



# KCR Attacks Revanth Reddy Government, Vows to Fight for Telangana’s Water Rights and Projects

TPN Bureau | December 21

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) president and former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) made a significant public appearance on Sunday after a long hiatus, sharply criticizing the incumbent Telangana Congress government led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and setting out his party's opposition strategy ahead of the next electoral battle.

Addressing the media at Telangana Bhavan, Rao branded the current state administration a “useless regime” that has failed to protect the interests of the people of Telangana, especially regarding irrigation and water rights. He accused the government of betraying the state by failing to exert sufficient pressure on the Central government to approve and expedite key irrigation projects, most notably the stalled Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme.

Rao alleged that the detailed project report (DPR) of the Palamuru-Rangareddy initiative was returned by the Centre due to poor handling by the state



government. He claimed that both state and central governments were neglecting Telangana’s water needs, disadvantaging farmers and weakening agricultural growth in large parts of the state.

“This government has not done justice to Telangana’s water rights,” KCR stated emphatically. “We will now fight for the rights of our farmers and people. We will expose the failures of both the state and central leadership through public meetings and mass agitation.”

Rao also indicated that the BRS will organize public movements to mobilize voters and highlight what he de-

scribed as ongoing injustices. His comments come amid growing political tensions in Telangana, where the Congress government has been in power for nearly two years following the defeat of the BRS in the 2023 assembly polls.

The former chief minister’s remarks drew an immediate reaction from the state’s Irrigation Minister Utam Kumar Reddy, who dismissed KCR’s claims as “90 percent false.” Reddy noted that most major irrigation schemes either collapsed or were incomplete when the BRS was in power for ten years, questioning Rao’s credibility on water infrastructure and project

execution.

Reddy also challenged KCR to explain why certain long pending irrigation works, including the SLBC and Dindi projects, remained unfinished despite significant financial allocations and political control during his tenure.

Beyond water and irrigation, Rao’s speech reflected broader frustration with the state administration’s governance record. He accused the Congress leadership of failing to meet several promises made to the electorate and questioned why Telangana’s development had slowed under their stewardship.

The political opposi-

tion has reacted strongly. The Telangana unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) mocked Rao’s return to active politics, with the state party chief characterizing him as a “one-time password (OTP),” suggesting KCR’s influence had waned and that the BRS lacked credibility due to alleged corruption during its previous rule.

As both parties prepare for intensified politicking ahead of the next state elections, Rao’s press meet is likely to reignite debates over governance, regional development, and the management of Telangana’s critical water resources.

# President Droupadi Murmu Hosts ‘At Home’ Reception at Rashtrapati Nilayam

TPN Bureau | Hyderabad, Dec 21

President of India Droupadi Murmu hosted the traditional ‘At Home’ reception at Rashtrapati Nilayam, Hyderabad, on Sunday, marking a dignified and ceremonial occasion attended by several prominent dignitaries from Telangana and across the country. The event reflected the spirit of constitutional values, unity, and democratic traditions.

Chief Minister of Telangana A. Revanth Reddy attended the programme along with Governor Jishnu Dev Varma. The presence of the Chief Minister and the Governor together underscored the cooperative spirit between the constitutional head of the state and the elected government. They exchanged greetings with the President and other dignitaries during the reception.

The ‘At Home’ programme witnessed the participation of a large number of ministers, Members of Parliament, Members of the Legislative Assembly, Members of the Legislative Council, senior

government officials, and other distinguished personalities from various fields. The event provided an opportunity for leaders and officials to interact in an informal yet dignified setting, fostering dialogue and mutual respect among different wings of governance.

President Droupadi Murmu, known for her emphasis on inclusive development and constitutional morality, warmly greeted the guests and interacted with representatives from different sections of society. The reception highlighted the importance of Rashtrapati Nilayam as a historic and symbolic venue in southern India, serving as the President’s retreat and a center for significant national events.

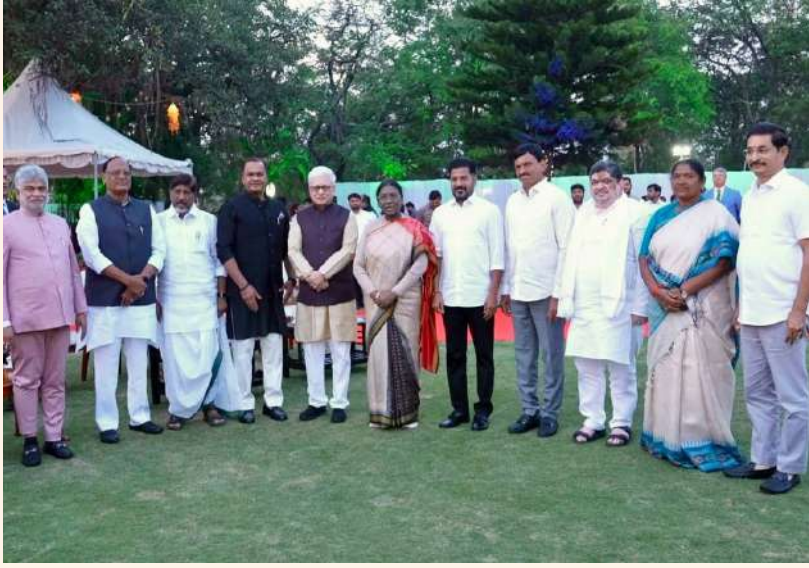
Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, while interacting with attendees, conveyed his regards to the President and reiterated the Telangana government’s commitment to upholding democratic principles and working in harmony with constitutional institutions. Governor Jishnu Dev Varma also exchanged pleasantries with political leaders

and officials, emphasizing the role of cooperation and coordination in governance.

Senior officials from various departments, along with public representatives, took part in the event, reflecting a broad representation of the political and administrative leadership. The gathering served as a platform for strengthening institutional relationships and reinforcing shared responsibilities toward public service and national development.

The ‘At Home’ programme is a longstanding tradition hosted by the President, symbolizing openness, accessibility, and respect for democratic values. The event at Rashtrapati Nilayam added significance due to its historical importance and its role in connecting the Presidency with the people of southern India.

The programme concluded in a cordial atmosphere, leaving participants with a sense of pride and responsibility toward the nation’s constitutional framework. The event stood as a reminder of the enduring traditions that bind India’s democratic institutions together.



# RTC Turns Profitable with Mahalakshmi Scheme: Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka Reviews Key Initiatives

TPN Bureau | December 21

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka has announced that the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (RTC) has turned profitable, thanks to the success of the Mahalakshmi Scheme, which provides free bus travel for women. Addressing a review meeting at Praja Bhavan on Sunday with RTC and BC Welfare Department officials, the Deputy CM highlighted several initiatives taken by the people’s government to strengthen RTC and improve public services.

The meeting was attended by Transport Minister Ponnampalapati Prabhakar, Finance Minister Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Special Principal Secretary Vikas Raj, RTC MD Nagireddy, MJP Secretary Saidulu, and senior officials from the BC Welfare and Transport Departments.

