



Telangana Official Meets Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to Discuss Young India Residential Schools

Hyderabad, Telangana – 16th December 2025:

In a key development aimed at strengthening educational infrastructure in Telangana, a senior state official met with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to discuss the establishment and funding of Young India Integrated Residential Schools (YIIRS). The meeting focused on the construction of these residential schools, mobilization of funds, and seeking financial exemptions to ensure smooth and timely implementation of the ambitious initiative.

During the discussions, the official emphasized the state's plan to set up 100 Young India Residential Schools across Telangana, highlighting that these institutions would directly and indirectly benefit an estimated four lakh students. The schools are envisioned to provide high-quality education, residential facilities, and holistic development opportunities for students, particularly in rural and underserved regions. By integrating academic, sports, and cultural programs, the YIIRS aim to bridge educational gaps



and ensure equal access to world-class learning opportunities.

A significant point raised during the meeting was the request for exemption of loans taken for constructing these schools from the FRBM (Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management) limits. This, the official noted, would allow the state to finance the construction without affecting its fiscal targets, ensuring that the projects are completed efficiently and without unnecessary delays. Such exemptions would provide greater flexibility for the state government to invest in educational infrastructure

while maintaining financial discipline.

The official also highlighted that the residential schools would be equipped with modern classrooms, libraries, laboratories, and sports facilities, providing students with a comprehensive learning environment. Residential facilities would enable students from remote areas to access quality education without commuting challenges, fostering inclusivity and equal opportunity.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman appreciated the proposal and acknowledged the importance of expanding educational opportunities in Telangana. She assured that the matter would receive due consideration, reflecting the central government's commitment to supporting state initiatives aimed at improving education for youth.

Officials noted that the establishment of YIIRS would not only enhance academic learning but also focus on skill development, extracurricular activities, and personality growth, preparing students for higher education and future careers. The program is expected to create a positive impact on the state's education system, encouraging more students to pursue academic excellence.

This meeting underscores the Telangana government's proactive approach to improving education, particularly through innovative models like residential schools that combine quality learning with holistic student development. With central support, the YIIRS initiative is set to become a cornerstone in Telangana's educational landscape, providing world-class education, fostering talent, and ensuring equitable opportunities for students across the state.



Appeal Made to Union Education Minister for IIM Hyderabad and Expansion of Central Schools in Telangana

New Delhi / Hyderabad – December 16, 2025:

A senior Telangana leader met Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan and urged the Centre to approve the establishment of an Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Hyderabad, citing the city's growing importance as an educational, technological, and economic hub.

During the meeting, the Telangana representative informed the Union Minister that the State government has already identified 200 acres of suitable land for setting up the prestigious management institute. Emphasizing the State's preparedness, it was conveyed that a fully equipped transit campus is ready, enabling academic sessions to begin immediately once approvals are granted.

The State assured the Union Education Minister of its full cooperation in facilitating infrastructure, logistics, and administrative support for the proposed IIM. It was stated that upon receiving the necessary permissions from the Centre, Telangana would ensure that all required facilities, including hostels, academic

blocks, and support infrastructure, are developed on priority. The proposal highlighted Hyderabad's strong ecosystem for higher education, innovation, and industry collaboration, making it an ideal location for an IIM. The demand for an IIM in Hyderabad has gained momentum in recent years, given Telangana's rapid economic growth, presence of global corporations, and expanding startup culture. Establishing an IIM in the State is expected to significantly enhance management education opportunities for students from Telangana and neighboring regions, while also contributing to research, entrepreneurship, and leadership development.

The meeting underscored Telangana's commitment to strengthening its educational infrastructure and aligning with national education goals. The State expressed confidence that the Centre's support would play a crucial role in nurturing talent, promoting inclusive growth, and enhancing human capital development.

The Union Education Minister reportedly listened attentively to the proposals and assured that the requests would be examined in accordance with established norms and policies. The interaction is seen as a significant step toward strengthening Centre-State cooperation in the field of education and advancing Telangana's aspirations as a leading education destination in India.

Vijay Diwas Observed in Secunderabad: Floral Tributes Paid to Brave Soldiers at Veerula Sainik Smarak

Secunderabad, Telangana – 16th December 2025:

In a solemn and dignified ceremony, Vijay Diwas was observed at the Veerula Sainik Smarak, Parade Ground, Secunderabad, with floral tributes paid to the brave soldiers who laid down their lives for the nation during the 1971 India-Pakistan war. The event, which commemorates India's historic military victory, was graced by Hon'ble Governor Shri Jishnu Dev Varma, along with officials, veterans, and members of the public.

Vijay Diwas is celebrated every year on 16th December to mark the day when Indian forces achieved a decisive victory in the 1971 war, leading to the creation of Bangladesh. The day serves as a reminder of



the courage, determination, and strategic brilliance of the Indian armed forces. It is also a moment to honour the selfless sacrifice of soldiers who gave their lives to protect the country's sovereignty and security.

The ceremony at Secunderabad began with a tribute to the martyrs, where Governor Varma, accompanied by other dignitaries, laid floral wreaths at the memorial. Participants observed a moment of silence, reflecting on the valour and dedication of the armed forces. The Governor addressed the gathering, highlighting the importance of remembering the sacrifices of military personnel and the role of the armed forces in safeguarding the nation. He emphasized that such commemorations inspire patriotism and a sense of national duty among citizens.

The event also included veterans and families of martyrs, reinforcing the collective memory of the nation's military achievements. Honouring fallen soldiers is an integral part of Vijay Diwas celebrations, serving as a reminder of the courage and resilience demonstrated by the armed forces during one of India's most significant military campaigns. Vijay Diwas is more than a historical commemoration; it is a celebration of the values of bravery, discipline, and commitment to the nation.

Across India, similar events are organized to educate citizens, especially the younger generation, about the sacrifices made by soldiers and the importance of maintaining peace and security in the country. The observance at Veerula Sainik Smarak in Secunderabad provided an opportunity for residents and officials alike to pay homage to the heroes of 1971. The ceremony not only honoured the legacy of India's military achievements but also instilled a renewed sense of pride and respect for the armed forces. Vijay Diwas remains an enduring symbol of India's courage, valour, and unwavering dedication to protecting its citizens, ensuring that the sacrifices of soldiers continue to be remembered and revered across generations.

Telangana Rising 2047 Vision Presented to Sonia Gandhi, Leader Lauds Global Summit Success

New Delhi:

In a significant political and developmental outreach, a copy of the Telangana Rising 2047 vision document was formally presented to senior Congress leader and former party president Smt Sonia Gandhi, highlighting the long-term roadmap for Telangana's growth and transformation. The interaction also included a detailed briefing on the success of the recently concluded two-day Telangana Rising Global Summit 2025, which showcased the state's aspirations and investment potential on an international platform.

Describing the moment as a great privilege and honour, the Telangana leadership shared key aspects of the Telangana Rising 2047 vision with Sonia Gandhi, outlining the strategic goals, policy direction, and development priorities aimed at positioning Telangana as a leading economic and innovation hub by the



year 2047, coinciding with 100 years of India's Independence.

During the meeting, Sonia Gandhi was briefed on the outcomes of the Global Summit, which brought together global investors, industry leaders, policymakers, and innovators.

The summit focused on sustainable development, industrial expansion, green energy, technology-driven growth, and inclusive welfare, reflecting Telangana's ambition to balance rapid economic progress with social equity.

Sonia Gandhi expressed her happiness over the initiative and conveyed her best wishes to the people of Telangana for the successful realisation of the ambitious vision. She appreciated the efforts taken to articulate a clear, future-oriented roadmap and acknowledged the importance of long-term planning in achieving inclusive and sustainable development. Her encouraging and inspiring words, leaders said, would serve as a strong source of motivation to pursue the stated goals with greater commitment and resolve.

According to those present, Sonia Gandhi emphasised the need for unity, perseverance, and people-centric governance to translate vision documents into tangible outcomes. She wished the state leadership success in implementing policies that uplift all sections of society and ensure that development reaches the grassroots. The Telangana Rising 2047 vision aims to transform the state into a global destination for investment, innovation, and quality living, while strengthening education, healthcare, infrastructure, and employment opportunities. The Global Summit played a crucial role in communicating this vision to global stakeholders and building confidence in Telangana's growth story.

Political observers view the interaction as an important endorsement of Telangana's long-term development agenda within the Congress framework. The leadership reiterated its commitment to turning the vision into reality, stating that the encouragement from Sonia Gandhi would further inspire efforts to ensure that the dreams outlined in Telangana Rising 2047 are brought to fruition for the benefit of present and future generations.

Telangana Ministers Review Urea Production at Ramagundam Fertiliser Plant, Seek Higher Allocation for State

Hyderabad, December 16:

Industries and IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu, along with Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, on Monday held a review meeting with officials of the Ramagundam Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited (RFCL) to assess urea production and supply arrangements, with a focus on preventing a repeat of last Kharif season's disruptions.

During the meeting, the ministers reviewed the steps being taken to

ensure uninterrupted urea production during the ongoing Rabi season and sought assurances that technical issues faced earlier would not recur.

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao recalled that urea production at the Ramagundam plant had come to a halt during the previous Kharif season, causing severe difficulties for Telangana farmers. He pointed out that against an allocation of 2,05,315 metric tonnes from the Union Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, the state received only 1,10,720 metric ton

nes, resulting in a significant shortfall.

Despite repeated representations to the Centre to bridge the gap, timely relief was not provided, leading to losses for farmers, the minister said. He stressed that such a situation should not be repeated, especially during crucial agricultural seasons.

Industries Minister Sridhar Babu sought detailed information from RFCL officials on the preventive measures being adopted to avoid production stoppages. In response, company representatives explained that

technical issues in the High-Temperature Refractor (HTR) during the last Kharif season had caused the disruption. Expressing regret over the inconvenience caused to farmers, they assured the ministers that comprehensive precautions were being taken to ensure smooth operations this Rabi season.

RFCL officials informed the ministers that urea supply had been made as per allocations during October and November, and that 50,450 metric tonnes of urea would be supplied in December as well. They re-

iterated their commitment to maintaining consistent production levels.

Addressing the meeting, Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao highlighted that although around one lakh metric tonnes of urea are produced every month at the Ramagundam plant, Telangana receives

only 40 to 50 per cent of the output. He urged that at least 70 per cent of the urea produced at the plant be allocated to Telangana, stating that this would significantly reduce transportation costs and enable faster supply to farmers within the state.

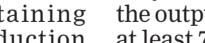
Supporting this demand, Industries Minister Sridhar Babu directed

the Managing Director of the Industries Department to write to the Union government seeking higher allocation of urea to Telangana. The ministers also instructed representatives of the fertiliser companies to be prepared with alternative plans to ensure uninterrupted supply in case of any unforeseen production hurdles.

The meeting was attended by the Industries Department Secretary, Managing Directors of the Industries Department and TSIDC, and representatives of the Food Processing Society.

The ministers also reviewed the progress of industrial units proposed at the upcoming Bugapadu Food Park in Khammam district and directed officials to expedite approvals so that foundation stone-laying ceremonies could be conducted by January.

The review underscored the state government's focus on safeguarding farmers' interests by ensuring timely and adequate fertiliser supply, while also strengthening coordination with central agencies and fertiliser manufacturers.



Telangana Moves Supreme Court, Challenges Andhra Pradesh's Polavaram–Nallamala Sagar Link Project

Hyderabad: The Telangana government has filed a petition in the Supreme Court of India challenging the legality and procedural validity of Andhra Pradesh's ambitious Polavaram–Nallamala Sagar Link Project (PNLP), intensifying an interstate dispute over water sharing and river management.

The writ petition, filed under Article 32 of the Constitution, seeks to restrain Andhra Pradesh from moving forward with the PNLP—a major river linking initiative that aims to divert surplus floodwaters from the Godavari River to parts of the Krishna and Gundakam basins. Telangana has asked the Supreme Court for an interim stay on ongoing works, including expansion of the Polavaram dam's Right Main Canal and tenders floated for preparing the Detailed Project Report (DPR).

The PNLP, an enormous infrastructure plan estimated to cost around 58,000 crore, was earlier known as the Polavaram–Banakacherla Link Project. It comprises three major components: enhancing the capacity of the Polavaram dam's Right Main Canal to transfer water, construct-



(PFR) submitted by Andhra Pradesh to the CWC earlier this year is yet to be cleared, and that the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change returned the proposal months ago, advising resolution of interstate issues before further action.

Additionally, Telangana has raised concerns about potential submergence risks along the Polavaram backwaters and environmental violations associated with tunnelling and reservoir construction. The petition stresses that Andhra Pradesh's decision to advance tenders for DPR preparation—despite pending technical clearances—under-

mines established protocols for interstate projects.

Other riparian states have also weighed in on the controversy. Karnataka has reportedly demanded compensation for diversions from the Krishna basin, while Maharashtra has sought clarity on broader flood-based project guidelines. Telangana argues that unilateral moves by Andhra Pradesh could set a dangerous precedent for equitable management of inter-state rivers if not checked.

In its plea, Telangana has urged the Supreme Court to take steps to safeguard federal equity in water sharing, uphold tribunal awards, and ensure that major river linking initiatives follow

statutory clearances and expert evaluations. The state has also referenced letters written by its leadership to the Union Finance Minister, seeking support within national river linking frameworks.

Legal experts say the case could have far-reaching implications not just for the PNLP but for India's national river linking policies, interstate water governance, and mandatory environmental clearance procedures. With Supreme Court hearings expected soon, observers are watching closely to see how the judiciary addresses the complex intersection of law, hydrology, environmental norms, and regional development priorities.

A New Era Dawns in Ichoda Major Gram Panchayat: Jalai Jaku Emerges as Sarpanch

Adilabad, 17 December 2025: In a historic turn of events, the people of Ichoda Major Gram Panchayat have elected Jalai Jaku as their new Sarpanch, marking the end of a 15-year streak of hereditary leadership. This victory highlights the villagers' resolve to place service and dedication above tradition, giving a common man the reins of leadership through their collective trust and support.

Jalai Jaku, a tribal leader known for his consistent service over the past five years, has long earned the confidence of Ichoda Mandal residents. Even without holding official power, his active engagement in resolving village issues, spearheading developmental programs, and being approachable to the community cemented his reputation. Villagers widely recognized his commitment, believing that someone who has served selflessly without authority will do even more once entrusted with a leadership role.

The elections also represented a clear rejection of the he-

reditary Sarpanch system, which had restricted leadership to a single family for the past decade and a half. This year, the competition was intense between Jalai Jaku and Devanand, who had maintained a stronghold in the Panchayat for three consecutive terms. Every vote mattered, and until the last moment, the contest remained tight. Ultimately, the people's preference for a leader dedicated to genuine service became evident, resulting in Jalai Jaku winning with a decisive majority.

