



New Critical Care Center Inaugurated at RIMS, Adilabad: Central and State Governments Pledge Enhanced Healthcare for the Poor

TPN Bureau | December 26

Adilabad: A state-of-the-art 50-bed Critical Care Center was inaugurated at the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) in Adilabad on Friday, marking a significant step towards improving healthcare facilities for the region's underprivileged population. The inauguration was jointly conducted by Union Minister for Mines and Coal, G. Kishan Reddy, and Adilabad District In-Charge Minister, Jupalli Krishnarao.

Constructed with an investment of 23.75 crore, the new facility includes a maternity ward, minor operation theatre, and a 13-bed isolation ward, aiming to provide advanced medical care for patients in need. Speaking at the event, Minister Kishan Reddy emphasized that both the central and state governments are taking concerted measures to ensure comprehensive development of Adilabad, with a strong focus on healthcare, infrastructure, and employment generation. "The central government is investing 1.50 lakh crore in national highway construction, ensuring better connectivity, while prioritizing healthcare



and education in rural areas," Reddy said. He also stressed the importance of safeguarding groundwater resources by promoting rainwater conservation and announced the upcoming inauguration of a central government school in Adilabad.

District In-Charge Minister Jupalli Krishnarao highlighted that special attention is being given to healthcare services for socially marginalized communities in the district. Under the National Health Mission, the state government has taken several initiatives to reduce maternal and child mortality rates. Krishnarao announced plans for the construction of a new Osmania

Hospital and noted that healthcare services under the Aarogyasri scheme have been increased from 5 lakh to 10 lakh. He revealed that a total of 800 crore has been sanctioned under the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, and the state has recently recruited 6,956 nursing staff and 4,330 doctors to strengthen healthcare delivery.

Adilabad MP G. Nagesh praised the critical care block as a milestone project that will provide top-quality medical services not only to Adilabad residents but also to neighboring districts. He added that the proposed airport in the district would boost economic and industrial develop-

ment, create employment opportunities, and promote tourism. Nagesh assured full support from the central government to expedite the project.

MLA Payal Shankar expressed satisfaction that long-standing development demands of the people are finally coming to fruition. He stated that upgrading RIMS with modern medical facilities will ensure accessible, high-quality healthcare for both low-income and middle-class families. Highlighting the importance of the airport project, Shankar said it would significantly transform Adilabad's future and further the government's goal of public welfare.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by local dignitaries, including MLAs Anil Jadhav and Vedma Boju, district library chairman Narsayya, additional collectors, RIMS Director Jai Singh Rathod, district health officials, RDO Sravanti, and various other government and medical personnel.

With this initiative, both central and state governments have reinforced their commitment to the holistic development of Adilabad, particularly in enhancing healthcare infrastructure and services for marginalized populations, signaling a new era of accessible and advanced medical care in the region.

Telangana Becomes South India's 'Liquor Capital' as Alcohol Consumption Reaches Alarming Levels

V. Krishna Kumar
TPN Bureau | December 26

Alcohol consumption in India has grown steadily over the years, but in recent times it has taken on the character of a daily habit rather than an occasional indulgence. What was once limited to festivals, celebrations, or social gatherings has now become deeply embedded in everyday life. Among all Indian states, Telangana has emerged as a frontrunner in alcohol consumption, earning the controversial tag of South India's "liquor capital."

Recent estimates reveal that Telangana ranks first among southern states in per capita alcohol consumption, exceeding the national average by a wide margin. The average annual per capita alcohol consumption in Telangana stands at 4.44 litres, the highest in the region.

Karnataka follows closely with 4.25 litres, while Tamil Nadu records 3.38 litres. Andhra Pradesh ranks fourth with 2.71 litres, and Kerala stands at the bottom among southern states with 2.53 litres per person per year.

The spending pattern on alcohol paints an even more striking picture. On average, a resident of Telangana spends around 11,351 per year on alcohol—more than any other state in the country. In

contrast, an average individual in Andhra Pradesh spends approximately 6,399 annually. This means alcohol-related expenditure in Telangana is nearly double that of its neighbouring state. As a result, Telangana's excise revenues have surged dramatically, with the state government earning an estimated 36,000 crore or more every year from liquor sales alone.

Beer consumption has seen a particularly sharp and unexpected rise in Telangana over the past year. Once considered a seasonal beverage consumed mainly during summer, beer is now being consumed throughout the year.

Observers note that beer has become as common as drinking water, reflecting changing lifestyles and increasing social acceptance of alcohol across age groups.

Contrary to the long-held belief that alcohol consumption is higher in urban areas, Telangana presents a contrasting trend. Data suggests that rural areas in the state report higher levels of alcohol consumption than urban centres. Experts attribute this to social practices where alcohol has become an integral part of festivals, weddings, and community events.

In many villages, liquor is now seen as an unavoidable component of social gatherings, further driving consumption levels.

While the state government benefits signif-

icantly from liquor sales through excise revenues, social activists and public health experts are increasingly voicing concerns over the long-term consequences. Excessive alcohol consumption has been linked to a rise in liver-related diseases, high blood pressure, and other chronic health conditions. Hospitals across the state are reportedly witnessing an increase in alcohol-related health complications.

The social impact is equally worrying. In low-income and poor households, a substantial portion of earnings is being spent on alcohol, leaving less money for essential needs such as children's education, healthcare, and nutrition. Social scientists warn that this pattern could have long-lasting effects on family stability and the overall development of future generations.

Experts and social activists alike are calling on governments to invest more in campaigns that promote responsible behaviour and highlight the dangers of excessive drinking. They argue that protecting public health and social well-being should take precedence over short-term revenue gains. Without timely intervention, they warn, the growing culture of alcohol dependency could deepen existing social and economic challenges in the years to come.



trols, higher prices, and regulated access have contributed to reduced consumption levels when compared to Telangana and other southern states.

Public policy analysts caution against over-reliance on alcohol revenue as a source of state income. While liquor sales provide immediate financial benefits to government coffers, unchecked consumption poses serious risks to public health and social harmony. They stress the need for a balanced approach that prioritizes awareness programmes, de-addiction initiatives, and community education.

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SIT Interrogates Aara Mastan for Second Time in Ongoing Investigation

TPN Bureau | December 26

Hydderabad: The Special Investigation Team (SIT) has conducted a second round of interrogation of noted businessman Aara Mastan in connection with an ongoing high-profile case, police officials confirmed on Friday. The renewed questioning is part of the investigation to establish crucial links and gather further evidence in the matter.

Aara Mastan was summoned to the SIT office earlier this week after appearing in preliminary inquiries.

During the second session, investigators focused on clarifying certain financial transactions and contacts that have emerged during the probe. Sources said the SIT is examining Mastan's business associations, communications, and movements to determine whether they have any connection with the alleged activities at the centre of the case.

Officials stated that the interrogation lasted several hours, during which Mastan was questioned about his role and knowledge of specific transactions

and interactions that the SIT has flagged as potentially relevant.

Investigators are also reviewing digital records, bank statements, and communication logs to corroborate testimonies and uncover any substantive evidence.

The SIT had initially questioned Mastan several weeks ago as part of the multistage probe. In that session, he provided basic information about his enterprises and responded to initial queries from the investigative team.

Authorities declined to disclose specific details about the wider case or the exact nature of the allegations that prompted Mastan's interrogation, citing the sensitivity of the matter and the need to protect the integrity of the investigation. They as-



Former SIB Chief Prabhakar Rao Interrogated by SIT in Ongoing Probe

TPN Bureau | December 26

Hydderabad: A Special Investigation Team (SIT) has questioned former State Intelligence Bureau (SIB) chief Prabhakar Rao as part of an ongoing high-profile inquiry, officials confirmed on Friday. The interrogation signals that the investigation has entered a critical phase, with authorities seeking to understand whether there were lapses or irregularities in intelligence handling related to the matters under probe.

Prabhakar Rao, who headed the SIB—a key intelligence wing responsible for internal security and sensitive information gathering—was summoned by the SIT earlier this week. During the session, investigators focused on the former officer's knowledge of certain communications, directives, and operational decisions that may be linked to the broader case. Sources said that detailed questions were put to him about specific events, timelines, and possible lapses in processes while he led the intelligence apparatus.

The SIT is examining whether any intelligence or alerts that

could have prevented or mitigated the events in question were overlooked or not acted upon appropriately.

In the course of the interrogation, officers reviewed records, correspondence, and reports that were generated during Prabhakar Rao's tenure. Investigators also asked him to clarify discrepancies and provide insight into decisions made at key junctures. Officials indicated that while Prabhakar Rao cooperated with the inquiry, the SIT is also cross-checking information provided during the interrogation with documentary evidence and other testimonies collected in the case.

