



Second Phase of Indiramma Housing Scheme to Begin from April Next Year: Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy

TPN Bureau |
December 27

Yedulapuram: Telangana Revenue, Housing and Information Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy on Saturday reaffirmed that ensuring a permanent house for every eligible poor family remains a key priority of the state government. Addressing a public gathering in Yedulapuram municipality, the Minister announced that the second phase of the Indiramma Housing Scheme will be launched from April next year.

The Minister laid the foundation stone for the Khammam Rural Mandal Integrated Government Offices Complex, which will be constructed at an estimated cost of 45 crore near Warangal Cross Road and Taruni Hut within the Yedulapuram municipal limits. Speaking on the occasion, he said the government is committed to strengthening administrative infrastructure and bringing public services closer to citizens through effective and transparent governance.

Referring to the Indiramma Housing Scheme, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said that beneficiary selection is being carried out strictly on the basis of eligibility, unlike in the



past when welfare schemes were allegedly influenced by political considerations. He informed that 530 houses have already been sanctioned to Yedulapuram municipality and stated that the second phase of allotments would begin from April in a large-scale and organised manner.

The Minister stressed that financial assistance for house construction would be released directly into the bank accounts of beneficiaries in a phased manner from the foundation stage to slab completion. This system, he said, would eliminate the involvement of middlemen and ensure complete transparency in fund

disbursal. He further assured that over the next three years, the housing scheme would cover every eligible family that owns land but does not have a house. Speaking about the Integrated Government Offices Complex, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said the project would significantly improve administrative efficiency and public convenience. At present, nearly 19 government offices are functioning from different locations, forcing citizens to travel frequently for various services. Once completed, the new complex will house all these offices under one roof, saving time, money, and effort for the public. He directed

officials to complete the construction on a war footing within eight to nine months and dedicate the facility to the people at the earliest.

Highlighting development initiatives in Yedulapuram municipality, the Minister said that 221 crore has already been allocated for infrastructure and civic development works. He expressed confidence that Yedulapuram would soon emerge as one of the model municipalities in Telangana. Later, the Minister distributed Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubaraka cheques to 129 beneficiaries from Khammam Rural and Yedulapuram municipal areas. He described the schemes as

a major support system for economically weaker families and said they play a crucial role in assisting the marriages of poor girls.

The programme was attended by District Collector Anudeep Durishty, State Warehousing Corporation Chairman Rayala Nageswara Rao, Balsani Lakshmi Narayana, Maddineni Baby Swarna Kumari, officials from various departments, Congress party leaders, workers, and a large number of local residents.

The event reflected the state government's continued focus on welfare-oriented governance, infrastructure development, and transparent delivery of public services.



Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka Promises Comprehensive Public Welfare in Telangana

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Paleru, Adilabad District: Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu on Saturday assured that the Telangana government will meet the needs of its people on a large scale and ensure every penny of state resources reaches the citizens. Speaking at a public event in Anant Nagar, Paleru constituency, following the inauguration of a 33/11 kV sub-station and the foundation-laying of another sub-station alongside Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, he highlighted the government's extensive welfare measures and the vision for a people-centric administration.

The Deputy CM stated that the previous governments had burdened the state with Rs. 8.50 lakh crore of debt, failing to implement welfare schemes, while the BRS leadership had created chaos in the financial system. "Our government's objective is to utilize public resources for the people, not for looters or political cronies," he emphasized.

He outlined the array of welfare schemes being delivered across

the state: free 200 units of electricity per household, subsidized rice for daily consumption, construction of Indiramma houses worth Rs. 5 lakh per unit, free RTC bus services for travel, 24-hour electricity for farmers, support prices plus Rs. 500 bonus for agricultural produce, employment under the 100-day work scheme, and expansion of Aarogyasri health coverage from Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh. "All these measures reflect a government that genuinely works for the people," he said.

Bhatti Vikramarka pointed out that the people of Telangana had responded positively to the government's welfare-driven approach. In recent Panchayat elections, Congress-supported candidates won with 65-70% of the vote, demonstrating widespread public approval.

"Every household in Paleru constituency receives 200 units of free electricity, demonstrating our commitment to practical, inclusive governance," Bhatti Vikramarka concluded, reaffirming that Telangana's welfare programs are designed to ensure prosperity and equity for all citizens.

Adivasis Should Focus on Education for Holistic Development: Minister Jupally Krishna Rao

TPN Bureau |
December 27:

Adilabad: Telangana Prohibition and Excise, Tourism, Culture and Archaeology Minister and Adilabad District In-charge Minister Jupally Krishna Rao on Saturday urged Adivasi communities to prioritise education as the key to overall development. He assured that the government would extend full support for the welfare and progress of tribal communities across the district.

The Minister participated in a blanket distribution programme organised under the "Police Mee Kosam" initiative at Kummarigutta village in Uttnor mandal. The programme was conducted under the supervision of the district police, during which 1,000 blankets were distributed to Adivasi families in view of the severe winter conditions. The blankets were provided through Agarwal Seva Trust. Upon arrival, Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, local MLA Vedma Boju Patel, and District Superintendent of Police Akhil Mahajan were given a traditional welcome by villagers with tribal dances and drum performances, reflecting Adivasi culture and heritage. Addressing the gathering, the Minister stressed that education is essential regardless of age and encouraged everyone to



attain basic literacy. He announced that he would personally provide free books, pens, and other learning material to help individuals learn to read, write, and sign within a year. Emphasising exposure to the modern world, he assured that the Tourism Department would organise a Hyderabad excursion for Adivasis using 30 buses, enabling them to visit prominent landmarks and the airport in a single-day trip. The Minister also announced financial support of 50 lakh for Adivasi development initiatives, including the distribution of blankets, sports kits, and traditional attire to promote tribal culture. As part of youth empowerment, 50 volleyball kits were distributed to en-

courage young people to excel in sports. He further assured that all eligible tribal families would receive Indiramma houses, along with improved road connectivity and uninterrupted power supply in rural tribal areas. Speaking on the occasion, Uttnor MLA Vedma Boju Patel reiterated his commitment to ensuring Indiramma houses for all eligible beneficiaries. He said land-related issues would be resolved in coordination with forest officials and assured that road infrastructure would be developed in every village.