Speaking at the meeting, Bhatti Vikramarka said that the Mahalakshmi Scheme has not only benefited women by ensuring safe and free travel but also contributed significantly to RTC’s financial turnaround. He added that the government’s support, along with loans from women’s self-help groups, enabled the corporation to introduce new buses and develop bus depots and stations. Officials were instructed to explore ad-



ditional revenue streams independently to further strengthen RTC operations.

The Deputy CM stated that under the Mahalakshmi Scheme, RTC has facilitated 25.5 crore free journeys, marking a significant step towards women’s empowerment. He noted that the previous government left RTC with 1,400 crore in PF dues and 600 crore in CCS dues, which have now been reduced to 660 crore and 373 crore respectively under the current administration.

Bhatti Vikramarka also directed officials to enter into an agreement with the Centre for Good Governance to distribute special Mahalakshmi cards, ensuring that every woman in Telangana can avail the benefits. He highlighted the PM e-DRIVE initiative, under

which 2,800 electric buses are being introduced in Hyderabad, and 100 electric buses will serve Nizamabad and Warangal. Adequate charging stations and infrastructure are to be provided for these buses.

In addition to transport initiatives, the Deputy CM emphasized the timely distribution of school uniforms, books, and shoes at the start of the academic year. He instructed officials to ensure that free electricity dues for Rajaka and Nai Brahmin community associations are cleared monthly without delays.

Bhatti Vikramarka also stressed the government’s focus on education, mentioning approval for 100 integrated schools with corporate-style buildings and the release of 152 crore for Gurukul schools cover-

ing rent, mess, and cosmetic charges. For the protection of Geeta workers, 30,000 Katamayya protection kits have been distributed so far.

During the review, Transport Minister Ponnampalapati Prabhakar requested approvals for recruitment of Assistant Traffic Managers, temporary and regular conductors, Chief Accounts Officers, and permission for user charges to address issues in driving license issuance. He also sought approvals for new vehicles to strengthen enforcement and tablets for tax collection.

Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka assured that the government is committed to RTC’s growth, women’s empowerment, and strengthening education and public services across Telangana.

# Hyderabad: Gun Men Krishna Chaitanya Attempts Suicide, Under Critical Care at Kamineni Hospital

TPN Bureau | December 21

In a shocking incident, Gun Men Krishna Chaitanya, a resident of Hyathnagar, attempted suicide at his residence by shooting himself. The victim was immediately shifted to Kamineni Hospital, where doctors are providing critical medical treatment.

According to preliminary reports, Chaitanya’s suicide attempt was linked to financial difficulties and personal issues. He has been residing in Hyathnagar with his wife. Nearly three months ago, Chaitanya reportedly left home due to family disputes, prompting a complaint to the Hyathnagar Police Station.

Since then, he has been suffering from stress-related neurological issues, including brain swelling.

Hyderabad Commissioner Ranganath visited Kamineni Hospital to assess Chaitanya’s condition. He instructed the medical staff to provide the best possible treatment and assured the family of full support from the police department. Speaking to the family, the Commissioner encouraged them to stay strong during this difficult time.

Sources revealed that Chaitanya’s financial struggles stemmed from heavy losses incurred through betting and gaming apps over the past two years, which significantly impacted his salary. The mounting debts and re-

lated stress are believed to have contributed to his drastic step.

The Commissioner emphasized that while the incident is deeply unfortunate, the media should exercise restraint and avoid sensationalism surrounding the case. “Our focus is on ensuring the patient receives adequate care and support,” he said.

Medical staff at Kamineni Hospital reported that Chaitanya’s condition is critical, and the ongoing surgery carries high risks. Despite the severity, he remains alive, and every effort is being made to stabilize him.

This incident highlights the growing mental health and financial pressures faced by individuals

due to gambling and unresolved personal issues. Authorities have urged families and colleagues to remain vigilant and provide support to prevent such tragic incidents in the future.

The Hyderabad Police have assured that they are monitoring the situation closely and will provide all necessary assistance to Chaitanya and his family. Meanwhile, the hospital continues to provide round-the-clock medical care in an attempt to save his life.

This unfortunate event serves as a reminder of the importance of mental health awareness, timely intervention, and support systems for individuals facing financial or personal crises.







# 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 approxi-

mately 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.

Following directives from Chief Minister Shri A. Revanth Reddy, GHMC plans to further strengthen the street lighting programme by incorporating global technologies and adhering to international service standards. An exclusive action plan is being developed in consultation with national energy efficiency experts to enhance the city's energy management framework.

On the occasion of National Energy Conservation Week (December 14-20), GHMC Commissioner Shri R. V.

Karnan unveiled a comprehensive report detailing the role of energy efficiency in Hyderabad's climate strategy. Prepared in collaboration with BEE Media Adviser Shri A. Chandra Sekhara Reddy, EESL, and the State Designated Agency TSREDCO, the report underscores the critical contribution of EE initiatives in mitigating climate change. The Commissioner highlighted that energy efficiency alone contributes over 40% to climate action goals and emphasized the adverse impacts of unchecked human activity, including air, water, and soil pollution affecting health, wildlife, and sustainable development.

The report also showcased public awareness campaigns undertaken by GHMC 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 CO emissions of 0.19 million tonnes. With support from the Municipal Administration & Urban Development Department, GHMC has completed the retrofit-

ting 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.

# RTCTurnsProfitableUnderMahalakshmiScheme;KeyInitiatives for Education and Public Services Announced

Hyderabad, December 21:

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka stated that the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) has turned profitable due to the Mahalakshmi Scheme, which provides free bus travel for women. Addressing officials at a review meeting held at Praja Bhavan on Sunday, the Deputy CM highlighted the government's measures to strengthen RTC operations, enhance public services, and prioritize education and welfare initiatives.

The meeting, attended by Transport Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar, Finance Minister P. Chandrababu Naidu, and other officials, reviewed progress across transport and welfare programs. Deputy CM Vikramarka noted that the Mahalakshmi Scheme has enabled 25.5 billion (255 crore) free bus journeys, contributing significantly to women's empowerment and improving RTC revenues. He emphasized that government support and loans from women's self-help groups have facilitated the addition of new buses, and officials were directed to explore additional revenue sources independently.

Under the PM e-DRIVE initiative, 2,800 electric buses are being introduced in Hyderabad, with 100 buses specifically allocated for Nizamabad and Warangal. Deputy CM Vikramarka instructed officials to provide necessary infrastructure, including charging stations, to support the electric fleet.

On education and student welfare, he directed that books, uniforms, and shoes be distributed on the first day of the academic year without financial delays. He also emphasized the timely release of free electricity bill dues for the Rajak and Nai Brahmin communities. Approval has been granted for constructing 100 integrated schools, with corporate-style buildings replacing rented facilities, and 152 crore has been released for Gurukul institutions' rent, mess, and cosmetic charges.



Additionally, 30,000 protection kits for Geeta workers have been distributed to ensure their safety. Transport Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar sought Deputy CM's approval for recruitment and temporary appointments in the transport department, including 3,233 conductor posts, Assistant Traffic Manager posts, Chief Accounts Officer positions, and new vehicles to strengthen enforcement. He also requested

sanction for tablets to facilitate tax collection and user charges to resolve issues related to driving license issuance.

