

Deer Killed in Gelatin Stick Explosion in Rangareddy Forest Area

TPN Bureau
Rangareddy, January 4:

A shocking incident involving illegal hunting practices came to light in Rangareddy district after a deer was killed in a gelatin stick explosion in a forest area under Kadthal mandal on Sunday.

The incident occurred in the Vankara Rai forest region near Boyinagutta Thanda of Charikonda Gram Panchayat, which falls within the Mudwin Reserve Forest limits. According to preliminary information, unidentified persons had allegedly planted gelatin sticks in the forest to hunt wild boars. The

deer is believed to have accidentally come into contact with the explosive, possibly while attempting to consume it, leading to a fatal blast.

Local residents who noticed the incident expressed suspicion that the gelatin sticks were illegally placed as part of hunting activities targeting wild animals. Such crude explosive devices are often used by poachers to trap or kill wild boars, posing a serious threat to other wildlife as well as humans.

Upon receiving information from villagers, Forest Range Officer Hussain rushed to the spot along with forest staff and conducted a



preliminary inspection of the area. The deceased deer was later shifted to the Kadthal veterinary hospital, where a post-mortem examination was carried out to ascertain the exact cause of death.

Forest officials confirmed that a case has been registered in connection with the incident and an investigation is underway to identify those responsible for planting the gelatin sticks. Range Officer Hussain stated that strict action would be taken against the culprits once they are traced, as the use of explosives for hunting is a serious offence under wildlife protection laws.

The incident has raised concerns among environmentalists and local communities about the growing threat to wildlife due to illegal hunting and the use of dangerous explosive materials in forest regions. Forest officials have appealed to villagers to immediately report any suspicious activities in forest areas to prevent such incidents and protect wildlife.

Authorities also reiterated that awareness and cooperation from local communities are crucial to curb poaching and ensure the safety of animals in reserve forest areas.

CM Revanth Reddy Expresses Displeasure Over Congress MLAs' Conduct in Assembly



Hyderabad, January 4, 2026, TPN Bureau: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has publicly criticised the behaviour of some Congress MLAs during the ongoing legislative session, expressing serious concern over their absence from the Assembly and lack of attention during key presentations. The remarks came after several legislators were reportedly seen outside the chamber while a government presentation on policies and initiatives was underway.

Speaking during discussions on water and developmental issues, the Chief Minister noted

that such conduct was inappropriate, especially when the government was presenting important information that directly impacts citizens. He emphasised that lawmakers are expected to respect the legislative process and maintain discipline during sessions.

Revanth Reddy stressed that attendance and active participation in Assembly debates are crucial for effective governance. He urged all Congress MLAs to be present in the House so they can engage fully in discussions and demonstrate accountability to their constituents and

the public.

The Chief Minister also instructed party whips to ensure that such lapses do not recur in future sessions. He pointed out that leaving the chamber during presentations and debates sends the wrong message about the party's seriousness in handling governance issues. Maintaining discipline and focus within the ruling party, he said, is essential for smooth legislative functioning.

Political observers note that Revanth Reddy's comments come at a time when the Congress government is under pressure to demonstrate

responsiveness and unity. Opposition parties have frequently challenged policies and questioned government performance on matters ranging from resource allocation to development projects. The Chief Minister's stern stance reflects an effort to tighten internal coordination and present a more cohesive front in the legislature. Some Congress legislators have also faced internal criticism over issues such as fund allocation delays and differences in approach, adding to the leadership's focus on discipline. Revanth Reddy's warning underscores the need for

lawmakers to prioritise Assembly duties and party strategy ahead of important debates and public scrutiny in the coming weeks.

The Chief Minister's firm response highlights his broader initiative to reinforce government accountability and legislative decorum as the session progresses. By ensuring that all MLAs attend sessions and actively participate in discussions, Revanth Reddy aims to strengthen the functioning of the government and reassure citizens that their representatives are fulfilling their responsibilities effectively.

BRS MLC Naveen Rao Appears Before SIT in Phone Tapping Case

TPN Bureau
Hyderabad, December 31, 2025 — The Telangana Journalists Welfare Association (TJWA) has appointed Sundar Kalluri as its State Vice-President, reinforcing the organization's commitment to championing journalists' welfare and ensuring accountability in government functioning.

The appointment was formally announced by TJWA President Anam Chinni Venkateswara Rao, who highlighted Kalluri's extensive experience in public service, including his tenure as a Public Relations Officer (PRO) in two state governments after the formation of Telangana. This experience, according to the President, equips Kalluri with the necessary insights and expertise to contribute effectively to the associ-

ation's objectives and advocate for journalists' interests across the state.

