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Telangana Assembly Winter Session Begins Amid Heated Political Expectations

Hyderabad TPN Bureau | December 29

The winter session of the Telangana Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council began on Monday amid heightened political anticipation and tight security arrangements at the Assembly premises in Hyderabad. The session is expected to witness intense debates as the ruling Congress government and the opposition Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) prepare to lock horns over key governance, irrigation, and welfare issues.

The proceedings commenced at 10:30 am with members paying tributes to former legislators and public figures who passed away recently. Following the obituary references, both Houses were adjourned for the day and scheduled to resume business later this week. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, senior Cabinet ministers, and Leader of the Opposition K. Chandrashekhara Rao were present on the opening day, marking a rare appearance by the BRS chief in the Assembly after a prolonged gap.

A notable moment during the session's opening was the cordial interaction between Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and KCR. The Chief Minister walked



up to the opposition leader, greeted him, and enquired about his health, drawing attention amid the otherwise charged political atmosphere. Several legislators from both sides exchanged greetings, briefly softening the confrontational tone expected in the days ahead. The winter session assumes significance as it comes in the backdrop of recent political developments and growing public debate over governance priorities in the state. The opposition BRS has announced that it will aggressively raise issues related to irrigation projects, particularly the Krishna and Godavari river water sharing, as well as the progress and maintenance of major lift irrigation schemes. The party has accused the Congress government of failing to safeguard Telangana's interests in inter-state water

disputes.

The ruling Congress, on the other hand, is expected to defend its policies and place the blame for several unresolved issues on the previous BRS administration. The government plans to introduce and debate several important bills during the session, including amendments related to municipal administration, local governance, taxation, and welfare measures. Bills replacing earlier ordinances are also likely to be tabled. Security around the Assembly complex was significantly tightened in anticipation of protests and demonstrations. Senior police officials deployed additional personnel at key locations, including entry points and surrounding areas, to ensure smooth conduct of the session. Authorities also took preventive measures to avoid any disruption from political

activists or public organisations.

The BRS has demanded that the Assembly session be held for at least 15 days to allow comprehensive discussion on public issues. Opposition leaders alleged that the government was curtailing Assembly sittings to avoid scrutiny. They have vowed to raise concerns related to farmers' welfare, fertiliser availability, implementation of crop support schemes, unemployment, and issues affecting government employees.

As the session progresses, both sides are expected to engage in sharp exchanges, reflecting the evolving political dynamics in Telangana. The winter session is being closely watched as it may set the tone for future legislative battles and shape public perception of governance in the state.



Irrigation Minister Reaffirms Commitment to 90 TMC Allocation for Palamuru-Rangareddy Project

Hyderabad TPN Bureau | December 29

Telangana Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Monday strongly reaffirmed the Congress government's commitment to completing the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme (PRLIS) with its originally planned water allocation of 90 TMC, rejecting allegations of any dilution or deviation in the project's design.

Speaking during an informal interaction with the media, the Minister said the present government is strictly adhering to the Government Order issued by the previous Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) government on August 18, 2022, which itself proposed the 90 TMC allocation. This included 45 TMC from savings in minor irrigation schemes and another 45 TMC from Telangana's share arising from Andhra Pradesh's diversion of Godavari waters. "The BRS government itself proposed 90 TMC in its submissions to the Centre. We are implementing the same pro-

posal without any modification. Claims that the Congress government is reducing water allocation are completely false," Uttam Kumar Reddy said, accusing the opposition of spreading misinformation.

He alleged that despite initiating the project, the previous BRS government stalled works on critical stretches such as the Narlapur-Edula link and failed to commence distributary and ayacut canal works. This, he said, delayed irrigation benefits to over 12.3 lakh acres across drought-prone districts including Nagarkurnool, Rangareddy, Vikarabad, Narayanpet, and parts of Nalgonda and Khammam.

The Minister also criticised the former regime for neglecting several irrigation projects, including the Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC), Kalwakurthy, Koilsagar, Nettempadu, Bheema and Dindi lift irrigation schemes. He said while over 1 lakh crore was spent on the Kaleshwaram project, only 27,000 crore was allocated to PRLIS over a decade, resulting in limited progress.

Uttam Kumar Reddy

noted that although the initial project estimate stood at 35,000 crore, the cost was escalated to 55,000 crore by the time the Detailed Project Report was submitted to the Central Water Commission after a delay of seven years. He added that even this estimate did not include land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement, or full ayacut canal costs, pushing the total project cost beyond 70,000 crore at current prices. Despite spending 27,000 crore earlier, not a single acre received water, he said. In contrast, the Congress government spent 7,000 crore in the last two years, installed 11 pumps, and accelerated construction through large-scale earthwork, concrete works, and pressure main installations.

Accusing the previous regime of discriminating against the Palamuru region, the Minister said the BRS government failed to secure statutory clearances and delayed public hearings, while prioritising other projects. "They took 10 years and failed. We will complete PRLIS and deliver water to Palamuru," he asserted.

Assembly Highlights – Employee Welfare and Rights of Persons with Disabilities

TPN Bureau | December 29:

Hyderabad During Tuesday's Zero Hour in the Telangana Assembly, former Minister T. Harish Rao raised pressing concerns regarding the welfare of government employees, retirees, and police personnel. He urged the Congress government to provide written replies to questions raised by members in the next session, noting that under the previous BRS government, such responses were routinely provided. Rao cautioned that Zero Hour should not become intimidating for new members and stressed the importance of maintaining transparent debate.

Rao highlighted that government employees are the backbone of administration, likening them to the wheels of a chariot, and warned that the workforce is currently under severe stress. Five Dearness Allowance (DA) installments remain pending, and Pay Revision Commission (PRC) benefits have not been released even after two years of Congress rule. He recalled that during KCR's tenure, employees received 43% and 39% PRC increments and were also covered under the Employees' Health Scheme (EHS). Rao emphasized that Congress promised to implement EHS, pending PRC arrears, and One-Time Settlement (OTS) benefits



but has failed to deliver.

Retired employees are also facing hardships. Rao cited the case of retired veterinary doctor Jagath Kumar Reddy from Siddipet, who retired in October 2024 and has yet to receive any retirement dues despite filing a High Court case. Delays in implementing the old pension scheme and CPS contributions have jeopardized the futures of over 2 lakh CPS employees. Rao further



highlighted police department issues, including pending surrender leaves, unpaid TA/DA, and limited health coverage for personnel, urging restoration of comprehensive benefits and access to corporate hospitals.

In a separate address, Dr. Shravan Dasoju spoke on the rights of persons with disabilities (PwD), urging full field-level implementation of the 2016 RPwD Act. While acknowledging the 5% reservation in higher education, he emphasized that much more needs to be done to support families of disabled children. Dr. Dasoju proposed measures including 5% free seats for disabled children from LKG onwards, government-funded therapy centers, deployment of psychologists and special educators in schools, full fee

waivers and scholarships, and district-level monitoring committees to ensure compliance.

He stressed that supporting persons with disabilities is not charity but a societal responsibility, stating, "Every child has the right to live with dignity. Equal opportunities are the foundation for achieving a golden Telangana." Dr. Dasoju also highlighted the 21 types of disabilities recognized under the law, emphasizing the need for awareness and inclusive programs statewide.

The Assembly session underscored urgent employee welfare issues, retirees' benefits, police entitlements, and the need for comprehensive disability rights implementation, reflecting a commitment to accountability and inclusive governance.

Road Encroachments Trigger 44 Complaints at HYDRA Prajavani in Hyderabad

TPN Bureau | Hyderabad December 29

Encroachments on public roads and common spaces have emerged as a growing concern across Hyderabad and its surrounding districts, with citizens increasingly turning to the HYDRA Prajavani grievance platform to seek redressal. On Monday alone, a total of 44 complaints related to illegal occupations of roads, pathways, government land, and public utilities were received, highlighting the alarming scale of violations in urban and suburban areas.

Residents alleged that not only vacant plots but even public roads, including dead-end streets, are being fully encroached upon without consideration for access or traffic movement. Several complainants stated that unauthorized constructions are being carried out brazenly by "managing" local enforcement systems, leaving affected residents with no option but to escalate the issue through Prajavani. HYDRA Commissioner A.V. Ranganath personally reviewed the complaints and directed concerned departments to take immediate responsibility for resolving the issues.

Many complainants submitted documentary evidence and details of earlier representations made to various departments, claiming that no action had been taken at the local level.

Among the key complaints was one from Vanasthalipuram's Sri Veeranjaneeya Colony in Rangareddy district, where residents alleged that an 18-foot-wide road had been encroached upon by adjacent plot owners. Even electricity poles along the road were reportedly included within fencing, while officials allegedly failed to intervene.

In another case from Kondapur's Sri Ramnagar Colony, locals accused a real estate firm of occupying nearly 1.20 acres of govern-

ment land and blocking access roads to residential houses. Complaints were also raised from Old Alwal's Suryanagar bus stop, where a 30-foot road was allegedly reduced by encroachments, disrupting bus movement and public transport.

Residents from Maheshwaram and Rajendranagar mandals complained about long-used kutcha roads being blocked and illegal constructions affecting traffic flow and access to apartment complexes. Concerns were also raised over plots submerging due to unclear lake boundaries, with citizens demanding immediate demarcation of full tank levels to protect approved layouts.

Meanwhile, HYDRA

also took decisive action to protect a 1,000-square-yard public park in Madinaguda village of Serilingampally mandal, valued at approximately 13 crore. The park land, part of an approved layout and officially gifted to the municipal corporation, had been encroached upon and enclosed with a precast wall. Acting on a Prajavani complaint, HYDRA conducted a joint inspection with revenue and municipal officials, demolished the illegal structure, and fenced the land, clearly marking it as public park property.

Officials stated that such interventions would continue to safeguard public assets and ensure citizens' right to common spaces.





Delhi, Goa Liquor Seizure: 87 Bottles Confiscated at Hyderabad Airport

Hyderabad, December 29, 2025 (TPN Bureau): Excise authorities seized 87 bottles of liquor arriving from Delhi and Goa at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Shamshabad on Monday, officials confirmed. The operation was part of a targeted crackdown on the illegal transportation of alcohol via flights into Hyderabad. Acting on intelligence that individuals were attempting to carry liquor from Delhi and Goa, excise teams conducted inspections at the airport. Cars arriving from incoming flights were carefully checked, leading to the discovery and confiscation of the 87 bottles. The operation was carried out jointly by multiple teams, including the ESTF A, C, D units, the Enforcement Rangareddy unit, and the DTEP Shamshabad team, demonstrating coordinated efforts to curb the smuggling and illegal circulation of alcohol in the city. Officials emphasized that transporting liquor without proper permits is a violation of excise regulations, and such seizures are aimed at preventing illegal sales and protecting public safety. Those attempting to bypass the rules could face legal action under the relevant laws. The excise department has urged travelers and the public to adhere to alcohol transportation guidelines and warned that surveillance and inspection operations at airports and other points of entry will continue. Authorities said the seized liquor has been taken into official custody, and further investigations are ongoing to identify the individuals or networks involved in this illicit activity. The raid highlights the vigilance of Hyderabad's excise authorities and their commitment to preventing illegal liquor trafficking in the region.



Telangana Fully Equipped with Urea Stock for Rabi Season; Fertilizer App Gains Traction

Hyderabad, December 29 — TPN Bureau
Telangana Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageshwar Rao on Monday assured farmers that the state has sufficient urea stocks to meet Rabi season requirements, emphasizing that there will be no disruption in supply. The Minister held a video conference with district collectors along with the Chief Secretary and Special Chief Secretary to review urea distribution and the performance of the state's newly launched Fertilizer (Urea) App. The Minister stated that for the current Rabi season, the Centre has allocated a total of 10.40 lakh metric tonnes (MT) of urea to Telangana. Of the 5.60 lakh MT expected from October to December, 5.70 lakh MT has already been received by the state. Compared to 2.81 lakh MT sold during the same period last year, farmers have already purchased 3.72 lakh MT this season, averaging 8,692 MT per day—92,000 MT more than the previous season. Current stock in the state stands at 2.15 lakh MT.

The Fertilizer (Urea) App, introduced by the Agriculture Department, has been operational since December 20 in five districts—Adilabad, Mahabubnagar, Jangaon, Nalgonda, and Peddapalli. So far, 82,059 farmers have booked urea through the app, purchasing a total of 2,01,789 bags in just nine days. Distribution averages over 22,000 bags per day in these districts. The Minister said that occasional technical issues are being resolved promptly, and farmers



have expressed satisfaction with the app, which ensures transparent sales. He noted that the initiative is modeled after the successful Kapas Kisan app for cotton sales. Minister Rao directed officials to ensure uninterrupted urea supply in districts where the app is not yet implemented and to monitor stocks, demand, and distribution closely. He advised setting up additional sales points if needed and deploying special monitoring teams at mandal, division, and district levels to swiftly address any supply issues. Chief Secretary instructed that purchase centers should open early, stock information should be updated in real time, and evening reviews with district officials should be conducted to ensure smooth distribution. Special Chief Secretary Sabhaschi Ghosh suggested establishing three to four counters in each PACS center and providing basic amenities such as tents and drinking water for farmers' convenience. Officials including Agriculture Secretary Surendra Mohan, Director Gopi, Marketing Director Lakshmi Bai, MARKFED MD Srinivas Reddy, and Cooperative Additional Registrar Chandramohan Reddy participated in the meeting, alongside other department officers. Farmers are assured that Telangana has adequate urea supplies, and a toll-free helpline, 1800 599 5779, has been set up at the Agriculture Commissionerate for any assistance.



Excise Minister Urges Officers to Uphold Department's Prestige; Long-Pending Promotions Granted

Hyderabad, December 29 — TPN Bureau
Telangana Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao on Monday directed officers to enhance the prestige of the Excise Department while performing their duties with transparency and integrity. The Minister's remarks came during a meeting with officials following the government's long-awaited decision to grant promotions within the Prohibition and Excise Department. The state government approved promotions for 53 officers, ranging from AES (Assistant Excise Superintendent) level to Additional Commissioner, addressing a backlog that had been pending for several years. Representatives of the Telangana State Gazetted Officers' Association met the Minister to express their gratitude for the transparent and timely implementation of these promotions. Speaking to the officers, Minister Krishna Rao emphasized that

the promoted officials should take on their new responsibilities with enthusiasm and diligence. He urged them to clamp down firmly on illicit liquor, narcotics, and other prohibited substances. Officers were instructed to leverage technology for faster investigation of cases and ensure that offenders face appropriate legal consequences. He further directed the department to strengthen surveillance systems to curb the production and distribution of ganja, illicit liquor, and other narcotic substances. The Minister stressed zero tolerance for corruption and called for complete transparency in all operations. He also highlighted the department's responsibility to protect youth from falling prey to substance abuse, urging continuous proactive action by Excise officials.

