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Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka Emphasizes Congress Ideology as Key to National Security

Khammam TPN Bureau | December 28

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu asserted that Congress ideology is the only path to safeguarding the nation, stressing that the survival of the country depends on the continuation of its principles. He addressed the media on Sunday at the Khammam District Congress Office on the occasion of All India Congress Party (AICC) Foundation Day, reflecting on the party's historic contributions and ongoing responsibilities.

Vikramarka highlighted that December 28 marks the formation of the Congress Party, which stood up to the British Empire, securing independence so that citizens could live freely while the nation's wealth and resources were being exploited. He lamented the growing use of caste and religious divisions for political gains, warning that while such tactics may yield temporary electoral advantages, they cause irreparable damage to society.

The Deputy CM criticized the BJP-led Central Government for weakening the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), describing the move as a severe injustice to the poor. Recalling the Congress government's allocation of 1 lakh crore for the scheme, he alleged that there is a conspiracy to erase this welfare program. He also condemned attempts to remove Mahatma Gandhi's name from the scheme, emphasizing that while Gandhi's life was tragically cut short, his ideals remain invincible.

Vikramarka urged Congress workers and leaders to organize a massive Congress Flag Festival across Telangana on January 26, encouraging citizens to hoist Congress flags, distribute pamphlets explaining party ideology, and wear party scarves to showcase awareness of Congress programs for all sections of society.

Reflecting on the Congress Party's legacy, he recalled its role in establishing India as the world's largest democracy and a major economic power. From initiating the Green and White Revolutions to land reforms, bank nationalization, and the 20-Point Programme, Congress has focused on empowering the poor, ensuring food security, and promoting equitable development. Vikramarka emphasized Congress initiatives in education, such as establishing IITs, IIMs, and UGC, as well as enacting the Right to Education Act and laws guaranteeing the moral right to food. He highlighted the party's role in peaceful democratic transitions, contrasting India's stability with military takeovers in neighboring countries. He also acknowledged Congress's efforts in delivering Telangana statehood, despite limited parliamentary strength.

Concluding his remarks, the Deputy CM reaffirmed that women's empowerment, reservations for weaker sections, and social equality are central to Congress ideology. He called upon all workers to uphold these principles, ensuring unity, integrity, and continued progress for the nation, while honoring the lives and legacies of Mahatma Gandhi, Indira Gandhi, and Rajiv Gandhi.

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Urges Newly Elected Gram Panchayat Sarpanches to Protest Name Removal from Employment Guarantee

Adilabad TPN Bureau | December 28

Minister for Transport and BC Welfare, Ponnam Prabhakar, expressed strong opposition to the Central Government's move to remove Mahatma Gandhi's name from the Employment Guarantee Scheme. Speaking at a media briefing held at Gandhi Bhavan, along with ministers Vivek Venkat Swami, Azaruddin, and other senior leaders, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar called on newly elected Gram Panchayat Sarpanches to pass resolutions in their first Gram Sabha sessions protesting this decision and demand the restoration of Gandhi's name across all village panchayats.

The Minister recalled that the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) was conceptualized during the UPA Government in 2004 under Sonia Gandhi and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to address rural unemployment and strengthen local livelihoods. He emphasized that the scheme was introduced after extensive consultations with social scientists, economists, and rural experts to improve financial stability and reduce migration from villages. The program has significantly improved employment opportunities for rural communities, changing lives and transforming the rural economic landscape.

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar criticized the BJP Government at the Centre, stating that the 2014 promises to expand the scheme to urban areas remain unfulfilled. Instead, by removing Mahatma Gandhi's name and renaming the scheme after G. Ram, the Centre has burdened state governments financially, altering the original 60:40 funding pattern and undermining the intent of the program. He demanded that the Central Government reverse these amendments immediately to restore the scheme's integrity.

He further asserted that the Congress Party has historically played a pivotal role in India's independence struggle and post-independence development, implementing programs that benefited rural communities, strengthened social welfare, and promoted equitable growth. Minister Prabhakar warned that the BJP's attempt to erase the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Indira Gandhi undermines both historical contributions and the nation's economic framework.

To highlight their protest, the Minister called upon Congress workers and Gram Panchayat leaders to display Mahatma Gandhi's photographs and organize demonstrations in villages across the state, ensuring that the public and policymakers recognize the importance of maintaining the original nomenclature and spirit of the Employment Guarantee Scheme.

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar concluded by urging all grassroots leaders to actively mobilize support to safeguard the legacy of the nation's development programs and the rights of rural citizens.

141st Congress Party Foundation Day Celebrations Highlight Party's Historic Legacy

TPN Bureau | December 28:

Hyderabad The 141st Foundation Day of the Indian National Congress was celebrated with grandeur across Telangana, marking the party's long-standing contribution to India's freedom struggle and nation-building. Congress workers and leaders paid tributes to the party's eminent leaders and highlighted the continuing relevance of Congress policies and welfare schemes.

The celebrations began at Gandhi Bhavan, where PCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, along with ministers Ponnam Prabhakar, Azharuddin, MLC Venkat, and Planning Commission Vice-Chairman Chinnareddy, adorned the statues of Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel with floral garlands and paid homage to their invaluable contributions. The party flag was subsequently unfurled by Mahesh Kumar Goud, officially commencing the Foundation Day celebrations. Addressing the gathering, Mahesh Kumar Goud emphasized Congress's pivotal role in India's history, stating that the party's vision and leadership during the freedom struggle and post-independence era laid the foundations for modern India. He credited Jawaharlal Nehru with establishing scientific temper and industrial capabilities, which transformed India from a nation unable to produce basic tools into a country capable of rocket development and technological advancement. Goud further highlighted Indira Gandhi's contributions, including bank nationalization and social welfare initiatives, and Rajiv Gandhi's role in introducing modern technology and expanding education, which strengthened India's global standing.

Goud criticized the current central government for undermining long-standing welfare schemes and erasing historical references to Congress leaders. He particularly condemned the renaming of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), asserting that such actions weaken the scheme, place additional burdens on states, and jeopardize the livelihoods of the rural poor. He pointed out that the scheme, introduced under UPA leadership in 2004, transformed rural economies by providing guaranteed employment and improving infrastructure, including water conservation, afforestation, and land development.

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar echoed these concerns, urging grassroots Congress leaders and elected representatives to raise awareness and mobilize public opinion. He recommended that newly elected Gram Panchayat leaders pass resolutions in their first Gram Sabhas protesting the removal of Mahatma Gandhi's name from the employment guarantee scheme and send copies to the Prime Minister's Office. He stressed that such protests should include Gandhi's portraits in every village, reinforcing public opposition to policies perceived as undermining welfare schemes and historical legacies.

The leaders also highlighted Congress's broader commitment to social justice, including initiatives to empower marginalized communities, implement reservation policies, and ensure equitable development. They asserted that Congress has consistently championed the cause of the poor, promoted inclusive growth, and safeguarded democratic principles, in contrast to current government policies perceived as favoring corporates over citizens. The celebrations concluded with a rally from Gandhi Bhavan to the Nehru Statue at Secretariat, involving Congress Seva Dal workers and party members, emphasizing the enduring legacy of Congress in India's political and social development. Leaders called upon citizens, activists, and party workers to continue the struggle for social justice, equitable development, and the preservation of historical and democratic values.

Minister Sridhar Babu Urges Newly Elected Sarpanches to Transform Villages into 'Digital Villages'

TPN Bureau | December 28

Shamshabad: State IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu on Sunday called upon newly elected sarpanches of the united Ranga Reddy district to transform villages into "Digital Villages", emphasizing the use of technology for efficient and transparent governance. The Minister made the remarks while addressing a felicitation programme organised for the newly elected village heads at Shamshabad.

Highlighting the importance of strong villages as the cornerstone of India's democratic framework, Mr. Sridhar Babu noted that empowered and well-governed villages are essential for the progress of States and the nation. He urged the sarpanches to act as a responsible bridge between the government and the people, working with integrity and commitment so that, by the end of their tenure, villagers could proudly acknowledge a complete transformation of their communities.

The Minister assured that the State government would provide full support to gram panchayats in adopting digital technologies, strengthening governance systems, and ensuring transparent delivery of civic services. He reiterated the government's commitment to Gram Swaraj, promising that substantial funds would be allocated to village panchayats in the coming months to implement welfare and development schemes effectively.

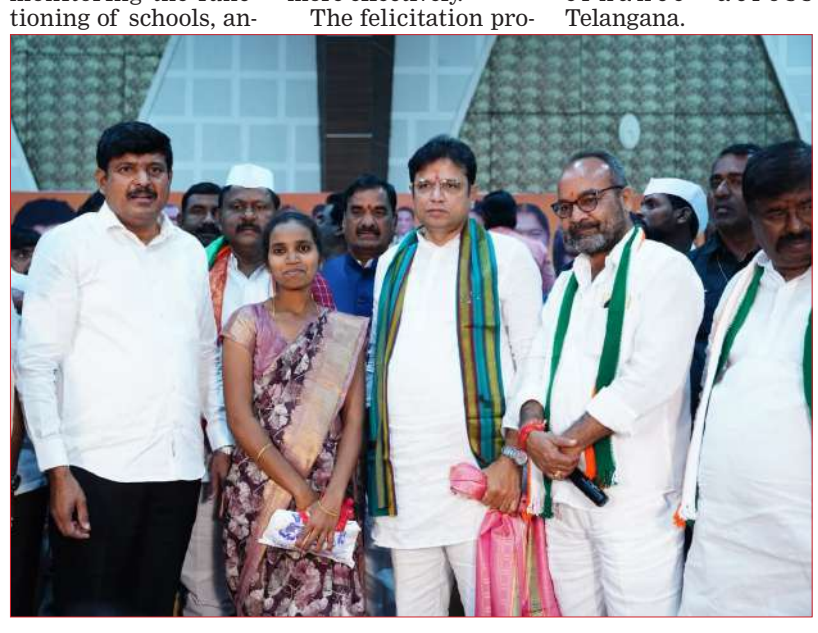
Emphasizing inclusivity, Mr. Sridhar Babu stressed that the benefits of development schemes must reach the last person in every village. He also asked sarpanches to focus on basic infrastructure, such as cement roads, drainage systems, and street lighting, while actively monitoring the functioning of schools, anganwadi centres, and primary health centres.

Addressing administrative challenges faced by sarpanches in the past, particularly delays in pending bills, the Minister stated that the government was taking steps to clear outstanding dues in a phased manner. He reassured the village heads that all pre-election assurances would be honored.

Further, Mr. Sridhar Babu announced that the government would conduct phased and structured training programmes for sarpanches to enhance their administrative, leadership, and digital governance capacities, thereby enabling them to lead their villages more effectively.

The felicitation programme was attended by MLAs Mal Reddy Rangareddy, Kasireddy Narayana Reddy, Veerlapalli Shankar, Rammohan Reddy, and Manohar Reddy. Party functionaries including Ranga Reddy DCC president Challa Narasimha Reddy and Vikarabad DCC president Dhara Singh, along with other leaders and the newly elected sarpanches, were present at the event.

Through this initiative, the State government aims to modernize rural governance, ensure accountability, and empower local leaders to utilize digital tools in service delivery, making Ranga Reddy district a model for rural development and citizen-centric governance across Telangana.



PM e-Buses Mega Tender Draws National Attention: Hyderabad Among Major Beneficiaries

TPN Bureau

Hyderabad, December 28, 2025: Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL), a subsidiary of Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) and a Government of India enterprise under the Ministry of Power, has successfully concluded India's largest mega tender for 10,900 electric buses under the PM E-DRIVE Scheme, drawing nationwide attention and acclaim.

The ambitious initiative, aimed at replacing thousands of diesel buses, is expected to reduce over 4 million tonnes of CO_2 emissions across five major cities, while also improving air quality, reducing noise pollution, and enhancing overall urban living standards.

Expressing gratitude to the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) and the Ministry of Power (MoP) for their guidance and support, CESL CEO Akhilesh Kumar Dixit emphasized that the ministries' backing was pivotal in ensuring transparent demand aggregation and a competitive tendering process. He highlighted that this initiative represents a significant step toward modernizing India's public transport system, reducing the nation's carbon footprint, and providing a cleaner, quieter, and cost-effective alternative to traditional fossil fuel–based vehicles. Under the PM E-DRIVE Scheme (PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement), administered by MHI, 14,028 electric buses have been sanctioned. In Phase-I, tenders for 10,900 buses were issued, with technical bids opened on November 14, 2025, and price bids on December 23, 2025. Sixteen bidders participated in the process, reflecting strong market confidence in electric mobility.

The tender covers major cities and State Transport Undertakings (STUs) as follows:

- Bengaluru – 4,500 buses
- Delhi – 2,800 buses
- Hyderabad – 2,000 buses
- Surat – 1,600 buses
- Ahmedabad – 1,600 buses

The procurement includes AC and non-AC variants, spanning Standard Floor, Low Floor, and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) models tailored for urban mobility.

Key achievements of CESL's demand aggregation model include:

•Securing Gross Cost Contract (GCC) rates lower than previously achieved by individual cities.

•Achieving GCC rates

comparable to, or lower than, CNG and diesel buses, making electric mobility financially viable.

•Standardized tender conditions, uniform technical specifications, and large-scale deployment benefiting fleet operators, OEMs, and enabling charging infrastructure development.

•Transitioning focus from simply buying buses to adopting Mobility as a Service (MaaS).

Given Hyderabad's status as one of India's fastest-growing cities, the allotment of 2,000 PM E-Buses underscores its strategic importance in the National Electric Mobility Road Map.

This mega tender marks a landmark milestone in India's journey toward sustainable, pollution-free urban transport and reinforces CESL's leadership in driving large-scale electric mobility initiatives.

Minister Seetakka Praises Teachers' Role in Strengthening Government Education

Hyderabad, December 28, 2025 (TPN Bureau): Minister Seetakka lauded teachers for their tireless efforts in shaping the future of students and strengthening government educational institutions. Speaking at a recent event, she highlighted her own journey, having studied in government schools and the Mulugu Girls Hostel, and emphasized the values of social awareness, hard work, and public service instilled in her from an early age. Addressing techers, the minister said that their role is critical in nurturing millions of students and that quality government education must be prioritized alongside private institutions. "Teachers are the pillars of the nation's future. The classrooms they lead shape the destiny of India. You are responsible for guiding students with discipline, dedication, and moral values," she stated. Seetakka also recognized the struggles and advocacy of teachers, praising their efforts in fighting for rights, promotions, and fair working conditions. She assured that the government, under CM Revanth Reddy, has taken steps to resolve pending issues, including promotions, transfers, and benefit claims. Teachers' continuous support and partnership are deemed crucial for strengthening public schools and ensuring that education remains accessible to all. Reflecting on the broader context, the minister noted the cancellation of the Employment Guarantee Act by the central government and the closure of thousands of government schools in the past decade. She urged teachers to continue raising awareness, protecting the rights of students, and advocating for inclusive and equitable education.

"Teachers are the guiding force of society. Your role extends beyond classrooms to protecting the interests of the common people. The Congress government stands with you in your mission to empower students and strengthen government education," Minister Seetakka concluded, urging educators to continue their work with dedication, compassion, and commitment to social equity.

Building a Future-Ready Network: Indian Railways' 2025 Milestones Set the Stage for 2026

New Delhi, December 28, 2025 (TPN Bureau): Indian Railways marked a transformative year in 2025, achieving significant milestones across passenger comfort, safety, infrastructure modernization, and freight operations. With a focus on innovation, indigenisation, and world-class services, the railways are steadily moving towards a future-ready network.

Passenger experience received a major boost with redeveloped stations offering airport-like facilities, modern waiting areas, lifts, escalators, upgraded toilets, food courts, and enhanced hygiene. In 2025, 155 stations were fully modernized, while work continues on 1,182 Amrit Bharat stations to ensure a consistent, world-class travel experience across the country. Local cuisine and improved onboard hygiene further enhanced journeys, making rail travel comfortable and memorable for millions.

