

CM Revanth Reddy Credits People for Congress Victory in Panchayat Elections, Challenges Opposition on Governance and River Water Issues

Hyderabad, 18-12-2025:

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy congratulated the election officials for completing the Gram Panchayat elections efficiently and without any lapses. Speaking at a media briefing, he expressed gratitude to the people of Telangana for their overwhelming support to the Congress party, marking the first local body elections held after two years of public governance.

The Chief Minister highlighted the results, stating that out of 12,702 Gram Panchayats, 7,527 were won by Congress candidates while 808 seats went to Congress rebels, totaling 8,335 victories—roughly 66% of the panchayats. In contrast, the BRS-BJP alliance secured 33%, and communist parties 1%, reflecting a clear endorsement of Congress governance by the people.

In addition, CM Reddy mentioned the Cantonment and Jubilee Hills by-elections, where citizens again showed their preference for Congress. Among 94 assembly constituencies where local body elections took place, Congress achieved the highest results in 87 constituencies, while BRS led in 6 constituencies and BJP in just 1.



He attributed this success to the government's welfare schemes, including free rice for the poor, free electricity, bonus for ready-made food, 500 kg cylinders, Indiramma houses, 200 units of free electricity, interest-free loans for women's associations, SC/ST categorization, and other welfare programmes. "Along with our six guarantees, we gave the people the seventh guarantee—freedom," CM Reddy said, stressing that the elections were conducted freely and fairly, without interference or manipulation.

Addressing criticisms by opposition parties, he strongly rejected their claims. He accused the BJP of attempting to undermine public welfare by

changing the name of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, calling it a conspiracy to render the programme ineffective. He asserted that true democratic protection and welfare delivery is possible only under Congress leadership.

CM Reddy also spoke directly about former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao (KCR), stating that even though KCR is no longer actively involved in politics, the Congress is ready to challenge him on issues like injustice in Krishna and Godavari river water allocation. He emphasized that Telangana's people suffered immense betrayal during the unified Andhra

Pradesh period and that the Congress will highlight these wrongs with evidence, including BC reservation issues and other developmental disparities. He assured that special sessions and debates will be held to bring these matters to public attention.

On the opposition's reaction to the election results, CM Reddy said that personal grudges and jealousy must not hinder public welfare. "Some continue to harbor arrogance despite repeated public rebukes. They should understand that such petty politics cannot stop progress," he stated.

He concluded by affirming that Congress will continue to earn the trust of the people. "The same results will be repeated in 2029, with Congress returning to power with a two-thirds majority. Our focus remains on making Telangana the number one state in India," he said, urging opposition leaders to cooperate for the greater good of citizens and avoid obstructing government.

The Chief Minister's remarks reflected a strong assertion of accountability, democratic principles, and commitment to public welfare, while clearly challenging the opposition to engage transparently on critical state issues.

Congress Stages Massive Protest Rally Against BJP in Hyderabad Over National Herald Case



Hyderabad:

The Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) organized a large-scale protest rally from Gandhi Bhavan to the BJP office in Hyderabad on 18th December, 2025, highlighting alleged political harassment of the Gandhi family in connection with the National Herald case. The rally drew hundreds of Congress leaders, workers, and supporters, demonstrating the party's firm stance against what it termed as unwarranted legal and political pressure by the BJP.

The rally was led by TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud and AICC Telangana In-Charge Meenakshi Natarajan, who emphasized that the action against the Gandhi family was part of a politically motivated campaign. As the march began, high tension was reported near Gandhi Bhavan, with participants chanting slogans such as "Sonia Gandhi Zindabad," "Rahul Gandhi Zindabad," and "Con-

gress Party Zindabad."

Speaking to the crowd, Mahesh Kumar Goud condemned the BJP for attempting to undermine the Gandhi family, remove Mahatma Gandhi's legacy, and manipulate the political system for partisan purposes. Natarajan reassured the public that the Congress party would continue to pursue justice through non-violent means, ensuring the facts were brought to the citizens without resorting to aggression or disorder.

As the rally moved toward the BJP office, police intervened and prevented the march from proceeding further, citing security concerns. In response, Congress leaders and workers staged a sit-in near Gandhi Bhavan gates, continuing their protest peacefully while maintaining disciplined conduct. The protesters emphasized their commitment to democratic principles and non-violent expression while highlighting the alleged injustice against the Gandhi family.

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Congress' Grassroots Success Marks People's Trust in Indiramma Administration: Minister Ponguleti

Chunchupalli, Kothagudem (18-12-2025):

Telangana Revenue, Housing, and Information Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy lauded the massive success of the Congress party in the recent Gram Panchayat elections, calling it a reflection of the people's confidence in the Indiramma administration. The minister addressed a grand felicitation ceremony held at his camp office in Vidyanager Colony, Chunchupalli, Kothagudem, to honour newly elected sarpanches, deputy sarpanches, and ward members from five constituencies of the district. Over 400 sarpanches and thousands of ward members were felicitated with shawls in recognition of their victory.

Speaking to the gather-



ing, Minister Ponguleti emphasized the importance of grassroots workers, stating that political victories are built on the dedication of local-level activists. "No matter which party flag waves high or which leader's future is at stake, it is the village-level cadre that forms the foundation," he remarked. He recalled that previous governments had often acted undemocratically, whereas the current administration has strengthened village-level leadership through constitutionally conducted elections. "In Bhadrak Kothagudem district alone, the Congress flag

has triumphed in over 70% of the contested seats," he added.

The minister strongly criticized the opposition parties for their attempts to delegitimize the results. "Unable to digest their defeat, the opposition is trying to manipulate public perception through selective media coverage, spreading misinformation. The truth is, the people at the grassroots genuinely support Congress, and this trend will continue in upcoming MPTC and ZPTC elections," he asserted. He pointed out that recent by-election outcomes serve as a testimony to the effectiveness

Be Remembered Not Merely as Officers, but as Public Servants: Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka

Hyderabad, 18-12-2025:

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu addressed the valedictory ceremony of a 10-week training program for All India Services and Central Services officers at the Marri Channa Reddy Human Resource Development Centre (MCRHRD) on Thursday, urging the officers to serve with integrity, compassion, and courage.

He emphasized that civil servants truly fulfill their calling only when they are remembered not just as officers but as public servants whose work brings dignity and positive change to people's lives. "Every day, before leaving office, ask yourself: Did my work today make someone's life better? If yes, then you have succeeded," he said.

Speaking on the responsibilities ahead, the Deputy CM reminded the officers that completing rigorous train-



ing marks not the end, but the beginning of a journey filled with responsibility, discretion, and public trust.

A total of 203 officers from various states successfully completed the course, and Vikramarka congratulated them for evolving from technical experts—engineers, doctors, economists, lawyers—into leaders recognized for their competence and integrity.

He cautioned that public service involves making difficult decisions, handling transfers, and resolving complex issues that directly affect people's lives. "Negligence can harm someone for years," he said, urging officers to approach governance with humane judgment and steadfast dedication.

Acknowledging rapid changes in governance, he highlighted the importance of modern technology, social media scrutiny, and global challenges.

Officers must continuously learn, unlearn, and adapt, while upholding three un-

changing principles: character, credibility, and compassion—the hardest assets to earn and the easiest to lose. He reminded the officers that power is held in trust—from the Constitution, the law, and ultimately the people—and that success is measured not by the number of orders issued, but by how many lives they make easier quietly and consistently. Drawing inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi's advice to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, he urged officers to consider the poorest and weakest citizens in every decision they make.

Deputy CM Vikramarka concluded by stressing the importance of constant engagement with citizens, humility, moral courage, and leadership. "Serve with integrity, take decisions with courage, and lead with compassion," he said, urging the officers to carry these principles throughout their careers in public service.

Minister Duddilla Sri Dhar Babu and MCRHRD Vice Chairperson Shanta Kumari were also present at the program.

Telangana Minister Criticizes Centre for Removing Gandhi's Name from National Employment Guarantee Scheme

Hyderabad, 18-12-2025:

Telangana Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy strongly criticized the removal of Mahatma Gandhi's name from the national rural employment guarantee scheme, calling it an insult to the Father of the Nation. He said that changing the

name of such a historic programme was "shameful" and undermined the scheme's legacy of supporting marginalized and poor families. In a statement issued on Thursday, the minister recalled that the scheme was first launched in 2005 by the UPA government, with the explicit aim of providing wage employment to rural households and ensuring livelihood security. Over the past two dec-

ades, it had become a backbone of India's rural economy, helping millions of families survive and thrive. Minister Srinivas Reddy accused the BJP government of undermining the programme over the last ten years, diluting its intent, and forcing an unjust financial burden of 40 percent on the states, thereby negatively impacting the poor. He emphasized that the changes brought through the newly passed parliamentary bill fundamentally altered the nature of the programme, its financial structure, and its funding pattern. The scheme, previously known as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), has been renamed "Vikas Bharat—Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission" (VB-G RAM-G). Srinivas Reddy termed this move as un-

just and reflective of a narrow-minded approach by central authorities, asserting that merely changing the name cannot hide the government's failures in rural development and employment provision.

He expressed deep concern that renaming the scheme while leaving its structural issues unaddressed could push rural India into deeper distress, undermining the livelihood of millions

who depend on guaranteed employment. "The programme, which has long been the backbone of rural India, is now being dragged into uncertainty under the guise of 'Vikas Bharat,'" he said.

The minister concluded that the Central Government immediately reverse its decision and restore the original name, emphasizing that the people would hold authorities accountable for policies that adverse-

ly affect states and the poor. He warned that any attempt to shift responsibility onto states or burden the poor would be met with public resistance and scrutiny. "Changing the name does not erase history, and it certainly cannot erase the contributions of Mahatma Gandhi to the nation. The central government must respect the legacy of this historic program," he added. Minister Srinivas Reddy concluded by urging the Centre to act responsibly, safeguard state rights, and ensure that the scheme continues to serve its original purpose of empowering rural India.



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CM Revant Reddy Holds Courtesy Meeting with RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra

Jubilee Hills, December 18, 2025: Chief Minister Revant Reddy had a cordial meeting with RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra during the latter's visit to Hyderabad to attend the RBI Board meeting. The meeting provided an opportunity for both leaders to discuss the state's economic policies, ongoing reforms, and sectoral initiatives.

During the discussion, Governor Malhotra commended the Telangana government's economic measures and expressed appreciation for the reforms implemented in the state. Chief Minister Reddy briefed the Governor on the financial and governance reforms introduced by his administration, highlighting efforts to enhance transparency and efficiency across various sectors.

The Chief Minister also shared details regarding the electricity sector reforms, including the establishment of

a third power distribution company and initiatives aimed at increasing solar power usage in the state. These measures, he explained, are designed to ensure sustainable energy growth and better power supply management.