District SP Akhil Mahajan advised Adivasis to preserve their culture while embracing development. He cautioned

against superstitions and urged villagers to seek treatment from qualified government or private doctors during medical emergencies. He also warned against ganja cultivation, trafficking, and consumption, stating that such activities are illegal and punishable by law.

Members of Agarwal Seva Trust, including Rajesh Agarwal, Mahavir, Dinesh Gupta, Gopal Agarwal, Uday Raj, Gaurav Agarwal, along with public representatives and officials, participated in the programme.

The event reflected the government's commitment to inclusive development, education, and welfare of tribal communities in Adilabad district.

Allu Arjun Faces Charge Sheet in Pushpa 2 Theater Incident

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Hyderabad: Iconic star Allu Arjun, who played the lead in Sukumar's blockbuster Pushpa, is once again in the news as a charge sheet has been filed against him in connection with the tragic incident that occurred during the release of Pushpa 2. The sequel, which released on December 5 last year, had its premiere on December 4. While the film received a pan-India response and created massive excitement, the premiere at Sandhya Theater took a tragic turn when a stampede occurred due to overcrowding.

During the stampede, a female fan named Revathi lost her life on the spot. Her son, Sri Tej, suffered severe injuries and continues to recover, even a year after the incident. At the time, police had registered a case against Allu Arjun and conducted his temporary arrest, highlighting the seriousness of the situation.

As part of the ongoing investigation, the Chikkadpally police have now filed a charge sheet against Allu Arjun, along with 23 others, including his man-

ager and approximately eight bouncers from his personal staff. Police officials have clarified that the stampede occurred primarily due to negligence on the part of Sandhya Theater management. Consequently, charges have also been filed against the theater authorities and Allu Arjun's manager.

Police stated that Allu Arjun was included as an accused because he visited the theater knowing that a large crowd of fans had gathered, which, while not intentional, contributed to the circumstances of the incident. The case, which has been ongoing for a



sisting Sri Tej and his family, ensuring they receive both financial and emotional support.

As the legal process unfolds, the case remains under scrutiny, and it will be closely watched how the authorities and the courts address the accountability of all parties involved in the Sandhya Theater stampede.

This incident serves as a reminder of the challenges in managing large-scale premieres and the responsibilities of organizers, celebrities, and staff in ensuring public safety during high-profile events.

Elect Rahul Gandhi as Prime Minister to Save Vizag Steel Plant, Urges Congress Leaders

Vijayawada, December 27, 2025:

Senior Congress leader Jagga Reddy and Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee Working President Mastan Ali on Friday made a strong appeal to the people of Andhra Pradesh to elect 20 Members of Parliament from the state in the 2029 Lok Sabha elections to ensure the protection of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP). Addressing a media conference in Vijayawada, the leaders said saving the Vizag Steel Plant was crucial for safeguarding Andhra Pradesh's economic future and self-respect.

Raising the slogan "Visakha Ukku... Andhrula Hakk" (Visakh Steel is the right of Andhra people), the leaders said the steel plant is not just an industrial unit but a symbol of the historic struggle and sacrifice of the people of Andhra Pradesh. They recalled that the Vizag Steel movement played a significant role in shaping several leaders, including former Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu, who rose to national prominence through the agitation.

Jagga Reddy stated that the steel plant, which was initiated by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi with an investment of 14,000 crore, has today grown into a national asset valued at nearly 2.50 lakh crore. He alleged that the Narendra Modi-led Central government has set its sights on this valuable public sector unit and is attempting to privatise it with "malicious intent" by handing it over to private corporates.

The Congress leaders strongly criticised both former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and current Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, stating that both leaders had failed to protect the steel plant despite being in power at different times. They also referred to Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan's visit to Visakhapatnam, where he met steel plant workers, but said the visit yielded no concrete results.

"Despite having so many leaders and political parties in Andhra



Pradesh, are we unable to save the steel plant?" Jagga Reddy questioned. He demanded that MPs belonging to the YSRCP,

TDP, and Jana Sena should rise above party lines and fight unitedly to protect the steel plant. Reiterating the Con-

gress party's role in fulfilling its commitments, Jagga Reddy said that despite knowing it would politically suffer

in both states, the Congress honoured its word and carried out the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh. "The Congress keeps its promises. Now, we will also keep our word by saving the Vizag Steel Plant," he asserted. He appealed to the peo-

ple to ensure the election of 20 Congress MPs from Andhra Pradesh in 2029, stating that Rahul Gandhi would become Prime Minister and immediately halt the privatisation of the steel plant. Jagga Reddy also recalled that he was the only leader who openly opposed the state bifurcation at the time, asserting that this gave him the moral right to speak on Andhra Pradesh's issues.

Clarifying his stand, he said he believes in value-based politics and wants both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana to develop together. Taking a dig at political culture, he said Chief Minister Revanth Reddy would never indulge in "casual politics," unlike leaders who maintain personal camaraderie while failing the public. "My wish is that both states prosper and their people live with dignity," he added.

The Congress leaders concluded by urging people to stand united to protect the Vizag Steel Plant, calling it a matter of pride, justice, and the future of Andhra Pradesh.