Jalai Jaku's victory is not merely personal; it represents a triumph for democratic values, social equality, and community-conscious leadership. Residents from all sections of the village, beyond the tribal community, rallied behind him, signaling a collective endorsement of merit over lineage. This result conveys a powerful message: leadership is earned through service, not inherited position.

The election of an Adivasi leader in a prominent Gram Panchayat like Ichoda Major sets a new precedent, empowering citizens to take charge of local governance. Jalai Jaku's leadership is now expected to guide the Panchayat's developmental agenda, ensuring inclusive growth, transparency, and equitable progress. For the people of Ichoda Major, the era of genuine public leadership has truly begun.

Hyderabad Urgently Needs Regional Rapid Transit Corridors, State Representative Tells Central Committee



Hyderabad, 17 December 2025 – Highlighting the growing urban challenges of Hyderabad and its surrounding districts, a senior Telangana representative today called for urgent implementation of Regional Rapid Transit Corridors (RRTCs) in major cities.

The remarks were made during a high-level committee meeting under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, focused on the role of the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) and recommendations from the 18th Lok Sabha report. The meeting was chaired by Shri Magunta Srinivas Reddy.

During the discussion, the Telangana leader stressed that Hyderabad, along with approximately eight connected districts, faces increasing population pressure and requires a modern, well-integrated urban transport system. They recognized that projects such as RRTCs and associated urban transport initiatives are essential to meet the demands of the rapidly growing population while promoting economic growth and sustainable city planning.

Corridors are expected to address commuter needs efficiently, reduce traffic congestion, and improve regional connectivity.

The meeting also reviewed other critical infrastructure projects, including the Regional Ring Road, Regional Ring Rail, and Metro Phase-2. These projects, already proposed by the Telangana government, are currently awaiting central government approval.

The representative urged for expedited clearance, emphasizing that swift approvals would facilitate balanced regional development and strengthen Hyderabad's metropolitan transport network.

Officials present at the meeting acknowledged the importance of coordination between the state and central governments to successfully implement these infrastructure projects. They recognized that projects such as RRTCs and associated urban transport initiatives are essential to meet the demands of the rapidly growing population while promoting economic growth and sustainable urban living for its residents.

The discussion further highlighted the necessity for a long-term vision for Hyderabad and surrounding districts. "Timely execution of these transport projects will not only enhance mobility but also attract investments and create employment opportunities, contributing to the city's overall socio-economic development," the representative added.

The meeting concluded with a consensus on prioritizing RRTCs and other key urban infrastructure initiatives. Committee members emphasized that integrated planning and prompt approvals are critical to developing Hyderabad as a modern, well-connected metropolitan hub, capable of meeting current and future urban demands.

With Hyderabad continuing to grow as a major economic and educational center, experts and government officials agree that initiatives like the RRTC, Regional Ring Road, and Metro expansions are pivotal in shaping the city's future and ensuring sustainable urban living for its residents.

Mulugu Development: Minister Seethakka Challenges BRS Over Two-Year Achievements



Mulugu, December 16, 2025: Telangana Minister for Panchayat Raj, Rural Development, and Women & Child Welfare, Dr. Danasari Anasuya Seethakka, has highlighted the remarkable progress made in Mulugu district over the past two years, challenging the BRS party to acknowledge the achievements.

Seethakka addressed concerns over fund releases, explaining that approximately 3,000 crore has been on hold over the past two years due to the 42% reservation decision for BCs, which would be fully released if elections were held by March.

The Minister elaborated on key initiatives in Mulugu, including the establishment of a medical college, upgrading Mulugu to a municipality, and the creation of Mallampalli Mandal. She criticized BRS for obstructing the establishment of a 30-bed government hospital in Pakala Kothagudem, calling it an example of the party's resistance to real development.

Seethakka congratulated the Panchayat Raj machinery, district officials, collectors, and police personnel for conducting peaceful elections in two phases. She noted that Congress-backed candidates won 62% of the seats, with more than 85 out of 105 villages in Mulugu constituency electing Congress sarpanches. She also acknowledged four victories by Congress rebels and dedicated the successes to the hardworking party workers.

Seethakka concluded by challenging BRS to engage in a discussion on Mulugu's development, asserting that the government's focus remains on tangible progress, transparent governance, and public welfare, not just political posturing.

This statement underscores the Congress party's confidence in its grassroots strategies and commitment to rural development, contrasting sharply with BRS's approach in the region.

KTR Visits Injured BRS Workers After Congress Attack in Ellareddy Constituency



Hyderabad, 17 December 2025 – Telangana Rashtriya Samithi (BRS) Working President Shri K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) visited Yashoda Hospital in Secunderabad today to meet BRS workers injured in a violent attack by Congress party leaders in Somarpet village of Ellareddy constituency.

Among the injured were BRS Panchayat candidate Bitla Bal Raju and his wife Gangi Bharati, who sustained serious injuries during the incident. KTR, accompanied by former MLA Jajala Surender, leaders Ganesh Bigala, Rajaram Yadav, and Sumiranand Tanoba, personally checked on the victims and assured them of full support.

"Gangi Bharati's condition is critical and she requires three surgeries. We are ensuring that all medical expenses will be fully

covered by the BRS party," KTR stated, highlighting the severity of the attack.

Condemning the violence, KTR termed the attack as "inhuman" and called for immediate action against the Congress leaders involved. He demanded that "attempt to murder" cases be registered promptly against the perpetrators to ensure justice for the victims.

Addressing the role of law enforcement, KTR criticized the police, emphasizing that they serve the people, not individual politicians.

He warned,

"If the police act as spectators, retaliatory actions will be inevitable."

He further cautioned that BRS would escalate matters to the DGP and SP offices if justice was not served. KTR also raised concerns about the deteriorating law-and-order situation in



Congress MLAs Accused of Issuing Death Threats to BRS backed Sarpanch Candidates in

Hyderabad: Political tensions in Telangana's ongoing gram panchayat elections escalated sharply as several Congress legislators were accused of issuing explicit threats of violence and denial of development funds against sarpanch candidates supported by the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS). The allegations have drawn widespread attention and sparked concerns about the conduct of elected representatives during local body polls.

According to eyewitness accounts and video footage circulating on social media, Jadcherla MLA J. Anirudh Reddy, a member of the Congress party known for making controversial statements, threatened to "kill" sarpanch candidates aligned with the BRS, even if they were elected. The remarks

were reportedly made during a public campaign event in his constituency, where he questioned the ability of BRS backed candidates to secure development work without his support as an MLA.

Addressing a gathering, the MLA warned that the distribution of development funds, including approval of Indiramma housing projects and road works, would be withheld if BRS backed sarpanches won the election. He said that candidates who succeeded without Congress backing would face dire consequences, including death, according to locals who witnessed the event. The remarks have stirred outrage among political observers and the opposition.

The controversial statement by Anirudh Reddy came a day after

another Congress MLA, Wanaparthi's T. Megha Reddy, was alleged to have warned that elected BRS supported sarpanch candidates would be barred from entering his residence and that their requisitions for civic works would not be approved. Such comments, critics argue, go beyond political rivalry and verge on threatening the democratic rights of locally elected representatives.

Earlier in the election cycle, Government Whip and Alair MLA Beerla Ilaiah had reportedly issued stern warnings to voters in his constituency against supporting BRS backed sarpanch aspirants. These remarks have contributed to an environment of heightened political tension, with accusations of intimidation and coercion being traded between rival

parties.

The gram panchayat polls across Telangana are seen as a key measure of grassroots political strength ahead of larger electoral battles. Local bodies such as gram panchayats are instrumental in rural governance, overseeing development works, welfare schemes, and civic administration at the village level. Political parties are therefore heavily invested in securing these seats.

The allegations against Congress MLAs have drawn reactions from civil society and political commentators, with many calling for law enforcement and election officials to intervene. Threatening violence or withholding essential development funds on the basis of political affiliation is widely regarded as contrary to democratic



norms and the model code of conduct.

BRS leaders have condemned the reported threats, accusing the ruling party of using intimidation tactics to influence local body polls. They have urged the Election Commiss-

ion and relevant authorities to ensure a free and fair electoral process, warning that such political interference undermines trust in democratic institutions.

As the gram panchayat elections progress, political tensions re-

main high. Supporters of various parties continue aggressive campaigning, while authorities face the challenge of maintaining order and ensuring that electoral competition remains within the boundaries of democratic conduct. The situation underscores the deep political fault lines at the grassroots level and highlights concerns over the use of political influence to intimidate opponents in local governance elections.

BJP Telangana Demands Resolution in Kondagattu Temple Land Dispute

Hyderabad, Telangana – 16th December 2025: The BJP Telangana State President, N. Ramchander Rao, has voiced strong concerns over the ongoing dispute regarding the Kondagattu Sri Anjaneya Swamy Temple lands, following show-cause notices issued by the Forest Department.

Rao described the notices as deeply troubling, emphasizing that the temple has thousands of years of history and is a significant symbol of Sanatan

Dharma. He stated that the actions of the Forest Department are being perceived as an attack on the faith and sentiments of Hindu devotees. The dispute arises from the department's claim that only six acres of temple land fall within the permissible limits, causing distress among devotees who rely on these lands for essential temple facilities.

"These six acres include critical amenities such as the Annadanam hall, public toilets, wa-

ter plant, Agama Pathashala, Vedic student hostels, and dining facilities, all necessary for the daily functioning of the temple and the convenience of devotees," Rao noted. He further highlighted that the Endowment Department has also issued notices, adding to the confusion and anxiety.

The Forest Department has cited that the disputed land falls under Kodimyal Forest Range, Compartment No. 684, and under the Forest Conservation

Act-1980 (Section 2A), prior approvals from the Central Environment and Forest Ministry are mandatory. Additionally, the department has invoked Sections 3A and 3B of the Wildlife Conservation Act, asking for explanations within 15 days, warning that non-compliance could invite legal action, including potential imprisonment.

Rao demanded that the Telangana State Government intervene immediately to provide a permanent solution. He urged cooperation among the Revenue, Assistant Survey and Land Records, Endowment, and Forest Departments to clearly notify the temple's land boundaries. He emphasized that faith, religious traditions, and devotee welfare must be given top priority in resolving the dispute.

The BJP leader concluded by calling on the government to act swiftly and decisively, ensuring that devotees can continue their worship without disruption and that the ancient temple's heritage and essential services are preserved.



Rao stressed that such actions threaten daily religious practices like vehicle pujas, Giripradakshina (circumambulation of the hill), parking arrangements, and devotee movement, which are all directly dependent on these six acres. He pointed out that the disruption of facilities would primarily affect poor devotees, who rely on temple services for their spiritual needs.

BRS MLA Welcomes Vigilance Probe into IDPL Lands, Challenges Allegations

Hyderabad, December 16, 2025:

Kukatpally BRS MLA Madhavaram Krishna Rao on Monday said he welcomed the vigilance inquiry into the alleged irregularities related to IDPL lands, asserting that he has nothing to hide and challenging his critics to prove the allegations made against him over the past two decades.

Addressing the media, Krishna Rao said he had earlier requested the Union government to conduct a thorough investigation into the IDPL land issue to bring clarity and end what he described as "politically motivated accusations." He added that he had also demanded an inquiry by a sitting Supreme Court judge or the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to ensure transparency and credibility in the probe.

"For the last 20 years, allegations have been levelled against me repeatedly. If there is any truth in them, now is the time to prove it. I fully welcome the vigilance investigation," the MLA said.

Krishna Rao further stated that the IDPL land issue has been repeatedly politi-

cised and used as a tool to tarnish his image. He maintained that all land-related transactions linked to him were lawful and done in accordance with existing rules and regulations.

Calling for accountability, the MLA urged the government to make the findings of the vigilance inquiry public. "If an investigation is conducted, its conclusions must be placed before the people. Only then can the truth come out," he said.

The remarks come amid heightened political tensions in Telangana over land disputes and alleged encroachments in urban areas, particularly around Hyderabad. The IDPL land issue has remained a contentious subject for years, with multiple political parties trading allegations.

Krishna Rao reiterated that he would fully cooperate with any investigation and expressed confidence that the probe would clear his name. He also demanded that the government act against all illegal encroachments without discrimination, ensuring justice for the poor and upholding the rule of law.

Chinnakaparthi Panchayat Polls in Nalgonda Trigger Controversy: 12 Officials Suspended

Nalgonda District, December 16, 2025: The recent panchayat elections in Chinnakaparthi village of Chityal Mandal, Nalgonda district, have sparked a major controversy after several ballot papers were found in a drainage canal. Allegedly, votes favoring a BRS-backed Sarpanch candidate were discovered floating in a sewage drain, raising serious concerns over the integrity of the electoral process.

The incident prompted immediate political outrage. Former minister and MLA Jagadish Reddy, ex-Rajya Sabha member Lingayya Yadav, and for-

mer MLAs Chirumurthi Lingayya and Kancherla Bhupal Reddy filed complaints with higher authorities. They alleged negligence or deliberate misconduct by election officials, which compromised the fairness of the polls.

In response, the district collector ordered a swift

investigation. The Returning Officer was suspended following preliminary findings, and further action was taken. Twelve officials, including MPDO Jayalakshmi and Stage-2 officer Vijay Kumar, were suspended to ensure accountability and send a clear message that electoral malpractices will not be tolerated.

Residents of Chinnakaparthi expressed deep concern over the incident, calling it a blot on democratic practices.

They stressed that public trust in the electoral system has been shaken and demanded a thorough investigation to hold the guilty accountable.

Political analysts and local leaders emphasized the urgent need for transparency, stricter supervision, and accountability in election management. They highlighted that effective measures are necessary to prevent similar incidents in the future and to preserve the credibility of democratic institutions, particularly in rural areas.

The Chinnakaparthi incident serves as a stark reminder of vulnerabilities in local elections and underscores the importance of vigilant oversight to maintain public faith in democratic processes. This controversy has put a spotlight on electoral integrity and the need for reforms to safeguard the democratic rights of citizens.



Man Sentenced to 20 Years Rigorous Imprisonment for Assaulting Minor in 2018

Hyderabad, Telangana: A local court in Telangana has delivered a landmark verdict, sentencing a man to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment for assaulting a minor in 2018. The case, which drew widespread attention for its severity and the age of the victim, underscores the judiciary's commitment to protecting children from sexual abuse and violent crimes.

The accused, identified as Ravi Kumar, was found guilty under multiple sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), including provisions related to assault on a minor, sexual abuse, and criminal intimidation.

The court also imposed a fine of 1 lakh, directing that the amount be paid to the victim as compensation for physical and psychological trauma.

The incident occurred in March 2018, when the minor victim, a 12-year-old resident of Nalgonda district, was allegedly lured by Ravi Kumar under the pretext of offering gifts. The accused reportedly took advantage of the child, committing acts that caused significant physical and emotional harm. The family immediately lodged a complaint, triggering a police investigation that culminated in the filing of a formal

case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Following the registration of the case, law enforcement authorities conducted a thorough investigation, collecting statements from the vic-

tim, witnesses, and the accused, along with medical and forensic evidence. The police submitted a detailed charge sheet, and the matter proceeded to trial in a local sessions court.

