further accused the government of deliberately postponing cooperative, municipal, ZPTC, and MPTC elections due to fear of defeat. He alleged that instead of holding elections, the government was attempting to nominate Congress leaders through government orders, which he termed undemocratic.

Addressing the newly elected sarpanches, Harish Rao emphasised their constitutional authority, stating that vil-

## Mahesh Kumar Goud Speaks at MG Road Rally, Condemns BJP Move to Remove Gandhi Name from National Rural Employment Scheme



Hyderabad, December 20: Addressing a massive gathering at MG Road under the aegis of the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) and following the call of the All India Congress Committee (AICC), TPCC Chief and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud strongly criticized the BJP government for removing Mahatma Gandhi's name from the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS).

In his speech, Goud highlighted the symbolic and political significance of the move, stating that mentioning Gandhi's name evokes the image of Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, and Priyanka Gandhi in the hearts of people, while BJP leaders react nervously to the mention of the iconic family. "Those who worship God fear facing the Gandhi fam-

ily with courage—Modi and Amit Shah lack that boldness," he asserted.

Goud traced the origins of the NREGS, recalling discussions with then Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and emphasizing that the scheme was designed to provide 100 days of guaranteed employment to rural citizens.

He accused the BJP government, in power since 2014, of systematically cutting funds for the scheme and undermining the legacy of Gandhi and Nehru. He called the removal of Gandhi's name "anti-democratic" and a direct attack on the constitutional values of the nation.

The TPCC chief warned that efforts to erase the legacy of Gandhi and Nehru would not succeed and that Congress, under the leadership of Ram Nath Kovind, is destined to return to power at the Centre in the upcoming elections. He also praised local people for resisting BJP influence in the recent Panchayat elections, asserting that the party had been "burned by public anger."

The rally witnessed participation from senior Congress leaders and ministers, including Sreedhar Babu, Vakiti Srihari, Vivek Venkata Swamy, Jupalli Krishnarao, Ponnambalam Prabhakar, Azaruddin, MLA Vedama Bojja, TPCC secretaries, and other prominent party leaders.

Goud concluded by emphasizing that politics based on caste and religion will face the people's verdict, and the Congress remains committed to safeguarding the legacies of Gandhi and Nehru while defending democracy and secularism.

## Secunderabad Gandhi Statue Dharna: Minister Jupalli Krishna Rao Speaks Out



Secunderabad: At a dharna held at the Gandhi statue in Secunderabad, Minister Jupalli Krishna Rao strongly criticized the central government's recent decision to alter the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. He stated that the move is a misuse of authority and disrespects every Indian citizen.

The minister highlighted that the scheme, originally introduced by the Congress govern-

ment, was aimed at providing employment and support to marginalized rural communities. "The BJP government has effectively nullified a scheme that was a lifeline for the poor," he said.

Rao also alleged that

the central government's actions are influenced by personal animosity against Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, and such decisions are inappropriate. He urged people to unite at the grassroots level and collectively protest until the bill is with

drawn in Parliament and the original scheme under Mahatma Gandhi's name is fully restored.

He appealed to all sections of society to come together and fight for the protection of the rights and dignity of rural citizens.



## Union Minister Kishan Reddy Distributes Furniture at Government School in Secunderabad

Secunderabad, December 20, 2025:

Union Minister Kishan Reddy on Friday distributed school furniture at the Gunda Eeswarayya Memorial Government School in Bansilal Peta, Secunderabad constituency. The initiative was carried out with support from IDBI Bank through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds, amounting to approximately 2 lakh, aimed at improving infrastructure and facilities for students.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Reddy said the distribution was carried out keeping in mind the specific needs of students at the school. He emphasised that it is the responsibility of the State Government to provide minimum essential facilities and ensure a conducive learning environment in government schools. The Minister urged that in addition to providing additional classrooms and necessary amenities for students, maintenance of sanitation and toilets should be improved. He added that toilet units had recently been distributed in government schools under similar initiatives to promote hygiene and health. Highlighting his personal commitment to education, Kishan Reddy stated that he had also paid examination fees for tenth-grade students studying in government schools within the Secunderabad parliamentary constituency from his own salary. He encouraged students in government schools to aim high, equipping themselves with quality education comparable to corporate or private institutions, and to strive for academic excellence. He further advised students, especially from Telugu-speaking states, to give importance to learning in their mother tongue while also acquiring proficiency in English to enhance future employment and career opportunities. The programme was attended

by school officials, teachers, local leaders, and community representatives. The furniture distribution is part of ongoing efforts by the Union Minister to support education and improve infrastructure in government schools across the Secunderabad constituency. This initiative is expected to create a more comfortable and productive learning environment for students, motivating them to pursue higher education and competitive opportunities.