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The SIT has appealed to the public to avoid speculation while the investigation is underway, saying that details will be shared once credible findings are established. The team continues to work under legal protocols and assured that investigative integrity is being maintained.

As the investigation progresses, expectations are that more developments—including possible further questioning of key individuals or additional evidence disclosures—could emerge in the coming days. The comprehensive nature of the SIT's inquiries reflects the seriousness with which authorities are approaching the case.

TRS Working President KTR Responds to Revanth Reddy's Controversial Remarks

Hyderabad, December 26, 2025:

Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) Working President K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) has expressed strong disapproval over the recent statements made by Congress leader Revanth Reddy, emphasizing the respect owed to the state's former Chief Minister and TRS founder. Speaking candidly, KTR said he had no personal grievance against Revanth Reddy but highlighted that Revanth's remarks were offensive toward a leader who had led Telangana to statehood and was twice elected by the people as Chief Minister. "If someone insults our leader, how can we remain indifferent?" KTR questioned, reflecting the deep respect TRS leaders hold for their

founding figure.

KTR criticized Reddy's public behavior, alleging that while rising from humble beginnings to prominent positions is acceptable, it must be accompanied by genuine service and ethical conduct. "Life should be about doing good work. Using political influence for personal gain and flaunting it publicly is not acceptable," KTR stated.

He took aim at Reddy's political journey, claiming that the Congress leader used financial influence to attain the Chief Minister's position and repeatedly engaged in provocative rhetoric. KTR highlighted instances where Reddy allegedly used inappropriate and vulgar language when confronted with questions about governance and state affairs.

"I grew up in the streets of Hyderabad. I can respond in multiple languages with firmness, but we are giving Revanth respect only because of his position," KTR said, emphasizing that criticism must remain within democratic boundaries. He further described the current political climate as tense, noting Congress leaders' attempts to confront TRS leadership and the ensuing public disagreements.

KTR also reflected on Revanth Reddy's claims about his education and political stature, stating that personal achievements cannot justify offensive behavior toward established leaders or institutions. "You can earn recognition through honest work, but misdeeds and intimidation will not earn respect from the people or

future generations," he added.

The TRS leader underscored the importance of loyalty and service, stating, "We live and speak in honor of our leader, who brought Telangana to life. Respecting his contributions is non-negotiable. Genuine service is what earns legacy, not threats or abusive language."

KTR's remarks come amid a backdrop of escalating verbal exchanges

between TRS and Congress leaders in Telangana, reflecting the heightened political tensions in the state ahead of future elections.

The Working President concluded by reaffirming TRS's commitment to its founding ideals, emphasizing that leadership, respect, and ethical service remain the core principles guiding the party's actions and public messaging.



Telangana Minister Urges Central Government to Support Soya Farmers

Adilabad, December 26, 2025:

Telangana Minister for Tourism and Cultural Affairs, Jupalli Krishnarao, has called on Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy to provide immediate support to soya farmers facing difficulties in the state. Addressing the challenges faced by farmers, Minister Jupalli urged the central government to initiate prompt procurement of soybeans through the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED).

During his visit to Adilabad on Friday, Minister Jupalli met Union Minister Kishan Reddy at the Pen Ganga Guest House and engaged in a detailed discussion regarding the issues affecting soybean cultivators. He accompanied farmers to highlight their problems and emphasized the urgency of intervention to ensure fair prices.

Farmers' Challenges Highlighted

Speaking to the media, Minister Jupalli said that untimely rainfall had severely affected

the quality of soybean crops, causing changes in the color and overall market value. "Farmers are facing severe hardships as they wait for days at market yards to sell their produce. Due to procurement delays, soybean stocks are piling up in the homes of rural cultivators," he said. The minister stressed that intervention by the central government was essential to ensure farmers receive minimum support prices and to prevent further losses.

Unannounced Market Yard Visit

Before his meeting with the Union Minister, Jupalli Krishnarao conducted an impromptu visit to the Neredigonda market yard. There, he personally interacted with farmers, listening to their grievances and assessing the situation firsthand. "The state government is fully committed to addressing farmers' concerns and will take all necessary measures to support them," he assured the farmers. The minister also recalled that the Telangana Agriculture Minister, Tum-



mala Nageshwar Rao, had previously written to the Union Ministry of Agriculture urging action to remove bottlenecks in soybean procurement. Minister Jupalli reiterated that the state government has been making all efforts to resolve the issue and appealed to the central authorities to respond positively.

He emphasized that immediate purchases through NAFED would not only help farmers earn the support price for their crops but also stabilize the market and prevent losses due to spoilage. The minister called for proactive co-

operation between the state and central governments to ensure that agricultural produce reaches the market efficiently and farmers are adequately compensated. Farmers present during the visit expressed relief at the minister's proactive approach and appreciated the personal attention given to their issues. The visit reinforced the government's commitment to safeguarding farmer interests and ensuring that welfare programs and procurement processes are implemented effectively.

Minister Jupalli concluded by urging the

central government to take swift action, stating, "Timely procurement through NAFED will bring much-needed relief to soya farmers and strengthen agricultural stability in Telangana. Both state and central governments must work hand in hand to support our farmers in these challenging times."

The visit and discussions come at a critical time for Telangana's soybean farmers, who are seeking government intervention to mitigate losses caused by unpredictable weather and delayed procurement processes.

Minister Vakiti Srihari Unveils Poster for Mudiraj Panchayat Leaders Felicitation Program

Hyderabad, December 26, 2025:

Telangana Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development, Fisheries, Sports, and Youth Services, Vakiti Srihari, unveiled the official poster for the "Mudiraj Sarpanches, Vice-Sarpanches, and Ward Members Felicitation Program," scheduled to be held on December 30 at Ravindra Bharati, Hyderabad. The event is being organized under the auspices of the Telangana State Mudiraj Corporation. During the poster unveiling at the camp office in Hyderabad, Minister Srihari expressed his delight over the impressive performance of Mudiraj community candidates in the recently concluded gram panchayat elections. "It is heartening to see a large number of sarpanches, vice-sarpanches, and ward members from the Mudiraj community achieving victory in these elections. We extend our best wishes to all the elected represent-

atives," he said.

The minister highlighted that the primary objective of the felicitation program is to further strengthen political awareness and participation within the Mudiraj community. He emphasized that such initiatives aim to empower the community politically and socially, providing a platform to ensure their voices are represented effectively in local governance.

Minister Srihari also noted that efforts are already underway to unite all sections of the Backward Classes under a common political platform. "We are committed to the political development of backward communities, ensuring that representation is equitable and reflective of population distribution," he said. He added that these initiatives are intended to benefit future generations, fostering sustained political engagement and leadership development among community members.

The minister extend-



ed an open invitation to leaders across party lines to participate in the program, contribute suggestions, and make the event a successful and meaningful celebration of democratic participation. "This event is above political affiliations. We encourage all leaders, irrespective of their party, to join and guide the community representatives, making the program impactful and inclusive," he said.

The event will be attended by several dignitaries, including Mudiraj Corporation Chairman Mudiraj Bora Gnaneshwar, DCC presidents Mote Rohith and Sanjeev, as well as state-level leaders of the

Mudiraj Sangham and other notable figures. Minister Srihari stressed that the felicitation of elected Mudiraj representatives is not only a recognition of their achievements but also a step toward strengthening the community's engagement in governance and policy-making. The upcoming program at Ravindra Bharati aims to formally acknowledge the contributions and electoral success of Mudiraj sarpanches, vice-sarpanches, and ward members from across Telangana. The initiative is expected to inspire continued political participation within the community and provide a platform

to discuss issues, share experiences, and promote future leadership.

By celebrating the accomplishments of these grassroots leaders, the Telangana State Mudiraj Corporation seeks to encourage greater involvement of backward communities in democratic processes and empower them to take an active role in shaping local governance. Minister Srihari concluded by reiterating his commitment to community empowerment, stating that such programs are critical to ensuring political representation, social development, and leadership growth for the Mudiraj community across Telangana.

Sri Sri Holistic Hospitals Saves Extremely Premature Baby Born at 28 Weeks



Hyderabad, December 26, 2025:

In a remarkable medical achievement, doctors at Sri Sri Holistic Hospitals in Kondapur have successfully treated and discharged a baby boy who was born extremely prematurely at just 28 weeks of gestation, weighing only 900 grams at birth.