Patel Ramesh Reddy Slams KCR and KTR Over "Derogatory Language" Against CM Revanth Reddy

Hyderabad, December 27, 2025:

Telangana Tourism Development Corporation Chairman Patel Ramesh Reddy on Saturday launched a sharp counterattack against BRS leaders K. Chandrashekhar Rao (KCR) and K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), strongly condemning what he described as their "derogatory and uncivilised language" against Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. Addressing the media at Gandhi Bhavan, Patel Ramesh Reddy said the tone and content of the statements made by KCR, KTR, Harish Rao and Jagadish Reddy had brought embarrassment to Telangana society. He

alleged that the language used by the BRS leadership was worse than that of street rowdies and said people of the state were closely watching their conduct. Patel Ramesh Reddy remarked that KCR, who he claimed had remained confined to his farmhouse for nearly eight months, had resurfaced only to divert public attention by making provocative remarks. Strongly condemning comments directed at Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Patel Ramesh Reddy said it was KCR who had introduced a culture of abusive political discourse in the state. He asserted that KCR must remember his role as Leader of the

Opposition and behave responsibly. Referring to recent remarks attributed to KTR, Patel Ramesh Reddy said it was unacceptable for him to use threatening and insulting language against a sitting Chief Minister.

The Tourism Development Corporation Chairman further claimed that people had already delivered a strong verdict against KCR and KTR in Parliament, Jubilee Hills, and local body elections. "In every election, the people have rejected them decisively," he said, adding that personal attacks on Revanth Reddy reflected political frustration.

Patel Ramesh Reddy

questioned whether such language was expected from a leader who had studied abroad, referring to KTR's education in the United States. He praised Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's governance, stating that the CM was winning public confidence through "Praja Palana" and by staying close to the people. He said Revanth Reddy had risen to the positions of PCC president and Chief Minister on merit, without any political godfathers.

Challenging the BRS leadership, Patel Ramesh Reddy said Revanth Reddy had invited them to the Assembly for an open debate on alleged corruption during

the previous regimes. "If they have courage, they should come to the Assembly and face the discussion," he said.

He warned that the Congress party would not remain silent if such language continued, asserting that as long as Revanth Reddy was Chief Minister, the BRS leadership would be politically sidelined. Patel Ramesh Reddy also cautioned Jagadish Reddy to change his tone, stating that failure to do so would invite strong opposition in his constituency.

The remarks have further intensified the war of words between the ruling Congress and the opposition BRS in Telangana.



TPCC Leader Channagani Dayakar Issues Stark Warning to KTR, Criticizes BRS Governance

Hyderabad, December 27, 2025:

TPCC General Secretary Channagani Dayakar has strongly criticized Telangana Minister K. T. Rama Rao (KTR), warning that if his approach does not change, the party would take firm action. Speaking to the media, Dayakar sharply questioned KTR's comments on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, and highlighted alleged shortcomings in the state government's development record.

Dayakar accused KTR of making disparaging remarks about CM Revanth Reddy, saying such statements are unbecoming of his position. He stressed that Telangana's development is being neglected and suggested that BJP and BRS parties are engaged in a political alliance at the expense of public welfare.

Highlighting water management issues, Dayakar pointed out the situation regarding Krishna river projects. He questioned the lack

of action on water distribution from the Sri Sairam project to areas like Pothireddypadu, asserting that KTR's comments on Krishna water issues appear hollow and disconnected from reality. He also criticized KTR for failing to attend the assembly despite repeated requests for discussion on key governance matters.

Dayakar contrasted the previous decade of alleged mismanagement under BRS governance with the current two-year tenure of the Congress-led administration.

Dayakar's comments also signal Congress's intent to hold the state leadership accountable for its promises and highlight the contrast between past and current government performance.

With these pointed remarks, Channagani Dayakar has positioned the Congress party as assertive in challenging the ruling BRS leadership, emphasizing the need for transparency, accountability, and genuine concern for public welfare across Telangana.

Ex-Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav Urges CM Revanth Reddy to Improve Conduct, Address Public Concerns

Hyderabad, December 27, 2025: Former Minister and MLA Talasani Srinivas Yadav on Saturday called upon Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to change his tone and behave in a manner befitting his office. Speaking at the Tehsildar office in Secunderabad during the distribution of financial assistance cheques to 19 beneficiaries, Talasani highlighted the importance of responsible leadership and prompt implementation of government promises.

During the event, 15 beneficiaries received Shadi Mubarak assistance and 4 received Kalyana Lakshmi financial aid. Addressing local media, Talasani criticized the state government for failing to honor several pre-election promises. He pointed out that beneficiaries are still waiting for gold tulam promised under Kalyana Lakshmi and Shadi Mubarak schemes. "Two years have passed, yet not a single tulam has been distributed. People are asking when they will receive it. The government must provide an



swers," he said. He further questioned delays in pensions for women and differently-abled citizens, noting that the promised monthly 2,500 INR for women and 3,000-6,000 INR for differently-abled persons have not been disbursed. Talasani emphasized that the construction of Indiramma houses, a vital welfare initiative for the poor, is yet to begin in many areas. He condemned the Chief Minister for publicly boasting while neglecting these obligations and said such behavior di-

minishes the dignity of his office. Talasani urged the CM to amend his conduct and focus on tangible welfare activities to regain public trust.

Concerns Over Division Delimitation

Talasani also raised objections to the government's arbitrary division of administrative zones under the pretext of delimitation. He criticized authorities for ignoring the opinions of public representatives, political parties, and citizens. "Even after complaints to the Commissioner

and objections in council meetings, the government has not paid heed. Why was there a need to reorganize divisions in such haste? It appears the government is acting solely according to its will," he remarked. He questioned why Monda Division, previously under Secunderabad Zonal Office, was merged with Malkajgiri without public consultation. He warned that if the government does not revise its approach, the public will react strongly. The event highlighted the need for transparency, timely welfare delivery, and responsible governance to maintain public confidence.

He emphasized that

real results matter more than rhetoric. Dayakar reiterated that if KTR continues with aggressive statements or a domineering approach, Congress workers are prepared to take strong action and warned him to exercise caution.

The TPCC leader's remarks underline heightened political tensions in Telangana ahead of upcoming discussions on governance and development. Dayakar's comments also signal Congress's intent to hold the state leadership accountable for its promises and highlight the contrast between past and current government performance.