Officials who met the Minister included Additional Commissioners S.Y. Qureshi and Suresh Rathod; Deputy Commissioners J. Harikishan and Chandraya; Assistant Commissioners D. Srinivas, Pradeep

Rao, Jyothikiran, Panachakshari, and R. Kishan; and Excise Superintendents A. Kishan, Tukya Nayak, Jeevan Kiran, among others. The Minister's directives reflect the state government's focus on modernizing the Excise Department, ensuring effective law enforcement, and promoting ethical administration across all levels.

Minister Prabhakar drew attention to the government's efforts through TAMCOM (Telangana Abroad Mission for Career Opportunities and Mobil-



Ex-Minister T. Harish Rao Questions Congress on PRLIS, Flags Assembly Functioning Issues



Hyderabad, December 29 — TPN Bureau
Former Minister and MLA T. Harish Rao engaged in a candid discussion in the Telangana Assembly, raising pointed concerns over the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme (PRLIS) and Assembly functioning under the current Congress government. Speaking openly, Rao criticized the limited duration of question hours, noting that in two years, only six days of question-and-answer sessions were held, and in 2025, the Assembly has functioned for only 15 days so far. He highlighted delays in the agenda and called for committees to address protocol and procedural issues. Rao also expressed concern over disruptions, citing that celebrations such as Christmas events were held inside the Assembly when sessions were ongoing. On PRLIS, Rao challenged Congress leaders, including Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, over the project's progress. He claimed that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) submitted for the 90 TMC allocation had been delayed and approvals were pending for over a year. Rao said that despite Congress objections and legal interventions, BRS had completed significant works including excavation of tunnels for 2 TMC water, and secured seven key permissions to keep the project moving. He highlighted historical development work, noting that between 2014 and December 2023, over three lakh acres of land received irrigation under the Kalwakurthy and Palamuru projects, with expenditures exceeding 2,300 crore. Rao contrasted this with Congress, which he alleged failed to act on DPRs or approvals in two years, and accused Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy of lacking understanding of project operations. Rao emphasized the pace of work during the BRS tenure, stating that 27,000 crore had been invested and 27,000 acres of land acquired for Palamuru irrigation. He accused Congress of obstructing the project through legal cases and argued that in comparison, the BRS government efficiently ensured water supply to over 6.5 lakh acres in Palamuru, outperforming Congress and TDP combined over decades. The former Minister urged the Assembly to focus on constructive debate and development, warning against politicizing irrigation projects. His remarks underscored ongoing tensions between BRS and Congress over project execution and accountability in Telangana's drought-prone regions.

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Telangana Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Urges Youth to Use TAMCOM for Overseas Employment



Hyderabad, December 29, 2025 | TPN Bureau:
Telangana Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, addressing the Legislative Assembly, emphasized the state government's commitment to resolving issues faced by Non-Resident Telangana citizens and providing overseas employment opportunities to the youth. The minister highlighted the establishment of the Pravasi Prajavani Center at the public hall, designed to address and resolve grievances of Telangana citizens living abroad. "We are listening to the concerns of our diaspora and actively working to provide solutions, particularly for those facing challenges in Gulf countries," he said. Minister Prabhakar drew attention to the government's efforts through TAMCOM (Telangana Abroad Mission for Career Opportunities and Mobil-

ity), a platform aimed at providing structured training and overseas employment opportunities for young job seekers. "Through TAMCOM, the youth receive specialized training that enhances their skills and prepares them for suitable employment abroad," he explained. He strongly advised young people to rely solely on the government-authorized TAMCOM program when seeking employment overseas. "Do not fall prey to fraudulent agents or bogus recruitment offers. TAMCOM ensures that you receive genuine employment opportunities abroad," the minister cautioned. The initiative focuses on matching the skills of trainees with global job requirements, ensuring better placement and sustainable career growth. By equipping the youth with technical and professional expertise, TAMCOM

not only creates pathways for international employment but also safeguards them from exploitation by unscrupulous intermediaries. Minister Prabhakar reiterated the government's dedication to enhancing employment prospects for Telangana youth abroad. "With proper training and the right guidance, our young citizens can excel internationally while representing Telangana with pride," he said. The Pravasi Prajavani Center, coupled with TAMCOM training programs, underscores Telangana's proactive approach toward diaspora engagement and skill development. These measures are designed to ensure that Non-Resident Telangana citizens receive timely assistance and the youth gain access to credible and rewarding employment opportunities overseas.

KTR Accuses Revanth Reddy of Stalling Palamuru Project to Appease Babu, Block KCR Credit

Hyderabad, December 29 — TPN Bureau:

Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) on Tuesday launched a strong attack on the Congress government, alleging deliberate stalling of the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Project (PRLIS) by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. Speaking to the media at the Assembly premises, KTR claimed that the project has been intentionally delayed to prevent credit from going to former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) and to avoid displeasing Revanth Reddy's former mentor, N. Chandrababu Naidu.

KTR emphasized that it is standard practice for any government to initiate irrigation projects in line with water needs and obtain statutory approvals subse-

quently. He cited the decades-long delay in the Polavaram project as a contrast to the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project, which was successfully completed under KCR's tenure due to his determination. "Kaleshwaram stands as testimony to KCR's dedication. Investigations can continue endlessly, but the people know who ensured water for Telangana," KTR asserted.

On the Palamuru-Rangareddy project, KTR criticized the reduction of water allocation to 45 TMC, reminding that the previous Congress government had agreed to 299 TMC from Krishna waters. Based on this understanding, BRS approached the Centre for enhanced allocations, but he alleged that Revanth Reddy has deliberately stalled the project. "The Chief Minister fears KCR will receive credit if Palam-



uru is completed, and he is cautious not to upset Chandrababu Naidu," he said, noting that even canal excavations have been delayed.

KTR also highlighted the current government's poor understanding of water management. Ridiculing their approach, he said,

"Water management is not something one can master by studying a file for four days; it requires love for the state." He pointed out

instances where the Chief Minister appeared unaware of which basin the Krishna river belongs to or even the location of the

Bhakra Nangal Dam. KTR further criticized the appointment of a former opponent of the Palamuru project as an irrigation advisor, questioning their knowledge of the issues.

On the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) delimitation, KTR accused the Congress government of pursuing arbitrary restructuring purely for financial gain, allegedly influenced by merchant bankers and brokers. "This exercise is aimed at raising money and will not go unanswered," he warned, stating that BRS would demand a detailed discussion.

Regarding alleged phone tapping and Special Investigation Teams (SITs), KTR called these measures diversionary politics. He noted that intelligence systems have existed since the Nehru era and asked why offi-

cials have not clarified allegations if untrue. "What has been achieved through so many investigations? People see through these diversionary tactics," he said.

KTR also referred to recent sarpanch elections, asserting that the results reflected public disapproval of the Congress government. He stated that despite attempts to inflate numbers, the electorate clearly rejected Congress within two years of governance. "Our party workers, MLAs, and leaders secured a massive mandate in the panchayats. The people have decisively declared Congress unfit to govern Telangana," he concluded. This comprehensive critique by KTR underscores continuing political tension in Telangana over irrigation projects, governance, and administrative decisions under the Congress government.

Mettu Sai Kumar Appointed as Fisheries Corporation Chairman; CM Revanth Reddy Displays Statesmanship in Assembly



Hyderabad, December 29 — TPN Bureau
Mettu Sai Kumar has been appointed as the Chairman of the Fisheries Corporation, a move widely welcomed across political circles for his experience and strategic approach. Known for his keen un-

derstanding of administrative and political dynamics, Kumar is expected to bring efficiency and direction to the corporation's operations.

During the Assembly session, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy once again demonstrated his

political acumen and personal charm, earning praise from observers. In a gesture of statesmanship, CM Reddy respectfully shook hands with former Chief Minister and opposition leader K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), highlighting a moment

of civility in a session often marked by intense political debate. Sources noted that whenever the CM made a move forward, KCR maintained his composure, showing mutual respect despite political differences.

The session also saw the Assembly witnessing some tension, with two prominent leaders, Kaushik Reddy and K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), engaging in a display of assertive posturing. Observers noted that the assertiveness bordered on arrogance, with both leaders seated prominently, reflecting the high-stakes nature of political interactions in the House. Meanwhile, some legislators were criticized for lacking awareness and decorum during the proceedings, contrasting with the measured approach shown by senior

leaders. Political analysts noted that CM Revanth Reddy's approach of balancing firmness with respect in handling both government and opposition leaders signals his intent to maintain decorum while pursuing his administrative agenda. Meanwhile, Mettu Sai Kumar's leadership in the Fisheries Corporation is expected to focus on modernizing operations, improving resource management, and enhancing the welfare of fishermen across the state.

The appointment, coupled with the Assembly dynamics, reflects the continuing interplay of politics and governance in Telangana, emphasizing both administrative competence and personal diplomacy in the state's leadership.



FIR Filed Against Actress Madhaveelatha and Others for False Claims About Sai Baba

Hyderabad, December 29, 2025 | TPN Bureau:

The Saroor Nagar police have registered an FIR against actress Madhaveelatha and several others for allegedly spreading false information about Sai Baba on social media. The move follows a complaint from the Sai Baba organization, which claimed that online posts and videos falsely portrayed Sai Baba as not being a divine figure. According to the complaint, multiple YouTube users have also been involved in creating and sharing content that misrepresents Sai Baba, leading to public misinformation and discontent. The Sai Baba organization highlighted that such claims are defamatory and hurt religious sentiments, prompting legal action.

Actress Madhaveelatha, along with other individuals named in the FIR, has been summoned for questioning. The Saroor Nagar police have issued notices directing the accused to appear for investigation

tomorrow at 10 a.m. Authorities have confirmed that the probe will examine social media posts, videos, and any associated content to determine the nature and impact of the alleged false claims. This case underscores the growing scrutiny over social media content, especially when it concerns religious figures or beliefs. The police have urged citizens to avoid spreading unverified or misleading information online, emphasizing that legal action may be taken against those who violate laws related to defamation and hurting religious sentiments. While the investigation is in its early stages, it has already garnered public attention due to the involvement of a well-known actress and multiple digital content creators. Officials stated that the inquiry will proceed in a thorough and fair manner, ensuring that all parties involved are given an opportunity to present their side. The police have reiterated that religious tolerance and responsible social me-



dia use are crucial, and any attempts to spread

misinformation about revered figures will be

addressed in accordance with the law.

TPCC Leader Chanagani Dayakar Criticizes KTR Over Protocol and Respect Issues

Hyderabad, December 29, 2025 | TPN Bureau:

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) General Secretary Chanagani Dayakar has sharply criticized Telangana Minister K. T. Rama Rao (KTR), citing a lack of respect and political decorum during official events. Dayakar highlighted an incident where Chief Minister Revanth Reddy visited former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao. He noted that while dignitaries and officials stood in respect, KTR reportedly remained seated, which he termed a display of arrogance. "The absence of basic courtesy towards the Chief Minister reflects poorly on the values and decorum expected from public leaders," Dayakar stated. The TPCC leader further described KTR's actions as embarrassing, questioning his repeated statements about respect and moral values.

"It is ironic for KTR to lecture on values when he fails to exhibit fundamental respect towards senior leaders," he added. Dayakar praised Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for greeting and showing proper respect to former Chief Minister KCR, saying it demonstrated an understanding of human and political values. "Respecting predecessors and senior leaders is not just a protocol; it is a reflection of the moral and political ethos that every leader should uphold," he explained. He emphasized the importance of decorum in political life, stating that acknowledgment of every party's role in a democratic government is crucial. "Public governance must ensure that all parties and leaders are accorded their rightful respect, reflecting the democratic spirit and values of our society," he said.

Regarding KCR's re-

turn to the Assembly, Dayakar alleged that public dissent had compelled the former Chief Minister to attend. He claimed that citizens' opposition played a role in pushing KCR to address the Assembly, suggesting that public sentiment continues to influence political actions in the state. Dayakar's remarks come amid ongoing political tensions in Telangana, where issues of protocol, respect, and political ethics have become increasingly debated. By highlighting these incidents, he stressed the need for leaders to adhere to both formal and ethical standards in public interactions. The TPCC leader's comments are expected to stir further discussion on political behavior and the standards expected from elected representatives, particularly in relation to respecting senior officials and maintaining decorum during official engagements.

MDMA and Cannabis Seizures in Miyapur and Nampally

Hyderabad, December 29, 2025: Miyapur police have arrested two individuals attempting to sell MDMA drugs in the area, officials confirmed on Monday. The suspects, identified as Ravi and Ravi L., were intercepted by the Special Operations Task Force (SOTF) while trying to distribute drugs brought from Mumbai. Police recovered approximately 11 grams of MDMA from the suspects, with an estimated market value of around 1.5 lakh. Both arrested

individuals are originally from Mahbubnagar district but currently reside in Mumbai. The Miyapur police have registered a case and are conducting further investigations into the source and network involved in the drug supply. In a separate operation in Nampally, the Enforcement Special Task Force (ESTF) carried out a raid in the Basti Dwaraka Mangoor Basti area following intelligence reports of ongoing cannabis sales. During the opera-



tion, authorities seized 1.2 kilograms of cannabis. One individual, identified as Dinesh, was arrested in connection with the Nampally seizure, while two others — Kalu alias Sai and Ashu — remain at large. The seized drugs and the arrested suspect have been handed over to the Nampally Police Station for further investigation and legal action. Officials emphasized that both operations were part of ongoing efforts to curb illegal drug distribution in Hyderabad and sur-

rounding areas. The Miyapur and Nampally raids highlight the authorities' commitment to monitoring and intercepting narcotics networks operating within the city. Police have urged residents to report any suspicious drug-related activity and assured that all leads would be thoroughly investigated. Investigations are ongoing in both cases, and authorities are working to identify additional links and prevent further circulation of illegal drugs in the region.