The infant spent 60 days under specialised care in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and recovered without major complications, hospital officials confirmed. The newborn was transported to Sri Sri Holistic Hospitals shortly after birth using a specialised neonatal transport system to ensure uninterrupted critical care. At admission, his lungs were underdeveloped, a common challenge for babies born this prematurely. He required ventilator support initially, and the NICU team worked meticulously to gradually

wean him off respiratory assistance while continuously monitoring his progress.

With sustained clinical improvement, the baby steadily gained weight and strength. After two months of careful care—including monitoring his breathing, feeding, and growth—he was stabilised and discharged in good health, weighing approximately 2 kilograms, reflecting his remarkable recovery.

The success is credited to the dedicated care of neonatologists and pediatric specialists at the hospital, including Dr. J. Subhash Chakravarthy and Dr. S. L. Narasimha Reddy, who guided the clinical team throughout the infant's stay. Their expertise in managing extremely low-birth-weight infants and handling complications associated with premature births was crucial to the positive outcome.

Extremely prema-

ture babies, especially those born before 30 weeks of pregnancy, face numerous health risks, including respiratory distress, infections, and feeding difficulties. Such cases require advanced neonatal support systems and round-the-clock monitoring, making the baby's recovery a significant success for the hospital. Medical experts emphasised that early intervention, specialised care, and a supportive NICU environment are vital in improving the survival and long-term health prospects of preterm infants.

The discharge of this tiny but resilient baby adds to Sri Sri Holistic Hospitals' record of successfully treating critically premature infants, highlighting the institution's commitment to excellence in neonatal care and its ability to deliver positive outcomes even in high-risk cases.

Fact Check: Rythu Bharosa Scheme in Telangana Not Stopped, Government Clarifies

Hyderabad, December 22, 2025:

The Telangana government has issued a clarification dispelling rumours that the Rythu Bharosa farmer support scheme has been discontinued. Officials categorically stated that the claims circulating on social media and messaging platforms are false and misleading, and urged farmers not to believe unverified information.

The government confirmed that the Rythu Bharosa scheme is fully active, and financial assistance continues to be provided to eligible farmers. Officials emphasised that the programme has not been stopped, contrary to recent speculation that caused confusion among farming communities.

Under the scheme, financial support is provided as annual investment assistance to farmers, with payments made directly into beneficiaries' bank accounts based on the acreage of cul-

tivable land they own. The scheme helps farmers manage crop input costs for both kharif and rabi seasons, with support disbursed in phases to cover each crop cycle.

Government data shows that millions of farmers remain enrolled and continue to receive benefits, and no official notification has been issued to discontinue the programme. Officials also clarified that the government is conducting ground-level verification and updating beneficiary lists to ensure that financial assistance reaches genuine farmers and is provided only for cultivable and actively farmed land. Satellite mapping and other technologies are being used to verify cultivation status across districts, which may temporarily affect individual listings but does not indicate termination of the scheme.

The state government's clarification underscores the importance of relying on official sources and verified information, especially on topics affecting the livelihoods of large numbers of farmers. By addressing misinformation promptly, authorities hope to maintain confidence in the scheme and reassure beneficiaries that their support remains secure.



Minister Vivek Venkat Swamy Strikes Back at KCR, Defends Government's Performance

Hyderabad: Telangana Tourism and Culture Minister Vivek Venkat Swamy launched a scathing rebuttal to BRS President and former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao (KCR) on Friday, responding to the senior leader's recent political remarks. The exchange comes amid rising political tensions in the state as parties gear up for upcoming local and state elections, highlighting the increasingly sharp rhetoric between the ruling party and opposition leadership.

Speaking to the media, Minister Vivek described KCR's comments as "baseless and politically motivated," asserting that they were intended to create unnecessary unrest rather than address real public

issues. He criticised KCR for indulging in personality-driven politics, claiming that such tactics distract from meaningful governance and social development. "While KCR talks about development and welfare, his tenure lacked substantial results for the common people. Empty rhetoric cannot replace tangible progress," Vivek stated.

Defending the current government's record, Vivek Venkat Swamy emphasised that under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's leadership, Telangana has witnessed significant achievements in infrastructure, healthcare, education, and rural development. He said, "Our administration has delivered on promises made to the people. Visible progress on the ground demon-

strates our commitment to public welfare." The minister highlighted the government's inclusive approach to development, dismissing KCR's claims that certain regions or communities were neglected. "Our policies ensure equitable growth across all districts. No area has been left behind, and our welfare initiatives reflect this commitment," he added.

Vivek also addressed economic and social welfare measures, pointing to increased state revenues, expanded welfare programs, and targeted development projects as evidence of the administration's effective governance. He urged political rivals to focus on constructive dialogue and collaborative initiatives rather than repeating divisive rhetoric. Ac-

cording to him, the people of Telangana are more concerned with tangible improvements in quality of life, and government performance must be evaluated based on outcomes rather than political theatrics.

The minister further criticised KCR for recycling old political narratives, asserting that Telangana politics has moved toward issue-based governance rather than personality-centered campaigns. Vivek highlighted various ongoing projects, including rural infrastructure upgrades, urban development schemes, healthcare initiatives, and social welfare programs, demonstrating the government's proactive approach. "The electorate is informed, and they judge leaders by their

achievements and vision for the future," he said, underscoring that public perception now hinges on real-world results rather than political theatrics.

Political analysts note that Vivek's strong rebuttal is indicative of the ruling party's strategy to counter opposition narratives while reinforcing its development agenda ahead of critical elections. By highlighting concrete accomplishments and refuting KCR's claims, the government aims to maintain public confidence and shift the focus toward governance outcomes. The minister concluded by asserting that the Telangana government remains committed to the welfare and empowerment of all citizens, and any at-



tempts to destabilise this progress through unfounded criticism will not succeed. This latest exchange marks a continuation of the intensifying political dis-

course in Telangana, as leaders seek to consolidate support and shape narratives in anticipation of the state's forthcoming electoral contests. Vivek's comments

underline the government's determination to defend its record and reaffirm its commitment to inclusive, outcome-oriented governance.

KTR Slams Chief Minister Revanth Reddy at Telangana Bhavan, Alleging Frustration Politics and Evasion

Hyderabad, December 26:

Bharat Rashtriya Samithi (BRS) working president K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) delivered a sharp political critique of the Telangana state government and Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy while addressing party workers and supporters at Telangana Bhavan on Friday. The senior BRS leader ac-

cused the ruling Congress leadership of indulging in what he termed "frustration politics," evasion of accountability, and diversionary tactics instead of focusing on governance.

Speaking to the media after welcoming a group of Congress leaders from the Serilingampally constituency into the BRS fold,

KTR said the Chief Minister appeared unwilling to confront serious issues raised by the opposition. He accused Revanth Reddy of using abusive language and evasive conduct whenever substantive questions were posed—particularly regarding water rights, irrigation projects, and governance failures. KTR asserted that the government's response to criticism reflects panic, not competence, and that resorting to personal attacks undermines the dignity of the constitutional office.

KTR also highlighted what he described as a pattern of frustration politics under the Congress government, adding that the administration tended to deflect from key policy failures by attacking political rivals personally. He reiterated his belief that the focus should be on fulfilling electoral

promises, improving governance, and addressing public concerns rather than resorting to rhetoric and spectacle.

He urged Revanth Reddy to demonstrate transparency and accountability, and to answer questions directly rather than diverting attention through inflammatory statements.

In his address, KTR also emphasised the BRS's commitment to defending Telangana's interests—particularly in areas such as water rights and major irrigation initiatives like the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Project. He accused the state government of neglecting these critical issues and failing to protect the state's developmental priorities. According to him, such failures have eroded public trust and made the government susceptible to criticism about its effectiveness and vision.

Beyond policy critiques, KTR issued a clear political challenge, stating his belief that the public would hold the government accountable for unmet promises and perceived shortcomings. He reiterated the BRS's resolve to sustain its advocacy for water rights, equitable development, and improved welfare outcomes for all sections of society.

The Telangana Bhavan address comes amid heightened political discourse in the state, with parties actively positioning themselves ahead of upcoming local and state polls. KTR's remarks signal intensified campaigning and a continuing confrontation between the BRS and the ruling Congress, reflecting broader political dynamics in Telangana's evolving electoral landscape.



Traffic Congestion Reported on Hyderabad-Vijayawada Highway; Authorities Implement Relief Measures

Hyderabad, December 26, 2025: Heavy traffic congestion has been reported on the Hyderabad-Vijayawada National Highway (NH 65), particularly in stretches between Suryapet and Nalgonda, as year end travel intensifies. Commuters heading to and from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana for holidays, family visits and festive occasions have contributed to the sharp rise in vehicle density on the busy corridor.