Governor Malhotra requested the Chief Minister to notify the BUDS Act, emphasizing its importance for inclusive governance. He further encouraged the state to advance with additional reforms and planned initiatives, indicating RBI's support and interest in facilitating state-level financial and developmental measures.

The RBI Governor also outlined the progress and initiatives regarding the Unified Lending Inter-Face (ULI), explaining the central bank's involvement in streamlining lending practices. In addition, he briefed the CM about

the government and private deposits claim campaigning efforts undertaken by RBI to safeguard depositor interests.

The meeting was attended by several senior officials, including Telangana Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao, CM Principal Secretary Seshadri, Finance Secretary Sandeep Kumar Sultania, RBI Hyderabad Regional Director Chinmoy Kumar, and General Managers Major Yashpal Charan, S. Panigrahi, among others.

The discussion underscored the collaborative approach between the state government and RBI, focusing on financial stability, sectoral reforms, and policy implementation for the broader economic development of Telangana. The meeting concluded on a positive note, reinforcing ongoing cooperation between the state and the central bank.



Sarpanches Play Key Role in Village Development: Minister Vakiti Srihari



Makthal, December 18, 2025: Telangana Minister for Sports, Animal Husbandry and Youth Services Vakiti Srihari on Wednesday emphasised that Sarpanches must act responsibly, stating that they play a crucial role in village, state, and national development. He expressed happiness over the Congress party winning the highest number of Sarpanch positions in the Makthal Assembly constituency and called on party workers to strive for a clean sweep in the upcoming local body elections.

The minister was speaking at a felicitation ceremony organised for newly elected Congress Sarpanches in Makthal. The programme was held at a private func-

tion hall in the town, where the newly elected Sarpanches, Upa-Sarpanches, and ward members were felicitated in a grand manner. Srihari congratulated the winners and thanked the people and party work-

ers for supporting Congress-backed candidates.

Addressing the gathering, the minister said that while the Governor signs for development funds at the national level, at the grassroots it is

the Sarpanch who plays a decisive role in ensuring development reaches the people. He stressed that Sarpanches carry a heavy responsibility in village development and described public service as a blessing. He cautioned elected representatives against misusing their positions and advised them to work with humility and commitment.

"Development does not depend on how much money one has, but on how one speaks and behaves. If your words are good, the village will prosper," Srihari said, urging Sarpanches to earn a good name among villagers through transparent and people-centric governance. He encouraged them to focus on holistic

village development and maintain constant engagement with the public.

The minister also addressed candidates who lost the elections, advising them not to lose confidence. He said politics has its ups and downs and assured that opportunities would come again in the future. Clarifying his stand, Srihari said his family never pursued positions for personal gain and remained committed to public service.

Highlighting the Congress party's focus on the welfare of backward and weaker sections, the minister said development works worth 1,035 crore had already been carried out in the Makthal constituency. He assured that under Chief

Minister Revanth Reddy's leadership, Makthal would witness further progress in the coming days.

Calling upon party leaders and workers to remain united, Srihari urged them to work diligently to ensure a Congress clean sweep in the forthcoming local body elections. The event witnessed large participation from Congress leaders and workers.

Among those present were Makthal Market Committee Chairman Radha Lakshma Reddy, BKR Foundation Chairman Balakrishna Reddy, and mandal presidents from Makthal, Utkoor, Maganoor, Krishna and Narva, along with several senior Congress leaders.

Hyderabad: Telangana Minister for IT and Industries, Duddilla Sridhar Babu, emphasized that young civil servants must prioritize sincerity along with efficiency, stating that the nation expects more than just technical perfection from its officers. He delivered these insights at the valedictory session of the Special Foundation Course for AIS and CCS Officers – 2025 at Dr. MCR HRD Institute in Jubilee Hills.

Sridhar Babu underlined that genuine good governance is possible only when citizens actively participate in administrative processes. Officers should step beyond office confines, engage with the public, and foster transparency and responsiveness in their work.

He concluded by reminding officers that public service demands both competence and compassion. By combining professional skill with sincerity, civil servants can become agents of meaningful change. The young officers attending the foundation course received his guidance as a practical roadmap for ethical, citizen-centered governance.

This address reinforces the importance of values-driven leadership, public engagement, and ethical responsibility as essential pillars for effective administration in Telangana.

congress Dominates Gram Panchayat Elections in Husnabad: Minister Ponnam Prabhakar

Husnabad: Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Thursday addressed a media conference at the Husnabad camp office, expressing satisfaction over the Congress party's strong performance in the recent Gram Panchayat elections across the Husnabad Assembly constituency. He congratulated the newly elected sarpanches, deputy sarpanches, and ward members on behalf of himself, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, and the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC).

The Minister said that out of a total of 173 Gram Panchayats in the constituency, elections were conducted in 171 villages, as polls could not be held in two villages of Saidapur mandal. Of these 171 Panchayats, Congress candidates secured a decisive victory by winning 108 sarpanch posts directly. He added that 11 independent candidates had extended support to the Congress, taking the total number of Congress-backed sarpanches to 119. In comparison, the BRS won 40 Panchayats, the BJP 10, and the CPI two.

Ponnam Prabhakar attributed the Congress success to the hard work of party workers and the public's trust in the government's welfare-oriented governance. He said the people had endorsed the Congress government's policies and schemes, including Indiramma housing, issuance of

new ration cards, distribution of fine rice, free bus travel for women, 200 units of free electricity, subsidised LPG cylinders at 500, Rythu Bharosa, farm loan waivers, interest-free loans for women self-help groups, and large-scale recruitment of government jobs.

He congratulated villages that recorded over 80 per cent polling, stating that rural voters demonstrated strong faith in democracy. Drawing a comparison, he remarked that even with extensive campaigning machinery and celebrity involvement, such high polling was not witnessed in recent urban elections like Jubilee Hills. He noted that rural voters, including senior citizens, actively turned out to vote, reflecting their sense of responsibility toward grassroots democracy.

The Minister assured that the Husnabad constituency would witness comprehensive development in education, healthcare, employment generation, agriculture, and tourism. He urged newly elected sarpanches to proactively address public issues at the village level.

Sharing mandal-wise results, he said Congress secured 15 out of 17 Panchayats in Husnabad mandal, 29 in Akkannapet, 18 in Kohinur, eight in Chigurumamidi, 19 in Saidapur, 18 in Bheemdevarapalli, and 12 in Elkathurthi, with Independents aligning with the party.

Farmers in Medak Face Uncertainty Over Irrigation Water: Harish Rao



Medak: Former Telangana Minister and senior BRS leader T. Harish Rao on Wednesday demanded that the state government immediately clarify its stand on the release of irrigation water from the Singur Project to the Ganapuram Anicut, warning that continued silence has pushed farmers into deep uncertainty ahead of the Yasangi season.

Addressing a media conference at the BRS district office in Medak, Harish Rao said the Congress government's "anti-farmer policies and administrative failure" have left cultivators confused about whether to take up seasonal cultivation. He said thousands of acres in Pappanapet, Haveli Ghanpur, Kolcharan, and Medak Rural mandals depend entirely on water from the Ganapuram Anicut, but no assurance has been given so far on water releases.

Criticising the timing of Singur Project repairs, Harish Rao said maintenance works that should have been completed during summer are now being carried

out at a crucial agricultural stage. "This clearly reflects the government's inefficiency.

There is enough water in the project to protect crops and simultaneous complete repairs, but

the government lacks commitment," he alleged. He said farmers, with transplantation

season approaching, are being forced to drill borewells and fall into debt due to uncertainty over irrigation. "During KCR's ten-year rule, the borewell cart disappeared. Under Revanth Reddy's rule, farmers are once again depending on borewells, taking agriculture back to old days," he remarked.

Harish Rao asserted that Medak and Nizamabad farmers have rightful claims over Singur water and demanded that the government protect their interests. He said if irrigation water cannot be supplied, the government should declare a crop holiday and pay adequate compensation per acre to affected farmers.

He also demanded immediate release of nearly 1,800 crore pending bonuses from the previous Yasangi and current Vanakalam seasons. Alleging that the government has failed to fully implement farm loan waiver, Rythu Bandhu, and bonus schemes, Harish Rao said only about 40 percent of eligible farmers have received complete loan

waiver benefits despite repeated promises.

The former minister criticised the government's reliance on digital applications for agriculture-related services, saying farmers need "water, power, and fertilisers, not apps and maps." He argued that illiterate farmers and women cultivators without smartphones are being harassed due to app-based fertiliser distribution, leading to shortages and delays. He further alleged that new policies are creating disputes between landowners and tenant farmers, worsening rural distress. Harish Rao demanded that the government immediately stop what he called "app experiments," restore fertiliser distribution through regular outlets, ensure uninterrupted power supply, complete loan waiver, release pending bonuses, and issue clear orders on Ganapuram Anicut water releases.

"The BRS will continue to stand with farmers and fight until justice is delivered," he said.

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Public Support Signals Setback for Government: Niranjan Reddy

Hyderabad: Former Telangana Minister Sireddi Niranjan Reddy on Tuesday said the people's growing support for the BRS reflects deep public dissatisfaction with the present government, pushing it to the "edge of decline." Addressing party workers and the media, Niranjan Reddy strongly criticised the government for its alleged failure to conduct local body elections on time, calling it a clear sign of administrative inefficiency.

He said the continued delay in Panchayat elections has weakened grassroots democratic institutions across villages. "Because of the government's negligence, village panchayats have been rendered ineffective. If the government's performance had been good, people would have welcomed it wholeheartedly. Instead, voters have expressed anger and frustration through the

ballot," he remarked.

Niranjan Reddy observed that although the recent elections were not held on party lines, the people openly embraced the BRS identity. "Wherever people saw the pink flag, KCR's image, or local BRS leaders, they responded with affection and trust. This shows the level of dissatisfaction among the public towards the ruling Congress government," he said. Pointing to the strong support received by BRS-backed candidates, the former minister said the results clearly indicate that the present government is losing public confidence. "The decisive support for BRS candidates proves that this government is standing at the brink of collapse. That is why the BRS victory drum has sounded across the state," he asserted.

He further alleged that despite attempts by the ruling party to influence



voters through intimidation, inducements, false promises, and misuse of power, the people delivered a clear and firm verdict. "Those who claimed that BRS no longer exists and that the party has been buried have now received a tight slap through this victory," he said, using strong words to underline the political message sent by voters.

Describing the outcome as a lesson in humility for Chief Minister

Revanth Reddy, Niranjan Reddy said the mandate reflected public resentment against arrogance in governance. "This victory is a direct warning to the Chief Minister's arrogance. The people have spoken loudly and clearly," he added.