Expressing gratitude to the association's leadership, Kalluri said he was honored to be entrusted with such a key role. "I sincerely thank President Anam Chinni Venkateswara Rao and the executive committee for this opportunity. I will dedicate myself fully to the welfare of journalists and ensure that their voices are heard in matters of governance and policy," he stated.

He emphasized that he will actively engage in questioning government actions, representing journalists' concerns, and working tirelessly to address issues related to professional rights and social security for media personnel. Kalluri assured that he will carry out



his responsibilities with integrity, diligence, and transparency, ensuring that the trust placed in him is fully honored.

The TJWA leadership described the appointment as a strategic step to strengthen its organizational framework and enhance its ability to

serve journalists across Telangana. By appointing experienced professionals like Kalluri, the association aims to create a robust platform that not only safeguards journalists' welfare but also promotes accountability, transparency, and professional devel-

opment within the media community. With this appointment, the TJWA continues its mission to empower journalists and reinforce its role as a vital advocate for their rights and interests throughout Telangana.

AICC Launches 'MGNREGA Bachavo Sangram' to Protect Rural Employment

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January 04, 2026

PRESS RELEASE

Hon'ble Congress President has constituted a Coordination Committee to oversee, guide, and monitor the implementation of the *MGNREGA Bachavo Sangram*, as follows, with immediate effect.

1. Shri Ajay Maken - Convenor
2. Shri Jairam Ramesh
3. Shri Sandeep Dikshit
4. Dr. Udit Raj
5. Shri Priyank Kharge
6. Smt. D. Anasuya Seethakka
7. Smt. Dipika Pandey Singh
8. Dr. Sunil Panwar
9. Shri. Manish Sharma

The Heads of all Frontal Organisations, along with the Chairpersons of the AICC OBC, SC, Minority, Adivasi Congress Departments and Kisan Congress, will also be members of the Coordination Committee.

(K. C. Venugopal)

Hyderabad, January 4, 2026 – TPN Bureau:

The All India Congress Committee (AICC) has launched a nationwide initiative, 'MGNREGA Bachavo Sangram', aimed at protecting the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and safeguarding the rights of rural laborers. The campaign will involve extensive protests and public mobilization across the country to counter central government policies that weaken the scheme.

To ensure effective implementation, monitoring, and coordination of the program, the AICC has constituted a special coordination committee. Telangana State Minister Dr. Danasari Anasuya Seethakka has been entrusted with key responsibilities in leading the state-level activities as part of this nationwide campaign.

The committee, convened by Ajay Maken, includes prominent leaders such as Jairam Ramesh, Sandeep Dikshit, Dr. Udit Raj, Priyanka Kharge, Minister Seethakka, Deepika Pandey Singh, Dr. Sunil Panwar, and Manish Sharma. They will oversee the strategic planning, monitoring, and execution of various protest programs under the Bachavo Sangram initiative.

Addressing the campaign, AICC leaders emphasized that the movement aims to protect the employment rights of millions of rural workers and safe-

guard livelihoods in villages across India. The initiative highlights the importance of MGNREGA in providing financial stability and security to the rural poor, especially in the wake of central government policies perceived to weaken its implementation.

The nationwide movement will include rallies, demonstrations, awareness campaigns, and public engagement programs to ensure the rural workforce understands their rights and actively participates in defending them. Telangana will play a key role under Minister Seethakka's leadership, with coordinated efforts across districts and mandals to mobilize laborers, workers, and local communities. AICC clarified that 'MGNREGA Bachavo Sangram' is not only a political campaign but a mass movement for social justice. It under-

lines Congress' commitment to protecting the rights of rural citizens and ensuring employment guarantee schemes like MGNREGA remain fully functional and accessible.

The Congress leadership also highlighted that this campaign represents a broader struggle to counter policies that undermine rural employment and social welfare schemes. By mobilizing public support, the party aims to ensure that rural India's laborers continue to receive guaranteed work, fair wages, and the economic security promised under MGNREGA. With coordinated action and strong state-level leadership, MGNREGA Bachavo Sangram is expected to become a significant platform for defending rural livelihoods and reinforcing Congress' commitment to empowering India's rural population.