According to officials from the Regional Transport Office (RTO) and local police, the congestion has been especially severe during early morning and late afternoon hours, when long-distance buses, private cars and heavy vehicles converged at key junctions. Slow movement and bottlenecks were observed near toll plazas, narrow stretches, and areas where repair and maintenance work is underway.

To enhance safety, police are conducting regular patrols and monitoring the highway for overspeeding, dangerous overtaking and distracted driving. Authorities said maintaining proper vehicle spacing and following lane discipline are essential to prevent secondary de-

lays arising from minor collisions or sudden braking.

The RTO and highway authorities acknowledged that ongoing repair work in some stretches has contributed to the slowdown. They assured commuters that maintenance schedules have been co-ordinated to minimise disruptions, with work being paused or restricted in high traffic segments during peak hours.

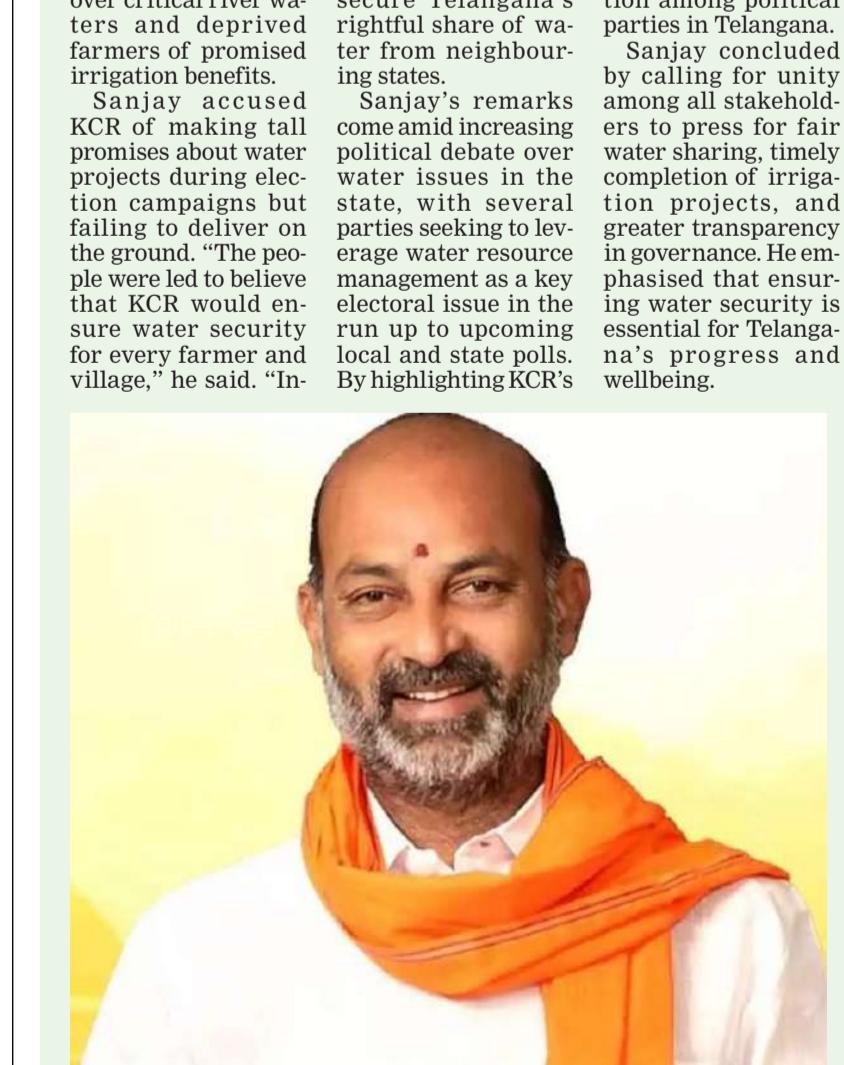
Commuters who travel frequently on the Hyderabad-Vijayawada

route welcomed the additional traffic support but urged quicker completion of road works and installation of clearer signage to help guide drivers. Local transport associations also offered to assist in spreading advisories and updates through social media and messaging groups to keep travellers informed in real time.

Officials reiterated that while current congestion is expected during the peak holiday season, coordinated traffic management and commuter cooperation can

significantly ease movement and reduce travel frustration. The authorities have appealed to motorists to remain patient, adhere to traffic rules, and drive responsibly to ensure a safe journey.

With heavy travel expected to continue through the festive period, highway officials said that monitoring and management efforts will remain in force to ensure that traffic flow improves and travel conditions stabilise for all commuters on this important inter state corridor.



GHMC Commissioner Inaugurates Rajendranagar Zonal Commissioner Office; Officials Take Charge

Hyderabad, Telangana: The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) inaugurated the Rajendranagar Zonal Commissioner office on Friday, marking a significant step in strengthening administrative efficiency across the city. The inauguration was carried out by GHMC Commissioner R.V. Karnan, who emphasized the importance of streamlined governance and close coordination between zonal offices and the central administration.

During the event, Anurag Jayanti assumed the responsibilities of Rajendranagar Zonal Commissioner in the presence of Commissioner Karnan. Upon taking charge, Jayanti was warmly congratulated and presented with a floral bouquet by the GHMC Commissioner, who wished him success in his new role.

In addition to Rajendranagar, several other zonal commissioners officially assumed their duties across Hyderabad: Borakade Hemant Sahadev Rao took charge as the Serilingampally Zonal Commissioner, Sanchit Gangwar assumed responsibilities at the Malkajgiri Zonal office, and Priyanka Al was appointed as the Khairatabad Zonal Commissioner. Each of these officers was greeted by GHMC officials and senior authorities, highlighting the city administration's commitment to proactive governance at the zonal level.

Commissioner R.V.

Karnan emphasized that the appointment of dedicated zonal commissioners is aimed at ensuring better coordination of municipal services, faster resolution of citizen grievances, and efficient implementation of development projects. "Zonal commissioners play a crucial role in connecting citizens with the administration and ensuring that municipal services reach every corner of the city," he stated.



The newly appointed officials are expected to oversee various civic functions, including urban planning, sanitation, water supply management, road maintenance, and implementation of welfare schemes. Their presence at the zonal level is intended to enhance responsiveness, ensure accountability, and facilitate smooth functioning of municipal operations across Hyderabad.

During the inaugura-

The newly established Rajendranagar office is equipped with modern facilities to support effective governance, including digital service counters, grievance redressal mechanisms, and monitoring systems for civic projects. These initiatives are part of GHMC's broader plan to modernize municipal services and make Hyderabad a model city in urban administration.

Anurag Jayanti and other zonal commissioners expressed their commitment to improving service delivery, addressing local issues, and ensuring that municipal initiatives are implemented efficiently. They pledged to work closely with citizens, community leaders, and GHMC officials to create a responsive and ac-



countable governance framework. The inauguration marks an important milestone in GHMC's efforts to decentralize administration, promote transparency, and provide citizens with better access to essential services throughout the city.

Hyderabad Police Enforces 'Zero Drugs Policy' Ahead of New Year's Eve

Hyderabad, Telangana: With New Year's Eve celebrations fast approaching, the Hyderabad Police have announced the implementation of a strict 'Zero Drugs Policy' to ensure peaceful, safe, and drug-free festivities across the city. The decision comes as part of comprehensive security arrangements put in place to manage large crowds and prevent untoward incidents during the year-end celebrations.

Hyderabad Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar has directed all wings of the department to work in close coordination to prevent the use, sale, or circulation of narcotic substances in any form. Special teams drawn from the Hyderabad Narcotics Enforcement Wing (H-NEW), Task Force, Special Branch, and local police stations have been deployed to intensify surveillance throughout the city. Police presence will be significantly increased in nightlife hotspots, pubs, clubs, hotels, farmhouses, service apartments, and other party venues that traditionally witness heavy footfall during New Year celebrations.

According to senior police officials, individuals with a previous history of involvement in drug-related cases are being closely monitored as a prevent-

tive measure. Surprise inspections and decoy checks will be conducted at pubs, clubs, and private event locations to ensure strict compliance with the law. The police have made it clear that there will be zero tolerance towards drugs, and anyone found in possession, consumption, or trafficking of narcotics will face stringent legal action.

As part of the overall New Year safety plan, all pubs, bars, hotels, and restaurants hosting celebrations have been instructed to strictly adhere to the closing time of 1 a.m. Authorities warned that any establishment found violating the stipulated timings or allowing illegal activities, including drug consumption, could face serious consequences such as cancellation of licences, sealing of premises, and criminal proceedings.