The Deputy Chief Minister reiterated that the people's government continues to give priority to public welfare, women's empowerment, education, and modernizing transport infrastructure while ensuring efficiency and transparency in administration.

# Sports Essential for Mental Well-Being of Employees: Excise Enforcement Director Shanwaz Qasim

Hyderabad, December 21:

Emphasizing the importance of sports in relieving work-related stress and promoting mental well-being, Prohibition and Excise Enforcement Director Shanwaz Qasim said that employees should make sports an integral part of their lives. He stated that regular participation in sports helps employees overcome job pressure and maintain physical and mental balance.

Speaking at the prize distribution ceremony held on Sunday at the Railway Stores Club Indoor Stadium, Shanwaz Qasim presented awards to excise department employees who excelled in various sports competitions. The two-day sports meet was organized under the aegis of the Telangana Excise Officers Association for excise department staff. The sports events were inaugurated on Saturday by Prohibition and Excise Commission-



er C. Harikiran. Indoor games such as chess, shuttle badminton, table tennis, and carrom were conducted as part of the event, witnessing enthusiastic participation from excise employees across the state.

Addressing the gathering, Director Shanwaz Qasim said that along with indoor games, the department should also encourage outdoor sports such as volleyball, football, and other team games in the future. He noted that sports not only enhance physical fitness but also

promote teamwork, discipline, and positive work culture among employees.

At the conclusion of the two-day competitions, prizes were distributed to the winners by the Enforcement Director. In chess competitions, Shashidhar Reddy, Zulfikar Ahmed, and Chandrasekhar emerged as winners. In shuttle badminton (men's category), Jyothi Kiran, Srinivas Reddy, Jeevan Kiran, and Chanakya secured top positions, while in the women's category, Sou-

janya Sri, Niloufer Azmi, Nivedita, Soumya Sri, and Suchitra won prizes. In table tennis, Vijay Kumar and Syed Yasin Qureshi bagged prizes, while in doubles, Naveen Chandra, Qureshi, Sairam, and Harsha emerged victorious. In carrom competitions, Zulfikar Ahmed, Pawan Reddy, and Sairam won awards.

The sports meet was organized under the leadership of Telangana Prohibition and Excise Gazetted Officers Association President J. Harikishan and Organ-

izing Secretary Jeevan Kiran.

The prize distribution ceremony was attended by Additional Commissioner Syed Yasin Qureshi, Joint Commissioner Suresh Rathod, and Deputy Commissioners from Rangareddy, Warangal, Nalgonda, Medak, Khammam, Nizamabad, Hyderabad, Adilabad, and Mahabubabad districts, including P. Dasharath, Anjan Rao, Srinivas Reddy, J. Harikishan, Janardhan Reddy, Somireddy, Anil Kumar Reddy, Raghuram, and Vijay Bhaskar Reddy. Excise Academy Joint Director Shashidhar Reddy, STF team leaders, Assistant Commissioners, Excise Superintendents, Circle Inspectors, and other officials were also present.

The event concluded on a high note, reinforcing the department's commitment to employee wellness through sports and recreational activities.

# VaikunthaEkadashiatSwarnaGiriTemple: Spiritual Significance and Grand Celebrations

Hyderabad, December 21:

Swarna Giri Sri Venkateswara Swami Temple, one of the prominent spiritual centers in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district, is all set to host the annual Vaikuntha Ekadashi Brahmotsavam from December 30 to January 8. The temple administration, led by Swarna Giri Devasthanam Chairman Manepalli Gopi Krishna, has extended a special invitation to the Minister for Forests and Endowments, Konda Surekha, to grace the event and participate in the ceremonial proceedings.

Minister Konda Surekha, while acknowledging the invitation, highlighted the deep spiritual and social significance of Vaikuntha Ekadashi. She said that the festival is not merely a ritualistic observance but a powerful platform to strengthen devotion among devotees and promote inner peace, spiritual reflection, and social harmony.

The Minister assured that the state government would extend all necessary support to the temple to ensure that the Brahmotsavam celebrations are conducted with grandeur, devotion, and proper arrangements for the large number of devotees expected to participate.

The Brahmotsavam festival at Swarna Giri



is marked by a series of elaborate rituals, processions, and devotional activities. Vaikuntha Ekadashi, falling on the eleventh lunar day of the bright fortnight of the month of Margashirsha, is regarded as one of the most auspicious days in the Vaishnavite tradition. It is believed that observing the day with devotion and participating in temple rituals opens the gates of Vaikuntha, the celestial abode of Lord Vishnu, thereby granting spiritual merit, inner tranquility, and divine blessings.

Chairman Gopi Krishna emphasized that the temple administration has made meticulous arrangements to accommodate the large influx of devotees from across the state. Facilities for crowd management, security, accommodation, and health services have been strengthened to ensure a smooth and safe experience for everyone.

Devotees are expected to participate in special poojas, prayers, and cultural programs organized during the ten-day celebrations.

Minister Konda Surekha also encouraged devotees to actively engage in the spiritual activities, asserting that such festivals not only nurture personal devotion but also foster a sense of community, compassion, and social cohesion. She appealed to devotees from all corners of Telangana to attend the Brahmotsavam, experience the divine ambiance, and receive the blessings of Lord Venkateswara.

With a combination of traditional rituals, devotional fervor, and government support, the Vaikuntha Ekadashi Brahmotsavam at Swarna Giri Temple promises to be a spiritually enriching experience, reflecting the enduring cultural and religious heritage of the region.

# Telangana Teachers Federation Celebrates 80th Anniversary with Ministers Ponnamp Prabhakar and Duddilla Sridhar Babu



Hyderabad, December 21: The Telangana State Teachers Federation (TRTF) marked its 80th anniversary with a grand celebration at Nagole, attended by key ministers including Ponnamp Prabhakar and Duddilla Sridhar Babu. Teachers from across the state participated in the event, commemorating the federation's decades-long contribution to education and public service.

Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar lauded the teaching profession as the most sacred after parents, emphasizing the phrase "Aacharya Devo Bhava". He congratulated TRTF for completing 80 years and acknowledged the crucial role teachers play in shaping the state's future.

Addressing the gathering, the minister highlighted the government's recent reforms in the education sector. "With your blessings, our administration has undertaken key education reforms. Pending matters like promotions and transfers have been addressed to remove long-standing grievances," he said.

He pointed out that while earlier governments focused on distributing resources such as land and money to the underprivileged, the current government is committed to providing quality education, timely appointments, promotions, and clearing pending dues for retired teachers.

Minister Prabhakar stressed that teachers play a pivotal role in the new educational system, urging them to equip students with relevant skills for a rapidly evolving world. "Education is the foundation of state progress. Your guidance today will shape the society of tomorrow. The bond between teacher and student lasts a lifetime, and the values you impart will benefit generations to come," he said.

He also emphasized the importance of developing student potential even in hostels and creating future-ready individuals. Teachers were encouraged to continuously enhance their skills, ensuring better employment opportunities for students and contributing to

nation-building.