Maresh Kumar Goud Launches Sharp Counterattack on KTR, Targets BRS Governance

Hyderabad, Janu-
ary 05 — TPN
Bureau:

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president and MLC Maresh Kumar Goud on Sunday launched a scathing attack on Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), accusing him of arrogance and holding the previous BRS regime responsible for what he termed the overall decline of Telangana during its tenure. Addressing the media, Maresh Kumar Goud used strong political rhetoric, likening KTR to a “cousin of Bhasmasura,” and alleged that arrogance had reached its peak among BRS leaders.

He said the promise of a “Bangaru Telangana” was shattered by what he described as a

“corrupt army” within the BRS, alleging that misgovernance and corruption pushed the state backward in several sectors. He further remarked that the current political condition of the BRS was the result of the “curse of unemployed youth,” accusing the previous government of failing to address job creation despite repeated assurances.

Defending the Congress government, Maresh Kumar Goud asserted that the party had demonstrated genuine commitment towards Backward Classes by bringing legislation for 42 per cent BC reservations. Responding to remarks on punishment, he said punishment was meant only for those who committed wrongdoing, alleging that the BRS government betrayed the



aspirations of crores of people who fought for Telangana statehood

and later presided over its decline.

The TPCC chief

claimed that under two years of Congress public governance, Telan-

gana was moving on a progressive path, which he said was reflected in

the party’s electoral successes, including the Jubilee Hills and Panchayat elections. He questioned whether KTR failed to notice major welfare initiatives such as farm loan waivers, Rythu Bharosa, free bus travel for women, free electricity, subsidised LPG cylinders and the supply of fine rice to the poor.

Maresh Kumar Goud also highlighted that the Congress government had provided jobs at a record level, asking whether the opposition was deliberately ignoring this achievement. He questioned whether the Congress should be “punished” for conducting caste census and increasing BC reservations, or whether the BRS should be held accountable for allegedly cheating BC communities during its rule.

Alleging corruption

in major irrigation projects, he said the BRS had already lost public trust over the Kaleshwaram project and was now fearful that irregularities in the Palamuru project would be exposed, prompting its leaders to walk out of the Assembly and issue what he called “cheap statements” to divert attention. He challenged KTR to first respond to questions raised by his sister, MLC K. Kavitha, before commenting on Congress.

Maresh Kumar Goud concluded by stating that people had already delivered their verdict against the BRS in Assembly, Lok Sabha, Panchayat and Jubilee Hills elections, warning that if the party failed to reform itself, the public would reject it even more decisively in the future.

TPCC Holds High-Level Zoom Meeting with DCC Presidents and AICC Leaders

Hyderabad, January 4, 2026 - TPN Bureau:

The Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) convened a high-level Zoom meeting with District Congress Committee (DCC) presidents and key AICC leaders to discuss organizational strategies, upcoming appointments, and state-wide program implementation. The meeting was attended by AICC in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan, TPCC president Maresh Kumar Goud, AICC secretaries Viswanathan and Sachin, and senior TPCC office-bearers. The session aimed to streamline administrative processes within the party and strengthen grassroots outreach ahead of upcoming programs and initiatives.

During the meeting, Maresh Kumar Goud addressed the participants, emphasizing the importance of completing the formation of all DCC executive committees promptly. He instructed that all committees must be



constituted and detailed reports submitted to the TPCC headquarters by January 8, ensuring proper documentation of the organizational structure across the state. He further directed that the appointments of mandal-level Congress presidents should be finalized by January 15, highlighting the need for a fully functional party setup at all levels to improve outreach and responsiveness.

The leaders discussed plans for a broad TPCC executive committee meeting scheduled on January 8 at Gandhi Bhavan. The meeting will include Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, AICC in-charge

Meenakshi Natarajan, and the full TPCC executive team. During the session, strategies will be reviewed for strengthening organizational coordination, mobilizing party workers, and ensuring effective implementation of state-wide programs. Leaders emphasized the critical role of district and mandal units in ensuring program success and maintaining close contact with local communities.

In addition to organizational matters, participants deliberated on nationwide protests in response to the central government’s controversial decision to remove Mahatma Gandhi’s name from the

National Employment Scheme. TPCC leaders called for coordinated campaigns across Telangana to raise awareness and oppose the move, asserting that such steps are necessary to uphold the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi and protect the rights of citizens.

The meeting also focused on the effective implementation of MGNREGA programs in Telangana, as part of the party’s commitment to rural employment and social welfare. Discussions centered on identifying challenges at the local level, ensuring transparency, and mobilizing party workers to reach maximum beneficiaries.

