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CM Revanth Reddy Reviews Security Arrangements at Medaram Jatara



Medaram, Mulugu,
19 January 2026

(TPN Bureau)

Ahead of the grand festivities of the annual Sammakka-Saralamma Jatara, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Command Center, serving as the operational hub for the event, has been equipped with advanced surveillance infrastructure to monitor crowd movement, manage traffic, and coordinate emergency response units. Officers highlighted the live tracking of pilgrims and the strategic deployment of ground personnel to maintain law and order throughout the festival. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy expressed appreciation for the efficiency and preparedness of the police force, noting that public safety during the event.

At the command center, the Chief Minister received a police honor guard and was briefed on the comprehensive security measures in place for the massive Jatara congregation. Senior police officials detailed the op-



erations of CCTV cameras, AI-assisted surveillance systems, and drone monitoring capabilities, emphasizing the integration of modern technology to enhance real-time monitoring and rapid response across key locations. The Medaram Police Command Center to personally oversee security arrangements and technological deployments ensuring the safety of thousands of devotees attending the event.

ing religious congregations is a top priority of the state government. He interacted with senior officers to understand the integration of drone and CCTV data, ensuring seamless communication between command control and on-ground security teams. Alongside the Chief Minister, the Deputy Chief Minister and ministers participated in the security review, demonstrating the government's commitment to supporting law enforcement efforts during large-scale events. The Jatara, which marks the temple's re-consecration ceremonies and the start of the annual festival season, draws devotees from across Telangana and neighboring states. With the expected congregation of lakhs of devotees, the government has taken multiple measures to prevent overcrowding, manage traffic, provide medical assistance, and ensure uninterrupted water and sanitation services. The Chief Minister's visit was also attended by key state leaders including

Ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Dhana Sasi Seethakka, Adluri Lakshman, and VIP Dr. Jatath Ramachandranayak. Members of Parliament, including Porika Balaram Nayak, and MLAs Basavaraju Sarayya, Nayini Rajender Reddy, Revari Prakash Reddy, Donthi Madhav Reddy, Dr. Murali Nayak, and Yashaswini Reddy were also present. Additionally, Warangal Mayor Gundu Sudharani, State Finance and Oil Fed Commission Chairman Sirisilla Rajayya, Janga Raghavareddy, District Collector Divakar T.S., SP Sudheer Ramnath Kekan, and Project Director Chitra Mishra were part of the review. Officials assured the Chief Minister that all safety, crowd management, and emergency protocols are in place and functioning optimally. CM Revanth Reddy concluded the visit by commending the police and administrative officials for their proactive approach and emphasized that public safety and seamless festival management remain the highest priority of his administration.

Munneru-Paleru Link Canal to Be Completed by January 2027, Says Irrigation Minister



TPN Bureau |
January 19:

Telangana Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy today assured farmers that the Munneru-Paleru Link Canal Project will be completed swiftly and inaugurated by January 2027. Addressing a public meeting in Khammam following the Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's foundation stone-laying ceremony for the Rs 162.54 crore project, the Minister highlighted the scheme's potential to transform irrigation and water supply in the region. Describing the project as a low-cost, high-impact initiative, Minister Reddy explained that the gravity-based canal will divert surplus floodwaters from the Mun-

neru River directly to the Paleru reservoir via a 9.6 km link. This previously unutilized water, which will flow into the sea, will now stabilize irrigation for 1.38 lakh acres under the Nagarjuna Sagar Project left canal downstream of Paleru in Khammam, as well as 40,000 acres upstream in Suryapet. The project will also support seasonal irrigation under schemes such as SRSP Phase-2, benefiting an additional 56,000-76,000 acres. The Minister emphasized that the project will generate multiple benefits beyond irrigation. Switching from power-intensive pumping to gravity flow is expected to save Rs 120 crore annually in electricity costs for the Sitarama Lift Irrigation Project. The scheme will also gen-

erate 2 MW of hydropower at the existing hydel plant downstream of Paleru and reduce flood risks across Khammam, Suryapet, and Mahabubabad districts. Additionally, 4.7 TMC of water will be allocated annually to support Mission Bhagiratha, ensuring drinking water supply for local communities.

Linking the Munneru-Paleru canal to the broader Sitarama Lift Irrigation Project (SRLIP), Minister Reddy highlighted that the Congress government has revised project estimates from Rs 13,000 crore to Rs 19,000 crore and allocated 67 TMC of water to serve 6.8 lakh acres in the erstwhile Khammam district. Three pump houses have already been activated, and the fourth is under rapid construction.

Appealing for cooperation from local leaders, stakeholders, and the public, Minister Reddy expressed his personal commitment to the project's success. "Under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, and with support from Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and ministers like Tummala Nageswara Rao and Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, this link canal will transform the lives of farmers in Khammam, Suryapet, and Mahabubabad districts," he said. The Munneru-Paleru Link Canal is expected to mark a historic milestone in Telangana's irrigation infrastructure, ensuring water security, enhancing agriculture, and supporting sustainable development across the region.

Munneru-Paleru Link Canal Project Launched to Transform Irrigation in Khammam and Suryapet



TPN Bureau |
January 19:

In a landmark move to enhance irrigation and maximize the utilization of surplus river waters, the Telangana government has officially launched the Munneru-Paleru Link Canal Project. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy laid the foundation stone for the Rs. 162.54 crore project at Edulapuram in Khammam on Sunday. The project aims to stabilize irrigation across large tracts of agricultural land

in Khammam and Suryapet districts and provide sustainable water solutions for rural communities.

The Munneru-Paleru Link Canal is a gravity-based initiative designed to channel surplus floodwaters from the Munneru River directly into the Paleru reservoir. The Munneru River, originating from the Pakala Cheruvu in Warangal district, flows through Khammam Rural and Chintakani mandals before entering Andhra Pradesh and merging with

reservoir hydel plant will also generate 2 MW of electricity, providing renewable energy benefits to the region.

Speaking at the foundation ceremony, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy emphasized that the project reflects the government's commitment to farmer welfare, sustainable water management, and rural development.

The canal, which will stretch 9.6 kilometers from the existing Mulkanur check dam in Mahabubabad district, is designed to utilize this water efficiently. With a flow capacity of 4,500 cusecs, the canal will irrigate 1.38 lakh acres under the Nagarjuna Sagar Project's left canal downstream of Paleru and an additional 40,000 acres in the upper Paleru command area in Suryapet district. The project will also supply water to the Bhakta Ramadasu Lift Irrigation Scheme (DBM-60), covering 76,308 acres under SRSP Phase II during the kharif season.

In addition to irrigation, the canal will provide 4.7 TMC of water annually for drinking water supply to rural communities in Khammam, Mahabubabad, and Suryapet districts. By diverting water through gravity instead of energy-intensive pumping, the project is expected to save nearly Rs. 120 crore per year in electricity costs. The Paleru



Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka Says His Politics Is Rooted in Transparency and People's Welfare

HYDERABAD January

19 (TPN Bureau):

Rerating his commitment to public service, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Sunday said that he entered politics with a clear mission to protect Telangana's resources and ensure that they reach the people, and not to enjoy power, position or personal gains. Addressing the media at Praja Bhavan, he asserted that his political life would remain transparent and guided by self-respect.

The Deputy Chief Minister stated that his decision to enter politics was purposeful and driven by the need to safeguard the state from exploitation. "I did not step into politics to build business empires or to benefit from authority. My responsibility is to protect Telangana's assets from looters, criminals and exploiters, and to ensure that public resources serve the people," he said.

Reacting to a recent report published in Andhra Jyothi, Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka strongly criticised its Managing Director Radhakrishna, alleging that a fabricated and misleading story was written against him in connection with tenders of the Singareni Collieries Company. He said the report was deliberately cooked up to serve vested interests and to malign him and the

present government.

Clarifying the facts, the Deputy Chief Minister explained that tender conditions and processes in Singareni are decided solely by the Singareni Board and that ministers have no role in finalising or influencing them. He said that when allegations surfaced regarding the tenders, he immediately suggested that the entire process be cancelled to uphold transparency. "The board informed me that tenders had been invited, but no one had come forward. Even then, I clearly instructed that the tenders be cancelled and called afresh," he said.

Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka alleged that the report appeared to be motivated by personal anger and political bias. Referring to his close association with former Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, he said Radhakrishna seemed to have written the report out of hostility rooted in past political differences. He warned that he would not remain silent if attempts were made to defame ministers, officials and the government through such motivated stories.

Stressing his long public life, the Deputy Chief Minister said he has spent the last 40 years fighting for people's causes, both inside and outside the legislature. "I did not enter politics casually. Every phase of my life

has been dedicated to public struggles and standing with the people," he said, adding that his political conduct has always been based on dignity and accountability.

He asserted that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and the entire Cabinet are working collectively for the welfare and long-term interests of Telangana. He said the government would not be intimidated by petty, baseless or motivated reports and would continue to function with courage and commitment.

Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka hoped to gain and whose favour he sought through his "first word" column. He added that he chose to respond to the issue only to ensure that the people of Telangana are aware of the truth. "My intention is not personal confrontation, but to place facts before the public," he said.

Concluding his remarks, the Deputy Chief Minister said he would soon present complete details and explain every aspect related to the issue transparently. He reaffirmed that his role in public life is to protect the state, uphold integrity in governance and ensure that Telangana's wealth and resources are used solely for the benefit of its people.

Telangana CM Revanth Reddy to Attend Prestigious Leadership Course at Harvard

TPN Bureau

Hyderabad, January 18, 2026 – Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is set to make history as the first sitting Chief Minister in India to attend a course at the prestigious Harvard University. The course, titled "Leadership for the 21st Century: Complexity, Conflict, and Courage," will be held at the John F. Kennedy School of Government in Cambridge, Massachusetts, from January 25 to 30, 2026.

This executive program is designed for global leaders and policy makers and draws representatives from over 20 countries across five continents.

CM Reddy will participate in lectures, group projects, assignments, and collaborative discussions with international peers, addressing contemporary leadership challenges in governance and public administration.

The Kennedy School of Government, established in 1936 and named after President John F. Kennedy in 1966, is widely recognized for its rigorous programs in public policy, leadership, and governance. It offers graduate, master's, and executive courses, and is known for producing world leaders, policy-makers, and public administrators. In 2026, it



Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Offers Special Prayers at Singaraya Jathara in Siddipet District

TPN Bureau

SIDDIPET, January 18: Telangana Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Sunday visited the historic Sri Sri Prataparudra Singaraya Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Jathara held in Koheda mandal of Huznaband constituency in Siddipet district. The minister offered special prayers and sought the blessings of Lord Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy, participating in the rituals with devotion along with temple priests and devotees.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar highlighted the deep cultural and spiritual significance of the Singaraya Jathara. He said steps were taken to provide essential facilities such as drinking water, sanitation, medical support, traffic regulation and security, so that devotees could participate in the festivities without any hardship.

Praying for the welfare of the region, the minister said he sought divine blessings for timely and good rainfall, agricultural prosperity and abundant crops. He expressed hope that the

villages and nearby districts arrive every year with strong belief and devotion. As part of age-old customs, devotees first take a holy dip in the Tummeda Vagu and then proceed to have darshan of Lord Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy. This tradition, he said, reflects the unwavering faith of the people in the deity.

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar stated that the Telangana government ensured comprehensive arrangements for the smooth conduct of the Singaraya Jathara. He said steps were taken to provide essential facilities such as drinking water, sanitation, medical support, traffic regulation and security, so that devotees could participate in the festivities without any hardship.

Praying for the welfare of the region, the minister said he sought divine blessings for timely and good rainfall, agricultural prosperity and abundant crops. He expressed hope that the



people of the area would be blessed with happiness, peace and prosperity, and that farmers would enjoy fruitful harvests in the coming season.

Extending his greetings, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar conveyed Singaraya Jathara wishes to all devotees. He

prayed that the blessings of Lord Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy would remain with everyone. He also expressed hope that the grace of the deity would guide efforts to ensure that Telangana government welfare schemes reach the people effectively and bring positive change in their

lives.

The minister later interacted with temple authorities, public representatives and local residents, reaffirming the government's commitment to preserving cultural traditions and supporting religious festivals that strengthen social harmony.

hosts one of the largest cohorts of international students, reflecting its global reach and influence.

Professors Tim O'Brien and Karen Morissey will oversee the program, guiding participants through case studies spanning different regions, historical contexts, and governance challenges. The course emphasizes practical solutions and strategic thinking, encouraging leaders to craft actionable policy frameworks based on real-world analysis. Upon completion, CM Revanth Reddy will receive a certificate from Harvard, marking a significant milestone for his

professional and academic credentials.

Harvard University, founded in 1607 and one of the oldest and most prestigious Ivy League institutions, has consistently ranked among the top universities in the world over the last century. The university encompasses 14 schools, including the Business School, Law School, Medical School, and the Kennedy School of Government. Its alumni network and endowment fund, which has reached over half a trillion dollars, reflect its global stature and impact.

The Chief Minister's participation underscores Telangana's commitment to progressive governance and adoption of global best practices in leadership and public administration.

By engaging in this intensive international program, Revanth Reddy aims to gain insights into modern governance, sustainable policymaking, and strategies to address complex socio-economic challenges in the state.

This historic initiative also sets a precedent, as no other sitting Indian Chief Minister has previously attended a leadership program at an Ivy League university, enhancing Telangana's visibility and engagement on the global governance stage.

Irrigation Department Clarifies Water Flow at Jampanna Vagu in Medaram

TPN Bureau

MULUGU, January 18:

The Irrigation Department of Mulugu district on Sunday issued a press note clarifying the situation regarding water flow at the Jampanna Vagu bathing ghat located at Medaram, the abode of Sri Sammakka Saralamma. The department stated that the water currently seen flowing in the vagu is only the residual flow from water earlier stored by temporary check dams and not fresh water released for the Medaram Jathara.

According to the official clarification, no water has been released from Laknavaram Lake specifically for the Medaram Jathara at present. The department said misinformation was circulating that water was being let out from the reservoir to facilitate holy baths during the festival, which is not true.

Officials explained that water being released through the sluices of Laknavaram Lake is being regulated and stored at Suddhamadugu. From there, the water is being supplied strictly for irrigation purposes under the Yasangi season, in accordance with the approved taibandhi (water allocation plan). The supply is meant to cater to the irrigation needs of ayacut lands falling under Rangapur, Kota, Rampur and Srirampur canals.

The press note said a total ayacut of 5,650 acres under these canals is being provided irrigation water as per the taibandhi norms.

The department stressed that the current water management is being carried out carefully to ensure adequate supply to farmers during the Yasangi crop season, without any deviation from the planned allocations.

Providing details of the reservoir status, the Irrigation Department reiterated that all necessary arrangements related to the Medaram Jathara are being coordinated with the concerned authorities, while irrigation priorities are being maintained to safeguard farmers' interests. Officials urged the public not to believe unverified information and to rely only on official communications issued by the department regarding water releases and reservoir management in the district.

holds 1,339 MCFT of water. This quantity of officials clarified, is sufficient to meet the irrigation requirements of the designated ayacut under the taibandhi system. The department also assured that water usage is being closely monitored to avoid any wastage and to ensure equitable distribution.