The former minister congratulated BRS leaders, grassroots workers, and supporters who worked tirelessly to achieve the success. He also expressed heartfelt gratitude to the people for placing their trust once again in the BRS. "This is not just an electoral win, but a reflection of people's faith in our leadership and vision," he said.

The statement was issued by Nandimalla Ashok, District Media Convener, who reiterated that the people's verdict underscores the need for accountability, timely elections, and respect for democratic institutions.

BRS Victory in Sarpanch Polls Reflects Rural Revolt: Harish Rao

Medak: Former Telangana Minister and senior BRS leader T. Harish Rao on Tuesday said the Bharatiya Rashtra Samithi's strong performance in the recent Sarpanch elections is a clear indication of public anger against the Congress government and a sign of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's political decline. He claimed that despite the Congress being in power, BRS-backed candidates winning nearly 40 percent of Sarpanch posts reflects a "village-level uprising."

Harish Rao was speaking at a felicitation programme organised for newly elected Sarpanches in the Medak Assembly constituency, where he attended as the chief guest and congratulated the winners. He said such a result was unprecedented, as ruling parties usually secure 80 to



90 percent of Sarpanch seats. "In spite of the Congress being in power, BRS-backed candidates winning nearly 40 percent of Sarpanch posts reflects a 'village-level uprising.'"

fertiliser shortages, pension delays, loan waiver issues, and poor food quality in residential schools. The former minister criticised the government for claiming welfare achievements while failing to implement key promises. He alleged that schemes such as Rythu Bandhu, Dalit Bandhu, farm loan waiver, grain bonuses, fisheries support, and sheep distribution had either stalled or been diluted. He also accused the government of misleading people over

BC reservations and free transport schemes, saying farmers and common citizens were bearing the burden of policy failures. Harish Rao further alleged misuse of public funds, claiming that while pensions and welfare payments were delayed, the government spent hundreds of crores on international football events, beauty pageants, and luxury projects. "There is money for shows and spectacles, but not for farmers, pensioners, or women beneficiaries," he said.

He asserted that the people were once again looking towards former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao for leadership. "In two years, the BRS government will return and the pink flag will fly once again over the Secretariat and Medak," Harish Rao declared.

BRS MLC Dasoju Sravan Alleges Large-Scale Land Irregularities by Telangana Government

Hyderabad: Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLC Dasoju Sravan on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on the Telangana government, accusing it of functioning like a "real estate mafia" under the guise of public governance. Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, Sravan alleged large-scale land irregularities, misuse of power, and dilution of landmark land reform laws brought by past Congress leaders.

Sravan said it has been two years since the government came to power promising transparent governance, but instead it has allegedly

undermined historic legislations such as the Land Ceiling Act introduced during the era of former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao. He accused the current administration of weakening land ceiling and anti-defection laws to benefit political turncoats and private individuals.

Highlighting the alleged land grab in Gajularamam under Serilingampally constituency, Sravan claimed that Arikepudi Gandhi illegally occupied 11 acres of land after switching parties, following which the land was allegedly regularised. He stated that Survey Num-



ber 307 originally comprised 411 acres, of which 317 acres were acquired by the government under the Land

Ceiling Act, while 123.28 acres were recorded as private land. Despite this, Sravan alleged that forged documents were

created to reassign ceiling land that had already been sold decades ago.

According to him,

land that was sold by Sheikh Imam in the early 1990s was falsely shown as sold again in 2006 using fabricated records, and entries were allegedly made in the Bhoobharati portal in the name of Arikepudi Gandhi. Sravan questioned how such massive changes were possible without the involvement of officials and demanded strict action against those who facilitated the alleged encroachments.

He said BRS leader Madhavaram Krishna Rao had repeatedly submitted complaints to senior officials, including the Chief Secretary, District Collector, GH

MC Commissioner, HYDRA, Vigilance Commission, and police authorities. Despite assurances of action, Sravan alleged that boundary walls were erected overnight, further enabling encroachment on land meant for future generations.

Sravan also criticised the government for selectively conducting inquiries, questioning why investigations were limited to specific survey numbers while ignoring alleged land grabs worth thousands of crores. He demanded a comprehensive probe into Survey Number 307, similar to the inquiry claimed on IDPL

lands.

Raising broader political issues, Sravan accused the government of failing to deliver welfare schemes, misusing public funds, undermining constitutional institutions, and avoiding local body elections. He challenged the government to hold MPTC and ZPTC elections and take action against defecting MLAs if it truly respected democratic values.

The press meet was attended by former BC Commission member Upendra Chari, who echoed the demand for accountability and transparency.

Bhuvanagiri MP Chamal Kiran Reddy Slams BJP for Removing Gandhi's Name from National Employment Guarantee Scheme

Bhuvanagiri, December 18: MP Chamal Kiran Reddy strongly criticized the BJP-led government in Parliament for removing Mahatma Gandhi's name from the Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). He expressed deep concern over the decision, calling it a dilution of the scheme and a step that undermines the original intent of providing employment to the poor.

MP Kiran Reddy reminded that the scheme was introduced during Dr. Manmohan Singh's tenure as Prime Minister, ensuring 100 days of guaranteed work for every eligible citizen under the name of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation. "It was a landmark initiative designed to empower the rural poor and honor Mahatma Gandhi's vision of social welfare," he said.

He accused the current Modi government, influenced by RSS ide-



ology, of attempting to erase historical legacies and undermine the welfare focus of the scheme. "By removing Mahatma Gandhi's name, the government is not only erasing historical credit but also reducing the visibility and importance of this crucial program," he added.

Kiran Reddy further criticized the BJP government for changing the funding pattern of

the scheme. Under Congress rule, the central government contributed 100% of the funds, ensuring that employment generation directly benefited the poor. Currently, under the BJP administration, the central and state governments share funds on a 60:40 basis, weakening the scheme's impact.

The previous Congress government ensured that the scheme

reached the most marginalized sections, providing real work opportunities and empowering rural households," Kiran Reddy stated. He warned that the current approach dilutes the purpose of the employment guarantee scheme, leaving the poor vulnerable and diminishing its effectiveness.

He called upon Parliament and the central government to restore the original provisions and the historic name of the scheme, emphasizing that national welfare programs must reflect the vision of their founders and continue to serve the needy without political interference.

The MP's statement reflects growing discontent among opposition leaders over attempts to modify legacy social welfare programs, highlighting the need for transparency and protection of rights of the rural poor under national employment schemes.

BRS Working President KTR Meets Newly Elected Sarpanches, Urges Support and Protection

Hyderabad: Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president and senior leader K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) on Wednesday met with newly elected BRS-backed sarpanches and ward members, congratulating them on their electoral victories and underscoring the party's commitment to grassroots leadership. The meeting was organised to acknowledge the success of BRS candidates in the recent gram panchayat elections and to discuss future action plans aimed at strengthening the party's presence in rural areas.

KTR, who has been actively engaging with the party's local leaders since the conclusion of the first phase of panchayat polls, addressed a large gathering of elected village heads and functionaries. He lauded their performance, noting that victories achieved despite challenges reflect both the confidence of the people in BRS leadership and the hard work put in by party workers across districts.

In his remarks, KTR reiterated that the success of BRS-aligned sar-

panches signals strong grassroots support for the party and its political vision. He highlighted that many of the victories came even in areas where the ruling party has deep influence, pointing to a groundswell of public trust in BRS representatives and their ability to deliver at the local level.

Responding to concerns raised by some party workers about potential harassment or administrative pressures against newly elected sarpanches, KTR announced that the BRS would establish special legal support cells in each district. These units are intended to provide le-

gal assistance and protection to sarpanches in case of undue interference or intimidation by opponents or local authorities, reaffirming the party's commitment to safeguarding its representatives. The working president also used the occasion to reinforce unity and morale among the leaders, encouraging them to remain focused on public service and local development. He stressed that BRS's engagement with rural constituencies must be sustained through active dialogue with citizens and effective implementation of community-level initiatives.

The meeting saw par-

icipation from newly elected sarpanches and ward members from various districts, consolidating the party's leadership base ahead of the next phases of local body elections. The event was characterised by applause and optimism, with many leaders expressing confidence in BRS's future prospects and its strategy to strengthen village-level governance.

Overall, KTR's interaction underscored the importance BRS places on decentralised leadership and the empowerment of elected representatives as key agents of rural development and political engagement across Telangana.





Cyberabad Police Concludes 8th Annual Sports, Games & Duty Meet

Hyderabad, 18 December 2025: The Cyberabad Police 8th Annual Sports, Games & Duty Meet - 2025 concluded today with a grand closing ceremony at the Cyberabad Parade Grounds, Gachibowli. Telangana State DGP B. Shivadhar Reddy, IPS, graced the event as Chief Guest, which saw enthusiastic participation from personnel across all zones and wings.

Before the ceremony, DGP Shivadhar Reddy

inaugurated the renovated Police Food Canteen, "The Cop Cafe," at the Cyberabad office premises. At the Parade Grounds, a trained police dog presented a flower basket to the DGP, delighting the audience.

The 100-meter races (PC, CSW) and Gayathri (WPC, CAR Headquarters) winning the men's and women's events respectively. DGP Shivadhar Reddy emphasized that sports boost physical fitness, mental resilience, discipline, teamwork, and leadership—qualities essential for effective policing. He appreciated the successful conduct of the three-day meet amid Panchayat election duties, reflecting professionalism and unity.

Cyberabad CP Avinash Mohanty, IPS, congratulated over 1,022 participating personnel who competed in events including kabaddi, cricket, volleyball, football, basketball, long jump, shot put, carroms, chess, yoga, and

bodybuilding. Personnel represented all zones, wings, and ministerial staff, promoting collaboration and camaraderie.

Highlights of the meet included a tent pegging display by the Mountain Policing unit and a silent drill by the Women Special Party Wing under Reserve Inspector Veera Reddy, showcasing precision, coordination, and discipline.

The event concluded with medal and certificate distribution by

DGP Shivadhar Reddy, recognizing winners for their outstanding performance and sportsmanship. Senior officers, including Joint CP Dr. Gajara Bhupal, Madhapur DCP Ritiraj, Medchal DCP N. Koti Reddy, and others, were also present. The meet celebrated the spirit of fitness, teamwork, and dedication, reinforcing the Cyberabad Police's commitment to professionalism and public service.

Supreme Court Gives Relief to Telangana Government on BC Reservation Issue



Hyderabad: The Supreme Court of India has granted temporary relief to the Telangana government in the ongoing controversy over Backward Classes (BC) reservation in local body elections. A petition challenging the state government's decision to provide 42 percent reservation for BCs was dismissed by the apex court, at least for now, allowing the electoral process to continue.