In addition to the anti-drug drive, the Hyderabad Police have intensified enforcement against drunken driving. Special checkpoints have been set up across the city, particularly near major roads and entertainment zones. Additional police personnel have been deployed to conduct breathalyser tests and traffic inspections.

Officials cautioned that drunk driving will not be tolerated under any circumstances, and offenders will be booked strictly as per law to prevent accidents and ensure road safety.

Key public places and high-traffic areas such as Tank Bund, Necklace Road, KBR National Park surroundings, Jubilee Hills, Banjara Hills, and major junctions will witness heightened security measures. These include barricading, increased patrolling, CCTV monitoring, and crowd control arrangements. Police teams will also keep a close watch on public gatherings to prevent overcrowding and maintain law and order.

Officials clarified that the Zero Drugs Policy is aimed not at restricting celebrations but at safeguarding public health and ensuring a secure environment for citizens. The police have appealed to party organisers, venue owners, and the general public to cooperate with law enforcement agencies and follow the rules laid down for New Year's Eve celebrations.

Citizens have also been urged to report any suspicious activities to the nearest police station.

With these extensive measures in place, the Hyderabad Police aim to ensure that the city rings in the New Year in a responsible, safe, and drug-free manner, setting a positive tone for the year ahead.



Hyderabad Police Bust Illegal Cattle Transport at Abdullapurmet

Hyderabad, Telangana: In a major crackdown on illegal livestock transportation, the Hyderabad Police on Friday busted an unlawful cattle transport operation at Abdullapurmet on the outskirts of the city. Acting on suspicion during routine vehicle checks, the police intercepted a truck and discovered that cattle were being transported in violation of prescribed rules and animal welfare norms.

According to police officials, the truck was initially stopped for inspection as part of intensified surveillance along key transport routes. On closer examination, officers found that several cows were being illegally transported inside the vehicle.

Officials suspect the involvement of an organised network engaged in unlawful livestock movement.

Illegal cattle transportation remains a serious issue, as it not only violates transport and animal protection laws but also poses significant risks to animal health.

Transporting livestock in cramped and unhygienic conditions can cause severe stress, injuries, and even fatalities among animals. Authorities have reiterated that such practices will not be tolerated.

Following the incident, police have stepped up vigilance in and around Hyderabad, particularly in vulnerable



border areas and highways that are frequently used for smuggling activities. Regular checkposts, night patrols, and surprise inspections are being conducted to deter illegal transport of cattle and other livestock.

Police officials appealed to the public and transporters to strictly adhere to legal guidelines and report any suspicious movement of vehicles.

Further details are expected as the investigation progresses.

Telangana to Hold 2K Run Against Harmful Chinese Manja at Sanjeetvaiah Park

Hyderabad, December 26:

In a bid to raise awareness about the dangers of Chinese manja and protect birds and wildlife, the Animal Warriors Conservation Society (AWCS) is organising a 2-kilometre awareness run at Sanjeetvaiah Park on January 3. The initiative comes as kite flying season begins, a period when the use of harmful kite strings often causes injuries and fatalities among birds, animals, and even humans.

The organisation has been actively involved in wildlife and bird conservation across Telangana, conducting rescue operations, awareness campaigns, and rehabilitation programmes for injured birds. Events like the 2K run reinforce AWCS's mission to protect biodiversity and educate citizens about the importance of coexisting with nature.

According to AWCS founder Pradeep Nair, hundreds of birds are harmed or killed each year due to discarded kite strings. He emphasised that every citizen has a responsibility to avoid using manja and protect urban wildlife.

With kite flying festivals approaching, the run serves as a timely reminder for safer celebrations that do not endanger animals.

Registration for the run is free, and participants can sign up in advance.

AWCS hopes the event will foster broader community engagement and encourage people to adopt safer, environmentally friendly practices during kite flying festivities.

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Sanjeetvaiah Park, located along Hussain Sagar Lake, provides an ideal venue for the run, attracting nature lovers and activists alike. With the kite festival season approaching, the run is expected to draw a significant turnout and help spread awareness about the harmful effects of Chinese manja on birds and the environment.



RUN FOR BIRDS SAY NO TO MANJA

SANJEEVIAH PARK | 3RD JANUARY 2026

2K

FREE REGISTRATION | CHECKIN STARTS 7:30AM

Join the Run for Birds to Say No to Nylon Manja To Protect Birds, Animals and Our Environment.

Scan to Register
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969 788 7888
or Visit bit.ly/run-for-birds

awcs.org
awcsindia.org
awcs.org

Siddipet District Honors Newly Elected Panchayat Leaders in Gajwel Constituency

Siddipet, December 21:

A felicitation ceremony was held in Gajwel constituency to honor the newly elected sarpanches, chaired by Siddipet District Congress Committee (DCC) president Anka Reddy. The event recognized 94 newly elected sarpanches for their victory and encouraged them to play a key role in local governance.

The program was attended by prominent leaders, including Ministers Ponnam Prabhakar and Vivek Venkat Swamy, former MLA Tunkunta Narsareddy, Election Reddy, former DCC chairman Chitti Devender Reddy, market committee chairmen, and other dignitaries.

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar congratulated the newly elected sarpanches, vice-sarpanches, and ward members, emphasizing the critical role they would play in strengthening grassroots governance. He highlighted that the Congress Party, under the leadership of Revanth Reddy, continues to actively engage with

the public through its governance initiatives.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Vivek Venkat Swamy urged the panchayat leaders to submit detailed reports on local issues, assuring them that special development funds would be allocated for village projects. "Wherever necessary, facilities like buses will be provided. Your leadership is crucial for implementing government schemes effectively," he said. The ministers stressed that the responsibility of sarpanches goes beyond winning elections. They are expected to ensure smooth delivery of welfare schemes such as Indiramma houses, ration cards, distribution of rice, 200-unit free electricity, subsidized cooking gas, and bonuses like San Vadi rice. By implementing these programs efficiently, sarpanches can establish a strong connection with the people and reinforce the party's credibility at the grassroots level.

Both Prabhakar and Venkat Swamy highlighted that in constituencies without Congress



MLAs, sarpanches are expected to take proactive steps to maintain party and governmental credibility. They urged the elected representatives to ensure that government initiatives reach every household and that local issues are resolved promptly.

"Your presence in villages must reflect the party's commitment and the government's support," Minister Prabhakar said. "Even in areas where our MLAs are not present, the in-charge minister will provide

guidance and assistance. We also extend empathy toward those who faced defeat, encouraging them to contest upcoming MPTC, ZPTC, municipal, assembly, and parliamentary elections successfully."

The ministers also reminded the newly elected sarpanches that public trust is paramount and that their performance in office will directly influence future electoral outcomes. They emphasized the importance of working closely with party activi-

sts, ensuring transparency in governance, and maintaining the dignity of both the party and government.

The felicitation ceremony concluded with the leaders wishing the newly elected representatives success in their tenure, emphasizing that the government and the party stand fully behind them. The event underscored the Congress Party's commitment to empowering local leaders and strengthening grassroots democracy in Siddipet district.

Four Injured in Kondagattu Ghat Road Accident in Telangana

Kondagattu, December 26, 2025: Four people were injured in a road accident on the Kondagattu ghat road in Telangana on Friday, police and local authorities confirmed. The mishap occurred when a vehicle lost control while descending the winding sections of the ghat road, resulting in a collision that left all four occupants hurt.

According to initial information, the vehicle was travelling from the hill town area towards the plains when the driver apparently struggled to navigate the steep and curvy stretch. In the process, the vehicle collided with a roadside embankment, causing injuries to the passengers on board. Local residents and passersby rushed to assist the victims and alerted emergency services.

The injured were promptly shifted to a nearby hospital for medical attention. Sources at the medical facility stated that none of the injuries were life threatening, but all four indi-

viduals are being treated for bruises, cuts, and shock. Doctors said the patients are stable and are expected to recover with proper treatment and rest.

Police reached the site soon after the incident and cordoned off the area to regulate traffic and prevent further accidents. Officers also conducted preliminary inquiries to determine the exact cause of the mishap. While driver error on the challenging ghat road is being considered a key factor, authorities have said they are investigating whether road conditions or any technical fault in the vehicle may have contributed to the crash.

The Kondagattu ghat road is known for its sharp curves and incline, especially during the monsoon and winter months when surface conditions can become tricky for vehicles. Local transport officials have repeatedly advised drivers to exercise caution, maintain safe speeds, and ensure proper vehicle maintenance

when navigating the route.

Residents and frequent travellers on this stretch expressed concern over the accident, reiterating the need for improved road signage and safety measures, particularly at critical bends where visibility is limited. Many suggested installing additional warning signs, reflectors, and speed control devices to prevent simi-

lar incidents in the future.