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Special Cluster Teams Formed to Prevent Drug Menace During New Year Celebrations in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, December 27, 2025:

In a proactive move to curb drug abuse and ensure safe and peaceful New Year celebrations, the Hyderabad City Police has constituted special cluster teams to conduct intensified checks across the city. Acting on the instructions of the Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad, the Hyderabad Narcotic Enforcement Wing (H-NEW) has formed 10 special clusters in coordination with the Law and Order Police, City Armed Reserve (CAR) personnel from CAR

Headquarters, and the Narcotic Dog Squad.

As part of the New Year Special Drive, surprise inspections are being carried out at pubs, clubs, bars, and restaurants across Hyderabad. The initiative aims to prevent the circulation and consumption of narcotic substances while maintaining public order during the festive season, when large crowds are expected at entertainment venues.

On December 26, 2025, six decoy teams were deployed among the 10 cluster teams to conduct random and discreet checks at selected estab-

lishments. The teams carried out surprise inspections without causing any inconvenience to business owners or the general public. Individuals found to be suspicious in and around

the premises were screened using Rapid Drug Testing Kits. According to police offi-

cials, all test results during the operation were negative, indicating the absence of drug consumption at the inspected locations.

The operation witnessed active participation from multiple units, including the Hyderabad Narcotic Enforcement Wing (H-NEW), Law and Order Police, City Armed Reserve personnel, and the Sniffer Dog Team. The coordinated effort ensured effective monitoring and swift response capabilities during the checks.

The cluster teams were led by Inspectors

G.S. Daniel and S. Balaswamy of H-NEW and were conducted under the direct supervision of Vaibhav Gaikwad, IPS, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Task Force and H-NEW.

Reiterating its commitment to public safety, the Hyderabad City Police stated that such special drives will continue throughout the New Year period to deter offenders and safeguard public interest. The police have urged citizens and establishment owners to cooperate with enforcement agencies and contribute to maintaining a drug-free environ-

ment. The initiative reflects the Hyderabad City Police's resolve to ensure drug-free, secure, and peaceful New Year celebrations for residents and visitors alike.

Senior CITU leader Krishna, Bachupally Mandal Secretary Rathod Santosh, Mandal Treasurer Ellamma, committee members Narasimha, Anji and Lakshmi, CITU leaders S. Bikshapathi, Pochamma, Jagan, Srinu, Kala, Hanumantha and Maunika, along with several municipal workers, participated in the meeting.



OG Kush Seized During Bus Checks; Three Arrested

Hyderabad, December 27, 2025:

In a coordinated operation, Special Task Force (STF) 'A' and 'C' teams seized narcotic substances and illegal liquor during vehicle inspections conducted on the outskirts of Hyderabad on Friday. Acting on specific information that drugs were being transported from Bengaluru to Hyderabad by bus, the teams jointly carried out checks on incoming buses.

During the inspections, officials recovered 10 grams of OG Kush ganja, a high-potency variant of cannabis, along with 101 grams of ganja from a bus arriving from Bengaluru. In addition to the narcotics, five bottles of liquor reportedly sourced from Karnataka were also seized. Based on the recovery, three persons

identified as Hameed, Arif, and Harish were arrested at the spot. The accused were allegedly involved in transporting the contraband to Hyderabad for illegal sale and consumption. Preliminary investigation suggests that the drugs were intended to cater to local demand, particularly in urban areas. STF officials stated that the operation was carried out smoothly without causing inconvenience to passengers. The seized contraband and the accused were handed over to the Serilingampally Excise Police Station for further investigation and necessary legal action.

STF 'A' Team Leader Anji Reddy and 'C' Team Circle Inspector Venkateshwarlu said intensified checks are being conducted across the city and its



1.4 Grams of MDMA Seized in Ameerpet; Two Arrested

Hyderabad, December 27, 2025:

As part of intensified efforts to curb drug trafficking in the city, the Special Task Force (STF) 'C' Team seized MDMA drugs and arrested two persons in the limits of Ameerpet Excise Station on Friday. The action was taken following credible information that drugs were being illegally sold in the Beeranguda area. Acting on the tip-off, STF 'C' Team Sub-Inspector Manju, along with his staff, conducted a surprise raid at the suspected location. During the operation, officials apprehended two individuals and recovered 1.4 grams of MDMA drug from their possession. The drug was seized on the spot, and both suspects were taken into custody.

The arrested persons were identified as Tota Hanmanthu and Bappanapranay Suku-

mar. Preliminary investigation revealed that the accused were allegedly involved in selling MDMA to local customers. Police suspect that the drugs were procured from external sources and brought into the area for illegal distribution. In addition to the narcotic substance, the STF team seized a two-wheeler allegedly used by the accused for transportation and delivery, along with mobile phones believed to have been used to coordinate drug transactions. Officials said the seized mobile phones would be examined to identify possible links

Excise and STF officials stated that surveillance and enforcement have been strengthened across Hyderabad, especially in view of the festive season and New Year celebrations. They warned that strict legal action would be taken against anyone found involved in the sale, transport, or possession of narcotic substances.



Operation 'Ambeer Cheruvu': HYDRA Launches Massive Clean-up to Revive Pragathinagar Lake

Hyderabad: Once known as a lifeline for local ecology and a source of sustenance for surrounding communities, Pragathinagar (Ambeer) Cheruvu gradually lost its identity due to rapid urbanisation and unchecked dumping of waste. What was once a vibrant water body had turned into a dumping ground, filled with chicken, meat and fish waste, creating unbearable stench and severe inconvenience to residents in the area.

Concerned over the deteriorating condition of the lake, residents of Pragathinagar, along with representatives of "For a Better Society," approached HYDRA Commissioner A.V. Ranganath and submitted complaints through the Prajavani grievance platform, urging immediate action to restore the lake. Acting swiftly on the Commissioner's instructions, HYDRA offi-

cials conducted a field inspection and launched a large-scale clean-up drive under "Operation Ambeer Cheruvu." As part of the initial phase, HYDRA focused on preventing further dumping of waste into the lake. Four vehicles illegally transporting chicken waste were seized, sending a strong message to violators. Simultaneously, massive garbage removal operations were initiated to clear the heaps of waste that had accumulated along the lake bunds and surrounding areas.