The minister shared his personal perspective, reflecting on the challenges faced during his own student days, when basic facilities were limited. "Through your dedication, students now have better resources, enabling them to excel and secure teaching positions themselves. As a student leader now in the government, I am committed to amplifying your voice and addressing your concerns," he added.

Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu also lauded the federation's contribution and urged teachers to continue shaping future generations with knowledge, discipline, and values. The event concluded with the TRTF leadership reaffirming its commitment to advancing education in Telangana and supporting teachers' welfare across the state.

This milestone celebration highlighted the enduring impact of TRTF in promoting educational excellence and the vital role teachers play in nation-building.



# Jagga Reddy Slams Kishan Reddy Over Letter to Sonia Gandhi, Defends Congress Governance

Hyderabad: Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) Working President Jagga Reddy on Friday launched a sharp attack on Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy over his letter to Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, questioning the BJP leader's moral authority and political credibility. Addressing the media at Gandhi Bhavan, Jagga Reddy said Kishan Reddy had no justification to write to Sonia Gandhi when he failed to question Prime Minister Narendra Modi over unfulfilled promises made to the nation.

Raising a pointed question, Jagga Reddy asked why Kishan Reddy never wrote a letter to Prime Minister Modi regarding the assurances given by the BJP during the 2014 and 2019 elec-

tions. "If Kishan Reddy had questioned Modi on his guarantees, only then would he have had the eligibility to write a letter to Sonia Gandhi," he remarked, dismissing the Union Minister's letter as having "no value."

Jagga Reddy recalled several promises made by Prime Minister Modi, including bringing back black money from abroad, depositing 15 lakh into the accounts of every poor citizen, and creating two crore jobs annually. He alleged that even after 11 years in power, the Prime Minister failed to deliver on these assurances. "In Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, Modi's performance is zero," he asserted, adding that BJP leaders have no moral right to question Sonia Gandhi.

Defending the Congress party's record, Jagga Reddy said the party has been transparently implementing the guarantees announced under Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi's leadership. He highlighted the implementation of the Mahalakshmi scheme, under which women are provided free RTC bus travel and LPG cylinders at 500. He stated that the promised 2,500 monthly assistance for women would be implemented soon.

He further said the Congress government has already implemented farm loan waivers up to 2 lakh under Rythu Bharosa and is providing a 500 bonus per quintal for paddy. Schemes to provide 12,000 assistance to agricultural labourers are under process, while ef-

forts are underway to identify tenant farmers.

Jagga Reddy also listed welfare initiatives such as 200 units of free electricity under Gruha Jyothi, allocation of Indiramma houses to constituencies, expansion of AarogyaSri coverage to 10 lakh, steps to enhance pensions to 4,000, and distribution of fine rice and ration cards. He claimed that nearly 70 percent of Congress promises have been implemented within two years.

Challenging Kishan Reddy to a public debate, Jagga Reddy asked whether the BJP was ready to compare Modi's unfulfilled promises with Congress's implemented guarantees, asserting that Congress has delivered 10 out of 13 assurances made to the people.



## TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud Questions BJP Policies, Challenges Union Minister Kishan Reddy

Hyderabad, December 21: Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud has sharply criticized the central government's 12-year rule under the BJP and

opment. In a press statement, he challenged Kishan Reddy to publicly discuss and clarify what the central government has done for Telangana and whether he is prepared to face a debate comparing the BJP's 12-year govern-

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questioned the credibility of Union Minister Kishan Reddy regarding Telangana's devel-

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## Gandhi Bhavan: Rohtak MP Deepender Hooda Criticizes BJP Policies

Hyderabad: In a strong statement at Gandhi Bhavan, Rohtak MP Deepender Hooda criticized the BJP government for politicizing welfare schemes and undermining programs named after Mahatma Gandhi. Hooda alleged that the central government seeks to dismantle MNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act), affecting over 13 crore poor citizens nationwide who depend on it for livelihood, especially during crises like COVID-19 when food and work schemes were crucial.

Hooda said that unlike the UPA era, where schemes such as the Rozgar Yojana were fully funded by the center, the current BJP government is shifting the financial burden onto states while keeping powers centralized. "States report workdays, but the central government now determines workdays and con-

controls funds, leaving Panchayati Raj institutions powerless," he noted. Hooda emphasized that the central government is gradually attempting to dilute or remove MNREGA, a move the Congress cannot accept.

He further criticized the BJP for renaming schemes initially launched under Congress leaders, such as Indira Gandhi's welfare programs, under the BJP banner, claiming the party seeks to replace iconic names and symbols with its own political identity. Hooda also condemned attempts to change national symbols and songs, alleging efforts to replace "Vande Mataram" with RSS-aligned tunes.

Highlighting the attacks on the Gandhi family, Hooda recalled how Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi faced harassment over the National Herald case. Despite repeated claims of money laundering by

private complainants, and multiple agencies registering cases for political motives, the courts ultimately dismissed them, proving the Congress leaders' innocence. Hooda praised Rahul Gandhi for his legal struggle and insisted that truth eventually prevailed over political vendetta.

In conclusion, Hooda reaffirmed that India continues to follow Mahatma Gandhi's principles and that the Congress party will oppose any attempts to undermine welfare schemes designed for the poor. He urged the government to focus on strengthening social security programs rather than politicizing them for electoral gains.

This statement underscores ongoing political debates about centralization of powers, the future of rural employment schemes, and the protection of legacy welfare programs in India.

## Protest in Rangareddy Against Removal of Gandhi's Name from National Employment Guarantee Scheme

Rangareddy, December 21, 2025: A strong protest was held in Azinagar, Moinabad Mandal, Rangareddy district, following the All India Congress Committee's (AICC) call against the removal of Mahatma Gandhi's name from the National Employment Guarantee Scheme. TPCC President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud actively participated in the demonstration, joined by AICC Secretary Vamsi Chand Reddy, district president Challa Narasimhareddy, several MLAs, former

MPs, sarpanches, MPTC and ZPTC members, and leaders of affiliated organizations.

Addressing the gathering, Mahesh Kumar Goud emphasized the vital role Mahatma Gandhi played in India's struggle for independence. "Gandhi dedicated his life entirely to the service of the nation," he said, highlighting that during his visits to villages, statues of Gandhi, Nehru, and Subhash Chandra Bose were installed and revered as symbols of dedication and leadership. He called

for honoring the legacy of these leaders by maintaining inclusive and equitable employment schemes.

Goud strongly criticized the BJP government, asserting that it has politicized welfare and employment schemes along caste and religious lines since coming to power in 2014. He reminded the public that the BJP promised two crore jobs annually, yet in twelve years, no credible records exist to support the creation of even a fraction of the expected 24 crore jobs. He

also condemned the privatization of public sector institutions and the government's failure to provide meaningful employment opportunities, which, he argued, undermines the vision of long-term national development.

The TPCC Chief noted that historic leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru had implemented farsighted policies to ensure equality and fair opportunities for all citizens. "The present central government, under Modi, has not only failed to implement proper employ-

ment measures but is also fostering divisions among communities under the pretext of religion," Goud added.

Goud expressed strong opposition to replacing Gandhi's name from the employment scheme, stressing that such actions erase the legacy of freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for India's independence. He called on citizens and officials to support inclusive employment programs and maintain the spirit of equality, justice, and national service.