Residents Stage Relay Hunger Strike Demanding Bus Depot and Specialty Hospital in Jagatirigutta



Quthbullapur, December 29, 2025 (TPN Bureau): Residents and CPI (Communist Party of India) leaders staged a relay hunger strike outside the Jagatirigutta CPI office, urging the government to fulfill earlier promises to set up a bus depot and a government specialty hospital in the area. The demonstration took place at the vacant HMT site in Jagatirigutta. CPI state leaders A. Surathnam and Imam initiated the hunger strike, highlighting the repeated assurances given by local political representatives during elections. They said that both the then-TRS and the current Congress MLA and corporator had promised to devel-

op the HMT site for public facilities, including a hospital and bus depot, but had failed to act despite securing votes. Speaking at the event, CPI leaders emphasized that they had previously organized numerous protests and submitted petitions to ministers to push the project forward. They claimed that 25 acres had been identified for the specialty hospital, but authorities have yet to take any concrete action. CPI urged current public representatives to collaborate with them in continuing the struggle to realize these civic projects. Local residents expressed solidarity with the hunger strike, joining in the protests and lending vocal sup-

port to the demands. The program saw participation from several CPI leaders and activists, including Swami (mandal secretary), Harinath and Ramulu (assistant secretaries), Srinivas (AITUC district secretary), Sahadev Reddy (branch secretary), Santosh (youth wing president), Srinivas Chari (transport union president), and other party members. The CPI stated that such relay hunger strikes would continue until the government takes immediate steps to construct the bus depot and specialty hospital, stressing that fulfilling public promises is critical for the welfare and development of the Jagatirigutta area.

No Parking Boards Fail to Curb Illegal Parking Around Medchal RTO, Locals Complain

Quthbullapur, December 29 — TPN Bureau Residents around the Medchal RTO office in the Pet Basheerabad area have raised serious concerns over worsening traffic congestion caused by rampant illegal parking, despite “No Parking” boards being installed. Locals allege that while traffic police actively issue challans for minor offences, they lag in controlling unauthorized parking, leading to daily chaos on the roads. According to citizens, the primary reason for the severe traffic jams is the presence of middlemen operating outside the RTO office, conducting unofficial transactions that spill onto the main roads. People visiting the RTO for vehicle registration,



licenses, and other formalities face major delays, particularly between 9 AM and 1 PM, due to congested roads. Although the Alwal traffic police recently put up “No Parking” signs near the RTO, two-wheelers and four-wheelers continue to be parked indis-

criminately, causing inconvenience to commuters. Locals noted that occasional fines and challans issued by traffic officials have not brought any visible change in driver behavior. Residents demanded stricter enforcement measures, including lift-

ing vehicles violating parking rules and moving them to the nearest police station. They emphasized that mere issuance of challans is insufficient to address the growing traffic problem. “There should be a dedicated traffic police presence near the RTO office at all times to manage parking and prevent roadblock situations,” locals urged. They also called for stricter moni-

toring to ensure middlemen do not continue their operations on the roads, which they say is the root cause of the congestion. With the city witnessing a steady increase in vehicles, residents stress that unless authorities take firm action, traffic issues around the RTO office will continue to disrupt daily life and create unsafe conditions for commuters.



Telangana Strengthens Rural Development Through Cooperatives at 2025 Cooperative Week

Hyderabad, December 29, 2025 | TPN Bureau: Telangana is emphasizing the pivotal role of cooperatives in rural development as the state kicks off the Cooperative Week-2025 at Marigold Hotel, Begumpet, Hyderabad. The event was inaugurated by Agriculture Minister Tummalala, who highlighted the transformative impact of cooperative systems in agriculture and allied sectors. Addressing the gathering, Minister Tummalala said that Telangana is strengthening its cooperative framework to serve as a model for rural development. “Cooperatives are central to empowering villages and fostering inclusive growth,” he stated. The state’s cooperative ini-



tiatives provide support to 25.35 lakh farmer households through investment assistance, income support, and crop insurance, reflecting the government’s commitment to sustainable agriculture. Telangana’s agricultural output demonstrates the success of these measures. The state ranks second in the

country with 1.89 crore tons of paddy production, while pulses, chili, turmeric, and oil palm have also gained national recognition. Additionally, horticultural production has reached 42 lakh tons, showcasing the diversity and potential of the sector. Looking ahead, Telangana plans to expand or-

ganic farming to 4,000 villages and extend micro-irrigation coverage to 39.5 lakh acres. The state is also focusing on building mega clusters, seed hubs, processing centers, and cold storage facilities to enhance value addition and improve market access for farmers. The cooperative system itself is being strengthened through multiple measures. 197 new MPSC (Multi-Purpose Cooperative Societies) have been established, PACS (Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies) are being computerized, and digital banking and Aadhaar-enabled payments are being implemented to streamline operations. Minister Tummalala emphasized that cooperatives can play a key

role in generating rural wealth and improving livelihoods. The Cooperative Week celebrations highlight Telangana’s pioneering role in the country’s cooperative movement. By combining technological modernization with traditional cooperative principles, the state aims to make agriculture more profitable and sustainable while fostering socio-economic development across rural communities. Minister Tummalala concluded by urging continued support for cooperative institutions, noting that a robust cooperative system is essential not only for agricultural prosperity but also for the overall empowerment of Telangana’s rural population.

Hyderabad Police and MOWO to Host City's First Job Mela for Women Drivers

Hyderabad, December 29 — TPN Bureau In a pioneering step towards women’s mobility and empowerment, the Women Safety Wing (WSW) of Hyderabad Police, in collaboration with MOWO Social Initiatives, will host the city’s first-ever Job Mela exclusively for women drivers. The initiative aims to provide safe, dignified, and sustainable employment opportunities for women while promoting women-centric transport services across Hyderabad. Ms. Charu Sinha, IPS, ADG of WSW, stated that the Job Mela is a landmark effort to strengthen women’s economic independence and ensure their active participation in the workforce. She emphasized that such initiatives will contribute to safer mobility for women while creating professional opportunities in an otherwise male-dominated sector. The Job Mela is jointly organized by Bharosa – Society for Protection of Women & Children, Women Safety Wing, Telangana Police, MOWO Social Initiatives, and

Hyderabad City Police. The collaborative effort aims to encourage women to pursue driving careers with confidence, offering them skill development and employment support. Scheduled for January 3 at 10:30 AM, the event will be held at the PTC premises in Amberpet, Hyderabad. Women between the ages of 21 and 45 are eligible to participate. Candidates will have the opportunity to interact with potential employers, gain insights into profession-

al driving, and secure job placements in transport services designed to cater to women passengers. Officials highlighted that this Job Mela aligns with the broader goal of fostering gender equality, empowering women economically, and ensuring safe public transportation options in the city. Authorities urged eligible women to participate and make the most of this unique opportunity to enter a promising profession.

JOB MELA FOR WOMEN - HYDERABAD
TO BECOME TAXI DRIVERS (BIKES & E-AUTO)

Training

Licence

Jobs

Vehicle rent/loans

(Catering to Female Passengers)

3rd January | 10:30am-1:00 pm

Venue: PTC Amberpet

Job Mela Offers :

1

BIKES/SCOOTERS & E-AUTO TRAINING (FREE OF COST)

2

LADY TRAINERS | JOBS SKILLS & SAFETY TRAINING

3

LICENCE WILL BE FACILITATED AFTER TRAINING

4

100% JOB PLACEMENT

5

MENTORSHIP | COUNSELLING | 1 MONTH

Eligibility:

• Women - 21-45 years

• Aadhar card

• No prior driving experience required

• If you have already have DL please bring it

Register Now : 8978862299

Khairatabad MLA Offers ₹5,000 Reward for Reporting Sale of Chinese Manja

Hyderabad, December 29, 2025 | TPN Bureau: Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender has announced a cash reward of 5,000 for anyone who reports the sale of Chinese Manja (nylon-coated kite string) in his constituency, citing the dangers it poses to both humans and birds. Speaking to the media, MLA Nagender highlighted that the use of Chinese Manja has led to multiple accidents and injuries. He warned residents and shopkeepers in the Khairatabad constituency that selling this hazardous material will not be tolerated.

“Chinese Manja is extremely dangerous, not only for people but also for birds and animals. Anyone found selling it in any shop will face legal action,” he said. The MLA urged the public to cooperate in preventing the circulation of Chinese Manja in the constituency. He encouraged people to provide information if any shop is found selling the banned kite string. To incentivize reporting, Nagender announced that the identity of whistleblowers would be kept strictly confidential, and as a token of appreciation, he would personal-

ly give 5,000 in cash to those who provide credible information. Authorities have been alerted to the hazards of Chinese Manja, which has been banned in many areas due to its sharpness and potential to cause severe injuries. The MLA’s initiative is aimed at both raising public awareness and preventing accidents during the festive kite-flying season. With this announcement, the Khairatabad MLA hopes to create a safer environment for residents and wildlife, while taking strict measures against the illegal sale of dan-

gerous kite strings. Residents are urged to remain vigilant and report

any violations promptly to ensure community safety.



TGIIC Chairperson Nirmala Jaggareddy Assures Resolution of Archaka Issues

Sangareddy, December 29, 2025 (TPN Bureau): The Telangana and erstwhile Medak district Dhoopa Deepa Naivedya Archaka Sangham organized an awareness rally highlighting the concerns of temple priests (archakas) under the leadership of State President Vasudev Sharma. The event took place across Sangareddy, Siddipet, and Medak districts and was attended by key district representatives including Madupati Advayya Swami (Sangareddy), Shalaka Rajeshwar Sharma (Medak), and Chadanananda Bal Sharma (Siddipet), along with secretaries and treasurers such as Shyam Sundar Sharma, Veerabhadrayya Swami, Chidire Rajashekar Sharma, M. Shambhu Prasad Swami, Praveen Sharma, Raj Manohar Sharma, and Mahesh Swami. The program was held at PSR Garden, Sangareddy, with TGIIC Chairperson Smt. Nirmala Jaggareddy as the chief guest. During the event, the archaka community presented a memorandum outlining their demands, which included job security, minimum wages, representation in government schemes, and housing assistance under the Indiramma program. The rally also included the submission of the memorandum to the Assistant Commissioner of the Endowments Department, emphasizing



the need for urgent attention to archaka welfare. Speaking at the event, Chairperson Nirmala Jaggareddy assured that the issues raised by the archakas would be addressed and promised to take their concerns to

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for necessary action. She emphasized that the TGIIC would work closely with the government to ensure that the archaka community receives proper recognition and bene-

fits under existing schemes. The rally was part of a larger Archaka Chaitanya Yatra, aimed at raising awareness about the challenges faced by temple priests and ensuring that their griev-

ances are heard at the state level. The event witnessed active participation from archakas across the three districts, highlighting the unity and determination of the community in seeking redressal.

Adilabad's "Tokari Solalu" Delights Food Lovers with Unique Flavors



Adilabad, December 29, 2025 | TPN Bureau: Adilabad district in northern Telangana is once again in the spotlight for its unique culinary specialty – the legendary “Tokari Solalu” dishes. Known for their distinct flavors, these traditional recipes have become a must-try for locals and visitors alike, and missing out on them now means waiting an entire year to savor them again. The highlight of this culinary tradition is the famous Tokari Solalu Biryani, which has earned widespread acclaim throughout Adilabad. “If you skip it today, you may have to wait till next year to experience its taste again,” food enthusiasts say. These recipes, native exclusively to the district, have been passed down through generations, preserving their authentic flavors and distinctive preparation methods.

December, marking the winter season, brings the best of Tokari Solalu to local markets and households. The small green pods used in these dishes become widely available, prompting families across villages to prepare and enjoy a variety of delicacies. Villagers eagerly anticipate the season when they can cook these traditional recipes, sharing the flavors with family, friends, and visiting guests. The range of dishes prepared with Tokari Solalu is extensive. Besides the signature Tokari Solalu Biryani, popular offerings include solalu vadas, eggplant solalu, chickpea pods, solalu sweets, solalu dal, and solalu curries cooked with local spices. Other preparations include steamed solalu pods, solalu curry in masala, and even pickled versions, all served hot with traditional jowar rotis. Each dish

carries the unmistakable taste of Adilabad, making it a point of pride for locals. Tokari Solalu dishes are particularly notable for their strong local identity. While Telangana has a rich culinary heritage, these recipes remain unique to Adilabad district, not commonly found elsewhere in the state. Their popularity continues to grow, with even urban areas now embracing these traditional flavors. For many, serving Tokari Solalu Biryani to guests is a matter of pride and a symbol of hospitality. With the winter season in full swing, the aroma and taste of Tokari Solalu dishes are drawing attention across northern Telangana. Food lovers and tourists alike are urged to experience these culinary treasures before the season ends, as missing them would mean waiting an entire year for the next chance.

Adilabad Police Outline Safety Measures for Peaceful New Year Celebrations

Adilabad, December 29, 2025 | TPN Bureau: Adilabad Police have issued detailed guidelines to ensure peaceful and safe New Year celebrations across the district. District Superintendent of Police, Akhil Mahajan IPS, urged citizens to celebrate responsibly, follow regulations, and avoid causing inconvenience to others. To prevent traffic-related incidents, the police have set up 30 “Drunk and Drive” checkpoints throughout the district, including 15 in the town areas, where vehicles involved in drunk driving, triple riding, rash driving, or wrong-side driving will be seized and offenders penalized. Authorities also warned that parents will be held responsible if minors are caught driving vehicles without proper authorization. Police have strictly prohibited the use of DJs, sound boxes, and microphones without official permission. Residents planning events at farmhouses or resorts must comply with the rules, and any public gatherings, rallies, open-air programs, or events conducted without permission will be stopped. The Excise and Police Departments will oversee approvals for private celebrations. Road safety measures have been reinforced, and police warned against street cake-cutting, firecracker bursting, or unauthorized bike racing, all of which are punishable under law. Individuals serving alcohol



in public spaces or disturbing the public will face strict action. Police emphasized that these rules are uniformly enforced across all mandals in the district. The SP also highlighted the importance of public cooperation, asking young citizens

to celebrate the New Year in a peaceful manner and follow all guidelines, so that celebrations can proceed without any incidents. Authorities assured residents that proactive measures are in place to prevent accidents, maintain law and order, and avoid

any disruption to the festive atmosphere. “Every year, New Year celebrations bring excitement, but safety remains our top priority. We urge everyone to follow the rules, avoid dangerous practices, and help us maintain a secure environment for all,” SP Akhil Mahajan

stated in an official press release. With these measures, the Adilabad Police aim to ensure a safe, orderly, and enjoyable New Year for all citizens, discouraging reckless behavior and promoting responsible celebration throughout the district.