Despite Christmas and weekend holidays, HYDRA teams continued operations without interruption. Using five to six tipper lorries and three JCB machines daily, the agency has so far removed 104 lorry loads of garbage. Officials engaged in the operation stated that large mounds of waste still remain and estimated

that more than 100 additional lorry loads may need to be cleared before the site is fully restored.

Special attention is being paid to the road that passes through the middle of Pragathinagar Lake, connecting Kukatpally and Pragathinagar. Garbage removal is being carried out on both sides of this stretch. HYDRA officials are also holding discussions with street vendors operating in the area to identify alternative locations for

their businesses, ensuring livelihoods are protected while restoration work progresses. The operation is being conducted in close coordination with Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) and Revenue Department officials.

After the complete removal of waste, HYDRA has decided to install fencing around the lake to prevent future dumping. Local residents have welcomed the initiative and extended full coop-

eration. They have urged authorities to stop the inflow of sewage from Pragathinagar, Nizampet and Kukatpally into the lake and ensure treated water is supplied through Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) to restore the lake's ecological balance. The revival of Pragathinagar Lake marks an important step towards reclaiming urban water bodies and improving environmental sustainability in Hyderabad's rapidly expanding residential zones.



SOT Police Bust Drug Racket in Quthbullapur, Eight Arrested Ahead of New Year Celebrations

Hyderabad, December 27, 2025:

In a major crackdown on drug trafficking ahead of the New Year celebrations, the Special Operations Team (SOT) police busted a drug distribution network in the Suraram police station limits of Quthbullapur constituency on Friday and took eight persons into custody. The operation led to the arrest of three drug peddlers and five consumers, exposing a well-organised racket operating from a rented room near a private school.

According to police sources, the accused were allegedly involved in the illegal sale and

consumption of narcotic substances, primarily targeting partygoers ahead of New Year festivities.

Acting on credible intelligence, the Cyberabad Medchal SOT police conducted a raid on a room where drugs were being secretly sold and apprehended all eight suspects on the spot. Shockingly, those arrested include two doctors working at a private hospital in the city and three software engineers, highlighting the growing reach of drug abuse across professional sections of society. The remaining accused are suspected to be part of the supply chain facilitating the transportation and distribution

of drugs in Hyderabad.

During the raid, police seized 70 grams of MDMA drug valued at approximately 4 lakh. In addition, two cars used for transportation, along with eight mobile phones believed to have been used for coordination and transactions, were confiscated. Preliminary investigation revealed that the drugs were being procured from Bengaluru and transported to Hyderabad specifically to cater to New Year party demands.

Officials stated that the accused planned to distribute the drugs at private parties and gatherings across the city during the festive

season. The police believe that the network was active for some time and had chosen a discreet location near a school to avoid suspicion.

The arrested persons have been handed over to the local Suraram police for further investigation. Cases have been registered under relevant sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. Police are now probing the larger network to identify suppliers, financiers, and other links involved in the interstate drug trafficking operation.

Senior police officials reiterated that strict surveillance has been

intensified across Hyderabad and surrounding areas as part of special measures to curb drug abuse during the New Year period. The Cyberabad Police have warned that anyone found involved in the sale, transportation, or consumption of narcotics will face stringent legal action.

The police have also appealed to the public to cooperate with law enforcement agencies and share any information related to drug activities, assuring confidentiality. The successful operation underscores the commitment of the police to ensuring drug-free and safe celebrations across the city.



CITU Demands Withdrawal of 'Anti-People' Laws Brought by Centre

Quthbullapur, December 21:

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) on Friday staged a protest demanding the immediate withdrawal of what it termed "anti-people and anti-worker" laws introduced by the Central government. The dharna was organised near the Nizampet building construction workers' adda under the leadership of CITU, Bachupally mandal.

Addressing the gathering, CITU Bachupally Mandal Secretary Rathod Santosh strongly criticised the Central government's new policies, including the changes to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), the proposed new Electricity Act, the four Labour Codes, and the Civil Nuclear Liability-related peace agreement. He alleged that these policies were designed to favour corporates while undermining the rights and livelihoods of workers. Santosh stated that

the four Labour Codes are completely anti-labour in nature and pose a serious threat to job security and workers' welfare. He warned that the new codes could reduce employment opportunities and pave the way for enforcing 12-hour workdays, adversely affecting the health and lives of workers. He demanded that the Labour Codes be scrapped in their entirety.

He further criticised the new MGNREGA policy, stating that it would deprive rural workers of guaranteed employment and weaken an important social security scheme that supports millions of poor families across the country. Any dilution of MGNREGA, he said, would worsen unemployment and rural distress.

The CITU leader also opposed the proposed new Electricity Act, alleging that it aims to privatise the power sector and withdraw free electricity benefits provided to farmers and economically weaker sections. He said the



move would increase the financial burden on common people and benefit private power companies.

Raising concerns over the peace agreement related to the nuclear power sector, Santosh warned that it could compromise public safety and weaken accountability in the event of nuclear accidents. He accused the Central government of ignoring public interest

while pushing through policies that could have long-term consequences. CITU leaders cautioned that if the Central government fails to withdraw these labour- and people-unfriendly laws, the organisation would intensify its agitation and launch large-scale protests in the coming days. Several CITU leaders and workers participated in the protest, including Bachupally Mandal Com-

mittee member P. Swamy, and CITU leaders Narasimha, Ramulu, Dhanaraju, Das, Srinivas, Naresh, Kishore, Ramesh, and others.

The protest highlighted growing resistance from trade unions against policy changes they believe threaten workers' rights and social welfare, signalling the possibility of intensified labour movements in the near future.