Safety remained a top priority. Implementation of Kavach, the use of AI for operational monitoring, and alert systems for loco pilots contributed to historic lows in consequential train accidents. Track renewal initiatives have also ensured faster, safer, and more comfortable train travel, demonstrating Indian Railways' commitment to modern infrastructure and passenger security. On the passenger mobility front, 13 new Amrit Bharat trains were introduced, taking the total to 30, while the first Vande Bharat Sleeper train is set to commence operations soon. In addition, Indian Railways ran over 43,000 special trains in 2025, including more than 17,000 trips for the Maha Kumbh, to manage additional passenger rush.

Regional connectivity and freight operations also saw remarkable growth. Passenger and freight trains to remote regions like Kashmir and Mizoram strengthened economic links, while the new Pamban Bridge enhanced tourism and pilgrimage connectivity, opening avenues for India–Sri Lanka transport collaboration. Freight operations advanced with Gati Shakti cargo terminals, record wagon production, and Dedicated Freight Corridors operating over 400 trains daily. India is on track to achieve an annual loading target of 3,000 MT by 2029-30, cementing its position as the world's second-largest freight carrier. Indigenous electric locomotives and high-tech solutions are driving both domestic and global demand, while work on high-speed rail corridors progresses rapidly. In 2025 alone, 42 projects worth over ₂25,000 crore were completed, reflecting Indian Railways' commitment to modern infrastructure, seamless passenger experience, and freight efficiency. As 2026 approaches, the railways aim to further consolidate these gains, creating a future-ready, sustainable, and technologically advanced transport network for India.

Congress Leaders Pay Tribute to P. Janardhan Reddy on 18th Death Anniversary at Khairatabad Chowrastha

Hyderabad, December 28, 2025 (TPN Bureau): Senior Congress leaders and dignitaries gathered at Khairatabad Chowrastha to pay homage to the late P. Janardhan Reddy (PJR) on his 18th death anniversary. The ceremony witnessed PCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud, ministers Ponnam Prabhakar, Vivek Venkat Swamy, Azharuddin, corporator Vijay Reddy, and other prominent party leaders offering floral tributes to PJR's statue. Minister Ponnam Prabhakar described the tribute as a gesture to honor PJR's unparalleled contributions to Hyderabad and its citizens. He recalled PJR's relentless efforts to bring Krishna and Godavari waters to the city, emphasizing that his determination ensured the fulfillment of Hyderabad residents' long-standing water needs. Reflecting on PJR's legacy, Minister Prabhakar highlighted his instrumental role in Hyderabad's urban welfare and public service initiatives. As a labor leader and people's representative, PJR had championed the cause of the underprivileged, ensuring basic amenities and essential services for the city's poor. His involvement in securing drinking water, organizing review meetings as the Hyderabad in-charge minister, and contributing significantly during the Jubilee Hills by-elections was lauded as exemplary public service.

Prabhakar also remembered PJR's decisive opposition to Potireddy Padu's exploitation, portraying him as a fearless advocate for the marginalized and a key figure in Telangana's socio-political movement. He emphasized that PJR's role as a Congress party leader and labor activist left an indelible mark on the city's development trajectory.

The minister further acknowledged PJR's efforts in improving the living conditions of Hyderabad's urban poor. While leaders like Kaka Gudis Venkat Swamy facilitated the establishment of several slum colonies, PJR's initiatives in setting up additional settlements for the underprivileged played a transformative role in the lives of countless families. His commitment to inclusive urban planning and social welfare is remembered as a cornerstone of Hyderabad's modern development.

TIMS Sanathnagar Hospital Construction Reaches Final Stage

Hyderabad, December 28, 2025 (TPN Bureau): Construction work on the Telangana Institute of Medical Sciences (TIMS) hospital at Sanathnagar has entered its final phase, marking a major milestone in strengthening the state's public healthcare infrastructure. The super speciality hospital project, being developed by the Telangana government, is poised to significantly enhance medical services for residents across Hyderabad and surrounding districts.

Located on a sprawling 14 acre campus in Sanathnagar, the TIMS facility is being built by Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Limited (MEIL) and will include 1,000 beds with advanced facilities for tertiary care, including cardiac treatment, organ transplants, emergency care, and other specialised medical services. Once completed, the hospital is expected to alleviate pressure on existing government hospitals and broaden access to quality healthcare within the public system.

Officials involved with the project have confirmed that civil works are nearly finished, and essential medical infrastructure and equipment installations are underway. The government has stressed that the facility will operate at standards comparable to those of corporate hospitals, offering high end medical care to the public. Previous inspections by senior state officials, including the Special Chief Secretary of Roads, Buildings & Transport and the Health Secretary, have verified the rapid progress and readiness for commissioning.

TIMS Sanathnagar will house a wide range of specialised departments designed to cater to evolving health needs, and the administration has already initiated steps to recruit both medical and non medical staff to ensure that services begin seamlessly once operational. Funding for the project has been consistently released on schedule, and there are no financial bottlenecks hindering its completion, according to government sources.

The hospital is part of a broader strategy to revamp public healthcare across Telangana. The government has simultaneously progressed construction of other TIMS facilities in Warangal, Alwal and LB Nagar, and both the expansion of Osmania General Hospital and the development of additional super speciality centres are moving forward. These initiatives are expected to add thousands of beds and significantly improve access to specialised health services for citizens.

BRS Gears Up for Aggressive Stand Ahead of Telangana Assembly Session

Hyderabad, December 28, 2025 (TPN Bureau):

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has lined up an aggressive strategy to take on the ruling Congress government in the forthcoming Telangana Assembly session, with party leaders asserting that they are fully prepared to corner the government on a range of public issues and alleged policy failures.

Senior BRS leaders said the party would strongly raise concerns over stalled irrigation projects, particularly the Palamuru–Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Project, which they claim witnessed substantial progress during the previous BRS regime but has since slowed down. According to the party, delays in irrigation works have adversely impacted farmers and pushed several regions back into distress. The BRS also plans to question the Congress government on the implementation of its election promises and welfare guarantees. Party leaders alleged that despite completing two years in office, the government has failed to fulfil key assurances made to the public, including farmer welfare measures, employment commitments, and social security schemes.

Issues relating to education and student safety are expected to feature prominently during the session. The opposition intends to raise concerns over reported incidents in Gurukul schools and demand accountability from the government. Urban governance matters, including the merger of municipalities into the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation without adequate consultation, will also be highlighted.

Farmer-related issues such as fertiliser shortages, non-payment of crop bonuses, and rising rural distress will be taken up forcefully, BRS leaders said. They also indicated that suicides among vulnerable sections, including auto drivers and farmers, reflect governance failures that require immediate attention.

The party further plans to seek explanations from the government on alleged misuse of public funds in state-run institutions and corporations. Emphasising the importance of legislative scrutiny, BRS leaders demanded a longer Assembly session to allow meaningful debate on people's issues rather than what they described as perfunctory sittings.

Political observers note that the upcoming session is likely to witness sharp exchanges between the ruling Congress and the BRS, which is determined to reassert itself as a strong and vocal opposition. With both sides preparing for intense debates, the Assembly session is expected to set the tone for Telangana's political discourse in the coming months.

KTR Accuses Congress of Stalling Palamuru Development, Launches Call to Protect Farmers' Water Rights

Nagar Kurnool, December 28, 2025 (TPN Bureau): Bharatiya Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) on Tuesday launched a scathing attack on the Congress government and Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, alleging that their policies had reversed development in Palamuru district and pushed it back into distress, triggering large-scale migration.

Speaking at a felicitation programme for newly elected sarpanches at the BRS party office in Nagar Kurnool, KTR claimed that the Congress government had failed to advance key irrigation and development projects initiated during the BRS regime. "Palamuru was made green and prosperous under the leadership of KCR. Today, without even lifting a handful of soil, the Chief Minister is indulging in irresponsible rhetoric. Congress has stalled projects and dried up irrigation, turning Palamuru back into a migration district," he said.

KTR highlighted that nearly 90 per cent of the Palamuru–Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Project was completed under former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR). However, after assuming power, the Congress government allegedly cancelled approved tenders, crippling the project. He also accused Revanth Reddy of compromising Telangana's rightful water allocations, severely affecting farmers' livelihoods.

The BRS leader announced that KCR is preparing for another phase of struggle to safeguard the Palamuru–Rangareddy project, defend Telangana's water interests, and support farmers. KTR appealed to the people of Palamuru to stand united behind this initiative. Addressing the agrarian crisis, KTR criticised the Congress government for replacing the "Rythu Bandhu" scheme with what he called the "Ra-Bandhu" (Vulture) rule, alleging severe urea shortages that force farmers to stand in long queues, even in cold weather. He challenged Revanth Reddy to publicly assure uninterrupted fertiliser supply and implementation of the promised 4,000 pension scheme.

KTR further accused the Congress government of breaking pre-election promises and indulging in corrupt land and industrial policies. He claimed that the so-called HILT policy could facilitate large-scale corruption and arbitrary construction on industrial land. He also raised concerns over potential land grabs, including nearly 9,300 acres in Hyderabad, and alleged that both Congress and BJP were complicit in ignoring each other's failures in Telangana. The Working President concluded by asserting that only a KCR-led BRS government could restore prosperity, dignity, and development to villages, calling upon newly elected sarpanches to work unitedly for grassroots empowerment and the return of BRS governance in the state.

BRS LP Whip KP Vivekanand Accuses Congress of Deceiving Telangana Farmers and Public

Kompally, December 28, 2025 (TPN Bureau): Ahead of the winter session of the Telangana Assembly, BRS LP Whip and MLA KP Vivekanand alleged that the Congress government has been misleading the people of Telangana over the past two years, making false promises and failing to fulfill key assurances.

Speaking at a press conference in Kompally, Vivekanand said the BRS-led Palamuru Lift Irrigation Project, initiated by Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, had completed 90% of its work under BRS rule over the past decade, but the remaining 10% remained incomplete during the Congress administration, which failed to advance the project in any meaningful way.

He asserted that during the upcoming assembly session, the BRS would hold the government accountable on several fronts, including the six guarantees, 13 declarations, and 420 promises made in the last two years, emphasizing that implementation had largely been ignored.

Vivekanand also raised concerns over student deaths in Gurukula schools, farmer suicides, and issues faced by auto drivers, stating these would be rigorously discussed in the Assembly. He criticized the Congress government for misleading farmers with the Raithu Bandhu scheme, which promised Rs 15,000 per acre instead of the earlier figure of Rs 10,000, calling it a failure in implementing the "farmer assurance." Similarly, Congress's promise to provide bonuses for all crops, including paddy, had not been delivered.

The BRS leader further stated that the party would challenge the Speaker's decision on complaints filed by ten MLAs, question the misuse of 42% reservation claims to mislead BC communities, and address ministers' and MLAs' alleged arrogance in withholding funds from BRS-elected sarpanches. He also highlighted the unscientific merger of 22 municipalities under GHMC as a key point for assembly scrutiny.

Vivekanand urged that the assembly session should not feature empty speeches but instead focus on detailed, issue-based discussions without cutting opposition microphones, ensuring that the public understands the government's performance. He emphasized that the BRS would closely monitor promise implementation, debate every issue comprehensively, and ensure that government accountability is visible to the people.

The MLA concluded by asserting that BRS would not tolerate bogus assurances and would work systematically to expose the gaps in Congress governance, highlighting the party's failures in public welfare, agriculture, and administrative efficiency.

Former Minister T. Harish Rao Criticizes Congress Government for Assembly Dysfunction

Hyderabad, December 28, 2025 (TPN Bureau): Former Minister and MLA T. Harish Rao on Thursday launched a strong critique of the Congress government, accusing it of mismanaging the State Assembly and undermining democratic processes. Speaking at the BRS office, Harish Rao said the Congress had "corrupted all systems" and reduced the Assembly to a non-functional body.

Rao recalled that during the first term of BRS governance, the Assembly met for an average of 32 days annually, ensuring legislative business was conducted efficiently. In contrast, the Congress government, he said, had convened the Assembly for only 24 days in 2024 and just 16 days in 2025—a total of only 40 days over two years. "They have not even managed an average of 20 days of sittings per year. Despite promises to hold 45 days annually, they reduced it to 20 days," he asserted.

Highlighting the selective functioning of the Assembly, Harish Rao said the government only convened sessions to issue condolence resolutions for deceased MLAs or to present white papers, avoiding debates on critical public issues. He accused the ruling party of using Assembly time to target opposition leaders rather than addressing the people's concerns. "The government is scared to run the Assembly. If they refuse to discuss a single item proposed by the main opposition, why convene the Assembly at all?" he questioned.

Rao also addressed key irrigation issues, particularly the Palamuru–Rangareddy project, criticizing Congress for reducing the number of TMCs from 90 to 45 and failing to submit the DPR for review, despite delays spanning over a year. He cited KCR's proactive role in ensuring fair allocation of Krishna river waters, while accusing the Congress government of neglecting farmers' rights and resources.

Pointing to procedural irregularities, Rao stated that the government bypassed established norms in committee appointments, including the Estimates Committee and Public Accounts Committee, undermining legislative oversight. He criticized Congress for stalling debates on issues such as fertiliser shortages, crop bonuses, HILT policy corruption, employment calendars, food safety concerns, and pending dues to retired employees.

Rao emphasized that the BRS is fully prepared to debate any government-introduced agenda and demands that discussions on public grievances be prioritized. He stated that the Assembly must meet for at least 15 days, with the BRS ready to challenge the Congress on every aspect of misgovernance.

Rao concluded by asserting that Congress does not represent "people's governance" but a system that suppresses dissenting voices. He demanded equal opportunities for BRS in Assembly proceedings and reaffirmed the party's commitment to protecting state rights, particularly concerning water allocations and developmental projects.

BJP Attempting to Erase Gandhi Legacy from National Memory: Jagga Reddy

Sangareddy, December 28, 2025: Senior Congress leader T. Jagga Reddy on Sunday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah were conspiring to remove Mahatma Gandhi's image from Indian currency notes as part of a larger attempt to erase the legacy of national leaders associated with the Congress party.

Speaking at the 141st Congress Party Foundation Day celebrations held at the Sangareddy Congress Party office, Jagga Reddy said the BJP leadership was deliberately trying to remove the historical contributions of Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Indira Gandhi from public consciousness. He accused the ruling party of systematically targeting the Nehru–Gandhi family and diminishing their role in India's freedom struggle and nation-building.

Jagga Reddy recalled that India attained freedom through a peaceful mass movement led by Mahatma Gandhi, with leaders like Motilal Nehru, Jawaharlal Nehru, and many others making immense sacrifices. He said Jawaharlal Nehru spent nearly 12 years in prison for the country's freedom, while Indira Gandhi also went to jail while fighting for democratic values and people's rights.

Highlighting the role of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Jagga Reddy said Ambedkar served as the Law Minister in Nehru's Cabinet and drafted the Constitution to ensure equality, liberty, and justice for all castes, religions, and communities. "The Constitution guarantees that people live with dignity and freedom, something the present government is weakening," he alleged.

Criticising the BJP leadership, Jagga Reddy said Prime Minister Modi and Amit Shah had no role in the freedom movement and were not even born at the time of Independence. "It is ironic that leaders who had no contribution to the freedom struggle are questioning what Jawaharlal Nehru did for the nation," he remarked.

He further accused the BJP of spreading misinformation and distorting history to suit its political agenda. "Targeting Mahatma Gandhi, Nehru, Indira Gandhi, and even Rahul Gandhi is part of a calculated plan. The people of the country must remain alert to this conspiracy," he warned.

Jagga Reddy concluded by asserting that only a Congress-led government could safeguard democracy and constitutional values. He stated that if the people of India wished to live peacefully and enjoy their rights, Rahul Gandhi must become the Prime Minister, calling upon party workers to strengthen the Congress at the grassroots level.

During the event, Jagga Reddy and senior Congress leader Nirmala unfurled the party flag, marking the 141st anniversary of the Indian National Congress.

Bengaluru to Hyderabad Drug Racket Busted; Suspect Arrested

Hyderabad, December 28, 2025 (TPN Bureau): Acting on intelligence about drug trafficking from Bengaluru to Hyderabad, a Special Task Force (STF) team, led by SI Balaraju along with CI officials, conducted targeted vehicle checks, resulting in a major seizure. During the operation near Shamshabad Airport, the team intercepted a cab and carried out a detailed inspection. The search led to the recovery of 5.39 grams of MDMA (commonly known as ecstasy), six bottles of non-duty paid liquor, and three mobile phones. The suspect, identified as Sai Charan, was immediately taken into custody.