TPCC leaders reiterated the importance of

disciplined execution of all directives, urging DCC and mandal-level office-bearers to actively participate in outreach, awareness campaigns, and program supervision. Maresh Kumar Goud highlighted that a strong organizational structure and consistent engagement with the public are key to consolidating support and ensuring the success of Congress programs across Telangana. The Zoom meeting concluded with a call for unity, strategic planning, and timely execution, emphasizing that coordinated efforts at all levels will strengthen the party’s presence and improve service delivery to the people.



Kavitha Targets Harish Rao Again, Accuses Him of Political Missteps and Division

Hyderabad, January 05 2026 | TPN Bureau:

Telangana Jagruthi president and former BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha has once again publicly criticised senior leader T. Harish Rao, renewing tensions within the region’s political landscape. Speaking at a media briefing in Suryapet, Kavitha sharply attacked the former minister’s conduct and decisions, raising questions about his recent political actions and alliances.

In her remarks, Kavitha questioned Harish Rao’s role in a recent decision to boycott the state assembly. She asked whether a single comment should be enough to justify walking out of the legislature, suggesting that such actions undermine democratic processes rather than strengthen them. According to Kavitha, leaders should engage in debates on the assembly floor rather than resort to protest tactics that avoid direct accountability.

Kavitha also accused Harish Rao of fostering internal divisions by creating a group within political circles

that, she claims, prioritises factional interests above collective goals. She said that this informal grouping is harmful to organisational unity and distracts from pressing public issues, implying that such behaviour weakens overall political cohesion.

The outspoken leader also criticised decisions related to major irrigation and water projects, asserting that certain changes in project planning — including the shifting of routes — have caused significant setbacks. She suggested that these choices were made without broader consultation, resulting in adverse effects on water resource management. Her comments reflect broader frustration among some regional leaders over how inter state water issues and infrastructure strategies are handled.

While Kavitha did not limit her criticism to Harish Rao alone, she also questioned the opposition government’s handling of the Assembly, particularly on topics like Krishna river water allocation and project discus-

sions. She urged lawmakers to focus on substantive debate and ensure that regional development concerns, including those tied to water disputes with neighbouring states, receive priority attention on the legislative agenda.

Political analysts say Kavitha’s renewed criticism of Harish Rao appears aimed at asserting her influence within Telangana’s political discourse, especially as parties navigate complex debates over resource management and legislative conduct. Her outspoken stance comes amid ongoing efforts by various regional actors to address water sharing, project execution and political accountability. Harish Rao has not yet formally responded to Kavitha’s latest remarks, but party insiders suggest that his supporters may counter her statements in the coming days. As Telangana’s political environment continues to evolve, such exchanges underline the deepening intensity of intra party and inter party debates ahead of future electoral cycles.

Jagga Reddy Slams Harish Rao, Defends Congress’ Irrigation Record

Hyderabad, January 4, 2026 - TPN Bureau:

TPCC Working President Jagga Reddy on Sunday launched a blistering attack on former minister T. Harish Rao and the BRS leadership, accusing them of indulging in political double standards and spreading “false propaganda” on irrigation issues. Addressing a press meet at Gandhi Bhavan, Jagga Reddy asserted that the irrigation presentations made by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and senior Congress leader N. Uttam Kumar Reddy were factual and transparent, while Harish Rao’s PowerPoint presentation was “bogus and misleading.”

Responding to the controversy over political statements, Jagga Reddy defended Revanth Reddy’s strong remarks against former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), stating there was nothing wrong in reacting sharply to repeated provocation. He alleged that BRS leaders conveniently remember the issue of “Andhra water diversion” only when

they are in the Opposition, while remaining silent when in power. He pointed out that when KCR served as a minister during Chandrababu Naidu’s tenure, and later as Chief Minister for nearly a decade, there was no such rhetoric, but the issue resurfaced only for political gains.

Jagga Reddy questioned why meetings between Chief Ministers were selectively criticised. He said there was nothing wrong when KCR met Chandrababu Naidu or Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy in their official capacities, and challenged Harish Rao to explain why a meeting between Revanth Reddy and Chandrababu Naidu as Chief Ministers should be treated differently. He termed this approach as opportunistic politics.

Highlighting Congress’ contribution to Telangana’s irrigation and drinking water needs, Jagga Reddy reminded that leaders like KCR and Harish Rao grew up drinking water supplied by Manjira and Singur projects constructed by Congress governments. He ac-

cused the BRS of erasing history by claiming that Telangana started receiving water only after Kaleshwaram. “Is it true that people drank water only because of Kaleshwaram? Did Congress do nothing since Independence?” he asked.