The petitioner had challenged Government Order (GO) No. 9, which increased BC reservations in local body polls to 42 percent. However, the Supreme Court bench observed that the matter still lies before the Telangana High Court and directed that the legal challenge should first be addressed there. Consequently, the Supreme Court dismissed the direct petition

against the reservation order, offering a procedural victory to the state government.

The bench, comprising Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta, clarified that the High Court is the appropriate forum to decide the issue on its merits. By directing the petitioner to proceed before the High Court, the apex court effectively upheld the state's position that constitutional questions and legal objections should initially be considered at the High Court level.

This decision allows the Telangana government, which has defended its enhanced reservation policy as a welfare measure to broaden representation in grassroots governance, to continue the local body elections without immediate interference from the Supreme Court.

The legal dispute stems from claims that the 42 percent quota may exceed constitutional limits and could conflict with the Supreme Court's long-standing guideline of a 50 percent cap on reservations. The High Court had previously issued an interim order, and the state's appeal to the Supreme Court for immediate intervention was not entertained.

Legal experts note that the Supreme Court's direction underscores the importance of judicial procedure, emphasizing that constitutional challenges should generally be decided at the High Court level before reaching the apex court. The High Court is now expected to hear the matter and deliver a substantive verdict on the validity of the expanded BC reservation in Telangana.

Hyderabad Deputy Mayor Mote Srilatha Shobhan Reddy Offers Special Prayers at Indrakeladri

Hyderabad: Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Deputy Mayor Mote Srilatha Shobhan Reddy on Thursday visited the Sri Kanaka Durga Amavari Temple at Indrakeladri in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, and offered special prayers to the presiding deity.

During her visit, the Deputy Mayor participated in special rituals and performed a dedicated darshan of Goddess Kanaka Durga. She prayed for peace, prosperity, and overall development of Hyderabad city, along with the welfare of its citizens. Speaking on the occasion, Srilatha Shobhan

Reddy said spiritual strength and blessings play an important role in public life and governance.

Temple authorities accorded her a traditional welcome and facilitated the special darshan as per customary practices. Priests offered Vedic blessings and prasadam, while devotees present at the temple extended their greetings to the Deputy Mayor.

Srilatha Shobhan Reddy expressed her gratitude to the temple administration for their arrangements and said that seeking the blessings of Goddess Kanaka Durga brings positive energy and guidance in serving the people more effectively. She noted that the visit was a moment of spiritual fulfillment and reflection.

The visit was conducted in a peaceful and devotional atmosphere, with several devotees and temple officials participating in the program. The Deputy Mayor later interacted briefly with temple authorities and enquired about facilities provided to pilgrims.

The Indrakeladri Sri Kanaka Durga Temple, one of the most revered shrines in South India, attracts lakhs of devotees every year and is considered a symbol of faith and divine power.



Chemical Waste Dumping Sparks Alarm in Quthbullapur

Quthbullapur, December 18: Illegal chemical waste dumping in the Dundigal Circle limits of Quthbullapur has triggered serious concern among residents, with allegations mounting against a growing "chemical mafia" and alleged negligence by Pollution Control Board (PCB) officials. The issue has come into sharp focus in the Bowrampet Outer Ring Road area, where deserted open lands are reportedly being used as dumping grounds for toxic industrial waste.

According to local sources, chemical industries located in the Jeedimetla industrial area and the Kazipally-Gaddapotharam belt are allegedly avoiding costly waste treatment processes by illegally disposing of hazardous chemicals. Instead of sending waste to authorised treatment facilities, which involves paying hefty fees, companies are said to be striking deals with middlemen who dump chemical effluents in remote areas using tankers and drums, mostly during the night.

Residents claim that groundwater in the Jeedimetla industrial zone has already been severely contaminated. "If you drill a borewell anywhere in Jeedimetla, chemical-laced water emerges," locals allege.

Residents fear serious health consequences. Locals have demanded immediate action from PCB officials, the police, and environmental authorities. They argue that the continued dumping reflects gross official apathy and weak enforcement. "If this continues unchecked, future gen-

erations will be left with completely polluted groundwater," residents warn, urging authorities to intensify surveillance and crack down on offenders.

Activists also allege that several chemical and pharmaceutical companies are directly responsible for encouraging illegal dumping. They argue that high treatment costs are only an excuse, and that many firms manufacture products beyond their permitted approvals. Sending waste to authorised treatment plants could expose unauthorised production or excess output, prompting companies to illegally dispose of waste through chemical mafia networks.

Social activist Ravinder Mudiraj stated that

toxic effluents are routinely transported from Subhash Nagar, Gamal Basti in Jeedimetla, and the Gaddapotharam-Kazipally industrial areas and dumped in isolated locations during late-night hours.

He demanded that PCB officials and the police initiate strict surveillance, register criminal cases against those involved, and hold both companies and middlemen accountable.

The growing menace of illegal chemical dumping has once again raised questions about environmental governance, regulatory enforcement, and public safety in Hyderabad's industrial outskirts, with residents hoping that authorities will act before irreversible damage is done.

TPCC General Secretary Sandhya Reddy Collapses During Congress Rally

Hyderabad: Tension prevailed near Gandhi Bhavan on Tuesday when TPCC General Secretary Sandhya Reddy collapsed during a rally organised by the Congress party. The incident occurred as hundreds of Congress workers began a march from Gandhi Bhavan towards the BJP state office.

According to party sources, the rally turned tense after police stopped the procession, leading to a heated situation between activists and security personnel. Amid the commotion, Sandhya Reddy reportedly felt un-

well and suddenly collapsed, causing concern among party leaders and workers present at the scene.

Senior Congress leaders immediately rushed to her aid. AICC in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan, TPCC President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud responded promptly and ensured that Sandhya Reddy received immediate first aid at the spot. Medical assistance was arranged without delay, and she was closely monitored by party leaders.

Party officials later stated that Sandhya Reddy's condition stabilised after receiving preliminary treatment. They added that the incident was likely caused by exhaustion and stress amid the tense atmosphere during the rally.

The rally, organised under the leadership of the Congress party, saw participation from a large number of party workers. The sudden police intervention heightened emotions, briefly disrupting the program. Following the incident, senior leaders appealed to party workers to remain calm and maintain discipline.

According to local sources, chemical industries located in the Jeedimetla industrial area and the Kazipally-Gaddapotharam belt are allegedly avoiding costly waste treatment processes by illegally

Fire Breaks Out on Train Near Chevella; Passengers Safe

Chevella, 18 December 2025 (True Point): A major disaster was narrowly averted on Thursday night when flames erupted on a train traveling from Hyderabad to Belagavi, Karnataka. Passengers aboard the weekly Hyderabad-Belagavi Express were thrown into panic as fire and smoke suddenly erupted from the train's wheel section near Shankar Palli Railway Station at around 7:30 PM.

Railway staff quickly alerted the loco pilot, who brought the train to a halt near Gollaguda Station in Nawabpet

Mandal, Vikarabad district. On-site technical experts and railway personnel promptly responded, controlling the flames and preventing further escalation. Fortunately, no injuries were reported, allowing passengers to breathe a sigh of relief.

Preliminary investigations suggest that the fire may have been caused by friction due to brake binding in the wheel assembly. The train remained stopped for approximately 30 minutes as safety checks were carried out before it was allowed to resume its journey.



Officials emphasized that the quick action of the loco pilot and railway staff prevented

what could have been a serious accident. Passengers praised the prompt response, noting that the calm and professional handling of the situation minimized disruption and ensured safety.

The incident highlights the importance of routine maintenance and vigilance on long-distance train routes, especially those passing through high-traffic zones. The South Central Railway has confirmed that a detailed inspection of the train's wheel assemblies and braking system will be conducted to prevent

similar incidents in the future.

Passengers on the Hyderabad-Belagavi Express were safely transported to their destination later in the night, with minimal inconvenience. Authorities have also assured that fire safety measures across all express trains will be reviewed and strengthened.

No casualties or serious damage were reported, and the railway administration has advised travelers to remain calm and follow instructions in case of emergencies.

wGurukul Student's Death in Nizamabad Sparks Demands for Accountability

Nizamabad: The death of an eighth-grade student at a Gurukul residential school in Pochampad mandal of Nizamabad district has triggered widespread outrage and renewed concerns over student safety, food quality, and medical preparedness in Telangana's residential education system. The incident has drawn sharp criticism from various quarters, with demands for an immediate government response and strict action against those responsible.

Sai Likhitha, a Class 8 student, reportedly fell seriously ill while staying at the Gurukul and later died, an incident that many have described as deeply tragic and unacceptable. Allegations have emerged that food poisoning, combined with delayed medical treatment and staff negligence, led to the loss of her life. The incident has once again put the spotlight on repeated lapses in Gurukul schools, which are meant to provide safe accommodation, nutrition, and education to students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

According to preliminary accounts, the student complained of illness after consuming food served at the hostel. However, it is alleged that timely medical attention was not provided, worsening her condition. Critics



argue that had the school authorities acted swiftly and responsibly, the tragedy could have been prevented. The delay in shifting the student to a proper medical facility has raised serious questions about emergency response systems in residential schools.

Opposition leaders and activists have described the incident as part of a disturbing pattern, stating that students in Gurukul institutions are "falling ill repeatedly," pointing to systemic negligence rather than isolated failures. They have alleged that poor food quality, lack of regular health checks, shortage of trained staff, and absence of effective monitoring mechanisms are putting students' lives at risk.

The incident has been brought to the attention of the Telangana Chief Minister's Office, with strong

Education experts

appeals for immediate intervention. Several leaders demanded a high-level inquiry to determine whether food poisoning, medical negligence, or administrative lapses were responsible for the student's death. They stressed that merely transferring or suspending lower-level staff would not be sufficient, calling instead for accountability at higher levels of administration.

Parents of students studying in Gurukul schools have also expressed fear and anxiety, questioning whether their children are truly safe in residential institutions. Civil society groups have urged the government to conduct inspections of all Gurukul hostels across the state, review food supply contracts, ensure availability of qualified medical staff, and establish clear emergency protocols.

Education experts

note that residential schools play a crucial role in providing opportunities to underprivileged students, but repeated incidents threaten to erode public trust in the system. They argue that unless urgent reforms are undertaken, such tragedies may continue to occur.

As the state mourns the death of young Sai Likhitha, pressure is mounting on the government to act decisively. Families, activists, and opposition parties have collectively demanded a transparent inquiry, punishment for those found guilty, and concrete measures to ensure that Gurukul schools become truly safe spaces for students. The incident has become a test for the government's commitment to student welfare and accountability in public institutions.

Maktal Constituency: Atmakur Panchayat Winners Honored by Minister Vakiti Srihari



Maktal, Atmakur, December 18, 2025: In a grand ceremony, State Sports, Youth, and Animal Husbandry Minister Vakiti Srihari felicitated the newly elected panchayat representatives from Atmakur and Amarachinthia mandals of the Maktal constituency. The event celebrated the victory of Congress candidates, who secured 21 panchayat positions across the two mandals, reflecting strong public support.