INTUC Secretary-General Janak Prasad Criticizes Harish Rao Over Singareni Issues



Hyderabad, December 29, 2025 | TPN Bureau: INTUC Secretary-General B. Janak Prasad strongly criticized Telangana Minister Harish Rao, stating that he lacks the moral authority to comment on the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL). Speaking at a press meet at Gandhi Bhavan, Janak Prasad alleged that Rao's past tenure saw policies that harmed the company and its workforce. “During your ten-year tenure, MPs from your party in Parliament supported bills to privatize Singareni. As Finance Minister, you misused Singareni funds, accumulating nearly Rs 30,000 crore in liabilities for the company,” Janak Prasad said. He also recalled the transfer of company funds to Siddipet for stadium construction, which workers and the public have not forgotten. “Given this history, how can anyone trust your sudden concern for Singareni now?” he questioned.

Janak Prasad pointed out failures under Rao's administration, including the inability to allocate medical seats for workers' children despite a Rs 500 crore allocation for medical colleges. He contrasted this with the current government's initiatives, highlighting Rs 1 crore in accident insurance for workers, Rs 5,000 wage hikes for contract labor, increased bonuses, raising the age limit for Singareni appointments, and appointing a BC licensing officer, all aimed at workers' welfare. He criticized past attempts to prevent new coal blocks and weaken Singareni's operations, saying the company was financially strained and mismanaged. “Even the TRS-affiliated labor unions from that period can testify to the exploitation,” Janak Prasad noted. The press meet underscored the current government's efforts to strengthen Singareni. Strategic initiatives, including solar and thermal

power agreements with Rajasthan and the construction of a super-specialty hospital in Hyderabad, were cited as steps that ensure the company's future stability. Janak Prasad also emphasized the state government's support for farmers and laborers in the face of unfavorable central policies. He urged Harish Rao to stop spreading misinformation about the current government, acknowledge mistakes from his tenure, and allow the present administration, under the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister's leadership, to continue protecting Singareni and its workers' rights. The event was attended by INTUC Central Vice Presidents Narasimha Reddy, Dharmapuri, Kampalli Sammayya, Tyagarajan, Jeti Shankar Rao, and General Secretaries Vikas Kumar Yadav and Anugu Ravinder Reddy, along with Secretary Raparthi Srinivas.

Shattered Childhood Dreams: Minor Pregnancies as a Grim Mirror of Social Failure

At a time when South India prides itself on high literacy rates, rapid urbanisation, and global recognition in the IT sector, an uncomfortable and disturbing reality is quietly unfolding beneath the surface. Teenage pregnancy—particularly among minors—has emerged as a stark contradiction to the region’s narrative of progress. The recent revelation that 2,320 minor girls became pregnant in Karnataka over the last three years, with 749 cases reported by October this year alone, is not merely a statistic. It represents thousands of shattered childhoods, derailed futures, and a collective moral failure that society can no longer afford to ignore.

This crisis is not confined to Karnataka. The ripple effects are clearly visible in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, where similar trends—often underreported—continue to surface. The sharp rise in minor pregnancies forces us to confront an unsettling truth: economic growth and digital advancement mean little if they fail to protect the most vulnerable members of society.

The Digital Mirage and the Trap of Early Exposure

In today’s hyper-connected world, smartphones and internet access have reached the palms of even the youngest users. While digital tools have the potential to empower, in the absence of guidance they often become instruments of harm. Social media platforms flooded with sexually suggestive reels, explicit content disguised as entertainment, and web series that glamorise adult relationships are shaping young minds long before they are emotionally or physically prepared.

Minors, particularly adolescent girls, are drawn into a vortex of curiosity and confusion. Exploiting this vulnerability are predatory individuals who use the language of love and trust to manipulate young girls. What begins as online interaction often escalates into physical exploitation. Many minors are unaware that, under the law,



their consent carries no validity. Decisions made in moments of emotional vulnerability permanently alter their lives, pushing them into motherhood before they even understand adulthood.

The digital age has advanced faster than our ability to educate children about its dangers. Parents, schools, and communities have collectively failed to create safe boundaries, leaving minors exposed to risks they are ill-equipped to handle.

Institutional Apathy and Silent Suffering

Some of the most shocking incidents have emerged from places meant to protect children. Recent cases from districts such as Yadgir and Shivamogga, where minor girls gave birth inside hostel bathrooms of government residential schools, expose the

depth of systemic negligence. A ninth-grade student carrying a pregnancy for nine months without being noticed by teachers, wardens, or health staff is not just an oversight—it is an indictment of the entire system.

These incidents reveal two critical failures: lack of supervision and the absence of safe spaces for children to speak. Physical changes, emotional distress, and behavioural shifts went unnoticed enough to endure pregnancy and childbirth safely. As a result, maternal mortality risks increase significantly, along with complications such as severe anaemia, infections, and psychological trauma.

Sex education remains a taboo topic in many Indian households and schools. This silence breeds ignorance, leaving minors unaware of their own bodies, rights, and

available support systems. When awareness is replaced with fear and secrecy, desperation leads to unsafe, life-threatening outcomes such as concealed pregnancies and unattended deliveries.

A Public Health Crisis in Disguise

Teenage pregnancy is not merely a social issue—it is a severe public health emergency. The bodies of minors are often not physically developed enough to endure pregnancy and childbirth safely. As a result, maternal mortality risks increase significantly, along with complications such as severe anaemia, infections, and psychological trauma.

Children born to adolescent mothers frequently suffer from low birth weight, malnutrition, and developmental challenges. This cre-

ates a cycle of vulnerability that extends across generations. In rural and backward regions of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, early pregnancies—often linked to child marriages—force girls to drop out of school, permanently cutting off access to education and economic independence.

Once education is disrupted, these young mothers are pushed into lifelong dependency and poverty. The nation not only loses individual potential but also weakens its social and economic fabric.

Legal Frameworks Undermined by Social Compromise

India’s Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act is one of the strictest laws designed to safeguard minors. Yet, despite its provisions, many

offenders escape accountability. The reason lies not in the law itself but in society’s willingness to undermine it.

Fear of social stigma, loss of “family honour,” and community pressure often push victims’ families toward compromise. Informal settlements and forced marriages between victims and perpetrators are shockingly common. Such practices embolden offenders, signalling that crimes against minors can be negotiated away.

While governments offer compensation schemes, insurance, and welfare support, no monetary assistance can restore lost childhoods or erase psychological scars. Weak enforcement, delayed investigations, and lack of evidence further deny victims the justice they deserve.

Collective Responsibility and the Road Ahead

Addressing this silent epidemic requires far more than reactive governance. It demands a comprehensive societal transformation. Schools must introduce age-appropriate, scientific sex education that focuses on bodily awareness, consent, and personal safety. Teachers should be trained to identify signs of abuse and emotional distress.

Parents must build trust-based relationships with their children, encouraging open dialogue rather than imposing fear-driven discipline. Digital literacy should be prioritised, with clear boundaries on smartphone usage and active supervision of online behaviour.

Grassroots workers such as Anganwadi and ASHA staff must be empowered to monitor vulnerable households and report early warning signs. Community participation is crucial—victims must be supported, not stigmatised.

Minor pregnancies are not isolated incidents; they are indicators of a society failing its children. When a minor becomes a mother, the future of an entire nation is placed at risk. Recognising this crisis as a collective responsibility is the first step toward change. Silence is no longer an option. Only sustained, unified action can dismantle this quiet catastrophe and safeguard the dreams of the next generation.



By Venka Gari Bhoomayya
Senior Journalist – Analysis
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A Simple Talk Before Marriage Can Save a Lifetime of Trouble

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

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

How Does It Work?

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

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

Why a Lawyer?

A lawyer is neutral. They are not from your family or your partner’s family. They help you discuss these topics without fear or shyness. Their role is to make sure both of you understand each other clearly.

Also, when you write down your answers, you are more likely to be truthful. Why? Because if later there is a big problem like if someone hid something important, these



papers can be used as proof. This encourages both to be honest from the start.

Isn’t This Too Formal for Love?

Love is important. But marriage is also a serious

life partnership. Talking openly before marriage makes love stronger. It is

not about doubt; it is about building trust. Finding out about big differences be-

fore marriage is better than fighting about them after.

What’s the Benefit?

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

Final Thought

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



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

Hindu Family’s Houses Set Ablaze in Bangladesh Amid Rising Attacks on Minorities

Several houses belonging to a Hindu family were set on fire in southern Bangladesh, triggering renewed concern over the safety of religious minorities amid a reported rise in targeted attacks. The incident occurred late at night in Dumritala village of Pirojpur district, where at least five houses within a single family compound were gutted by the blaze. According to local residents and family members, the fire broke out while the occupants were asleep. Flames spread rapidly through the structures, destroying household belongings, furniture, documents, and valuables. Although no human casualties were reported, the family lost all their possessions, and several domestic animals perished in the fire. Members of the affected family alleged that the incident was not accidental. They claimed that some doors of the houses had been locked from the outside, preventing a quick escape. Eight people trapped inside were forced to flee by cutting through tin sheets and bamboo fencing, narrowly avoiding serious injury. The family has since taken shelter with relatives, expressing fear over their safety.

Police and district officials reached the spot soon after the incident and launched an investigation. Senior police officials stated that preliminary findings suggest the fire may have been deliberately set. Several suspects have



Credit: @World_Breaking_ on X

been detained for questioning, and authorities said further arrests could follow as the probe continues. Officials also assured the family of security and promised strict action against those responsible. The arson attack comes amid growing reports of violence against minority communities in different parts of Bangladesh in recent months. Human rights groups have pointed to a pattern of attacks involving vandalism, arson, and intimidation, often triggered by allegations

related to social or religious disputes. Such incidents have heightened anxiety among Hindu families, particularly in rural areas. Community leaders and rights activists condemned the attack and urged the government to ensure justice and protection for vulnerable communities. They emphasized the need for swift investigations and stronger preventive measures to deter communal violence. Government authorities have reiterated their commitment to maintaining communal

harmony and safeguarding minority rights. However, observers say repeated incidents have raised questions about enforcement and long-term solutions to protect minorities from targeted violence.

As investigations continue, the affected family awaits justice and assistance to rebuild their lives, while the incident has once again highlighted the broader challenge of ensuring safety and equal rights for minority communities in Bangladesh.

Supreme Court Stays Delhi High Court Bail to Ex-MLA Kuldeep Sengar in 2017 Unnao Rape Case

The Supreme Court on Monday stayed the Delhi High Court’s order granting bail to former Uttar Pradesh MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar in the 2017 Unnao rape case, making it clear that the convicted politician should not be released from prison. The apex court’s intervention came after the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) challenged the High Court decision that had suspended Sengar’s life sentence.

A bench of the Supreme Court observed that the matter involved serious questions of law and required closer examination. The court directed that Sengar would continue to remain in custody while it hears the CBI’s appeal against the High Court order. The bench also allowed the rape survivor to intervene in the proceedings, recognising her right to be heard in the case.

Kuldeep Sengar, a former legislator from Uttar Pradesh, was convicted for the kidnapping and rape of a minor girl in 2017. The case had drawn nationwide attention due to allegations of political influence,



intimidation of the victim’s family, and multiple related criminal cases. A trial court had sentenced Sengar to life imprisonment under provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

In a separate case linked to the same incident, Sengar was also convicted for the custodial death of the victim’s father and is serving a sentence for

that offence as well. Both convictions have made the Unnao case one of the most prominent examples of criminal accountability involving a political figure.

The Delhi High Court had recently granted conditional bail to Sengar while suspending his sentence, citing legal interpretations related to the definition of a “public servant.” This decision sparked strong reactions and prompted the CBI to

approach the Supreme Court, arguing that the suspension of sentence was legally flawed and could undermine the seriousness of the crime.

During the hearing, the Supreme Court expressed concern over the reasoning adopted by the High Court and indicated that the issue required detailed judicial scrutiny. The top court granted Sengar time to file his response to the CBI’s plea, while ensuring that he remains incarcerated in the interim.

The Supreme Court’s stay has been welcomed by the survivor and her family, who have consistently voiced concerns about safety and justice. Legal experts say the ruling reinforces the principle that bail and sentence suspension in cases involving grave offences must be approached with caution.

As the case moves forward, the decision is being closely watched for its implications on criminal jurisprudence, victims’ rights, and the accountability of influential individuals accused of serious crimes.

Shashi Tharoor Condemns Tripura Student’s Killing, Says No Indian Should “Feel Foreign in Own Land”

Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor has strongly condemned the alleged racially motivated killing of a student from Tripura in Dehradun, calling the incident a “national disgrace” and urging the nation to confront the deeper issues of prejudice and discrimination faced by people from the Northeast. The remarks come amid growing public outrage and political reactions following the death of the 24-year-old MBA student, who succumbed to injuries sustained during an attack earlier this month.

In a detailed post on social media, Tharoor described the killing not as an isolated act of violence but as a symptom of ingrained ignorance, prejudice and a failure of Indian society to recognise and respect its own diversity. He highlighted that the victim, a proud Indian from Tripura, was reportedly subjected to racial slurs such as “Chinese” and “momo” before being assaulted, underscoring how deep-seated biases can escalate into deadly outcomes.

Tharoor appealed for reflection and reform, urging citi-



zens and leaders alike to work towards building a society where “no Indian is made to feel foreign in their own land.” He called for schools to educate students about the histories and cultures of all Indian communities and for media outlets to portray people from the Northeast with dignity rather than resorting to stereotypes. The Congress leader also challenged political and religious figures to speak out against such violence, warning that silence in

the face of prejudice amounts to complicity.

The comments by Tharoor echo concerns expressed by other national figures and opposition leaders who have called for urgent action to address what they describe as rising hate crimes against residents from the northeastern states. These leaders have urged the government to take substantive measures to prevent similar incidents and ensure accountability for those responsible.

Officials in Uttarakhand, including the state’s chief minister, have spoken with the victim’s family, assuring them that strict action will be taken against the accused. Law enforcement agencies have arrested several suspects, though one individual remains at large, with a reward announced for information leading to his capture.

The killing has ignited debate across the country about racial profiling, social exclusion and the vulnerability of minority groups, particularly those from the Northeast, who have long voiced concerns about discrimination in other parts of India. Tharoor’s statement underscores the urgency of confronting these issues not just through legal channels but by changing societal attitudes and fostering greater empathy and inclusion.

As the case continues to unfold, both political and civil society voices are calling for broader societal reflection on how India can uphold its constitutional ideals of equality and respect for all citizens, regardless of region, ethnicity or appearance.