He alleged that with an expenditure of 7,600 crore, projects such as Kalwakurthy, Bhima, Nettampadu and Koilsagar could have been fully completed, but the BRS government failed to finish the remaining 10 per cent works. He re-

called that Congress leaders Komatireddy Venkat Reddy and Sampath Kumar were suspended from the Assembly for raising questions on pending irrigation projects, while leaders like Uttam Kumar Reddy were denied the opportunity to speak.

Jagga Reddy said Congress governments had built numerous projects without publicity, whereas the BRS “built one project and advertised it a hundred times.” He also recalled former Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Red-

dy’s historic decision to implement free power for farmers, which transformed barren lands into fertile fields, calling it a proud chapter in Congress history.

Concluding his remarks, Jagga Reddy accused Harish Rao of presenting “false calculations and false narratives” and attempting to create divisions between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana for political survival, warning that people were no longer willing to accept such misleading politics.



Belt Shops Flourish Illegally in Qutbullapur, Locals Criticize Excise Authorities

Qutbullapur, January 04:
Residents of Qutbullapur are raising serious concerns over the unchecked proliferation of belt shops, which are illegally selling liquor in residential areas, while the local excise officials appear to be mere spectators. Despite Congress promising to completely shut down belt shops in its pre-election manifesto, enforcement at the ground level remains negligible, drawing criticism from citizens and activists alike.
Across the constituency, from Dundigal, Suraram, Gandhi Maisamma, Bachupally, Bawampet, Kompally, Dhoolpally, Suchitra, Chintal to IDPL and Jagadiri Gutta Subhash



Nagar, belt shops operate openly, selling liquor around the clock. Unlike licensed wine shops and bars, which follow strict timings and regulations, these belt shops function without restrictions, sometimes selling three to six quarts at a time, with no fixed timings or MRP adherence. Surprisingly, some belt shops are also run by women, with liquor sales continuing late into the night. Incidents of disputes near belt shops have also been reported.
Locals claim that belt shops are functioning like grocery stores, openly selling liquor alongside daily essentials. Although excise officials claim to supervise the shops, each street reportedly has two to five belt shops operating unchecked. Occasional raids appear to be only symbolic, with no sustained enforcement. Furthermore, belt shop owners often charge 10 to 20 percent above the MRP, highlighting the failure of authorities to regulate pricing or maintain law and order.
In addition to liquor, belt shops have begun providing seating arrangements and serving food such as chicken, mutton, eggs, and omelettes to attract more customers, mimicking bar and restaurant setups. Intelligence sources report that liquor bottles from licensed wine shops are being transferred in bulk to belt shops, possibly with tacit support from some excise officials.
Residents warn that the continued operation of belt shops in colonies and residential areas poses serious public safety and law-and-order risks. They are demanding urgent intervention from higher authorities, including special raids and strict action against the operators. Citizens have also threatened that if the excise department fails to act decisively, public anger could escalate further.
As of now, Qutbullapur excise officials continue to remain passive spectators, allowing belt shops to operate openly, ignoring repeated public grievances and posing a growing challenge to law enforcement and community safety.

CITU Bachupally Condemns US Military Action Against Venezuela



Qutbullapur, January 4, 2026 – TPN Bureau:
The Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), Bachupally mandal committee, on Sunday staged a silent protest condemning what it termed as the “undemocratic and imperialist military aggression” by the United States against Venezuela. The protest was held near the Nizampet building construction workers’ junction, where activists observed a brief period of silence as a mark of dissent.
Addressing the gathering, CITU Bachupally mandal secretary Rathod Santosh alleged that the United States had grossly violated the sovereignty of the South American nation by resorting to aerial attacks and unlawful actions. He strongly condemned the arrest of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores, describing it as illegal, inhuman and against international norms.
Santosh said Venezuela, a third-world country, was being targeted as part of a broader imperialist conspiracy driven by vested interests, particularly over control of natural resources such as oil. He asserted that arresting and threatening a democratically elected president and his family amounted to a serious violation of international law, human rights, United Nations principles and the sovereignty of nations.
The CITU leader stated that the political, judicial and military actions being carried out by the United States were aimed at overthrowing a government that came to power through the democratic mandate of the Venezuelan people. He said these actions were not merely personal attacks on President Maduro, but assaults on the collective rights, independence and self-determination of the