The clarification was issued in the interest of transparency and to prevent confusion among devotees and the general public visiting Medaram.

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All Set for First-Ever Telangana Cabinet Meeting Outside Hyderabad at Medaram



TPN Bureau

MULUGU, January 18: In a historic first in the history of Telangana state, all arrangements have been completed for the Cabinet meeting to be held outside Hyderabad. The prestigious meeting will take place near the sacred Sammakka Saralamma shrine at Medaram, marking a significant moment that blends governance with cultural and tribal heritage.

The Cabinet meeting venue has been set up at the Haritha Tourism Plaza, located close to the Sammakka Saralamma Sannidhi. Authorities have given final touches to the specially prepared Cabinet conference hall, ensuring all administrative, security and logis-

tical requirements are in place for the smooth conduct of the meeting. The venue has been designed to accommodate ministers, senior officials and supporting staff, while maintaining decorum and functionality befitting a Cabinet-level deliberation.

Minister for Panchayati Raj and Rural Development, Seethakka, who has been closely monitoring the arrangements, inspected the venue on Sunday. She reviewed the facilities provided at the conference hall, including seating arrangements, communication systems, power backup and security measures. The minister interacted with officials and issued necessary instructions to

ensure that there are no shortcomings.

Speaking during the inspection, Minister Seethakka said holding the Cabinet meeting at Medaram reflects the government's commitment to inclusive governance and respect for the cultural and spiritual significance of tribal traditions. She said the Sammakka Saralamma Jathara is not only a religious event but also a symbol of the rich history and identity of Telangana's tribal communities.

Conducting a Cabinet meeting in the region sends a strong message that governance should reach every corner of the state, she added.

Officials informed the minister that elaborate arrangements have been made keeping in mind the large influx of devotees visiting Medaram during the Jathara period. Special attention has been paid to traffic regulation, security deployment, sanitation, drinking water supply and emergency services around the venue. Coordination between multiple departments has been ensured to manage both the Cabinet meeting and the ongoing festival

activities without disruption.

The Haritha Tourism Plaza has been aesthetically enhanced with greenery and cultural elements to reflect the spirit of Medaram. Temporary infrastructure has been strengthened, and advanced technical facilities have been installed to facilitate effective discussions and decision-making during the Cabinet meeting.

This Cabinet meeting is expected to be symbolic as well as substantive, underlining the state government's focus on decentralisation of governance. Senior officials said the initiative is aimed at taking administration closer to the people and acknowledging the importance of historically and culturally significant regions like Medaram.

The successful organisation of this event is seen as a milestone in Telangana's administrative journey. With all preparations in place, the state is set to witness a unique Cabinet meeting that blends tradition, inclusiveness and governance, creating a precedent for future administrative practices outside the capital city.

Mahesh Kumar Goud Extends Greetings to Adivasi Community on Nagoba Jatara

TPN Bureau

HYDERABAD, January 18: Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President and Member of Legislative Council (MLC) Mahesh Kumar Goud on Sunday extended warm and heartfelt greetings to Adivasi brothers and sisters across the state on the auspicious occasion of the sacred Nagoba Jatara. He said the festival stands as a proud symbol of Adivasi culture, traditions and deep-rooted spiritual beliefs that have shaped the tribal way of life in Telangana for generations.

In his message, Mahesh Kumar Goud pointed out that devotees from various parts of Telangana and different states of the country visit the Nagoba Jatara every year to express their faith and devotion. He said the growing participation of people from diverse regions is a testimony to the greatness and spiritual significance of Adivasi culture. He expressed hope that this year's Jatara would be conducted smoothly and peacefully, with devotion, discipline and harmony.

Recalling the efforts made after the formation of Telangana state, the TPCC President said the Congress Party has consistently accorded special priority to tribal welfare. He said the party remains committed to

uniting the Adivasi community and strengthening bonds of brotherhood and equality. He said the festival is not merely a religious event but a collective celebration that reinforces values of mutual respect, social justice and coexistence with nature. These values, he added, are deeply embedded in the Adivasi way of life and deserve greater recognition and respect.

Mahesh Kumar Goud pointed out that devotees from various parts of Telangana and different states of the country visit the Nagoba Jatara every year to express their faith and devotion. He said the growing participation of people from diverse regions is a testimony to the greatness and spiritual significance of Adivasi culture. He expressed hope that this year's Jatara would be conducted smoothly and peacefully, with devotion, discipline and harmony.

Recalling the efforts made after the formation of Telangana state, the TPCC President said the Congress Party has consistently accorded special priority to tribal welfare. He said the party remains committed to

protecting the rights of Adivasi communities and preserving their cultural heritage. Special emphasis, he added, has been placed on improving living standards through education, employment opportunities, healthcare services and the provision of basic infrastructure in tribal areas.

Mahesh Kumar Goud prayed that, with the blessings of the deity, peace, good health and prosperity may prevail in the lives of Adivasi people. He wished that the festival would bring happiness, unity and renewed hope to tribal families across Telangana.



Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Distributes Sewing Machines to Minority Women in Husnabad

TPN Bureau
HUSNABAD, January 18: As part of the Telangana government's commitment to inclusive development and women empowerment, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Sunday distributed sewing machines to minority women within the limits of Husnabad Municipality. A total of 57 minority women beneficiaries received sewing machines under the programme aimed at improving self-employment and livelihood opportunities.

The distribution programme was attended by Siddipet District Collector K. Haimavathi, along with other public representatives, senior officials and local leaders. Beneficiaries expressed gratitude

to the government for extending support that would help them become financially self-reliant.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said the Praja Palana government is working with a clear focus on the development of minorities. He stated that providing sewing machines to minority women is not merely a welfare measure, but an initiative to empower women by enabling them to earn a sustainable income from their homes. Along with sewing machines, the government is also extending financial assistance in the form of loans up to 50,000 to help women expand their livelihood activities, he added.

The minister said that



similar action plans are being prepared for SC, ST and BC women to ensure equal opportunities for economic growth across all sections of society. He instructed officials to re-

ceive applications from women who are in need of sewing machines and ensure that the benefits reach deserving beneficiaries without delay. Emphasising the im-

portance of skill development, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar urged beneficiaries to undergo training at SETWIN skill development centres. He said professional training

would help women improve their tailoring skills, enhance productivity and access better income opportunities. The government, he noted, is committed to supporting women not

only with tools but also with training and financial backing. The minister also highlighted several ongoing welfare initiatives of the state government. He said new ration cards are being issued after a long gap and distribution of fine rice is being carried out to ensure food security for all eligible families. These measures, he said, reflect the government's intention to strengthen social welfare and improve living standards.

District Collector K. Haimavathi appreciated the initiative and said such programmes play a crucial role in promoting women's economic independence, especially among minority communities. She assured that the

district administration would extend full cooperation in implementing welfare schemes effectively. Officials briefed the minister on the progress of various minority welfare schemes in the municipality. The programme concluded with interaction between the minister and beneficiaries, who shared their expectations and aspirations. The sewing machine distribution programme is seen as a significant step towards empowering minority women in Husnabad, enabling them to become self-reliant and contribute to their family income, while also reinforcing the government's broader agenda of inclusive and equitable development.



Harish Rao Condemns CM Revanth Reddy's Controversial Remarks in Khammam

TPN Bureau
Khammam, January 18, 2026 – Former Minister and BRS Legislative Party Deputy Floor Leader Harish Rao has strongly condemned the statements made by Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy during his recent public engagement in Khammam, describing them as inappropriate and detrimental to the state's democratic ethos. Addressing the media, Harish Rao accused Revanth Reddy of consistently engaging in misleading narratives and political duplicity throughout his career. He characterized the Chief Minister's political journey as one marked by "betrayal and deception," alleging that dishonesty and opportunism are ingrained in his political DNA. Rao highlighted Revanth Reddy's past actions, including alleged attempts to manipulate legislators on behalf of former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and his controversial involvement in the "vote-for-cash" scandal, as evidence of a pattern of anti-demo-

cratic behavior.

Harish Rao criticized Revanth Reddy for reportedly maintaining covert alliances with the BJP while publicly projecting loyalty to the Congress, thereby undermining the party's principles and betraying public trust. He alleged that Revanth Reddy has prioritized political convenience over the welfare of Telangana, highlighting instances where the Chief Minister's decisions allegedly favored neighboring states over Telangana's interests in projects such as Banakacherla. Rao further accused him of exploiting his office to advance private interests and engaging in activities that could destabilize law and order.

The BRS leader expressed particular concern over Reddy's reported call to "topple BRS flags," arguing that such statements directly threaten public safety and promote violence. Rao questioned the silence of the Telangana DGP, urging law enforcement authorities to act impartially and ensure that the rule of law is upheld, emphasizing

that no individual, regardless of their position, is above the law.

Rao also warned that encouraging physical attacks or property damage as a political tactic undermines democratic norms and could lead to public backlash. He reaffirmed the BRS party's commitment to protecting its symbols and ensuring accountability, stating that any attempt to intimidate or destabilize the party would be met with decisive action by its members and supporters.

Concluding his remarks, Harish Rao urged citizens to remain vigilant and emphasized that political accountability and public oversight are essential to prevent misuse of power. He warned that Revanth Reddy's approach, if unchecked, risks fostering lawlessness and eroding public confidence in democratic institutions. Rao's remarks underscore the growing tensions between the BRS and the Telangana state government ahead of upcoming municipal and local elections.

Former Ministers V. Srinivas Goud and C. Laxma Reddy Launch Scathing Attack on CM Revanth Reddy

TPN Bureau
HYDERABAD, January 18: Former ministers V. Srinivas Goud and C. Laxma Reddy on Sunday strongly criticised Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, alleging that his recent statements in Mahabubnagar resembled election rhetoric rather than responsible governance. Addressing a press meet, the BRS leaders accused the Chief Minister of making politically motivated remarks and distorting facts related to the Palamuru region and major irrigation projects.

V. Srinivas Goud said the Chief Minister appears to remember welfare schemes only when elections approach. He alleged that Revanth Reddy's comments about distributing salaries ahead of municipal elections indicate an attempt to influence voters. He further claimed that after Congress failed to secure favourable results in panchayat elections, both Congress and BJP have



begun working together to counter the BRS. The mutual praise exchanged by Congress and BJP leaders, he said, clearly suggests an understanding between the two parties for the upcoming municipal elections. Questioning the Chief Minister's past statements, Srinivas Goud recalled Revanth Reddy's claim in the Assembly that there was no water even for funeral rituals during his father's demise. "Is that the situation in Mahabubnagar today?" he asked, asserting that

conditions in Palamuru improved significantly during K. Chandrashekhar Rao's tenure. He credited KCR for providing irrigation to six lakh acres under the Kalwakurthy-Nettampadu scheme and for establishing medical colleges and major infrastructure projects. Describing KCR as the architect of Telangana's development, Srinivas Goud said, "If KCR had not brought Telangana state, would Revanth Reddy have ever become Chief Minister?" He condemned the

Chief Minister's language against BRS leaders K.T. Rama Rao and Harish Rao, stating that they never obstructed development works. He alleged that despite projects being funded and executed by the previous BRS government, the present government is only unveiling plaques without delivering real development. Former minister C. Laxma Reddy echoed similar views, accusing the Chief Minister of repeatedly visiting Mahabubnagar without addressing core issues. He

alleged that Revanth Reddy exploited the region's past poverty to criticise previous governments, while ignoring the fact that major projects like Palamuru-Rangareddy were sanctioned and executed under KCR's leadership, even with limited central support. Laxma Reddy highlighted that KCR prioritised irrigation, healthcare and education, bringing multiple medical colleges, engineering colleges, gurukul schools and road infrastructure to Palamuru. He alleged that Congress leaders who once obstructed the project are now claiming credit. He warned that if Congress continues misleading the public, the state may revert to earlier hardships. Both leaders said that only a decisive victory for BRS in municipal elections would expose the "true nature" of the present government. The press meet was attended by former MLAs Jaipal Yadav, Patnam Narendra Reddy

MLC Deshapathi Srinivas Questions Revanth Reddy on Andhra Jyothi Reports, Demands SIT Probe



TPN Bureau
HYDERABAD, January 18: Telangana MLC Deshapathi Srinivas on Sunday demanded a Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe into the recent Andhra Jyothi reports, questioning whether Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has the political will to act impartially. Speaking to the media, he said that while the Chief Minister promptly ordered an SIT to investigate stories broadcast on NTV, similar action should be taken immediately against the reports published by Andhra Jyothi journalist V. E. M. R. Radhakrishna.

Deshapathi Srinivas pointed out that the Chief Minister has a known close association with Vemuri Radhakrishna. "It is public knowledge that Revanth Reddy even personally visits Radhakrishna on his birthday to offer greetings. Expecting a journalist to seek explanations before publishing news is laughable," he said, calling it a clear conflict of interest.

He questioned the sincerity of the Chief Minister, stating that if Revanth Reddy genuinely values truth and integ-

rity, his actions should go beyond words. "Instead of limiting himself to statements, the Chief Minister should immediately set up an SIT to investigate the Andhra Jyothi story thoroughly and uncover the facts," he said.

The MLC stressed that the government has a constitutional and moral responsibility to uphold justice. "Those found guilty under law should be dealt with strictly. Any delay or partiality in investigating media reports undermines public trust in

governance," he warned. Deshapathi Srinivas also highlighted the double standards in handling media scrutiny. He noted that stories unfavourable to the government or its associates should receive the same attention as those targeting opposition figures. He urged the administration to demonstrate impartiality and ensure that every allegation is investigated comprehensively, according to legal provisions.

He concluded by calling on the Chief Minis-

ter to act decisively, warning that mere rhetoric will not convince the public. "If the government is truly committed to transparency and accountability, it must go beyond mere words, form an SIT without delay, conduct a thorough investigation, and punish the guilty according to law," he said.

This statement comes amid growing criticism over selective action by the state government in responding to media reports, with opposition leaders alleging bias and favoritism in dealing

Chief Minister Posts Young IPS Officers to Tackle Traffic Challenges in Hyderabad

TPN Bureau
Hyderabad, January 18, 2026 - In a decisive move to strengthen law enforcement and address growing traffic congestion in Greater Hyderabad, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has posted a team of young and dynamic IPS officers to key traffic management roles across the city. The transfers, announced yesterday, aim to bring sustainable solutions to urban traffic challenges and improve civic governance across Hyderabad, Cyberabad,



Rachakonda, and the newly established Future City Police Commissionerates. The Chief Minister emphasized that while the State Police continue to aggressively pursue cybercrime and drug trafficking, focused attention on traffic regulation has now become a priority. Officers with proven field experience as Additional Superintendents of Police in districts have been elevated to Deputy Commissioners of Police (Traffic) in urban commissionerates to

ensure efficient enforcement at the ground level. Key postings include Avinash Kumar, formerly Additional SP, Kothagudem (Operations), who has been appointed DCP, Traffic-I, Hyderabad, overseeing Khairatabad and Secunderabad zones. Kalaj, previously Additional SP, Uttnor, will serve as DCP, Traffic-II, Hyderabad, managing Golconda and Jubilee Hills zones. S. Seshadri Reddy, formerly Additional SP, Jagtial, takes charge as DCP,

Traffic-II, Cyberabad, covering Kukatpally and Qutubullapur zones, while Kankana Reddy, previously Additional SP, Bhongir, has been posted as DCP, Traffic-I, Malkajgiri Commissionerate. In the Future City Commissionerate, Shivam Upadhyay, Additional SP, Mulugu (Operations), has been appointed as DCP (Traffic), and G. Chandana Deepthi, DIG (Railways), will serve as Additional Commissioner of Police (Administration & Traffic). B.K. Rahul

such as sand smuggling, safeguarding natural resources, and protecting government revenue.