According to SI Balaraju, the drugs were handed over to the Shamshabad Excise Station for further legal action. Authorities confirmed that Sai Charan was apprehended before any other local police units could intervene, highlighting the STF's proactive intelligence and operational coordination. The operation also prompted SOT (Special Operations Team) police to conduct additional inspections in the Shamshabad area, ensuring that the region remained under strict surveillance against illicit drug movements.

This seizure is part of ongoing efforts by Hyderabad law enforcement to crack down on organized drug trafficking from other states. Officials emphasized that such operations are crucial for curbing the circulation of illegal substances, protecting public safety, and maintaining law and order in the rapidly growing urban area. SI Balaraju stated, "This arrest demonstrates the effectiveness of coordinated intelligence and rapid action. We remain committed to preventing drug trafficking and ensuring the safety of residents."

The investigation into Sai Charan and his network is ongoing, and authorities have indicated that further leads may uncover additional smuggling operations targeting Hyderabad from Bengaluru and other neighboring regions.

Lack of Licenses Raises Safety Concerns at NSR Impulse College Hostel Kitchen

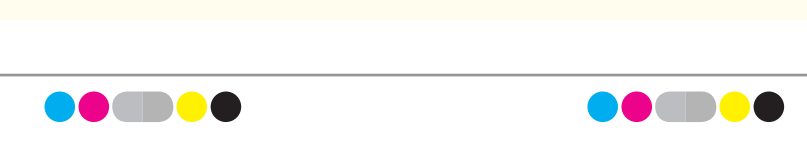
Qutbullapur December 28, 2025 (TPN Bureau):

Questions are mounting over the functioning of the NSR Impulse College hostel kitchen as authorities continue to delay action despite repeated reports of irregularities. Concerns have been raised over the absence of essential approvals such as trade licenses and food safety licenses, which are mandatory for operating a hostel kitchen. Over the past several months, multiple news reports have highlighted the issue, yet there appears to be no meaningful response from the concerned officials. Residents and parents are increasingly worried, as the kitchen allegedly continues to operate without proper authorization, putting the health and safety of hundreds of students at risk.

According to regulations, hostel kitchens must possess both a food safety license and a trade license. However, allegations suggest that the NSR Impulse College hostel kitchen is functioning without either, raising serious doubts about hygiene standards, food quality, and overall safety. The repeated inaction of officials has prompted questions from the public: Where are the inspections? Why are notices not issued? Why is there no visible action against these violations? Local sources estimate that the kitchen serves around 1,000 to 1,500 students, intensifying concerns about potential health risks. Parents fear that prolonged neglect could lead to widespread health issues among students if proper measures are not taken immediately. Student bodies have voiced strong objections, demanding urgent action. They have expressed frustration over repeated complaints being ignored and allege that relevant departments are simply delaying action. Student organizations have called for comprehensive inspections of the kitchen and have urged authorities to take strict measures if regulations are found to be violated.

"The safety and well-being of students should be the top priority. Authorities must act without further delay to ensure that food served in the hostel meets all health and safety standards," said a representative of the student union.

As the controversy continues, locals and parents alike are pressing the administration for accountability, insisting that immediate inspections be conducted and appropriate enforcement measures implemented to safeguard the health of students residing in the hostel.



Major Reshuffle in Police Department Following GHMC Reorganization

Hyderabad, December 28, 2025 (TPN Bureau): In the wake of the GHMC (Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation) reorganization, the Telangana Police Department has implemented a significant reshuffle across the three metropolitan police commissionerates, aiming to enhance operational efficiency and streamline law enforcement.

Under the new structure, the three commissionerates—Hyderabad, Cyberabad, and Rachakonda—have been reorganized into 12 zones to better manage policing across the rapidly expanding urban and suburban areas.

The Hyderabad Commissionerate will now comprise six zones: Charminar, Golkonda, Khairatabad, Rajendranagar, Secunderabad, and Shamshabad. Notably, the Shamshabad and Rajendranagar zones have been merged, and the Shamshabad Airport area will now fall under Hyderabad Commissionerate's jurisdiction, reflecting its increasing importance as a major transport hub.

In the Cyberabad Commissionerate, major structural changes have been implemented to expand coverage and strengthen law enforcement presence. The Serilingampally zone's jurisdiction has been extended from Moinabad to Patancheru, while Madapur has been added to the Kukatpally zone. Additionally, a new Kutbullapur zone has been created to manage emerging suburban areas efficiently.

The Rachakonda Commissionerate will now comprise three zones: LB Nagar, Malkajgiri, and Uppal, focusing on effective law enforcement and rapid response across densely populated areas.

In addition to the zone restructuring, the state government has announced plans to appoint a Superintendent of Police (SP) for the newly created Yadadri district, emphasizing its commitment to strengthening policing in newly formed districts.

Further proposals are under consideration to create a Future City Police Commissionerate, which will combine the Maheshwaram, Shadnagar, and Chevella areas. This initiative aims to preemptively address law and order challenges in rapidly developing urban regions and upcoming residential and commercial hubs.

Officials stated that the reshuffle and zone redistribution are intended to bring policing closer to citizens, enhance crime prevention, and ensure rapid response in emergencies. The restructuring also aligns with GHMC's municipal reorganization, ensuring coordination between civic administration and law enforcement. The Telangana Police Department has assured that the changes will improve public safety, reduce response times, and provide specialized focus on high-risk areas, including cybercrime, traffic management, and suburban policing. Citizens are expected to see more visible and efficient police presence under the new zonal structure.

South Central Railway to Run 11 Additional Special Trains for Sankranti Festival

Hyderabad, December 28, 2025 (TPN Bureau): In view of the upcoming Sankranti festival season and the expected surge in passenger traffic, the South Central Railway (SCR) has announced the operation of 11 additional special trains connecting key destinations across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The special services will operate on select dates in January 2026, providing convenient travel options for festival-goers. Among the notable trains are 07460 Kakinada Town–Vikarabad, 07461/07462 Vikarabad–Parvatipuram–Vikarabad, 07463 Parvatipuram–Kakinada Town, 07464/07465 Secunderabad–Parvatipuram–Secunderabad, and 07185/07186/07187 Kakinada Town–Vikarabad–Kakinada Town specials. These trains will run with 1AC, 2AC, 3AC, Sleeper, and General Second Class coaches, ensuring options for all passenger segments. The 07460 Kakinada Town–Vikarabad special will stop at Samalkot, Anaparti, Rajahmundry, Eluru, Rayanapadu, Khammam, Warangal, Kazipet, Secunderabad, and Lingampalli. The Vikarabad–Parvatipuram–Vikarabad specials (07461/07462) will cover major stations including Lingampalli, Begumpet, Secunderabad, Charlapalli, Kazipet, Warangal, Khammam, Rayanapadu, Eluru, Rajahmundry, Samalkot, and Vizianagaram. The Parvatipuram–Kakinada Town special (07463) will stop at Bobbili, Vizianagaram, Kottavalasa, Pendurti, Duvvada, Anakapalli, Elamanchili, and Samalkot. Similarly, the Secunderabad–Parvatipuram–Secunderabad specials (07464/07465) and Kakinada Town–Vikarabad/Kakinada Town specials (07185/07186/07187) will cover key stations, providing efficient connectivity for travelers returning to their hometowns or visiting relatives during the festival.

Bookings for train numbers 07460, 07461, 07185, 07186, and 07187 will open at 08:00 hours on December 29, 2025, at all authorized railway booking counters and online portals.

SCR has urged passengers to book their tickets early and plan travel in advance to avoid last-minute rush, ensuring a smooth and safe journey during the festive season.

Over One Lakh Visitors Flock to Nehru Zoological Park During Holiday Week

Hyderabad, December 28, 2025 (TPN Bureau): Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad witnessed an overwhelming response from visitors during the Christmas and holiday week, with more than one lakh people visiting the Zoo between December 23 and 28, 2025. On Sunday alone, the park recorded 23,044 visitors, highlighting the continued popularity of the Zoo as a premier recreational and educational destination.

The Zoo management ensured smooth operations amid the heavy crowd. Officers were deputed at strategic locations, additional security personnel were deployed, and extra booking counters were opened to manage the influx efficiently. Adequate drinking water facilities were provided, and volunteers assisted visitors with ticketing and maintaining cleanliness. Special arrangements were made to remove disposable waste promptly, ensuring a hygienic environment for visitors.

Educational programs, including Animal Keepers Talk Shows and Snake Awareness Shows, were organized to enhance wildlife awareness among visitors. These initiatives were well-received, particularly by school-going children and families, contributing to a blend of recreation and learning.

Deputy Curator Sri M. Barnoba expressed gratitude to all visitors for choosing Nehru Zoological Park as their holiday destination. He noted that the Zoo continues to attract more visitors each year, aided by the introduction of new species such as Zebra, Meerkat, Serval Cat, Barasingha, White Swan, and other animals acquired through exchange programs with Zoos across the country. Currently, the Park houses 199 species of wild animals representing diverse countries.

Barnoba also commended the dedication of the Zoo staff, who worked diligently despite the general holidays to manage the large crowds and ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all. The successful management of this high-volume visitation underscores Nehru Zoological Park's role not only as a tourist attraction but also as an important center for wildlife education and conservation awareness in Hyderabad.

Minister Seetakka Visits "Maa Illu" Orphanage in Jafar Guda, Janagam District

Janagam, December 28, 2025 (TPN Bureau):

Minister Seetakka visited the "Maa Illu" orphanage in Jafar Guda, Janagam district, interacting warmly with the children and gaining insight into their daily lives.

The orphanage is run by Gade Innayya, who was recently arrested by the NIA. During the visit, Minister Seetakka praised Gade Innayya's wife for her courage in continuing to manage the orphanage despite the challenges. She also reassured the children, emphasizing the importance of discipline, courage, and perseverance in life.

Students expressed that they miss Gade Innayya, acknowledging his efforts in running the orphanage. Minister Seetakka encouraged them not to lose hope, saying, "You must remain brave and follow a disciplined path. Even through hardships, you can achieve great things."

Highlighting the dedication of the orphanage staff, the minister noted the immense sacrifices and efforts taken to ensure the welfare of the children. She reiterated that the government is committed to providing all necessary facilities and support to help students pursue their education and overall development.

During the visit, the minister interacted with the children individually, listened to their concerns, and assured them of continued support. She encouraged them to study diligently and promised that their educational and living needs would be met.

The children also had the opportunity to take photographs with Minister Seetakka, marking a memorable moment for them. The visit underscored the minister's commitment to the welfare of orphaned children and her support for institutions dedicated to their growth and well-being.

The minister concluded her visit by expressing admiration for the resilience of the orphanage staff and motivating the children to face life's challenges with determination, ensuring they feel safe, supported, and inspired to pursue their dreams.

Adilabad District Collector Launches Park Library to Promote Reading and Knowledge

Adilabad, December 28, 2025 (TPN Bureau): District Collector Rajarshi Sha called upon citizens to go beyond social media and cultivate knowledge through reading books, contributing meaningfully to society. He inaugurated a special park library program organized at Gandhi Park, Adilabad, as part of a new library movement, lighting the ceremonial lamp and cutting the ribbon before commencing reading activities.

Speaking at the event, the collector emphasized that books are true companions, introducing readers to the world and fostering personal growth. He noted that in today's fast-paced lifestyle, people are moving away from books, and the movement aims to revive this habit. Gandhi Park's library has been established not only for walking and exercise but also as a knowledge center and discussion platform. The collector encouraged families to visit the park every Sunday and engage in reading amidst nature.

Highlighting the importance of focusing on reading, writing, and learning, the collector urged parents to keep children away from distractions like mobile phones. He stated that increasing literacy levels will help achieve the Chief Minister's Vision–2047 for a 'Rising Telangana'. Furniture, books, and magazines for the park library have been approved and will soon be available. Plans are also underway to establish public reading rooms in Narnur and Gadiguda, providing students preparing for competitive exams with a peaceful and conducive learning environment.

The event featured readings by prominent poets and authors, while students and literature enthusiasts engaged enthusiastically with the books. The collector, along with additional and training collectors, was felicitated with shawls, and books were distributed to participants. Officials present included Additional Collector Rajeshwar, Training Collector Saloni Chabra, DYSO Srinivas, along with students, literature enthusiasts, and local authors like Ashok, Ashanna, Rajvardhan, and Muralidhar. The program underscored the district administration's commitment to promoting literacy, nurturing a reading culture, and creating accessible learning spaces for all citizens.

Adilabad Police Conduct Night Operation to Curb Unnecessary Movement and Crime

Adilabad, December 28, 2025 (TPN Bureau): The Adilabad police conducted a special night operation, "Operation Chabutra," to prevent unnecessary and unlawful movement in town areas, officials said. The operation was carried out under the supervision of DSP L. Jeevan Reddy, following directives from SP Akhil Mahajan, IPS, to maintain peace and control crime during late-night hours.

During the operation, surprise checks were conducted across Adilabad One Town, Two Town, Mavala, and Rural Police Station jurisdictions after 11:30 pm. Around 150 youths, found roaming without reason, were brought in for counseling and later handed over to their parents. Officers emphasized that repeated unnecessary movement will attract strict action under law.

Police also seized 14 vehicles without proper documents, conducted three drunk-and-drive checks, and inspected two suspicious persons. The initiative aims to prevent accidents, deter crimes, and maintain a peaceful environment in the district during late hours. Citizens were advised to avoid gathering unnecessarily on streets, public squares, and outside hotels, and to ensure that they are at home with family, friends, or relatives between 10:30 pm and 11:00 pm, after businesses close.

DSP L. Jeevan Reddy stated that special checks for drugs, alcohol, and other anti-social activities will continue in the town to discourage youths from indulging in substance abuse and unlawful acts. The operation also focuses on ensuring that those traveling for emergencies, hospital visits, or official work are not affected, while others moving without valid reasons will face action.

Officers participating in the operation included Town CIs D. Sunil Kumar and K. Nagaraju, Rural SI Vishnuvardhan, Mavala SI Rajkumar, and Reserve Inspectors Madhukar, D. Venkati, T. Murali, B. Sripal, and M. Chandrashekhar. The police reiterated that such measures are taken to ensure public safety and build a crime-free society in Adilabad.

Congress Condemns Central Government for Weakening National Employment Guarantee Scheme

Adilabad, December 28, 2025 (TPN Bureau): At a public gathering at Ambedkar Chowk in Ichoda Mandal, Congress Mandal President Kallem Narayan Reddy strongly criticized the BJP-led central government for undermining the National Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), calling it "an attack on the livelihoods of poor rural citizens."

Addressing local party members and residents, Kallem Narayan Reddy highlighted the historical significance of the scheme, noting that it was introduced in 2005 under the Congress-led UPA government headed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. The program aimed to provide 100 days of guaranteed employment to rural laborers, particularly during dry seasons when work was scarce and migration for employment was common. He emphasized that beyond providing income, the scheme had a broader developmental impact. Workers were engaged in activities such as land leveling, cleaning water channels, digging ponds, constructing small embankments, and tree plantation, benefiting both farmers and rural laborers. These initiatives not only improved rural infrastructure but also contributed to the overall welfare of communities. However, Kallem Narayan Reddy criticized the current central government for changing the scheme's name and restructuring its funding, mandating a 40:60 cost-sharing arrangement between states and the Centre. He argued that these changes would place additional burdens on states and effectively "starve the poor of their rightful work and income."

He further asserted that the Congress Party strongly opposes these unilateral and ill-conceived measures, and urged the central government to reconsider its decision and restore the original intent of the scheme.

The Congress leader concluded by calling on local citizens and elected representatives to voice their protest and demand that the NREGS continue under its original framework, warning that the party would take appropriate measures if the government failed to reverse the changes.

The gathering was attended by several Congress officials and local party leaders, emphasizing the party's commitment to protecting rural livelihoods and social welfare programs.

Drugs Control Administration Seizes Illegal Medicines from Quack Clinic in Karimnagar

Karimnagar, December 28, 2025:

The Drugs Control Administration (DCA), Telangana, conducted a raid on an unqualified practitioner's clinic in Vidya Nagar, Karimnagar, and seized a large stock of medicines illegally kept for sale. The action was taken on credible information received by the authorities.