Speaking at the function, Minister Srihari expressed his delight over the overwhelming mandate, stating that 90% of the panchayats in these mandals were won by Congress, and

thanked the party workers and the people for their trust. He urged the newly elected sarpanches, deputy sarpanches, and ward members to focus on grassroots development and public welfare, emphasizing that their performance would bring honor and respect to their positions. Minister Srihari advised the elected representatives to remain humble, noting that the panchayat post is a public trust, not a platform for arrogance.

"Your words and actions in the villages are your greatest strength. Work sincerely, and only then will you earn respect and credibility," he said. He also encouraged them to carry forward this spirit of service in upcoming MPTC, ZPTC, and municipal elections.

Highlighting ongoing development projects, the minister mentioned the foundation of a new bridge over the Krishna River near Jural in Atmakur, funded with 123 crore. He said that the four-lane road from Vanaparti to Atmakur and Emmiganur is a personal vision, with the bridge expected to be completed within 18 months. He also announced the establishment of a dialysis center in Atmakur to assist kidney patients and a 50-bed hospital, which will soon be operational.

The event reinforced the minister's commitment to inclusive development, public welfare, and empowering local governance, inspiring the newly elected representatives to serve their communities with dedication and integrity.

Sadashivpete Gangakathav Canal Modernization: Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy Directs Officials to Prepare Proposals in Three Days

Sangareddy, December 18: Water Resources and Civil Supplies Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, in the presence of MLA Jaggareddy, directed officials to prepare proposals within three days for the modernization of the 15-kilometer-long Gangakathav Canal in Sadashivpete and for the repair and construction of check dams in four mandals of the Sangareddy constituency. The total estimated cost for these initiatives is 101 crores.

According to the detailed plan, 37 crores have been allocated for the modernization of the 15-kilometer Gangakathav Canal. Repairs for 30 tanks in Sadashivpete mandal are estimated at 10.72 crores, while



18 tanks in Sangareddy mandal will receive 9.15 crores for renovation. Kandi mandal's 15 tanks will be repaired at a cost of 8.07 crores, and 4 tanks in Kondapur mandal will be allocated 4.16

crores. Additionally, 32 crores have been sanctioned for the construction of check dams on Nandi Vagu and Gangakathav Vagu in Sadashivpete mandal.

The modernization effort builds on the initiative started during the Nizam era, with MLA Jaggareddy and TGIIC Chairperson Nirmala playing key roles, alongside the support of Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy. During the high-level review meeting held at the Secretariat on Thursday, Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy emphasized the importance of completing proposals for 80 tanks across the four mandals within three days.

MLA Jaggareddy highlighted that, once the

Gangakathav Canal modernization is completed, water will be supplied to 33 tanks in the Sangareddy constituency, supporting irrigation for approximately 1,500 acres.

The meeting saw participation from senior officials of the Irrigation Department, including Principal Secretary Rahul Boja, Secretary Prashant Jeevan Patil, ENC Amjad Hussain, SE Srinivas, and DE Balaganes.

Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy instructed officials to ensure timely execution of the modernization and repair works, underscoring that these initiatives would significantly enhance irrigation facilities, improve water distribution, and benefit

farmers across the constituency. He stressed close monitoring and coordination between the Water Resources Department and local administration to expedite project implementation.

With these initiatives, the modernization of the Gangakathav Canal and renovation of tanks and check dams are expected to strengthen water security, support agricultural productivity, and promote sustainable development in the region. The Minister's directives aim to ensure that the projects are completed efficiently, providing long-term benefits to farmers and local communities.



AVISIONARY LEADER WHO CONFIGURED POLITICS WITH DEVELOPMENT



Hyderabad, India — In recognition of his unparalleled contributions to transforming Andhra Pradesh into one of India's most business-friendly states, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has been selected for the prestigious Business Reformer of the Year award by The Economic Times. This highly esteemed recognition celebrates Naidu's relentless efforts to modernize the state's industrial ecosystem, foster an environment conducive to large-scale investments, and implement forward-thinking policies that have helped shape

consistent track record in promoting business reforms. The jury was composed of some of the most influential figures in Indian business, including Sunil Bharti Mittal, Chairman of Bharti Group; Sajjan Jindal, Chairman of JSW Group; Uday Kotak, Founder and CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank; Dr. Devi Shetty, Founder of Narayana Health; senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi; and Noel Tata, Chairman of Tata Trusts. Deloitte, a leading global professional services firm, acted as the knowledge partner for the jury.

for the Business Reformer of the Year award highlights the deep impact of his vision, which has reshaped Andhra Pradesh into a state with a thriving business environment.

Naidu's tenure as Chief Minister, which began in 1995 and continued through various terms, has been characterized by a focus on modernization, technological adoption, and infrastructure development. One of his most notable achievements is his successful implementation of industrial policies that promote ease of doing

business, attract foreign investments, and encourage the growth of small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Naidu's industrial reforms have played a crucial role in transforming Andhra Pradesh into one of India's leading industrial hubs. One of his most significant achievements has been his focus on simplifying the business environment through regulatory reforms and digital innovation. Under his leadership, Andhra Pradesh became one of the first states in India to implement the e-Office system, which digitized government operations, making the state administration more transparent, efficient, and accountable.

To further support industrial growth, Naidu's government implemented several incentive programs aimed at attracting investments from global companies. His emphasis on developing industrial corridors and creating Special Economic Zones (SEZs) has significantly boosted the state's manufacturing sector. Naidu also made strategic efforts to develop sectors such as information technology, biotechnology, and pharmaceuticals, attracting

leading companies to set up their operations in the state. Furthermore, his administration introduced a range of policy measures to make Andhra Pradesh one of the easiest states to do business in India. These included simplifying the process for obtaining licenses, reducing the time required to start a business, and implementing single-window clearance systems for businesses. The focus on improving the ease of doing business not only attracted domestic investors but also positioned Andhra Pradesh as an ideal location for multinational corporations seeking to enter the Indian market.

Focus on Innovation and Technology

Naidu's policies have consistently prioritized innovation and technological advancement. As a forward-thinking leader, he recognized early on the potential of the technology sector in driving economic growth. Under his leadership, Andhra Pradesh has seen the rapid growth of the IT and IT-enabled services (ITES) sectors, with cities like Visakhapatnam and Tirupati emerging as important hubs for the technology industry.

Recognition from the Business Community

The recognition of Naidu with the Business Reformer of the Year award by The Economic Times is a testament to the significant impact he has had on Andhra Pradesh's economic transformation. The jury, composed of business leaders like Sunil Bharti Mittal and Sajjan Jindal, recognized Naidu's tireless work in creating an ecosystem where business and entrepreneurship can flourish.

A Sustainable Future for Andhra Pradesh

Naidu's vision for Andhra Pradesh is not limited to industrial growth but also includes a commitment to sustainable development. He has long been a proponent of renewable energy and environmental preservation, and his government has launched several initiatives to promote the use of solar energy, wind power, and other renewable resources.

His administration's efforts in the renewable energy sector have been notable, with Andhra Pradesh becoming one of the leading states in India in



Andhra Pradesh's economic landscape.

The award will be officially presented to Naidu during a special event set to take place in March. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is expected to confer the honor on the Chief Minister, marking the occasion as a significant milestone for both Naidu and the state of Andhra Pradesh.

The selection process for this coveted award involved a high-profile jury of leading industrialists, financial experts, and legal professionals, who unanimously agreed on Naidu's selection based on his

A Visionary Leader Who Redefined Andhra Pradesh's Business Landscape

Chandrababu Naidu's political and administrative career has been marked by a keen understanding of the need to blend governance with economic strategy. As Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Naidu has worked tirelessly to ensure that the state not only keeps pace with national economic growth but also stands out as a leading example of industrial progress, infrastructure development, and business innovation. His selection

for the Business Reformer of the Year award highlights the deep impact of his vision, which has reshaped Andhra Pradesh into a state with a thriving business environment.

Naidu's approach has been to create an environment where businesses—both domestic and international—can thrive, by reducing bureaucratic hurdles, improving transparency, and providing incentives for sectors such as information technology, manufacturing, and renewable energy. His proactive approach to policy reform has made Andhra Pradesh one of the most attractive destinations for investment in India, especially

in areas such as infrastructure, logistics, and industrial parks.

Transforming Andhra Pradesh's Infrastructure

One of the key pillars of Naidu's development agenda has been the creation of world-class infrastructure in Andhra Pradesh. His vision for the state has always extended beyond conventional governance, focusing on building the physical and technological infrastructure required for sustained economic growth. One of the most ambitious projects Naidu undertook was the creation of Amaravati, the new state capital for Andhra Pradesh. Located at the banks of the Krishna River, Amaravati was envisioned as a futuristic city designed to be a hub of commerce, innovation, and governance.

The construction of Amaravati represents not only a monumental infrastructural development project but also a significant attempt to shift the state's economic center of gravity. By positioning the new capital as an emerging city with state-of-the-art facilities, Naidu aimed to attract businesses, international investors, and skilled professionals, positioning Andhra Pradesh as a modern, globalized state.

In addition to Amaravati, Naidu's government has worked on improving transportation infrastructure through the expansion of road networks, building new ports, and modernizing airports. This has played a pivotal role in facilitating trade, improving logistics, and enhancing connectivity within the state and to other parts of India.

Pioneering Industrial Reforms

Naidu's industrial reforms have played a crucial role in transforming Andhra Pradesh into one of India's leading industrial hubs. One of his most significant achievements has been his focus on simplifying the business environment through regulatory reforms and digital innovation. Under his leadership, Andhra Pradesh became one of the first states in India to implement the e-Office system, which digitized government operations, making the state administration more transparent, efficient, and accountable.

To further support industrial growth, Naidu's government implemented several incentive programs aimed at attracting investments from global companies. His emphasis on developing industrial corridors and creating Special Economic Zones (SEZs) has significantly boosted the state's manufacturing sector. Naidu also made strategic efforts to develop sectors such as information technology (IT), biotechnology, and pharmaceuticals, attracting

leading companies to set up their operations in the state.

Furthermore, his administration introduced a range of policy measures to make Andhra Pradesh one of the easiest states to do business in India. These included simplifying the process for obtaining licenses, reducing the time required to start a business, and implementing single-window clearance systems for businesses. The focus on improving the ease of doing business not only attracted domestic investors but also positioned Andhra Pradesh as an ideal location for multinational corporations seeking to enter the Indian market.