The protest also highlighted the Congress party's broader concern over central government bias against states, emphasizing that regional development and welfare initiatives must be protected from politicization. The event concluded with a demand for the immediate reinstatement of Mahatma Gandhi's name in the National Employment Guarantee Scheme, reflecting the party's commitment to preserving the principles of equality, fairness, and social justice for all.





# Minister Tummala Inaugurates All India Craft Mela at Shilparamam, Calls for Protection of Traditional Handicrafts

Hyderabad, December 21, 2025:

State Minister for Agriculture, Marketing, Cooperation, Handlooms and Textiles, Tummala Nageswara Rao on Sunday emphasized the need to protect and promote India's traditional handloom and handicraft occupations, stating that initiatives like the India Craft Mela play a crucial role in preventing the extinction of age-old artisan livelihoods.

The Minister inaugurated the All India Craft Mela at Shilparamam in Hyderabad and expressed optimism that such platforms would provide sustained sup-

port to skilled artisans across the country. Speaking on the occasion, he said the mela reflects the richness of Indian culture, craftsmanship, and traditions, while also offering artisans an opportunity to directly connect with consumers.

Minister Tummala informed that the craft mela features over 100 stalls set up by handloom award winners, handloom companies, cooperative societies, and artisan groups from various states across India. He noted that the event brings together a wide range of traditional crafts, textiles, and artistic products that



showcase India's diverse cultural heritage and artistic excellence.

The All India Craft Mela, which commenced on December 20, 2025, will continue

until January 5, 2026, providing visitors ample opportunity to explore and purchase authentic handloom and handicraft products. The Minister highlight-

ed that Shilparamam, known for its cultural significance, serves as an ideal venue to host such an event that mirrors India's traditions and artistic legacy.

Calling upon the public to actively participate, Minister Tummala urged citizens to visit the craft mela and encourage artisans by purchasing their products.

He said supporting handcrafted goods not only preserves traditional skills but also ensures sustainable livelihoods for thousands of artisan families dependent on handloom and craft-based occupations.

The Minister further stated that the state government is committed to strengthening the handloom and textile sectors through policy support, marketing platforms, and cooperative initiatives. He added that events like the India Craft Mela help artisans gain wider exposure, fair pricing, and recognition for their skills at the national level.

Visitors to the mela

can experience a vibrant display of traditional fabrics, handwoven textiles, decorative crafts, and cultural expressions from different regions of the country. Cultural programs and interactive sessions are also expected to add to the festive atmosphere.

With increasing challenges faced by traditional artisans due to mechanization and changing consumer preferences, Minister Tummala reiterated that collective efforts from the government and the public are essential to safeguard India's priceless handloom and handicraft heritage for future generations.

## STF Cracks Down on Ganja Peddling in Hyderabad, Two Accused Held with Over 1.2 kg of Contraband



Hyderabad: In a major crackdown on illegal narcotics trade, the Special Task Force (STF) teams conducted two separate operations in Hyderabad on Friday, December 20, 2025, and seized more than 1.2 kilograms of ganja from two individuals involved in illegal drug peddling. The operations were carried out in Kukatpally Housing Board Colony and the Musheerabad Excise Station limits based on credible information.

In the first incident, an STF team led by Circle Inspector Nagaraju apprehended a man near the Missamma Handloom Shop in Kukatpally Housing Board Colony. Acting on specific inputs that ganja was being sold in the area, the STF personnel conducted a raid and caught the accused red-handed while allegedly selling the contraband. During the search, the police seized 862 grams of ganja from his pos-

session. A scooter used for transportation of the drug was also confiscated.

Following the seizure, the accused, along with the recovered ganja and seized vehicle, was handed over to the Kukatpally Excise Station for further legal action. Officials stated that a case has been registered and an investigation is underway to ascertain the source of the ganja and identify any possible links to a larger drug network.

In a second operation conducted on the same day, STF Team 'C', along with Sub-Inspector Manju and staff, apprehended another accused in the Sitaphal Mandi area under the limits of Musheerabad Excise Station. The accused was identified as V. Ganesh, son of Hari-babu, aged 33 years, a resident of Sitaphal Mandi, Secunderabad.

According to police, Ganesh was found in possession of 415 grams (0.415 kg) of dry

ganja, which was seized during the operation. The STF team arrested the accused and handed him over to the Station House Officer (SHO) of Musheerabad for further investigation. Relevant documents and the seized contraband were also submitted to the excise authorities.

Police officials stated that these operations are part of ongoing efforts to curb the sale and distribution of narcotics in the city. They warned that strict action will be taken against those involved in drug trafficking and urged the public to share information related to illegal activities.

The STF reiterated its commitment to maintaining law and order and ensuring that Hyderabad remains free from the menace of drugs, emphasizing that surveillance and enforcement measures will be intensified in the coming days.



## Congress Government Gives Top Priority to Sports Development: Adam Santosh Kumar

Hyderabad:

Stating that sports and the welfare of sportspersons receive the highest priority under Congress rule, contested MLA and Secunderabad Congress in-charge Adam Santosh Kumar on Sunday said that the Telangana government led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is committed to strengthening sports infrastructure and encouraging emerging talent across the state.

Adam Santosh Kumar officially inaugurated newly developed shuttle badminton courts at the GHMC Park in Chilkalguda. Speaking on the occasion, he said the Congress government has been taking concrete steps to promote sports culture by creating accessible facilities at the grassroots level. He noted that identifying local needs and providing adequate sports infrastructure is essential for nur-



turing future athletes and improving public health.

Highlighting a major achievement, Adam Santosh Kumar said the credit for bringing world-renowned football legend Lionel Messi to Hyderabad goes to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. He said such initiatives place Telangana on the global sports map and inspire youth to pursue sports professionally.

He assured the local residents that he would continue to work to-

wards developing sports facilities, encouraging young and upcoming sportspersons, and creating playgrounds in the rapidly urbanizing city, which is increasingly turning into a "concrete jungle." He stressed the importance of preserving open spaces and parks for physical activity and recreation.

Referring to issues faced by players in Chilkalguda Park, Adam Santosh Kumar said people from all age groups — from senior citizens

above 70 years to children, students, youth, and women — have been playing shuttle badminton at the park for several years. He condemned attempts by a few individuals who allegedly made false complaints to authorities out of intolerance, stating that such actions harm the spirit of sports and community well-being.

He urged concerned officials to extend full cooperation for the development of sports and to protect public recreational spaces. Adam Santosh Kumar said that upon learning about the difficulties faced by local players over the past year, he immediately intervened, held discussions with officials, and ensured a permanent solution by making two shuttle badminton courts available for public use.

Local residents, along with representatives of

the Chilkalguda Park Development and Welfare Society and Secunderabad Shuttle Riders, expressed their gratitude to Adam Santosh Kumar for his swift response and support. Several sportspersons felicitated him by draping a shawl as a mark of appreciation.