The Chief Minister's approach combines the energy of youthful officers with the experience of senior personnel to enhance policing efficiency. The move is expected to significantly improve traffic management, public service delivery, and overall law enforcement effectiveness across the state, generating widespread discussion within police circles.

Hyderabad Police Bust Illegal SIM Card Operation, Two Arrested



TPN Bureau
HYDERABAD, January 17, 2026: The Special Crime Team (SCT) of the Cyber Crime Section (CCS), Hyderabad City, in collaboration with Nampally Police, apprehended two individuals in possession of 184 illegally activated SIM cards. The arrests were made on the basis of credible information received by the authorities.

The accused have been identified as Navneeth Dinesh Kumar Naik, a 22-year-old who runs a business called Lavanya Enterprises Sims Distributor in Cuddapah, Andhra Pradesh, and Parnapally Sai Pradeep, a 24-year-old Airtel SIM promoter from Prodattur, Cuddapah. During the operation, the police recovered 150 Airtel SIM cards, 34 Jio SIM cards, and four mobile phones.

Investigations revealed that the two individuals were operating a SIM distribution centre in Cuddapah, where they illegally activated new Airtel

SIM cards in the names of customers who visited the store to purchase Vodafone-Idea SIM cards. The accused reportedly misused the customers' KYC details and fingerprints without their consent. After activating these SIM cards illegally, the duo traveled to Hyderabad to sell them at higher prices.

The operation was carried out under the leadership of Inspector D. Bikshapathi, Special Crime Team, with support from his team, and under the supervision of ACP G. Venkateswar Reddy. Following their apprehension, the accused were handed over to Nampally Police Station for further investigation and legal action.

Authorities have urged citizens to exercise caution while purchasing new SIM cards or updating KYC details. Customers are advised to rely only on authorised network stores and official outlets to avoid misuse of personal information. Such illegal activities

BRS Protests Cantonment Board Nomination Extension

TPN Bureau
SECUNDERABAD, January 18, 2026: The BRS staged a strong protest at the Secunderabad Cantonment Board office after the central Ministry of Defence issued a gazette notification extending the term of the nominated member for another year. BRS official representative Mannena Krishank expressed his anger over the extension, publicly burning the gazette documents at the board of

ice to protest the move. Krishank criticised the Centre and the Cantonment Board for manipulating the residents by neither merging the board with GHMC nor conducting elections. He noted that the last Cantonment Board elections were held in 2015, and since then, the BJP-led Cantonment Board has failed to take any steps toward a merger. Across the country, several cantonment boards have already been merged, but Secunderabad residents continue to face difficulties in accessing essential services due to delays in administration. He emphasised that residents have been struggling with issues such as house permissions, drinking water supply, road repairs, construction of basic sanitation facilities, and land exchanges.

The BRS leader highlighted that residents had hoped for a merger with GHMC to simplify administration and improve service delivery, but even after more than a decade, no progress has been made. Meanwhile, Krishank accused

BJP leaders at both the central and local levels of prioritising positions and nominated posts over the welfare of citizens. "Elections are essential to safeguard democracy. Cantonment residents should be able to elect representatives to ensure their grievances are addressed. Without elections, democracy does not exist here, and a nominated member, unaware of local issues and rules, can grant approvals at will," he said.

Krishank also criticised both the BJP and Congress governments for playing political games with the cantonment area. He said that delaying elections and refusing to merge the board is a tactic to control the administration while ignoring public needs. Residents are being denied their democratic rights, and any opposition to such decisions is dismissed as obstruction, he added.

precedence over political manoeuvring and that the people's voices should be heard in decision-making processes that directly affect their daily lives.

This demonstration underscores the ongoing tension between residents and authorities, highlighting the need for accountability, transparency, and timely action in the administration of the cantonment area.



Basti Health Center in Vasavi Layout Turns into Dumping Ground: Local Volunteers Protest



tion, the team was shocked to find construction materials and debris occupying the center for over a month.

Intended to provide medical services to the community, the Basti Health Center has instead been used as a dumping site for construction equipment and materials, rendering it inaccessible to patients. Volunteers criticized the authorities, describing the situation as a shameful neglect of public health infrastructure and an insult to the residents who rely on the facility.

Uppu Jaswant, founder of For a Better Society, questioned the misuse of the premises, asking, "Is this a dumping ground, or a health center meant for the people of Vasavi Layout?" He highlighted that the



previous BRS government had established the health center with great care and investment to serve the community, and such negligence reflects poorly on the current administration's oversight. Jaswant demanded immediate action to remove all construction materials and restore the center to its intended purpose, ensuring that it becomes fully functional for public use. He emphasized

work to remove weeds and clear the premises, highlighting the community's commitment to safeguarding essential public resources.

The incident has drawn attention to the broader issue of public health infrastructure maintenance in rapidly urbanizing areas. Civic activists stressed the need for regular monitoring of health centers and other essential facilities to prevent such misuse and ensure that they remain accessible to the public.

Residents and volunteers alike hope that authorities will heed the call for immediate corrective action, transforming the Basti Health Center back into a functional medical facility that serves the health needs of the Vasavi Layout community.

TPN Bureau
Qutubullapur, January 18, 2026 - Members of the voluntary organization For a Better Society expressed strong concern over the deplorable state of the Basti

Health Center in Vasavi Layout, Pragathi Nagar, falling under the Nizampet Circle. Local residents invited the volunteers to clear overgrown weeds around the premises, but upon inspec-

Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka Calls for Congress Victory in Municipal Elections, Seeks Industrial Park for Khammam

TPN Bureau
Khammam, January 18, 2026 - Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka urged Congress cadre to ensure the party flag flies high in the upcoming municipal and corporation elections, highlighting Khammam district as a role model for political success in Telangana. Addressing a public meeting in Paleru, he pointed out that the district had delivered impressive results in the recent Sarpanch elections, with Congress-backed candidates winning 85% of the seats.

Deputy CM Bhatti

Vikramarka emphasized that the state government is committed to accelerating development in Khammam. He noted that, along with the three ministers from the district, and with the guidance of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, multiple initiatives are underway to strengthen irrigation, education, and healthcare. Key projects include the establishment of a branch of JNTU University, a nursing college, and irrigation development work linking the Munneru River to Paleru to benefit local farmers and ensure better water

management. Highlighting the pressing issue of youth unemployment, the Deputy Chief Minister stressed that Khammam has a large population of educated yet jobless youth. "Providing sustainable employment opportunities for our youth is a priority, and industrial development is the most effective way to achieve this," he said. He appealed to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to allocate a major industrial park to Khammam district, which he said would generate large-scale employment and stimulate economic



growth in the region. Bhatti Vikramarka also urged the sanctioning of additional infrastructure and development projects to further improve education, healthcare, and irrigation facilities, ensuring comprehensive progress across the district. He stressed that visible development, alongside political victories, is essential for public confidence and long-term welfare.

Reiterating the importance of the upcoming municipal elections, the Deputy Chief Minister encouraged Congress workers and supporters to work with dedication

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Unveils Namaste Statue at Husnabad Municipality Entrance

TPN Bureau
HUSNABAD, January 18: Telangana Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Sunday unveiled the newly installed "Namaste" statue at the entrance of Husnabad Municipality from the Siddipet side, marking another initiative aimed at enhancing the town's identity and civic aesthetics. The unveiling ceremony was held in the presence of senior district officials, public representatives and local leaders.

District Collector Haimavathi, Library Society Chairman Lingamurthi, Market Committee Chairman Tirupati Reddy, Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) Rammurthi, Municipal Commissioner Mallikharjun and several other prominent leaders and officials participated in the programme. The event witnessed a good turnout of residents who welcomed

the initiative and appreciated the efforts taken to beautify the municipal limits.

Speaking after unveiling the statue, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said that the Namaste statue symbolises Indian culture, values and hospitality. He noted that such landmarks not only beautify urban spaces but also reflect the traditions and ethos of the region. The minister said the Telangana government is committed to improving civic infrastructure and promoting cultural symbols that instil a sense of pride among the people.

The minister lauded the efforts of the municipal administration and district officials for successfully executing the project. He emphasised the importance of coordinated efforts between elected representatives and officials to ensure that developmental works are completed on



time and to the satisfaction of the public.

Later, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar inspected the ongoing works related to the installation of sportsperson statues along the Husnabad National Highway. He reviewed the progress of the works and interacted with officials to understand the timeline and quality standards being followed. The minister stressed that the statues should be installed in a manner that highlights the achievements of sportspersons and in-

spires youth to take up sports and physical fitness. He directed the concerned departments to ensure that the works are completed without delay and maintained with proper landscaping and lighting to enhance visibility and safety. He also instructed officials to pay attention to design quality so that the statues become prominent landmarks along the national highway.

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar reiterated that the government is focusing on holistic development, combining

infrastructure growth with cultural and inspirational initiatives. He said projects such as statues, public art installations and improved road aesthetics contribute to creating a positive image of towns and cities, besides offering motivation to future generations. Officials briefed the minister on other ongoing developmental activities in Husnabad municipality, including road improvement works, sanitation initiatives and urban beautification programmes. The minister expressed satisfaction with the progress and assured continued government support for further development.

The visit concluded with the minister interacting with local leaders and residents, reaffirming the government's resolve to transform Husnabad into a well-developed and culturally vibrant town.

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Inspects Modern Bus Station Works in Mulugu

TPN Bureau
MULUGU, January 18: Telangana Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Sunday inspected the ongoing construction works of the new modern bus station being built with advanced facilities at the Mulugu district headquarters. The minister reviewed the progress of the project and directed officials to speed up the construction to ensure its early completion for the benefit of the public.

During his visit, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar examined various aspects of the bus station works and enquired about the facilities being developed as part of the project. Officials briefed him on the design, infrastructure features and the timeline for completion. The proposed bus station is being constructed with modern amenities to provide improved travel convenience, safety and accessibility for senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

The minister noted that the Telangana government is giving priority to upgrading transport infrastructure across the state to ensure better connectivity, especially in districts that are geographically remote or predominantly rural.

He said the Mulugu bus station project is part of the government's broader vision to provide efficient and people-friendly public transport

Mulugu district, which is witnessing steady growth in connectivity and passenger movement. He instructed the concerned departments and contractors to accelerate the pace of work without compromising on quality standards.

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said that a modern bus station is essential for a district headquarters, as it serves as a major gateway for people travelling for education, healthcare, employment and other needs.

Officials informed the minister that the new bus station is being developed with a focus on passenger safety and convenience. The design includes improved traffic circulation, organised entry and exit points, parking facilities and spaces for commercial establishments to enhance revenue generation and maintenance.

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar also interacted with local officials and engineers, instructing them to regularly monitor the progress of the works and address any technical or administrative issues promptly.

He made it clear that delays would not be tolerated and that accountability would be fixed if the project schedule is not adhered to.

The minister said that once completed, the modern bus station would significantly improve travel experience for commuters and boost the overall development of Mulugu district. He reiterated the government's commitment to infrastructure development and assured that all necessary support would be extended to complete the project at the earliest.



Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Distributes Indiramma House Sanction Letters and Welfare Benefits in Husnabad



TPN Bureau
HUSNABAD, January 18: Telangana Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Sunday distributed Indiramma housing sanction letters to eligible beneficiaries within the limits of Husnabad Municipality, reaffirming the government's commitment to

providing housing and welfare support to the poor. The minister also distributed interest-free loan cheques worth 1.13 crore to 3,520 women beneficiaries and launched the distribution of Indiramma sarees to all women above the age of 18. The programme was at-

tended by Siddipet District Collector Haimavathi, Library Society Chairman Lingamurthi, Market Committee Chairman Tirupati Reddy, along with other public representatives, senior officials and beneficiaries.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said that Indiramma houses have been sanctioned to eligible beneficiaries in Husnabad Municipality after due verification. He informed that on the day, 372 beneficiaries received their sanction letters and urged them to begin construction of their houses from the very next day. "A house is not just a structure; it is a dream and an art. The government is committed to fulfilling

that dream," he said. The minister criticised the previous regime, stating that not a single double-bedroom house was provided in the last ten years. He pointed out that in the first phase, 170 Indiramma houses were sanctioned in Husnabad town, while now 370 houses are being sanctioned. Across the constituency, 3,500 Indiramma houses were approved in the first phase and their construction has already been completed, he added.

Stressing that housing allotment is being done without political bias, the minister said all eligible poor families would be provided houses. He also highlighted that ration cards are now be-

ing issued after a decade-long gap and described it as a continuous process. Distribution of fine rice, 200 units of free electricity, and free RTC bus travel for women across the state were cited as landmarks welfare measures.

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said interest-free loans were being extended to women to enhance livelihood opportunities, supported by skill training through SETWIN to enable income generation from home-based work. He also spoke about efforts to make Husnabad a plastic-free constituency by distributing steel banks to self-help groups, warning against the health hazards of plastic usage.

"Opposition Full of Poison, People's Govt Stands Strong": Minister Ponguleti



electoral successes, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy highlighted the decisive mandate already given

by voters. "In Assembly, Parliament, and cantonment elections, the people taught the schemers a lesson. During the last panchayat polls, approximately 69 percent of gram panchayats were won by Congress, a clear referendum in our favour. This momentum must now continue in the municipal elections. In the seven municipalities and corporations across our joint districts, opposition deposits must be forfeited, and the Congress flag must fly high," he urged the par-

ty workers.

The minister also highlighted development initiatives in Khammam district, describing them as milestones for public welfare. He cited the 162.54 crore Munneru-Paleru Link Canal project, which will stabilise 1.50 lakh acres of ayacut land, along with the 108.60 crore JNTU Engineering College and a 100-bed hospital at Kusumanchi costing 45.50 crore. "These projects benefit youth and the underprivileged alike," he said. Addressing par-

ty activists, Srinivasa Reddy said their hard work is the backbone of the government's success. "It is our duty to place committed workers in public offices. The Chief Minister's leadership ensures security and confidence for the poor. No matter the obstacles, development will continue," he added.

He urged workers to remain vigilant and dedicated, noting that municipal elections are crucial for consolidating the government's achievements. "Opposition venom will fail, but

the public's welfare agenda will prevail. Your efforts are the strength of the party and a guarantee for Khammam," he concluded, motivating activists to intensify their work for the upcoming elections.