During the trial, the

prosecution presented compelling evidence, including testimony from the victim, family members, and forensic experts, which corroborated the allegations. The defense, however, argued that the accused had no prior criminal

record and sought leniency, claiming that the incident was a misunderstanding. After examining the evidence, the court ruled that the accused had willfully and intentionally committed the assault, leaving no doubt about his guilt.

In delivering the verdict, the judge emphasized the seriousness of crimes against minors, highlighting that such offenses have long-lasting psychological and social repercussions. The court stated that strict punishment serves not only as retribution but also as a deterrent against similar crimes in the commu-

nity. The 20-year sentence reflects the maximum possible term for crimes of this nature under the applicable sections of IPC and POCSO.

Child rights activists and local residents welcomed the verdict, calling it a strong message against sexual and physical abuse of minors. They stressed the importance of swift justice and effective implementation of protective laws, noting that convictions in such cases often face delays due to procedural hurdles.

The victim's family expressed relief at the verdict, stating that justice has finally been

served. They also urged society to be vigilant and proactive in safeguarding children from potential threats and to encourage victims to come forward without fear. The sentencing of Ravi Kumar is seen as a significant step in Telangana's ongoing efforts to strengthen child protection mechanisms and ensure that perpetrators of violent crimes against minors face strict legal consequences. Law enforcement officials have reiterated their commitment to safeguarding vulnerable populations and expediting cases under the POCSO Act to ensure timely justice.



Stepfather Arrested for Murder of 11-Year-Old Boy in Chandrayangutta, Hyderabad

Hyderabad, Telangana: In a shocking case that has gripped the Chandrayangutta area, the Hyderabad police have arrested Shaik Imran, 31, for the brutal assault and subsequent death of his stepson, 11-year-old Mohammed Asghar. The accused, a painter by profession, reportedly killed the child following a heated incident on 7th December 2025.

According to police reports, the incident occurred in front of the family residence at GM Colony, Chandrayangutta, around 1:00 pm. The altercation began after a complaint by a local boy regarding Asghar's use of abusive language. Enraged, Shaik Imran allegedly assaulted the child, grabbed him by the collar, and forcefully struck his head against the concrete road, causing severe injuries, including bleeding from the ear.

Immediately after the assault, the accused transported Asghar to Owaisi Hospital in an auto, from where the boy was referred to Gandhi Hospital for specialized treatment. Despite medical intervention,

the child's condition worsened, and tragically, he succumbed to his injuries on 12th December 2025 at 8:19 am.

The mother of the deceased lodged a formal complaint on 10th December 2025, prompting the police to register a case under the relevant sections of the law. Following the child's death, the charges were amended to Section 103(1) BNS.

Investigators collected CCTV footage from the vicinity, which clearly captured the accused assaulting the boy and striking his head on the road.

Acting on credible information, the Chandrayangutta police apprehended Shaik Imran on 16th December 2025 near Ruman Hotel, Chandrayangutta.

He was formally arrested following due legal procedure at 11:30 am and subsequently produced before the court for judicial custody. During interrogation, the accused confessed to the crime, confirming his role in the brutal assault.

The investigation and arrest were conducted under the guidance of Sri A. Sudha-

kar, ACP Chandrayangutta, with Sri R. Gopi, SHO, and officers SI S. Chandra Reddy and V. Srinivas Rao playing a crucial role.

The police have commended the team for their prompt action, stating that a suitable reward will be given for their commendable work.

The case has raised concerns about child safety within domestic environments and has drawn the attention of the local community. Legal experts note that such cases are treated with the utmost seriousness under Indian law, with provisions for strict punishment for adults committing violence against minors.

Local residents and child welfare organizations have urged authorities to ensure that the accused is appropriately punished under the law, and to implement stricter safeguards for vulnerable children. The tragic death of Mohammed Asghar highlights the need for greater awareness about child abuse and the importance of timely intervention to prevent domestic violence.

Three Arrested in Tolichowki Murder Case; Victim Stabbed Over Family Dispute

Hyderabad, Telangana: Police in Tolichowki have successfully arrested three accused in connection with the brutal stabbing of 23-year-old Mohammed Irfan, an auto driver, who was killed on 14th December 2025. The case has sent shockwaves through the local community and highlights the escalating violence stemming from personal disputes.

The deceased, Mohammed Irfan, was the son of Mohammed Moulana, a 65-year-old watchman residing in Hakeemsha Colony, Virat Nagar, Tolichowki.

According to police reports, the incident began over a rumor that Irfan's younger brother, Mohammed Adnaan, had allegedly spread false allegations about Shaik Bilal's wife, claiming she had been seen with two unknown men in an auto rickshaw.

On the evening of 14th December, Shaik Bilal (25), along with his wife

Sana Begum (23), brother-in-law Mohammed Naveed (22), and cousin Ruhi Begum (23), went to the complainant's residence to confront the family. Unable to find Mohammed Adnaan at home, the group argued with Irfan and other family members, escalating tensions. Irfan and two friends followed the accused to an auto stand near Marwa Dental Hospital, sensing potential trouble.

During the confrontation, Shaik Bilal allegedly stabbed Mohammed Irfan in the chest with a knife, which had been pre-purchased to target Mohammed Adnaan.

Despite being rushed to Olive Hospital by his friends, Irfan was declared brought dead by the doctors.

Following a complaint lodged on 15th December, Tolichowki police registered Cr. No. 279/2025 under Sections 103(1), 190, 191(2) BNS

and launched a swift investigation. Utilizing witness statements and evidence collection, officers seized a knife with blood stains and the accused's clothing from Shaik Bilal and his associates.

On 16th December, the Tolichowki police apprehended Shaik Bilal, Sana Begum, and Ruhi Begum from Afafs Khan Colony, Golconda, Hyderabad. Mohammed Naveed remains absconding, and a search operation is underway. The arrested accused were produced before the Hon'ble Court by Inspector L. Ramesh

the remaining absconding accused and gathering additional evidence. Authorities have assured the public that strict legal action will be taken against all involved in this premeditated attack.

The case has highlighted the dangers of personal vendettas escalating into fatal violence and reinforced the need for community vigilance. Police have urged citizens to report threats or disputes promptly to prevent further tragedies in the area.

Hyderabad Metro Rail Takeover from L&T to Be Completed by March 2026: Chief Secretary



Stepfather Arrested for Murder of 11-Year-Old Boy in Chandrayangutta, Hyderabad

Hyderabad, December 16, 2025:

Senior BRS leader and former Telangana minister T. Harish Rao expressed deep condolences over the demise of Sambasiva Rao, father of TV9 Managing Editor Rajinikanth. Describing the loss as deeply painful, Harish Rao conveyed his heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family.

Soon after learning about the death, Harish Rao visited Yashoda Hospital in Hitec City, where he met Rajinikanth and personally offered words of comfort. He stood by the grieving family during the difficult moment and shared their sorrow.

Harish Rao prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul of Sambasiva Rao and sought divine blessings for the

family to find strength and courage to overcome the irreparable loss. He said the passing away of a parent leaves a lasting void in the life of a family, and such moments demand compassion, support, and solidarity.

Recalling Sambasiva Rao as a respected elder, Harish Rao noted that his values and upbringing played a significant role in shaping Rajinikanth's professional and personal life. He emphasized that the thoughts and prayers of many stand with the family in this hour of

grief.

The former minister extended his condolences on behalf of senior leaders and party members, stating that the BRS family shares the pain of the bereaved. He reiterated that Rajinikanth and his family are not alone and assured them of continued moral support during this trying time.

Several journalists, political leaders, and well-wishers also expressed sorrow over the demise and paid tributes, remembering Sambasiva Rao with respect and reverence.

Hyderabad, December 16:

Telangana Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao has directed officials to complete the takeover of the Hyderabad Metro Rail from Larsen & Toubro (L&T) by the end of the current financial year, setting March 2026 as the deadline. The Chief Secretary emphasized that the transition must be carried out in a smooth, transparent, and time-bound manner, ensuring uninterrupted metro services for commuters.

The directions were issued during a high-level review meeting held with a committee of secretaries and senior officials from L&T to assess the progress of the takeover process. The Chief Secretary stressed that the transfer should strictly adhere to the agreement reached between the Telangana government and L&T. He clarified that the process should not affect existing contractual obligations, operational continuity, or passenger convenience.

Highlighting the importance of careful planning, K. Ramakrishna Rao instructed officials to adopt a structured approach and implement all necessary steps over the next 100 days. He underlined that coordination

among all stakeholders would be crucial to ensure a seamless transition of assets, operations, and responsibilities from L&T to the state-run Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited (HMRL).

To facilitate the takeover, transaction advisor IDBI has been asked to submit its final report at the earliest. The Chief Secretary noted that the completion of the IDBI report is a key requirement for concluding the financial and procedural aspects of the takeover. He also made it clear that L&T must extend full cooperation throughout the process to avoid delays and ensure a hassle-free

handover. Following the takeover, the Managing Director of HMRL, Sarfaraz Ahmad, has been directed to prepare comprehensive proposals related to the operations and maintenance of the metro rail system. These proposals are expected to focus on improving operational efficiency, ensuring financial viability, enhancing safety standards, and delivering better services to commuters.

The government is keen on strengthening the metro's role as a backbone of Hyderabad's urban transport system amid rapid urban growth. The meeting was at

tended by Advisor (Urban Transport) to the Government of Telangana NVS Reddy, Special Chief Secretary V. Raj, L&T Metro Rail Hyderabad Limited Managing Director KVB Reddy, senior officials from IDBI, Chief Electrical Engineer of HMRL DVS Raju, and other senior officers of HMRL. Discussions during the meeting covered technical, financial, and administrative aspects related to the takeover.

The Hyderabad Metro Rail is one of the largest public transport projects in the state, catering to lakhs of commuters every day and playing a vital role in reducing traffic congestion and pollution. The state government's move to take over the project is seen as a strategic step toward gaining greater control over urban mobility infrastructure and ensuring long-term sustainability.

Officials stated that the government aims to make the metro system more commuter-friendly, efficient, and economically stable after the takeover. With clear timelines and strong administrative oversight, the Telangana government hopes to complete the transition by March 2026 and usher in a new phase for Hyderabad's metro rail services.



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Congress Activists Attack Sarpanch Elect Candidate in Peddapalli, Police Investigate

Peddapalli, Telangana: A sarpanch elect candidate was allegedly assaulted by Congress party activists in Anthergaon mandal of Peddapalli district on Monday night, triggering protests by supporters and prompting police action.

The incident involved Ambothu Ravi Kumar, who had won the gram panchayat sarpanch seat in the second phase of local body elections held on Sunday. Ravi Kumar, who contested as an independent candidate, was reportedly attacked while he was thanking voters and celebrating his victory with supporters.

According to local residents and eyewitnesses, Ravi Kumar was going door to door in the village accompanied by his supporters to express gratitude to villagers for electing him. As the group moved through streets of Anthergaon village in the late evening, a group of individuals identified as Congress activists allegedly confronted and assaulted him and his supporters.

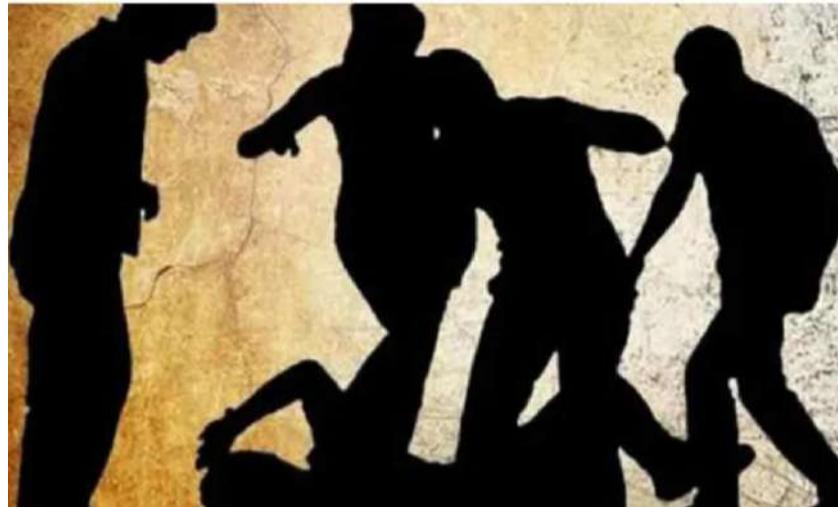
The sudden attack sent shockwaves through the village, with villagers reporting that the assailants pounced on the sar-

panch elect's entourage without provocation. Some villagers who witnessed the incident said the attackers shouted slogans and hurled abuses before physically assaulting Ravi Kumar and a few of his supporters.

Following the incident, Ravi Kumar and his supporters reportedly staged a protest around 11 p.m. on Monday, demanding that the police take strict action against the accused. A complaint was lodged with the Peddapalli district police, leading to the registration of a case, and law enforcement officers have launched an investigation into the matter.

Local police officials said they were probing the allegations and reviewing video footage of the incident. They also indicated that statements from both the complainant and witnesses were being recorded as part of the ongoing inquiry. Officers assured that appropriate action would be taken based on evidence gathered during the investigation.

The assault on Ravi Kumar comes amid heightened tensions in parts of Telangana during the gram panchayat elections. The elections,



seen as an important barometer of grassroots political influence, have seen vigorous campaigning and heated rivalries among different parties and independent contenders.

Political observers noted that clashes between supporters of rival candidates are not uncommon during local body polls, where victory can translate into significant influence over village level governance and distribution of development programs. However, attacks on elected representatives — even sarpanch elects — are widely condemned as acts that undermine democratic norms and peaceful contestation.

Ravi Kumar's sup-

porters accused Congress activists of trying to intimidate independent candidates and disrupt the democratic process. They alleged that the attack was politically motivated and called on authorities to ensure the safety of elected representatives and their supporters.

Local political leaders from various parties reacted to the news with concern, urging restraint and adherence to the rule of law. Some opposition party members criticized the handling of local elections, saying that political bitterness was spiralling beyond acceptable limits. Meanwhile, the incident has sparked discussion among villagers about the need for law

and order during elections. Many residents expressed fear that such confrontations could escalate if not curbed by strict action from both political party leaderships and law enforcement.

As the police continue their investigation, attention has now shifted to whether arrests will be made and what steps authorities will take to prevent further violence in the region. The Peddapalli district administration has not yet announced specific preventive measures, but officials have reiterated their commitment to ensuring peaceful completion of the election process and protecting the rights of duly elected representatives.