Police have appealed to motorists to drive cautiously on ghat roads, especially during adverse weather or low light conditions. They reminded drivers to follow all safety regulations, including proper speed management and seatbelt use, to minimize the risk of injury in case of unforeseen events.



Massive Crowd of Devotees Flocks to Vemulawada Rajanna Temple Ahead of Sankranti

Vemulawada December 26, 2025: A large throng of devotees has gathered at the Vemulawada Rajanna Temple in Rajanna Sircilla district, marking the beginning of the festive season and spiritual fervour ahead of Sankranti celebrations. The temple, known for its deep cultural and religious significance, is witnessing unprecedented footfall as pilgrims from Telangana and neighbouring states pay their respects to Lord Rajarajeshwara Swamy.

Early morning and evening special darshan arrangements have been

made to accommodate the continuous stream of visitors. Devotees lined up in long queues, many carrying coconuts, garlands, and other offerings, eager to perform rituals and seek blessings. The atmosphere at the temple complex is vibrant yet orderly, with families, elderly pilgrims, and youth all participating in the devotional procession.

Temple authorities and local police have stepped up arrangements to manage the influx. Additional crowd management measures, including barrier systems, volunteer guid-



ance, and public announcement facilities, have been deployed to ensure smooth movement of devotees. Security personnel are also monitoring key areas to prevent overcrowding and to assist pilgrims in need.

Officials said that the surge in attendance can

be attributed to the festive period, particularly with Sankranti approaching—a time traditionally associated with new beginnings and

spiritual observances. Many devotees consider it auspicious to visit the Rajanna Temple during this period, offering prayers for prosperity, health, and family well-being in the coming year.

In addition to religious rituals, cultural programmes and bhajans are being organized within the temple premises throughout the day, adding to the festive ambience. Local vendors and small businesses around the temple area have also reported increased activity, as pilgrims purchase prasadams, devotional items, and

refreshments. Several devotees expressed their joy at being able to visit the temple after months of anticipation. "We have come with faith and devotion to offer our prayers and seek blessings for the new year," said one pilgrim from Hyderabad. Another devotee remarked that the spiritual energy at Vemulawada is unmatched, particularly during major festival seasons.

The temple administration has urged devotees to follow guidelines, maintain decorum, and cooperate with officials to ensure a safe and ful-

filling visit. Medical aid centres and drinking water stations have been set up at strategic points within the temple complex to assist visitors, especially the elderly and children.

As the festive momentum builds, authorities expect the number of devotees to further increase in the coming days, with Sankranti just around the corner. The serene spiritual atmosphere, combined with meticulous crowd handling arrangements, has made the Vemulawada Rajanna Temple a focal point of devotion and celebration this season.



17 Year Old Girl Allegedly Dies by Suicide in Khammam

Khammam, December 26, 2025:

CA 17 year old girl allegedly ended her life in Khammam district, prompting shock and grief among the local community. Police confirmed that the incident took place at the teenager's residence, where she was found hanging. Emergency services were immediately alerted by family members, but despite their efforts, the girl was declared dead upon arrival at a nearby hospital.

The case has sparked concern among the local population and raised awareness about the mental health challenges faced by adolescents.

The police have confirmed that the autopsy and forensic examination will be essential in determining the exact cause of death. Additional inquiries, including the collection of evidence from the residence and examination of the teenager's personal communications, are underway. Law enforcement has urged the public to avoid speculation until the investigation is complete, emphasizing sensitivity and respect for the grieving family.

Authorities have registered a case and launched a detailed investigation to determine the circumstances surrounding the incident. Preliminary information suggests that the teenager may have been under emotional or familial stress, though police have not confirmed specific details. Investigators are actively interviewing family members, neighbours, and friends to piece together the events leading up to her death.

Officials emphasized that all possible angles are being considered, including personal, social, and academic pressures that may have contributed to the tragedy. In recent years, authorities have pledged to ensure a comprehensive inquiry while advocating for stronger preventive measures to protect vulnerable adolescents in the community. The Khammam community remains in mourning, calling for increased awareness, empathy, and action to safeguard the mental health of youth across the district.

Hyderabad Man Allegedly Pours Petrol on Wife, Sets Her on Fire in Front of Children

A horrifying case of domestic violence

of domestic violence has shocked the city after a man allegedly poured petrol on his wife, believing she was involved with another man. The incident occurred late on December 23, after he reportedly consumed alcohol. Following the attack, he fled the house, taking their son with him. Neighbours, alerted by the screams of the victim and their daughter, rushed to help and informed the police.

The victim, identified as Triveni (26), was critically burnt when her husband, Venkateshwarlu (31), allegedly bought petrol and doused her while she was sleeping. The couple, originally from Huzurnagar in Nalgonda district, had been married for about ten years and had two young children, an eight-year-old son and a six-year-old daughter sus-

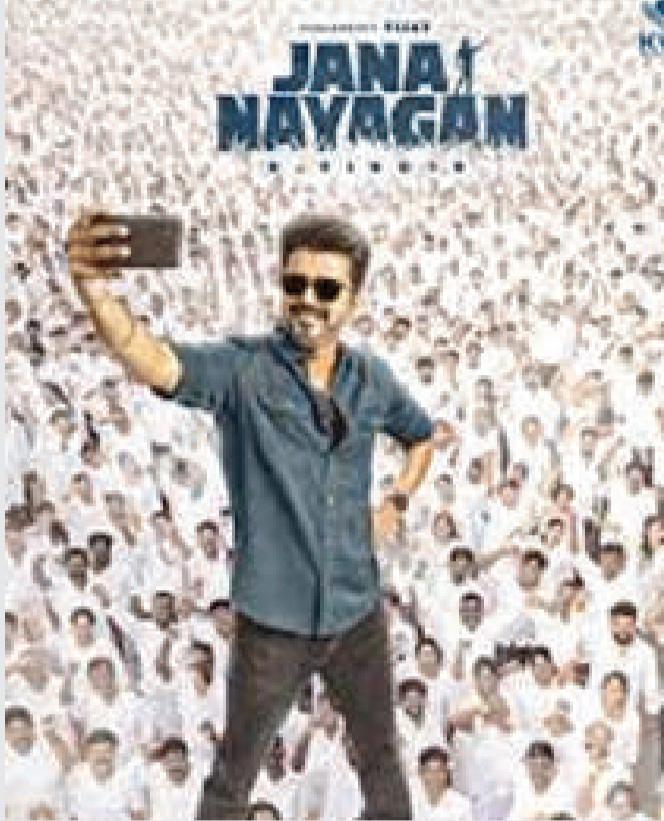


tained minor injuries while trying to intervene during the attack.

Police launched a manhunt for the accused, who had switched off his phone and was attempting to evade arrest. He was apprehended on December 26, nearly 36 hours after the incident, and taken into custody. The Nallakunta police have registered a case and are conducting further investigations into the circumstances of the crime.

According to police, Venkateshwarlu had become increasingly suspicious of his wife, believing she was involved with another man. The incident occurred late on December 23, after he reportedly consumed alcohol. Following the attack, he fled the house, taking their son with him. Neighbours, alerted by the screams of the victim and their daughter, rushed to help and informed the police. Triveni was initially taken to hospital with 95 percent burns and later transferred to Gandhi Hospital due to the severity of her injuries. Despite medical efforts, she succumbed to her wounds. The couple's young daughter sus-

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



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

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

history. The Set-Up: A Star Turned Politician

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

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

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

The Counterpunch: Parasakthi and Historical Resonance

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

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

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

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

Why the Clash Matters

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

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

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

The strategic maneuvering around release dates

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

Industry and Public Reaction

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

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

Beyond the Numbers: Cultural and Political Symbolism

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

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

Conclusion: A Glimpse of 2026

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



place of a global cricketing sensation.

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

In the end, the question is

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

Ankita Bhandari Murder Case Sparks Fresh Controversy in Uttarakhand



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

India Reaffirms Commitment to Extradite Lalit Modi and Vijay Mallya



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

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

Responding to the video, a spokesperson for the Ministry

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pawar Factions Move Toward Reunion Ahead of Key Maharashtra Municipal Elections



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

has become one of the highest-grossing Indian films of the year, impressing audiences both domestically and internationally.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

tree, and later set on fire following unverified allegations of blasphemy — has triggered widespread outrage both within India and internationally. At least ten suspects have been arrested in Bangladesh in connection with the murder, and Bangladeshi officials are investigating the case.

Indian authorities and rights groups are pressuring for a thorough and transparent judicial process.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

conditions.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

However, the path to peace remains fraught.