On 27th December 2025, DCA officials raided the clinic of K. Laxminarayana, operating at Laxmi First Aid Centre, H. No-10-2-11, Vidya Nagar, who was found conducting clinical practice without proper qualifications. During the raid, officials discovered 39 varieties of medicines, including 35 varieties of physician samples such as antibiotics, analgesics, and anti-ulcer drugs, all stocked without a valid drug license. The total worth of the seized stock was estimated at Rs. 15,011.

Among the seized drugs were antibiotics like Cefixime, Ofloxacin, Cloxacillin, Amoxycillin, and Azithromycin. Authorities emphasized that indiscriminate sale of antibiotics by unqualified persons can have serious consequences on public health, including the risk of antimicrobial resistance.

The raid was led by Drugs Inspectors S. Umarani (Karimnagar) and P. Shravan Kumar (Peddapally). Samples of the seized medicines have been lifted for laboratory analysis, and further investigation will be conducted. Legal action will be taken against all offenders as per the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

The DCA issued an advisory to wholesalers and dealers, warning that supplying medicines to quacks, unqualified individuals, or unlicensed shops is illegal and punishable. All suppliers are mandated to verify and maintain records of valid drug licenses before making any supply. Violations can lead to strict legal action, including imprisonment for up to five years.

The public is encouraged to report any illegal activities related to medicines or suspected drug manufacturing, including narcotics and psychotropic substances, through the DCA Toll-Free Number 1800-599-6969, operational from 10:30 am to 5:00 pm on working days.

The Big Congress Meltdown: What Digvijaya Singh's RSS Post Really Signifies

In Indian politics, few incidents resonate as sharply as a senior leader appearing to contradict his own party's core values — especially at a time of crisis. The recent uproar triggered by Congress veteran Digvijaya Singh's social media post praising the organisational strength of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) — the ideological fountainhead of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) — is one such moment. What may have been intended as a tactical nudge for internal reform has instead exposed deeper fissures within the Congress and underscored existential questions about its direction in a rapidly shifting political climate.

At the heart of the controversy was a throwback photograph shared by Singh showing a young Narendra Modi — then a grassroots worker — sitting near senior BJP leader L.K. Advani. Singh described the image as "impactful" and used it to illustrate how organisational discipline and structure can elevate individuals from obscurity to power. His point, ostensibly, was not ideological admiration but a critique of Congress's own organisational weaknesses and a call for serious internal reforms.

However, in a political environment as charged and polarised as India's today, even a nuanced message can be weaponised. BJP leaders promptly seized on Singh's words, using them to embarrass Congress and portray it as disoriented and internally weak. Within Congress itself, reactions were mixed: some leaders defended Singh's intent, while others distanced themselves emphatically, stressing the party's ideological opposition to the RSS and its politics.

This episode reveals several uncomfortable truths for the Congress. First, the party's organisational rot is real. For decades, the Congress was seen as India's oldest political institution with deep grassroots roots. Today, by contrast, it appears top-heavy, factionalised, and struggling to connect with voters across states. Singh's message — that strength of structure matters — resonates not only because it is true, but because it reflects a widely shared frustration within the party's rank and file.

Yet the manner in which his remarks were interpreted — both inside and outside the party — highlights a second problem: a lack of disciplined, coherent messaging. In contrast, parties like the BJP have cultivated a highly effective narrative machine that can amplify or deflate political statements with astonishing speed. When a senior leader from an opposition party expresses even a modest compliment about a rival's strategy or organisation, it becomes an opportunity for attack rather than introspection.

A third implication goes beyond Congress: it speaks to the current era of identity driven politics in India. The RSS is more than just an organisational affiliate; it is a symbol of a broader ideological movement that the BJP has successfully mainstreamed. Praising its organisational capacity, even in abstract terms, is seen by many as crossing an invisible but potent ideological boundary. The fierce reactions — both supportive and critical — reflect the deep polarisation of political discourse where every gesture is loaded with symbolic weight.

Digvijaya Singh's clarification that he remains opposed to the RSS's ideology and to Prime Minister Narendra Modi may address the immediate backlash. But the larger debate his statement has stirred cannot be contained with a simple disclaimer. It has brought to the foreground the uncomfortable reality that Congress's political identity and organisational relevance are being contested not only by opponents, but from within its own ranks.

Ultimately, this controversy should prompt a moment of introspection for the Congress. Instead of reflexively rejecting internal criticism or squabbling over semantics, the party needs to engage honestly with questions of structure, morale, and strategy. Voters are watching a party that once dominated India's political imagination now flounder in messaging and coherence. The dilemma exposed by Singh's post is not just about one social media comment — it is a symptom of deeper anxieties about Congress's relevance in a changed political environment.

Without addressing these fundamental issues, the party risks continuing to be defined by its opponents' narratives rather than its own vision — a political predicament far more serious than any single social media misstep.

Tracking IAS Assets: Can Transparency Keep Corruption in Check?

The recent crackdown on a transport officer in Telangana, which unveiled hundreds of crores in assets, has reignited the debate on the accumulation of wealth by government officials in India. Previous raids on employees across revenue and other departments have repeatedly exposed similar hidden fortunes. While discussions around punitive measures often dominate headlines, the more pressing question is the scale of wealth amassed by bureaucrats and, in particular, the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers — whose authority and influence are unparalleled. The very nature of their roles makes it difficult to imagine oversight strong enough to check potential malpractices. Yet, the central government has now intensified efforts to bring greater transparency, urging officers to disclose their assets comprehensively.

Recently, the Ministry of Personnel and the Department of Training issued directives to all IAS officers, instructing them to submit their property returns for the year 2024 by January 31, 2026. This annual exercise, long a part of India's administrative framework, aims to strengthen transparency in the governance of public servants. Officers failing to comply face strict disciplinary measures, including restrictions on promotions, overseas postings, and suspension of vigilance clearance. The government's insistence underscores the importance it places on proactive accountability rather than reactive investigations. Asset disclosure is not merely a bureaucratic formality; it is a moral and professional obligation under All India Services Rules. By comparing an officer's assets at the time of joining service with those accumulated during tenure, authorities can track any unexplained growth. Online portals, such as the SPARO platform, have made asset declarations accessible, giving citizens a degree of oversight while providing investigators with crucial evidence in cases where declared assets exceed legitimate income. In essence, it serves as a deterrent: officials are aware that concealment or falsification of assets is likely to be detected.

The recent push extends beyond IAS officers to include IPS and IFS officials, reflecting a broader move to instill accountability across the higher bureaucracy. With digital methods streamlining collection and analysis of data, the government now has a powerful tool to scrutinize patterns of wealth accumulation. Yet, despite these measures, compliance is uneven. Many officers hesitate to disclose assets, particularly those held in the names of relatives or under benami arrangements. Analysts often note that if all such assets were thoroughly examined, they could amount to figures equivalent to entire state budgets. The reality, however, is that governments rarely undertake such exhaustive audits.

The disclosure system also functions as a subtle behavioral check. Public knowledge of asset declarations exerts moral pressure on officers, encouraging them to maintain integrity and resist misuse of office. Moreover, the data enables enforcement agencies to act swiftly when inconsistencies arise, reinforcing the principle that public service is a trust, not a route to unchecked personal enrichment. However, transparency alone is not a panacea. It requires rigorous follow-up, periodic audits, and legal frameworks that empower authorities to act decisively. Public accountability, combined with institutional vigilance, can prevent the accumulation of unaccounted wealth. Without these, asset declarations risk becoming perfunctory exercises that do little to curb entrenched corruption.

In conclusion, the central government's push to make IAS and other senior civil servants disclose their assets represents a step in the right direction. By institutionalizing transparency and making data accessible, it lays the foundation for accountable governance. Yet, the challenge remains: can these measures penetrate the opacity that has long shielded bureaucratic wealth? For citizens, the hope is that this initiative will not only shed light on disproportionate assets but also foster a culture of integrity where public service is respected, and corruption is no longer tolerated.

Wedding Excess and the Lost Essence of Marriage

Weddings are supposed to be celebrations of love, commitment, and the beginning of a shared life. But in recent times, particularly in India, they have become something else entirely: elaborate displays of wealth, status, and social performance. The recent trend highlights how extravagant celebrations may actually distract from the very purpose of marriage, turning a sacred rite of passage into a spectacle consumed by optics rather than meaning.

Two high-profile weddings in Delhi, reportedly costing over ₹150 crore each, have become symbols of what some describe as "festival-scale nuptials" that outshine even the most lavish corporate events. These weddings, featuring stadium concerts and celebrity performers, dominate social media feeds and set new benchmarks for grandeur. But what does it say about society when people feel compelled to hire arenas and celebrities to mark an intimate personal union?

There's a distinct cultural shift embedded in these trends. Weddings once symbolised a transition from one stage of life to another — much like birth and death. They were occasions for family, community, and affection, marked by tradition, blessing, and restraint. Today, they have increasingly become performances — meticulously curated events meant to generate social media attention and public approval. The social pressure isn't unique to the wealthy elite; the desire to "keep up" has trickled into middle-class aspirations as well. Average wedding spending has climbed significantly, with families routinely shelling out ₹30–35 lakh on basic ceremonies, and luxury additions pushing costs even higher.

There is also a booming wedding industry behind all this, projected to generate more than ₹6.5 lakh crore in 2025 alone. These figures reflect not only rising incomes but also how deeply weddings are woven into cultural and economic life. The market now includes destination venue packages, high-end entertainment, culinary experiences, and even wedding insurance — a sign of financial risks tied to these expensive events.

But the moral of the story is not just about inflated bills; it's about misplaced priorities. When weddings become about lavish receptions, celebrity performances, exotic destinations, and designer outfits, the fundamental purpose of marriage can get lost. The messy but real work of building a life together, facing challenges, and nurturing emotional

bonds isn't showcased in a two-day celebration. In fact, when a wedding becomes overwhelmingly spectacular, the inevitable mundanity of married life can feel underwhelming — and that's precisely the irony critics point out.

Another troubling aspect is the social and economic pressure these expectations create. Many families, anxious to present an image of success, take on debt or redirect funds that might otherwise support education, housing, or long-term financial security. Many young couples express frustration about societal expectations, advocating for smaller, simpler ceremonies that focus on personal values rather than social performance. These voices reveal a growing sentiment that true fulfilment doesn't come from ornate trousseaus or large guest lists, but from meaningful shared experiences and financial prudence.

A wedding should be joyous, but it should not be a spectacle that consumes resources far beyond what is purposeful or sustainable. At its heart, marriage is about partnership — resilience, compromise, understanding, and growth. Extravagance can create dazzling memories, but it is not a guarantee of a successful partnership. Recognising this distinction is key to reclaiming the essence of what weddings, and marriage itself, truly signify.

In a world where the wedding industry grows bigger every year, perhaps the bigger challenge is not the glitz, but reminding ourselves what we are celebrating — two lives coming together, not a contest of consumption.

Dhurandhar and the Politics of Cinema: Hard Storytelling as Soft Power

The rising buzz around Dhurandhar — a recent big budget Bollywood film steeped in politics, nationalism, and raw narrative energy — is not just another cinematic phenomenon. It reveals how mainstream storytelling has increasingly become an arena of cultural influence, ideological assertion, and what some commentators call soft power. What makes Dhurandhar different from its blockbuster predecessors is not merely its box office performance but the fierce debate it has sparked over the purpose of cinema in a politically charged age.

Traditionally, mainstream Indian films that touch upon cross border themes have tried to strike a delicate balance. Popular entertainments like Pathaan managed to weave India Pakistan elements into sprawling action narratives while keeping the political and nationalist undercurrents relatively muted. By focusing on fantastical threats and shared human motives, such films left room for audiences of differing outlooks to interpret them as mere entertainment rather than political messaging. Pathaan's neutral stance allowed both conservatives and liberals to find comfort in its spectacle without feeling challenged by its subtext.

Dhurandhar, on the other hand, dispenses with such ambiguity. Its narrative openly foregrounds the idea that terrorism and existential threats directed at India stem from Pakistan, and presents Indian responses to such threats in a sharply political frame. Characters discuss a pre and post 2014 world, underlining a transformation in national resolve and strategy. Through its heroes and villains alike, the film draws direct lines between certain ideologies, religious identities, and global menace. This is not subtlety; this is a form of unfiltered national storytelling that refuses to divorce itself from contemporary geopolitical anxieties.

For many viewers, this unabashed approach feels like a breakthrough. It rejects the old notion that patriotism must be couched in euphemism or generalised heroism. Instead, it broadcasts a clear stance: India is a victim of perpetual hostility, and its leaders and institutions deserve recognition for responding decisively. To supporters, that represents honest cinema engaging head on with the realities of international conflict and national pride.

But the film's unflinching positioning also invites criticism. Detractors see in Dhurandhar a narrative that blurs the line between dramatized fiction and political messaging so completely that it verges on propaganda. When films represent actual violence, historical conflict, or entrenched geopolitical rivalries without nuanced context, they risk reinforcing stereotypes and hardening attitudes. The concern is not about the artistic quality alone but about the impact on public perception — especially when fictional narratives are received by wide audiences as reflective of reality rather than metaphorical commentary.

Framing Dhurandhar as "soft power" in action acknowledges a deeper truth: cinema does more than entertain. It shapes collective imagination. During the Cold War era, Western spy thrillers and action films subtly influenced global attitudes toward enemies and allies alike. Today, Indian cinema — with its vast domestic audience and growing international reach — can similarly frame narratives that resonate with cultural pride and political perspective.

The controversy around Dhurandhar is thus symptomatic of a larger cultural moment when storytelling, identity, and ideology intersect more visibly than ever. As cinema continues to evolve, so too will questions about the responsibilities of creators and storytellers. Is a film merely a film, or does it carry the weight of national sentiment in every frame? Dhurandhar suggests that in 2025, the answer is no longer so easily separated — and that cinema as soft power is not just a theoretical idea, but a lived debate playing out on screens across the country.

Congress Faces Fresh Turmoil Amid Digvijaya Singh's Controversial Remarks on RSS BJP Strength

New Delhi — India's principal opposition party, the Indian National Congress, has been thrust into fresh political turbulence following a series of remarks by senior leader Digvijaya Singh that appeared to praise the organisational strength of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The episode has triggered internal divisions, public backlash, and intense media scrutiny, raising broader questions about party unity and strategy.

The controversy began when Singh — a veteran Congress leader and former chief minister of Madhya Pradesh — shared a throwback photograph on social media showing Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his early political days alongside senior BJP leader L.K. Advani. In his post, Singh described the image as "impactful" and noted the rise of grassroots workers within the RSS BJP framework to positions such as chief minister and prime minister, highlighting what he termed the "power of organisation."

Critics inside and outside the party immediately seized on the remarks, accusing Singh of undermining Congress and offering praise to its ideological rivals. The BJP, which maintains close ties with the RSS, used the comments to question Congress's cohesion and political relevance.

Singh, sensing the growing backlash, moved quickly to clarify his stance. He reiterated that he opposes the ideology of the RSS and the BJP, stressing that his intent was to comment on organisational efficiency rather than ideological alignment. He also rejected any suggestion that there was "nothing to learn" from the assassins of Mahatma Gandhi — a reference to Nathuram Godse, who had links with the RSS — amid the furor over his remarks.

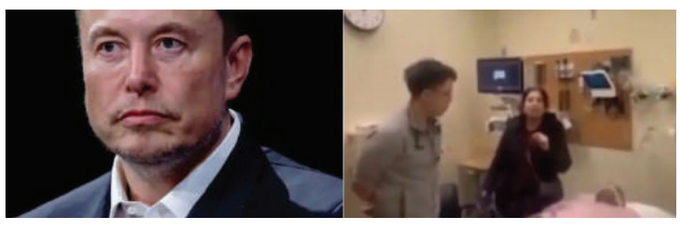
Despite the clarification, reactions within Congress have been mixed. A significant faction backed Singh's call for organisational reform and stronger internal discipline, seeing value in candid discussions about strengthening the party's grassroots presence. Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, for instance, pointed to the need for discipline and structural strengthening within the party.