The minister's remarks came amid heightened political activity ahead of municipal polls, aiming to energise the grassroots cadre and reaffirm the government's focus on development, welfare, and empowering the poor.

Trump's "Board of Peace" and the Future of Global Order: A Critical Moment for India



The announcement of a "Board of Peace" under US President Donald Trump marks a striking and potentially transformative moment in global diplomacy. Originally conceived to manage the aftermath of the Gaza conflict, the initiative now raises questions about the future architecture of international peace and security. For New Delhi and other capitals, it is a development that deserves careful reflection—not just for its implications in the Middle East but for the broader system of multilateral cooperation that has governed global affairs since World War II.

The Board of Peace, initially tasked with supervising stabilization and reconstruction efforts in Gaza, is reportedly inviting dozens of world leaders and is being positioned as a dynamic body capable of addressing a wide spectrum of global conflicts. Critics argue that it represents a departure from established norms of open, equal multilateral dialogue because it could become an exclusive, invitation-only forum dominated by American leadership, rather than the universal, collective decision-making processes of the United Nations Security Council.

If the model expands beyond Gaza, the consequences could be profound. The Security Council, despite its flaws, remains the primary space where sovereign states—large and small—have a formal voice in decisions about peace and security. The Board's structure, with Trump at its helm and an executive committee drawn largely from trusted allies, signals a move toward ad hoc coalitions of the willing, potentially sidelining traditional multilateral platforms and their norms of inclusivity and equal participation.

For India, this moment is especially significant. New Delhi has long championed reformed multilateralism, advocating for a more representative and effective United Nations system while respecting its core principles. The Board of Peace raises uncomfortable questions about whether that faith is misplaced in a world where powerful states can create parallel structures that mirror old institutions but operate according to very different logics.

Moreover, the broader context of Trump's global agenda—including his scepticism toward the World Trade Organization and NATO, and policy moves that have unsettled the European Union—suggests a strategic shift: from strengthening post-war multilateral frameworks to crafting alternatives that reflect US preferences for control and decision-making.

India's response to this shifting landscape will require careful

calibration. New Delhi must weigh the potential benefits of engaging with initiatives like the Board of Peace against the risks of legitimizing structures that could dilute the authority of global institutions that underpin international stability. This is not merely a matter of foreign policy posture; it touches the core of how India conceives its role in shaping a rules-based global order that promotes equity, sovereignty, and collective problem-solving.

As the international system navigates a period of extraordinary flux, India's strategic choices will matter not only for its own interests but also for the future of multilateralism. The emergence of the Board of Peace demands not just tactical engagement but a thoughtful reassessment of long-held assumptions about how global governance should function in the decades ahead.

When Dignity Is on Trial, Unity Comes Out Stronger

There is a line written long ago by a progressive thinker that still rings painfully true today: in our country, a woman's character, a Dalit's merit, and a Muslim's patriotism are always questioned. I am reminded of this line because what Telangana has witnessed in recent days reflects this harsh reality once again.

Over the past few days, Telangana's political and public space has passed through an unusual and deeply disturbing phase. This was not routine controversy or everyday political noise. It shook the conscience of anyone who believes in fairness, dignity, and democratic values. In all my years of observing politics, governance, and media, I have never seen a situation quite like this.

For perhaps the first time, officers belonging to all three All India Services—the IAS, IPS, and IFS—came together on a single issue and spoke in one voice. Such unity among civil servants is extremely rare. When it happens, it is a clear signal that something has gone seriously wrong. The officers' associations strongly condemned television broadcast that carried false, careless, and deeply irresponsible allegations against serving women IAS officers.

Through formal statements, they made it clear that the content was untrue, unethical, and harmful. They said it violated the dignity and privacy of the officers and crossed every boundary of responsible journalism. They demanded a public apology, immediate removal of the content, and warned that legal action would follow if necessary. They firmly rejected all claims related to postings and personal matters, calling them completely baseless and motivated. Most importantly, they clarified that this was not an attack on one individual officer, but an attack on the credibility and integrity of the entire civil service system.

What made this episode even more serious was its nature. It bore all the signs of a "media trial." Senior officers across cadres warned that character assassination of women officers in the name of news is not just unethical, but dangerous for democracy. Such actions weaken public institutions and discourage honest officers from working fearlessly. This was not an outburst of emotional anger; it was moral resistance. The officers made it clear that targeting women officers with baseless allegations under the cover of journalism is shameful and unacceptable.

From the Telangana government's side, Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy responded with clarity and responsibility. He condemned what he described as a deliberate campaign by certain television channels and social media platforms to malign women officers. He reminded everyone that criticism is part of democracy, but dragging officers—especially women—into manufactured controversies crosses a red line. His appeal was simple yet power-

ful: imagine yourself in the place of that woman officer. Is it a crime for women to work? What is gained by harassing women officers and disturbing their families? His response reflected not political defensiveness, but concern for democratic values and basic human dignity.

Following sustained pressure and widespread condemnation, the concerned television channel issued a public apology. This moment deserves to be recognised as a collective victory—not just for a few individuals, but for the entire bureaucracy of Telangana. IAS, IPS, and IFS officers stood united, and that unity made accountability possible. It also marked an important moment in our democracy, highlighting both the tension and the necessary balance between two constitutional pillars: the media and the executive.

The Telangana government has also taken firm institutional action. A Special Investigation Team has been formed to probe misleading and defamatory reports aired against women IAS officers. Police cases have been registered based on complaints from officers' associations, and cyber crime authorities have begun investigations. Senior ministers, including Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, Seethaka, and Duddilla Sridhar Babu, have spoken out strongly against false and defamatory reporting. They have clearly stated that spreading baseless allegations against public servants working for the state's development cannot and will not be tolerated.

The unified stand taken by the IAS, IPS, and IFS Officers' Associations sends a powerful message. They have unequivocally condemned the broadcasts as untrue, defamatory, unethical, and a violation of dignity and privacy. Their demand is not extraordinary—only accountability, apology, and responsibility.

Standing up for women officers is not political loyalty. It is a moral duty. Protecting their dignity is not a favour. It is justice. If we fail to draw this line today, the cost tomorrow will be far higher—not just for officers, but for the very idea of democracy itself.



— Sagar Vanaparthy, Policy Analyst

The Nobel Prize and the Politics of Ego: Tax Cuts Have Hemmed in Governments: Machado's Gesture Sparks Debate

The image of a Nobel Peace Prize medal being handed over in Washington this January is a spectacle that blends political theatre with global symbolism. Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado, recipient of the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize, presented her medal to US President Donald Trump, who accepted it publicly. What should have been a solemn celebration of democracy and human rights instead became a moment charged with questions about the transactional nature of modern politics.

At its core, the Nobel Peace Prize is meant to honour individuals whose courage and dedication advance freedom and human dignity, often at great personal risk. Machado's struggle against authoritarian rule in Venezuela rightfully earned her the accolade. Yet the public handing over of her medal to a political figure whose relationship with the ideals of the prize has long been contentious raised concerns about the integrity of such gestures.

The optics of the event suggested that symbols of moral authority can be co-opted into political theatre. Machado's gesture, while perhaps intended to highlight support or solidarity, risked reducing the symbolic weight of the Nobel to a tool for political leverage. The focus shifted from the values the prize represents to a moment of personal and political posturing, highlighting how even the most revered international honours can be reframed in the currency of attention and influence.

This episode underscores a broader tension between principle and spectacle in global affairs. The Nobel Peace Prize, once a beacon of principled recognition, should not be treated as a gift



or trophy to be handed over in pursuit of political advantage. True recognition of leadership and peace is earned through sacrifice, courage, and the relentless pursuit of justice, not traded in corridors of power or used as a prop for public display.

The Machado-Trump episode also illustrates the challenges facing international symbols in an era of performative politics. When such honours are used for visibility or influence rather than to celebrate genuine achievement, their meaning is diminished. What should inspire reflection, dialogue, and commitment to universal values risks being reduced to

spectacle.

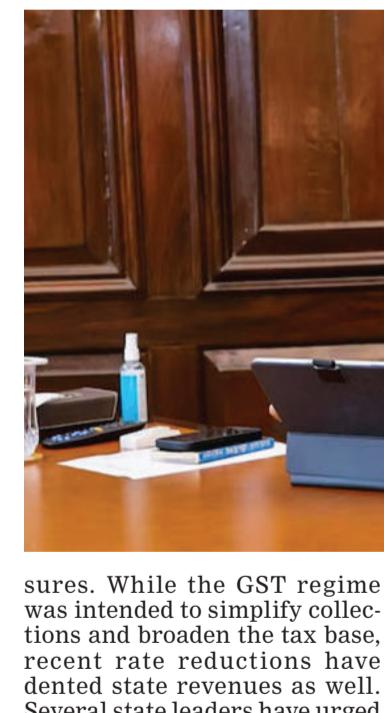
Ultimately, the "giveaway" of the Nobel medal raises uncomfortable questions about the balance between symbolism and action in global diplomacy. While Machado's intentions may have been strategic, the act serves as a reminder that the power of moral authority lies in its authenticity, and when that authenticity is overshadowed by opportunism, the ideals of recognition and justice itself are put on trial. The world is left to ponder whether symbols of peace and courage can retain their gravitas in a political age defined increasingly by performance over principle.

In today's political climate, tax cuts are often presented as engines of growth or populist stimulus. But beneath the applause lies a sobering reality: the cuts have significantly constrained the fiscal capacity of both the Centre and the states, limiting their ability to spend on essential services and long-term development. This is not a temporary blip in government revenues; the consequences are likely to be long-lasting and structurally significant.

Recent tax relief measures—including cuts in both direct taxes and indirect levies such as GST—mean that governments across the board will collect less revenue in the coming years. What makes this especially concerning is that these cuts will be difficult to reverse once enacted. Political realities rarely allow leaders to raise taxes or undo popular relief, even when fiscal prudence demands it. As a result, the constraints on revenue are set to persist beyond the current budget cycle.

For the Centre, this erosion of the tax base comes at a time when expenditure needs remain high. Budget numbers indicate that the government's revenue mobilisation has already fallen below targets, squeezing its fiscal space and pushing deficit ratios upward. With less money coming in, the only options left are either sharp expenditure cuts—which could undercut vital public services—or greater borrowing, which adds future repayment burdens.

States face their own pres-



sures. While the GST regime was intended to simplify collections and broaden the tax base, recent rate reductions have dented state revenues as well. Several state leaders have urged the Centre to compensate for the shortfall, arguing that states bear a significant portion of revenue losses while still being expected to deliver critical services.

The broader issue is not ideology—whether tax cuts are inherently good or bad—but fiscal sustainability. Both the Centre and the states need adequate resources to meet India's multifaceted challenges: health, education, infrastructure, and social welfare. If tax revenues continue to shrink without commensurate increases in efficiency or economic expansion, public investment will suffer.

Future governments, bound by the legacy of today's tax cuts, will have even less flexibility to respond to crises or invest in transformative change.

What this situation demands is a mature conversation about balanced fiscal policy, one that recognises the short-term appeal of tax relief but also the long-term necessity of robust revenue streams. Taxation should be fair and growth-oriented, but it must also be sufficient to sustain the public goods and services that underpin a thriving society.

In short, tax cuts may be politically popular, but they have hemmed in the very governments tasked with delivering on development and welfare, posing a deeper challenge to India's fiscal health and future prospects.

Indian Woman RPF Officer Honoured for Rescuing More Than 1,500 Children

In a powerful recognition of courage and commitment, the Indian Railways' highest service award has been conferred on Chandana Sinha, a woman officer of the Railway Protection Force (RPF), for her extraordinary role in rescuing vulnerable children from exploitation and trafficking across the rail network.

Sinha, who serves as an RPF inspector, has dedicated the past three years to identifying and safeguarding children who are alone at railway stations, at risk of falling into human trafficking rings or being forced into child labour. Through meticulous attention to subtle behavioural cues and an ability to build trust with distressed youngsters, she and her team have successfully brought over 1,500 children to safety. Many of these rescues took place just moments before the children would have been pulled into dangerous situations.

Her work operates under a specialised initiative known as Operation Nanhe Farishtey ("Little Angels"), which focuses on monitoring railway routes notorious for trafficking activity. Under Sinha's leadership, the unit deploys trained personnel who watch for subtle signs that distinguish vulnerable children from routine passengers. Once identified, children are gently approached, questioned, and either reunited with their families or placed in protective care and connected with support services.

Colleagues describe Sinha as a quiet but intense presence on platforms, someone who sees



what others overlook and acts with patience and precision. Beyond spontaneous rescue efforts, she helped formalise an informal system that combines on-ground observation with networks of informants, community contacts and collaboration with non-governmental organisations, making the rescue efforts more systematic and effective.

The award ceremony, held in the nation's capital, drew praise from senior railway officials and public figures, who lauded her for transforming

everyday vigilance into lifesaving action. The honour recognises not just individual bravery, but also the broader impact of her work in raising awareness about the plight of vulnerable children in transit and the role law enforcement can play in protecting them.

Sinha's achievement highlights a persistent challenge in India's vast railway system, where thousands of children become separated from their families every year due to poverty, lack of supervision, or coercion by traffickers. Her suc-

cess — and the institutional focus it brings — underscores the importance of proactive policing that blends empathy with strategic action.

Despite receiving the country's top railway honour, Sinha reportedly returned quickly to her duties, driven by a belief that her work is not done until every child is safe. The recognition serves as both a tribute to her past efforts and an inspiration for continued action against child trafficking and exploitation on India's railways.

Modi Targets West Bengal Government, Calls for End to 'Mahajungle Raj' Ahead of Elections



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered a major political speech in Singur, Hooghly district, sharply criticising the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) government in West Bengal and urging voters to end what he called the state's "mahajungle raj" ahead of the upcoming assembly elections. The remarks reflect intensifying campaigning in the eastern state, where the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) aims to dethrone the long-entrenched regional party.

Addressing a large rally, Modi accused the TMC, led by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, of presiding over years of misrule, poor governance and law-and-order issues. He claimed that West Bengal's people were eager to bid farewell to the current political leadership and embrace change, arguing that the BJP's model of governance would bring development, stability and improved public services. Several party leaders and supporters at the event echoed this sentiment, saying the people wanted a break from what they described as entrenched political stagnation.

Modi's speech touched on a range of contentious issues. He alleged that the state government had failed to cooperate with the central government on key security measures, including efforts to strengthen border fencing along Bangladesh, and accused it of shielding "infiltrators" and creating obstacles for national security efforts. He said the Centre had repeatedly requested land for border fencing, but that the TMC had not acted on it — framing the issue as both a governance

failure and security risk. The prime minister also criticised the state administration on social concerns, claiming that education and women's safety had deteriorated under TMC rule and were dominated by corrupt elements, a charge the party has vehemently denied. Modi urged voters, particularly women and young people, to support the BJP for a "double-engine government" — a term used to describe having the same party in power at both the state and national levels —

which he said would ensure better implementation of central welfare schemes and development initiatives.