Congress Workers Allegedly Attack BRS Cadre in Warangal's Chennaraopet Mandal

Warangal, Telangana: Political violence marred the ongoing local body election campaign as Congress party workers allegedly attacked a Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) cadre in Chennaraopet mandal of Warangal district on Monday, raising concerns about law and order and election-related intimidation.

According to reports from local sources, the incident occurred in the evening when a group of Congress supporters reportedly confronted the BRS worker near a polling campaign event. Eyewitnesses said the assailants physically assaulted the cadre and allegedly threatened him against participating in election activities for BRS-backed candidates.

The attack sparked immediate tension among local residents and party

workers. Supporters of the BRS expressed outrage, claiming that the assault was part of a deliberate effort to intimidate party members and influence voter behavior during the gram panchayat elections. They demanded swift police action and security for party cadres to prevent further incidents.

Local authorities confirmed that a complaint was lodged with the Warangal police, and an investigation has been initiated. Senior police officials visited the scene to assess the situation and assured that strict action would be taken against those involved in the attack. Statements from witnesses and the victim are being recorded to identify the perpetrators.

The assault comes amid a tense political environment in Telanga-

na's local body elections, where rivalry between Congress and BRS supporters has reportedly escalated in several districts. Analysts note that such confrontations often arise from competition over control of gram panchayats, which play a crucial role in local governance, development projects, and welfare schemes.

Political commentators have criticized the rising instances of violence, emphasizing that democratic processes at the grassroots level must be conducted without coercion, threats, or physical intimidation. They have also highlighted the responsibility of elected leaders to ensure that party supporters respect the rights of candidates and voters from rival parties.

BRS officials stated that the incident is indicative of targeted harassment against their party workers. They urged the Election Commission and district administration to enhance security measures, particularly in sensitive constituencies, to ensure the smooth and fair conduct of elections. According to them, such incidents not only jeopardize the safety of cadres but also undermine public confidence in the democratic process.

The Warangal district administration has reportedly increased patrolling in Chennaraopet and surrounding areas to deter further incidents of political violence. Police have warned all parties against taking the law into their own hands and stressed that any violations would be met with strict enforcement of the law.

Residents of Chennaraopet have expressed concern over the rising political tension, with many calling for peaceful campaigning. Local observers fear that repeated clashes between party supporters could escalate into larger confrontations if preventive measures are not effectively implemented.

As investigations continue, attention is focused on whether the authorities will identify and take action against the accused Congress workers and what steps will be taken to safeguard candidates and party cadres.

The incident highlights the volatile atmosphere in Telangana's gram panchayat elections and underscores the importance of law enforcement and election oversight in maintaining a fair and peaceful electoral process.



Tribal Woman Makes History in Kothagudem



Kothagudem, Telangana: In a remarkable story of determination and resilience, Asha Bai, a tribal woman from Cherla mandal, has created history by winning a ward member seat in the recent local body elections. Her journey from working as a ragpicker to becoming an elected representative has inspired communities across Telangana.

Asha Bai, who belongs to a marginalized tribal community, overcame significant socio-economic challenges, including limited education and financial hardships. Despite these obstacles, she consistently worked to support her family while nurturing a vision of social service and political participation.

Local leaders and social activists hailed her success as a milestone for tribal representation in local governance, education, and sanitation.

Analysts note that her victory reflects a broader trend in Telangana, where grassroots leaders with deep community connections are increasing being elected.

Asha Bai's rise from humble beginnings to political office exemplifies the transformative potential of democracy to empower marginalized voices. Her story serves as a source of inspiration, showing that perseverance, integrity, and dedication can overcome even the toughest challenges.

Residents of her ward now look forward to inclusive development, transparent governance, and initiatives that address long-standing local issues, marking a new chapter in community leadership in Kothagudem.

Sircilla Handloom Artist Presents Golden Saree to Yadadri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy

Yadadri Bhuvanagiri, Telangana: In a heartwarming display of devotion and artistry, handloom artisan Nalla Vijay from Sircilla presented a golden saree to Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy at Yadagirigutta, one of Telangana's most revered pilgrimage centers. The presentation highlights the enduring bond between traditional craftsmanship and religious devotion in the region.

The saree, meticulously crafted by Nalla Vijay, measures 5.30 meters in length and 48 inches in width. Made with exquisite precision, it is designed specifically to adorn the deity and reflects the rich heritage of Sircilla hand-

loomers, known across the state for their intricate weaving and high-quality fabrics. Temple authorities noted that such offerings are not just acts of devotion but also a celebration of Telangana's artisanal legacy.

"This golden saree is a symbol of faith, culture, and craftsmanship coming together," said temple officials, expressing their gratitude to the artisan for the unique offering.

"It is a meaningful addition to the array of traditional garments and ornaments used for decorating the deity, enhancing the spiritual and cultural ambience of the temple."

Yadagirigutta has a long-standing tradition of devotees offering



Why Big Tech Has Committed Almost \$80 Billion To India In Two Months



The Congress party, one of India's oldest political formations, finds itself in familiar and uncomfortable territory once again. As the year ends, internal turbulence in Karnataka — arguably the party's most strategically important state — has reignited long simmering questions about leadership, decision making, and the role of the vaunted high command. The real question isn't whether the party has capable leaders at the state level, but whether the central leadership can avoid repeating the same mistakes it has made elsewhere.

At the heart of the current political unease is a leadership tussle in Karnataka between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar. The two senior leaders once agreed to a power sharing formula in 2023 that would see Siddaramaiah serve the first half of the term and Shivakumar take over thereafter. But as the halfway mark passed without any clear transition, tension

and speculation have grown. Siddaramaiah, invoking his long-standing stature, has shown little appetite for stepping aside. Meanwhile, Shivakumar's supporters are openly signalling impatience, making it increasingly hard to ignore the simmering dissatisfaction among party legislators and workers.

What makes this particular standoff notable is how it highlights the paralysis of the Congress high command — a theme that has recurred across multiple states. Karnataka, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh have all seen intra party rivalries flare under the watch of national leadership, often culminating in stalled governance and frayed morale. This isn't just politics as usual; it's a pattern of indecision that has tangible consequences for voters and the party's credibility.

The high command's reluctance to decisively resolve the Karnataka impasse has created a paradox:

on paper, the government functions, but in practice, uncertainty stifles momentum. Ministers delay decisions, internal debates overshadow public governance, and the broader administration loses focus. State-level achievements risk being overshadowed by leadership confusion, weakening the party's standing at a time when it needs visible successes more than ever.

This hesitation isn't just a Karnataka problem; it's emblematic of a deeper organisational dilemma within Congress. When internal disagreements arise, the response often seems to be a combination of strategic silence and hope that factions will self regulate. But politics rarely resolves itself without clear direction. In this case, the central leadership's choice to defer a clear answer has only fanned speculation, frustrated supporters, and handed the opposition fresh ammunition.

Critics argue this indecision undermines the party's ability to pre-

sent a unified front, particularly ahead of crucial elections. Instead of asserting authority and clarity, the top-tier leadership looks hesitant — inviting narratives of dysfunction that are difficult to counter. Meanwhile, rival parties seize on these moments to paint Congress as perpetual victims of its own internal contradictions.

Ultimately, Karnataka presents Congress with both a challenge and an opportunity. As one of the few states where the party enjoys stable governance, it should be a showcase of competence and unity. But the ongoing leadership uncertainty risks turning it into yet another cautionary tale of internal discord. The high command must decide whether it wants to lead with conviction or watch from the sidelines as ambiguity erodes its achievements. The time for ambiguity has passed; decisive leadership is what the party — and its voters — urgently need.

Is Congress High Command About to Repeat Its Old Mistakes?



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A City Without Water: Lessons for a Thirsty Planet

Water scarcity is no longer a distant threat; it is an urgent reality, vividly illustrated by cities that teeter on the brink of crisis. Recent reports of urban centres running out of potable water serve as a stark reminder that climate change, mismanagement, and overconsumption are converging to create a global challenge that cannot be ignored.

Urban populations are swelling, and with them, demand for freshwater. Cities that once relied on rivers, lakes, or aquifers now face diminishing supplies due to prolonged droughts, erratic rainfall patterns, and excessive extraction. The crisis is compounded by ageing infrastructure, leakage, and inefficient distribution systems, leaving millions without reliable access to clean water.

The consequences of such shortages extend beyond the inconvenience of dry taps. Public health suffers as communities resort to unsafe sources, leading to waterborne diseases and other illnesses. Economies slow as industries dependent on water — from agriculture to manufacturing — struggle to maintain production. Social tensions rise when access to water becomes a point of contention, threatening the very fabric of urban life.

One of the critical lessons is that water scarcity is not just an environmental issue; it is a governance challenge. Cities that fail to plan for population growth, industrial expansion, and climate variability risk pushing their residents into desperation. Policies must address not only immediate shortages but also long-term



sustainability, integrating water conservation, recycling, and equitable distribution into urban planning.

Technology can play a role, but it is not a panacea. Smart metering, desalination, wastewater treatment, and rainwater harvesting can augment supply, but these solutions require investment, maintenance, and public cooperation. Behavioral change — reducing wastage, using water-efficient appliances, and protecting local sources — remains equally vital.

The crisis also underscores a broader planetary warning: water scarcity is not confined to one city or country. Globally, freshwater resources are under pressure, with aquifers depleting faster than they can be replenished and glaciers feeding major rivers melting at alarming rates. A city without water today is a harbinger of a thirsty world tomorrow.

Addressing the challenge demands multi-level action. Governments, private enterprises, and civil society must collaborate to implement sus-

tainable water management practices. Education and awareness campaigns can empower citizens to adopt responsible habits. Investments in resilient infrastructure can buffer communities against climatic shocks. And at a global level, international cooperation on transboundary water resources will be critical to prevent conflict and ensure equitable access.

Ultimately, the story of a city running dry is a wake-up call. It forces us to confront uncomfortable truths about consumption, climate change, and resource management. Water is not limitless, and urban populations cannot continue to expand without a clear plan to secure this most essential of resources.

A city without water is more than a local crisis; it is a glimpse of our planet's future if sustainable practices are not adopted. The time to act is now, before scarcity becomes a permanent reality, reshaping life on Earth in ways that are far more profound than a momentary drought.

The Elusive Identity of Usha Vance in America's Narrative

In the complex tapestry of American society, attempts to define individuals often reveal more about the definers than the defined. The case of Usha Vance illustrates this phenomenon vividly. Despite her growing prominence in business and public discourse, attempts to categorize her identity — by ethnicity, profession, or social role — have repeatedly fallen short, highlighting America's broader struggle with nuance and intersectionality.

Usha Vance, a figure of South Asian descent with a career spanning technology and entrepreneurship, embodies multiple identities simultaneously. She is an innovator, a leader, a woman navigating historically male-dominated sectors, and a representative of an immigrant success story. Yet, media and public narratives often attempt to reduce her to a single category: an "Indian-American tech executive" or "woman entrepreneur." These shorthand labels, while convenient, fail to capture the multifaceted dimensions of her life and influence.

The persistent difficulty in defining Vance reflects a broader challenge within American society: the tendency to oversimplify identities into neat, digestible packages. Race, gender, profession, and cultural background are often treated as separate and isolatable traits, when in reality, they intersect in ways that shape perspectives, opportunities, and lived experiences. Vance's career trajectory, shaped by education, ambition, and cross-cultural

navigation, exemplifies these intersections, which cannot be adequately captured by simplistic descriptors.

Media coverage and public discourse also reveal the implicit biases that influence which aspects of a person's identity are highlighted. For Vance, her South Asian heritage is often foregrounded, sometimes overshadowing her professional achievements. Conversely, her accomplishments in tech and business may be framed as exceptional because of her gender or ethnicity, rather than being recognized as noteworthy in their own right. This dual framing underscores the difficulty of evaluating individuals on their own merits while simultaneously acknowledging the social contexts that influence their paths.

The struggle to define Vance is not merely semantic. It has real implications for representation and perception.

Oversimplified labels risk flattening her narrative, reducing her story to stereotypes or tokenized achievements. At the same time, recognizing the complexity of her identity allows for a richer understanding of the challenges and contributions of women of color in high-stakes professional arenas.

In many ways, Usha Vance becomes a mirror reflecting America's own contradictions: a nation that celebrates diversity in principle but struggles to accommodate it fully in narrative and perception. Her story challenges institutions, media, and audiences to move beyond reductive labels and engage with the complexity of lived experience.

Ultimately, Vance's elusiveness is instructive. It reminds us that identity cannot always be neatly defined or compartmentalized. It is dynamic, multifaceted, and context-dependent. In attempting — and failing — to define her, America is confronted with a broader lesson: meaningful understanding requires attention to nuance, a willingness to embrace complexity, and recognition that individuals cannot always be reduced to categories.

Usha Vance's narrative, therefore, is not just a personal story; it is a commentary on American society itself, challenging conventional frameworks and urging a more sophisticated approach to identity, achievement, and engagement.



Bondi Beach Shooting: Hyderabad-Origin Man Identified Among Attackers

Sydney witnessed one of its most shocking acts of violence in recent years after a deadly shooting at Bondi Beach, a popular tourist destination, left multiple people dead and several others injured. Australian authorities have confirmed that one of the two attackers was Sajid Akram, a man originally from Hyderabad, who was carrying an Indian passport, triggering international attention and a multi-country investigation.

The incident occurred during a busy evening at Bondi Beach, when gunmen opened fire on civilians, causing panic and chaos along the shoreline and nearby public areas. Police responded swiftly, killing one attacker at the scene while the second was critically injured and taken into custody. Authorities have since declared the attack an act of terror-inspired violence, though investigations are ongoing to determine the full extent of planning and possible external links.

Australian police later identified the attackers as a father and son duo. Sajid Akram, aged around 50, was shot dead during the police operation, while his son, Naveed Akram, survived and is currently un-



der heavy security in hospital custody. Officials stated that the attackers appeared to have acted alone, though they were influenced by extremist ideology.

Indian authorities confirmed that Sajid Akram was originally from Hyderabad and had migrated to Australia nearly three decades ago. Despite residing abroad for years, he reportedly continued to hold an Indian passport. Indian police clarified that Akram had minimal contact with relatives in India and that there was no indication of radicalization or operational links originating from Indian soil.

The revelation of Akram's Hyderabad connection prompted coordination between Australian and Indian

investigative agencies. Officials in India have initiated parallel inquiries to trace his background, travel history, and any possible financial or communication links that could aid the Australian probe. However, early findings suggest that his radicalization occurred overseas and independently of any organized network in India. Further investigations revealed that the suspects had travelled to Southeast Asia in the weeks preceding the attack, raising questions about potential exposure to extremist influences during the trip. Authorities are examining whether this travel had any connection to the planning or execution of the shooting.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese condemned

the attack in strong terms, calling it an assault on Australia's values of safety, diversity, and peaceful coexistence. He assured citizens that law enforcement agencies would take all necessary steps to prevent similar incidents and protect public spaces.