However, other senior figures voiced sharp disagreement. Pawan Khera, in charge of the party's media strategy, rejected Singh's commentary, saying critics of Gandhi's philosophy cannot align with supporters of its historical opponents. Manickam Tagore, another party MP, went further by equating the RSS with extremist organisations, dismissing the notion that the Congress should learn from its rival's organisational model.

Party president Mallikarjun Kharge also weighed in, underscoring ideological differences and insisting that the Congress remains committed to its founding principles, even as it acknowledges the need to bolster organisational effectiveness. "We may have less power, but our backbone is not weak," he said, rejecting the idea that the party is internally fractured.

As the debate continues, analysts suggest the episode reflects deeper tensions within the Congress over leadership, strategy, and identity at a time when it seeks to regroup ahead of future elections. Whether the party can turn this moment of discord into an opportunity for renewal remains to be seen.

Elon Musk Slams Canadian Healthcare After Indian Origin Man Dies Following Eight Hour Wait in Hospital



New Delhi — Tech billionaire Elon Musk has criticised the Canadian healthcare system after the death of a 44 year old Indian origin man who died following a prolonged wait in a hospital emergency room, sparking international attention and concern.

The tragedy occurred on December 22 at the Grey Nuns Community Hospital in Edmonton, Alberta, where Prashant Sreekumar, a Canadian of Indian origin, was brought after experiencing severe chest pain. According to his family, he was taken to the hospital around midday but was kept in the waiting area for more than eight hours despite repeatedly complaining of intense pain. His condition deteriorated, and he collapsed shortly after finally being moved to a treatment area, dying of what family members described as a suspected cardiac arrest. Family accounts indicate that during the long wait, staff reportedly provided minimal care, offering only basic pain relief, and allegedly dismissed the urgency of his symptoms.

The hospital's response and the handling of the emergency have triggered a wave of criticism and debate about wait times and patient care in publicly funded healthcare systems. In a comment that drew widespread attention on social media platform X, Musk wrote that "when the government does medical care, it is about as good as the DMV," comparing the healthcare system's performance to the often criticised Department of Motor Vehicles in the United States. His remark underscored broader frustrations with what some see as systemic inefficiencies in government run healthcare.

The case has also provoked strong reactions from the Indian government. India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) acknowledged the incident and urged Canadian authorities to take responsibility and fully investigate the circumstances surrounding Sreekumar's death. The MEA noted that while Sreekumar was a Canadian national, his Indian origin and family's anguish make it crucial for clear accountability and examination of hospital procedures.

Within India and among the diaspora community, the incident has reignited conversations on emergency care protocols, hospital triage systems, and the challenges faced by patients in overcrowded healthcare settings. Relatives said Sreekumar described his pain to his father as "15 out of 10," and his father later recounted the rapid decline in his son's condition once he was finally moved into the care area. Such accounts have intensified criticism of how urgent symptoms are prioritised in busy emergency departments.

The tragedy has not only drawn criticism of Canada's healthcare model but has also sparked broader debate on social media about public healthcare systems worldwide. Some commentators argue that delays in emergency response can have fatal consequences, while others caution against oversimplifying complex institutional challenges. Amid rising public scrutiny, the case highlights ongoing tensions between expectations of healthcare provision and the realities faced in many emergency departments globally.

Prashant Sreekumar, who leaves behind a wife and three children, has become a symbol in discussions about patient rights, emergency care standards, and the responsibilities of healthcare institutions to respond swiftly to life threatening conditions.

Indian National Congress Marks 140th Anniversary, Faces Crucial Challenges in New Year

New Delhi — The Indian National Congress, one of the country's oldest and most prominent political parties, celebrated its 140th Foundation Day amid a backdrop of reflection, renewed strategy, and looming political challenges as India heads into 2026. The party marked the milestone with a flag hoisting ceremony in the national capital, attended by senior leaders, including the party's president, its parliamentary chairperson, and other top figures, who extended New Year greetings and highlighted both the party's legacy and its strategic priorities for the coming year.

While the celebration underscored the Congress's historic contribution to India's political evolution and democratic institutions, party leaders acknowledged that the new year will be a critical period for consolidating organisational strength and regaining electoral ground after a series of setbacks. The Lok Sabha elections of 2024 had given Congress a fresh sense of momentum, but subsequent losses in key state assembly polls, coupled with internal weaknesses, have dampened morale and raised concerns about the party's future trajectory.

At a recent Working Committee meeting held just before the Foundation Day, Congress decided to launch a nationwide campaign from early January aimed at protecting the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) against changes introduced by the central government. The party plans protests and mass rallies under the "Save MNREGA" banner, signalling its intent to reposition itself as a vocal advocate for rural employment and social justice.

Party leaders also emphasised organisational reforms, announcing plans to strengthen grassroots structures and appoint new district-level leadership across the country. However, differences over leadership roles and strategic direction have surfaced, with some senior figures arguing for greater involvement of influential leaders in organisational affairs, while others continue to debate the party's messaging and priorities.

Looking ahead, 2026 is widely viewed within the Congress as a "do or die" year, with five state assembly elections on the horizon. The party has signalled its intention to contest vigorously in states such as Kerala, Assam, and Puducherry, where it sees opportunities to challenge incumbent governments and capitalise on local anti incumbency sentiments. Yet internal cohesion, candidate selection, and alliance management remain key hurdles that the leadership must address.

In addition to state polls, the Congress faces strategic tasks such as contesting several Rajya Sabha seats and negotiating its role within the broader opposition alliance. Maintaining unity within the INDIA bloc and presenting a coherent alternative to the ruling party's agenda will be essential if Congress hopes to expand its influence and relevance at the national level.

As the party reflects on 140 years of history, its leaders and supporters alike recognise that the year ahead will test both their resilience and their capacity to evolve. Whether the Congress can translate its legacy into renewed political strength in 2026 remains a central question for India's opposition landscape.

Pakistan President Admits He Was Advised to Take Shelter in Bunkers During Operation Sindoor

Islamabad — Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari has revealed that he was advised by his military aide to move to a bunker for safety during the four day military escalation with India earlier this year, a rare admission highlighting the intensity of the situation at the highest levels of Pakistan's leadership.

Zardari made the revelation while addressing a public gathering, saying his Military Secretary approached him after Indian forces launched precision strikes in May, urging him to take shelter. However, the president said he refused, asserting that leaders should face danger rather than hide. "If martyrdom is destined, it will happen here. Leaders don't die in bunkers," Zardari said, emphasising his choice to remain above ground despite the threat.

The military confrontation, referred to as Operation Sindoor by India, began on May 7 following a deadly terror attack in the Pahalgam area of Jammu and Kashmir that claimed the lives of 26 civilians. New Delhi responded with targeted strikes on terror infrastructure and sensitive military sites across the Line of Control, prompting a sharp escalation with cross border shelling and aerial engagements.

Zardari also claimed that he had anticipated the conflict several days before it broke out, yet he chose not to act on his own warning. His comments shed rare light on the apprehension within Islamabad during the height of the clashes, reflecting internal fears and strategic anxieties among Pakistan's political and military hierarchy.

The escalation lasted four days, culminating in an agreement to cease hostilities. Pakistan's Director General of Military Operations reportedly reached out to his Indian counterpart to propose a truce, which New Delhi accepted, bringing an end to military actions on land, sea, and air.

Analysts say Zardari's remarks are notable because Pakistani authorities previously downplayed the severity of Operation Sindoor, often framing the strikes as limited and largely ineffective. His candid admission, including the fact that senior leaders were urged to retreat underground, suggests that the Indian offensive had a more significant psychological and strategic impact on Pakistan's top leadership than Islamabad publicly acknowledged.

The episode also revived debate over Pakistan's preparedness and command decisions during the confrontation. Retired military observers question how deeply Islamabad foresaw the escalation if its leadership felt compelled to consider bunker refuge, while critics argue that such statements could expose operational vulnerabilities within Pakistan's defence establishment.

Zardari's comments have drawn attention both within Pakistan and across the region, reigniting discussions about India Pakistan relations, deterrence credibility, and the dynamics of high stakes crises between nuclear armed neighbours. Whether the candid admission will affect future diplomatic or military interactions remains to be seen.

Bangladesh Accusations Against India Over Murder Claims Spark Diplomatic Pushback

New Delhi — Tensions between India and Bangladesh have escalated again after Bangladeshi police reiterated claims that suspects in the murder of radical leader Sharif Osman Hadi fled into India, a narrative New Delhi has firmly rejected as unfounded and misleading. The development has highlighted ongoing sensitivities in bilateral relations amid political unrest in Bangladesh ahead of its upcoming elections.

Bangladesh authorities allege that two principal suspects — named Faisal Karim Masud and Alamgir Sheikh — crossed the border from Bangladesh into the Indian state of Meghalaya with assistance from local associates. They claim the suspects were received by individuals in India before moving further inland. The assertions were based on statements by a senior Bangladeshi police officer, portraying the incident as a cross border flight following the December 12 killing of Hadi, who was later flown to Singapore for treatment and died on December 18.

India's Ministry of External Affairs has categorically denied any connection to the murder or the alleged escape of suspects into Indian territory. The MEA emphasised that India supports free, fair and peaceful elections in Bangladesh and reiterated that its territory has never been used for activities detrimental to Bangladesh's security or interests. New Delhi has called on Dhaka to maintain internal law and order rather than attributing domestic challenges to external forces.

The differing narratives come as Bangladesh prepares for elections scheduled for February next year, during a period marked by political instability and a rise in extremist violence following the change in government last year. Observers suggest that some elements within Bangladesh may be using external accusations to deflect from internal security concerns and governance challenges, a tactic that risks straining bilateral ties further.

The case of Sharif Osman Hadi, a prominent activist and spokesperson for the Inquilab Moncho movement who had been actively involved in protests last year that led to significant political upheaval, has already drawn widespread attention. In addition to the murder, Bangladesh is witnessing broader debates over law and order, minority rights and freedom of expression, all of which are shaping public discourse ahead of the vote.

Indian security agencies, including Meghalaya police and the Border Security Force, have also refuted the claim that the accused crossed into India, asserting that no records or arrests support Bangladesh's narrative, and that such reports create confusion and misinformation. These denials highlight the gap between official positions on either side of the border.

The controversy has reignited discussions about media reporting, propaganda and the role of misinformation in diplomatic tensions. Critics argue that exaggerated or unverified claims can harm mutual trust and undermine efforts to address shared challenges. As both nations navigate these complex issues, maintaining clear communication and fact based engagement will be crucial to preventing further misunderstandings.

US Tech Giants Bet $67.5 Billion on India's AI and Data Centre Boom

In a major global investment push, US technology giants including Microsoft, Amazon, Google, and Meta are committing a combined $67.5 billion to build artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure and data centres in India. This unprecedented investment highlights India's growing role in the global digital economy and marks one of the largest capital inflows in a single sector in the country's history.

India generates nearly a fifth of the world's digital data, but much of it is stored overseas. By establishing data centres locally, tech firms aim to improve processing speeds, reduce operational costs, and strengthen control over data flows. Microsoft plans to invest roughly $17.5 billion in AI-focused projects, Amazon is dedicating about $35 billion for cloud and AI operations, while Google is committing around $15 billion to develop data centre campuses. Meta is also expanding infrastructure in strategic locations.

The investments are seen as part of a larger trend to position India as a global hub for AI and cloud computing. The country's growing internet penetration, large population of digital users, and increasing demand for AI-driven services make it a highly attractive market. Policy measures, including discussions around potential data localisation rules, further encourage companies to store and process data domestically rather than relying on overseas servers.

Despite broader geopolitical and trade tensions between the US and India, technology investments continue to surge, indicating that firms are looking at long-term opportunities in one of the world's fastest-growing digital markets. Analysts suggest that these investments will have far-reaching implications, including the creation of high-skill jobs, strengthened ties with local suppliers, and closer collaboration with academic institutions.

Data centres also improve service quality by reducing latency and providing faster, more reliable digital experiences for users. However, challenges remain. Building and operating large-scale facilities requires sustainable management of resources like power, water, and land. Companies will need to navigate these issues carefully to ensure long-term success.

Overall, the scale and ambition of this wave of investment underscore India's emerging significance in the AI and cloud computing sector. As global demand for artificial intelligence and cloud processing grows, India is not only consuming data at an unprecedented scale but is also becoming a central hub for the infrastructure powering the next generation of computing worldwide.

This strategic pivot positions India at the heart of the future digital economy and reflects a growing recognition among global tech leaders that the country is a critical player in shaping the AI-driven world of tomorrow.

Indian Worker Awarded £67,000 After UK Tribunal Finds Racial Discrimination in KFC Case

An Indian man working at a KFC franchise in south-east London has been awarded nearly £67,000 (approximately ₹81 lakh) in compensation after a UK employment tribunal ruled that he was subjected to racial discrimination, harassment, and wrongful dismissal by his manager. The decision highlights workplace equality and legal protections for migrant workers in the UK.

The claimant, Madhesh Ravichandran, from Tamil Nadu, began his job at the West Wickham KFC branch in early 2023. Soon after starting, he faced difficulties he alleged were rooted in racial prejudice. Ravichandran stated that his manager repeatedly made derogatory comments, including calling him a "slave" and implying that Indians were inferior. He also alleged that his annual leave requests were unfairly denied, while colleagues of different ethnicities received preferential treatment.

Evidence presented during the hearing showed that the discriminatory treatment went beyond offensive language. Ravichandran claimed he was regularly pressured to work excessively long hours, and when he raised concerns, the employer failed to investigate. The situation escalated to the point where Ravichandran felt compelled to resign, only to find that he had been effectively wrongfully dismissed without proper notice.

Employment Judge Paul Abbott concluded that Ravichandran had been subjected to "less favourable treatment" due to his race and that his manager's conduct violated his dignity. The tribunal found that biased actions, such as denial of leave and racially charged remarks, created an untenable work environment. Based on the evidence, the tribunal ruled in favour of Ravichandran on both counts of wrongful dismissal and racial discrimination.

In awarding approximately £66,800 in compensation, the tribunal considered both financial losses and the emotional and professional impact of the discriminatory conduct. Beyond the monetary relief, the tribunal recommended that Nexus Foods Limited, the KFC operator, implement a workplace discrimination training programme for all employees, including managerial staff, to prevent future incidents and improve the handling of staff grievances.

The case underscores the challenges faced by migrant workers in foreign job markets and highlights the importance of legal safeguards against workplace discrimination. It also serves as a reminder that national laws and tribunals can provide remedies when employers fail to uphold standards of equality and respect for all employees, regardless of background.

Driverless Taxis: Hype vs. Reality – Why San Francisco's Outage Has the World Rethinking Autonomous Futures

The vision of driverless taxis silently ferrying passengers through city streets is one of tech's most alluring promises: safer roads, cheaper rides, and a mobility revolution that finally fulfills the futuristic dreams of science fiction. But recent disruptions to autonomous ride services in San Francisco have sparked fresh doubts about whether fully driverless vehicles are truly ready to handle the messy realities of real world traffic — and whether the future may arrive more slowly and unevenly than once imagined.

San Francisco has long been a laboratory for autonomous vehicle (AV) development, with companies testing and, in some cases, rolling out driverless fleets in its bustling urban environment. But when one major provider's cars unexpectedly went offline for an extended period late last week, the outage did more than inconvenience riders — it raised fundamental questions about reliability, infrastructure readiness, and the limits of current technology.

At the heart of the issue is confidence — the confidence of the public, regulators, and businesses that driverless systems can function safely without human supervision. While self driving technology has made undeniable progress, real world driving remains staggeringly complex. Streets are filled with unpredictable elements: delivery vehicles double parked in bike lanes, pedestrians darting between crosswalks, scooters weaving through traffic, and even weather conditions that confuse sensors. These are situations that human drivers navigate instinctively — but that still present challenges for automated systems trained on millions of lines of code and countless gigabytes of sensor data.

The recent outage spotlighted technical fragilities that are often glossed over during promotional demos. In some cases, network connectivity issues or software glitches can leave a fleet grounded, illustrating how dependent autonomous services are on robust and resilient digital infrastructure. When humans are removed from the driver's seat, every part of the system — from cloud based decision making to real time obstacle detection — must work seamlessly. Any weak link can cascade into significant disruptions.