The Kremlin has so far shown reluctance to abandon its demands, particularly over territorial control in eastern Ukraine.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Against this backdrop, the SME IPO segment is poised to shine. Around 10 SME listings are scheduled to open, offering investors an opportunity to ex-



plore businesses at relatively early stages of growth. These smaller issuers span sectors such as technology services, manufacturing, healthcare, and consumer services, and are expected to garner attention for their niche positioning and growth potential.

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

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

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

Institutional participation in SME IPOs is generally limited, placing more emphasis on retail sentiment. As a result, subscription patterns over the coming week will serve as a barometer of confidence among smaller investors. Performance of these SME stocks on listing day and shortly thereafter will be closely watched for indications of broader appetite in the SME space. Overall, while the upcoming week may appear quiet from a mainboard issuance perspective, the flurry of SME listings is set to inject activity into the primary market. Investors keen on exploring early stage opportunities may find these offerings intriguing, though seasoned advice and thorough due diligence remain essential given the inherent risk profile of smaller listings. In sum, the IPO calendar may be thin on big names, but it is fertile ground for emerging enterprises to make their mark with public investors.

Indian Markets Poised for Muted Start as GIFT Nifty Signals Caution



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MUTUAL FUND



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

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

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

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

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



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

Under the agreement, AVG Logistics will collaborate with Baidyanath LNG to deploy LNG-powered fleets and expand access to LNG refuelling stations across key industrial corridors. This move is aimed at promoting LNG as an alternative to conventional diesel in sectors such as steel, FMCG, cement, and other high-volume logistics operations.

The partnership combines infrastructure development with operational deployment, positioning AVG as a leader in sustainable logistics solutions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



In an era where most smartphones begin the day at 100 percent and end it begging for a charger, Honor appears ready to challenge battery anxiety head-on. The upcoming Honor Power 2, recently spotted in performance tests and early leaks, looks less like a regular phone and more like a long-distance runner built for endurance rather than short sprints.

Early benchmark sightings suggest the Power 2 is powered by a capable mid-to-upper-range processor, paired with a generous 12GB of RAM. This combination hints at smooth everyday performance, easy multitasking, and enough power to handle gaming sessions without breaking into a digital sweat. The phone is also expected to run the latest version of Android with Honor's customised interface, offering a polished and familiar user experience straight out of the box.

But the real headline act here is the battery. The Power 2 is rumoured to carry an enormous

power cell that could redefine what "all-day battery life" really means. If the leaked figures are accurate, this device could comfortably stretch across multiple days of use, making it ideal for travellers, heavy users, or anyone who simply hates hunting for charging points. It's the kind of phone that makes power banks feel slightly redundant.

Despite its focus on endurance, Honor doesn't seem willing to sacrifice style. Design leaks point to a modern look with a bold rear camera module and clean lines, suggesting that the phone won't resemble the bulky, rugged devices often associated with massive batteries. Colour options are expected to include both classic and eye-catching finishes, giving users the freedom to choose between subtle and statement.

On the camera front, the Power 2 appears to aim for reliability rather than excess. A high-resolution main camera is expected to handle every-

day photography with ease, while the front camera should be more than capable for selfies and video calls. It's not trying to be a professional camera replacement, but it promises to be dependable and consistent — much like the phone's overall philosophy.

The display is tipped to be large and vibrant, making it well suited for streaming, reading, and gaming. Combined with the phone's massive battery, this could turn the Power 2 into a pocket entertainment hub that doesn't panic when the screen stays on for hours.

Ultimately, the Honor Power 2 feels like a quiet rebellion against the industry's obsession with thickness at the cost of practicality. It doesn't scream for attention with flashy gimmicks. Instead, it makes a simple promise: it will keep going when others give up. And in today's fast-draining smartphone world, that alone makes it an offbeat contender worth watching.

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



OnePlus seems ready to shake things up again, this time with a smartphone lineup that sounds more like a performance car than a pocket gadget. The newly confirmed OnePlus Turbo series, now open for pre-orders ahead of its official launch, signals the brand's intention to push speed, stamina, and smoothness to the foreground—without pretending to be subtle about it.

The word "Turbo" isn't just marketing flair here. Early details suggest the series is built around raw performance, with a powerful processor designed to handle heavy gaming, fast multitasking, and long hours of use without slowing down. Paired with ample RAM, the phone is expected to deliver the kind of responsiveness that makes even impatient users feel satisfied. App switching should be instant, animations fluid, and games comfortably playable at high settings.

Battery life appears to

be another major talking point. The Turbo series is rumoured to feature an unusually large battery, hinting at a device that could last well beyond a single day of intensive use. For gamers, binge-watchers, and chronic scrollers, this could mean fewer frantic searches for a charger and more uninterrupted screen time. Fast charging is also expected, staying true to OnePlus' reputation for getting users back to full power quickly.

On the front, the phone is likely to sport a large OLED display with an ultra-high refresh rate, making everything from social media scrolling to fast-paced games feel noticeably smoother. High brightness levels and vivid colours should make it equally comfortable for indoor use and outdoor viewing. It's the kind of screen that quietly spoils you—once you use it, going back becomes difficult.

The camera setup, while not the main headline, is expected to be de-

pendable. A capable main sensor should handle everyday photography with ease, capturing social moments, travel shots, and casual videos without fuss. This isn't a phone trying to replace professional cameras; instead, it focuses on speed and reliability, much like the rest of its design philosophy.

Visually, the Turbo series is expected to follow a clean, modern OnePlus design language, with a sturdy build and minimal distractions. It doesn't aim to look flashy for the sake of it, but rather confident—like a device that knows exactly what it's good at.

With pre-orders already open and anticipation building, the OnePlus Turbo series feels like a statement: performance doesn't have to be complicated. Sometimes, all a phone needs to do is be fast, last long, and feel smooth every time you touch it. And if early signs are anything to go by, this Turbo is ready to deliver exactly that.

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



In the fast-moving world of smartphones, folding screens were once considered magical. Then they became normal. Now, Samsung has tried to outdo itself with a phone that folds not once, but three times. The Galaxy Z Trifold arrived wrapped in futuristic promise, whispering about a future where your phone could turn into a tablet, a mini-laptop, or something in between. But in a dramatic twist fit for an offbeat tech tale, the phone's biggest party trick turned out to be its biggest weakness.

The trouble began during a popular online durability test, where phones are scratched, burned, and bent in the name of science and spectacle. While Samsung's earlier foldable phones had survived such trials with only minor bruises, the Trifold chose a more theatrical exit. When pressure was applied from the back, the sleek device bent in a way no engineer would ever want to see. Moments later, the display failed, the frame cracked, and the futuristic dream quite literally folded in on itself.

What makes this episode especially ironic is Samsung's long campaign to convince users that foldable phones are tougher than they look.

The Trifold was designed with multiple hinges, ultra-thin glass, and a complex internal structure meant to distribute stress evenly. On paper, it sounded like a marvel of modern engineering. In practice, however, three folds meant three stress points, and the phone simply couldn't handle

being flexed the "wrong" way.

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

could walk.

To be fair, no one bends their phone with both hands in daily life. Samsung has pointed out that extreme durability tests don't reflect real-world usage. And that's true. But such tests tap into a deeper fear consumers have about experimental gadgets: what happens when innovation out-runs practicality?

The Galaxy Z Trifold's

failure doesn't mean foldable phones are doomed.

Instead, it highlights the

delicate balance between ambition and reliability. Sometimes, pushing boundaries leads to breakthroughs. Other times, it leads to a cracked screen and a viral video.

For now, Samsung's trifold experiment stands as a reminder that while the future may be flexible, it still has limits. And occasionally, even the smartest technology learns the hard way that folding too much can be one fold too far.

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



In a smartphone market crowded with look-alikes, the upcoming iQOO Z11 Turbo seems determined to announce itself loudly, confidently, and perhaps a little cheekily. Early details suggest this is not a phone content with playing safe. Instead, it wants to be fast, tough, flashy, and long-lasting—all at once—like a gadget that drank one energy drink too many and decided to challenge the entire mid-range segment.

At the heart of the Z11 Turbo is a powerful chipset expected to deliver flagship-level performance. This positions the phone as a dream machine for mobile gamers and multitaskers who want speed without paying premium prices. Apps are expected to launch instantly, games to run smoothly, and everyday scrolling to feel satisfyingly slick. The "Turbo" in the name, it seems, is not just decorative.

But raw speed is only part of the story. The phone is also rumored to carry an enormous battery that could make power banks feel insecure.