MLC Balmur Venkat Urges Newly Elected Sarpanches to Work with Enthusiasm in Upcoming Local Elections

Karimnagar: A felicitation ceremony was held at the DCC office, Indira Bhavan, to honour the newly elected sarpanches from the Karimnagar parliamentary constituency.

Speaking at the occasion, MLC Dr. Balmur Venkat congratulated all the newly elected Congress sarpanches for their victory. He also extended his appreciation to the candidates who fought valiantly but could not win, highlighting that their efforts and determination remain crucial to the party and the people.

"The government and the Congress Party will continue to stand by each one of you. Your dedication inspires both party leaders and grassroots workers to work with renewed vigor," he stated.

Dr. Venkat urged the sarpanches to carry forward the same enthusiasm and commitment in the forthcoming MPTC and ZPTC elections. He expressed confidence that with their active involvement, Congress candidates in the Karimnagar parliamentary constituency would achieve a 90 percent success rate, strengthening the party's presence at the local level.

He further stressed that effective leadership at the village and mandal levels is vital for addressing local issues, implementing welfare schemes, and ensuring public participation in governance.

By actively engaging with constituents and maintaining close coordination with party functionaries, the elected representatives can build a strong foundation for continued development and service.

The MLC also praised the Karimnagar District Congress Committee for organizing such a well-coordinated and motivating felicitation event, calling it a model initiative to inspire newly elected leaders.

The ceremony reinforced the party's commitment to grassroots leadership, encouraging sarpanches to work with integrity, dedication, and strategic focus to strengthen Congress in the region while delivering effective governance to the public.

Illegally Transported Jaggery Seized in Two Cases; Four Arrested

The Special Task Force (STF) A Team on Friday seized large quantities of illegally transported jaggery in two separate cases during vehicle inspections conducted in Hyderabad. Acting on specific information that jaggery was being illegally transported from the city in two vehicles, STF personnel led by Sub-Inspector Balaraju intensified checks and intercepted the vehicles. In the first case, the STF team intercepted a mini-van heading towards Devarakonda. Upon inspection, officials found 2,016 kilograms of jaggery along with 100 kilograms of patika (unrefined jaggery powder) concealed in the vehicle.

The vehicle was seized, and two persons identified as Gattu Venugopal and Venkaiah were arrested in connection with the illegal transportation. In the second case, the STF team stopped a hired car travelling from Hyderabad to Achampet. During the search, officials recovered 600 kilograms of jaggery and 100 kilograms of alum that were being transported without valid permits. The car was seized, and two accused, identified as Srinu and Shankar, were taken into custody.

Police officials stated that the jaggery was being transported in violation of regulations and is suspected to be in-



tended for illicit liquor brewing. All four accused, along with the seized vehicles and materials, were handed over to the concerned excise authorities for further investigation and legal action.

STF officials reiterated that strict enforcement is underway to curb the illegal movement of jaggery and related materials used in

the manufacture of illicit liquor. They warned that such activities pose serious public health and law-and-order concerns and will be dealt with sternly. The STF has intensified surveillance and vehicle checks across Hyderabad and surrounding areas to prevent illegal transportation of contraband, especially in view of the festive season.

Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar Demands Immediate Action on Telangana

Hyderabad, December 27: Union Home Ministry Deputy Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar today released a statement criticizing the Telangana government for inaction on a high-profile drugs case investigated under the supervision of officer Akun Subarwal. Speaking to the media, Sanjay expressed outrage over the handling of the case, which implicated several prominent individuals, including some celebrities, and reportedly even members of the Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao's family. Sanjay claimed that during the investigation, accused individuals confessed that KCR family members had con-



sumed drugs with them, with audio and video evidence recorded at the time. However, he alleged that fearing political fallout, the KCR administration sidelined Akun Subarwal and effectively shelved the case. The evidence collected, including recordings and statements, was reportedly taken over by the then Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar and not handed over to subsequent investigation teams or the courts. The minister questioned the seriousness of the state government in combating the rising drug menace, pointing out that cases are typically registered only during festival seasons or New Year celebrations. He ex-

pressed concern over the alleged misuse of the E-GAL team, accusing some officials of colluding with drug peddlers for monetary gain, undermining legitimate enforcement efforts.

Bandi Sanjay emphasized that if the Telangana government is genuinely committed to eradicating drugs, responsibility for the investigation should be restored to competent officers like Akun Subarwal.

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Pays Tribute to Gandhi, Protests Against Centre's Employment Scheme Bill in Husnabad

TPN Bureau
Husnabad, December 27: Minister Ponnam Prabhakar visited Mahatma Gandhi Chowk in Husnabad and paid floral tributes to the statue of Mahatma Gandhi, expressing deep respect for the Father of the Nation. The minister also took the opportunity to protest against the central government's bill that effectively dilutes the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), highlighting concerns over its impact on rural employment.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Ponnam

Prabhakar said, "The Mahatma Gandhi Employment Guarantee Scheme was introduced under the leadership of Sonia Gandhi and Dr. Manmohan Singh, keeping in mind the financial hardships faced by rural communities. The scheme has been instrumental in providing livelihood security to farmers and rural workers who struggle with economic challenges."

He criticized the central government for misleading the public during elections by promising employment schemes for urban areas, while ultimately undermining the rural em-



ployment guarantee framework. "It is par-

ticularly disappointing that the scheme has re-

moved Mahatma Gandhi's name, replacing it with V. B. Ramji's, thereby disrespecting the legacy of the Father of the Nation. This move is part of a larger pattern where the BJP-led central government has attempted to erase references to prominent leaders such as Nehru, Indira Gandhi, and Mahatma Gandhi from key welfare schemes," he added. The minister urged Congress cadres and citizens to organize peaceful protests across the state tomorrow by displaying photographs of Mahatma Gandhi and demonstrating against the bill, demanding the

preservation of the original employment guarantee scheme and its intent to support rural livelihoods.

Minister Prabhakar emphasized that the scheme is not just a policy but a lifeline for rural families, and the government must ensure its proper implementation without political interference.