Venezuelan people.
He further remarked that such imperialist aggression would not weaken the fighting spirit of the Venezuelan masses. Calling upon the Government of India, Santosh urged it to uphold an independent foreign policy without succumbing to imperialist pressures.
The CITU Bachupally mandal committee expressed complete solidarity with the people of Venezuela, stating that unity among people across the world was essential to defeat imperialist conspiracies. Speakers said global resistance against US imperialism would continue and intensify. CITU mandal committee member P. Swamy and leaders Narasimha, Ramu, Dattu, Srikanth, Sridhar, Babu, Kumar, Manikyam, Swamy, Tirupati, along with several construction workers and activists, participated in the protest.

BKR Foundation Organizes Free Medical Camp in Qutbullapur

TPN Bureau
Qutbullapur, The BKR Foundation conducted its 20th free medical camp at Indiramma Colony, Bawampet, under Dundigal Circle 295 Division, Qutbullapur, providing healthcare services to residents at no cost. The event was inaugurated by BKR Foundation presidents and Congress party leaders, including Bongunuri Kishore Reddy, who emphasized the foundation’s commitment to delivering corporate-level medical care to the underprivileged.
Speaking at the event, Kishore Reddy said, “My goal is to ensure free

medical services are accessible to all residents, and I am always available to address their health concerns. It is heartening to see everyone taking full advantage of these free healthcare services. We aim to expand the reach of BKR Foundation’s medical programs and make them accessible to more people.” The camp attracted significant participation from local residents and Congress party leaders, including Police Jivender Reddy, Middela Yadireddy, Narsareddy Bal Reddy, Vijay Goud, AR Sadu Yadav, Suresh Kumar, Salman Raj, and Venkatesh

Goud. Attendees received consultations, basic health check-ups, and guidance on preventive healthcare measures, with the camp reinforcing the foundation’s commitment to improving community health in the area. The BKR Foundation’s medical initiatives continue to play a vital role in providing accessible healthcare services to economically disadvantaged communities in Qutbullapur and surrounding areas, addressing critical health needs and promoting overall well-being.



Hyderabad Auto Driver Threatens Police with Snake After Drunk Driving Arrest

Hyderabad, January 4, 2026, TPN Bureau: In a bizarre incident in Hyderabad’s Old City, an auto rickshaw driver threatened traffic police with a snake after he was stopped for allegedly driving under the influence of alcohol. The unusual event took place during a routine drunk driving check at the Chandrayangutta junction, leaving commuters and officers stunned.
According to police reports, traffic teams were conducting standard roadside checks when they flagged a three wheeler being



driven erratically. A breath analyser test reportedly indicated that the driver was intoxicated, prompting officers to seize his auto rickshaw. As part of the procedure, the man was asked to remove his personal belongings from the vehicle.
Instead of complying, the driver allegedly pulled out a dead snake from inside the auto and waved it at the traffic personnel in an attempt to intimidate them and

demand the return of his vehicle. Eyewitnesses said the man appeared highly agitated, creating a tense scene that drew attention from onlookers and passersby.
A video of the confrontation circulated on social media, showing the unusual moment when the intoxicated driver approached police while brandishing the snake. Onlookers expressed shock as the officers remained calm and attempted to control the situation without escalating it further. Police confirmed that a case has been registered against the man for drunk driving and threatening public servants. After brandishing the snake, the driver reportedly fled the scene, prompting a search operation to locate and apprehend him. Authorities condemned the driver’s behaviour, noting that such actions endanger both enforcement personnel and the public. Traffic officials emphasised that strict enforcement of drunk driving laws is essential to road safety, particularly during times when alcohol related incidents are more common.

Woman Kills Husband in Nacharam Over Illicit Affair, Lover Also Held

Hyderabad (Nacharam Mallapur), January 4, 2026, TPN Bureau: A shocking murder case has come to light in the Nacharam Mallapur area of Hyderabad, where a woman allegedly killed her husband with the help of her lover over a suspected illicit relationship. The gruesome incident has rattled local residents and prompted swift action by police.
Police said the victim, Narayana Behera, originally from Odisha, was living in rented accommodation in the Mallapur area with his wife Bandhita Behera. Narayana, who worked as a plumber, supported his family through his earnings, while Bandhita managed household duties. Neighbours described the couple as ordinary residents, with no signs of major conflict until recently.