## Congress Stages Protest Against Modi Government Over NREGA Name Change

Hyderabad, December 20, 2025:

Congress leaders and workers staged a protest at the Mahatma Gandhi statue on MG Road, Secunderabad, opposing the central government's decision to amend the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), popularly known as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. The protest was organized under the aegis of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) to denounce the removal of Gandhiji's name and the introduction of the bill under the title "VBY-G-RAM-G." Contonment MLA Gnanesh, who led the protest, addressed the media, saying that the BJP government's ultimate aim is to undermine the poor by scrapping a people-oriented

welfare program and diminishing the significance of Gandhiji's legacy. "This bill is not merely a name change. The BJP government presents schemes under revered figures' names, but the actual implementation often harms the very people it is meant to serve," he said.

MLA Gnanesh criticized the new legislation for encroaching on the powers of states and local bodies. He highlighted that, under the previous NREGA framework, the Centre contributed 90% of funds while the states provided 10%. Under the new bill, the burden on states has increased to 40%, placing undue financial pressure on them.

He further stated, "The BJP may be able to change the names of schemes, but they cannot erase Gandhiji and

Nehru from the hearts of the people. This bill must be immediately withdrawn, and the original NREGA, retaining Mahatma Gandhi's name, must continue."

The protest witnessed the active participation of TPCC office-bearers, senior Congress ministers, fellow MLAs, and constituency-level party leaders. Demonstrators urged the central government to respect the historical and social significance of NREGA and prioritize the welfare of the rural poor over political maneuvering.

This demonstration marks a continued effort by the Congress Party in Telangana to resist amendments perceived to weaken state rights and dilute the legacy of key national leaders while mobilizing public opinion in favor of grassroots welfare programs.



## Hyderabad's Historic Bam-Rukn-ud-Daula Tank Revived by HYDRA Commissioner

Hyderabad, December 20, 2025:

The historic Bam-Rukn-ud-Daula Tank, dating back to the Nizam era, has been brought back to life by the Hyderabad Development Authority (HYDRA). Once encroached upon and neglected, the tank has now been cleared of obstructions and restored to its original grandeur, reflecting the rich heritage of old Hyderabad. Preparations are underway to inaugurate the tank in January 2026. HYDRA Commissioner A.V. Ranganath personally inspected the development works on Saturday, reviewing the progress and ensuring adherence to heritage

sensitive restoration practices. Officials overseeing the construction were instructed to maintain meticulous care at every stage. The Commissioner emphasized providing easy access to locals, including proper roads and entry points, along with walking tracks along the bund, fencing, and designated play areas for children. Recreational facilities for senior citizens, parks, and open gyms are also being developed around the tank. Highlighting the vision for the tank, Commissioner Ranganath said the project is being developed as a major recreational hub in Old Hyderabad, near the National Police

Academy. He suggested planting medicinal and ornamental trees around the tank, creating green belts, and ensuring a pleasant microclimate with adequate greenery. Structural works are being carried out using traditional lime, in line with the construction methods of the Nizam era, while inlets and outlets have been expanded to accommodate water from Rajendranagar, Aramgarh, and other upstream areas. CCTV surveillance has been installed to ensure safety and security.

The Bam-Rukn-ud-Daula Tank, constructed during the reign of the Third Nizam, Si- kander Jah, by Prime

Minister Nawab Rukn-ud-Daula, originally spanned 104 acres for drinking water purposes. Over time, the tank's area reduced to 17.05 acres as per HMDA records, and currently 4.12 acres have been restored. HYDRA cleared encroachments last August, overcoming several challenges and criticisms to make the land fully available for development. Local residents have expressed immense joy and appreciation for the transformation. Many recall the tank's historical significance, with elders explaining how it once collected rainwater from surrounding areas, including Rajendranagar and Ara-

## Cyberabad Police Conduct Special Drives on Human Trafficking and Public Safety



Cyberabad, December 20, 2025:

In a week-long special drive from December 13 to 19, 2025, the Cyberabad Police intensified efforts to combat human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and public indecency, resulting in multiple rescues, apprehensions, and awareness initiatives.