Focus on Innovation and Technology

Naidu's policies have consistently prioritized innovation and technological advancement. As a forward-thinking leader, he recognized early on the potential of the technology sector in driving economic growth. Under his leadership, Andhra Pradesh has seen the rapid growth of the IT and IT-enabled services (ITES) sectors, with cities like Visakhapatnam and Tirupati emerging as important hubs for the technology industry.

Naidu also championed the development of Andhra Pradesh as a destination for digital innovation, pushing for the establishment of new tech parks, innovation centers, and educational institutions that could support the growing demand for skilled talent in the technology sector. His focus on technology has not been limited to just the IT sector but also extended to the fields of renewable energy and digital governance.

The state's success in attracting IT giants such as Microsoft, Wipro, and Infosys can be attributed to the policies Naidu implemented to make Andhra Pradesh an attractive destination for high-tech businesses. The Andhra Pradesh Information Technology Investment Region (AP-ITIR) is one of the key projects under Naidu's leadership, which aims to create a robust ecosystem for technology companies and entrepreneurs.

A Sustainable Future for Andhra Pradesh

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His administration's efforts in the renewable energy sector have been notable, with Andhra Pradesh becoming one of the leading states in India in



terms of installed solar power capacity. Naidu's commitment to green energy reflects his understanding of the need to balance economic growth with environmental responsibility.

Additionally, Naidu's policies emphasize inclusive growth, focusing on creating job opportunities for all sections of society, from rural farmers to urban professionals. His focus on skill development, particularly in rural areas, has helped bridge the urban-rural divide, providing rural youth with the tools to participate in the state's industrial and economic growth.

Political Implications of the Award

While the Business Reformer of the Year award is primarily focused on Naidu's contributions as an administrator, it could also have a significant impact on his political career. As the leader of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), Naidu's efforts to position Andhra Pradesh as a hub of industrial activity and economic growth could translate into electoral gains for his party. His reputation as a reformist leader who understands the intersection of governance, business, and economic development gives him a strong political foothold, not just in Andhra Pradesh but in the broader Indian political landscape.

In the lead-up to future elections, the award could enhance Naidu's image as a leader who delivers on promises of growth, development, and industrialization, potentially influencing the electorate's perception of his governance model.



Satellite Images Show Major Reconstruction at Pakistan's Murid Airbase After IAF Strike

SATELLITE IMAGES SHOW MASSIVE DAMAGE TO PAK'S MURID AIR BASE



New high-resolution satellite imagery accessed by NDTV has revealed extensive reconstruction activity at a key command-and-control building at Pakistan's Murid Airbase, which was struck by the Indian Air Force during

Operation Sindo in the early hours of May 10. The latest image, dated December 16 and sourced from Vantor, shows a massive red tarpaulin covering the damaged structure, indicating large-scale repair or rebuilding work. The

building is located next to a major complex used by Pakistan for operating unmanned aerial vehicles, highlighting its strategic importance. Damage caused by the Indian Air Force strike is believed to have been severe, with earlier post-

strike images showing sections of the roof collapsing and extensive structural damage that likely affected internal systems as well. In June, satellite images showed a smaller green tarpaulin covering only part of the structure, but the lat-

est visuals suggest the entire building is now under repair. Military experts note that heavy-duty tarpaulins are often used to conceal sensitive damage, debris removal, or reconstruction work from satellite surveillance. Initial imagery after the strike showed precise impact points, strengthening the assessment that the Indian Air Force may have used precision-guided missiles with roof-penetrating warheads and delayed-fuse penetrators. Although the Indian Air Force has not officially disclosed the weapons used during Operation Sindo, the pattern of destruction indicates a high level of accuracy and planning. The rebuilding effort underscores the effectiveness of the strike and highlights how satellite imagery continues to play a crucial role in assessing military operations and strategic outcomes in modern warfare.

Cars to Cross Toll Plazas at 80 Kmph Under New Satellite-Based Toll System

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari announced that by 2026, vehicles in India will be able to cross toll plazas at speeds of up to 80 kilometres per hour using a new satellite-based toll collection system. The system will rely on high-speed cameras that capture images of vehicle number plates and FASTag stickers, automatically deducting toll charges from linked bank accounts with-

out requiring vehicles to stop. Gadkari explained that the technology will not only reduce congestion and waiting time at toll plazas but also improve enforcement of traffic rules. Vehicles that reach the next toll plaza too quickly will be flagged for speeding and fined automatically, making rule violations easier to detect. The system will be supported by artificial intelligence and satellite tracking, al-

lowing accurate monitoring of speed and distance. According to the minister, the new technology will save fuel worth approximately ₹1,500 crore and contribute nearly ₹6,000 crore to government reserves by reducing operational costs and leakages. The move is expected to transform highway travel by improving efficiency, safety, and transparency while reducing long queues and travel delays.

Indian-Origin Cab Driver Arrested in US for Assault on Unconscious Passenger



Priyanka Gandhi Meets Nitin Gadkari to Push for Key Road Projects in Kerala

Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra met Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari at Parliament to press for the approval and progress of key road infrastructure projects in Kerala. Representing Wayanad in the Lok Sabha, Priyanka Gandhi raised concerns related to six major road projects that pass through the state, highlighting the need for better connectivity and infrastructure development. During the meeting, Gadkari clarified that some of the projects fall under the jurisdiction of the Kerala state government and therefore cannot be directly handled by the Centre. However, he assured her that the remaining proposals would be reviewed and necessary action would be taken. The meeting was marked by a light-hearted moment when Gadkari joked about having already addressed road-related requests from Rahul Gandhi in Rae Bareli, saying that he could not ignore Priyanka



Gandhi's concerns after helping her brother. The remark drew laughter and reflected a cordial atmosphere despite political differences. The discussion

also included informal conversation and food tasting, giving the meeting a relaxed tone. The interaction highlighted how infrastructure development often re-

quires coordination between state and central governments, irrespective of political affiliations. Priyanka Gandhi's outreach signals the Congress party's

focus on development issues in Kerala, while Gadkari's response reinforced the Centre's position on cooperative federalism in infrastructure planning.

Giriraj Singh Sparks Outrage With Remark in Nitish Kumar Hijab Controversy

Union Minister Giriraj Singh triggered widespread outrage after making a controversial remark while defending Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar amid a hijab-related row. Singh strongly backed Nitish Kumar, stating that identity verification is a routine process for jobs, passports, and air travel, and argued that asking a woman to show her face was not inappropriate. He emphasised that India follows its own laws and rejected comparisons with other countries. However, his remarks took a sharp turn when he responded aggressively to a question about what would happen if the woman refused to take the job, saying she could either refuse or "go to hell" before walking away from reporters. The comment drew immediate backlash from opposition leaders and social media users, who criticised it as insensitive, misogynistic, and offensive. PDP leader Iltija Mufti strongly condemned the statement, warning against interference with Muslim women's religious attire and accusing Singh of using unacceptable language. The controversy has reignited debates around



religious freedom, women's rights, and the responsibilities of public representa-

tives. While Giriraj Singh and his supporters defended his position as being about ad-

ministrative procedure, critics argued that his words crossed a line and further

polarised an already sensitive issue.

India Closes More Visa Centres in Bangladesh Amid Rising Security Concerns



INDIA VISA CENTRES CLOSE IN B'DESH

India has shut down two additional visa application centres in Bangladesh, located in Rajshahi and Khulna, citing a worsening security situation in the country. The closures follow earlier restrictions in Dhaka and come amid rising tensions and protests by radical groups near the Indian High Commission. An official notification stated that all applicants with appointments would be given new dates at a later time. The move

comes against the backdrop of growing anti-India sentiment, particularly targeting India's northeastern states, under Bangladesh's interim government led by Muhammad Yunus. India has expressed concern over increasing hostility and threats, including remarks by a student leader who spoke about severing India's "seven sisters" region. Bangladesh's Foreign Affairs Advisor Touhid Hossain dismissed India's concerns, distancing the government from the remarks and insisting that law and order remains under control. He clarified that the individual who made the comments does not represent the government's position. Despite these assurances, India's decision reflects serious concerns over diplomatic security and regional stability, especially as Bangladesh seeks closer ties with Pakistan, impacting its traditionally strong relationship with India.

Family of Young Bondi Shooting Victim Urges Peace and Love Over Anger



The family of Matilda, the youngest victim of the Bondi Beach shooting in Sydney, has made an emotional appeal to the public not to allow her death to become a reason for anger or hatred. Matilda, just 10 years old, was among 15 people killed when two gunmen opened fire during an event marking the start of Hanukkah. At her funeral, her aunt Lina Chernykh spoke about Matilda's joyful personality, describing her as a child who spread happiness, warmth, and love wherever she went. While she acknowledged that the Jewish community is justified in demanding stronger action against rising antisemitism, she said that Matilda's spirit stood for unity, kindness, and compassion rather than revenge or violence. The family urged people to honour Matilda's memory by choosing empathy over division and understanding over hostility. Community members, religious leaders, and mourners attended the funeral, highlighting the deep shock and grief felt across Sydney. The incident has once again raised concerns about gun violence, hate crimes, and public safety in Australia. Authorities continue to investigate the attack, while political leaders face renewed pressure to address extremism and protect minority communities. Amid the grief, Matilda's family hopes their message will help heal wounds and prevent further hatred, reminding society that responding with humanity is the strongest tribute to a life lost too soon.

Zelensky Warns EU as Leaders Debate Use of Frozen Russian Assets

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has issued a strong and urgent warning to European Union leaders as they meet in Brussels to discuss the possible use of frozen Russian assets to support Ukraine. Zelensky has urged the EU to approve loans worth billions of euros using Russian money that has been frozen since the start of the war. Around €10 billion in Russian assets are currently held in the EU, with a large portion stored by Belgium-based financial services firm Euroclear. However, Belgium and several other EU member states remain opposed, arguing that using the funds could set a dangerous legal precedent and expose the bloc to retaliation. Russia has also warned of serious consequences if its assets are used. Zelensky warned that without additional funding, Ukraine's economy and military operations could face major difficulties within months. He stressed that financial support is as crucial as weapons in sustaining Ukraine's resistance. The debate has highlighted divisions within the EU over how far it should go in supporting Ukraine while managing legal risks and geopolitical tensions. As the war drags on, Ukraine's dependence on Western financial backing continues to grow, making the outcome of these talks critical for the country's short-term stability and long-term survival.



US Announces \$11 Billion Arms Sale to Taiwan, Angering China



The United States has announced a major arms sale to Taiwan worth around \$11 billion, further escalating tensions between Washington and Beijing. The weapons package includes advanced rocket launch systems, self-propelled howitzers, and various missile systems designed to strengthen Taiwan's defence capabilities. This is the second arms deal approved since Donald Trump returned to the White House, and it still requires approval from the US Congress. Taiwan's defence ministry welcomed the announcement, stating that the equipment would help the island build stronger deterrence and improve its ability to respond quickly to potential threats. China

strongly condemned the move, saying it violates its sovereignty and territorial integrity, as Beijing considers Taiwan a breakaway province. Chinese officials warned that the sale could damage US-China relations and destabilise the region. The announcement comes amid rising military activity around Taiwan, including frequent Chinese military drills. Analysts say the deal reflects Washington's commitment to supporting Taiwan amid growing regional tensions, while also highlighting the fragile balance of power in the Asia-Pacific. The issue remains one of the most sensitive flashpoints in global geopolitics.