The shooting has reignited debates in Australia over public safety, counter-terrorism preparedness, and monitoring of radicalization, especially in cases involving lone actors or small family units operating outside established terror networks.

Meanwhile, members of the Indian diaspora in Australia expressed shock and concern over the incident, urging the public not to stigmatize communities based on the actions of individuals. Community leaders emphasized the need for unity and restraint as investigations continue.

As authorities piece together the events leading up to the Bondi Beach tragedy, the focus remains on ensuring justice for the victims and preventing future attacks. The case underscores the growing global challenge of detecting and stopping extremist violence before it erupts in public spaces.

Indian-Origin Woman Detained by US Immigration During Green Card Interview After 30 Years in Country

A 60-year-old Indian-origin woman who has lived in the United States for nearly three decades was unexpectedly detained by US immigration authorities during what was supposed to be the final stage of her application for permanent residency. The incident has drawn significant attention from immigrant communities, elected officials and civil liberties advocates amid ongoing debates over US immigration enforcement practices.

The woman, identified as Babblet "Bubbly" Kaur, has resided in the US since 1994 and was attending a scheduled biometric appointment—usually a routine step in the process of securing a Green Card—when federal immigration officers from US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) took her into custody. The family described the arrest as abrupt and distressing, saying she had an approved residency petition and was simply completing the final procedural requirements.

According to family accounts, Kaur arrived at the immigration office for her biometric scan, a process that typically involves fingerprint-

ing and is considered one of the last steps before a Green Card is granted. While she was waiting, several agents entered the facility and approached her. She was then informed she was being detained. The sudden action reportedly left her relatives and supporters in shock, as they had not anticipated any enforcement measure at that moment.

Kaur's family highlighted that she had no criminal record and had lived peacefully in the United States for more than 30 years. The Green Card petition under review was filed by her daughter, who is a US citizen, and was supported by her husband, a lawful permanent resident. The couple raised three children in the US, with two of them now American citizens and the third protected under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

In the hours following her arrest, Kaur's family said they were not informed of her location, which added to their anxiety. They later learned that she had been transferred to a detention facility where conditions are described as challenging, with limited privacy

and constant noise. Kaur was reportedly granted a brief phone call with her attorney, but the family remains uncertain about the timeline for her legal proceedings and potential release.

The incident has sparked a strong reaction from community leaders and lawmakers. A local congressman publicly criticised the manner in which the detention was carried out, calling it "horrible" and stressing that such actions can terrorize long-standing residents who have contributed to their communities for years. The lawmaker's office stated it was actively communicating with immigration authorities and assisting the family with legal options, including seeking her release on bond while her case moves forward.

Advocates for immigrants' rights argue that the case highlights broader issues within the US immigration system—particularly the enforcement tactics used during routine legal processes. They emphasise that detaining individuals who are lawfully seeking to regularise their status can undermine trust in the legal system and harm families who play active

roles in American society. Kaur's detention also adds to ongoing debates over how immigration laws are implemented, especially for elderly immigrants who have deep roots in the country. The family and supporters are now focusing on legal avenues to challenge the detention, stressing that Kaur's decades of residence and lack of any criminal history should be significant factors in her favor.

As the case unfolds, it is expected to draw continued attention from immigrant communities, legal experts and political leaders concerned about due process and the humane treatment of individuals navigating the complex path to permanent residency in the United States.

Rs 1 Lakh Loan Turns Into Rs 74 Lakh Debt, Maharashtra Farmer Sells Kidney to Repay Dues

In a disturbing incident highlighting the deepening agrarian crisis and unchecked private lending practices, a farmer from Maharashtra was forced to sell his kidney after a loan of just Rs 1 lakh allegedly ballooned into a staggering Rs 74 lakh due to compound interest and informal borrowing arrangements. The case has triggered public outrage and renewed calls for stricter regulation of moneylenders and stronger protections for vulnerable farmers.

The farmer, a resident of a rural district in Maharashtra, had initially borrowed Rs 1 lakh several years ago to meet agricultural and family-related expenses. According to officials, the loan was taken from a private moneylender at a high interest rate, outside the formal banking system. Over time, repeated extensions, penalties, and accumulated interest reportedly pushed the total liability to an amount far beyond the farmer's capacity to repay.

As crop failures, rising input costs, and unpredictable weather patterns worsened his financial condition, the debt kept mounting. With no access to institutional credit or effective debt relief mechanisms, the farmer was allegedly subjected to constant harassment and pressure from the lender.



Unable to see any other way out, he reportedly agreed to sell one of his kidneys to arrange money for partial repayment of the loan.

The illegal organ transplant came to light after the farmer's deteriorating health condition prompted medical scrutiny. Authorities were alerted, leading to the registration of a case and the launch of an investigation into the organ trafficking network allegedly involved.

Police have detained several individuals, including middlemen and medical facilitators, while efforts are underway to identify the moneylender who allegedly exploited the farmer's desperation.

Medical experts have stated

that kidney removal without strict medical necessity and legal authorization poses serious long-term health risks. The farmer is currently undergoing treatment, and doctors have said his condition is stable but will require ongoing medical supervision.

The incident has reignited debate over farmer indebtedness and the persistence of exploitative lending practices in rural India. Despite multiple government schemes aimed at providing affordable credit and loan waivers, many small and marginal farmers continue to rely on private moneylenders due to procedural hurdles, lack of awareness, or delayed institutional support.

The tragic episode underscores the human cost of unchecked debt and systemic gaps in rural credit delivery. As investigations continue, the case stands as a grim reminder of the urgent need for comprehensive reforms to address farmer distress, regulate informal lending, and prevent exploitation driven by poverty and desperation.

Rahul Gandhi Sharpens Attack on Prime Minister Modi Amid G Ram Controversy



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday intensified his political attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alleging that the Prime Minister harbours "hatred for two things" — dissent and constitutional institutions.

Gandhi's remarks came amid an escalating political row over the G Ram controversy, adding fresh momentum to the ongoing war of words between the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the opposition Congress.

Addressing party workers

and media, Rahul Gandhi

accused the Prime Minister of repeatedly targeting voices that question the government. He alleged that the Modi government has consistently weakened institutions meant to uphold democratic values and constitutional safeguards.

According to Gandhi, recent developments linked to the G Ram issue are yet another example of how the ruling dispensation reacts sharply to criticism rather than engaging in constructive dialogue.

While Gandhi did not directly accuse the Prime Minister of personal wrongdoing, he framed his criticism as part of a broader pattern of governance ahead of upcoming political battles. Over the past year, Gandhi has repeatedly targeted the Prime Minister on issues related to central agencies, electoral processes, and the role of constitutional bodies. His supporters argue that such criticism

is necessary to keep the government accountable, while critics view it as rhetoric lacking substantive alternatives.

The exchange also highlights the increasingly confrontational tone of Indian politics, where sharp personal remarks often dominate public discourse. With Parliament sessions frequently disrupted and political debates spilling into public rallies and press briefings, consensus-building has taken a back seat to high-decibel accusations.

Senior Congress leaders rallied behind Gandhi's statement, asserting that the party would continue to raise questions it believes are in the public interest. They accused the BJP of silencing opposition voices and using state machinery for political gain. Meanwhile, BJP leaders countered by listing welfare schemes and governance achievements, asserting that public support for the Prime Minister remains strong.

As the political confrontation intensifies, observers note that such exchanges are likely to continue in the run-up to key elections. Whether Rahul Gandhi's sharp rhetoric resonates with voters or strengthens political polarization remains to be seen. For now, the G Ram controversy has added another chapter to the ongoing and deeply entrenched rivalry between the Congress and the BJP.

Priyanka Gandhi Slams Proposal to Rename MGNREGA, Calls It "Governance by Whim"



Congress leader and Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday strongly criticised the proposal to rename the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), warning that no law should be altered based on the "personal whims" of those in power. Her remarks came amid growing political controversy over the Centre's reported move to rename the flagship rural employment scheme as G-RAM.

Speaking to party workers and media, Priyanka Gandhi said MGNREGA is not merely a welfare programme but a legally guaranteed right for rural citizens, enacted after years of parliamentary debate and consensus. She argued that renaming such a landmark legislation without broad discussion undermines democratic norms and disrespects the intent behind the law.

"MGNREGA was passed by Parliament to protect the dignity and livelihood of rural workers," she said. "No government has the authority to casually rename a law that affects millions of people across the country. Laws are not personal branding tools."

The Congress leader accused the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of attempting to erase historical contributions associated with previous governments rather than focusing on improving implementation. She alleged that the Centre's approach reflected a pattern of symbolic politics, where renaming schemes take priority over addressing ground realities such as delayed wages, reduced workdays, and budgetary constraints faced by MGNREGA

beneficiaries.

MGNREGA, introduced in 2005, guarantees 100 days of wage employment annually to rural households and is widely regarded as one of India's most impactful social security legislations. Over the years, the scheme has played a critical role in poverty alleviation, rural asset creation, and migration control, particularly during economic distress and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Priyanka Gandhi also raised concerns about the manner in which the proposed renaming is being discussed, stating that no bill should be introduced or passed without detailed debate and consultation. "Parliament exists for discussion, scrutiny, and consensus. Decisions affecting the livelihoods of crores of Indians cannot be taken unilaterally," she said.

The BJP has rejected the criticism, stating that the government remains committed to rural development and employment generation. Party leaders argued that reforms and rebranding are part of governance evolution and accused the Congress of politicising welfare schemes for electoral advantage. They also claimed that the focus should remain on efficiency, transparency, and outcomes rather than

nomenclature. Political analysts say the controversy reflects a broader ideological clash between the ruling party and the opposition over legacy, symbolism, and governance style. While the BJP has often defended renaming initiatives as part of administrative rationalisation, the Congress views them as attempts to dilute historical narratives linked to its leadership.

Opposition leaders beyond Congress have also expressed reservations about altering the name of MGNREGA, cautioning that such moves could distract from pressing issues like funding shortages and wage arrears. Farmer unions and rural worker organisations have echoed similar concerns, urging the government to prioritise timely payments and adequate work allocation.

As the debate intensifies, the proposed renaming of MGNREGA has become a fresh flashpoint in Parliament and beyond. Whether the Centre moves ahead with the change or reconsiders amid opposition pressure remains to be seen. For now, the issue has reopened a larger conversation about governance priorities, parliamentary procedure, and the sanctity of landmark social welfare laws.

Who Is Bettina Anderson? Socialite Engaged to Donald Trump Jr. Draws Public Attention

Bettina Anderson, a prominent American socialite and philanthropist, has come into the global spotlight following reports of her engagement to Donald Trump Jr., the eldest son of former US President Donald Trump. The development has attracted widespread attention in political and social circles, given Trump Jr.'s high-profile role in conservative politics and business.

Bettina Anderson is known primarily for her presence in elite social and philanthropic circles in the United States. Based in Florida, she has been actively involved in charity initiatives, social causes, and fundraising events linked to education, healthcare, and community development. Her public profile has largely remained outside partisan politics, with her work focused on advocacy and lifestyle-oriented philanthropy.

Born into a well-established family, Anderson reportedly comes from a background associated with business and civic engagement. She has maintained a strong presence in cultural and charity events, particularly in Florida's Palm Beach and Miami social scenes. Friends and associates describe her as someone who values privacy despite her frequent appearances at high-profile gatherings.

Donald Trump Jr., a businessman and political commentator, has been a central figure in Republican campaigning over the past several years. As a vocal supporter of his father's political ideology, he has played a significant role in mobilising conservative voters and fundraising efforts. His engagement to Anderson marks a notable personal development amid his ongoing public and political activities.

According to reports, the couple has been seen together at several private and public events in recent months, sparking speculation before the engagement became public. While neither Anderson nor Trump Jr. has issued an extensive public statement, sources close to the family suggest that the relationship has been welcomed by those around them.

The engagement has also drawn attention due to the timing, coming



amid heightened political activity in the United States. Observers note that personal developments within the Trump family often generate intense media interest, given their continued influence over conservative politics and public discourse.

Despite being thrust into the media spotlight, Anderson has maintained a relatively low-key public stance. Those familiar with her work say she prefers to be recognised for her charitable efforts rather than celebrity associations. However, analysts believe her profile is likely to expand significantly following the engagement, particularly as Trump Jr. remains a prominent political figure.

Social media reactions to the news have been mixed, ranging from congratulatory messages to broader commentary on the Trump family's public influence. Lifestyle and political commentators alike have begun examining Anderson's background, fashion presence, and philanthropic commitments, reflecting the public's curiosity about individuals linked to major political families.

As preparations reportedly begin for the next phase of their relationship, attention is expected to remain focused on the couple. Whether Bettina Anderson chooses to step into a more visible public role alongside Donald Trump Jr. or continues her work largely away from politics remains to be seen.

For now, the engagement represents a personal milestone for both individuals while reinforcing the continued public fascination with the lives of figures connected to America's most polarising political dynasty.

Hollywood in Shock: Son Arrested in Fatal Stabbing of Filmmaker Rob Reiner and Wife



LOS ANGELES — Hollywood was stunned over the weekend after authorities arrested 32-year-old Nick Reiner, the son of acclaimed filmmaker and actor Rob Reiner and his wife Michele Singer Reiner, in connection with their deaths. The couple was found dead on Sunday in their Brentwood, Los Angeles home, and police have launched a homicide investigation.

Emergency responders were called to the residence in the afternoon after the couple's daughter discovered them unresponsive. Investigators determined that both Rob and Michele had suffered fatal stab wounds. Nick Reiner was taken into custody shortly after the discovery and booked on suspicion of murder. He remains in custody without bail as authorities continue their investigation into the incident. The motive for the killings has not been publicly disclosed.

Reports indicate that on the night before the deaths, Nick and his father attended a holiday gathering hosted by television host Conan O'Brien. Witnesses said the father and son were involved in a heated argument. While authorities have not confirmed a direct connection between the altercation and the subsequent tragedy, the confrontation has drawn attention as part of the ongoing investigation.

Rob Reiner, 78, was one of the most respected figures in Hollywood. He rose to fame in the 1970s for his role as Mike "Meathead" Stivic in the groundbreaking sitcom *All in the Family*. Later, he became a celebrated director, creating iconic films such as *This Is Spinal Tap*, *Stand by Me*, *The Princess Bride*, *When Harry Met Sally...*, and *A Few Good Men*. In addition to his film career, Reiner was known for his activism and engagement in political and social issues.

Michele Singer Reiner, 68, was a tal-

ented photographer and film producer who often collaborated with her husband. She met Rob Reiner during the filming of *When Harry Met Sally...* and played a significant role in both their personal and professional lives. The couple had been married for over three decades and raised three children together.

The news of their deaths has sent shockwaves through the entertainment industry. Colleagues, fans, and political figures have expressed their grief and condolences. Los Angeles officials described the loss as devastating, noting the impact of Rob Reiner's contributions to film and culture. Former President Barack Obama and California Governor Gavin Newsom were among those who publicly paid tribute to the couple's legacy.