The Cyberabad Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) conducted night raids across the city, leading to the apprehension of six sex workers and eleven transgender individuals. During these operations, six victims were rescued, and two accused were taken into custody in connection with two cases filed under the Prevention of Immoral Trafficking Act (PITA). In parallel, Cyberabad SHE Teams carried out 137 decoy operations aimed at preventing indecent acts in public spaces. These efforts resulted

in 66 individuals being caught red-handed. Minor cases were registered in 59 instances, while the remaining individuals were counseled to prevent repeat offenses. During the week, the SHE Teams also received 23 complaints from women victims through various channels, which were promptly addressed. Family disputes also received attention, with 22 families being successfully reunited in wife-husband conflicts through Family Counselling Centres and CDEW Centres.

To raise awareness and promote preventive measures, AHTU and SHE Teams conducted outreach programs across multiple locations in Cyberabad. Approximately 7,229 participants attended sessions covering critical topics such as human trafficking, child trafficking, eve teasing, social media har-

assment, child marriages, child rights, child labour, stalking, begging, cyber bullying, cyber fraud, and the importance of emergency helplines such as Women Helpline 181, Child Helpline 1098, Dial 100, and Crime 1930.

Deputy Commissioner of Police, Women & Child Safety Wing, K. Srujana, emphasized the department's commitment to ensuring public safety, protecting vulnerable groups, and promoting awareness among citizens to prevent exploitation and criminal activities.

These coordinated efforts reflect Cyberabad Police's proactive approach in addressing both crime and community education, combining enforcement, counseling, and awareness to create a safer environment for women, children, and the public at large.

## Adilabad Collector Meets Newly Elected Ichchoda Village Sarpanch Jalajaa

Adilabad, December 20, 2025:

In a courtesy visit, Adilabad District Collector Rajarshi Shah met the newly elected Ichchoda Major Gram Panchayat Sarpanch, Jalajaa, and felicitated her with a shawl in recognition of her election victory.

During the meeting, Sarpanch Jalajaa brought several local issues to the attention of the Collector and requested support for the development of basic infrastructure in the village. She emphasized the need for enhanced facilities to improve living standards and ensure proper amenities for the residents.

The Collector assured cooperation from the district administration and expressed his commitment to addressing the village's developmental needs.

The programme was attended by local leaders and community members, including Wajid, Sajid, Asif, Goru, and others, who participated in the discussions regarding future development initiatives.

This meeting marks the beginning of collaborative efforts between the Ichchoda Gram Panchayat and district administration to ensure effective governance and timely implementation of development projects in the village.



## Minister Seetakka Pays Tribute to MPDO Rajendraprasad After Sudden Demise During Election Duty

Hanmakonda, December 20: In a solemn gesture, Minister Seetakka visited the residence of Vajeedu Venkatapur MPDO Rajendraprasad in Hanmakonda to pay her respects following his sudden demise while performing election duty. Rajendraprasad, known for his dedicated public service, passed away unexpectedly, leaving colleagues, family, and the local community in deep shock.

During the visit, Minister Seetakka offered heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and assured them that the government would extend all possible support to help them navigate this difficult time. She personally interacted with family members, consoling them and encouraging them to stay strong, emphasizing that the administration stands firmly with them.

Highlighting Rajendraprasad's commitment to public service, the Minister noted that his contributions to the constituency and his tireless efforts in ensuring smooth election processes were exemplary. She stressed that the government values the dedication and sacrifices of officers like him, who work under challenging circumstances to uphold democratic processes.

Minister Seetakka also directed local officials to provide immediate assistance to the family, including support for medical, financial, and other necessary arrangements. She called on the administration to honor Rajendraprasad's legacy and ensure that his service to the community is remembered and appreciated.



The news of Rajendraprasad's passing has evoked widespread grief among residents and colleagues alike. Tributes poured in from government officials, election staff, and

community members, all acknowledging his professionalism, humility, and dedication. Several residents described him as a committed officer who always put public interest above all else. Minister Seetakka con-

cluded her visit by reiterating the government's commitment to stand by the family and ensure their well-being in the aftermath of this unexpected loss. She called upon the local community to remember Rajendraprasad's legacy and continue

his mission of dedicated public service.

Rajendraprasad's untimely death is a reminder of the pressures faced by public servants and the sacrifices they make to ensure the smooth functioning of democracy.