The event witnessed the participation of welfare society representatives Balraju, Anil Benher, Raghunandan, Rajeev, Umakanth, Chandrasekhar, S.N. Reddy, Kiran, Srikanth, Rambabu, Munnabai, Ramadevi, Mary, Nasreen, Soujanya, Ushala, along with Congress leaders, sportspersons, and a large number of local residents.

The programme concluded on a positive note, reaffirming the Congress party's focus on sports promotion and community development in Telangana.

## Registering Cases for BC Reservations Rally Is Shameful: Left Parties

Quthbullapur, December 21:

Leaders of the Left parties strongly condemned the registration of police cases against participants of a peaceful rally taken out in support of Backward Classes (BC) reservations, calling the move "shameful" and reflective of anti-BC attitudes. They demanded the immediate withdrawal of all cases filed in connection with the BC Bandh.

Addressing the media after appearing before the Medchal court on Saturday, CPI district secretary Uma Mahesh, CPI mandal secretary K. Swamy, and CPM mandal secretary Keelukani Laxman said a rally was organized on November 18 at Shapur Nagar in Quthbullapur as part of the statewide BC Bandh call. The rally, held under the leadership of Left parties, aimed at mobilizing public support and ensuring the success of the bandh.

The leaders asserted that the rally was conducted in a completely peaceful manner without any untoward incidents, violence, or damage to public or private property. Despite this, police cases were registered against the organizers and participants, which they described as

highly unjustified and condemnable.

They questioned the contradiction between the government's stated support for BC reservations and the actions of local authorities. "On one hand, the government claims to extend complete support to BC reservations and even endorses the BC Bandh. On the other hand, officials are registering cases against those who organized a peaceful rally. This is a serious and un-

fortunate development," the leaders said.

The Left leaders alleged that the filing of cases during a protest in support of BC rights amounts to suppressing democratic voices and reflects an anti-BC mindset. They demanded that the government demonstrate sincerity and commitment toward BC welfare by immediately withdrawing all cases registered during the BC Bandh.

The leaders further

stated that peaceful protests and rallies are a democratic right and should not be criminalized. They warned that continuing such actions would deepen mistrust among BC communities and fuel resentment against the authorities.

Earlier in the day, CPI district secretary Uma Mahesh, CPI mandal secretary K. Swamy, and CPM mandal secretary Keelukani Laxman appeared before the Med-

chal court in connection with the cases. Following their court appearance, they issued a joint statement reiterating their demand for justice and withdrawal of the cases.

They called upon the state government to take corrective measures and ensure that democratic movements in support of social justice and BC reservations are encouraged rather than discouraged.





# Adilabad SP Inspects Sirikonda Police Station, Urges Strict Action Against Anti-Social Activities

Adilabad, December 21:

As part of the annual inspections, District SP Akhil Mahajan, IPS, conducted a detailed review of the Sirikonda Police Station in Adilabad district on Sunday. The inspection focused on maintaining law and order, strengthening public trust, and ensuring efficient functioning of the police staff.

During the visit, SP Akhil Mahajan was welcomed by SI S. Pooja with floral tributes, followed by a ceremonial reception organized by the police staff. The SP inspected the cleanliness of the police station premises, assessed the condition of vehicles, and reviewed staff parades, emphasizing the importance of discipline, proper conduct, and the significance of police uniforms.

He also examined service records, station logs, and allocated resources to ensure accountability. The SP instructed that strict monitoring should be maintained to prevent any anti-social activities within the station limits. He urged the po-



lice to establish good rapport with local communities, visit villages regularly, and assign village police officers to collect comprehensive information about each area.

SP Mahajan highlighted the importance of creating awareness among the public about the dangers of narcotics like ganja and ensuring that young people stay away from drugs. He stressed that investiga-

tions should be conducted in a manner that increases public trust and respect for the police, while station records should be updated promptly without pending entries.

Special attention was also called for addressing complaints of citizens courteously, providing permanent solutions, and visiting schools and colleges to educate women and students on safety issues.

The SP emphasized curbing minor crimes promptly, monitoring court duty officers, updating records efficiently, and enforcing strict measures against child marriage, harassment of women, and other offenses.

He further instructed that suspect sheets and records of rowdy elements should be regularly reviewed, and strict action must be taken to prevent drunk-

en driving and open drinking in the evenings. Financial crimes must also be checked through diligent patrolling and enforcement, with enhanced night-time vigilance.

The inspection was attended by Additional SP Kajal Singh, SI S. Pooja, and other police staff, reinforcing the administration's commitment to discipline, public safety, and proactive policing in the Mandal.

## Chamal Kiran Kumar Reddy Counters KTR Amid Telangana Political Tensions



Bhuvanagiri, December 21, 2025: Chamal Kiran Kumar Reddy, MP from Bhuvanagiri, delivered a strong political rebuttal to Telangana IT Minister K. T. Rama Rao (KTR), emphasizing the independent political rise of Revanth Reddy and criticizing KTR's recent statements about Telangana's political scenario.

Addressing a gathering, Chamal Kiran Kumar Reddy mocked KTR's comparison of political strategies to playing football, stating, "Chief Minister Revanth Reddy doesn't play football with you. In politics, Revanth Reddy has already scored goals without relying on any godfather or political backing." He highlighted that Revanth Reddy's journey from winning independently as a ZPTC member to ascending to a Chief Ministerial-level leader is a testament to his grassroots credibility and political acumen.

Chamal Kiran Kumar Reddy stressed the contrast with KTR, asserting that unlike Revanth Reddy, KTR did not rise through independent public support but came parachuted from America to contest in Sirisilla under the influence of his father, K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR). "Your father called you, and you're relying on that legacy, while Revanth Reddy rose through sheer effort and leadership," he said.

He further criticized KTR's political influence, saying, "KTR's leadership is limited to praise for himself; he has become practically inactive in meaningful political interventions. The BRS has faced repeated electoral setbacks under KTR's ineffective strategy — from Assembly and Parliamentary polls to the Cantonment and Jubilee Hills by-elections."

Chamal Kiran Kumar Reddy highlighted the success of Revanth Reddy's initiatives, including the Global Telangana Summit, which has apparently caused frustration among KTR and his camp. He argued that Revanth Reddy is proactively securing central government support for Telangana, ensuring

the flow of funds for development, whereas KTR's rhetoric is largely unproductive. He also touched upon fiscal accountability, stating, "Your father's governance style has led to massive state debts, and Revanth Reddy is striving to reclaim every rupee that belongs to Telangana from central taxation." He urged KTR to stop spreading misleading narratives, warning that the people of Telangana will not be swayed by such rhetoric.

Chamal Kiran Kumar Reddy concluded by stressing that the BRS, having transitioned from TRS, has lost its genuine connection with Telangana, and KTR must adopt practical, people-centric politics to remain relevant in the state's evolving political landscape.

This statement reflects the ongoing tensions between the BRS leadership and KTR's faction, with Revanth Reddy positioned as a central figure asserting independent influence and development-focused politics in Telangana.

# Adilabad District Hosts Grand Closing Ceremony of District-Level Games & Sports Meet 2025-26

Adilabad, December 21, 2025: The district witnessed a spectacular conclusion of the District-Level Games & Sports Meet 2025-26, organized by the Bangarugud Girls Telangana Minorities Residential Educational Institutions Society (TMREIS) on Sunday. The event aimed to identify talented students and promote a spirit of sportsmanship among them.