Nick Reiner's history of struggles with addiction and mental health has been widely reported, and these challenges were reflected in the semi-autobiographical film *Being Charlie*, which he co-created with his father in 2016. Despite their artistic collaborations, the violent events leading to the deaths of Rob and Michele have left the community grappling with grief and disbelief.

The Los Angeles Police Department continues to investigate all aspects of the case, and prosecutors are preparing to file formal charges. The incident has been described by officials as both shocking and deeply tragic, underscoring the unpredictability of personal and familial crises, even among prominent figures in the public eye.

As the investigation unfolds, Hollywood and the wider public are mourning the loss of two influential figures whose work, creativity, and advocacy left a lasting impact on generations of audiences around the world.

UK Launches BBC Funding Review Amid Fallout From Trump Defamation Lawsuit



The United Kingdom government has launched a high-profile review of the BBC's funding model, aiming to "future proof" the public broadcaster as it navigates mounting challenges — including a multi-billion-dollar defamation lawsuit filed by former US President Donald Trump. The move marks a rare moment of introspection and potential reform for the BBC at a time of legal, financial, and political stress.

The review, announced by Culture Secretary Lisa Nandy in London, comes as the BBC faces a lawsuit in a Miami federal court in which Trump is seeking up to \$10 billion in damages. Trump's legal action accuses the BBC of defaming him by deceptively editing segments of his January 6, 2021 speech in a documentary, an accusation the broadcaster denies even as it apologised for the misleading edit. The BBC has said it will defend the lawsuit, insisting there is no legal basis for the claims.

Nandy said the review is designed to ensure the BBC remains independent, accountable, and trusted by audiences, while also being financially sustainable in a rapidly

evolving media landscape.

She emphasised that the goal is to help the institution continue serving the public effectively amid declining revenue from its traditional funding system and growing competition from global streaming platforms.

Under its current model,

the BBC is funded primarily through an annual television licence fee, a mandatory charge paid by households that watch live TV. However, the number of households paying the licence fee has been falling steadily as more consumers shift to online and subscription services. With the licence fee set at £174.50 per year, the broadcaster derives the bulk of its revenue from this source — a model that many now question for its sustainability.

The funding review will explore a range of options.

These include ways to boost commercial revenue through advertising or subscription services, expand income from international operations such as the World Service, and consider reforms to how the licence fee is structured. Officials have also suggested exploring hybrid models in which essential public services like

news and children's programming remain universally available, while entertainment and drama could be offered through optional subscription services.

Nandy stressed that any

changes would need to preserve the BBC's editorial independence and public service mission. She highlighted the institution's role not just as a news provider but as a central cultural and economic contributor in the UK, underpinning local production and employment.

The review coincides with significant internal and external scrutiny of the BBC. In addition to the Trump lawsuit, the broadcaster has faced a series of controversies, including resignations by senior ex-

ecutives over editorial misjudgments and criticism over reporting on international conflicts. These issues have reignited longstanding debates about the BBC's impartiality and governance.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer's office has said that legal matters such as the Trump lawsuit

are for the broadcaster to handle, while affirming the government's support for the BBC's independence. Starmer's administration underscored the importance of a strong public service broadcaster, even as it pushes for reforms to funding mechanisms and greater accountability.

Opposition parties and media unions have welcomed parts of the review, stressing the need to protect journalistic independence while ensuring long-term financial stability. However, critics warn that introducing commercial elements — such as advertising or subscriptions — could fundamentally alter the nature of the BBC and its public service ethos.

The funding review is expected to produce recommendations well ahead of the BBC's charter renewal in 2027, providing a blueprint for how one of the world's oldest and most influential public broadcasters will operate in the years to come. The process will be closely watched by media stakeholders, political figures, and audiences alike as the BBC navigates both legal battles and transformational change.

Zelenskyy Says Peace Proposals to End War in Ukraine Could Be Presented to Russia Within Days



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has revealed that draft peace proposals aimed at ending the ongoing war with Russia could be finalised within days and presented to Moscow, signalling a potential move toward a diplomatic resolution after nearly four years of conflict. The announcement comes following intensive discussions with U.S. officials and European partners in Berlin earlier this week.

Zelenskyy stated that negotiations with U.S. envoys have produced a draft plan that he described as "very workable," while stressing that significant challenges remain. A key sticking point continues to be the fate of Ukrainian territories currently occupied by Russian forces, which Kyiv has repeatedly insisted must remain under Ukrainian sovereignty.

According to Zelenskyy, the finalized proposals are expected to be delivered to Moscow within days, with further diplomatic en-

gagements planned over the coming weekend in the United States. The discussions in Berlin involved marathon talks between Ukrainian, American, and European representatives aimed at narrowing differences ahead of potential direct negotiations with Russia.

Despite progress, Zelenskyy acknowledged that unresolved issues could still derail a deal. Central among them is the status of Russian-occupied areas in eastern Ukraine and Crimea. Ukraine has emphasized that it will not

recognize Moscow's control over these regions. Some proposals being considered, such as the creation of a "free economic zone" in parts of the Donbas, are designed to facilitate cooperation without implying Russian sovereignty.

Officials involved in the talks indicated that the draft plan has achieved consensus on roughly 90 percent of its provisions among Ukraine and its European allies. These in-

rangements could include an European-led monitoring or peacekeeping force to ensure adherence to a ceasefire, prevent violations, and help maintain stability in contested areas. The proposals are designed to provide a durable peace structure while avoiding direct NATO involvement on Ukrainian soil.

Analysts caution that major hurdles remain. Russian President Vladimir Putin's willingness to accept terms that do not reward territorial conquest is uncertain, and Ukraine continues to oppose any recognition of

Russian claims over its land. Should Moscow reject the proposals, Kyiv has indicated that it would seek expanded Western sanctions and increased military support.

As diplomats finalize the proposals, global attention is sharply focused on whether these initiatives will succeed in bringing about a ceasefire and eventual peace, or whether geopolitical divisions and territorial disputes will continue to stall progress.

The coming days are expected to be critical in shaping the future trajectory of the Ukraine-Russia conflict.

Trump Sues BBC for \$10 Billion, Alleges Defamation Over Edited January 6 Speech



Former U.S. President Donald Trump has filed a \$10 billion defamation lawsuit against the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), accusing the public broadcaster of deceptively editing his January 6, 2021 speech and misrepresenting his words to falsely suggest he incited violence. The lawsuit, filed in a federal court in Florida, marks a high-profile legal battle between a former U.S. president and one of the world's most prominent media organisations.

The case centers on a Panorama documentary aired by the BBC in late 2024, shortly before the U.S. presidential election. The broadcast included a portion of Trump's remarks on January 6, the day of the Capitol attack. According to Trump's complaint, the BBC spliced together segments of his speech, combining moments in which he spoke about walking to the Capitol with supporters and

saying "fight like hell," while omitting context where he encouraged peaceful protest. Trump claims the editing created a false impression that he explicitly called for

violence. The lawsuit contends that the BBC's actions were not merely editorial mistakes but constituted defamation and violations of Florida's Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act. Trump's legal team is seeking \$5 billion in damages for defamation and another \$5 billion for deceptive editing practices, citing reputational and financial harm caused by the broadcast.

Trump's filing alleges that the BBC presented a "false, defamatory, deceptive, disparaging, inflammatory, and malicious depiction" of his speech, arguing that the edited version could influence public perception, particularly during the 2024 election cycle. He claims that the broadcaster offered no meaningful restitution or

reforms to prevent similar editorial abuses.

The BBC had previously admitted that the edit gave a misleading impression and issued an apology, describing the incident as an "error of judgment." However, Trump stated that the apology was insufficient, arguing that the damage to his reputation required substantial legal remedy.

The controversy also led to intense internal scrutiny at the BBC, resulting in resignations at senior levels of its news division.

In response to the lawsuit, the BBC has maintained that there is no legal basis for the defamation claim, noting that the documentary was originally broadcast in the UK and not widely in the U.S. This lawsuit adds to a pattern of legal battles between Trump and major media organisations, following previous defamation claims against U.S. outlets. Observers note that the outcome could have implications not only for Trump's legal strategy but also for international journalism, editorial standards, and how media outlets handle politically sensitive content.

As the case progresses, it will be closely watched by legal analysts, media experts, and the public, given its potential to influence both U.S. defamation law and global perceptions of journalistic responsibility.

RBI Clears HDFC Bank Group to Hold Up to 9.5% in IndusInd Bank



New Delhi, December 16:

In a significant regulatory development that has drawn attention across the banking and financial markets, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted approval to HDFC Bank and its group entities to hold an aggregate stake of up to 9.50 per cent in another private sector lender, IndusInd Bank. The approval, formalised through an RBI letter dated December 15, 2025, is valid for a period of one year and is aimed at ensuring compliance with regulatory norms governing significant shareholding in banking companies.

Under RBI regulations, acquisition or holding of 5 per cent or more of a bank's paid-up share capital or voting rights by another bank or related entities requires prior central bank approval. In this case, HDFC Bank's group entities — including its mutual fund arm, life insurance company, general insurance business, pension fund and securities wing — had collectively crossed this threshold in IndusInd Bank based on their combined investments. To

regularise this cumulative exposure, a formal application was made by HDFC Bank to the RBI in October this year, prompting the regulator's approval.

The aggregate holding permission means that the combined stake of HDFC Bank group entities in IndusInd Bank must not exceed 9.50 per cent at any time during the approval period. Should the combined shareholding fall below 5 per cent, the group will need to seek fresh RBI approval to increase its holding beyond that lower threshold. The central bank's clearance does not automatically imply that HDFC Bank will make fresh direct investments; rather, it allows its affiliated entities to maintain and, where necessary, acquire equity up to the sanctioned limit.

Market observers note that the approval addresses a technical requirement under the RBI's "Commercial Banks — Acquisition and Holding of Shares or Voting Rights" guidelines issued this year. These

guidelines treat holdings by all related group firms under common management or control as part of the aggregate shareholding, requiring prior clearance once such combined holdings exceed the regulatory cap.

The announcement prompted focused attention on both banks' shares in early trade, with investors weighing the implications for future strategic collaboration or investment flows between prominent players in the Indian banking sector. While HDFC Bank itself has clarified that it does not currently intend to make direct capital infusion into IndusInd Bank, the regulatory permission provides flexibility for its group companies to pursue normal course investments within the stipulated limits.

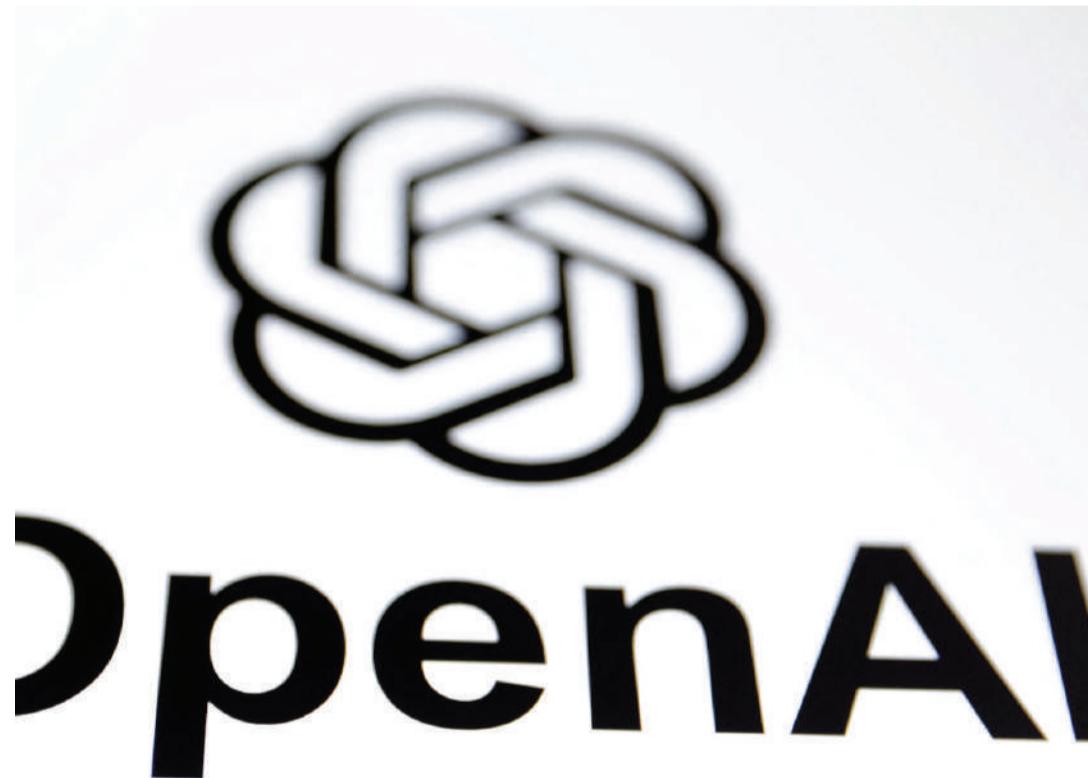
IndusInd Bank, which has faced a phase of organisational and financial challenges this year, including leadership changes and stress in certain portfolio segments, stands to benefit indirectly from the clarity around institutional shareholding structures. Regulatory

approval for higher aggregate holdings by large financial groups can sometimes help stabilise market perceptions and support broader confidence in a bank's investor base.

Analysts say that the RBI's stance underscores its continued oversight on systemic risks associated with interlinkages between large lenders. By setting a clear cap and timeframe, the regulator aims to strike a balance between investor freedom and financial stability, ensuring that significant capital movements in one bank do not create undue concentration risk or governance concerns in another.

Going forward, both HDFC Bank and its group firms will monitor market conditions and regulatory developments closely, while ensuring adherence to all compliance requirements tied to the approved holding limit. The one-year validity of the approval means the group has until mid-December 2026 to adjust and manage its combined exposure within the sanctioned threshold.

OpenAI Appoints Former Google Executive as Corporate Development Head



San Francisco, December 15: OpenAI has appointed a seasoned former Google executive as its new Vice President of Corporate Development, marking a key leadership move as the artificial intelligence company accelerates its expansion and sharpens its long-term strategic ambitions. The appointment underscores OpenAI's intent to strengthen deal-making, partnerships, and strategic investments at a time when competition in the global AI industry is intensifying.

The newly appointed executive brings years of experience from Google, where they played a central role in corporate strategy, mergers and acquisitions, and business development across multiple technology segments. At OpenAI, the executive will be responsible for overseeing corporate development

initiatives, including partnerships, acquisitions, and strategic collaborations that support the company's rapid growth and evolving business model.

OpenAI has expanded quickly over the past few years, transitioning from a research-focused organisation into a major commercial player in artificial intelligence. Its products and services are now widely used by businesses, developers, and consumers around the world, while its enterprise offerings and partnerships with large technology firms have significantly increased its market presence.