## Dalit Youth Pravalika's Suspicious Death Sparks Outrage in Vemula Village, Mahbubnagar



Mahbubnagar, December 20: The suspicious death of Dalit youth Pravalika in Vemula village, Moosapet Mandal, has triggered widespread concern over the safety and protection of marginalized communities. Former SC/ST Commission Chairman Errola Srinivas and former MLA Al Venkateshwar Reddy visited the grieving family to offer condolences and assess the circumstances surrounding the tragic incident.

Comments by Errola Srinivas:

"The death of Pravalika is deeply saddening and highlights the lack of protection for Dalits, tribals, and women under public governance.

Over the past two years, crimes including sexual assaults and murders have become alarmingly routine. Instances of Dalit women being subjected to rape, theft, or forced suicide often go unnoticed by the authorities. In Shadnagar, a

Dalit woman was brutally beaten with little action taken, and in Kollapur, assaults against women remain unpunished. Collective crimes frequently receive no attention from the police. Authorities must act decisively and responsibly.

Political pressures appear to influence investigations, diluting accountability. We demand a fair, impartial, and thorough investigation to ensure justice for Pravalika and to identify all involved parties."

Comments by former MLA Al Venkateshwar Reddy:

"It has been three days since Pravalika's death, yet the authorities have failed to respond appropriately. Even in the Chief Minister's own district, public representatives struggle to obtain attention for such grave matters. The district administration must take these incidents seriously. Police must investigate thoroughly."

## Telangana ACB Arrests Wanaparthy Agriculture Officer for Bribery



Wanaparthy, December 20, 2025: The Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has arrested Puppala Anjaneyulu Goud, the District Agriculture Officer of Wanaparthy, on charges of accepting a bribe. The official was caught red-handed while receiving cash connected to the supply of fertiliser.

According to ACB sources, the officer allegedly demanded a total of 20,000 from a complainant to ensure a regular and uninterrupted supply of urea fertiliser. The complainant had already paid 3,000 in advance, and Mr. Goud was apprehended while accepting the remaining 10,000 during a trap operation.

The ACB has urged citizens to report any instance of illegal

bribe demands by public servants. Complaints can be made through the toll-free number 1064, via WhatsApp at 9440446106, through the ACB Facebook page, or on the official ACB website. The bureau assured that the identities of complainants will be kept confidential.

This arrest underscores the ACB's ongoing efforts to combat corruption in public services. In recent years, the bureau has taken strict action against officials accused of demanding bribes for administrative processes, highlighting persistent concerns over corruption in government offices.

The case involving Mr. Goud, particularly tied to agricultural input distribution, has drawn attention to the vulnerability of farmers and the potential exploitation in critical sectors like agriculture.



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

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

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

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

## The Myth and Reality of the "List"

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Justice Delayed — and Denied

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

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

poned, but structurally undermined.

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

## The Role of Institutions

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

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

The lack of coordination, the reluctance to pursue leads

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

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

## Victims at the Center — or the Margins?

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

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

not be used as a blanket justification for suppressing accountability.

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

## Power Without Consequences

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

This is not about left or right, ideology or party. It is about a global elite ecosystem where influence crosses borders, institutions, and laws.

Epstein thrived in this ecosystem because it rewarded discretion and punished disruption.

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

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

## The Danger of Conspiracy — and the Cost of Silence

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

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

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

## What Accountability Should Look Like

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

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

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

## A Test for Democratic Values

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

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

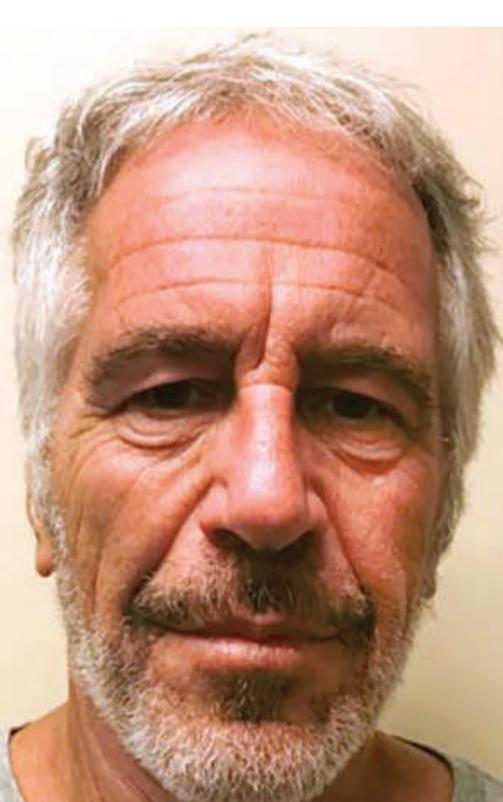
Democracy depends on accountability. When justice appears selective, cynicism grows. And cynicism, once entrenched, is difficult to reverse.