The tribute and protest served as a reminder of Gandhi's vision for social justice and the continued need to protect initiatives that empower rural communities and provide financial security to those in need.

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

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

The Congress Party and the Freedom Struggle

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

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

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

Post-Independence Governance: Laying the Foundations of Modern India

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

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



Indira Gandhi:
Championing Social
Justice and Rural
Development

erty alleviation and equitable distribution of resources. This was not a mere electoral slogan; it was a manifesto of governance aimed at empowering marginalized communities. Under her leadership, banks were nationalized to facilitate access to credit for farmers and small entrepreneurs. Policies were enacted to expand rural development, implement welfare schemes,

and ensure food security. These measures shifted the focus of governance from urban elites to the common people, reinforcing the democratic ethos that the Congress Party stood for.

Rajiv Gandhi and the Technological Revolution

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

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

Manmohan Singh: Welfare, Stability, and Inclusive Growth

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

Congress vs. Contemporary Governance

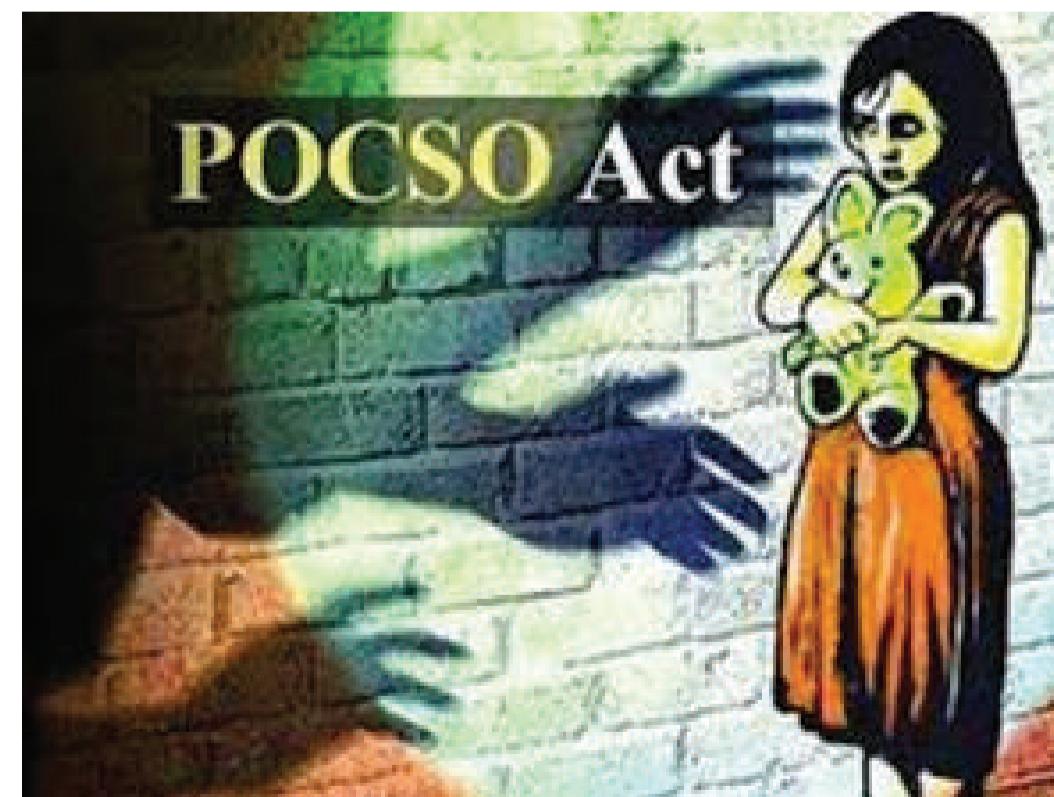
Critics argue that successive non-Congress governments, including the current administration, have pursued policies favoring privatization and market elites at the expense of welfare programs, rural development, and public institutions. Issues such as rising inflation, weakening public sector institutions,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

Conclusion: Upholding Democratic Values

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



steadily reduced over time.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Residents and local community representatives have wel-

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

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

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



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

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

Kalokhe was the husband of Manasi Kalokhe, a Shiv

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

accused.

Senior police officials said the investigation is being handled with utmost seriousness, given the gravity of the crime and the positions held by the accused. The arrested individuals have been produced before a court and remanded to police custody for further questioning.

Authorities have also indicated that additional arrests are possible if the probe reveals the involvement of others.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

particularly for high-beta stocks like AMD.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