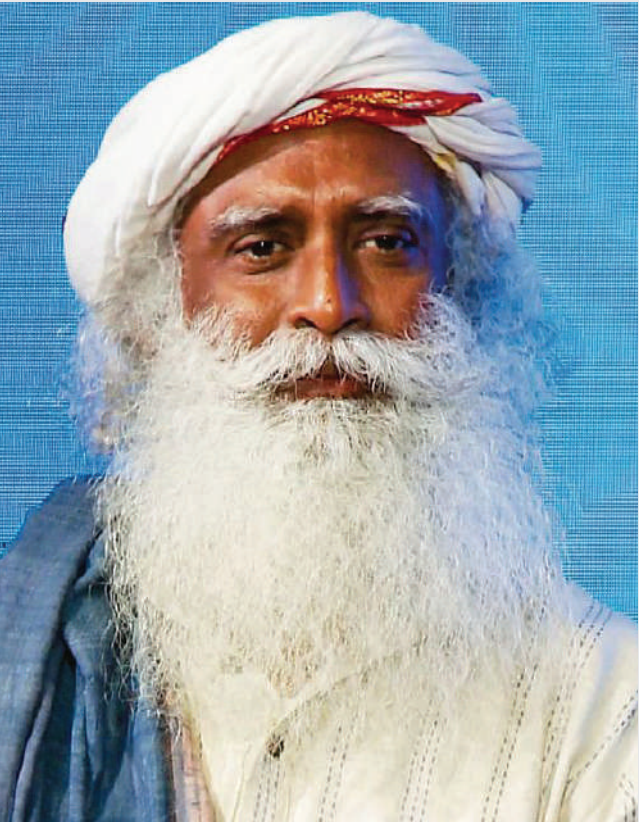
Sadhguru Calls for Strengthening Siliguri Corridor, Says India Must Turn ‘Chicken’s Neck’ into ‘Elephant’s Neck’

Spiritual leader and public intellectual Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev has called for decisive steps to strengthen the strategically sensitive Siliguri Corridor, popularly referred to as India’s “chicken’s neck,” stating that the narrow land stretch should be transformed into an “elephant’s neck” to ensure long-term national security and territorial resilience.

Speaking at a public interaction, Sadhguru described the Siliguri Corridor as a historical anomaly that emerged after the partition of the Indian subcontinent. He noted that the corridor’s narrow geography has long been viewed as a strategic vulnerability, as it serves as the sole land link connecting India’s northeastern states with the rest of the country.

The Siliguri Corridor, located in northern West Bengal, is bordered by Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and China, making it geopolitically significant. At certain points, the corridor narrows to just over 20 kilometres, a fact that has frequently featured in strategic and defence discussions. Sadhguru said such a vital connection should not remain fragile and exposed, urging India to invest in strengthening its infrastructure and strategic depth in the region.

Using a metaphor, Sadhguru remarked that if a nation treats a “chicken’s neck” with care and foresight, it can be made as strong and resilient as an elephant. He argued that territorial security inevitably involves costs and complex decisions, but avoiding them could leave the country vulnerable in the long run. According to him, national security must be viewed as a continuous responsibility



rather than a temporary concern.

He also reflected on the broader idea of borders and sovereignty, acknowledging that while the ideal of a borderless world may appeal philosophically, present-day geopolitical realities demand strong and secure national boundaries. Sadhguru stressed that safeguarding territorial integrity is essential for peace, stability and development.

His remarks have reignited discussion around the Siliguri Corridor, which has periodically come under public attention due to regional tensions and strategic assessments. Analysts have long pointed out the importance of enhancing road, rail, communication and de-

fence infrastructure in the area to ensure uninterrupted access to the Northeast.

While the government has undertaken several infrastructure and connectivity projects in the region over the years, Sadhguru’s comments have added a high-profile voice to calls for further strengthening the corridor. Observers say such statements highlight the growing public awareness of strategic geography and its role in national security.

The Siliguri Corridor remains central to India’s strategic planning, and discussions around its future continue to underline the importance of balancing development, security and regional stability in a complex geopolitical environment.

Supreme Court Stays Controversial ‘100-Metre Definition’ for Aravalli Hills Amid Environmental Outcry



GAJENDR

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, Sne-

ha, 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.

U.S. Lawmaker Says “Can We Just Do America?” as Trump Hosts Zelenskyy and Netanyahu at Mar-a-Lago



A prominent U.S. congresswoman has publicly criticized former President Donald Trump’s high-profile meetings with world leaders, questioning why the United States is focusing on international conflicts instead of domestic issues. The remarks come as Trump convened successive talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida, aimed at advancing diplomatic efforts on two of the most pressing global crises.

Republican Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia took to social media to express her frustration, writing, “Zelensky today. Netanyahu tomorrow. Can we just do America?” Her comment reflects a growing divide within parts of the Republican Party over foreign policy priorities, especially as Trump continues to engage directly with leaders involved in ongoing wars and peace negotiations.

Trump’s meeting with Zelenskyy focused on a proposed peace framework to end the prolonged conflict between Ukraine and Russia, which began with Russia’s full-scale invasion in 2022. Zelenskyy, who is pushing for long-term security guarantees and a negotiated settlement, has emphasized the need for Western support to deter future aggression and create conditions for stability. Critics of U.S. involvement argue that such extensive diplomatic engagement and potential commitments of American resources risk drawing the United States deeper into foreign disputes at a time when

domestic concerns — including inflation, healthcare and infrastructure — remain top priorities for many voters.

Shortly after the Zelenskyy talks, attention turned to Trump’s scheduled meeting with Netanyahu, amid continuing instability in the Middle East. Netanyahu’s visit was planned against the backdrop of efforts to solidify ceasefires and address potential escalations involving Gaza and broader regional tensions. These discussions have attracted international interest, given their implications for peace efforts and U.S. influence in the region.

Greene’s criticism underscores a broader debate within U.S. politics regarding America’s role on the world stage. Advocates of a more inward-focused policy argue that Washington should concentrate on domestic needs and limited foreign entanglements, a stance that resonates with elements of the “America First” approach popularized during Trump’s presidency. Opponents counter that U.S. leadership in global diplomacy is essential for maintaining stability and protecting international norms.

The meetings at Mar-a-Lago mark the sixth time Trump and Netanyahu have convened this year, while Trump’s engagements with Zelenskyy signal continued U.S. involvement in seeking a resolution to the Russia-Ukraine conflict. As these diplomatic efforts unfold, the debate over balancing international commitments and domestic priorities is likely to remain a central theme in U.S. political discourse heading into 2026.

US Pledges \$2 Billion for UN Humanitarian Aid Amid Sharp Cuts in Foreign Assistance



The United States has pledged \$2 billion in humanitarian funding to the United Nations, even as it significantly reduces overall foreign aid commitments and calls for sweeping reforms within UN agencies. The announcement comes at a time when global humanitarian organisations are facing severe funding shortages amid rising conflicts, displacement, and climate-related disasters worldwide.

US officials said the funding will be channelled through a central humanitarian pool managed by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Under this approach, funds will be distributed to various UN agencies and emergency operations based on assessed priorities. The US administration has described the move as part of a broader effort to improve efficiency, reduce overlap, and ensure better accountability in humanitarian assistance.

At the same time, Washington has made it clear that UN agencies must restructure to cope with reduced resources. Senior US officials warned that organisations will need to “adapt, shrink, or cease operations” if they fail to reform, reflecting a tougher stance on international aid spending. The message has raised concern among humanitarian groups, who argue that funding cuts risk undermining life-saving operations.

Although the \$2 billion pledge keeps the United States among the world’s largest humanitarian donors, it represents a substantial decline compared with previous years, when US contributions to UN aid efforts were several times higher. Aid agencies say the re-

duction comes at a critical moment, with millions of people facing food insecurity, displacement, and health emergencies across regions such as Africa, the Middle East, and parts of Asia.

Several major UN agencies have already announced staff reductions and scaled-back programmes due to budget shortfalls. Humanitarian officials warn that fewer resources could mean reduced food aid, medical assistance, and shelter support for vulnerable populations. Some agencies have cautioned that ongoing crises may worsen if funding gaps are not urgently addressed.

US authorities argue that the revised funding strategy prioritises impact over volume, aiming to deliver targeted assistance while ensuring taxpayer funds are used effectively. Officials also stressed that other donor countries must increase their contributions to share the burden of global humanitarian responsibility.

The funding shift has triggered debate among diplomats and aid experts over the future of multilateral humanitarian assistance. Supporters of reform say structural changes are long overdue, while critics fear that drastic funding reductions could weaken the global response to emergencies.

As humanitarian needs continue to rise worldwide, the effectiveness of the new funding model and the ability of UN agencies to adapt will be closely watched. The outcome could shape the future of international aid and determine how millions of vulnerable people receive support in the years ahead.

Chinese Ship Travels 37,000 km Across Three Oceans to Deliver Cranes to West Africa



A Chinese cargo vessel has completed an extraordinary journey spanning three oceans and more than 37,000 kilometres to deliver heavy cranes from China to West Africa, underscoring both the scale of global maritime logistics and China’s expanding role in international infrastructure shipments. The voyage, which lasted approximately three months, took the ship from a major Chinese port through the Indian Ocean, around the Cape of Good Hope, and across the Atlantic Ocean before reaching its final destination.

The ship, loaded with several giant port cranes, set sail from China as part of a contract to supply critical equipment for the development of a deep-water harbour in a West African country. These cranes are

essential for container handling and efficient port operations and are expected to significantly boost the importing and exporting capacity of the host nation. Port officials and government representatives at the destination greeted the arrival with a ceremony attended by local dignitaries and logistics specialists, highlighting the cranes’ importance to future economic growth.

Maritime experts say the journey exemplifies the challenges and complexities of modern international shipping, particularly for oversized industrial equipment. Weather patterns, sea conditions, and fuel management must all be carefully coordinated over such long distances. In this case, the vessel navigated the Indian Ocean, rounded

the southern tip of Africa, passed through the volatile Cape of Good Hope, and crossed the South Atlantic before entering the Gulf of Guinea, one of the world’s busiest maritime regions.

The delivery is part of a broader trend in which Chinese firms are increasingly involved in building infrastructure in Africa, including ports, railways, highways, and energy facilities. These projects are often tied to larger economic partnerships and financing arrangements between China and African governments. Supporters argue that such cooperation accelerates development and improves trade connectivity, while critics raise concerns about debt sustainability and long-term economic dependence.

Officials from the receiving country highlighted the cranes’ expected impact on the local economy, noting that improved port infrastructure will reduce cargo turnaround times, attract larger vessels, and help local businesses integrate more effectively into global supply chains. They also pointed out that enhanced port capacity could lead to increased employment opportunities in logistics, warehousing, and transportation services.

Shipping companies involved in the voyage described the operation as a logistical success, achieved through meticulous planning and international coordination. Crew members praised the management of long stretches at sea and highlighted the importance of timely communication

with port authorities at each stop.

The delivery also comes at a time when global maritime routes are adjusting to shifting trade patterns, with ports in Africa gaining prominence as transshipment hubs. Analysts say the successful voyage may encourage similar large-scale deliveries in the future, especially for nations seeking to expand infrastructure capacity without local manufacturing capabilities.

As the cranes are unloaded and installed, expectations are high that the enhanced port facility will play a key role in regional trade and economic expansion, cementing the strategic significance of long-distance maritime logistics in an increasingly interconnected global economy.

Zelensky Proposes National Referendum on 20-Point Peace Plan to End War with Russia

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has proposed that a comprehensive **20-point peace plan aimed at ending the war with Russia be put to a national referendum, marking a significant shift in how Kyiv seeks to secure public endorsement for a prospective settlement. The peace plan, discussed in ongoing talks with international partners including the United States, is intended to create a diplomatic framework for ending the conflict that began in early 2022.

Zelensky told reporters that the proposed peace plan requires legitimacy that goes beyond decisions made by elected representatives alone, and that a referendum would allow the entire Ukrainian electorate to express its will directly on the terms of any agreement. He described this approach as a way to ensure the strongest possible historical backing for a settlement that must be accepted by millions, rather than solely by members of parliament.

The president explained that holding a nationwide vote would necessitate a cessation of hostilities, with officials estimating that at least 60 days of ceasefire would be needed to create secure conditions for the referendum to take place. Zelensky noted that Russia’s position toward such a vote has been negative, in part because a sustained ceasefire would be required to give Ukrainian authori-



ties the security infrastructure needed to organize and conduct the vote.

The peace plan itself, which has evolved through months of diplomatic engagement, was initially envisioned with broader input and has been refined in consultation with the United States and European partners. Zelensky highlighted that a joint position with allies emphasises diplomatic resolution and forceful security guarantees, but that a final agreement would carry far

greater weight if it reflects the direct will of the Ukrainian people.

Security guarantees, a key element of the plan, are expected to involve agreements with the United States and a coalition of willing nations, and would need approval from both foreign legislatures and the Ukrainian parliament. Zelensky has urged that such guarantees be durable and legally binding, learning from past security arrangements that failed to prevent renewed aggression.

While most elements of the peace plan are reportedly nearing consensus among Ukraine and its partners, unresolved questions remain, particularly regarding the future status of occupied regions and how to address strategic sites like the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant. These complex issues underscore why Zelensky believes public participation is essential before any final resolution is implemented.

Critics warn that a referendum would be chal-

lenging to organise amid ongoing conflict, but supporters argue it could strengthen domestic unity and send a powerful signal internationally about Ukraine’s determination to pursue peace on terms endorsed by its citizens.

As discussions continue, Zelensky’s call for a public vote could reshape the diplomatic trajectory of efforts to end Europe’s longest ongoing war in decades, placing Ukrainian public opinion at the centre of any future peace process.

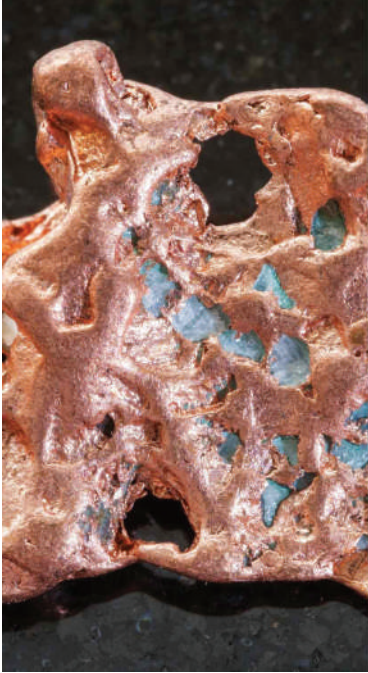
Gold, Silver, and Copper Prices See Sharp Decline After Record Rally

Major commodity markets witnessed a sudden correction on December 29, 2025, as gold, silver, and copper prices fell sharply after an unprecedented rally. Metals that had reached record highs over the past year experienced declines of up to 13 percent, reflecting a combination of profit-taking, changing market sentiment, and policy shifts.