French Anaesthetist Sentenced to Life for Poisoning Patients

A French court has sentenced former anaesthetist Frédéric Péchier to life imprisonment after convicting him of intentionally poisoning 30 patients, including 12 who died. The crimes occurred at a hospital in Besançon in eastern France, where Péchier tampered with medical infusion bags by injecting toxic substances that led to cardiac arrest or severe internal bleeding. His actions affected patients of all ages, from a four-year-old child who narrowly survived two cardiac arrests during routine surgery to elderly patients in their late 80s. Prosecutors described him as "Doctor Death," accusing him of abusing his position of trust and turning a place meant for healing into a site of terror. The court heard that Péchier acted out of jealousy and professional rivalry, seeking to damage the reputation of colleagues. The case has deeply shaken public confidence in the medical system and sparked widespread debate in France about hospital safety, oversight, and monitoring of healthcare professionals. Authorities have promised to review internal controls to pre-



vent similar crimes in the future. The verdict brought relief to victims' families but also left lingering questions about how such actions went undetected for years.

Stock Market Ends Lower as Volatility and Global Uncertainty Dominate Trade

Indian stock markets closed slightly lower after a highly volatile session, with the Sensex ending 78 points down while the Nifty managed to hold the important 25,800 level. The trading day began on a positive note after three consecutive sessions of decline, supported by value buying in select stocks and a mild recovery in the rupee, which was aided by intervention from the central bank. Early gains gave investors some relief, but the mood soon turned cautious as uncertainty over a possible US-India trade deal continued to weigh heavily on sentiment. As the session progressed, profit booking emerged, particularly in large-cap stocks, causing benchmarks to slip into negative territory by the close. Mid-cap and small-cap stocks performed relatively better, suggesting selective buying rather than broad-based participation. Sector-wise, information technology and financial services stocks

attracted buying interest due to expectations of stable earnings and clarity on global interest rates. In contrast, auto, oil and gas, chemicals, and pharmaceutical stocks witnessed sustained selling pressure. Market experts pointed out that investors remain highly sensitive to global developments, especially upcoming US core inflation data and jobless claims, which could influence future monetary policy decisions. Interest rate announcements from major central banks such as the Federal Reserve, Bank of England, European Central Bank, and Bank of Japan are also expected to play a key role in shaping near-term market direction. From a technical perspective, the Nifty remains weak after failing to reclaim its 200-day moving average, with bearish indicators such as lower tops and weak momentum suggesting further downside risk if key support levels are breached.



Sitharaman Introduces Securities Markets Code Bill to Simplify



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the Securities Markets Code Bill 2025 in the Lok Sabha with the aim of simplifying and unifying India's securities market regulations under a single framework. The proposed Bill seeks to replace multiple existing laws, including the SEBI Act of 1992, the Securities Contracts Regulation Act of 1956, and the Depositories Act of 1996, which currently govern different aspects of the securities market. By merging these laws, the government aims to reduce regulatory fragmentation, remove overlapping provisions, and create a clearer and more efficient system for investors, companies, and intermediaries. The Bill also places strong emphasis on investor protection by strengthening disclosure norms and im-

proving regulatory oversight. Another key objective is to make it easier to do business in India's financial markets by simplifying compliance requirements and modernising outdated legal provisions. Opposition leaders expressed concerns that the new framework could concentrate excessive power in the hands of a single regulator, raising questions about checks and balances. In response, Sitharaman clarified that the Bill would be referred to a parliamentary standing committee, where such concerns could be examined in detail. The idea of a single securities market code was first announced in the Union Budget 2021-22, and the introduction of this Bill marks a significant step towards reforming and modernising India's financial regulatory architecture.

Elan Group Plans 1,600 Crore Investment in Ultra-Luxury Housing Project

Real estate developer Elan Group announced plans to invest 1,600 crore in an ultra-luxury residential housing project in Gurugram, highlighting strong demand for premium homes in key urban markets. The project will be located

in Sector 49, Gurugram, and will be developed across six acres of land. In the first phase, the company plans to construct 230 four-bedroom apartments spread across five towers, with unit sizes ranging from approximately 4,300 to

4,500 square feet. These large-sized homes are aimed at high-net-worth individuals seeking spacious, design-focused living spaces. While Elan Group has not yet disclosed the expected pricing, sales potential

on completion

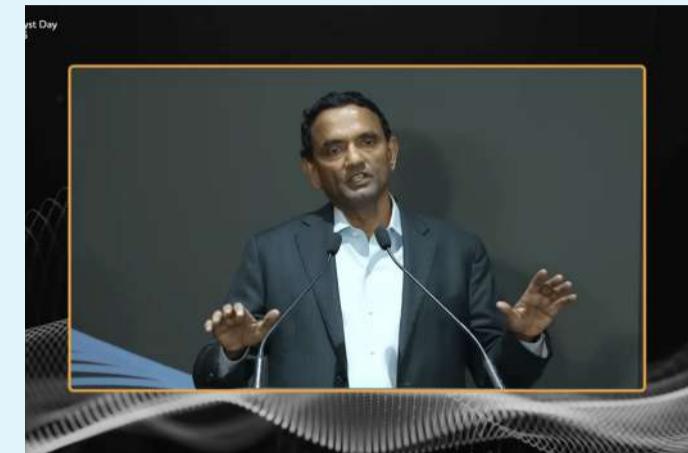
timeline, industry sources indicate that these details will be finalised after the company appoints a construction partner. The project has been designed by a London-based architectural firm, with a strong fo-

cus on premium design, modern amenities, and experience-driven living. The announcement reflects growing confidence among real estate developers in the luxury housing segment, driven by rising disposable incomes and strong

demand from affluent buyers. Gurugram continues to attract such investments due to its proximity to Delhi, strong infrastructure, and presence of corporate and commercial hubs.



TCS Reports \$1.5 Billion Annualised Revenue from Artificial Intelligence



Tata Consultancy Services revealed that its annualised revenue from artificial intelligence stands at approximately \$1.5 billion, growing at a strong sequential pace. This marks the first time India's largest IT services company has publicly disclosed a specific revenue figure related to AI, addressing growing investor curiosity about returns from large-scale investments in this space. With total annual revenue of around \$30 billion, TCS highlighted that AI has become an integral part of its overall business strategy rather than a standalone offering. The company stated that AI is now embedded in almost every client engagement, including new deals as well as contract renewals, where it is used to im-

Banking Stocks Poised for Strong Gains Heading into 2026

Market experts believe the banking sector remains one of the strongest performers from a technical and structural perspective, with both private and public sector banks showing encouraging trends. Private banks are currently consolidating within long-term uptrends, offering relative stability and steady growth potential for investors. At the same time, public sector banks are witnessing gradual accumulation after sharp rallies seen in recent years, making them attractive for higher-return opportunities. Analysts suggest that if the banking index manages to sustain above key support levels, the sector could deliver returns ranging from 18 to 30 percent

Brokerages Turn Positive on TCS as It Pushes AI-Led Growth Strategy



Brokerage firms have expressed a positive outlook on Tata Consultancy Services after the company detailed its long-term AI-focused growth strategy during Investor Day 2025. TCS outlined its ambition to transform itself into a global leader in AI-led technology services by moving beyond a traditional digital-first approach. The strategy is built around multiple pillars, including internal transformation through an AI-first operating model, creation of AI-led service offerings, and large-scale upskilling of employees to build AI fluency across the organisation. The company also plans to develop

Samsung Exynos 2600 Chip Specifications Leak Ahead of Galaxy S26

A fresh leak has revealed key details about Samsung's upcoming Exynos 2600 chipset, which is expected to power the Galaxy S26 series. Although Samsung has not officially confirmed the specifications, the leaked information suggests that this processor could be a major advancement in the company's in-house chip development.

The Exynos 2600 is expected to be manufactured using a 2nm process, making it one of the most advanced smartphone chipsets to date. According to the leak, the processor will feature a 10-core CPU with a tri-cluster design. This includes one high-performance prime core clocked at up to 3.9GHz, three performance cores running at around 3.25GHz, and six efficiency cores operating at

2.75GHz. This design aims to deliver strong performance while maintaining power efficiency.

On the graphics side, the chipset is expected to feature an AMD-based GPU, likely branded as the Xclipse 960. The GPU is said to be based on AMD's RDNA architecture, which could significantly improve gaming performance and visual quality. Support for modern graphics technologies such as Vulkan 1.3, OpenGL ES 3.2, and OpenCL 3.0 has also been reported.

If these details are accurate, the Exynos 2600 could help Samsung better compete with other flagship processors. It reflects Samsung's ambition to lead in semiconductor innovation and strengthen its own chipset ecosystem.



Vivo Y50s 5G and Vivo Y50e 5G Spotted Ahead of Launch



Vivo appears to be preparing the launch of two new smartphones, the Vivo Y50s 5G and Vivo Y50e 5G. Both devices were recently listed on the Google Play Console's supported devices list, which usually indicates that a launch is approaching. This follows the earlier release of the Vivo Y50 5G and Vivo Y50m 5G in China.

As suggested by their names, both smartphones will support 5G connectivity. While the Google Play Console listing does not reveal detailed specifications, it confirms that the devices are in the final stages of development. In addition, an unidentified Vivo smartphone has been spotted on a Chinese certification website, further supporting rumours of upcom-

ing launches.

The Vivo Y-series is generally aimed at users looking for affordable smartphones with reliable performance. These devices usually focus on offering a balance between performance, battery life, and modern features. With the increasing availability of 5G networks, Vivo's strategy seems to be focused on making 5G technology accessible to more users.

Although official details are still limited, expectations include decent cameras, long battery life, and smooth everyday performance. If priced competitively, the Vivo Y50s 5G and Vivo Y50e 5G could become strong options in the budget 5G smartphone market.

Google Integrates Opal AI Tool Into Gemini Platform

Google Labs' experimental AI tool, Opal, has gained significant popularity since its release in July, and Google has now taken an important step by integrating it directly into the Gemini website interface. With this move, users can create AI-powered mini applications inside the Gemini chatbot itself. This makes AI development easier and more accessible, even for users with little or no technical background. Google refers to this approach as "vibe coding," where users simply describe what they want in natural language, and the AI handles the technical work.