District Collector Rajarshi Shah graced the occasion as the chief guest. Speaking at the ceremony, he emphasized the importance of excelling not only in academics but also in sports and cultural activities. "Participation in sports helps develop leadership qualities and team spir-

it. I congratulate the winners and urge those who did not succeed to continue their efforts and aim for success in upcoming competitions," he said. He also highlighted the government's commitment to prioritizing education and sports by allocating significant resources.

The meet witnessed enthusiastic participation from 550 students representing the districts of Adilabad, Nirmal, Asifabad, and Mancherial. Students competed in a variety of sports including Kho-Kho, running races, badminton, kabaddi, and volleyball. The event was successfully conducted under the guidance of 14 Physical Education Teachers (PETs),

whose efforts were commended by the Collector.

Apart from sports, the students showcased captivating cultural performances that added vibrancy to the event. The Collector presented awards, mementos, and medals to the winners, recognizing their dedication and talent.

The event saw partici-

pation from key officials and educators, including the District Minorities Welfare Officer Kaleem, school principals Farin and Pallavi, other officials, teachers, PETs, and students. The program not only celebrated athletic excellence but also reinforced the importance of holistic development, encouraging students to balance

academics, sports, and cultural activities for their overall growth.

This annual sports meet continues to serve as a platform to nurture young talent, instill discipline, and promote camaraderie among students across the region, fostering a vibrant environment for both educational and extracurricular achievements.



## ASBL Hosts Family Day 2025 to Celebrate Community and Shared Growth

Hyderabad-based real estate leader ASBL hosted its annual Family Day 2025 on December 20 at Anvaya Conventions in the city's Financial District. The event brought together ASBL homeowners and their families for an evening dedicated to community, connection, and celebrating the shared journey of growth between the company and its customers.

Designed as an exclusive celebration for ASBL homeowners, the event reflected the company's philosophy that relationships with clients go beyond transactions. By engaging families directly, ASBL reinforced its commitment to fostering long-term communities rooted in trust, shared values, and active engagement.

The evening commenced with a ceremonial Diya Pradipnam, setting a warm, festive tone. Guests were treated to a mix of cultural and contemporary performances, including a classical dance by Nriya Priya, a Ramayana skit by the Sravya Manasa Dance Ensemble, a high-energy performance by the all-female dance crew Yo Highness, and a live musical performance by Niraval – The Band. The event also featured interactive activities, a musical



open mic, refreshments, and a DJ night, ensuring entertainment for guests of all ages, culminating in a community dinner.

A highlight of the evening was the keynote address by Ajitesh Korupolu, Founder and CEO of ASBL, who acknowledged the crucial role customers have played in the company's growth. He stated, "Family Day reflects what ASBL truly stands for. Homes are not just structures we deliver; they are ecosystems where families grow, connect, and build their lives. The trust our customers place in us has been the foundation of ASBL's growth, and this evening is our way of acknowledging that partnership."

Korupolu also discussed Hyderabad's rise as a leading technology and infrastructure hub and the urban challenges accompanying rapid growth, such as longer commutes, limited walkability, and pressure on open spaces. He emphasized ASBL's commitment to

human-centric urban design and the creation of walkable, inclusive communities.

During the event, ASBL announced several strategic initiatives, including the launch of AAED, a design studio focused on human-centered design, plans for Non-Convertible Debentures to enhance financial transparency, and the ASBL Founders Club, a community platform integrated with the ASBL Homes App to host children's skill development programs and community events over the next four years.

ASBL Family Day 2025 reinforced the company's philosophy of nurturing relationships beyond homeownership, promoting meaningful engagement, and building enduring communities.

About ASBL: ASBL designs homes with a deep understanding of family needs, creating thoughtfully planned spaces and communities that prioritize trust, care, and long-term value.

For more information, visit: <https://asbl.in/>

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# Mother Tongue Is Not a Barrier, It Is the Bridge

## India's Education System Needs



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

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

**The Cost of Ignoring the Child's First Language**

The SOER 2025 highlights a sobering reality: a significant

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

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

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

**Mother-Tongue Instruction: Evidence, Not Emotion**

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

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

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

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

**Policy Promise vs Classroom Reality**

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

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

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

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

**Language, Identity and Dignity**

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

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

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

**The Way Forward**

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

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

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



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

**Conclusion**

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

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

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



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

# A Simple Talk Before Marriage Can Save a Lifetime of Trouble

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

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

**How Does It Work?**

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

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



to share household work?

**Why a Lawyer?**

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

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

Also, when you write

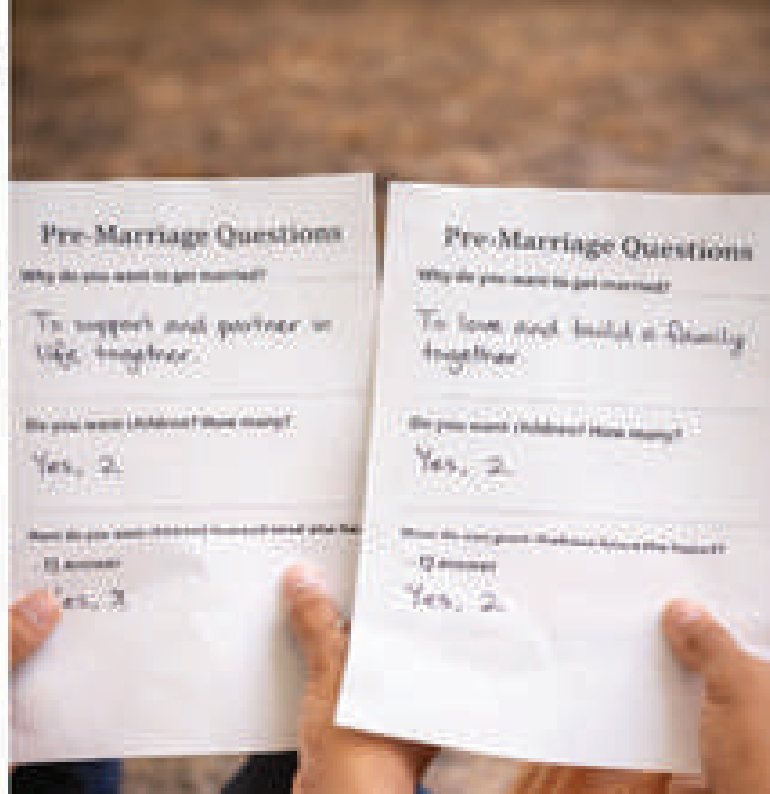
down your answers, you are more likely to be truthful. Why? Because if later there is a big problem like if someone hid something important, these papers can be used as proof. This

encourages both to be honest from the start.

**Isn't This Too Formal for Love?**

Love is important. But marriage is also a serious

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



than fighting about them after.