According to the preliminary police investigation, Bandhita had reportedly been involved in a four month long extramarital relationship with a man identified as Vidyasagar, who was also living in the same house. Sources say the affair began while Narayana was at work, and the relationship deepened despite his growing suspicions.
Police officials said that Narayana had confronted his wife several times about her relationship with Vidyasagar in recent weeks. On the night of the incident, tensions escalated further when Narayana again objected to the affair and expressed his anger. In what investigators are describing as a pre planned attack, Bandhita and Vidyasagar allegedly assaulted him with a rod, inflicting fatal injuries. Neighbours reported

hearing loud noises from the house that night but did not initially suspect anything serious. It was only the next morning that Narayana’s family, alarmed by his absence, alerted the Nacharam police station and requested a welfare check. Officers entered the residence and discovered Narayana’s body, leading them to immediately register a murder case based on initial evidence and witness statements.
When questioned, Bandhita reportedly confessed to her role in the killing, admitting that she and her partner carried out the attack after Narayana threatened to expose their relationship. Her partner, Vidyasagar, also admitted involvement in the assault during police questioning.
Both Bandhita and Vidyasagar were arrested within 24 hours of the in-

cident and remanded to custody. Police said they will seek judicial remand as the investigation progresses and further forensic tests are completed to establish the sequence of events.
Local residents expressed shock and sadness over the brutal nature of the crime, urging increased community vigilance and counselling resources to help families dealing with conflict. Officials reminded the public that domestic disputes should never escalate into violence, and urged anyone in troubled relationships to seek help rather than resort to criminal acts.

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Road Safety a Shared Responsibility, Says Additional Collector Rajeshwar in Adilabad Awareness Drive



TPN Bureau
Adilabad, January 3, 2026:

Emphasising that road safety is a collective responsibility, Additional Collector of Local Bodies and District Education Officer S. Rajeshwar called upon citizens to strictly follow traffic rules and work together to make Adilabad a zero-accident district. He was addressing students and teachers at a road safety awareness programme held on Saturday at BPR Public School in Ichoda mandal.

The programme was organised for students of private schools in the mandal with the objective of creating early awareness about traffic discipline and safe road behaviour. Rajeshwar participated as the chief

guest and formally inaugurated the event by lighting the ceremonial lamp.

As part of the awareness initiative, several competitions were conducted for students, including essay writing, speeches, rangoli art and skits, all centred on the theme of road safety. Students actively participated and showcased their understanding of traffic rules and the importance of responsible behaviour on roads. Certificates of appreciation were presented to winners who demonstrated exceptional performance in these activities.

Addressing the gathering, Additional Collector Rajeshwar said that road safety is not the responsibility of authorities

alone but of every individual who uses public roads. He stressed that two-wheeler riders must compulsorily wear helmets, while car drivers should always use seat belts to reduce the risk of fatal injuries during accidents.

He cautioned against the use of mobile phones while driving and warned that driving under the influence of alcohol poses a serious threat not only to the driver but also to pedestrians and other road users. Such reckless behaviour, he said, often leads to irreversible loss of life and property. Highlighting the role of parents, Rajeshwar strongly appealed to them not to hand over vehicles to minors under any circumstances. Allowing under-

age children to drive is a punishable offence under the law and frequently results in tragic accidents, he added. Following his address, students and teachers were administered a road safety pledge, reaffirming their commitment to follow traffic rules and promote safe practices among family members and the wider community. The pro-

gramme witnessed the presence of Trainee Collector Saloni Chhabra, Sectoral Officer Tirupati, Mandal Education Officer Bikku, Motor Vehicle Inspectors Srinivas, Pradeep and Shweta, along with school staff, students and other officials, making the event a collective effort towards fostering a culture of road safety in the district.



Ponguleti Slams Previous Regime, Promises Homes for All Eligible Poor under Indiramma Housing Scheme

TPN Bureau
Khammam, January 4, 2026:

Telangana Revenue, Housing and Information Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy on Sunday strongly criticised the previous government for failing to provide houses to the poor over the last ten years, stating that it lacked both vision and commitment to ensure shelter with dignity for the underprivileged. He asserted that the present Indiramma government would ensure that every eligible poor family realises the dream of owning a house.

The Minister was speaking after laying foundation stones for various internal CC road works worth 1.07 crore in Edulapuram Municipality. Addressing public meetings organised on the occasion, Ponguleti said the earlier rulers “wasted a decade by showing empty promises instead of giving the poor a roof over their heads.” In contrast, he said, the Indiramma government had launched the housing programme in its

very first year with an outlay of 22,500 crore to construct 4.5 lakh houses across the state.