As the company scales further, corporate development has become a critical function in identifying growth opportunities and managing complex strategic relationships. Industry observers say the

appointment reflects OpenAI's focus on building a leadership team with deep experience in navigating large-scale technology ecosystems. Executives with backgrounds at established tech giants are increasingly being drawn to fast-growing AI firms, which are seeking to balance innovation with operational discipline and regulatory awareness.

The move also comes at a time when artificial intelligence companies face growing scrutiny from regulators and policymakers globally. Strategic acquisitions, data partnerships, and platform integrations are under closer examination, making experienced leadership in corporate development essential. OpenAI is expected to pursue partnerships that expand its computing capacity, distribution channels, and access to

high-quality data, while remaining compliant with evolving regulatory frameworks.

OpenAI's leadership has highlighted the importance of responsible growth and long-term sustainability. By bringing in an executive with a strong track record in corporate strategy, the company aims to ensure that future expansion aligns with both commercial goals and ethical considerations around AI deployment. The new vice president is expected to work closely with senior leadership to evaluate potential deals that strengthen OpenAI's technological capabilities and market reach.

The appointment follows a series of high-profile hires and internal changes as OpenAI continues to mature as an organisation. With demand for advanced AI models rising across sectors such as software, healthcare, finance, education, and retail, the company is positioning itself to compete more aggressively with both established technology firms and emerging AI startups.

Analysts believe that OpenAI's focus on corporate development signals a more structured approach to growth, moving beyond organic expansion to include carefully selected acquisitions and alliances. Such a strategy could help the company accelerate innovation, enter new markets, and secure critical resources in an increasingly crowded AI landscape.

As OpenAI continues to evolve, the addition of a former Google executive to its leadership team highlights the convergence of big technology experience and next-generation AI innovation. The move is widely seen as a step toward strengthening OpenAI's strategic foundation as it seeks to maintain its leadership position in the fast-moving global artificial intelligence sector.

NCLT Clears Vedanta's Major Demerger Plan



Mumbai, December 16:

Indian equity markets closed sharply lower on Tuesday as sustained selling pressure across key sectors dragged benchmark indices into the red. Weak global cues, profit booking at higher levels, and cautious investor sentiment weighed heavily on Dalal Street, leading to a broad-based decline in stocks.

The BSE Sensex ended the session down by over 500 points, while the NSE Nifty50 slipped below the crucial 26,000 mark. The fall reflected weakness across frontline stocks as well as mid-cap and small-cap segments, indicating a widespread risk-off mood among investors.

Sectorally, realty, banking, and information technology stocks emerged as the biggest laggards. Heavyweight financial stocks witnessed notable selling, adding pressure on the benchmarks. Realty stocks also underperformed, reflecting concerns over valuations and near-term demand outlook. IT shares declined amid cautious global technology cues and uncertainty surrounding overseas demand.

Among Sensex constituents, stocks such as HCL Technologies, Tata Steel, Bajaj Finserv, Axis Bank, UltraTech Cement, and NTPC were among the major losers, each declining by more than one per cent. Selling pressure in these heavyweight stocks played a key role in dragging the indices lower. On the other hand, a handful of consumer-oriented and defensive stocks managed to show limited resilience, though their gains were insufficient to offset broader market losses.

The broader market mirrored the weakness seen in benchmark indices. Mid-cap and small-cap stocks faced selling pressure, with investors continuing to trim exposure amid elevated volatility. Market participants remained cautious, preferring to book profits after the recent rally and stay on the sidelines ahead of upcoming domestic and global triggers.

Stock-specific action was visible despite the overall weak trend. Shares of several companies remained in focus due to corporate announcements, regulatory developments, and trading restrictions. Some stocks were placed under restrictions in the derivatives segment, while others drew attention due to sharp price movements during the session.

The primary market also remained in focus, with the ongoing initial public offering of a major asset management company attracting investor attention on its final day of subscription. The IPO activity added to market buzz, even as secondary markets remained under pressure.

Market experts attributed Tuesday's decline to a combination of weak global cues, cautious foreign investor activity, and profit booking after recent gains. Concerns over global economic growth, interest rate trajectories, and geopolitical developments continued to influence investor sentiment. Additionally, the breach of key technical levels on the Nifty added to selling pressure during the latter part of the session.

Despite the day's losses, analysts believe the broader market structure remains intact, supported by strong domestic fundamentals and steady participation from long-term investors. However, they cautioned that near-term volatility could persist as markets react to global developments, macroeconomic data, and corporate earnings announcements.

Looking ahead, investors are expected to closely monitor global market trends, foreign fund flows, and upcoming economic indicators for further cues. While short-term sentiment remains cautious, market participants see selective opportunities in fundamentally strong stocks amid ongoing corrections. The coming sessions are likely to be guided by a mix of global signals and domestic developments, keeping markets volatile but range-bound in the near term.

Markets Slide as Sensex Drops Over 500 Points, Nifty Slips Below 26,000



Mumbai, December 16:

The Mumbai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has approved Vedanta Ltd's long-awaited demerger plan, clearing the path for one of India's biggest corporate restructurings in recent years. The decision allows the Anil Agarwal-led natural resources conglomerate to split its diverse businesses into multiple independent and focused companies.

With the tribunal's approval now in place, Vedanta can move ahead with implementing the demerger, which is expected to be completed by the end of the current financial year, subject to customary procedural and regulatory requirements. The restructuring is aimed at simplifying the company's complex conglomerate structure and unlocking greater value for shareholders.

As per the approved scheme, Vedanta Ltd will continue as the base metals company, while four new entities will be created to separately house the aluminium, power, steel and iron, and oil and gas businesses. These entities will operate as independent listed companies with their own leadership teams, balance sheets, and strategic priorities.

The demerger is designed to give each business greater operational autonomy and sharper strategic focus. Existing shareholders of Vedanta Ltd will receive proportionate shares in each of the newly formed companies, ensuring continuity of ownership without any cash outflow. The move is expected to offer investors clearer exposure to individual business segments rather than a single diversified entity.

The tribunal's nod follows months of examination and hearings, during which certain objections were raised, particularly related to disclosures and liabilities in the oil and gas segment. Vedanta addressed these concerns through additional clarifications and commitments, satisfying the tribunal and paving the way for final approval.

The market responded positively to the announcement, with Vedanta's shares registering strong gains as investors welcomed the removal of a key regulatory overhang. Analysts noted that the demerger could lead to better valuation discovery, improved capital allocation, and enhanced transparency across the group's businesses.

Earlier, the demerger plan had received overwhelming support from shareholders and creditors, reflecting strong confidence in the company's long-term strategy. Industry observers believe the restructuring will enable each business to pursue growth opportunities more effectively, attract sector-specific investors, and strengthen overall governance.

Once implemented, Vedanta's demerger is expected to mark a significant milestone in the Indian corporate sector. The company's management is now likely to focus on execution, including regulatory filings, formation of new boards, and preparations for secondary listings. The successful completion of this exercise could serve as a model for other large conglomerates looking to unlock shareholder value through focused corporate restructuring.



IPL 2026 Auction: Record Deals, Emerging Stars, and Strategic Moves Set the Stage for a Thrilling Season

The Indian Premier League (IPL) Auction 2026, held on December 16, 2025, in Abu Dhabi, turned out to be one of the most electrifying auctions in recent IPL history. With 10 franchises looking to complete their squads, the mini-auction provided drama, surprises, and record-breaking bids, reflecting the evolving strategies of teams in the world's most popular T20 league. The upcoming season, scheduled from March 26 to May 31, 2026, promises to be one of the most competitive yet, with a mix of established stars, new talent, and tactical acquisitions shaping the contest.

Auction Overview

Unlike mega auctions, IPL 2026 featured a mini-auction, allowing teams to fill remaining slots after retentions, trades, and releases. A total of 350 players, including 110 overseas and 240 Indian players, were shortlisted. However, only 77 slots were up for grabs, making the competition fierce. Franchises had to manage their remaining purse carefully while balancing marquee overseas players with emerging Indian talent. The auction saw aggressive bidding, especially for multi-dimensional players who could perform in multiple roles, reflecting the strategic shift towards versatile squad composition.

The absence of Right to Match (RTM) cards meant teams could not simply retain

their released stars at fixed prices, forcing franchises to adopt a more calculated and tactical approach. The focus was on building balanced squads capable of adapting to different match situations while maintaining high-performance standards.

Record-Breaking Buys

The auction's biggest headline was the acquisition of Australian all-rounder Cameron Green by Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) for ₹25.20 crore, making him the most expensive overseas player in IPL history. Green's skill set, which includes hard-hitting batting, seam bowling, and finishing games under pressure, made him the most sought-after player of the auction. KKR's aggressive approach in securing Green immediately established them as a team to watch in the upcoming season.

KKR also strengthened their pace attack with Sri Lankan pacer Matheesha Pathirana, who was signed for ₹18 crore, adding raw speed and lethal death-over abilities to their arsenal. Their overseas additions, including Finn Allen and Ben Dwarshuis, were also snapped up, ensuring that IPL 2026 will showcase fresh talent alongside established stars. Teams prioritized versatile players capable of contributing in multiple facets of the game, including batting, bowling, and fielding.

Delhi Capitals (DC) made waves by securing David Mill-

er, the experienced South African finisher, for ₹2 crore, widely regarded as a bargain considering his international credentials. DC also invested in uncapped Indian talent, notably Akib Dar, who fetched ₹8.40 crore, reflecting the growing faith franchises have in emerging domestic stars.

Emerging Indian Talent Steals the Spotlight

The IPL 2026 auction highlighted the growing importance of uncapped Indian players, with franchises willing to pay substantial amounts for promising talent. In addition to Akib Dar, Chennai Super Kings (CSK) made headlines with the acquisitions of Prashant Veer and Kartik Sharma, both going for ₹14.20 crore each. These record prices underline the league's commitment to nurturing new talent while simultaneously balancing squads with experience and leadership.

Other uncapped players such as Yash Thakur, Abhinav Sadarangani, Ravi Bishnoi, and Praveen Dubey were also snapped up, ensuring that IPL 2026 will showcase fresh talent alongside established stars. Teams prioritized versatile players capable of contributing in multiple facets of the game, including batting, bowling, and fielding.

Team Strategies and Squad Composition

Each franchise entered the auction with distinct strategies:

Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) opted for a high-spending strategy, securing marquee overseas players alongside promising Indian talent. With Cameron Green, Matheesha Pathirana, Finn Allen, and Ben Dwarshuis, KKR now possesses one of the most balanced squads in terms of batting, bowling, and all-round capabilities.

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) focused on youth and potential. Apart from Prashant Veer and Kartik Sharma, CSK picked Rahul Chahar, Akiel Hosein, Matthew Short, Matt Henry, Sivang Kumar, and Aman Khan. By blending international experience with domestic promise, CSK aimed to maintain the perfect balance between consistency and raw talent.

Delhi Capitals (DC) strengthened their finishing power and bowling attack with players like David Miller, Ben Duckett, Kyle Jamieson, Lungi Ngidi, Akib Dar, Patum Nissanka, and Adam Milne. Their strategy clearly emphasized a mix of seasoned match-winners and energetic young players to maintain depth and versatility across formats.

Mumbai Indians (MI) opted for selective spending, bringing in Quinton de Kock, Danish Malvear, Mayank Rawat,

and Cooper Connolly. They relied on their core retained players while investing in niche roles such as wicket-keeping, finishing, and specialized bowling.

Other franchises such as Lucknow Super Giants (LSG), Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB), Gujarat Titans (GT), Rajasthan Royals (RR), Punjab Kings (PBKS), and Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) also followed specific strategies. LSG focused on spin and all-round depth, signing Wanindu Hasaranga and Anrich Nortje. RCB strengthened their batting with Venkatesh Iyer and bowling options with Jacob Duffy. GT invested in finishing power and spin with Josh Inglis and Rashid Khan, while RR and PBKS prioritized balanced squads with depth in both batting and bowling.

These purchases highlight franchises' strategies of securing all-rounders, finishers, and versatile players capable of performing in multiple roles.

Surprise Snubs and Unsold Players

While some players commanded high prices, several experienced names went unsold, surprising fans and analysts alike. Notable unsold players included Jake Fraser McGurk, Devon Conway, Gus Atkinson, Wiaan Mulder, Jamie Smith, Jonny Bairstow, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, KS Bharat, and Deepak Hooda.

Many of these players may still find opportunities as injury replacements or late signings, keeping the competition alive and unpredictable.

Key Trends and Insights

Overseas players dominated marquee buys, emphasizing the importance of international T20 stars. Uncapped Indian players achieved record bids, reflecting the league's faith in domestic talent.

Teams increasingly prioritized balance and versatility over big names alone, focusing on all-rounders, finishers, and specialized bowlers.

The auction demonstrated the evolving tactical approach in the IPL, where careful squad management and strategic spending are as critical as raw talent.

Looking Ahead to IPL 2026

With squads finalized, franchises are now turning their attention to pre-season camps, practice matches, and refining team combinations. The tournament promises high-octane action, strategic battles, and opportunities for emerging stars to shine. Analysts predict that IPL 2026 will be among the most competitive seasons, with close finishes, breakout performances, and tactical masterstrokes defining the journey.

Fans can expect power-packed matches, thrilling finishes, and unforgettable moments, as established stars face challenges from the new generation of Indian cricketers. The IPL continues to blend international experience with domestic potential, ensuring a spectacle that thrills fans while cultivating the stars of tomorrow.

"Zindagi in Two Shades" Wins Hearts at Hyderabad Premiere; Mohammed Azharuddin Hails Filmmaker Dollye Tomar

Hyderabad witnessed an evening of cinematic celebration as the documentary *Zindagi in Two Shades*, based on the life of Iftekhar Sharif, premiered to an enthusiastic audience and invited guests. The event drew notable personalities from both the film and sports worlds, including former Indian cricket captain and current Telangana Minority Affairs Minister, Mohammed Azharuddin, who praised the documentary for its authenticity and social relevance.

Produced by Omsheel Productions, Mumbai, under the leadership of filmmaker Dollye Tomar, and supported by DK Omsheel Productions, USA, led by Khurram Syed, *Zindagi in Two Shades* brings together a talented technical crew. The documentary is directed by Rajneesh Dubey, produced by Kalpana Rajput, and edited by Devu Namdev. Senior film journalist Dheeraj Appaji coordinated the premiere, ensuring a seamless event that highlighted the film's essence and message.

The documentary chronicles the life of Iftekhar Sharif with honesty and sensitivity, presenting his experiences in a manner that resonates deeply with viewers. It captures the nuances of everyday life, exploring the challenges, triumphs, and moral dilemmas that shape human existence. The narrative's simplicity and grounded storytelling were widely appreciated by audiences, reflecting the filmmaker's commitment to realism and social



awareness.