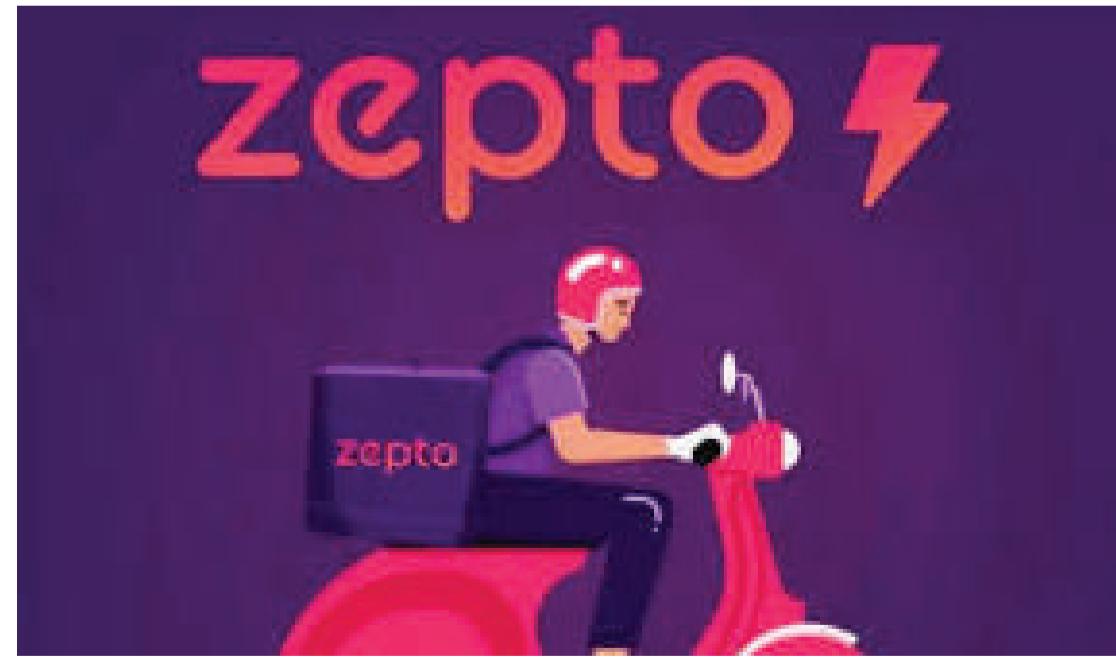


vestors (DIIs) stepped in as net buyers, providing the backing needed to sustain buying interest across a broad range of stocks.

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

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

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



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

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

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

est in technology-driven consumer services.

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

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



Indian equity markets ended lower on December 26, 2025, as benchmark indices gave up earlier gains amid thin year-end trading and cautious investor sentiment. Both the BSE Sensex and Nifty 50 slipped from recent highs, reflecting broader profit-booking and subdued liquidity during the holiday-shortened session.

The Sensex fell by approximately 367 points to settle around 38,041, while the Nifty 50 ended near 36,042, marking a modest decline compared with the previous trading day. This dip followed a series of weaker sessions over the week, as markets struggled to maintain momentum amid persistent foreign investor outflows and a lack of fresh catalysts. Despite the declines, analysts noted that technical support levels remain intact, preventing a sharper correction.

Sectoral performance was mixed. Information technology, banking, and auto stocks underperformed and contributed to the downward pressure on the indices. In contrast, defensive and value-oriented segments, including defence, metal, and select consumer durable stocks, showed resilience and recorded modest gains. Structural changes in sector representation also drew investor attention, particularly the reshuffling of banking stocks in key indices, reflecting evolving market dynamics.

Trading volumes remained subdued, a characteristic feature of the year-end market, as many institutional investors had already squared positions. Domestic institutions continued

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

Analysts highlighted that underlying technical support around key levels, such as 36,000 on the Nifty, remains significant. Sustaining these levels could bolster investor confidence as the market moves into early 2026. While headline indices showed muted performance, selective interest in midcap and smallcap stocks persisted, indicating pockets of optimism among investors willing to explore growth opportunities beyond large caps.

Looking ahead, market participants will monitor the upcoming Q3 earnings season, macroeconomic indicators, and Reserve Bank of India policy updates, which are expected to influence market direction in the new year.

Additionally, global economic cues, including crude oil prices and U.S. economic data, will play a crucial role in shaping investor sentiment and the performance of Indian equities.

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

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



Shares of railway-linked companies such as Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd (RVNL), Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC), and Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) rallied sharply in Indian markets, with some gaining as much as 10-12 percent on Friday. The surge comes amid a combination of revised passenger fares and investor optimism ahead of the upcoming Union Budget 2026-27, which is expected to boost railway infrastructure investment.

A key trigger for the rally was the implementation of a revised passenger fare structure by Indian Railways, effective from December 26. While the fare increases were modest, they are expected to generate additional revenue for the national transporter in the current financial year. Market participants viewed this as a positive step toward enhancing financial sustainability for Railways and related public sector undertakings. Analysts noted that even small incremental revenue could improve earnings visibility for companies like IRCTC, which derive income from ticketing, catering, and tourism services.

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

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

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

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

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

Samsung May Source BOE Displays for Galaxy Phones and Smart TVs



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

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

tion once again.

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

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

of legal tension between the two companies.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The display is rumor-



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

80 W fast charging, ensuring that even with such a large battery, it can be quickly recharged for convenience. In terms of photography, the Reno 15C is likely to feature a triple rear camera setup, headlined by a 50 MP main sensor, alongside an 8 MP ultrawide lens and a 2 MP macro lens, complemented by a 50 MP front camera for selfies and video calls. The design is expected to be sleek, with a thickness of around 8.14 mm and a weight between 189–195 grams.

Oppo is also expected to introduce multiple color options and design

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

the match.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

tralian soil.

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

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

Ashes Controversy: Marnus Labuschagne Frustrated After Contentious Dismissal at MCG



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hyderabad, December 27, 2025 –

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

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



the panel.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In the Telugu states, *Shambhala* has emerged



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

tropes.

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

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

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

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

The recently released

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

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

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

approach.

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

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

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

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

Director Praneeth Pappatipati expressed delight

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

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

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

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

Sanjjanaa Galrani Reflects on Her Bigg Boss Season 9 Journey: "This Victory Belongs to My Supporters and Family"

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

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

Sanjjanaa revealed that her time in the *Bigg Boss* house taught her valuable life lessons and inspired her to embark on a fresh chapter in her career.

She credited the show with restoring her confidence and enabling her to walk with her head held high once



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

Adding a touch of nostalgia for her fans, Sanjjanaa recreated a popular dialogue from her role as Trisha's sister in *Rebel Star*

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

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

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



Hyderabad, December 27, 2025 –

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vande Mataram! Jai Hind!

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



Hyderabad, December 27, 2025 –

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

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

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

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

The film features music by AIS. Noulaf Raja, cinematography by Rudrasai, editing by Jeswin Prabhu, costumes by Kiran, and executive production by M. Hima Bindu. The screenplay and direction are by MGR Tukaram, with dialogues penned by Rehman and promotional activities managed by PRO Tejaswi Sajja.

Starring Vardhan and Krishnapriya in the lead roles, *Kaagitham Padavallu* is set to release soon, promising a visually stunning and emotionally engaging cinematic experience for audiences.