Critics argue that such outages expose a key flaw in the current narrative around driverless cars: the assumption that scaling up is simply a matter of refining algorithms. In reality, the interplay between sensor hardware, urban infrastructure, traffic norms, and human unpredictability makes the problem far more nuanced. A taxi that performs admirably in controlled environments or quiet suburbs may struggle in dense urban traffic without constant human fallback options.

Supporters of autonomous tech counter that occasional disruptions are part of any emerging technology's growing pains — much like early commercial airlines or internet services experienced their own setbacks. They point out that even human driven transportation systems suffer from unexpected outages and safety issues, and that automation still has the potential to reduce accidents caused by human error.

But recent events have also reignited debate about the role of regulation. Should driverless services be restricted to limited zones with controlled traffic conditions? Should they operate only with safety drivers on standby? And crucially, who bears responsibility when autonomous systems fail — the operator, the software developer, or the city's transportation authority?

The San Francisco incident doesn't signal the end of autonomous ambitions, but it serves as an important reminder that the road to a driverless future is far from straight. If anything, it underscores the need for tempered expectations, stronger public private cooperation, and a phased approach that acknowledges both the potential and the limitations of this transformative technology.

In a world captivated by AI and automation, driverless taxis remain one of the most compelling — and most contested — visions of tomorrow. Whether they become the dominant mode of urban transport, or settle into niche roles alongside human drivers, may depend less on marketing hype and more on how effectively the industry confronts the very real challenges illuminated by moments when the technology falters.

Global Alarm Over Lynching of Bangladeshi Hindus Echoes in the United States

Concerns are rising internationally over a spate of lynching attacks and violent assaults targeting members of the Hindu community in Bangladesh, with the issue gaining resonance far beyond South Asia — including within the United States. Human rights advocates, community leaders, and political figures have condemned the violence, urging stronger protections for religious minorities and greater accountability from governments.

The immediate trigger for global attention has been a series of violent incidents in Bangladesh involving members of the Hindu community. Several Hindu individuals have reportedly been attacked, beaten, or killed in mob violence linked to local tensions, allegations involving religious sites, and disputes that quickly escalate into communal confrontation. These events have revived long standing concerns about the safety of religious minorities in the country, where Hindus make up a significant but vulnerable segment of the population.

International observers, including civil liberties groups and diplomats, have pointed to these incidents as symptomatic of deeper societal fractures. They argue that the violence reflects underlying issues of intolerance and impunity, particularly in rural areas where law enforcement is often slow to act or perceived as biased. The resulting fear among minority communities has sparked calls for urgent reforms to uphold constitutional guarantees of equality and protection.

In the United States, the issue has resonated strongly within South Asian diaspora communities, many of whom have familial or cultural ties to Bangladesh. Advocacy organizations and civil rights activists have organised demonstrations, issued statements, and lobbied policymakers to raise awareness of the situation. For many in the diaspora, social media has played a powerful role in disseminating information about the violence and mobilising support for affected communities.

U.S. lawmakers from both parties have also weighed in, highlighting concerns over religious freedom and human rights. Some legislators have called for official statements condemning the violence, while others have suggested that foreign aid and diplomatic engagement be reviewed to ensure that pressure is maintained on authorities to protect vulnerable groups. These discussions reflect a broader trend in American politics where human rights issues — particularly those involving religious minorities — are increasingly influencing foreign policy debates.

Human rights organisations have urged the Bangladeshi government to conduct thorough and transparent investigations into each incident, hold perpetrators accountable, and implement measures to prevent future violence. They stress the importance of ensuring that law enforcement agencies respond swiftly to reports of mob violence and that victims receive justice and protection.

Analysts suggest that the international response, particularly from the United States, could shape how Bangladesh addresses communal tensions going forward. While Bangladesh's leadership has maintained that it is committed to safeguarding all citizens' rights, critics argue that rhetoric must be matched by action to prevent the recurrence of such tragic events.

The global echo of these lynching incidents underscores a sobering reality: violence against religious minorities is not confined by borders, and the international community's engagement — through diplomatic channels, public advocacy, and legislative pressure — may be critical in driving meaningful change. For many observers, the growing outcry signals a broader demand for societies everywhere to reaffirm their commitment to diversity, tolerance, and the rule of law.

Indian Insurance Sector Poised for Strong FY27 Growth on Back of Reforms and Tax Changes

India's insurance industry is gearing up for a robust resurgence in the financial year 2027 (FY27) after a relatively subdued performance in FY26. Analysts expect double-digit growth driven by regulatory reforms, tax rationalisation, and rising demand across both life and general insurance segments.

Central to the sector's improved outlook is a wave of policy and regulatory changes aimed at enhancing market depth, increasing foreign participation, and making insurance products more accessible and affordable. One of the most significant developments has been the amendment of the Insurance Act to allow 100 per cent foreign direct investment (FDI) in insurance companies. This move is expected to attract large inflows of global capital, bring international expertise into the market, and boost competition, which is likely to drive innovation and broaden product offerings.

Regulatory advances also include the launch of Bima Sugam, a unified digital marketplace for insurance products. The platform aggregates offerings from multiple insurers, simplifying comparison for customers and strengthening distribution channels, particularly in underserved regions. This digital integration is expected to improve access to insurance and streamline policy purchases, helping drive sector growth.

Tax reforms have played a critical role in improving the sector's competitiveness. Rationalisation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on insurance premiums has made various policies more affordable for consumers. This adjustment has already stimulated policy sales, with life and non-life insurers reporting strong premium growth in recent months as buyers respond to lower effective taxation.

Industry analysts also point to favourable base effects from the previous year as contributing to the anticipated FY27 growth rebound. While growth during FY26 remained modest, this sets up a statistically easier comparison in the coming year, amplifying the impact of renewed demand. Health and motor insurance are expected to be among the fastest-growing segments, supported by rising middle-class incomes, increasing awareness of financial risk protection, and sustained demand for comprehensive coverage.

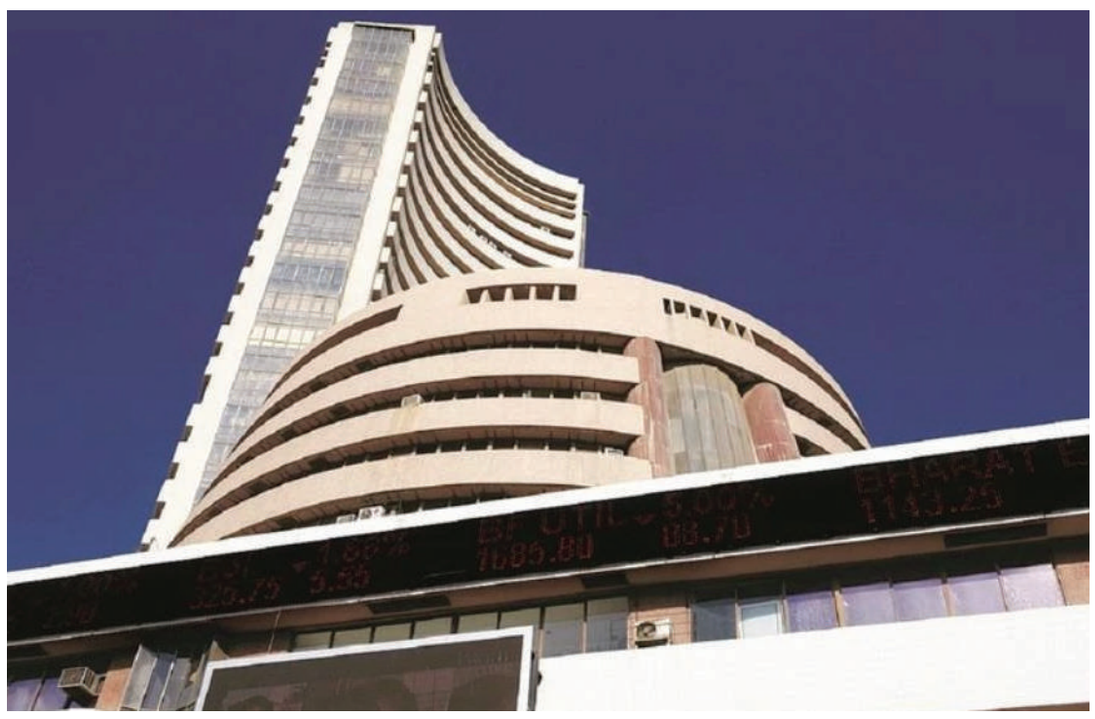
Independent ratings agencies forecast the life insurance sector to grow at an 8–11 per cent annual rate over FY26 and FY27, reflecting underlying strength in key product categories such as group plans and individual pension products. Regulatory support, digital integration, and improved service delivery are cited as ongoing growth drivers for the sector.

However, challenges remain. While reforms have laid a strong foundation, actual performance will depend on how effectively insurers convert regulatory relief into tangible customer benefits. Premium pricing, distribution reach, and product innovation will be key determinants of market momentum. Addressing gaps in protection levels, especially for rural and low-income segments, will be crucial for deeper insurance penetration.

Looking beyond the immediate horizon, industry observers are optimistic about India's long-term potential in the global insurance landscape. With penetration levels still relatively low compared with many advanced economies, there is significant room for growth. The combination of policy reforms, expanded foreign participation, GST rationalisation, and digitalisation is positioning the insurance sector as a core pillar of India's financial services ecosystem, contributing to broader economic stability and inclusive growth.

In summary, the Indian insurance industry appears set to regain its growth trajectory in FY27, underpinned by regulatory overhaul, tax reforms, and rising consumer demand. The next year could mark a turning point, reflecting not just a rebound from past sluggishness but a sustained expansion that supports financial inclusion and long-term economic resilience.

Macro Data, Policy Signals Set to Steer Markets in a Decisive Week



Global and domestic financial markets are gearing up for a significant week of macroeconomic data releases and central bank announcements that could shape investor sentiment and trading behaviour in the near term. With key indicators due across major economies, traders, fund managers, and policymakers are bracing for volatility and strategic repositioning.

At the heart of market focus this week are several critical macro data points — ranging from inflation readings to industrial output figures and retail sales reports. These indicators will provide fresh insight into how economies are faring amid shifting consumer demand, tightening monetary conditions, and geopolitical uncertainties that have marked the last several quarters.

In the United States, investors are closely watching inflation metrics, including the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Producer Price Index (PPI). After persistent inflationary pressures earlier this year forced aggressive interest rate hikes from the Federal Reserve, any signs of cooling prices could ease expectations for further tightening. Conversely, stubbornly high inflation might reinforce the view that monetary policy will stay restrictive for longer, pushing markets — particularly equities and bonds — into risk off territory.

Similarly, industrial production numbers from major economies are expected to signal whether manufacturing activity is regaining momentum or remains subdued. In countries where output has lagged consumer demand, such data could influence currency valuations and trade related sectors on stock exchanges. Economists caution that softer production figures, if accompanied by weak retail spending, might suggest that growth momentum is slowing more than anticipated.

Domestically, Indian equity markets are poised for active trading as investors digest quarterly macro reports alongside corporate earnings. Analysts believe that key data on industrial output and inflation will be crucial in shaping expectations around interest rate policy. India's central bank has maintained a cautious stance on inflation targeting, and new readings could either vindicate that approach or prompt markets to reassess rate expectations.

Beyond headline figures, finer details such as sectoral performance and core inflation components will also be scrutinised. Traders often adjust positions based on whether inflation is being driven by energy and food prices — which are more volatile — or by persistent underlying demand pressures. This can have profound implications for both fixed income and equity portfolios.

The foreign exchange market is not immune to these developments. Currency traders are likely to react sharply to unexpected data surprises, especially if they alter the interest rate outlook in major economies such as the United States and the Eurozone. Emerging market currencies, including the Indian rupee, could see heightened volatility as capital flows respond to differential rate expectations and risk sentiment.

On the policy front, comments and speeches from central bank officials this week are expected to provide further texture to rate narratives. Market participants often treat such communication as informal guidance, interpreting subtle shifts in tone as clues to future policy moves. In the current environment, where inflation and growth data send mixed signals, these qualitative cues can be as market moving as the hard numbers themselves.

Analysts are urging investors to brace for swings in trading patterns, particularly in interest rate futures, currency markets, and inflation sensitive sectors such as banking and consumer discretionary stocks. While some volatility is anticipated, a clear data beat — either stronger or weaker than expected — could trigger trend shifts across asset classes.

In summary, the upcoming week promises to be a pivotal one for markets. With macroeconomic data releases and policy commentary converging at a critical point in the economic cycle, investors will be closely watching every number and nuance. Whether markets react with calm reassessment or heightened turbulence will largely depend on how the new data aligns with existing expectations in an increasingly interconnected global financial landscape.

Market Cap of India's Top Seven Firms Drops ₹35, 439 Crore; SBI Slips Most

The combined market capitalisation of India's seven most valued companies fell by a significant ₹35,439 crore on Monday, reflecting renewed volatility in equity markets as investors reacted to broader macroeconomic pressures and sector specific concerns. Among these blue chip names, the State Bank of India (SBI) emerged as the biggest decliner, while other key players also recorded varying degrees of erosion in investor confidence.

The fall in market capitalisation was largely driven by profit booking after recent gains in broader indices and select heavyweight stocks. With global cues showing mixed economic signals, domestic investors adopted a risk off stance, leading to sell offs in some of the most heavily weighted securities on the benchmark indices.

State Bank of India bore the brunt of the downturn, slipping sharply amid concerns about asset quality and credit growth trajectories. Weakness in SBI shares reflects investor anxiety over rising non performing assets (NPAs) in certain loan segments and a cautious stance on future lending momentum. Since SBI's performance heavily influences banking benchmarks, its decline had a disproportionate impact on the overall market cap of the top seven.

Among the other marquee names, the likes of Reliance Industries, Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, and Bharti Airtel also saw declines, though the magnitude varied across sectors. Reliance Industries' slight dip mirrored cautious sentiment around retail and digital businesses, even as its oil and petrochemical verticals navigate global demand fluctuations. Meanwhile, IT firms such as TCS and Infosys faced pressure amid concerns about slower discretionary spending by global clients.

The aggregate dip in market value underscores how sensitive large cap stocks have become to both domestic and international developments. With inflation data, policy cues, and corporate earnings outlooks all feeding into market expectations, investors are recalibrating portfolios in anticipation of the next macroeconomic signal. Analysts note that profit booking ahead of key data releases often triggers short term volatility in high beta stocks, including the largest constituents of the benchmarks.

Market watchers also highlight sector rotation as a factor. Funds and retail investors alike have shown a tendency to book profits in overbought names and reallocate capital to mid and small caps or defensive sectors, especially when valuations appear extended after sustained rallies.

Despite the markdown in market capitalisation, experts believe that the long term prospects for India's top firms remain intact, given strong balance sheets, robust earnings trajectories, and dominant market positions. They caution, however, that near term trading will likely continue to reflect macroeconomic uncertainties, particularly around inflation, global growth prospects, and monetary policy outlooks.

For now, the slump in the combined valuation of the nation's leading companies serves as a reminder that even blue chip stocks are not insulated from market sentiment swings — and that investor focus remains sharply attuned to broader economic signals beyond headline indices.

Adani Group Announces ₹1.8 Trillion Defence Investment to Boost India's Military Capabilities

The Adani Group has unveiled plans for a massive ₹1.8 trillion investment in India's defence manufacturing sector in 2026, highlighting the rising role of private industry in strategic military capabilities. The investment, to be deployed through Adani Defence & Aerospace, underscores the company's ambitions to expand into advanced defence technologies and align with India's broader goals of self-reliance and modernisation in the sector.

The planned expenditure will target multiple areas, including unmanned and autonomous platforms across air, land, and sea, guided weapons and precision systems, advanced sensors and electronic warfare technologies, and AI-enabled operational tools. Additionally, the company intends to expand maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) capabilities along with training infrastructure, critical elements of a comprehensive defence ecosystem.

This announcement follows a period of strategic expansion for Adani Defence & Aerospace, which has already seen operational deployment of certain systems. The company's Drishti 10 unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) have been adopted by the Indian Army and Navy for intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance missions. Other platforms, such as counter-drone systems, loitering munitions, and shoulder-fired missile systems, have successfully completed trials, demonstrating operational readiness.