Mohammed Azharuddin, speaking at the premiere, lauded Dollye Tomar for her insightful portrayal of real-life struggles. He described the documentary as "honest, simple, and deeply moving" and emphasized the importance of films that convey meaningful social messages. Highlighting the filmmaker's potential, Azharuddin expressed confidence in her bright future and called for a Part 2 of *Zindagi in Two Shades*, noting that the story deserved further exploration. The documentary has already begun garnering attention beyond Indian audiences, attracting interest from international film festivals. Its themes of perseverance, human values, and societal challenges make it a universally relatable story, bridging cultural gaps and appealing to a global audience. Critics and viewers alike have praised the film's sensitive handling of complex issues, as well as its realistic cinematography and compelling editing. The premiere of *Zindagi in Two Shades* marks an important milestone for Dollye Tomar, establishing her as a filmmaker capable of creating content that is both socially conscious and emotionally impactful. The positive reception from au-

diences and dignitaries underscores the growing demand for documentaries that explore real-life narratives with depth and authenticity.

With its meaningful storytelling, strong performances behind the camera, and significant social message, *Zindagi in Two Shades* is more than just a documentary—it is a reflection on life, resilience, and the human spirit. The film continues to make waves and is poised to inspire both viewers and aspiring filmmakers, while the anticipation for a potential second part promises to keep audiences engaged with the story of Iftekhar Sharif for years to come.

Technical Crew:

Director: Rajneesh Dubey | Producer: Kalpana Rajput | Editor: Devu Namdev | Production Houses: Omsheel Productions, Mumbai; DK Omsheel Productions, USA

Notable Attendees: Mohammed Azharuddin, senior film journalist Dheeraj Appaji, and several other dignitaries and film enthusiasts.

Zindagi in Two Shades is proving that heartfelt storytelling rooted in real-life experiences has the power to leave a lasting impression on audiences, both in India and internationally.

Avinash Thiruveedhula's Vanara Drops First Single "Adaraho"; Grand Theatrical Release Set for December 26th

The countdown for Avinash Thiruveedhula's directorial and acting debut *Vanara* has begun in earnest with the release of its first single, "Adaraho." The mythological rural drama, which promises a unique blend of action, emotion, and folklore, is all set for a worldwide grand theatrical release on December 26th.

Vanara marks a significant milestone for Avinash Thiruveedhula, who takes on the dual responsibility of director and lead actor. Simran Choudhary stars as the female lead, bringing charm and emotional depth to the story, while Nandu plays the antagonist, adding intensity and conflict to the narrative. The film also features an ensemble cast including Khadgam Prudvi, Kona Venkat, Satya, Amani, Sivaji Raja, Chammak Chandra, and Racha Ravi, promising a rich tapestry of characters that enhance the mythological storytelling.

Presented by Asian Cinemas and produced by Shanthanu Pathi, Avinash Buyani, Alapati Raja, and Ankith Reddy under the Silver Screen Cinemas LLP banner, *Vanara* boasts a strong technical team. The film's dialogues, penned by Sai Madhav Burra, aim to balance traditional storytelling with modern punch, while Sujatha Siddharth's cinematography captures the rustic grandeur and mythological essence of the setting. Editing by Chota K. Prasad ensures a tight narrative, while



production designer Narni Srinivas creates visually compelling rural landscapes that complement the film's epic themes.

The first single, "Adaraho," has already created a buzz among fans. Composed by Vivek Sagar, who also lends his electrifying voice to the track, the song features a rap-style delivery combined with catchy, high-energy beats. Lyricist Bharadwaj Gali collaborated with Sagar to craft lyrics that reflect the protagonist's vigor and attitude, making it both a musical and narrative highlight. The track promises to capture the essence of *Vanara*, emphasizing heroism, determination, and the untamed spirit of the film's central character.

As the first single hits streaming platforms, anticipation for the film's December 26th release continues to grow. With a story rooted in mythology yet presented with a modern cinematic approach, *Vanara* aims to offer audiences an immersive experience that blends tradition, drama, and contemporary music sensibilities.

The combination of Avinash Thiruveedhula's creative vision,

Vivek Sagar's music, Sai Madhav Burra's dialogues, and a talented ensemble cast has positioned *Vanara* as one of the most awaited films of the season. Fans are eagerly waiting to witness how the rural mythological backdrop and high-octane performances come together on the big screen.

Cast: Avinash Thiruveedhula, Simran Choudhary, Nandu, Khadgam Prudvi, Kona Venkat, Satya, Amani, Sivaji Raja, Chammak Chandra, Racha Ravi.

Technical Crew:

Director & Lead Actor: Avinash Thiruveedhula | Music Director: Vivek Sagar | Dialogues: Sai Madhav Burra | Story & Screenplay: Vishwajith | Director of Photography: Sujatha Siddharth | Editor: Chota K. Prasad | Production Designer: Narni Srinivas | Producers: Shanthanu Pathi, Avinash Buyani, Alapati Raja, Ankith Reddy | Presenter: Asian Cinemas | Banner: Silver Screen Cinemas LLP | PRO: GSK Media

With the release of "Adaraho," *Vanara* is set to capture hearts and set the stage for a grand cinematic experience this festive season.

Legendary Comedian Brahmanandam Praises New-Age Dark Comedy Gurram Paapireddy at Grand Pre-Release Meet



Telugu audiences are gearing up for a fresh cinematic experience as the dark comedy *Gurram Paapireddy*, starring Naresh Agastya and Faria Abdullah, prepares for its worldwide theatrical release on December 19th. The pre-release press meet held in Hyderabad drew industry veterans and media, including legendary comedian Brahmanandam, who lauded the film for its innovative storytelling and performances.

Produced by Venu Saddi, Amar Bura, and Jayakanth (Bobby), under the presentation of Dr. Sandhya Goli, and directed by Murali Manohar, *Gurram Paapireddy* promises a

concept never seen before in Telugu cinema. The film revolves around unique dark comedy, blending fresh narratives with nativity, while providing audiences with an engaging cinematic experience.

At the event, dialogue writer Niranjan emphasized the novelty of the film, stating, "These days, it feels scary to say we are making a new kind of film. Every artist and technician supported my effort as a director," he said, underscoring the collaborative spirit behind the film.

Producer Amar Bura

spoke about the dedication

of the team, particularly Murali Manohar and Brahmanandam, who supported the project at every stage. He highlighted the

Paisa Dum Dum, praising Faria Abdullah for her singing and energetic contribution.

Director Murali Manohar expressed his gratitude to the producers for providing complete creative freedom. "All of us worked with the intention of showing Telugu audiences a new kind of film. Every artist and technician supported my effort as a director," he said, underscoring the collaborative spirit behind the film.

Producer Amar Bura

spoke about the dedication

of the team, particularly Murali Manohar and Brahmanandam, who supported the project at every stage. He highlighted the

challenge of securing Yogi Babu's dates and praised the performances of Jeevan, Vamsidhar, and Rajkumar Kasireddy for their comic brilliance. Amar also appreciated the lead actors, noting Naresh Agastya's active promotion of the film despite usually avoiding social media, and Faria Abdullah's versatility both as an actress and a singer-choreographer.

Gurram Paapireddy brings together a talented cast and crew including Prabhias Sreenu, Rajkumar Kasireddy, Jeevan Kumar, Vamsidhar Kogi, John Vijay, Motta Rajendran, with cinematography by Arjun Raja, and music by Krishna Saurabh. Presented by Dr. Sandhya Goli and promoted by GSK Media, the film is poised to offer audiences a fresh, engaging cinematic experience this December 19th.

Cast: Naresh Agastya, Faria Abdullah, Brahmanandam, Yogi Babu, Prabhias Sreenu, Rajkumar Kasireddy, Jeevan Kumar, Vamsidhar Kogi, John Vijay, Motta Rajendran, and others.

Technical Crew: Director & Writer: Murali Manohar | Director of Photography: Arjun Raja | Music: Krishna Saurabh | Producers: Venu Saddi, Amar Bura, Jayakanth (Bobby) | Presented by: Dr. Sandhya Goli | PRO: GSK Media

Mohanlal's Epic Saga Vrussabha to Roar into Telugu Cinemas on December 25th, Distributed by Geetha Film Distributors

Geetha Film Distributors, the powerhouse behind Telugu hits like *Kantara*, *Viduthalai*, *Chava*, and *Mahavatara Narasimha*, is set to release the highly anticipated epic *Vrussabha*, starring legendary actor Mohanlal, in Telugu on December 25th. The announcement has generated immense excitement among audiences, promising a cinematic spectacle that blends drama, action, and emotional storytelling on a grand scale.

Written and directed by Nanda Kishore, *Vrussabha* is a sweeping saga of love, destiny, and vengeance, exploring the unbreakable bond between a father and son. The makers recently unveiled a striking poster showcasing Mohanlal in two contrasting avatars, further heightening anticipation for the film. Shot simultaneously in Malayalam and Telugu, with planned releases in Hindi and Kannada, the film is poised to be one of the biggest cinematic events of 2025.

The previously released teaser introduced audiences to Mohanlal in a

commanding avatar as a warrior king, accompanied by the evocative tagline: "When Destiny Calls, Blood Must Answer." The teaser, emphasizing the theme of *Reborn Love – A Love So Strong, It Defies Death*, captivated viewers with its dramatic transitions between past and present, hinting at the dual worlds that the narrative explores.

Mohanlal leads a formidable ensemble cast including Samarjit Lanke, Ragini Dwivedi, Nayan Sarika, Ajay, Neha Saxena, Garuda Ram, Vinay Varma, Ali, Ayyappa P. Sharma, and Kishore.

Each character promises to contribute to the film's high-stakes storytelling, adding depth and nuance to the narrative of familial loyalty and personal destiny.

The technical crew brings together some of the best talent in Indian cinema. Cinematography by Antony Sam Samson

captures the film's epic scale, while high-octane action sequences are choreographed by Peter Hein, Stunt Silva, and Nikhil.

Music by Sam C. S. and

Aaryan Mehdi complements Resul Pookutty's immersive sound design, ensuring a fully engaging cinematic experience. Dialogues are crafted by S. R. K., Janardhana Maharshi, and Karthik, adding punch and emotional resonance to the film's storytelling. Editing by K. M. Prakash ensures the narrative flows seamlessly across the film's grandiose action and drama sequences.

Vrussabha is presented by Connekkt Media and Balaji Telefilms Ltd in association with Abhishek S. Vyas Studios, and produced by Shobha Kapoor, Ektaa R. Kapoor, C. K. Padma Kumar, Varun Maithur, Saurabh Mishra, Abhishek S. Vyas, Praveer Singh, Vishal Gurnani, and Juhu Parekh Mehta, with Vimal Lahoti as co-producer. Geetha Film Distributors is set to release the film in Telugu, promising audiences a truly spectacular cinematic experience.

Set to release worldwide on December 25th, *Vrussabha* combines action, drama, and emotional

storytelling in an epic

portrayal of family, destiny, and courage, making it one of the most awaited films of the year.

Cast: Mohanlal, Samarjit Lanke, Ragini Dwivedi, Nayan Sarika, Ajay, Neha Saxena, Garuda Ram, Vinay Varma, Ali, Ayyappa P. Sharma, and Kishore.

Technical Crew: Direc-

tor: Nandakishore | Cinematography: Antony Sam Samson | Stunts: Peter Hein, Stunt Silva, Nikhil | Music: Sam C. S., Aaryan Mehdi | Sound Design: Resul Pookutty | Dialogues: S. R. K., Janardhana Maharshi, Karthik | Editing: K. M. Prakash | Presented by: Geetha Film Distributors | PRO: GSK Media

Karunada Chakravarthy Shiva Rajkumar, Real Star Upendra, and Versatile Raj B Shetty Unite in "45: The Movie"; Trailer Promises a Cinematic Spectacle



Kannada cinema enthusiasts have a major reason to celebrate as the much-anticipated film *45: The Movie* unveils its theatrical trailer, offering a glimpse of a cinematic journey that promises scale, star power, and substance in equal measure.

Helmed by acclaimed music director Arjun Janya, who makes his directorial debut with this project, *45* brings together three of Kannada cinema's most formidable talents—Karunada Chakravarthy, Shiva Rajkumar, Real Star Upendra, and versatile actor Raj B Shetty—in a narrative that blends philosophy, action, and striking visual storytelling.

Produced under the Suraj Productions banner by Mrs. Uma Ramesh Reddy and M. Ramesh Reddy, *45* has been marketed with meticulous attention, building curiosity through its intriguing promotional material and mysterious teasers. The recently released trailer confirms the

filmmakers' ambition, delivering high-voltage visuals and a conceptual depth that sets the film apart from contemporary fare.

The trailer opens with a stark thematic premise—birth, death, and the fleeting stretch between them—framing life as a journey defined not merely by existence but by the choices made along the way. There is a strong metaphysical undertone as the narrative hints at moral accountability extending beyond death, creating a philosophical canvas for the characters to inhabit.

Shiva Rajkumar, Upendra, and Raj B Shetty bring contrasting energies to this moral universe. Upendra's deep and resonant voiceover lends the film an intellectual weight, while Raj B Shetty portrays the everyman, vulnerable yet grounded, caught in the unfolding moral and existential dilemmas. Shiva Rajkumar, appearing in a striking red Bharatanatyam costume, evokes a

sense of duality and transformation, providing moments of visual and emotional intensity that anchor the film.

The technical craftsmanship of *45* amplifies its narrative ambitions. Cinematographer Satya Hegde captures every frame with precision, while Arjun Janya's pulsating musical score intensifies the drama. High-octane action sequences, designed by renowned stunt coordinators Dr. K. Ravi Verma, Jolly Bastian, and Different Danny Chetan D'Souza, promise to keep audiences on the edge of their seats. Editing by K. M. Prakash ensures that the film's narrative rhythm matches its visual and emotional intensity, while dialogue writer Anil Kumar adds sharpness and nuance to the characters' moral explorations.

The trailer hints at a cinematic experience that balances philosophy, action, and spectacle, setting high expectations for the

film's release. With the movie slated to premiere in five languages on January 1st, the New Year will arrive with a dose of Kannada cinema at its most ambitious. Fans of the stars and newcomers alike are eagerly anticipating what promises to be a landmark film in the industry.

Cast: Shiva Rajkumar, Upendra, Raj B Shetty, and others.

Technical Crew: Arjun Janya (Director, Music Composer, Writer), Satya Hegde (Cinematographer), K. M. Prakash (Editor), Anil Kumar (Dialogues), Dr. K. Ravi Verma, Jolly Bastian, Different Danny Chetan D'Souza (Stunts), Johnny Basha (Choreographer).

Production: Suraj Productions, Producers: Mrs. Uma Ramesh Reddy, M. Ramesh Reddy.

With its unique combination of star power, conceptual depth, and technical excellence, *45: The Movie* is shaping up to be a must-watch for Kannada cinema audiences this New Year.