Gold, which had been hovering near lifetime highs, saw a drop of nearly 2 percent, while silver declined around 8 percent from its peak. Copper, an important industrial metal and economic barometer, experienced the steepest fall, slipping approximately 13 percent after recent all-time highs. The sudden reversal comes after a year of strong demand and tight supply, which had fueled the rally in both precious and base metals.

Market analysts identify several factors behind the pullback. First, profit-booking played a central role. Investors who had benefited from the rally chose to lock in gains rather than risk holding positions at elevated levels. Over the past year, metals had been supported by expectations of interest rate cuts, geopolitical tensions, and ongoing supply constraints, prompting extended upward momentum. Once prices reached extreme levels, profit-taking became inevitable.

Second, easing geopolitical and policy tensions contributed



to reduced safe-haven demand. With signs of stabilization in major conflict regions and improved supply prospects from key producers, investors felt less urgency to allocate funds to gold and silver as a hedge against uncertainty. This reduction in demand from traditional safe-haven investors added to the downward pressure.

Technical factors also played a role. In the case of silver, increased margin requirements in futures markets forced some traders to liquidate positions, amplifying selling pressure. For

industrial metals like copper, speculative positions unwound quickly as traders reassessed global growth expectations and demand projections, particularly in energy and manufacturing sectors.

Despite the recent decline, prices remain significantly above levels observed at the start of the year, reflecting continued underlying demand. Gold and silver benefit from long-term interest from central banks and investors seeking portfolio diversification, while copper remains supported by strong

structural demand in renewable energy, electric vehicles, and industrial infrastructure.

The recent correction serves as a reminder of the volatility inherent in commodity markets. Extended rallies are often followed by sharp adjustments driven by sentiment, technical factors, and evolving global developments. Investors and market watchers will now closely monitor central bank policies, geopolitical events, and industrial demand indicators to gauge the trajectory of metals prices in 2026.

India's Industrial Production Rises 6.7% in November, Highest in Two Years



India's industrial sector showed a strong rebound in November 2025, with industrial production growing 6.7 per cent year-on-year, marking the highest growth rate in two years. The latest data from government statistical agencies indicate a significant recovery in manufacturing and mining activities, reflecting renewed momentum in the economy and business confidence heading into the final quarter of the year.

The manufacturing sector emerged as the key driver, expanding around 8 per cent in November. Increased production of basic metals, motor vehicles, pharmaceuticals, and fabricated metal products contributed to the strong performance, highlighting the resilience of India's manufacturing base and its ability to respond to rising domestic and export demand.

The mining sector also posted healthy growth, rising over 5 per cent. Higher extraction of minerals, particularly iron ore and other metallic resources, supported downstream industries and construction activity. This pickup in mining reflects improved utilization of industrial inputs and stronger industrial demand.

Electricity generation, however, saw a modest contraction, reflecting seasonal fluctuations in demand and variations in power consumption patterns. Despite this, the overall industrial growth remained robust due to gains across other sectors.

Looking at the use-based classifica-

tion of industrial production, growth was broad-based. Capital goods, intermediate goods, infrastructure and construction goods, as well as consumer durables, all registered meaningful gains. This pattern suggests that both producer investment and consumer demand are contributing to the rebound in industrial activity.

Economists have welcomed the November figures as a positive signal for India's economic momentum. After relatively moderate growth in October, the sharp rise in November underscores improving business sentiment and operational activity in factories. Analysts note, however, that some of the high growth rate may reflect base effects from the same month last year, and they expect a moderation in the pace of expansion in the coming months.

The strong industrial output adds to other signs of economic stability, including solid consumer spending and continued strength in the services sector. Policymakers view these figures as encouraging for sustaining overall growth and supporting employment in industrial and allied sectors.

As India heads into 2026, the November surge in industrial production is expected to bolster confidence among businesses and investors alike, providing a foundation for continued expansion and signaling that the country's industrial engine is regaining traction amid global uncertainties.

India's IPO Fundraising Surges to ₹1.95 Trillion in 2025, Highest in Two Years



India's capital markets witnessed a remarkable year in 2025, with the initial public offering (IPO) segment emerging as a key driver of market activity. A total of 373 IPOs, including 103 mainboard and 270 SME listings, collectively raised ₹1.95 trillion, marking the highest fundraising total in two years and highlighting strong investor appetite for equity offerings.

The growth in IPO fundraising was broad-based, spanning companies of various sizes and sectors. Mid-sized enterprises contributed significantly to the total, while small and medium enterprises leveraged SME platforms to access public capital in record numbers. Both institutional and retail investors participated actively, reflecting confidence in the equity markets despite global economic uncertainties.

The manufacturing and financial services sectors were among the top contributors to the surge. Established financial institutions and non-banking financial companies led some of the largest deals, drawing strong demand from investors. At the same time, newer and smaller companies used the market to raise capital for expansion, signaling the maturation and depth of India's IPO ecosystem.

Analysts note that the high level of fundraising is not solely driven by a few large issues. Rather, a combination of medium and smaller-sized IPOs helped broaden the market base, while the average deal sizes for mainboard offerings

increased over the past year. SME listings, in particular, more than doubled in average size compared with previous years, demonstrating growing investor interest in emerging firms.

The record fundraising also reflects a structural upcycle in India's primary markets. Over the last decade, mainboard IPOs have grown steadily, while SME offerings have expanded even faster, pointing to sustained capital formation and deepening market participation. Regulatory support, improved governance frameworks, and investor-friendly policies have further strengthened market confidence.

Looking ahead, industry projections suggest that 2026 could see continued momentum in India's IPO market, with potential fundraising reaching up to ₹4 lakh crore. Companies across diverse sectors are expected to access the market to fund growth initiatives, repay debt, or expand operations. Analysts believe this trend will further solidify India's position as one of the most active and dynamic IPO markets globally.

Overall, 2025 has been a landmark year for India's capital markets, with record IPO fundraising demonstrating the country's growing economic resilience and the increasing role of equity markets in financing corporate growth. The performance also underscores investor optimism and the strong demand for quality investment opportunities across both large and emerging companies.

Centre Aims to Reduce Debt-to-GDP Ratio to Around 55% in FY27

The Indian government is planning to lower its debt-to-GDP ratio to approximately 54.5–55 percent in the fiscal year 2026–27, a marginal improvement from the estimated 56.1 percent for the current year. This initiative reflects New Delhi's continued commitment to fiscal consolidation, aiming to strengthen macroeconomic stability while boosting investor confidence in public finances.

The debt-to-GDP ratio measures the total central government debt relative to the size of the economy. A lower ratio signals a reduced debt burden compared with economic output, which can help maintain investor trust, reduce borrowing costs, and support overall economic resilience. Analysts consider a gradual decline in this ratio as a positive sign of fiscal prudence.

In line with the Union Budget for FY26, the government has shifted its primary fiscal focus from the annual fiscal deficit to the debt-to-GDP ratio. This strategic move allows policymakers to take a longer-term approach to fiscal sustainability. By targeting a declining debt trajectory rather than solely focusing on year-to-year deficits, the government seeks to maintain financial predictability while retaining flexibility to respond to changing economic conditions.

The exact path of debt reduc-



tion will depend on India's growth performance, which will be reassessed after the release of advance GDP estimates for FY26. Officials have indicated that a moderate consolidation approach is expected, balancing fiscal discipline with continued support for growth-enhancing expenditures. This approach allows the government to maintain investments in infrastructure, health, and social welfare without exacerbating borrowing pressures.

Economists note that reducing the debt ratio has broader implications for India's sovereign

credit profile and market perception. A lower debt-to-GDP ratio can improve the country's sovereign rating over time, potentially reducing interest costs on future borrowings and enhancing India's attractiveness to foreign and domestic investors. It also creates fiscal space for strategic investments, helping support long-term economic growth.

Achieving the targeted reduction will require strict fiscal execution. While nominal GDP growth provides support to the denominator of the ratio, careful expenditure management and revenue mobilisation will be

critical. Rating agencies have projected that if nominal growth remains robust and fiscal prudence is maintained, India can continue a downward trend in its debt ratio toward medium-term targets.

By focusing on the debt-to-GDP ratio as a key fiscal anchor, the government signals a commitment to fiscal responsibility, especially amid global uncertainties. A clear and credible debt trajectory is expected to strengthen investor confidence, support macroeconomic stability, and provide a solid foundation for policy planning in FY27.

Sensex and Nifty Slip Amid Year-End Caution, FII Selling, and Global Uncertainty

Indian equity markets witnessed a cautious session on Monday, with benchmark indices giving up early gains and closing lower amid subdued trading and lingering investor anxiety. The BSE Sensex fell around 300 points from its day's high, while the Nifty 50 slipped below the 26,050 level, reflecting a combination of domestic and global factors weighing on sentiment.

Market participants pointed to thin year-end trading volumes as a key reason for the slide. With several institutional investors and mutual funds winding up their portfolios before the holiday season, liquidity remained constrained, amplifying the impact of even modest selling pressure. Retail investors also maintained a cautious stance, reducing market momentum.

Another factor contributing to the decline was continued foreign institutional investor (FII) selling. FIIs, who play a significant role in driving large-cap stock performance, remained net



sellers of Indian equities, putting downward pressure on the broader market. Sustained outflows have been a recurring theme in recent sessions, limiting any sustained recovery.

Global market cues also played a role in shaping domestic sentiment. Sluggish trading in major overseas indices and uncertainty around global economic growth prompted Indian investors to adopt a risk-averse approach. Weak performance in the US and European markets, coupled with

mixed data from Asia, meant that domestic indices lacked external support.

Rising crude oil prices further compounded concerns, with higher energy costs feeding into inflation expectations and potentially affecting corporate profitability. Sectors sensitive to input costs, including transport and manufacturing, saw pressure, while defensive sectors offered limited support to the indices.

On the sectoral front, financials and infrastructure stocks

were among the underperformers, reflecting both global cues and domestic caution. Conversely, commodity-linked sectors saw modest buying interest, aided by stable global commodity prices. However, these gains were insufficient to offset overall market weakness.

Analysts suggest that key support levels around 26,000–25,950 for the Nifty will be closely monitored in the coming sessions. As long as these levels hold, markets may continue to trade in a range-bound manner, with selective accumulation in quality large-cap stocks. A breach of these supports could trigger further selling pressure in the near term.

Investors are also looking ahead to corporate earnings updates, policy developments, and global economic indicators in early 2026, which are expected to provide fresh triggers for market direction. In the meantime, cautious trading and risk management remain the focus as the year draws to a close.

The Day ASUS Almost Became a Memory Maker — At Least in Our Imagination



Every so often, the tech world collectively pauses and asks a question that sounds bold, logical, and just believable enough: What if a big hardware brand decided to do everything itself? Recently, that question revolved around ASUS and an unexpected idea — the company making its own RAM to escape the ongoing global memory shortage.

For a brief moment, it felt like a plot twist worth cheering. RAM prices have been climbing, supply has been tight, and AI data centres are hoarding memory like it's digital gold. Against this backdrop, the rumour suggested that ASUS might step into memory manufacturing by the second quarter of 2026, potentially easing pressure on laptop and PC production. It was a comforting thought — one company riding in to save countless frustrated PC builders.

But reality, as it often does, arrived quietly. ASUS clarified that it has

no intention of entering DRAM manufacturing. And honestly, that makes sense. Making RAM isn't like assembling laptops or designing motherboards. It requires enormous fabrication plants, years of research, and investments so large they make even tech giants hesitate. This isn't vertical integration — it's industrial heavy lifting.

Still, the rumour itself says something interesting about the moment we're living in. Memory shortages have become so disruptive that consumers and industry watchers alike are imagining radical solutions. When the supply chain stumbles, even unlikely ideas start to sound reasonable. In that sense, the ASUS speculation was less about the company and more about collective frustration.

What ASUS is doing, instead, is adapting. Like many manufacturers, it's working closely with memory suppliers, adjusting configurations, and managing invento-

ries to keep products moving. This behind-the-scenes balancing act may not grab headlines, but it's what keeps laptops shipping and gaming rigs alive during turbulent times.

There's also an offbeat irony here. ASUS is famous for RAM branding through its gaming sub-brands, RGB-heavy modules, and performance tuning partnerships. To many consumers, it already feels like a memory company. That illusion made the rumour even easier to believe.

In the end, ASUS didn't become a memory manufacturer — but the idea lingered just long enough to expose how strained the tech ecosystem has become. It showed how shortages blur the line between speculation and hope, and how even a rumour can briefly offer relief in an industry hungry for stability.

Sometimes, the most revealing tech stories aren't about what happens, but about what people wish would happen.

When a Wedding Almost Stopped for a Missing Sindoor — and Blinkit Saved the Day



Weddings are often dramatic, but a recent Delhi wedding added a real-life plot twist worthy of a Bollywood scene. Just after the pheras, the couple realized a tiny yet crucial item — the sindoor, or vermilion powder — was missing. In Hindu weddings, the sindoor application is a symbolic and essential ritual, and its absence briefly brought the ceremony to a halt.

Panic? Slightly. Family brainstorming? Absolutely. But the solution wasn't running through traffic to find a local shop. Instead, someone had a modern idea: order it online and hope for a miracle. That's where Blinkit, the quick-commerce delivery service, stepped in as the unsung hero.

Within minutes of placing the order, a Blinkit delivery executive arrived at the mandap with the vermilion in hand. The crowd erupted in applause as the groom completed the sindoor ritual amidst laughter, cheers,

and relief. It was a reminder that sometimes, technology can save the day in the most traditional of settings.

Social media reactions poured in, blending humor with admiration. Many dubbed the delivery partner a "silent superhero," acknowledging that saving a wedding in minutes is a form of modern heroism. Others joked that classic cinematic wedding moments — dramatic dashes, heroic declarations, and suspenseful pauses — are now being replaced by bicycle riders, phone apps, and lightning-fast delivery. Fans imagined weddings abroad without such services, picturing guests in full panic mode without instant delivery options.