Opal allows users to generate structured prompts that function like small AI tools. These tools, also called mini apps, can perform specific tasks such as reviewing essays, checking project reports, summarising content, or giving feedback on writing quality. Once a mini app is cre-

ated, it is saved as a "Gem" within Gemini. This means users can reuse the same app multiple times without recreating it, making

the experience more efficient and personalised. When Opal was first launched, it was available only as a public beta for users in the United

States. Google Labs usually releases experimental tools in limited regions to test performance and gather feedback. However, Opal received

strong responses from users, leading Google to expand its availability quickly. By October, the tool was introduced in 15 countries, and by No-

vember, it became available in more than 160 countries worldwide. This rapid expansion highlights the growing demand for easy-to-use AI creation tools.

The integration of Opal into Gemini also shows Google's broader vision for the chatbot. Gemini is no longer just a platform for asking questions or generating text. It is evolving into a complete AI workspace where users can brainstorm ideas, build tools, and solve problems in one place. This saves time and encourages creativity by reducing the need to switch between different platforms.

Overall, Opal's integration into Gemini reflects a larger trend in the tech industry. AI tools are no longer limited to developers or experts. By simplifying AI creation, Google is empowering students, professionals, and everyday users to use artificial intelligence in practical, meaningful, and creative ways.

Gemini

Redmi Pad 2 Pro 5G Confirmed to Launch in India Soon

Redmi has officially confirmed that the Redmi Pad 2 Pro 5G will soon be launched in India, creating excitement among tablet users. The tablet was first introduced in select global markets in September, and its arrival in India signals Redmi's intention to strengthen its presence in the premium tablet segment. The company has also announced that it will start revealing the tablet's key features and specifications from December 22.

A dedicated microsite for the Redmi Pad 2 Pro 5G is already live on the Xiaomi India website, confirming that the device will be available online. It is also expected to be sold through popular e-commerce platforms and offline retail stores. In European markets, the tablet was launched at a starting price of around EUR 379.9, which roughly converts to Rs. 40,000 for the base variant with 6GB RAM and 128GB storage.

One of the main highlights of the Redmi Pad 2 Pro 5G is its large 12.1-inch

display. The screen offers a 2.5K resolution and supports a smooth 120Hz refresh rate, making it ideal for watching videos, browsing, and gaming. With a 16:10 aspect ratio and up to 500 nits of brightness, the tablet is suitable for both en-

tertainment and productivity. Redmi has also included TUV Rheinland certifications to reduce flicker and harmful blue light, improving eye comfort.

In terms of performance, the tablet is powered by Qualcomm's Snapdragon 7s

Gen 4 processor, paired with an Adreno 810 GPU. It includes LPDDR4x RAM and UFS 2.2 storage, with support for storage expansion up to 2TB using a microSD card. Audio performance is enhanced by a quad-speaker setup with Dolby Atmos and

Hi-Res Audio support.

Overall, the Redmi Pad 2 Pro 5G aims to offer a premium tablet experience with a large display, strong performance, and 5G connectivity, making it a strong option for Indian consumers.



Samsung to Showcase AI-Powered Home Appliances at CES 2026



Samsung has announced that it will showcase a new range of AI-powered home appliances at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) 2026. The event will take place in Las Vegas from Jan-

uary 6 to January 9. At the exhibition, Samsung will present upgraded products from its Bespoke AI lineup, highlighting its focus on smart, efficient, and user-friendly home solutions.

One of the key products to be showcased is the 2026 Bespoke AI Laundry Combo. This updated model includes several improvements in washing and drying performance. Samsung

has introduced a Speed Spray feature that allows clothes to be washed faster without affecting cleanliness. The laundry combo also includes a Booster Heat Exchanger, which improves

drying efficiency while saving energy. Another useful feature is Auto Open Door+, which opens the door automatically after a cycle to prevent moisture buildup and unpleasant odours.

Samsung will also unveil the Bespoke AI Jet Bot Steam Ultra robot vacuum cleaner. This device is powered by a Qualcomm Snapdragon processor and features AI-based object recognition. The robot vacuum can identify obstacles more accurately and adjust its cleaning path accordingly. The inclusion of steam cleaning helps improve hygiene and removes stubborn dirt more effectively.

Other products expected at the showcase include the Bespoke AI AirDresser, which refreshes clothes using intelligent care cycles, and the WindFree Air Conditioner, designed to provide cooling without direct airflow.

Through these products, Samsung aims to demonstrate how artificial intelligence can improve daily life. By combining automation, smart sensors, and AI decision-making, Samsung is working toward creating more convenient and efficient smart homes.

IPL Remains the Only Franchise League for Indian Players

The Indian Premier League stands apart from all other franchise-based T20 leagues in the world because of its exclusive access to Indian cricketers. Unlike players from other countries who freely participate in leagues such as the Big Bash League, SA20, or The Hundred, active Indian players are not permitted to play in overseas franchise tournaments unless they officially retire from international cricket. This policy ensures that global stars like Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, and Shubman Gill appear only in the IPL



overseas leagues. The IPL itself provides world-class competition, financial security, and global visibility, making it unnecessary for Indian players to look elsewhere. While this policy often sparks debate among fans and former cricketers, the BCCI continues to prioritise player fitness, national duty, and the strength of its domestic structure. As things stand, the IPL will remain the only franchise stage for Indian players, reinforcing its position as the most powerful T20 league in the world.

Ben Stokes and Jofra Archer Clash as England Struggle in Ashes Test

England captain Ben Stokes and fast bowler Jofra Archer were involved in a tense on-field exchange during Day 2 of the third Ashes Test against Australia, highlighting England's growing frustration as the match slipped further out of control. Australia resumed their innings at a strong position, with Mitchell Starc producing an aggressive counter-attacking performance from the lower order. Starc struck boundaries with ease, bringing up a quick half-century and exposing England's inability to contain the Australian tail. As pressure mounted, television cameras captured Stokes in an animated

discussion with Archer, seemingly unhappy with the pacer's lack of discipline in line and length. Stokes appeared to urge Archer to stick to the field settings and bowl more accurately, reflecting the captain's desperation to regain control of the match. Archer responded in the best possible way by dismissing Starc soon after, but the exchange did not completely cool down, as the discussion continued even during the celebration. The moment revealed the intense pressure within the England camp, where expectations are high but execution has often fallen short in this Ashes series. While such confrontations are not un-



Haryana and Jharkhand Set for Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy Final Clash

Haryana and Jharkhand are set to face each other in the final of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2025, promising an exciting contest between two well-matched domestic sides. The final will be played at the MCA Stadium in Pune, with both teams earning their place after consistent performances throughout the tournament. Haryana, led by Ankit Kumar, booked their spot in the final with a strong win over Hyderabad in the semifinals, powered by explosive half-centuries from Ankit himself and Samant Jakhar. Their batting has been supported well by a disciplined bowling unit, with Amit Rana and Anshul Kamboj delivering crucial spells at important moments. Haryana's campaign has been built on balance, combining aggressive top-order batting with reliable pace options that have regularly put opposition teams under pressure.



Jharkhand, captained by Ishan Kishan, reached the final after topping Group B, showing resilience and tactical awareness across the league stage. Despite suffering a loss to Andhra Pradesh in their final group match, Jharkhand finished level on points with their rivals and advanced due to a superior net run rate. Their journey to the final reflects consistency rather than dominance, with multiple players contributing across matches. Ishan Kishan's leadership and experience have played a vital role in guiding a relatively young side through high-pressure situations. The final is scheduled to begin at 4:30 PM IST and will be

Shashi Tharoor Suggests Moving North India Matches to South India Due to Fog Issues

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor has urged the Board of Control for Cricket in India to reconsider its scheduling strategy after the fourth T20 International between India and South Africa was abandoned due to heavy fog in Lucknow. The match, held at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium, had to be called off because visibility conditions made play impossible, frustrating players, fans, and broadcasters alike. Reacting to the situation, Tharoor questioned the logic of hosting international matches in North India during winter months, when fog and pollution regularly disrupt sporting events. He suggested that matches scheduled

during this period should instead be moved to South Indian venues, where weather conditions are far more favourable. According to him, South India does not face the same visibility problems during winter, allowing uninterrupted play and a better experience for spectators. Tharoor highlighted that cricket fans invest time, money, and emotional energy into attending or watching matches, and repeated abandonments due to environmental factors undermine the spirit of the game. At the time of abandonment, India was leading the five-match T20I series 2-1, with one match remaining, making the washed-out fixture even more disappointing for supporters.

His comments have reopened a broader discussion about climate, pollution, and sports scheduling in India. In recent years, fog and poor air quality have repeatedly affected matches in cities like Delhi, Lucknow, and Kanpur. While the BCCI has not officially responded to Tharoor's suggestion, the incident has increased pressure on the board to adopt a more weather-sensitive approach to scheduling. Moving winter matches to cities in the south could help avoid such disruptions while also ensuring player safety and match quality. Tharoor's proposal reflects growing awareness that environmental conditions can no longer be ignored in modern sports planning.



Aakash Chopra Surprised by Overseas Stars Going Unsold in IPL Auction

Former Indian cricketer and commentator Aakash Chopra expressed surprise over several well-known overseas players remaining unsold at the IPL 2026 auction, calling it one of the unexpected outcomes of the event. Among the notable names were New Zealand all-rounder Michael Bracewell and England wicketkeeper-batters Jamie Smith and Jonny Bairstow, all of whom failed to attract bids despite their international

experience and proven abilities. Chopra pointed out that franchises spent heavily on certain players, with Australian all-rounder Cameron Green grabbing headlines after being bought by Kolkata Knight Riders for a massive sum of Rs 25.20 crore. At the same time, domestic Indian talents such as Aquib Nabi, Prashant Veer, Karthik Sharma, and Mangesh Yadav were rewarded for their strong performances in state and domestic leagues, earning lucrative

contracts with top IPL teams. Chopra acknowledged that franchises increasingly value versatility, team balance, and long-term planning, but he still found it surprising that experienced overseas players went unsold, especially when teams were actively looking to fill roles suited to their skill sets. Players like Bracewell offer all-round value, while Bairstow brings explosive batting and wicketkeeping experience at the highest level.

According to Chopra, the auction dynamics may have worked against these players due to factors such as age, injury concerns, availability issues, and changing team strategies that now prioritise younger or more flexible options. He also noted that the increasing depth of Indian domestic talent has reduced teams' dependence on overseas players in certain roles. While the IPL auction often produces unexpected results, Chopra felt that the absence of bids for such established names highlighted how competitive and unpredictable the league has become. The episode serves as a reminder that reputation alone does not guarantee selection in the IPL, where form, fitness, and strategic fit matter more than ever. As the league continues to evolve, auctions are likely to remain ruthless, rewarding adaptability while leaving even big names vulnerable.