The rally in Singur, a historic political battleground dating back to land acquisition protests nearly two decades ago, came shortly after Modi inaugurated infrastructure projects in the region. The BJP has been pushing a narrative that a change in leadership would attract investment and accelerate economic growth in West Bengal.

The TMC responded to the prime minister's remarks by rejecting the allegations and accusing the BJP of political opportunism. Party spokespersons have said that their government remains committed to protecting the interests of Bengal's people and criticised the central party for mischaracterising state issues for electoral gain.

With the assembly polls approaching, political tensions remain high in West Bengal, underscoring the fierce competition between national and regional forces for control of one of India's most politically significant states.

One Dead, 24 Injured in Multiple Crashes on Delhi-Lucknow Highway Amid Dense Fog



At least one person was killed and 24 others injured in a series of road accidents on the Delhi-Lucknow National Highway after dense fog severely reduced visibility, authorities said. The string of collisions, involving passenger vehicles and trucks, occurred early in the morning when thick fog blanketed large stretches of the highway, making driving perilous.

Traffic police and emergency responders were alerted to multiple crash sites along the busy route, which links India's capital region with the state of Uttar Pradesh. Reports indicated that several vehicles collided at high speed due to extremely low visibility, with some drivers unable to see vehicles ahead until it was too late to brake.

The fatality occurred when a car rammed into the rear of a larger vehicle in one of the worst-hit sections of the highway. The driver of the car died at the scene,

while passengers and occupants of other involved vehicles sustained injuries ranging from minor to serious. Local hospitals received the injured, and medical teams were working to stabilise those in critical condition.

Police and highway patrol units responded quickly to control the situation, diverting traffic and coordinating with ambulance services to

evacuate those hurt. Authorities temporarily slowed down traffic flow in the affected areas and warned motorists to exercise extreme caution or delay travel until visibility improved.

Dense fog is a common winter hazard in northern India, particularly in January, when cold air over the Indo-Gangetic plains traps moisture near the ground. The highway accidents have sparked renewed calls for enhanced safety measures during peak fog seasons, especially across critical transport corridors that see heavy commuter and freight traffic. Meanwhile, authorities continue to investigate the sequence of collisions to determine exact causes and to prevent similar tragedies in the future.

Police File Cases Over Deepfake and Fake Content on Manikarnika Ghat Redevelopment



Police in Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi have registered multiple cases against individuals accused of spreading AI-generated and misleading content online related to the redevelopment of the Manikarnika Ghat, one of Hinduism's most sacred cremation sites. Authorities say the digital materials misrepresented the actual work being carried out and risked inflaming public sentiment.

The action came after a complaint was filed alleging that fabricated images and videos showing false scenes connected to the ghat's redevelopment were shared widely on social media, particularly on the platform X. Investigators say some of the content depicted distorted views of statues and religious elements, leading followers to believe that sacred structures were being damaged or desecrated as part of the renovation.

Officials registered eight separate cases under provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sahita against individuals and specific social media handles accused of

creating and circulating the material. Police described the shared visuals as digitally altered and contrary to the documented progress of the ongoing beautification work, which involves improving cremation facilities and related infrastructure at the historic site.

Authorities said the posts were not only false but were likely circulated with the intent to hurt religious sentiments, spread misinformation and provoke anger among the public. They also expressed concern that misleading content could disrupt social harmony in a city that draws large numbers of pilgrims and visitors due to its spiritual significance.

The police action reflects growing attention to the challenges posed by deepfake technology and manipulated media, which can blur the line between genuine documentation and fabricated narratives. In this case, law enforcement has emphasised that careful verification and responsible sharing of information are critical, especially when it comes to matters touching

on religious feelings and community stability.

Among those named in at least one of the FIRs are well-known public figures, a move that has drawn political attention and debate. One of the accused has claimed that the legal action is politically motivated, insisting that he was raising genuine concerns about the redevelopment.

Local leaders, however, have defended the police response and underscored the importance of preventing the spread of falsehoods that could inflame emotions or mislead the public about sensitive cultural heritage sites. They emphasised that the redevelopment project is being carried out with respect for tradition and with the goal of enhancing facilities for pilgrims and residents alike.

As investigations continue, officials have warned that further legal action may be taken against anyone found to be creating or amplifying deceptive content that threatens peace and public trust in the region.

TVK Chief Vijay to Appear Before CBI Again in Stampede Case



Tamilaga Vetti Kazhagam (TVK) chief and actor-politician Vijay has left for New Delhi to appear once again before the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in connection with the Karur stampede case, officials said.

Vijay is scheduled to face the investigating agency for a second round of questioning as part of the ongoing probe into the deadly stampede that occurred during a political event last year. The incident, which took place in Karur district of Tamil Nadu, claimed several lives and left many others injured, triggering widespread outrage and demands for accountability.

The stampede reportedly occurred when a massive crowd gathered for a TVK-organised programme, leading to chaos and a breakdown in crowd control arrangements. Following public pressure and legal scrutiny, the investigation

was later transferred to the CBI to ensure an independent and comprehensive inquiry.

Vijay had earlier appeared before the CBI and was questioned for several hours. Investigators are examining various aspects of the event, including planning, crowd management, security arrangements and coordination with local authorities.

The agency is also questioning party functionaries and reviewing logistical preparations made ahead of the programme.

Supporters of Vijay have expressed confidence that the investigation will establish the facts, while families of the victims continue to seek justice and accountability. The CBI's findings are expected to play a crucial role in determining responsibility for one of the most tragic incidents in recent political history in the state.

The investigation is ongoing, and further questioning of witnesses and officials is expected as the agency works to piece together the circumstances that led to the stampede.

European Union and Mercosur Seal Historic Trade Agreement After 25 Years



After more than 25 years of negotiations, the European Union (EU) and the Mercosur trade bloc of South American nations have signed a landmark free trade agreement that could reshape global commerce and geopolitics. The deal—finalised in Asunción, Paraguay—marks one of the most significant trade breakthroughs of recent decades and opens a new chapter in economic cooperation between Europe and South America.

Once fully implemented, the agreement is expected to eliminate tariffs on over 90 per cent of trade between the two sides, gradually lowering barriers that have long hindered the flow of goods and services. This area of cooperation will encompass a combined market of more than 700 million consumers, making it one of the largest free trade zones in the world.

Mercosur, which includes Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, will gain expanded access to the EU's markets for key agricultural exports such as beef, poultry, sugar and soy. In exchange, European companies will benefit from easier access to South American markets, particularly for industrial goods such as cars, machinery, chemicals and pharmaceuticals.

Negotiations on this deal began in the late 1990s but stalled repeatedly due to deep political and economic differences. EU member states were particularly concerned about competition from cheaper agricultural imports and the environmental and labour standards of Mercosur countries. Disagreements over issues such as deforestation in the Amazon and sanitary regulations added further delays, while frequent political changes in both regions shifted priorities over the years.

US Vice President and Secretary of State to Attend Winter Olympics, Trump Absent from Delegation



The United States has announced its official delegation for the upcoming 2026 Winter Olympics in Italy, with Vice President J.D. Vance set to lead the American contingent at the opening ceremony. Secretary of State Marco Rubio will also attend, underscoring high-level US representation at the global sporting event, even as President Donald Trump is notably absent from the list of attendees.

The Winter Olympics, scheduled to take place in Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, will begin on February 6 and run through February 22. The Games are expected to bring together athletes from across the world to compete in a wide range of winter sports, while also serving as a platform for cultural exchange and international diplomacy.

According to officials, Vice President Vance will represent the United States in his capacity as head of the delegation at the opening ceremony. He will be accompanied by Second Lady Usha Vance, Secretary of State Rubio, and the US Ambassador to Italy. The delegation will also include several celebrated former American Olympians, highlighting the country's rich sporting legacy and continued support for the Olympic movement.

The absence of President Trump has drawn attention, as US presidents have traditionally used major international events such as the Olympics to

project soft power and engage informally with global leaders. While no official reason has been provided for his non-attendance, the White House has emphasised that the United States will still be represented at the highest diplomatic levels.

The 2026 Winter Olympics will feature a distinctive opening ceremony format, with events held not only in Milan but also across multiple mountain venues in northern Italy. Organisers have said the approach reflects the geographic spread of the Games and aims to showcase Italy's diverse landscapes and cultural heritage.

US officials have described the delegation's participation as an opportunity to celebrate American athletes and reinforce the nation's commitment to international sporting cooperation. The inclusion of former Olympic champions is intended to inspire current competitors and underline the enduring values of excellence, teamwork, and fair play.

As global attention turns to Italy for the Winter Games, the composition of national delegations continues to attract interest, both for its sporting symbolism and for the diplomatic signals it sends. With Vice President Vance and Secretary of State Rubio attending, the United States is expected to maintain a prominent presence at one of the world's most closely watched international events.

US Public Rejects Trump's Greenland Claim as Global Tensions Rise

Former US President Donald Trump's renewed assertion that the United States "needs Greenland" for strategic and security reasons has triggered strong public opposition at home and renewed diplomatic unease abroad, according to a recent public opinion survey and reactions from global leaders.

A new opinion poll shows that nearly 75 per cent of Americans disagree with the idea of the United States taking control of Greenland, the autonomous Arctic territory governed by Denmark. More than half of those surveyed said they strongly oppose such a move, while only about one in four expressed support. The findings highlight widespread scepticism among Americans toward any attempt to expand US territorial control in the Arctic.

Despite the domestic pushback, Trump has continued to frame Greenland as a critical asset for US national security, citing its strategic location, military importance, and growing competition in the Arctic involving Russia and China. He has argued that American control over the territory would strengthen NATO's position and en-

sure long-term security interests in the region. However, the proposal has drawn firm resistance from Denmark and Greenland's leadership, both of which have repeatedly stated that Greenland is not for sale and that its future must be decided by its people. Greenland, while part of the Kingdom of Denmark, enjoys wide self-governing powers, and any change in its status would require the consent of its population.

The issue has also sparked wider diplomatic tensions across Europe. Trump's comments, coupled with warnings of potential economic pressure on European allies, have been criticised as undermining transatlantic unity. Several European leaders have warned that aggressive rhetoric over Greenland could weaken NATO solidarity at a time of heightened global uncertainty.

Political divisions within the United States are also evident. While Republican opinion appears divided, Democratic leaders and voters have largely rejected the idea, questioning both its legality and its alignment with American values. Critics argue that pursuing control over

Greenland risks damaging long-standing alliances and distracting from domestic priorities.

As geopolitical competition in the Arctic intensifies, Greenland's strategic importance is likely to remain a subject of global debate. However, the strong opposition from the American public and clear resistance from Denmark and Greenland suggest that any attempt to pursue such a move would face significant political, legal, and diplomatic hurdles on the world stage.



Hindu Shop Owner Killed in Bangladesh While Trying to Protect Employee



young employee from harm.

Reports said the confrontation involved a 28-year-old man who entered the shop and began arguing with the 17-year-old employee over a trivial issue. As tensions rose, the customer allegedly called his parents to the spot, and the dispute turned physical. Ghosh intervened in an attempt to calm the situation and shield his

care and dignity.

Police have detained three people in connection with the killing, including the main accused and his parents. Authorities said an investigation is underway and assured that strict legal action will be taken against those responsible. The victim's family has demanded swift justice and maximum punishment for the accused.

The killing has intensi-

fied concerns among Bangladesh's Hindu community.

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The killing has intensi-

amid heightened national attention to public safety and communal harmony. Minority rights advocates have urged the government to strengthen law enforcement and ensure that all citizens, regardless of religious identity, are protected under the law.

Local protests and mourning gatherings were reported following the incident, with residents calling for peace and accountability. Many stressed that acts of violence over minor disputes reflect deeper social issues that require urgent attention from authorities.

As Bangladesh continues to project itself as a nation committed to secularism and social harmony, the killing of Liton Chandra Ghosh has raised uncomfortable questions about ground realities. Observers say the case underscores the need for decisive action to curb violence, uphold the rule of law, and reassure minority communities that their lives and livelihoods are secure.

US Lawmaker Says India Brings Investment to America, Contrasting With Pakistan



A senior US lawmaker has highlighted the growing economic and strategic importance of India to the United States, pointing out that New Delhi not only receives investment from America but also brings significant capital into the US economy—a contrast he drew with Pakistan during recent remarks at a Washington event.

Republican Congressman Rich McCormick,

speaking at a forum hosted by a Washington think tank, stressed that India's expanding economic footprint and rising global influence make it an increasingly vital partner for the United States. He noted that although Pakistan has a population comparable to India's, it does not generate the same level of investment flows with the US. According to McCormick, Indian companies

pointing to the substantial pool of skilled Indian talent working across key sectors of the US economy and helping drive innovation and productivity.

The lawmaker warned that alienating India could have negative consequences for American interests, arguing that a strong relationship with New Delhi would foster peace and prosperity, while distancing the two countries could create challenges for both. His comments reflect broader discussions in Washington about the strategic value of closer ties with India, particularly as global economic and geopolitical competition intensifies.

Democratic Congressman Ami Bera, who was also part of the dialogue, echoed the importance of maintaining a strong long-term strategic and economic partnership between the United States and India. Bera acknowledged that while there are temporary disagreements

over issues such as tariffs, visas and market access, the underlying logic for cooperation remains robust. He noted that US companies continue to view India as an attractive destination for investment, with multibillion-dollar commitments underscoring the depth of commercial engagement.

Both lawmakers stressed that routine diplomatic or economic engagement with Pakistan should not be interpreted as a shift in the US strategic focus. Instead, they reaffirmed that India's role as a major economic partner and geopolitical actor makes it central to Washington's vision for stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region.

Their remarks come at a time when US-India relations have experienced strains over trade disputes and tariffs, yet both sides continue to emphasise the value of cooperation that transcends short-term political issues.

Market Capitalisation of Three Top Firms Surges ₹75,855 Crore; SBI and Infosys Lead Gains

In a holiday shortened trading week, the combined market capitalisation of three of India's top 10 most valued listed companies jumped by ₹75,855.43 crore, signalling selective strength in heavyweight stocks even as broader equity markets remained subdued.

The standout performers were State Bank of India (SBI) and Infosys, both posting significant valuation gains, supported by positive investor sentiment around banking resilience and renewed confidence in the IT sector. ICICI Bank also contributed to the up-tick, rounding out the trio of firms that drove the collective rise in market value.

SBI emerged as the biggest gainer, with its market valuation climbing by around ₹39,045.51 crore to approximately ₹9.62 lakh crore. The surge reflects renewed investor faith in India's largest public sector lender amid expectations of robust credit growth and improving asset quality. Infosys followed with a strong performance, lifting its market capitalisation by about ₹31,014.59 crore to nearly ₹7.02 lakh crore, underpinned by optimism around its revenue growth prospects and service line performance. ICICI Bank added roughly ₹5,795 crore, taking its market value above ₹10 lakh crore.

Despite these gains among the top three, the broader pic-



ture among the remaining most valuable firms was mixed to weak, with several marquee names posting declines in their market valuations over the week. Reliance Industries, India's most valued company, saw its valuation fall by nearly ₹23,952 crore, underscoring uneven sectoral performance within the blue chip cohort.