## Conclusion: The Truth Is Not the Enemy

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

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

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



# PM Modi Targets Trinamool After Weather Halts Bengal Rally



## Hindu Man Lynched in Bangladesh as Minority Fears Rise

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

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

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

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

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



## Rajdhani Express Derailment Kills Elephants in Assam

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

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

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

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

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

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



## ED Challenges Court Order in National Herald Case

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

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

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

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



## Air India Express Pilot Grounded After Assault Allegations

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

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

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

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

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



# US Launches Massive Air Strikes on IS Targets in Syria

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Bondi Attack Reveals Gaps in Australia's Gun Control Image



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Markets Close Firm as Nifty Holds Above 25,900

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

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

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



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

the woods yet.

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

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

26,300–26,325 lifetime resistance zone.

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

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

## Parle Agro Reports Sharp Profit Surge in FY25

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

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

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



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

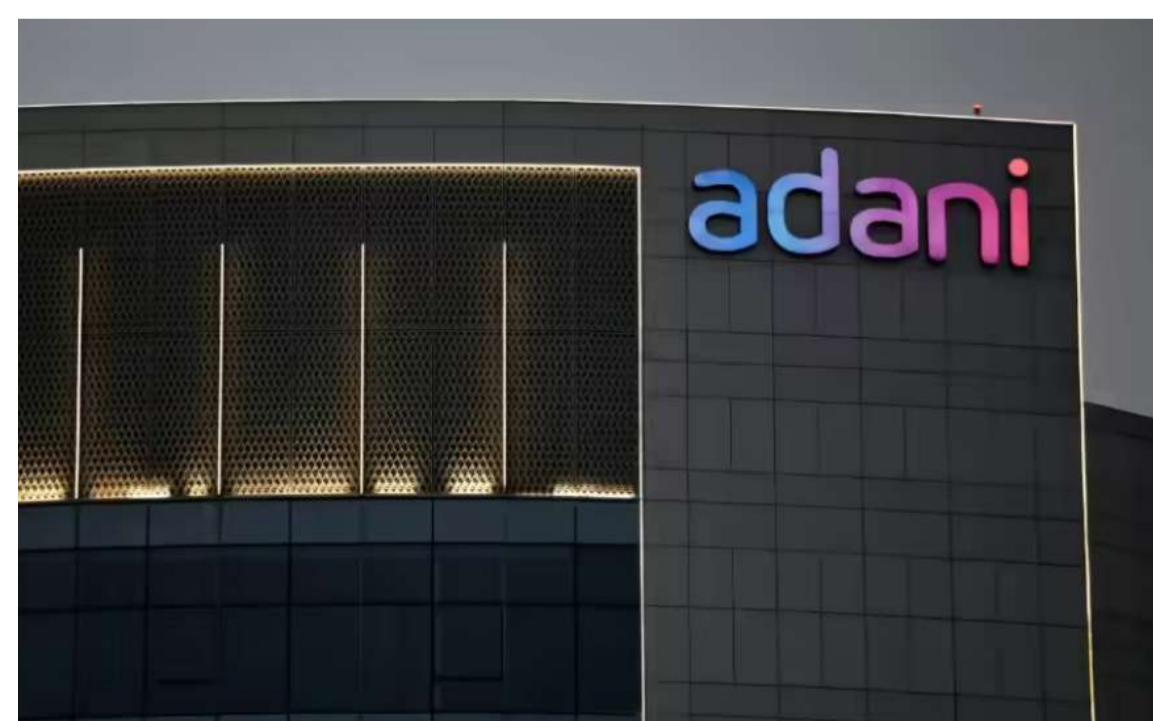
growing demand for packaged drinks across urban and semi-urban markets, supported by strong brand recall and distribution strength.