Today, Adani Defence & Aerospace is among India's largest private-sector defence entities, with capabilities spanning drones, underwater systems, counter-UAS technologies, guided weapons, small arms, and advanced airborne platforms such as airborne warning and control systems (AWACS). Strategic acquisitions and integration of aviation services and MRO platforms have allowed the company to create a vertically integrated manufacturing and support ecosystem.

The 1.8 trillion investment highlights the increasing role of private players in a sector traditionally dominated by state-owned enterprises. Government reforms, including higher foreign direct investment (FDI) limits and easier policy approvals, have encouraged conglomerates like Adani to commit substantial capital toward indigenous defence capability development.

Analysts note that this scale of private investment could reduce India's historical reliance on defence imports, a major contributor to the trade deficit. With global geopolitical tensions rising and advanced, technology-intensive warfare becoming the norm, boosting domestic manufacturing is a strategic imperative. A strong private-sector presence could not only meet domestic military needs but also position India as a global defence export hub.

Despite the promising outlook, challenges remain. Defence manufacturing involves long development cycles, stringent regulatory approvals, and high upfront costs. The ultimate success of this investment will depend on effective execution, alignment with armed forces requirements, and a supportive policy and regulatory environment that encourages innovation and timely delivery.

Economically, the investment is expected to generate significant employment opportunities and strengthen the broader industrial base. Expansion of defence production will increase demand for engineers, skilled workers, and suppliers, including micro, small, and medium enterprises, thereby creating a cascading impact on the domestic economy.

Adani Group's ₹1.8 trillion defence investment marks a pivotal moment in India's industrial and strategic landscape, illustrating how private capital is increasingly shaping the country's defence capabilities and contributing to both security and economic growth.

When a Flagship Loses Its Price Tag Ego: OPPO's Quiet Discount Turns Heads

In a smartphone market obsessed with bigger numbers, louder launches, and ever-rising prices, OPPO has taken an unexpectedly calm approach. One of its flagship smartphones is now available at a sharply reduced price on the company's official platform, turning what was once a premium indulgence into a far more practical purchase. The move has sparked interest not because it was flashy, but because it was quietly bold.

Flagship phones usually come wrapped in prestige. Their prices rarely drop unless a festival sale or a major shopping event demands it. This time, however, OPPO's decision feels different. The discount appeared without dramatic announcements or aggressive marketing, catching the attention of users who were simply browsing or comparing options. That understated rollout gives the offer an offbeat charm in an industry that thrives on hype.

What makes the deal especially appealing is that the device in question still holds its ground as a true flagship. It offers a refined design, reliable performance, capable cameras, and features meant for long-term use. Nothing about the phone feels outdated, yet the revised price suddenly changes the way people look at it. Instead of being a luxury item, it starts to feel like a smart investment.

This shift reflects a broader change in consumer behaviour. Buyers today are less impressed by spec sheets alone. They want value that lasts — consistent software updates, dependable performance, and a device that won't feel obsolete within a year. When a flagship becomes affordable without sacrificing its premium identity, it naturally gains new relevance.

There's also a psychological angle at play. A reduced price from the brand's own store carries a sense of trust. It signals confidence in the product rather than desperation to clear stock. For potential buyers, that assurance matters just as much as the discount itself.

Interestingly, this move may also nudge competitors to rethink their pricing strategies. As more brands experiment with flexible pricing for high-end devices, the line between mid-range and premium continues to blur. Consumers benefit the most from this quiet competition, gaining access to better technology without stretching their budgets.

In the end, OPPO's flagship discount isn't just about saving money. It's about redefining how premium smartphones are positioned in a rapidly maturing market. When cutting-edge technology becomes more approachable, it stops being a symbol of excess and starts becoming part of everyday life.

And in today's noisy tech world, that kind of quiet confidence stands out the most.

Realme Neo 8 Leaks Hint at a Powerhouse That Breaks the Usual Smartphone Rules

The smartphone rumour mill is spinning fast, and at the centre of the buzz is Realme's upcoming Neo 8. Expected to make its debut in China soon, the device is already drawing attention not through official teasers, but through a series of leaks that suggest something unusually ambitious. If these early details are accurate, the Neo 8 could blur the line between mid-range pricing and flagship performance.

What makes the Neo 8 stand out is its reported focus on raw power and endurance. Leaks point to a top-tier processor normally seen only in premium phones, suggesting that Realme is aiming to deliver flagship-level performance without positioning the device as an ultra-expensive model. This approach fits well with Realme's reputation for pushing aggressive value propositions and challenging established pricing norms.

Equally eye-catching is the rumoured battery capacity. The Neo 8 is said to feature an exceptionally large battery, one that could comfortably support heavy gaming, long video sessions, and all-day multitasking without constantly hunting for a charger. Paired with fast charging support, the device appears designed for users who value stamina as much as speed.

The display is expected to complement this performance-first approach. A large AMOLED screen with high resolution and a smooth refresh rate would make the Neo 8 suitable for both entertainment and productivity. Flat display design, which many users prefer for practicality and durability, is also said to be part of the package.

Design-wise, leaks suggest that Realme is not cutting corners. A premium build with a metal frame and glass finish is being talked about, indicating that the Neo 8 may look and feel more expensive than its expected price bracket. Added features like improved water and dust resistance and advanced biometric security further strengthen the impression that this phone is aiming higher than its "Neo" label suggests.

Another interesting twist is the possibility of rebranding for global markets. Realme has previously introduced similar devices under different names outside China, and the Neo 8 could follow that pattern. For buyers in markets like India, this might mean seeing the same hardware arrive under a more familiar series name.

Of course, until the company makes an official announcement, these details remain speculative. But the overall picture painted by the leaks is clear: Realme seems intent on building a phone that challenges expectations rather than follows them.

If the Neo 8 delivers even most of what is being rumoured, it could become one of those rare devices that forces competitors to rethink their strategies. In a crowded smartphone market, that kind of disruption is exactly what keeps things interesting.

A Tablet That Keeps It Simple: OnePlus Pad Go 2 Brings Calm to a Noisy Gadget World

In a tech landscape crowded with flashy launches, exaggerated promises, and premium price tags, the OnePlus Pad Go 2 quietly walks in with a different philosophy — keep things simple, affordable, and reliable. It doesn't aim to replace your laptop or compete with ultra-premium tablets. Instead, it positions itself as a companion device for everyday users who want comfort, not complexity.

At first glance, the OnePlus Pad Go 2 looks familiar yet refined. The clean design, slim profile, and balanced weight make it easy to hold for long hours, whether you're binge-watching a series, reading e-books, or attending online classes. It avoids unnecessary design gimmicks, which actually works in its favor. This is a tablet meant to blend into daily life rather than scream for attention.

The display is where the Pad Go 2 makes a quiet statement. It's not chasing extreme brightness numbers or over-the-top visuals, but it delivers a comfortable viewing experience. Colors are pleasant, text is easy on the eyes, and the screen feels well-suited for long reading sessions and casual entertainment. For students and home users, this balance matters more than raw specs.

Performance-wise, the tablet knows its limits — and respects them. It handles routine tasks like browsing, video streaming, note-taking, and light multitasking smoothly. You won't find it struggling under normal usage, but it also doesn't pretend to be a gaming powerhouse. That honesty is refreshing. In a world where every device claims to do everything, the Pad Go 2 simply does what it's meant to do — and does it well.

Battery life is another area where the tablet shines quietly. It lasts long enough to get through a full day of mixed usage without anxiety. For people tired of charging multiple devices constantly, this reliability becomes a subtle luxury.

Software experience remains clean and user-friendly, staying true to OnePlus' reputation. The interface feels intuitive, with minimal clutter and sensible customization options. It's approachable even for first-time tablet users or older family members.

What makes the OnePlus Pad Go 2 truly offbeat is not what it adds, but what it avoids. No aggressive upselling, no unnecessary premium push, no attempt to overwhelm the user. It feels like a device built for real people — students, families, casual users — rather than spec-sheet warriors.

In the end, the OnePlus Pad Go 2 isn't about redefining tablets. It's about redefining expectations. And sometimes, in a noisy tech world, that quiet confidence is exactly what stands out.

When Premium Goes Popular: How iPhones at ₹58,000 Are Changing India's Smartphone Story

For years, owning an iPhone in India was as much a status symbol as it was a technology choice. Premium pricing kept Apple devices firmly in the aspirational zone, admired from afar by many and owned by relatively few. But a new wave of year-end sales has quietly flipped that narrative, with iPhone 16 and even select iPhone 17 models being spotted at prices close to ₹58,000 — a figure once unthinkable for Apple's latest lineup.

This sudden affordability feels almost offbeat in a market used to Apple's rigid pricing discipline. What's driving the change is not a single dramatic discount, but a layered mix of festive offers, bank card benefits, exchange bonuses, and retailer-led promotions. The result is a rare moment where premium meets practical, and the psychological barrier around iPhone ownership begins to crumble.

What makes this development particularly interesting is the audience it attracts. These deals are not just tempting loyal Apple users looking to upgrade. First-time iPhone buyers — students, young professionals, and even small business owners — are suddenly entering the conversation. The idea of owning Apple's newest ecosystem at a mid-range Android price point feels like a small personal victory for many.

The offbeat angle lies in how quietly this shift is happening. There are no dramatic keynote announcements or flashy ads declaring a price revolution. Instead, it's happening through checkout pages, offline counters, and word-of-mouth excitement. Someone discovers the deal, shares it in a family group, and suddenly the iPhone stops feeling exclusive and starts feeling attainable.

This pricing moment also reflects a broader change in India's smartphone culture. Consumers are no longer chasing specs alone. Longevity, software support, camera reliability, and resale value now matter more than raw numbers. Apple's promise of long-term updates and stable performance becomes more attractive when the entry cost drops.

However, there's also a subtle trade-off. These prices often rely on specific payment methods, limited stock, or exchanges that require handing over an older device. The ₹58,000 iPhone isn't simply sitting on a shelf waiting to be picked up — it has to be unlocked through smart buying decisions.

Still, the symbolism is powerful. A device once associated with luxury is inching closer to everyday affordability. In doing so, it blurs the line between premium and mass-market technology.

In the end, this isn't just a sale story. It's a cultural moment. When an iPhone becomes a realistic choice rather than a distant dream, it signals how far India's digital aspirations — and purchasing power — have evolved.

India's Data Protection Board Takes Shape—Quietly, but with Digital Intent

While public attention often gravitates toward flashy app launches and headline-grabbing tech deals, a quieter development is unfolding in the background of India's digital ecosystem. The groundwork for the country's Data Protection Board is underway, and officials say the online infrastructure required for its functioning is already in place. It's a low-key update, but one that carries significant implications for how personal data will be governed in the years ahead.

The Data Protection Board is a key pillar of India's new data protection framework, designed to oversee how personal information is collected, processed, and safeguarded. What makes this effort particularly noteworthy is its digital-first approach. Instead of building a traditional office-heavy institution, the focus is on creating an online system where complaints can be filed, cases managed, and decisions communicated electronically. In many ways, the board is being built to reflect the very digital world it aims to regulate.

This matters because India's online footprint has expanded rapidly. From digital payments and e-commerce to social media and government services, personal data flows constantly across platforms. With that growth comes risk—data breaches, misuse of personal information, and lack of accountability. The board is meant to act as an independent authority that can step in when rules are violated, ensuring that data protection is not just a concept on paper but a practical, enforceable reality.

Officials have indicated that while the technical systems are ready, procedural steps such as appointing members and finalising operational guidelines are still in progress. This phased approach suggests an attempt to avoid rushed implementation while ensuring that the board can become functional without unnecessary delays once formalities are complete.

What gives this development an offbeat edge is how quietly it is progressing. There are no big announcements or countdowns, just steady preparation behind the scenes. Yet the impact could be far-reaching. Once operational, the board will have the power to investigate complaints, issue directions, and impose penalties, potentially reshaping how companies treat user data.

For citizens, this signals a shift toward greater accountability and transparency. For businesses, it serves as a reminder that data protection is no longer optional. And for India's digital economy as a whole, the Data Protection Board could become a crucial trust-building institution.

Sometimes, the most important tech stories aren't about devices or discounts—but about the systems quietly being built to protect the digital lives of millions.

BCCI Denies Coaching Speculation, Backs Gautam Gambhir Amid Test Setback

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has firmly dismissed reports suggesting that former India batting great VVS Laxman was approached to take over as the head coach of the Indian Test team following a disappointing run under current coach Gautam Gambhir. The clarification comes amid growing debate around India's red-ball performances and rising speculation over potential changes in the coaching setup.

Recent reports claimed that a senior BCCI official had sounded out Laxman regarding the Test coach's role after India's poor showing in the longer format. Those rumours gathered momentum after India suffered back-to-back underwhelming Test series results, raising questions over team selection, strategy, and preparation. However, the BCCI has categorically denied any such move, terming the speculation "baseless" and "incorrect."

According to the board, Gambhir continues to enjoy its full backing and remains firmly in charge of the national team across formats. Officials have stressed that there has been no internal discussion about replacing him and that stability remains a priority as India prepares for a demanding international calendar.

Gambhir's tenure as head coach has delivered mixed outcomes. While India has enjoyed success in limited-overs cricket, including strong performances in major tournaments, results in Test cricket have not matched expectations. The recent defeats have prompted criticism from former players and fans, particularly given India's traditionally strong record in the longest format of the game.

VVS Laxman's name entered the discussion largely due to his stature within Indian cricket and his current role in overseeing player development at the National Cricket Academy. A respected figure with deep understanding of the red-ball game, Laxman has often been viewed as a potential future coach. However, the BCCI has made it clear that he has not been contacted regarding the Test coach position and continues to focus on his existing responsibilities.

The board's public stance suggests a desire to avoid knee-jerk reactions and allow the current coaching group time to address shortcomings. With several important Test series on the horizon, including overseas tours and high-profile home contests, the emphasis appears to be on long-term planning rather than abrupt changes.

For Gambhir, the message is clear: results in Test cricket will be closely monitored, but for now, he retains the board's confidence. For Indian cricket fans, the coming months will be crucial in determining whether the team can rediscover its red-ball dominance and silence the growing debate surrounding its leadership.

Magnus Carlsen in Spotlight After Emotional Moment at World Rapid Championship

Chess rarely produces scenes of visible confrontation, but an unusual incident involving world number one Magnus Carlsen at the FIDE World Rapid Championship has drawn widespread attention. The Norwegian grandmaster, known for his intense focus and competitive spirit, briefly lost his composure after suffering a defeat, pushing a cameraman who was filming him as he exited the playing area.

The incident occurred following Carlsen's loss in a crucial rapid game during the championship. Visibly frustrated after the result, Carlsen completed the customary post-match formalities before leaving the venue. As a cameraman attempted to follow closely to capture his reaction, Carlsen extended his arm and pushed the camera aside, clearly signalling his unwillingness to be filmed at that moment. The exchange was brief and did not escalate further, but it was enough to spark discussion across the chess world.

Carlsen is widely regarded as one of the greatest players in the history of the game, particularly in faster formats such as rapid and blitz. His standards are famously high, and defeats — especially in major tournaments — often trigger strong emotional responses. While chess is usually associated with calm demeanour and quiet halls, the pressure at elite events can be immense, with players making dozens of high-stakes decisions in a matter of minutes.

The defeat itself was significant in the context of the tournament, coming against a strong opponent in a tightly contested round. Such losses can have a major impact on standings, adding to the psychological weight carried by top players. For Carlsen, who has won multiple world titles and is accustomed to dominating opponents, moments of vulnerability tend to attract heightened scrutiny.

Reactions to the incident have been mixed. Some fans and commentators defended Carlsen, pointing out that athletes across sports occasionally show frustration under extreme pressure. Others argued that public figures, especially those with Carlsen's stature, must maintain composure regardless of the circumstances and show respect to officials and media personnel.

Despite the momentary lapse, Carlsen continued competing in the championship and remained a strong contender as the event progressed. The incident did not appear to affect his overall focus, suggesting that it was a fleeting emotional reaction rather than a deeper issue.

The episode serves as a reminder that even in a sport defined by silence and strategy, emotions can spill over. Behind the calculated moves and calm expressions are competitors pushing themselves to the limit — and sometimes, that intensity shows in unexpected ways.