The incident also reflects how integrated quick-commerce services have become in urban life. Beyond groceries and daily essentials, these platforms are now delivering ritual salvation at moments when

tradition meets modern bustle. Weddings, usually steeped in symbolism, found themselves relying on a practical solution — a humorous yet functional intersection of old customs and new technology.

At the heart of the story is more than just the sindoor; it's about how modern logistics and technology are subtly reshaping daily life and even sacred ceremonies. In this case, a near-disaster turned into a viral moment of joy and laughter, showing that happily ever after can sometimes come on two wheels with a delivery bag in tow.

In the end, the wedding continued without further hiccups, leaving the couple, families, and a smiling Blinkit rider as unlikely co-stars of one of the quirkiest wedding rescues in recent memory. It was a modern-day fairy tale — where a fast app, a dedicated delivery executive, and a little bit of vermilion made all the difference.

OpenAI's High-Pay Safety Role Signals a New Economic Phase for Artificial Intelligence

OpenAI's decision to hire a senior executive for a newly defined role — Head of Preparedness — with an annual compensation package that can exceed half a million dollars highlights a major shift in the economics of artificial intelligence. As AI technologies move closer to widespread commercial deployment, companies are increasingly investing not just in innovation, but in risk management and long-term sustainability.



The role focuses on identifying and mitigating potential dangers posed by advanced AI models before they are released. This includes preparing for misuse, cyber threats, and broader systemic risks that could affect industries and governments. From an economic standpoint, this reflects the growing recognition that unchecked AI failures could result in massive financial liabilities, regulatory penalties, and reputational damage.

The high salary attached to the position underscores the intensifying competition for specialized talent in the AI sector. As AI becomes a core driver of productivity across sectors such

as healthcare, finance, education, and defense, companies are willing to pay a premium for professionals who can combine technical expertise with strategic foresight. This trend is reshaping wage structures within the tech industry, where safety and governance roles are emerging alongside traditional engineering positions as top-tier earners.

From a broader market perspective, OpenAI's move signals a maturation of the AI economy. Early phases of

technological revolutions typically prioritize rapid growth and market capture. However, as industries stabilize, attention shifts to compliance, risk control, and sustainable scaling. The creation of a preparedness division reflects this transition, suggesting that AI firms now view safety as a core economic investment rather than an ethical afterthought.

The implications extend beyond individual companies. As leading AI firms institutionalize safety roles, competitors

may be compelled to follow suit, driving up operational costs across the sector. While this could raise barriers to entry for smaller startups, it may also strengthen consumer and investor confidence, encouraging long-term capital inflows into the AI ecosystem.

Additionally, governments worldwide are considering stricter AI regulations. By proactively investing in preparedness, companies like OpenAI may gain strategic advantages in navigating regulatory

frameworks and influencing future policy standards. This alignment between corporate governance and public oversight could play a key role in shaping how economic value from AI is distributed globally.

Ultimately, OpenAI's high-profile hiring decision reflects a deeper economic reality: as artificial intelligence becomes embedded in everyday economic activity, the cost of safety is becoming inseparable from the cost of innovation.

When a Smartphone Sneaks In Through Paperwork: The Curious Case of the Vivo X300 Ultra



Smartphones no longer announce themselves with trumpets and teaser videos alone. Sometimes,

they quietly walk in through government paperwork. The Vivo X300 Ultra has done just that, making an unexpected appearance on a certification database — and instantly becoming the centre of speculation, excitement, and educated guesswork.

Certification listings are not designed to thrill anyone. They exist to ensure devices follow rules, meet standards, and behave responsibly. Yet, in the tech world, these dry documents have become treasure maps. When the X300 Ultra surfaced there, fans didn't see forms and model numbers — they saw possibilities.

The "Ultra" tag alone is enough to set expectations sky-high. It suggests a phone that refuses to compromise, one that aims to sit at the very top of Vivo's smartphone pyramid. While official details remain under wraps, whispers around the device paint it as a

camera-obsessed flagship, built for users who believe every photo deserves professional-grade treatment — even if it's just a cup of coffee.

Speculation hints at a massive, high-refresh-rate display, the kind that makes scrolling feel like gliding on ice. Under the hood, the phone is expected to pack a powerful processor capable of handling heavy gaming, multitasking, and the increasingly demanding world of on-device AI features. A large battery is also part of the rumor mill, because nothing says "Ultra" like a phone that refuses to die before bedtime.

What makes this sighting particularly interesting is what it suggests beyond specs. Certification outside China hints at the possibility — not a promise, but a hope — of a wider global release. For fans who've watched Ultra-level phones remain region-locked dreams, this appearance feels like

a small crack in the wall.

There's also something oddly charming about how modern anticipation works. Before a phone is touched, priced, or officially acknowledged, it already has an identity shaped by leaks, expectations, and imagination. The Vivo X300 Ultra, at this stage, exists partly as hardware and partly as a story told by enthusiasts filling in the blanks.

Of course, reality may differ. Launch dates change, features evolve, and prices surprise. But for now, the X300 Ultra has achieved something important without saying a word: it has reminded everyone that in the smartphone world, even a quiet regulatory listing can spark loud excitement.

Sometimes, the most interesting tech announcements don't arrive with fireworks — they arrive as footnotes that refuse to be ignored.

The Samsung Galaxy A07 5G: A Budget Phone That Accidentally Stole the Spotlight

Some smartphones arrive with dramatic launches, laser lights, and carefully scripted applause. Others simply slip into the public eye through a technical listing, quietly revealing themselves before the official invitation is sent out. The Samsung Galaxy A07 5G belongs firmly in the second category — a modest device that has managed to spark curiosity without trying too hard.

The phone recently appeared in a developer database, offering an early look at its design and core specifications. At first glance, the Galaxy A07 5G looks reassuringly familiar. Its design mirrors Samsung's no-nonsense approach to budget phones, complete with a dual-camera setup on the back and a water-drop notch on the front. Thick bezels frame the display, reminding users that this phone is built for practicality rather than prestige.



Yet, beneath its unassuming exterior lies something quietly important: 5G connectivity. What was once a flagship feature has now trickled down to entry-level devices, and the Galaxy A07 5G stands as proof of how quickly smartphone technology becomes democratized. This isn't a phone chasing innovation for inno-

vation's sake; it's chasing relevance.

Early details suggest the device runs a recent version of Android and is paired with a capable mid-range processor designed for efficiency rather than raw power. Translation? It should handle everyday tasks — social media, video streaming, messaging, and casual gaming — without com-

plaint. For most users, that's more than enough.

What makes the Galaxy A07 5G interesting isn't what it does differently, but what it does consistently. It reflects a shift in consumer priorities. In a world of rising prices, buyers increasingly want reliability, battery life, and longevity. Samsung appears to be leaning into this mindset,

offering a phone that focuses on essential features while keeping costs in check.

There's also something refreshing about the way the A07 5G has entered the conversation. No hype machine. No exaggerated promises. Just a quiet appearance that lets people imagine how it might fit into their daily lives. It's the kind of phone that doesn't demand attention but earns it over time.

Ultimately, the Galaxy A07 5G represents a growing category of smartphones designed for real-world use, not spec-sheet bragging rights. It may never dominate headlines, but for millions of users looking for an affordable gateway into the 5G era, this understated device could be exactly what they've been waiting for.

Sometimes, the most interesting stories belong to the phones that don't shout — they simply show up.

Vijay Hazare Trophy 2025 26: Exciting Encounters and Emerging Stars Shine

The Vijay Hazare Trophy 2025 26 witnessed another thrilling day of one-day domestic cricket on Monday, with standout performances, close finishes, and emerging talents taking center stage. The tournament continues to showcase the depth and quality of India's cricketing talent, with several young players making a strong impression.

In one of the Group matches, Bihar recorded a dominant win over Meghalaya, chasing a target of 218 in just 32.3 overs. Teen sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi played a blistering knock of 31 off just 10 balls, providing Bihar with a rapid start. His aggressive innings set the tone, and Piyush Singh's unbeaten century ensured a comfortable finish for the team, highlighting Bihar's growing strength in domestic cricket.

Meanwhile, Delhi edged past Saurashtra in a high-scoring thriller. Despite losing star wicketkeeper-batsman early in the chase, Delhi showed resilience. Crucial contributions from the middle order, including an unbeaten cameo from Navdeep Saini, helped the team reach the target with just a few balls remaining. Delhi's victory emphasized their experience and ability to handle pressure situations.

A major upset came



from Punjab, where the Abhishek Sharma-led side suffered a five-wicket loss to Uttarakhand. Punjab posted a competitive total but struggled with the ball, allowing Uttarakhand's captain Kunal Chandel to score a match-winning century. This victory was a statement performance for Uttarakhand, keeping them in contention for the knockout

rounds. Mumbai maintained their winning momentum, defeating Chhattisgarh by nine wickets. In the absence of veteran Rohit Sharma, Mumbai's young batting lineup chased a modest target effortlessly. This win marked their third consecutive victory in Group C and reinforced Mumbai's reputation as one of the tournament

favorites.

The tournament has also been defined by remarkable records. Bihar posted a historic men's List A score of 574/6, powered by Suryavanshi's explosive batting, including a 36-ball century — one of the fastest in List A history. Performances like these are drawing attention to the future stars of Indian cricket.

As the group stages progress, teams are focused on securing their positions ahead of the knockout phase. With fierce competition and several players making their mark, fans can expect more thrilling matches, high-scoring encounters, and unforgettable moments in the race for the prestigious Vijay Hazare Trophy.

Ashes 2025 26: R Ashwin Defends MCG Pitch After Chaotic Two-Day Test



The fourth Test of the 2025 26 Ashes series at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) ended in dramatic fashion, drawing global attention and sparking debates about pitch conditions in modern Test cricket. England's four-wicket victory in just two days not only ended their 14-year wait

for a Test win on Australian soil but also highlighted the unpredictable nature of the MCG pitch and the challenges it posed for batsmen.

Australia, already leading the series 3-0, entered the match confident of a comprehensive win. However, the bowler-friendly pitch, with an unusual

covering of grass and seam movement, saw 36 wickets fall in just six sessions, leaving no batter able to score a half-century across four innings. The short duration of the match and the dominance of seam bowlers sparked widespread criticism and discussion among fans, analysts, and former play-

ers alike.

Amid the controversy, former India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin took a measured approach, refusing to condemn the MCG pitch. Speaking publicly, he emphasized that both teams faced identical conditions and that adapting to foreign pitches is an essential part of Test cricket. Ashwin described the match as akin to "a racing thriller," highlighting the excitement and unpredictability that make Test cricket unique.

Ashwin also addressed what he called "double standards" in pitch criticism, noting that similar bowler-friendly surfaces in other countries often draw less attention or are judged differently. His remarks reflected a broader conversation about fairness and consistency in how pitches are evaluated, and the responsibility of teams to adapt rather than complain.

Despite Ashwin's diplo-

matic stance, the International Cricket Council (ICC) rated the MCG pitch as unsatisfactory, issuing demerit points to the venue. Such ratings carry potential long-term implications for one of cricket's most iconic grounds, emphasizing the importance of maintaining balanced and competitive surfaces for Test matches.

The series now moves to the fifth and final Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground, scheduled to begin in early January. Both teams will be eager to conclude the Ashes on a more competitive and balanced note, but the MCG Test is already being remembered for its fast-paced drama, seam-friendly conditions, and England's historic win. Ashwin's measured response serves as a reminder that while controversies may flare, the core of Test cricket lies in adaptability, resilience, and the unpredictable thrill that keeps fans engaged.

Ashes 2025 26: Ben Duckett's Cheeky Reply to Australian Fan Goes Viral



During the fourth Test of the 2025 26 Ashes series at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), England batter Ben Duckett became the center of a viral off-field moment after a playful exchange with an Australian supporter. The incident, which occurred amid a tense and highly competitive Test, captured the imagination of cricket fans worldwide and added a lighter side to an otherwise dramatic match.

As Duckett patrolled the boundary while fielding, an enthusiastic Australian fan shouted at him, offering a beer in a cheeky reference to previous off-field antics and matches. The fan's remark was intended as a humorous sledge, a nod to the intense rivalry between the two nations. Rather than taking offense, Duckett responded with good humor, acknowledging the taunt with a playful gesture that immediately drew cheers from his teammates and amused spectators in the stands. His measured, witty response quickly went viral on social media, highlighting the sportsmanship and character of the young England batter.

The moment occurred during a Test that was remarkable for its fast pace and dramatic swings. England, trailing 3-0 in the series, faced immense pressure against a strong Australian side. The MCG pitch, known for favoring seam bowlers, produced a gripping contest where batsmen struggled to settle. England's eventual victory by four

wickets not only snapped a 14-year losing streak in Australia but also demonstrated the team's resilience and ability to perform under pressure.

Duckett contributed 34 runs during the chase, playing a pivotal role in helping England reach the target of 175. While his on-field performance was crucial, it was his off-field reaction to the fan's sledge that resonated widely, showing that humor and composure can coexist with fierce competition. Cricket analysts praised the incident as an example of how players can engage with fans while maintaining professionalism, turning a potentially tense moment into one of entertainment and connection.

Moments like these underscore the enduring appeal of the Ashes series. While the matches are fiercely contested and often produce historic outcomes, they also offer glimpses of levity, camaraderie, and shared enjoyment between players and spectators. Duckett's viral exchange serves as a reminder that cricket is not only about runs and wickets but also about interaction, fan engagement, and the memorable stories that emerge from both on-field heroics and off-field moments.

As the series moves to its final Test in Sydney, Duckett's quick-witted response will remain one of the most talked-about episodes, celebrating the lighter side of one of cricket's most intense rivalries.

India Women Extend Dominance with 30-Run Win Over Sri Lanka Women



India's women's cricket team continued their dominant run in the five-match T20I series against Sri Lanka Women, defeating the visitors by 30 runs in the fourth match on Sunday at the Greenfield International Stadium in Thiruvananthapuram. The win gave India an unassailable 4-0 lead, with one match remaining in the series.

Batting first, India's openers set the tone with a commanding partnership. Smriti Mandhana scored 80 runs, while Shafali Verma contributed 79, combining for a 162-run opening stand, the highest in India's Women's T20I history. Their aggressive and controlled batting laid the foundation for India's formidable total of 221 for 2 in 20 overs, one of the highest scores in women's T20 cricket.

India's innings was further strengthened by Richa Ghosh, who provided crucial late-innings runs, helping to accelerate the score and maintain momentum. The combination of power hitting and smart shot selection kept Sri Lanka under constant pressure throughout the match.