The sharp improvement in margins suggests a suc-

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

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

## Adani Airports Plans 1 Trillion Investment Push



Adani Airport Holdings Ltd (AAHL) has an-

nounced ambitious

over the next five years

across airports and al-

lied infrastructure. The investment will focus

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

Director Jeet Adani

revealed the plans

ahead of the commer-

cial launch of the Navi

Mumbai International

Airport, scheduled for

December 25. AAHL is

also evaluating strate-

tic options, including a

demerger or an initial

public offering (IPO) be-

tween 2027 and 2030,

signaling long-term

growth ambitions.

Currently, AAHL op-

erates seven airports

across major cities in

including Mumbai,

Ahmedabad, Lucknow,

Jaipur, and Guwahati.

The Navi Mumbai air-

port will be its eighth

and is expected to han-

dle a few million pas-

sengers in FY26, with

traffic rising sharply in

subsequent years.

The investment push

aligns with India's

broader aviation

growth story, driven

by rising passenger

traffic, regional con-

nnectivity schemes, and

urban infrastructure

expansion. Adani's

strategy focuses on

transforming airports

into integrated eco-

nomic hubs rather

than standalone trans-

it points.

Industry experts see

the move as a bet on

long-term urbaniza-

tion and travel de-

mand. The proposed

IPO could unlock val-

ue and provide capital

for further expansion,

making AAHL a key

player in India's infra-

structure landscape

over the next decade.

## Avendus Deal Highlights India's Wealth-Creating Finance Boom

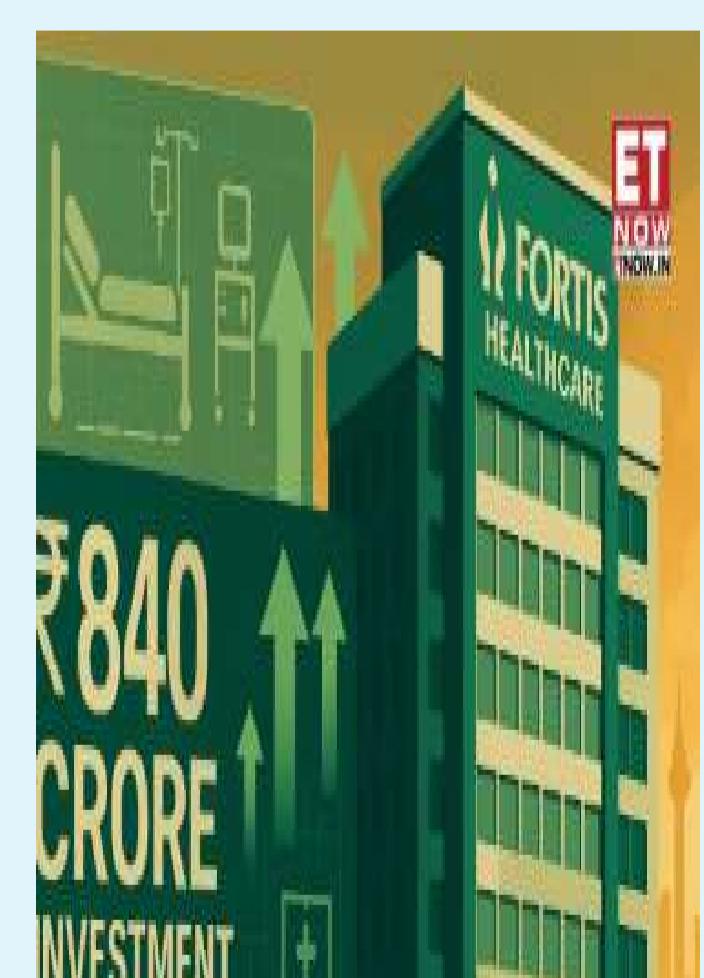


leading investment banks, particularly in private equity and mergers & acquisitions. In 2024, it ranked first in India for PE and M&A deals, advising on transactions worth over \$6.4 billion.

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

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

## Fortis Expands Bengaluru Footprint With 840 Crore Bet



Fortis Healthcare has

strengthened its presence in

Bengaluru with the acquisi-

tion of TMI Healthcare,

owner of the People Tree

Hospital in Yeshwanthpur,

for 430 crore. The deal

includes full ownership of

the hospital infrastructure,

land assets, and an adjacent 0.8-

acre land parcel.