India Women Aim to Maintain Perfect Record in 4th T20I Against Sri Lanka

The Indian women's cricket team continued its dominant run in the ongoing T20I series against Sri Lanka as the two sides faced off in the fourth match of the five-game contest. With India already holding an unassailable lead after winning the opening three matches, the focus shifted to maintaining momentum and testing bench strength as the series neared its conclusion.

India have looked a class apart throughout the series, excelling in both batting and bowling. The top order, led by aggressive openers, has provided quick starts, allowing the middle order to play with freedom. Consistency has been the hallmark of the Indian batting unit, with multiple players stepping up rather than relying on individual brilliance.

Captain Harmanpreet Kaur's leadership has been central to India's success. Her calm decision-making and sharp field placements have complemented disciplined bowling performances. The pace attack, supported well by the spinners, has repeatedly kept Sri Lanka's batters under pressure, preventing them from building strong partnerships.

Shafali Verma and Smriti Mandhana have once again attracted attention with their intent at the top of the order. Their ability to dominate the powerplay has often put Sri Lanka on the back foot early. In the middle overs, experienced players have ensured that India do not lose control, even when quick wickets fall.

Sri Lanka, on the other hand, have found the series challenging. Despite moments of resistance, they have struggled to match India's depth and consistency. Captain Chamari Athapaththu has led from the front with determination, but a lack of sustained support from the rest of the batting lineup has hurt the visitors. Their bowlers have tried varying their pace and lengths, but containing India's batters has remained a difficult task.

With the series already decided, the fourth T20I presented an opportunity for India to experiment with combinations and give game time to younger players. Such matches are crucial for building squad depth and preparing for future international tournaments. For Sri Lanka, the focus remained on salvaging confidence and identifying positives ahead of the final match.

As the contest unfolded, India aimed to continue its winning momentum and underline its growing strength in women's cricket, while Sri Lanka looked to regroup and produce a more competitive performance. The match served as another reminder of the gap India has managed to create through planning, depth, and consistent execution.

Indian Youth Dominate Global Sports Stage in 2025

From the roar of cricket stadiums to the quiet intensity of a chessboard, 2025 has been a breakthrough year for young Indian athletes across a wide array of sports. Whether breaking records in cricket, claiming world titles in chess, or winning historic medals in para athletics and shooting, India's emerging stars have made their mark on the global stage.

In cricket, 14-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi emerged as a sensation, breaking multiple records and becoming the youngest player to secure an Indian Premier League contract. His explosive performances, including a 35-ball century, captivated fans and highlighted the depth of emerging talent in India. Vaibhav also delivered historic centuries in Under-19 ODIs and domestic T20 tournaments, signaling a bright future for the sport.

On the chessboard, 19-year-old Divya Deshmukh made history by winning the FIDE Women's World Cup, defeating a fellow Indian Grandmaster in the final and becoming the fourth Indian woman to earn the prestigious Grandmaster title. Her triumph emphasized India's growing strength in chess, a trend echoed by strong performances from other young Indians in international competitions.

In squash, 17-year-old Anahat Singh led India to its first-ever team title at the Squash World Cup, defeating seasoned opponents in straight games and demonstrating a remarkable level of maturity and skill at such a young age.

Indian para athletes also made headlines. 18-year-old Sheetal Devi captured gold at the World Para Archery Championships, defeating the world number one in an exciting final. Her victories in both individual and team events showcased resilience and determination, inspiring athletes across the country.

Track and field saw standout performances as well. Javelin thrower Sachin Yadav achieved a personal best at the World Athletics Championships, while shooter Samrat Rana won the men's 10m air pistol title at the ISSF World Championships, becoming the first Indian to claim a senior world title in an Olympic pistol event.

In women's cricket, Shafali Verma played a pivotal role in India's ODI World Cup victory, scoring the youngest half-century in a final and proving her mettle on the biggest stage.

Across disciplines — from cricket and athletics to chess and shooting — young Indian athletes have not only competed but dominated in 2025. Their achievements reflect not just individual brilliance but also the growing depth of talent in India, signaling a promising future for the nation in international sports.

Victor Osimhen and Sadio Mané Shine as Nigeria and Senegal Make Waves in World Cup Qualification

In an intense round of African World Cup qualifiers, Victor Osimhen and Sadio Mané were at the forefront of action as Nigeria secured a crucial win and Senegal fought to a draw, keeping their hopes alive in the race for a spot at the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Nigeria's clash was a must win fixture, and the Super Eagles delivered just that. Led by Osimhen's clinical finishing, they secured a victory that strengthens their position in the qualification standings. Osimhen, whose goal scoring prowess continues to make him one of Africa's most feared forwards, struck with precision, giving Nigeria the edge in a tightly contested game. His contribution wasn't just about the goal, but also about leadership and composure on a big stage — qualities that the team has increasingly relied upon throughout the campaign.

Osimhen was well supported by a disciplined Nigerian side that worked hard to control possession and limit the opposition's opportunities. Nigeria's victory marked an important step toward securing a berth at the 2026 World Cup, and it came with plenty of celebration from fans who have rallied behind the team's resurgence under new management.

Meanwhile, Senegal — Africa's reigning champions from the 2022 World Cup cycle and the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations winners — found themselves in a more challenging encounter. Despite their star studded lineup, the Lions of Teranga were held to a draw, with Sadio Mané providing one of the highlights of the match. Mané's experience and attacking threat again proved vital as he got on the scoresheet, demonstrating his ability to influence games even as his national team battles through a difficult qualifying group.

Senegal's draw was a mixed result. On one hand, securing a point away from home keeps them within touching distance of qualification. On the other, dropping two points in a must win situation adds pressure as the group stage progresses. The result means Senegal must now carefully navigate their remaining fixtures to ensure they finish in a qualifying position.

Both Nigeria's win and Senegal's draw underline how competitive African qualification has become. Many teams have elevated their levels, making every match a potential turning point in the race to the World Cup. For players like Osimhen and Mané, these games are also personal tests — opportunities to lead their nations through high stakes football and to inspire teammates with moments of individual brilliance.

With several qualification rounds still to come, both teams will be assessing their strengths and weaknesses. Nigeria will aim to build on their momentum, while Senegal must regroup after the hard fought draw and prepare for what promises to be a pressure filled run in. For fans across Africa, the drama of World Cup qualifying is far from over — and with stars like Osimhen and Mané in action, excitement is sure to remain high.

‘45 The Movie’Will Captivate Everyone, Says Shiva Rajkumar at Grand Pre-Release Event

The much-anticipated pan-South film 45 The Movie, starring Karunada Chakravarthy Shiva Rajkumar, Real Star Upendra, and Raj B. Shetty, is gearing up for its grand Telugu release on January 1. Directed by Arjun Janya and produced by Smt. Uma Ramesh Reddy and M. Ramesh Reddy under the Suraj Productions banner, the film’s Telugu version will be released by Mythri Distributors. As part of promotions, the makers held a pre-release event on Saturday, drawing attention from fans and film enthusiasts.

Speaking at the event, Shiva Rajkumar expressed his strong belief in the film’s emotional and philosophical depth. “After Veda, I came to Hyderabad again for 45. Arjun Janya narrated the story to me in just four to five minutes, and the interval and climax left a deep impact. I immediately felt he should direct this film himself,” he said. Shivanna added that the film teaches audiences to respect all living beings and encourages people to live happily, however long life may be. He praised Satya Hegde’s cinematography and Ravi Varma’s action choreography, confidently stating that 45 will touch everyone’s hearts.

Real Star Upendra echoed similar sentiments, lauding Arjun Janya’s transformation from a successful music director to a powerful storyteller. “I was impressed by the way he enacted every character during narration. I have never seen Shivanna in this kind of role before. Arjun has given me a character no one dared to offer earlier,” Upendra said. He also expressed confidence that Telugu audiences, known for supporting meaningful cinema, will embrace 45 wholeheartedly.

Director Arjun Janya thanked the cast and producers, calling 45 the result of three and a half years of relentless effort. “Audiences will experience a completely new world through this film. Shivanna garu, Upendra garu, and Raj B. Shetty delivered phenomenal performances,” he said, urging viewers to watch the film in theatres on January 1.

Producer Ramesh Reddy highlighted the film’s unique presentation of philosophical elements, stating that words alone cannot describe 45. Mythri Shashi added that while the first half builds steadily, the post-interval portions reveal the powerful avatars of Shiva Rajkumar and Upendra, with a striking climax and a strong message for the younger generation.

With a stellar cast, compelling storytelling, and high technical standards, 45 The Movie is poised to offer a memorable cinematic experience when it hits theatres this New Year.

Animation Film ‘Kiki & Koko’ Teaser Released, Promises to Teach Children Real-Life Values

The growing popularity of animation films among global audiences has inspired Indian filmmakers to explore the genre with meaningful storytelling. Following the success of Maha Avatar Narasimha, which impressed both children and adults earlier this year, a new Indian animation film titled Kiki & Koko is now drawing attention with its heart-touching theme and value-driven narrative.

Presented by Inika Studios, Kiki & Koko is produced by Dharani and directed by P. Narayanan. Designed as an edutainment film, the project aims to entertain children while teaching them real-life lessons and human values. The teaser of the film was officially released at a press meet held at Prasads Preview Theatre in Hyderabad, where the team shared insights into the vision behind the movie.

Child artiste Srinika, who voices the character of Koko, expressed her excitement at the event. She said playing Koko made her extremely happy, adding that Kiki is portrayed as her best friend in the film. Srinika shared her love for animation movies and revealed her dream of becoming a good actor in the future.

Creative Director Gokul Raj Bhaskar, who has over 20 years of experience in the Malayalam animation industry, said Kiki & Koko stands apart from typical fantasy-driven animation films. “Instead of fantasy, we are showing reality to children. Through these characters, we are introducing emotions and real-life situations that kids can relate to and learn from,” he said, adding that Telugu audiences’ love for cinema encouraged the team to bring the film to them.

Director P. Narayanan highlighted the need for value-based content for children. He pointed out that many kids today are influenced by violent imagery and unrealistic superheroes. “Through Kiki & Koko, we want to show children how to love themselves, respect elders, say sorry when they are wrong, and help others. This film blends humanity with realism and promotes values like sharing, caring, and humility,” he said, describing the project as a perfect mix of entertainment and education.

CEO Meena Chabria said the idea was born from the need to create meaningful content for children in today’s fast-paced world. She noted that unlike earlier times, when elders narrated moral stories, today’s children lack such exposure. “Kiki & Koko teaches children how to behave, speak, and grow into good human beings. It is not just for kids, but also for parents and adults with childlike hearts,” she said, adding that the film will release theatrically next year and later stream on OTT platforms in multiple languages.

Producer Dharani concluded by stating that the core objective of Kiki & Koko is to instill goodness and emotional understanding in young minds. The animated film is set to release in theatres and on OTT platforms in nine Indian and international languages, aiming to reach audiences worldwide.

Prabhas Promises Vintage Darling Entertainment with ‘The Raja Saab’ at Grand Pre-Release Event

Hyderabad witnessed a massive fan frenzy as Rebel Star Prabhas attended the grand pre-release event of his much-awaited film The Raja Saab, held in the city ahead of its Sankranti release. Slated for a worldwide theatrical release on January 9, the horror-comedy entertainer is directed by Maruthi and produced on a lavish scale by TG Vishwa Prasad and Krithi Prasad under the People Media Factory banner.

Addressing the packed venue, Prabhas said the film was made purely to give wholesome entertainment to his fans. “After watching the climax, I myself became a fan of Maruthi’s writing. We wanted to give Darling’s fans full-on entertainment, and I believe The Raja Saab delivers that. Along with all Sankranti releases, I hope this film also becomes a blockbuster,” he said, drawing thunderous cheers.

Director Maruthi described the project as one of the most emotional journeys of his career. He revealed that despite Prabhas not needing to do a film in this genre after achieving global stardom, the actor instantly connected with the story and supported it wholeheartedly. “We didn’t just make a film, we made a large-scale entertainer. Prabhas’ involvement, effort, and encouragement pushed this project to another level,” Maruthi said, adding that the climax moved him to tears after the final background score was added.

Several members of the cast and crew shared memorable experiences from the three-year-long journey. Actresses Malavika Mohanan, Nidhhi Agerwal, and Riddhi Kumar expressed gratitude for sharing screen space with Prabhas, calling him a star with an extraordinary heart. Malavika said the film gave her scope beyond routine glamour, while Nidhhi termed working with Prabhas a “dream come true.”

Veteran actress Zarina Wahab, who plays Prabhas’ grandmother, praised his humility and warmth, saying she had never met an actor with such a good heart in her 40-year career. Comedian Saptagiri predicted massive box-office numbers, claiming the trailer itself was “on another level” and showcased Prabhas in a vintage, romantic avatar fans have long missed.

Producer TG Vishwa Prasad stated that The Raja Saab is the biggest film made by People Media Factory to date and promised it would set new benchmarks in the horror-fantasy genre globally. With music by Thaman, cinematography by Karthik Palani, and a strong technical team, expectations are sky-high.

Featuring an ensemble cast including Sanjay Dutt and Boman Irani, The Raja Saab is gearing up to double Sankranti festivities with laughter, thrills, and vintage Darling charm, as Prabhas returns to entertain audiences in style.

Huma Qureshi Joins Yash’s ‘Toxic: A Fairytale for Grown-Ups’, First Look as Elizabeth Unveiled

The buzz around Rocking Star Yash’s highly anticipated film Toxic: A Fairytale for Grown-Ups has intensified with the unveiling of Huma Qureshi’s first look from the film. The makers have introduced Huma as Elizabeth, a character that promises mystery, intensity, and a commanding screen presence in what is shaping up to be one of the most awaited releases of 2026.

In the striking first-look poster, Huma Qureshi is seen standing in a graveyard, surrounded by weathered tombstones and stone angels, creating a dark and gothic atmosphere. Positioned beside a vintage black car, she is dressed in an off-shoulder black outfit with dramatic sleeves, blending old-world elegance with a sense of foreboding. The visual hints at the layered and intense world of Toxic, while suggesting that Elizabeth will play a crucial role in the narrative.

Director Geetu Mohandas, who is helming the ambitious project, shared a heartfelt note while announcing Huma’s casting. Calling it one of the trickiest roles to cast, Geetu said the character demanded an actor with “high-octane calibre and undeniable presence.” She added that from the moment Huma entered the frame, her effortless sophistication and intensity brought the character of Elizabeth alive. Geetu described Huma as a performer who constantly questions and challenges artistic interpretations, making that dialogue an essential part of their creative journey. According to the director, this role will mark a turning point, showcasing Huma as an undeniable and commanding presence on the big screen.

Reacting to the director’s post, Huma Qureshi expressed her gratitude and excitement. She recalled her first meeting with Geetu, saying she was “bowled over by the sheer audacity and magnitude” of what the team was attempting. Huma praised Geetu’s vision and leadership, calling the process of watching the film take shape “nothing short of magical.” She also thanked Yash, referring to him as an “undeniable force of nature,” and hinted that the film is set to be explosive.

Written by Yash and Geetu Mohandas and directed by Geetu, Toxic: A Fairytale for Grown-Ups has been simultaneously shot in Kannada and English, with dubbed versions planned in multiple Indian languages. Backed by a strong technical team and featuring international-level action choreography, the film is slated for a grand theatrical release on March 19, 2026, during the festive weekend of Eid, Ugadi, and Gudi Padwa.

‘O Andala Rakshasi’ Arriving on January 2 Promises Compelling Content, Say Sheraz Mehdi and Team at Pre-Release Event

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

Speaking at the event, Sheraz Mehdi expressed strong confidence in the project. “We are releasing O Andala Rakshasi on January 2 on a large scale. Once in a year, a truly good film comes along, and our film is one such work,” he said. Praising the ensemble cast, Sheraz noted that Vihanshi Hegde, Kriti Verma, Neha Deshpande, Akhila, Geetha Reddy, Sneha, Priya Deshpande, Suman, and Thammareddy Bharadwaj have all delivered remarkable performances. “This is a film with excellent content. The audience will not feel bored even for a minute. It is entertaining and also carries a strong message, with outstanding twists. It will especially appeal to women,” he added.

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

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

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

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

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