**What's the Benefit?**

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

**Final Thought**

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



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



# BJP Dominance In Maharashtra Local Polls



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

Congress state chief Harsh Vardhan Sapkal accused the State Election Commission of

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

On the other hand, BJP leaders attributed the success to positive campaigning and public trust. Union Home Minister Amit Shah described the result as a blessing from the people for the welfare-driven vision of the NDA governments at both the Centre and the state, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis emphasised that he avoided negative campaigning, focusing instead on explaining development plans, which he said resonated with voters.

# Modi And Kharge Clash Over Infiltration Issue

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

# Terror Search Operations Intensify In Udhampur

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

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

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



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

Intelligence inputs suggest that terrorists may be exploiting foggy weather conditions

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

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

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

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

# Pilot Assault Case Sparks Controversy



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

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

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

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

Captain Sejwal's statement countered these claims, asserting that both

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

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

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

# Infant Death Highlights Healthcare Failure



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

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

Following the death, the

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

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

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

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



## Saudi Arabia Records Execution Surge



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

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

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

countability is absent.

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

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

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

## Kate Winslet On Fame And Intrusion



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

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

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

ing her teenage years.

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

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

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

# US Seizes Venezuelan Oil Tanker Again



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Epstein Files Leave Survivors Uneasy

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

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



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

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

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

have denied any involvement in Epstein's crimes.

The Department of Justice has defended the redactions, citing legal obligations to protect victim identities, ongoing investigations, and national se-

curity concerns. Officials said more than 1,200 victims or relatives were identified, necessitating careful handling of sensitive material.

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

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

# Deadly Tavern Shooting Shocks South Africa

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

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

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



putes, and illegal firearms.

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

lice forces and called for military intervention to restore safety.

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

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

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

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



# Limited Impact of US MFN Drug Pricing on Indian Pharma



### Policy Announcement

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

### Focus on Patented Drugs

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

### India's Role in Generics

India plays a crucial role in the global pharmaceuti-

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

### Analyst View

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

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

### Overall Assessment

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

## SBI Home Loan Portfolio Nears ₹10 Trillion Milestone



### Strong Growth Momentum

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

### Current Position

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

### Asset Quality Strength

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

### Role of RAM Segment

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

### Revised Credit Outlook

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

### Outlook

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

## Elon Musk Crosses Historic \$700 Billion Net Worth



### Record-Breaking Milestone

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

### Court Decision Impact

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

### Tesla's Central Role

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

lion, making it his most valuable asset.

### Other Major Assets

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

### Wealth Gap Widens

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

### Long-Term Outlook

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

## Market Capitalisation Gains Led by TCS and Infosys

### Weekly Market Movement

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

### Biggest Gainers

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

### Other Positive Movers

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



weakness.

### Firms Facing Declines

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

also witnessed notable losses.

### Valuation Rankings

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

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

### Key Takeaway

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

## Vedanta Demerger and Strong Dividend Commitment

### Dividend Philosophy

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

### Demerger Approval

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

### Shareholder Benefits

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

### Dividend Track Record

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



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

### Expansion Plans

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

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

### Strategic Vision

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

## Securities Markets Code Bill Redefines Sebi Powers



### Time Limit on Investigations

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

### Exceptions and Safeguards

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

### Faster Enforcement Framework

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

### Investor Protection Measures

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

### Financial Restructuring of Sebi

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

### Overall Impact

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



Vivo V70 and X Series India Launch Plans Surface



Multiple Launches Planned

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

Launch Timeline

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

X300 FE is expected to arrive later.

Pricing Expectations

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

Specifications Overview

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

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

Starlink Satellite Anomaly Triggers Controlled Reentry



Incident in Orbit

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

Cause of Failure

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

spacecraft to alter its orbit and release small debris fragments.

Debris and Safety Measures

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

Controlled Descent

Although the satellite

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

Preventive Action

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

OnePlus 15T Emerges as Compact Flagship Contender



Upcoming Addition

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

Display and Design

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

Performance and Security

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

Camera Capabilities

On the photography

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

Battery and Extras

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

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

Launch Timeline

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

Oppo Reno 15 Pro Mini India Launch Details Leak

Compact Flagship Strategy

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

Expected Launch Window

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

Display and Performance

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



Advanced Camera Setup

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

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

Battery and Durability

The handset may sup-

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

Design and Build

Leaks suggest the

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

Samsung Galaxy Z Flip 8 May Debut Exynos 2600

New Chipset Integration

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

Reason Behind the Move

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

Exynos 2600 Highlights

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

AI and Camera Support

The chipset includes a 32K MAC NPU for en-



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

displays with refresh rates up to 120Hz.

Launch Expectations

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

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



# Shubman Gill Dropped from T20 World Cup Squad

### Surprise Omission

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

### Decision Taken in Advance

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

### Pitch Conditions a Key Factor

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



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

### Preference for Explosive Openers

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

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

### Finishing Concerns

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

This further reduced room for Gill in the final squad.

### Official Explanation

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

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

### Overall Picture

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

## Sameer Minhas Shines Bright in U19 Asia Cup Final



### Match-Winning Knock

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

### Family Connection

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

### Tournament Star

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

### Dominance Against India

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

### Eventual Dismissal

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

### Background and Journey

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

### Rising Prospect

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

## Messi's India Visit Cost and Chaos Explained



### Massive Financial Outlay

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

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

### Financial Investigation

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

### Fan Anger and Vandalism

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

### Ongoing Probe

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

### Security Breakdown

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

### Political Fallout

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

### Ticket and Access Issues

Although only 150 ground passes were initially issued, the number

## Suryakumar Yadav Faces Pressure After Gill Exit

### Poor Run of Form

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

### Captaincy Shield

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

### Clear Warning Issued

According to a PTI report, Suryakumar has effectively been given an ultimatum. If he fails to rediscover form soon, he could lose not only his influence in the dressing room but also his place in the side.



### Gambhir's Influence

The report highlights head coach Gautam Gambhir's strict approach, where results matter above all else. The message is clear that reputation and captaincy will not guarantee selection if performances do not improve.

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

improve.

### Samson's Retention

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

### Selection Philosophy

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

### Bigger Implication

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

## Mohsin Naqvi's Presence Could Spark Controversy

### Expected Attendance

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

### Role at the Final

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

### Past Trophy Dispute

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

### Recent Contrast

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



has kept him at the centre of Asian cricket debates.

### Sensitive Setting

The U19 final represents another delicate moment. With India and Pakistan facing off, Naqvi's actions during the presentation ceremony will be closely watched by fans and officials alike.

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

### Symbolic Importance

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

### What Lies Ahead

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

Hyderabad, December 21, 2025

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hyderabad, December 2025

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

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

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

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



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

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

From Bat to Big Screen

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

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

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

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

Hyderabad, December 2025:

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

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

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

**On choosing content over obligation:**

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



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

**Why venture into horror this time?**

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

**Meeting audience expectations:**

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

**Comparison with previous hits:**

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



**Plans for 2026:**

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

**About the horror factor:**

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

that make it feel relatable."

On theatrical experience and premiere plans:

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

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

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

Hyderabad, December 2025:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Producer Suresh Koth-



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

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

nal result has been widely praised."

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

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

# Natural Star Nani Unveiled Gripping New Mystical Trailer Of Aadi Shambhala

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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