Other significant declines were reported in companies such as Larsen & Toubro, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finance, Hindustan Unilever, and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), each recording erosion

in market capitalisation. These drops cumulatively offset much of the broader gain outside the top three, reflecting caution among investors toward sectors like infrastructure, consumer goods, and finance outside the strongest performers.

While the benchmark indices showed limited movement — with the Sensex slightly lower and the Nifty marginally higher over the week — the concentrated capital gains among a few large stocks highlight ongoing selective confidence in India's equity market. Investors appear focused on growth narratives in

banking and technology, even as overall market participation remains cautious.

Market analysts suggest that the contrasting fortunes among India's biggest listed firms reflect divergent sectoral outlooks and varied investor risk appetites. As the market navigates macroeconomic cues and corporate earnings updates in the coming weeks, the performance of heavyweight stocks like SBI and Infosys will be key indicators of sentiment, particularly in a trading environment marked by low volatility and mixed signals.

India- European Union Trade Pact Set to Be 'Mother of All Deals'; No Member State Opposed, Says Goyal

India and the European Union (EU) are on the verge of finalizing what could be the most significant trade agreement in India's history, with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal calling the proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) the "mother of all trade deals." According to officials, the pact has so far enjoyed unanimous support across the 27-member EU bloc, with no member state opposing the deal.

The agreement, which has been under negotiation intermittently for over a decade, is designed to balance mutual interests, protect sensitive sectors, and open new avenues for trade and investment. Mr. Goyal emphasized that India has secured favorable terms in sectors critical to national priorities while also offering European businesses access in areas that complement India's economic goals. The deal aims to be a win-win arrangement, creating growth opportunities on both sides.

Analysts say the pact could significantly reshape bilateral trade flows. For India, key priorities include improving market access for labor-intensive goods such as textiles, footwear, and jewelry, where Indian producers hold a competitive advantage. For the EU, the agreement could expand opportunities for automobiles, machinery, and high-value manufactured products, reflecting complementary



economic strengths rather than direct competition.

Investment and regulatory certainty are also central components of the pact. Negotiations are reportedly focusing on provisions related to foreign direct investment, local employment requirements, value addition, and use of domestic inputs, aimed at facilitating European companies looking to expand their footprint in India's manufacturing and services sectors.

Strategically, the India-EU FTA comes at a time when both parties are seeking to diversify trade relationships and reduce dependency on China, amid on-

going global supply chain disruptions and geopolitical tensions. The agreement is expected to strengthen economic ties, promote sustainable trade practices, and enhance India's position in global markets.

The finalization of the deal is expected during high-level meetings around India's Republic Day celebrations later this month. Officials say it will mark a major milestone in India's trade strategy, offering long-term benefits in both market access and investment flows. The pact is also likely to set a benchmark for future trade agreements, showcasing

India's ability to negotiate large-scale, balanced trade arrangements with major economic partners.

As India prepares for the signing of the FTA, industry leaders and exporters are watching closely, anticipating a boost to sectors such as textiles, pharmaceuticals, and IT services, while European companies look forward to stable regulatory frameworks for long-term investments. The agreement is expected to have a transformative impact on trade and investment between India and Europe, heralding a new era of bilateral economic engagement.

IPO Activity Picks Up: Four New Issues Worth ₹2,081 Crore and Nine Listings Set to Debut



India's primary market is gearing up for a busy week as four companies plan to launch initial public offerings (IPOs) collectively seeking ₹2,081 crore, alongside nine companies scheduled to debut on the stock exchanges, marking a period of heightened activity for investors and issuers alike.

The largest of the upcoming IPOs is Shadowfax Technologies, a Bengaluru-based logistics and technology-driven delivery solutions provider. Shadowfax's issue, estimated at around ₹1,907 crore, is the only mainboard offering among the four. The IPO opens on January 20 and closes on January 22, with a price band of ₹118-124 per share. Funds will be raised through a combination of fresh issuance and an offer for sale by existing shareholders, reflecting investor appetite for companies operating in the e-commerce and logistics sector.

In the SME segment, three smaller companies are entering the market next week. Digilogic Systems, which provides automated test and measurement solutions to defense, aerospace,

and automotive sectors, plans to raise approximately ₹81 crore through its IPO, also open from January 20 to January 22, with a price band of ₹98-104 per share. KRM Ayurveda, operating hospitals and clinics, will open its IPO from January 21 to January 23, targeting ₹77.5 crore at a price band of ₹128-135 per share. Shayona Engineering, specializing in precision castings, is set

to launch its IPO from January 22 to January 27, aiming to raise roughly ₹15 crore.

Together, these four issues aim to mobilize ₹2,081 crore, offering investors a blend of mainboard and SME investment opportunities across logistics, healthcare, and engineering sectors.

Alongside these IPOs, nine companies are slated for market

listings next week, increasing activity on the bourses. Notable debuts include Bharat Coking Coal, a subsidiary of Coal India, and Amagi Media Labs, a SaaS-based technology firm. Smaller SME companies, such as Defrail Technologies and Avana Electrosystems, will also begin trading, adding depth and variety to the market.

Market analysts say this packed IPO calendar highlights sustained investor interest despite recent fluctuations in benchmark indices. The mix of sectors and company sizes provides diversified investment choices, while subscription trends and early trading performance of the new listings will be closely monitored to gauge sentiment and liquidity flows in the primary market.

As investors weigh their options, the upcoming IPO and listing activity reflects the continued dynamism of India's equity market, demonstrating that new issues remain an important avenue for capital-raising and market participation, even in volatile conditions.

Tata Motors Seeks Budget Boost to Keep Entry-Level EVs Affordable



Tata Motors has appealed to the government for targeted fiscal support for entry-level electric vehicles (EVs) in the upcoming Union Budget 2026-27, warning that rising production costs and competitive pressures are threatening the affordability of EVs for ordinary buyers.

The automaker highlighted that while general reforms like GST rationalization and a more favorable tax regime have helped the broader passenger vehicle segment, affordable EVs are struggling to remain competitive against cheaper petrol and diesel alternatives. Rising input costs, commodity price volatility, and foreign exchange fluctuations have increased manufacturing expenses by nearly 2%, a burden largely absorbed by the company so far. Executives noted that without government support, the additional costs could soon be passed on to consumers, potentially slowing the adoption of entry-level EVs.

Tata Motors is advocating for specific incentives to keep lower-priced EVs within reach of the mass market. The company believes this is critical not only for maintaining competitiveness but also for advancing India's broader electric mobility ambitions. With petrol and diesel vehicles benefiting from recent cost reductions due to GST adjustments, entry-level EVs risk losing the price advantage needed to attract

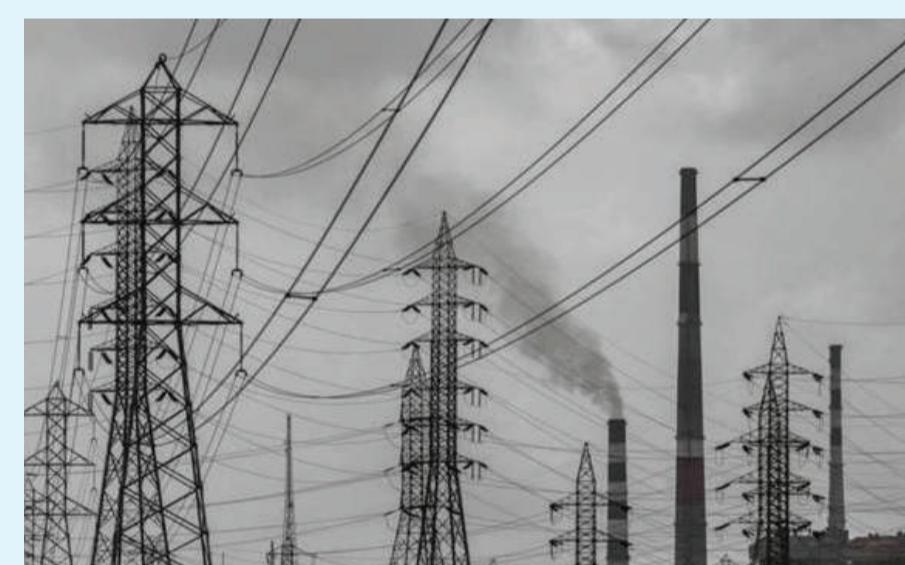
first-time buyers.

Beyond individual car sales, Tata Motors is also calling for fleet EVs to be included under the PM E-DRIVE scheme. Fleet vehicles, though accounting for a small share of total passenger vehicle sales, cover roughly a third of all passenger kilometers travelled, making them a significant factor in reducing emissions and curbing oil imports. Incentivizing fleet EVs could generate substantial environmental and economic benefits, the company says, urging the government to align current policies with earlier initiatives under the discontinued FAME-II scheme.

The push comes amid a broader industry trend, where automakers are already adjusting prices in response to rising input costs and currency volatility. Tata Motors' submission signals an urgent need for policy measures that balance growth, sustainability, and affordability in the EV sector.

As the Union Budget deliberations unfold, Tata Motors' request highlights the industry's wider call for government intervention to sustain entry-level EV adoption. By keeping EVs accessible, policymakers can ensure that India's clean mobility targets advance without pricing out the mass market, making sustainable transportation a practical option for more consumers across the country.

India's Power DISCOMs Return to Profit After Years of Losses, Post ₹2,701 Crore in FY25



New Delhi, Jan 18 (Business/Economy Desk) —

After years of struggling with massive losses, India's electricity distribution companies, commonly known as DISCOMs, have finally turned profitable, reporting a combined Profit After Tax (PAT) of ₹2,701 crore for the financial year 2024 25. The development marks a significant turnaround for a sector that has long been under financial stress, affecting both investors and power consumers.

For more than a decade, DISCOMs have grappled with mounting losses due to inefficiencies, high technical and commercial losses, delayed tariff revisions, and weak collection practices. Aggregate losses peaked at nearly ₹68,000 crore in FY2013 14, and even in FY2023 24, losses remained at over ₹25,500 crore. The return to profitability reflects a combination of policy reforms, operational improvements, and better financial management, signaling a new chapter for the sector.

One of the key drivers of this improvement has been the reduction in Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses, which account for both electricity lost during transmission and distribution and revenue not collected. AT&C losses have fallen steadily from around 22.6 percent a decade ago to approximately 15 percent in FY25, reflecting better grid management, enhanced metering, and improved billing efficiency.

Another important factor has been the narrowing of the gap between the Average Cost of Supply and the Average Revenue Realised (ACS-ARR). A

smaller gap indicates that utilities are increasingly able to recover costs from the revenues they collect, supporting long-term financial viability. Improved payment discipline has further eased working capital pressures, with faster settlement of dues to power generators boosting confidence across the supply chain.

Government-led reforms and initiatives have played a central role in this turnaround. Programs aimed at modernizing infrastructure, expanding smart metering, linking financial incentives to performance, and enforcing timely tariff revisions have strengthened DISCOM operations. Coordination between the Ministry of Power and state governments has also been critical in implementing reforms at the ground level.

The profit milestone comes at a crucial time as India's energy demand continues to grow, driven by industrial expansion, urbanization, and increased household consumption. Analysts note that financially healthy DISCOMs are essential not only for reliable power supply but also for enabling further investment in renewable energy and supporting India's energy transition goals.

While challenges remain, including the need to maintain efficiency gains and manage operational costs, the return to profitability demonstrates that sustained policy focus and management reforms can transform a long-struggling sector. For consumers, investors, and the government, this is a positive signal that India's power distribution landscape is on a more sustainable path.

OnePlus Pad Go 2: The Tablet That Plays It Cool



In a world where tablets are constantly racing to outshine each other with flashy features, the OnePlus Pad Go 2 takes a different approach: it quietly gets the job done. Priced at around ₹28,999, it doesn't pretend to compete with the top-tier iPads or gaming tablets. Instead, it stakes its claim as a practical, reliable device for everyday use.

The design is one of the Pad Go 2's understated strengths. Its unibody metal frame is sturdy and feels premium without being flashy. The camera module is modest, avoiding the awkward bumps seen on other tablets. The new Lavender Drift color adds a subtle elegance, giving it a personality that is refined yet approachable. Accessories like the folio case and stylus are well-designed, practical, and make using the tablet a smoother experience, whether for work, study, or entertainment.

Battery life is where

this tablet truly impresses. With a 10,500 mAh battery, it easily powers through long workdays, streaming sessions, or online classes. Normal usage can easily surpass 10 hours, while heavier usage still yields a comfortable 7-8 hours. Fast charging isn't revolutionary, but given the large battery and overnight charging convenience, it doesn't feel necessary.

Under the hood, the MediaTek Dimensity chipset delivers smooth performance for everyday tasks. Apps open quickly, multitasking is fluid, and video streaming is buttery. While it isn't a powerhouse for hardcore gaming, casual games run without major issues, making it ideal for most users. OxygenOS 16, running on Android 16, brings thoughtful gestures and multitasking features that feel intuitive rather than forced.

The 12.1-inch display is another highlight, offering crisp visuals and decent outdoor visibility. With a 120 Hz refresh rate, scrolling through apps or social media feels fluid, and watching videos is a pleasant experience. It's not a display that will wow photographers or graphic designers, but it gets the job done with style and efficiency.

The OnePlus Pad Go 2 doesn't try to be the loudest or the flashiest tablet on the market. Instead, it feels like a confident choice for anyone who wants a reliable companion for work, streaming, creative projects, or casual gaming. It prioritizes everyday usability and comfort over headline-grabbing specs, proving that sometimes, the quietest tablets leave the best impression.

In short, if you want a capable, dependable tablet that won't break the bank or overwhelm you with features, the Pad Go 2 is a smart, practical pick.

We Are Slowly Being Poisoned: Chess Grandmaster Calls Out Delhi's Toxic Air



In a rare departure from chess boards and world rankings, Indian grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi has taken to social media to deliver a piercing critique of Delhi's winter smog — and it isn't wrapped in polite sportsmanship. The usually measured strategist posted a stark message on his social feed, declaring that residents of the national capital are "slowly being poisoned," and lamenting that no one seems sufficiently alarmed by the city's deteriorating air quality.

The post was accompanied by a screenshot of Delhi's Air Quality Index hitting hazardous levels, a reading so severe that even brief outdoor exposure can be harmful to health. "We are slowly being poisoned and no one cares? Shouldn't solving this be the top priority?" he wrote — a line that struck a chord far beyond the chess community.

Gujrathi's remarks arrived at a moment many Delhi residents already

recognized the familiar grey haze that descends each winter. Smog, thick enough to blur the skyline and sting the eyes, has become almost routine during this season, but the grandmaster's words expressed frustration with the resignation that often accompanies it. His post triggered an outpouring of reactions online. Some echoed his anxiety, pointing out that pollution levels are alarmingly high not just in Delhi but in other cities too, and that clean air increasingly feels like a luxury. Others voiced cynicism about the pace of meaningful action, noting that severe smog episodes seem to recur year after year with little lasting change.