In response, Sri Lanka started positively, with captain Chamari Athapaththu playing a determined innings, scoring a half-century, and opener Hasini Perera offering solid support at the top. However, India's bowlers maintained control, regularly breaking partnerships and keeping the scoring rate in check. Sri Lanka eventually finished at 191 for 6 in their 20 overs, falling

short of India's total by 30 runs.

Among the Indian bowlers, Vaishnavi Sharma impressed with her spell, taking 2 wickets for 24 runs and striking at key moments to derail Sri Lanka's momentum. The disciplined bowling attack complemented the batting performance, showcasing India's all-round strength and team balance.

The victory reflected a complete team effort. While India dominated with the bat and ball, the team also displayed improved fielding and game awareness, further reinforcing their position as the superior side in the series. The senior players and captain praised the collective performance, highlighting the team's depth and versatility in both batting and bowling departments.

With the series now virtually won, India will look to carry this momentum into the final T20I, aiming for a series whitewash. The team's all-round excellence — strong top-order batting, consistent contributions from the middle order, and disciplined bowling — demonstrates their growing confidence and dominance in women's T20 cricket.

This victory not only underlines India's supremacy over Sri Lanka in the ongoing series but also sends a strong message about the team's readiness and depth ahead of upcoming international competitions. Fans and experts alike will be eager to see if India can complete the clean sweep in the final match and continue their remarkable form in the shortest format.

PCB Chief Mohsin Naqvi Responds to India's 'No-Handshake' Policy in Indo-Pak Cricket

The ongoing tension between India and Pakistan in cricket has taken the spotlight again, with Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Mohsin Naqvi offering a blunt response to India's informal "no-handshake" policy. The stance, observed by the Indian teams in recent tournaments, including the Asia Cup, has prevented players from shaking hands with their Pakistani counterparts after matches.

Speaking in Lahore, Naqvi addressed the issue directly, stating that Pakistan would respect India's decision not to engage in customary handshakes but would not pursue such gestures unilaterally. "If they don't want to shake hands, then we have no particular desire to do so either," he remarked. He emphasized that any interaction between the two sides should occur on an equal footing, reflecting Pakistan's commitment to



dignity and parity in sporting encounters.

The policy first drew attention during the Asia Cup, when both the Indian men's and women's teams refrained from post-match handshakes, citing solidarity with victims of recent terror attacks in India. The approach has since carried over into subsequent youth and senior competitions, fueling debates on sports-

manship and the influence of politics in cricket.

Naqvi made it clear that Pakistan's position is guided by the principle that cricket and politics should remain separate, a stance repeatedly endorsed by Pakistan's political leadership. He noted that while Pakistan respects India's choices, it will not compromise its own dignity or appear

one-sided in matters of sportsmanship.

The comments come in the wake of several tense Indo-Pak matches, particularly at youth levels, where disagreements and heated exchanges on the field have sparked strong reactions from players, officials, and cricket enthusiasts. Analysts suggest that Naqvi's remarks are an attempt to strike a balance between acknowl-

edging India's stance and maintaining Pakistan's image as a confident and fair competitor.

By adopting a stance of mutual non-engagement rather than confrontation, the PCB aims to manage relations without escalating tensions, while signaling that gestures of goodwill must be reciprocal to have meaning. This approach highlights the delicate intersection of sport and diplomacy between the two nations, where cricket often mirrors broader political dynamics.

As both boards prepare for future encounters in bilateral series or multi-lateral tournaments, the handshake issue remains symbolic of the larger rift. While it may not effect on-field competition, the controversy underscores the continuing challenge of maintaining cordial relations in one of cricket's most storied and high-stakes rivalries.

Telugu Family Drama
“Sahakutumbanam” to Release on New Year’s Day 2026



The Telugu film “Sahakutumbanam” is all set for a grand worldwide release on January 1, 2026, perfectly timed to ring in the New Year with family entertainment. Produced under the banner HNG Cinemas LLP, the film is written and directed by Uday Sharma, with Mahadev Goud and Nagaratna serving as producers. The film stars Ram Kiran and Megha Akash in lead roles, supported by a stellar ensemble cast including Nata Kiriti Rajendra Prasad, Brahmanandam, Satyam, Subhalekha Sudhakar, Rajasri Nair, Rachha Ravi, Giridhar, Tagubothu Ramesh, and Bhadram, among others. “Sahakutumbanam” brings together an accomplished technical team, promising a high-quality cinematic experi-

ence. Music has been composed by Mani Sharma, while Madhu Dasari handles cinematography and Shashank Mali is the editor. The film features choreography by Chinni Prakash, Bhanu, and Vijay Polaki, with lyrics penned by Ananth Sriram. Action sequences have been choreographed by Anji and Karthik, and art direction is by P. S. Varma. The film’s trailer, released earlier, has already generated positive buzz on social media, garnering encouraging responses from audiences. Originally scheduled for an earlier release, the team postponed it due to unavoidable circumstances, now aligning the launch with the New Year festivities to maximize the celebratory spirit. On the

announcement, the team of Sahakutumbanam extended New Year greetings to their audience, expressing hope for a year filled with happiness, positivity, and prosperity. The film, with its engaging story, seasoned cast, and strong technical backing, is poised to become a wholesome family entertainer for viewers across India and overseas. With the New Year release, “Sahakutumbanam” aims to captivate audiences seeking a heartfelt, fun-filled cinematic experience, combining humor, emotion, and festive cheer in a single package. Fans and families are eagerly anticipating the film’s arrival in theatres, ready to welcome 2026 with the heartwarming tale of Sahakutumbanam.

Emmanuel Reflects on His Bigg Boss Journey:
“Actors Who Can Keep Acting for Days Are Yet to Be Born”



Popular actor Emmanuel, known for his work in Jabardasth, recently shared his thoughts on his memorable journey as a Top 4 finalist on Bigg Boss. Speaking exclusively to the media, he expressed deep gratitude for the experience and reflected on the lessons he learned during the show. “Bigg Boss has given me so much,” Emmanuel said. “I will cherish this experience forever. The bond I formed with my fellow participants, especially Sanjana, is something I will carry with me for a lifetime.” Addressing the common perception that all participants in Bigg Boss are merely acting, Emmanuel remarked, “People

often say contestants are acting, but the truth is, there aren’t actors in the world who can keep performing for hours, days, or even weeks continuously. The show tests your patience, emotions, and endurance in ways that no scripted performance ever could.” He also expressed heartfelt thanks to his supporters, particularly Visionary Vows, who stood by him throughout the journey. Emmanuel emphasized that he intends to apply the valuable lessons learned from Bigg Boss to both his career and personal life, ensuring the experience has a lasting impact. When asked about not winning the title, Emmanuel

said he had no regrets. “Congratulations to Kalyan, the winner of Bigg Boss. I am genuinely happy for him and have no disappointment about not securing the first place,” he added. Emmanuel’s appearance on Bigg Boss allowed audiences to see a different side of him—humble, relatable, and enduring under pressure—while reaffirming his place as a crowd favorite. With the lessons and bonds formed on the show, Emmanuel is now ready to channel his Bigg Boss experience into new professional opportunities, promising to entertain and inspire fans in the years to come.

Prabhas’The Raja Saab Trailer 2.0 Released, Fans
Excited Ahead of Sankranti

The makers of the highly anticipated Telugu film The Raja Saab have released Trailer 2.0, sparking excitement among fans and film enthusiasts across the country. The new trailer, unveiled on Monday, offers a thrilling glimpse into what promises to be one of Sankranti 2026’s biggest cinematic spectacles. Starring Pan India star Prabhas in a dynamic avatar, The Raja Saab blends horror, comedy, romance, and action into an engaging narrative. The 3 minute trailer highlights grand visual effects, striking production design, and Prabhas’ diverse looks, which have already set fan communities abuzz with anticipation. Directed by Maruthi and produced by People Media Factory and IVY Entertainment, the film follows Prabhas’ character as he enters a mysterious mansion and confronts supernatural forces tied to a family legacy. The ensemble cast includes Sanjay Dutt, Zarina Wahab, Boman Irani, along with Malavika Mohanan, Nidhi Agerwal, and Riddhi Kumar in pivotal roles, adding depth and charm to the story.



The trailer opens with lighter, comedic sequences, gradually moving into darker, horror-driven moments, keeping viewers engaged with its eerie ambiance and compelling background score. Fans have praised Prabhas’ intense performance, noting that his portrayal in the film is both power-

ful and nuanced, showcasing his versatility as an actor. Set for release on January 9, 2026, coinciding with the Sankranti festival, The Raja Saab is expected to attract large audiences in both Tollywood and pan Indian markets. Reports suggest strong advance bookings, reflecting the

high anticipation and fan loyalty surrounding the film. Prabhas’ decision to explore a fantastical horror-comedy genre has resonated with viewers looking for a fresh cinematic experience. With its mix of thrilling sequences, mass appeal, and a stellar supporting cast, The Raja Saab is

poised to be a visual spectacle and major festival entertainer when it hits theatres next month. As fans countdown to the release, expectations are high for a film that combines humor, suspense, and action, promising to make The Raja Saab a memorable addition to Prabhas’ illustrious filmography.

Director Praneeth Pattipati Thrilled as Audiences Soar with
‘Patang’

Director Praneeth Pattipati is overjoyed with the audience response to his debut film ‘Patang’, a sports drama centered on kite competitions. Produced under Cinematic Elements, Rishan Cinemas, and Monsoon Tales, and presented by D. Suresh Babu, the film has been produced by Vijay Shekhar Anne, Sampath Maka, Suresh Kothinti, and Nani Bandreddy. Speaking to reporters on Monday, Praneeth said, “The appreciation for Patang is truly gratifying. Seeing audiences enjoy it makes me feel all the hard work has paid off. The climax, in particular, gives the

thrill of watching a live match in a stadium.” Praneeth, a Hyderabad native and DFTech graduate from Ramanaidu Film School, shared that he chose kite competitions as the central theme because it is a native sport. “While films with sports like rugby have been made, kite flying is our own tradition. The CG work, especially for the climax, took two years—it was challenging but worth it to make the kites look convincingly real,” he explained. On the support from producers over the last three years, he added, “They never compromised on quality. Their

investment made the film vibrant and visually rich.” He also acknowledged industry appreciation from stalwarts like SKN, Sundeeep Kishan, Bellamkonda Suresh, and Dil Raju. Addressing release challenges, Praneeth admitted, “Initially, I was upset about not securing enough theatres during the Christmas season. But as word-of-mouth grew, the support strengthened. The theatres where the film is running are seeing full houses.” Praneeth also spoke about director Gautham Vasudev Menon joining the film, after other industry names were unavailable. “He enjoyed the dialogues and perfectly suited the role,” he said. The director shared that working with newcomers suited the story, and that he wrote the story and dialogues himself.



Looking ahead, he teased his next project: “It will be ten times funnier than Patang.” With a wide overseas release planned for January 1, Praneeth expressed confidence that audiences abroad will enjoy the film as much as they are in India. Reflecting on his journey, he said, “I learned a lot—more than filmmaking, marketing is crucial.” ‘Patang’ continues to capture hearts with its youthful energy, thrilling kite competitions, and heartfelt storytelling, establishing Praneeth Pattipati as a promising new voice in Telugu cinema.

Ram Charan’s Peddi Unveils Jagapathi
Babu’s Powerful First Look as
“Appalasoori”

The makers of the highly anticipated Telugu film Peddi have released a striking first look of veteran actor Jagapathi Babu, portraying the character Appalasoori, further fueling excitement for the Pan India release slated for March 27, 2026. Jagapathi Babu’s transformation is remarkable. Sporting disheveled grey hair, thick spectacles, and a rugged appearance, the look reflects years of struggle and hardship, offering a glimpse into the depth of his character. The filmmakers have hinted that Appalasoori will play a pivotal role in the narrative, showcasing Jagapathi Babu’s versatility and acting prowess. Peddi stars Mega Powerstar Ram Charan in the lead role, with Janhvi Kapoor as the female lead. The ensemble cast also includes notable actors like Shiva Rajkumar and Divyendu Sharma, while Boman Irani has been confirmed in a key role, adding further



star power and anticipation to the project. Directed by Buchi Babu Sana, Peddi is described as a rural sports drama that blends traditional life with cricket, weaving intense emotion and high-stakes storytelling. The film also features music by legendary composer A.R. Rahman, expected to enhance the cinematic experience with immersive and vibrant compositions. Fans have reacted with excitement on social media, praising Jagapathi Babu’s intense first look and eagerly awaiting teasers

and character reveals. The poster release has already generated significant buzz, with many lauding the veteran actor’s commanding presence in this unfamiliar avatar. With its March 27, 2026 release date confirmed, Peddi is shaping up to be one of the most talked-about Telugu films of the year. Its mix of rustic charm, action, emotional drama, and a stellar cast has created high expectations among fans across India, making it a film to watch closely as the new year approaches.

Telugu Film Mowgli Set for OTT
Release After Theatrical Run



The Telugu romantic action drama Mowgli, starring Roshan Kanakala and Sakkshi Mhadolkar, is gearing up for its OTT release shortly after its theatrical debut on December 13, 2025. Directed by Sandeep Raj, the film has attracted attention for its jungle-based narrative, youthful cast, and a mix of romance, action, and emotional drama. Produced by People Media Factory, Mowgli tells the story of love, survival, and resilience set against dense forests. Roshan Kanakala plays a rugged protagonist, while Mhadolkar makes her Telugu debut. The antagonist, portrayed by Bandi Saroj Kumar, adds intensity to the narrative, contributing to the suspenseful and adventurous tone of the film. Although the film received a modest response at the box office, it reportedly recovered its production costs due to a relatively low budget and consistent performance during the first

week. In a strategic move to reach a wider audience, the makers have confirmed that Mowgli will begin streaming on ETV Win starting January 1, 2026. The quick transition to digital platforms is in line with current trends in South Indian cinema, allowing films to maximize their audience reach and engagement beyond theatres. Fans are eagerly anticipating the OTT premiere, where they can enjoy the film’s engaging jungle visuals, heartfelt performances, and intense storyline from the comfort of home. With its combination of romance, adventure, and action, Mowgli is expected to appeal to a broad audience just in time for the holiday season. The film’s digital release offers a fresh opportunity for viewers to experience Roshan Kanakala’s performance and Sandeep Raj’s storytelling, reinforcing Mowgli’s place as one of the notable Telugu films of 2025.