With capacity well above what most smartphones offer, the Z11 Turbo appears built for users who hate charging anxiety. Long gaming sessions, endless video streaming, and marathon scrolling sessions

may finally meet their match in a device that simply refuses to run out of juice.

The camera setup adds another layer of ambition. A high-resolution main camera is expected to headline the rear module, promising detailed photos that look impressive both on social media and when zoomed in.

While megapixels don't always guarantee magic, iQOO seems keen to at-

tract users who want their phone to double as a pocket photography tool. Selfie lovers aren't ignored either, with a capable front camera tipped to handle video calls and content creation with ease.

Visually, the phone is expected to feature a sharp OLED display with vibrant colours and smooth motion. Whether it's gaming, movies, or doom-scrolling at mid-

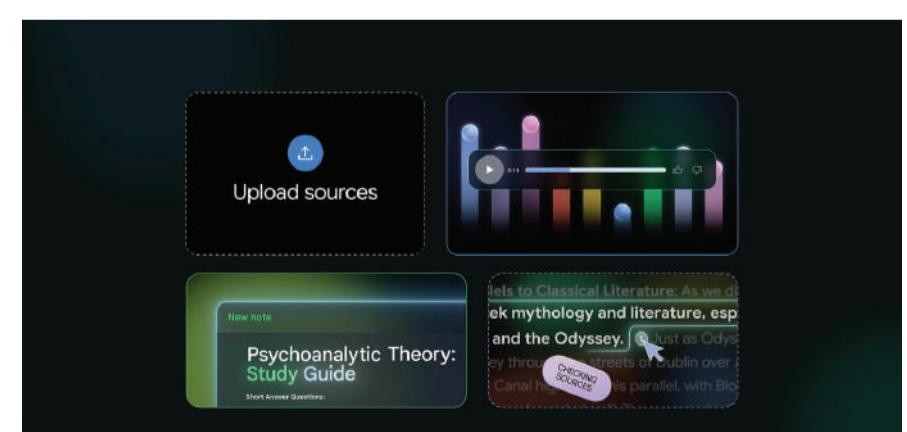
night, the screen is designed to look good while being easy on the eyes.

Adding to its tough-guy persona, the device is also said to come with strong water and dust resistance, making it surprisingly rugged for a phone that also wants to look stylish.

Pricing is where the Z11 Turbo becomes especially interesting. Despite its heavyweight specs, it is expected to sit in the mid-range bracket, undercutting many premium rivals. That makes it feel like an overqualified candidate applying for an entry-level job.

If the final product lives up to the early buzz, the iQOO Z11 Turbo could be one of those rare phones that feels slightly rebellious—too powerful, too bold, and too ambitious for its own category. And in a market that often feels predictable, that's exactly what makes it worth watching.

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



Google's experimental AI note-taking tool, NotebookLM, appears to be taking a confident step from casual conversation to classroom authority. A new "Lecture" mode, spotted in development, suggests that the tool may soon be able to turn documents and research material into continuous audio lectures lasting up to 30 minutes.

In short, your notes won't just summarise themselves anymore—they'll start teaching you.

Until now, NotebookLM's audio feature has leaned toward a friendly, podcast-style format, with two AI voices chatting through key points. The upcoming lecture mode changes the tone completely. Instead of back-and-forth banter, users may get a single, steady voice delivering a structured explanation from start to finish, much like a university lecture.

Whether that makes

learning more effective or just more entertaining

remains to be seen, but it certainly adds personality to an otherwise serious tool.

The idea behind lecture mode seems simple but powerful: not everyone learns best by reading. For students, researchers, and professionals juggling packed schedules, listening to a detailed explanation while commuting, exercising, or

doing household chores could be a game-changer. Instead of skimming through dense PDFs, users could let an AI narrator guide them through the logic, context, and key arguments at a comfortable pace.

There is also a subtle shift in how AI is being positioned here. NotebookLM is no longer just a smart assistant that answers questions; it is edging closer to the role of a tutor. By offering

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

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

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

Elsewhere, the clash between Delhi and Guja-



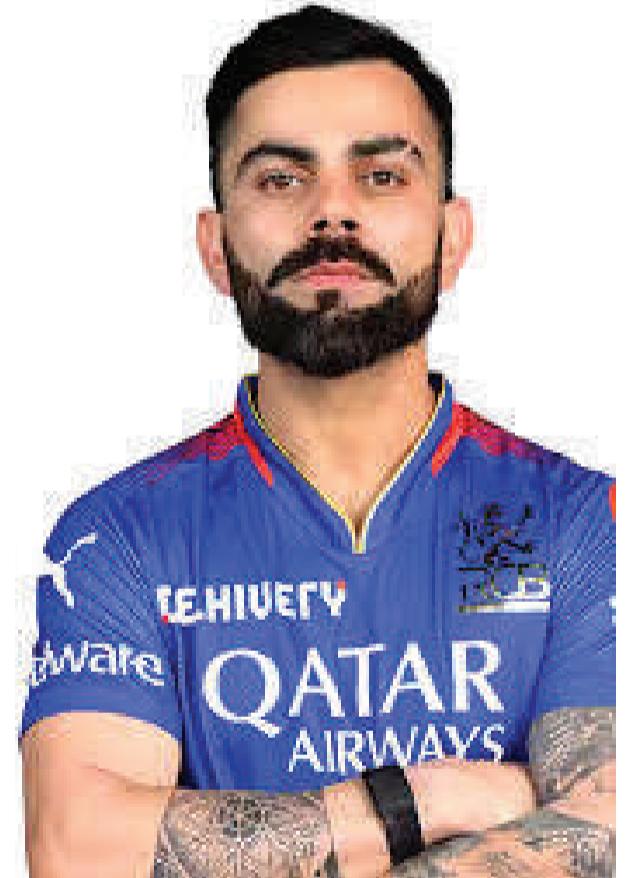
rat turned into a gripping affair. Veteran batter Virat Kohli once again showcased his class, anchoring Delhi's innings with a composed half-century. His calm presence in the middle, combined with sharp fielding efforts in the closing stages, played a crucial role as Delhi defended a modest total in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

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

dominate attacks. Despite individual setbacks, Mumbai's depth ensured they remained competitive. In other matches, teams like Tamil Nadu, Bengal, and Karnataka continued their strong campaigns with solid all-round performances. Reliable top-order contributions and disciplined bowling spells ensured tight contests and valuable points in the group stages.

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

dominate bowlers with maturity far beyond his years not only helped his team post massive totals but also delighted fans and pundits alike. Despite the excitement surrounding his performances, team management confirmed that Suryavanshi will sit out his team's next Vijay Hazare Trophy match due to the award ceremony.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

'Raju Gaari Pelli Ro' Brings Electrifying Wedding Energy to Anaganaga Oka Raju



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

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

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

After the blockbuster response to the first single "Bhimavaram Balima," expectations were high for the second track—and the makers have delivered yet another winner. Raju Gaari

Pelli Ro is sung by Anurag Kulkarni and Sameera Bharadwaj, whose lively vocals perfectly complement the festive mood. The song's lyrics, penned by Chandrabose, add cultural flavor and emotion, while Mickey J Meyer's energetic composition ties everything together with a foot-tapping rhythm.

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

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



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

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

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

Speaking on the occa-

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

Director GVK highlighted the recent suc-

cess of horror films and said Amaravathiki Ahwanam would stand apart with its unique story and engaging narration. He lauded the contributions of cinematographer J. Prabhakar Reddy, editor Saibaba Talarai, and music director Padmanabha Bharadwaj for enhancing the film's eerie atmosphere.

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

Speaking on the occa-

Shambhala Registers Record-Breaking Start for Aadi Saikumar

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

fects, and emotionally resonant narrative have struck a chord with Indian moviegoers, making it a preferred big-screen experience during the holidays.

So far, the film has

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

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

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

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



Hyderabad, December 26, 2025:

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

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

Director and producer Korral Subbareddy shared that the film caters to the growing demand for content that resonates with the youth. He explained that Wanted Boyfriend (Vaste Vadhalam) is poised to be one of the most talked-about Telugu films of 2026.

al, crime, and suspense to create an emotional, youthful crime-romantic drama, which he believes will connect with audiences of all ages.

Representatives of Indra Company revealed that cinematographer Surya from Mumbai will deliver stunning visuals, while music directors Vijay Bolla and Arjun Dev are crafting a soundtrack designed to heighten the emotions and appeal to younger audiences.

The shooting is scheduled to commence in Hyderabad and Goa from March, and the film will also introduce a new heroine to Telugu cinema.

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

Shambhala Wins Audience Applause; Director Ugandhar Muni Shares Insights



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

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

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

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

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

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

Ugandhar Muni also dis-