Whether his words will help turn seasonal alarm into sustained action remains to be seen. But for now, the chess grandmaster has reminded many that the stakes — breathing clean air, or enduring the slow squeeze of smog — affect everyone, whether they navigate 64 squares or simply walk out their front door.

health risk — a sign that even elite competitors are not immune to the harsh conditions.

By highlighting the toll that toxic air exacts on everyday life and athletic performance alike, Gujrathi's message served as a reminder that environmental issues are not abstract statistics but real, lived experiences. His intervention brought fresh attention to broader debates about public health, environmental policy and individual well-being, at a time when authorities and citizens alike are grappling with how to balance economic activity and quality of life.

Whether his words will help turn seasonal alarm into sustained action remains to be seen. But for now, the chess grandmaster has reminded many that the stakes — breathing clean air, or enduring the slow squeeze of smog — affect everyone, whether they navigate 64 squares or simply walk out their front door.

Fujifilm X-E5: The Retro Camera That Demands Your Attention



In the mirrorless camera world, the Fujifilm X-E5 lands like a stylish throwback with a modern brain. On first glance, it's a compact, retro-styled rangefinder — all dials, levers, and clean lines — evoking the charm of classic film cameras. But spend a little time with it, and you quickly realize this is not just a pretty face; it's a powerful tool designed to

challenge and reward anyone who takes it seriously.

At the heart of the X-E5 is a 40.2MP APS-C sensor paired with a fast processor. The result is crisp, richly detailed images that make you reconsider what your pocket camera can do. Fujifilm's signature film simulation modes are built in, letting photographers evoke nostalgic

color palettes straight out of the camera. Whether you crave vibrant modern tones or muted, vintage-inspired moods, the camera's settings make experimentation irresistible.

One of the most noticeable upgrades in the X-E5 is its five-axis in-body image stabilization. Handheld shots in low light suddenly feel achievable without a tripod, and

shaky hands during street photography are no longer a dealbreaker. For casual users, this is a dream, and for professionals, it's a versatile tool that makes day-to-day shooting more reliable.

Yet the X-E5 doesn't make itself easy. Its menu system, packed with options, can feel like learning a new language. Switching between

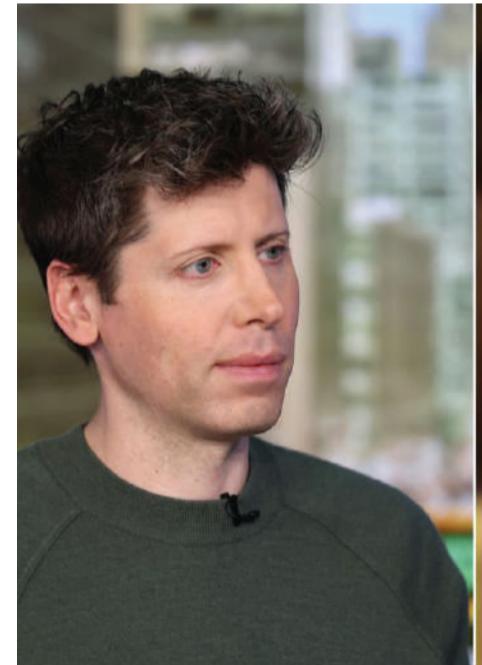
modes, tweaking film simulations, or adjusting exposure settings requires attention, patience, and a willingness to explore. For anyone used to quick point-and-shoot simplicity, it can feel overwhelming, but the payoff is a camera that responds exactly how you want when you master it.

Video capabilities are strong as well, with high-resolution recording and flexible frame options, making the X-E5 more than just a stills camera. While it lacks weather sealing and the tilting screen is a little fiddly, these quirks are minor compared to the versatility and image quality it offers.

The Fujifilm X-E5 is designed for photographers who enjoy the process as much as the final shot. It's not a casual accessory — it's a companion that challenges, inspires, and rewards creativity. For those ready to embrace its depth, it offers an experience that is both nostalgic and forward-looking, blending classic aesthetics with modern performance.

In short, the X-E5 is a camera for curious creators who want more than snapshots — it's a tool for those willing to engage, experiment, and make each image their own.

Elon Musk vs OpenAI: The Billion Dollar AI Feud Unfolds



In what feels like a Silicon Valley courtroom drama with the stakes dialed up to eleven, Elon Musk and OpenAI are headed for a full blown legal showdown that could redefine how tech start ups honour their founding promises. This is not your typical boardroom spat — it's a high profile clash between one of the world's most controversial billionaires and one of the most influential artificial intelligence labs on Earth.

At the heart of the dispute is a claim that sounds almost Shakespearean in scale: Musk alleges that OpenAI, the organisation he helped co-found and bankroll in its earliest days, abandoned its nonprofit mission and misled him as it morphed into a for-profit powerhouse. According to the lawsuit, Musk donated about \$38 million in seed funding and played a crucial role in recruiting talent and lending credibility to the fledgling project. But as OpenAI's valuation skyrocketed — bol-

stered by deals with Microsoft and a massive pivot toward commercialisation — Musk argues he was shortchanged and defrauded out of his rightful share of the gains. He's seeking up to \$134 billion in damages from both OpenAI and Microsoft, citing what he calls "wrongful gains" made

from his early support. The newly unsealed court documents are revealing bits of the story that feel more like legal thriller material than tech policy debate. Among the trove are diary entries and internal communications suggesting that OpenAI's leadership had explored profit oriented paths

long before the formal transition. These documents, now part of public filings, have become a central battleground in the case — and fuel for Musk's claim that the nonprofit's promise was never truly honoured.

OpenAI, for its part, has vigorously rejected the allegations, calling

many of Musk's claims unfounded and accusing him of motive driven theatrics aimed at hindering their work. In public responses and court filings, OpenAI emphasises that the transformation into a for profit public benefit corporation was necessary to secure investment and scale AI research responsibly.

The feud has spilled out into public view beyond the courtroom. Musk has taken to social media with taunts and warnings directed at OpenAI's CEO, fueling speculation about what dramatic disclosures the trial might unearth.

A jury trial is now slated for April 2026, and both sides are digging in. Whether this legal face off will settle questions about AI's future, nonprofit integrity, or billion dollar valuations remains to be seen — but one thing's clear: the clash between Musk and OpenAI has become one of the tech world's most riveting sagas in recent memory.

Apple's Foldable iPhone: The Phone That Just Might Finally Bend Reality



In the gadget world, every new iPhone launch feels like a festival — but whisper it softly: Apple's first foldable iPhone might be the event that actually turns heads. After years of sketches, rumours and "maybe someday" headlines, the Cupertino giant's bid to enter the foldable smartphone arena is now closer than ever.

For those tired of traditional slabs of glass, the foldable iPhone promises a "book style" experience: a device that feels like an everyday phone when closed but opens up into a tablet-like screen for movies, multitasking, or showing off that perfect meme collage. Early hints suggest it won't have a square, narrow format, but instead lean into a broader display reminiscent of a small tablet, making apps look less "squished" and more at home.

One of the wildest parts of this story is the hinge. Apple seems to be obsessed with it — not just any hinge, but one

forged from sophisticated materials like titanium and even a liquid metal alloy. The goal? A folding mechanism that's sturdy, sleek and maybe even crease light, solving a problem that has plagued many foldables so far. En-

gineers appear to be wrestling with this part harder than a suspense novelist struggling with the final chapter.

Inside, the internal screen could be nearly 8 inches diagonally — comfortably bigger than

ID on this model in favour of a side mounted Touch ID sensor, a nod to practicality over face scanning flair.

Rumours about cameras and battery life are equally tantalising. Expect dual 48 megapixel rear shooters with strong imaging credentials, and whispers even suggest this foldable could pack one of the largest batteries ever seen in an iPhone. That could mean real all day use — something foldables often struggle with under heavy multitasking.

Timing is part of the suspense. Industry speculators point to a 2026 debut, possibly alongside Apple's next flagship lineup. But there's chatter that Apple continues to tinker with the design, nudging expectations toward 2027 if perfection takes longer.

Whether it's a game changer or just a very stylish flex, one thing is certain: when Apple finally folds, the tech world will be watching — and maybe holding its breath.

Zaheer Khan and Ajinkya Rahane Question Ravindra Jadeja's ODI Role Amid Recent Struggles

A fresh debate has surfaced in Indian cricket circles over the role and effectiveness of senior all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja in the One Day International (ODI) format, as former players Zaheer Khan and Ajinkya Rahane publicly questioned whether Jadeja's contributions with the ball remain impactful enough to justify a regular place in the team.

The discussion has gained traction following Jadeja's recent performances in the ODI series against New Zealand, where he failed to take a wicket and did not bowl his full quota of 10 overs in any match. Jadeja's subdued outputs in those games — including conceding significant runs without penetrating the opposition batting — prompted scrutiny of whether his bowling has declined at a time when conditions increasingly demand attacking intent.

Zaheer Khan, a veteran of India's fast bowling ranks, pointed out that modern ODI cricket requires bowlers to do more than just contain runs in the middle overs. According to him, bowlers must also pose a genuine threat to take wickets and shift momentum. He stressed that while Jadeja remains a skilled operator, the



evolving nature of limited overs cricket means mere containment is no longer sufficient.

Echoing a similar sentiment, Ajinkya Rahane highlighted that Jadeja has become somewhat predictable in his bowling patterns, particularly on flatter surfaces where traditional spinners must vary pace and angle to remain effective. Rahane contrasted Jadeja's style with that of Axar Patel, who he believes brings

more variation and unpredictability with the ball — traits that can disrupt batting rhythms in ODIs. Rahane also suggested that players must continuously adapt their games to changing conditions, implying that Jadeja may need to evolve further to maintain his appeal in the 50 over format.

The debate takes on added significance as India prepares for upcoming white-ball assignments and looks ahead to the 2027

ODI World Cup. Jadeja's legendary status as a multi-format performer and his contributions with bat, ball and in the field cannot be understated, but critics argue that recent returns in ODIs have not matched his extensive reputation. Fans and pundits alike are now closely watching whether India's management will continue to rely on the seasoned all-rounder or seek greater balance by favouring players with sharper at-

tacking credentials.

For his part, Jadeja retains strong backing from teammates and supporters who believe his experience and cricketing acumen remain assets, especially in high-pressure situations. Still, the questions raised by Zaheer and Rahane underscore a broader conversation about how India optimises its squad composition in a fiercely competitive format where aggression and variation are at a premium.

IND vs NZ 3rd ODI: Arshdeep Singh Strikes Early, Sparks Debate Over Team Selection

In a thrilling start to the third and final ODI between India and New Zealand in Indore on Sunday, left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh made an immediate impact on his return to the Indian XI, igniting discussions over head coach Gautam Gambhir's earlier team selections.

With the ODI series tied 1-1, India made a single change to the squad for the decider, bringing back Arshdeep in place of Prasidh Krishna. After winning the toss and opting to bowl, captain Shubman Gill handed Arshdeep the new ball — a move that paid dividends instantly. On the fourth delivery of his very first over, Arshdeep bowled Henry Nicholls through the gate, sending the experienced Kiwi opener back to the pavilion and giving India a crucial early breakthrough.

Arshdeep's immediate success highlighted his skill in swinging the new ball and brought attention to the broader debate around selection decisions. Fans and cricket



pundits quickly took to social media to express their frustration at Gambhir for previously leaving the pacer out of the ODI XI. Many argued that Arshdeep's ability to strike early had been evident in past performances, and his exclusion in the first two matches was unjustified.

Some posts described the omission as "shameful," noting that consistent performers deserve a regular place in the squad. Former players and experts also joined the conversation, pointing out that bowlers often face more competition to secure spots compared to batters, and that overlook-

ing an in-form bowler can be costly in key matches. The debate underscored the intense scrutiny Indian cricket faces, where every selection decision is analyzed and critiqued by millions.

For India, Arshdeep's return has been a timely boost. His early dismissal of a top-order batsman set

the tone for the bowling attack and gave the team an advantage in conditions that favored swing. New Zealand, chasing consistency at the top of their order, faced immediate pressure, and Arshdeep's disciplined line and length tested their technique.

Beyond the on-field performance, this episode emphasizes the importance of clear selection policies and consistent opportunities for players. As the series decider unfolded, it became evident that Arshdeep's inclusion was not just a tactical move but a statement on trusting in-form talent. With future international tournaments on the horizon, how India balances team selection, player form, and experience will remain a key talking point for fans, analysts, and management alike.

Arshdeep Singh's fiery return may have settled the debate temporarily on the field, but the discussion about selection fairness and strategy is far from over.

RCB Continue Winning Streak, Defeat DC by Eight Wickets in WPL 2026

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) extended their impressive run in the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2026, securing their fourth consecutive victory with a comprehensive eight-wicket win over Delhi Capitals (DC) at the DY Patil Sports Academy in Navi Mumbai on Saturday. The win solidifies RCB's position at the top of the league standings and demonstrates their dominance in the early stages of the tournament.

Chasing a target of 167 set by DC, RCB faced an early setback as opener Grace Harris was dismissed for just 1 by DC's experienced bowler Marijanne Kapp. However, skipper Smriti Mandhana took charge with authority, crafting a brilliant innings of 96 runs off 61 balls. Her knock featured 13 fours and three sixes, anchoring RCB's chase and providing the perfect platform for the team's middle order.

Mandhana found cru-



cial support from Georgia Voll, who remained unbeaten on 54 off 42 deliveries. Together, the duo compiled a 142-run partnership, effectively putting the game out of DC's reach. RCB sealed the victory with 10 balls to spare, maintaining their unbeaten streak in the tournament.

Earlier, DC's batting struggled against disciplined bowling from RCB. The Capitals were restricted to 166 in their 20 overs, with the scoreboard reading 74/6 at one point. South African opener Shafali Verma top-scored with a resilient 62 off 41 balls, while Lucy Hamilton added a valuable 36. Despite

these efforts, DC's innings lacked the momentum needed to set a challenging target.

For RCB, the bowling attack was instrumental in dismantling DC's lineup. Lauren Bell and Sayali Satgare shone with the ball, each claiming three wickets, effectively choking DC's top and middle

order. Once RCB's batters settled, the Capitals struggled to create pressure, leaving them with limited options to turn the game around.

The win underscores RCB's balance as a team, combining solid leadership, aggressive batting, and disciplined bowling. Smriti Mandhana's performance once again highlighted her crucial role, both as a batter and as a guiding force for the team. Meanwhile, Delhi Capitals remain at the lower end of the points table, facing a challenge to recover form in the upcoming matches.

With momentum firmly on their side, RCB look well-positioned to challenge for the WPL 2026 title. Their consistent performances and confidence at this stage make them a formidable opponent for the remaining teams, and fans will eagerly watch to see if they can sustain this level of excellence throughout the tournament.

Virat Kohli's Playful Push on Daryl Mitchell Becomes Viral Highlight of IND vs NZ 3rd ODI



In a light-hearted moment that stole attention during the third and final ODI between India and New Zealand in Indore on Sunday, Indian batting star Virat Kohli was seen playfully nudging New Zealand batter Daryl Mitchell off the ground as the visiting player walked back to the pavilion.