Fortis plans to invest an

additional 410 crore over

the next three years, taking

the total investment to 840

crore. The expansion will in-

crease the hospital's capaci-

ty from 125 beds to 300 beds

and enhance clinical capa-

bilities, including advanced

oncology services.

The move aligns with Fortis' strategy to deepen its presence in high-growth urban healthcare markets.

Bengaluru, with rising demand

for tertiary and quaternary care, remains a key focus area for hospital expansion.

Industry analysts view the

acquisition as a long-term

capacity-building move

rather than a short-term

earnings play. With health-

care demand expected to

grow steadily, Fortis is posi-

tioning itself to benefit from

scale, specialization, and im-

proved patient access.

## Samsung Galaxy Z TriFold Redefines Foldable Smartphones



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

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

In terms of dimensions, the

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

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

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

## AI Browsers Offer Convenience but Raise Serious Security Risks



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

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

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

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

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

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

## OnePlus 15T Brings Compact Design With Flagship Muscle



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

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

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

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

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

Despite its compact size, the OnePlus 15T may include

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

on zoom performance rather than ultra-wide photography.

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

## Oppo Reno 15 Pro Mini Targets Compact Flagship Buyers



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

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

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

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

Battery and charging features also look impressive.

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

conditions.

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

thickness, striking a balance between durability and comfort.

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

## Vivo's 2026 Lineup Prices and India Launch Plans Leak



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

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

segments.

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

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

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

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

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

# Gill Dropped as India Make Bold T20 World Cup Call

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

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

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



and Varun Chakravarthy, with Harshit Rana adding pace.

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

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

## Ishan Kishan's Domestic Explosion Forces India Recall

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

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

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



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

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

Now, as India prepares for the T20 World

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

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

## Gavaskar Questions Gill Omission From T20 Squad

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

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

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

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

The decision highlights the selectors'

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

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



## Rohit Sharma Confirms Vijay Hazare Trophy Return

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

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

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

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

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

like Punjab, Maharashtra, and Goa.

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



## Pat Cummins Surpasses Johnson in Ashes Masterclass

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

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

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

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

is a testament to perseverance and evolution.

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



momentum as wickets fell regularly.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Speaking about the

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

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

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

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

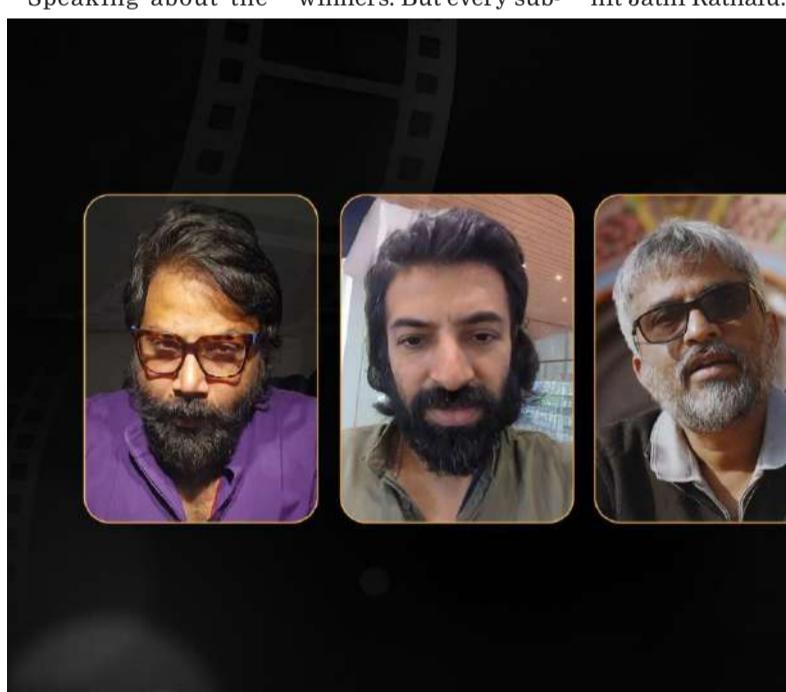
Raghavapudi urged aspiring directors to showcase their vision and chase their dreams.

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

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

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

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



THE SCRIPT CRAFT  
Bringing Stories to Life

INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

## Rising Star Meera Raaj Shines Bright in South Cinema

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Producer Gurrala Sandhya Rani added,

"*Bomma Hit* is our first

will resonate with audiences and become a hit."

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

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

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

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

With a strong story line, entertaining se-



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

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

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

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

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