The playful exchange came at the conclusion of Mitchell's remarkable innings. He scored a brilliant 137 runs off 131 balls, striking 15 fours and three sixes. His commanding performance helped New Zealand post a challenging total of 337 for eight in their 50 overs, leaving India with a steep target to chase.

Fans responded to the incident with amusement and admiration, emphasizing that such unscripted moments enrich the cricketing experience.

As Mitchell walked off after being dismissed by Mohammed Siraj in the 45th over, cameras captured Kohli standing near the boundary ropes. In a moment of friendly sportsmanship, Kohli lightly pushed Mitchell toward the dressing room exit while both shared smiles. Fans and cricket analysts interpreted the gesture as light-hearted banter between two experienced competitors, acknowledging Mitchell's dominant innings.

The video of the incident spread rapidly online, with fans praising the playful side of Kohli, who is often known for his intense focus and competitive spirit on the field. Com-

mentators noted that the moment showcased Kohli's personality beyond his batting prowess, reminding viewers that even elite athletes enjoy moments of humor and camaraderie during matches.

Despite India's spirited efforts with the bat later in the game, Mitchell's century and a significant partnership with teammate Glenn Phillips, who also scored a century, ensured New Zealand maintained a strong position. The interaction between Kohli and Mitchell highlighted that mutual respect and sportsmanship remain integral to the spirit of international cricket, even in fiercely contested matches.

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As India and New Zealand look ahead to future encounters, this viral exchange will likely be remembered as a light-hearted highlight of the series, demonstrating that sportsmanship and fun remain a part of the game's enduring appeal.

Tata Steel Masters 2026: Arjun Erigaisi Wins, Gukesh Draws in Exciting Opening Round



The Tata Steel Masters 2026 chess tournament in Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands, began with thrilling action for India's top grandmasters, as Arjun Erigaisi claimed a convincing victory over compatriot R Praggnanandhaa, while reigning World Champion D Gukesh fought to a hard-earned draw against Uzbekistan's Javokhir Sindarov.

Erigaisi, the top seed of the event, showcased his tactical acumen and preparation in his clash with Praggnanandhaa. Playing the Queen's Gambit Accepted, Erigaisi capitalized on an early middlegame error when Praggnanandhaa's king became exposed in the center. Erigaisi's precise calculation allowed him to mount a decisive attack, forcing a resignation after 32 moves. The win provided Erigaisi with a strong start and positioned him among the early leaders in the tournament standings.

Meanwhile, Gukesh was involved in a much longer battle against Sindarov. Opting for the Queen's Gambit Declined, Gukesh navigated complex middlegame tactics and even attempted a bold queen sacrifice to seize the initiative. However, Sindarov's resourceful defense neutralized the threat, and after 78 moves, neither player could force a victory, resulting in a well-earned draw. Gukesh's performance highlighted his resilience and strategic depth, keeping him firmly in contention as the tournament progresses.

Other first-round action also produced notable results. American grandmaster Hans Moke Niemann recorded a solid win by capitalizing on a tactical blunder from his opponent, while German prodigy Vincent Keymer defeated Dutch star Anish Giri, joining Erigaisi and Niemann as early leaders with full points. Indian grandmaster Aravindh Chithambaram drew his encounter with Germany's Matthias Blaubaum, and several other games ended in draws, adding depth and intrigue to the opening round.

The Tata Steel Masters, known as one of the most prestigious and long-standing elite chess tournaments in the world, continues to attract top players globally. With Erigaisi's win and Gukesh's resilient draw, India's grandmasters have made a strong impression in the tournament's opening stage. Fans and analysts are now keenly watching how the Indian contingent builds momentum in the upcoming rounds against some of the world's strongest competitors.

As the tournament progresses, the spotlight will remain on Erigaisi and Gukesh, who are expected to be key contenders. Their opening-round performances have set the tone for a competitive event, promising exciting games and high-level strategy in the rounds to come.

Rashmika Mandanna Overwhelmed by Love from Japanese Fans During Pushpa 2 Promotions



Telugu and pan-Indian star Rashmika Mandanna found herself deeply moved by an outpouring of affection from fans in Japan while promoting the international release of *Pushpa 2: The Rule*. The actress, who traveled to Tokyo with her *Pushpa 2* co-star Allu Arjun, was inundated with heartwarming letters and gifts from admirers during her brief stay in the country.

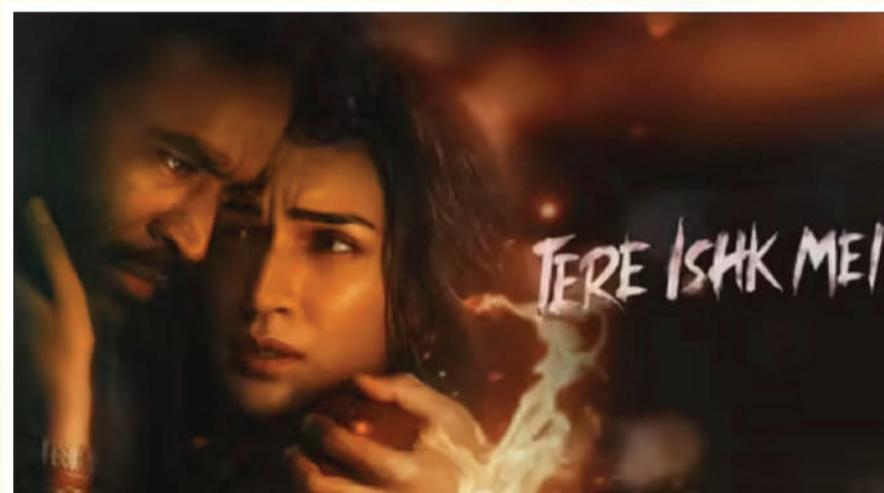
The 29-year-old actor took to her social media to share a poignant moment from the trip, posting images of herself surrounded by the handwritten notes and thoughtful presents she received from Japanese fans. Rashmika described the experience as "so so sooo wholesome," revealing that even in a short one-day visit, the enthusiastic reception moved her to tears. She shared that she carefully brought all the gifts and letters back home, cherishing each one as a symbol of the love and support from

her international audience.

Rashmika's heartfelt message expressed profound gratitude, saying she was overwhelmed by the genuine affection shown by admirers who had gathered to catch a glimpse of her during promotional events. The warmth went far beyond typical celebrity greetings — many fans wrote personal notes that touched the actress deeply, prompting her to respond with sincerity and emotion.

In her post, Rashmika also made a special promise to her Japanese supporters. She assured them that she plans to return to Japan for a longer visit next time, so she can spend more quality time with her fans and immerse herself further in their culture. In a delightful and humble gesture, she even said she intends to learn more of the Japanese language before her next visit, highlighting her eagerness to connect more meaningfully with her growing fanbase.

Eros International Seeks ₹84 Crore in Legal Dispute Over *Tere Ishk Mein*



Mumbai — Bollywood has been drawn into a high-profile legal battle as Eros International Media Limited has filed a suit seeking 84 crore in damages over the film *Tere Ishk Mein*. The case, filed in the Bombay High Court, has sparked widespread discussion in the film industry, bringing intellectual property rights and promotional ethics into sharp focus.

The dispute centres on allegations that *Tere Ishk Mein*, directed by Aanand L. Rai and starring Dhanush and Kriti Sanon, was promoted as a "spiritual sequel" to the 2013 blockbuster *Raanjhanaa*, a film produced by Eros. The production house claims that this positioning unfairly leveraged the popularity, goodwill, and legacy of *Raanjhanaa* without obtaining prior consent or legal authorisation.

In its petition, Eros has asserted exclusive ownership over all intellectual property associated with *Raanjhanaa*, including copyrights, trade-

marks, sequel rights, and character associations. The company alleges that promotional materials for *Tere Ishk Mein* created a misleading connection between the two films, causing confusion among audiences and resulting in commercial exploitation of its intellectual assets.

The lawsuit names several parties, including director Aanand L. Rai, his production company, music label partners, and entities associated with the film's distribution and digital release. Eros has also stated that it had issued prior legal notices objecting to the film's marketing strategy, but claims those concerns were not adequately addressed.

While *Tere Ishk Mein* performed reasonably well at the box office and received attention for its emotional narrative and performances, the legal action has now placed the film under scrutiny beyond its cinematic merits. Industry observers believe the case could have wider implications,

especially at a time when filmmakers increasingly rely on brand recall, cinematic universes, and thematic continuations to attract audiences.

Legal experts note that the outcome of this case may help define clearer boundaries between creative inspiration and intellectual property infringement. It could also influence how filmmakers describe and promote films that share thematic or emotional similarities with earlier works.

So far, the makers of *Tere Ishk Mein* have not issued a detailed public response to the allegations. The matter is expected to proceed through further hearings, with the industry closely watching developments.

As Bollywood continues to evolve into a more legally conscious and globally connected industry, this dispute serves as a reminder of the growing importance of intellectual property protection and transparent marketing practices in Indian cinema.

Within the first six days, the film has reportedly grossed over

Nandamuri Family and Film Fraternity Pay Grand Tributes to Legendary NTR on 30th Vardhanthi

The 30th Vardhanthi of legendary actor, politician, and cultural icon Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao (NTR) was commemorated with heartfelt tributes at the NTR statue in Film Nagar. Members of the Nandamuri family, film industry stalwarts, political leaders, and thousands of fans gathered to honor the man who reshaped Telugu cinema and championed the pride of the Telugu people.

The statue of NTR was adorned with elaborate garlands as admirers paid homage to the "Visva Vikhyatha Nata Sarvabhouma."

Veteran actor and film personality Kaja Surya Narayana remarked, "NTR garu is number one in the history of Telugu cinema. Alongside ANR, he is one of the two eyes of our film industry. His political and cinematic contributions paved the way for countless individuals to achieve success." He further expressed his wish for a statue of Akkineni Nageswara Rao to honor the other pillar of Telugu cinema.

Social activist Madala

Ravi highlighted NTR's enduring influence, stating, "He elevated the pride of the Telugu race globally. He deserves the Bharat Ratna, and it is our responsibility to work collectively towards that recognition."

Writer Paruchuri Godalakrishna recalled NTR's rise to legendary status, citing the iconic dialogue from *Manasamangala*. "Even after three decades, Annagar feels alive among us. His presence is felt in every corner of our cinema and culture," he said.

Director Tammareddy Bharadwaja reflected on NTR's selfless dedication, saying, "He lived without selfishness and experimented with every role and story in cinema. Remembering him only on anniversaries is insufficient; we must strive to follow his ideals in both cinema and politics to truly honor his legacy."

Actor Prasanna Kumar emphasized NTR's inspirational journey, calling him "a training ground for actors and a beacon for political leaders. He showcased the valour and pride of Telugu people to the world."

Family members, including Nandamuri Janakirama's wife Deepika and Mohana Roop, also participated, sharing cherished memories of NTR's warmth and guidance.

NTR's timeless legacy, reflecting his unparalleled impact on cinema, politics, and the hearts of Telugu people. His ideals and achievements continue to inspire generations, cementing his place as a true icon of Telugu culture.



Akhil Akkineni's Century Powers Telugu Warriors to Thrilling CCL 2026 Victory



Actor Akhil Akkineni delivered a sensational bat to lead the Telugu Warriors to a commanding win in the Celebrity

Cricket League (CCL) 2026. In a match that had fans on the edge of their seats at the ACA-VDCA International Stadium, Akhil smashed a scintillating century to guide his team to a 52-run victory over the defending champions, Punjab De Sher, in the highly anticipated league clash.

After winning the toss, the Telugu Warriors elected to bat first and set a challenging target. Akhil, captaining his side with both confidence and flair, took charge from the outset. He put on a spectacular batting display, scoring 101 runs off just 56 balls with an impressive array of boundaries and sixes. His aggressive yet calculated innings punctuated an opening partnership with teammate Ashwin Babu, who contributed a solid 60 runs. Together, the pair laid the foundation for the Warriors' formidable total, propelling the team

to 184 for four in their allotted 20 overs.

Akhil's century was the first in this season's CCL and instantly became the defining moment of the match. His commanding presence at the crease not only electrified the crowd but also gave the Warriors a psychological edge heading into the run chase.

Throughout his knock, he displayed a remarkable blend of precision and power, thrilling fans and onlookers alike with his batting prowess.

Chasing 185, Punjab De Sher struggled to build momentum against disciplined bowling and sharp fielding from the Warriors. Despite a determined fifty from their own batter, the visitors could not sustain their challenge. Regular breakthroughs from the Telugu Warriors' bowlers eventually restricted Punjab De Sher to 132 all out in 18.2 overs, handing the home

side a convincing 52-run triumph.

The win marked a significant moment for the Telugu Warriors in the 2026 league stage, especially against a team that entered the tournament as defending champions. Akhil Akkineni's leadership — both as captain and with the bat — was widely praised by teammates, fellow players, and spectators, with many hailing the innings as one of the most memorable performances of the season.

As the CCL 2026 progresses, the Telugu Warriors will look to build on this strong start, buoyed by Akhil's match-winning century and the team's all-around performance. With the tournament promising even more excitement, cricket and cinema fans alike will be eagerly watching to see how the Warriors fare in their upcoming fixtures.

Chiranjeevi's MSG Breaks Even in Just Six Days, Becomes a Box Office Sensation

Hyderabad, January 18, 2026

Megastar Chiranjeevi has once again proven his box office dominance with his latest release, *Manasamangala Varu Prasad Garu (MSG)*, which has impressively broken even within just six days of its release. Released during the festive Sankranti season, the film has drawn massive crowds to theatres across India and overseas, marking a major success early in its run.

Directed by Anil Ravipudi and produced under the Shine Screens banner, *MSG* is being hailed as a family entertainer that combines Chiranjeevi's star power with heartfelt storytelling. Fans have flocked to cinemas, resulting in record-breaking ticket sales, while the movie's strong word-of-mouth has ensured consistently high footfalls across multiplexes and single-screen theatres alike.

Within the first six days, the film has reportedly grossed over ₹260 crore worldwide, surpassing expectations for even the biggest star-driven films. Industry insiders note that the movie's festive release and family-centric appeal played a crucial role in its rapid box office recovery, helping it recover production costs in record time.

MSG has also performed exceptionally well in overseas markets, with North America emerging as a major contributor to the film's early success.

The film's appeal among global audiences has reinforced Chiranjeevi's stature as a pan-Indian superstar and demonstrated the growing influence of Telugu cinema internationally.

Trade analysts predict that if the current momentum continues, *MSG* could soon cross the ₹300 crore mark, cementing its place as one of the biggest hits in Chiranjeevi's illustrious career.

The film's early success has not only delighted fans but also sent a strong signal to the Telugu

film industry about the continued drawing power of megastar-led releases.

As *MSG* continues its run in theatres, it stands as a testament to Chiranjeevi's enduring popularity and his ability to connect with audiences across generations. With a combination of strong performances, festive timing, and family-friendly storytelling, *MSG* is shaping up to be a defining cinematic event of 2026.