Ponguleti said that 560 Indiramma houses had already been sanctioned in Edulapuram Municipality and announced that the second phase would be launched in April. He assured that houses would be provided in three phases and every eligible beneficiary would be covered. “Once we give a word, there is no stepping back. This government will not deceive people with false promises,” he declared, adding that this was a firm assurance to the people.

Highlighting development works, the Minister said nearly 70 crore had been spent on Edulapuram’s development in just two years. He promised to personally address all remaining civic issues, stating that he would take responsibility as the “elder son of the household” to resolve public grievances. Describing the Congress-led government under Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy as one



that balances development and welfare equally, Ponguleti said a new chapter in welfare governance had begun. He pointed out that while hostel students were earlier served inadequate meals, the present government increased mess charges by 40 per cent and cosmetic charges by 200 per cent. He also listed key welfare measures such as free bus travel for women, 200 units of free electricity, and distribution of fine rice through the public distribution system.

The Minister said the process of issuing new ration cards to eligible families had been accelerated, along with the inclusion of new names in existing cards. As part of infrastructure development, CC road works were launched in Temple City (35 lakh), Chinna Thanda (22 lakh), Suryanagar (25 lakh) and the Class-IV Employees’ Colony (25 lakh). He assured residents that all pending roads, drains and issues such as removal of high-tension power lines would be resolved

soon.

Stating that public blessings were the government’s true strength, Ponguleti appealed to people to continue supporting the Indiramma government in the future as well.

District Collector Anudeep Durishetty, CP Sunil Dutt, Municipal Commissioner Alla Srinivas Reddy, Congress leaders Madineni Baby Swarna Kumari, Harinath Babu, officials, party workers and a large number of local residents attended the programme.

Ancient Jangubai Jatara Draws Lakhs, Reflecting Deep-Rooted Tribal Traditions



Kumram Bheem Asifabad, January 3, 2026 – TPN Bureau:

The historic Jangubai Jatara, dedicated to Jangubai Amavaru revered as the goddess of tribal communities, is being celebrated with deep devotion and traditional fervour by Adivasis in the Sahyadri hill ranges near Mahara-jguda village of Ker-ameri mandal in Kumram Bheem Asifabad district, reflecting the inseparable bond between indigeneous people and nature. For Adivasis, forests are not just a livelihood but a way of life, shaping their language, attire, rituals, festivals and belief systems, all of which are closely intertwined with the natural world. Observed every year during the Pushya month, the Jangubai Jatara begins in the early hours after the sighting of the new moon and continues for several days, drawing lakhs of devotees from Telangana and neighbouring states.

The naturally formed cave shrine of Jangubai Amavaru, nestled deep within the Sahyadri hills along the Telangana-

Maharashtra border, has a history spanning several centuries and is regarded as one of the most sacred pilgrimage centres for tribal communities. Gond, Pardhan, Kolam and other tribal groups from Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh undertake long journeys to offer prayers and fulfil vows. The jatara stands as a living testimony to Adivasi culture, mirroring their customs, traditions, faith and collective way of life.

The festivities formally commence with a Diportsavam (lamp festival) led by Katodas (priests) belonging to eight tribal clans—Tumram, Kodap, Salam, Raisidam, Herre Kumra, Marap, Vetti and Mandadi—who strictly adhere to age-old rituals and discipline until the conclusion of the jatara. On the first day, the priests walk barefoot carrying sacred materials, perform night-long lamp worship and offer specially prepared naivedyam, with rituals continuing uninterrupted throughout the festival. During

the jatara period, Adivasis observe strict austerity, cleaning their homes with cow dung, avoiding footwear, sleeping on the ground, abstaining from alcohol and even refraining from drinking water outside their homes.

Devotees reach the shrine on foot, and those halting en route follow elaborate purification practices before resuming their pilgrimage. Naivedyam is prepared using rice pounded from homegrown paddy, wheat flour, pulses, jaggery and sesame oil, while lamps are lit using sesame oil, ghee and castor oil. Carrying offerings in traditional baskets along with folk musical instruments, devotees reach the shrine, offer prayers to Jangubai Amavaru and later pay obeisance at nearby shrines of Maisamma and Pochamma. The nights resonate with devotional songs, dances and communal feasts, turning the jatara into a vibrant spiritual and cultural congregation that reinforces the enduring identity and unity of tribal communities.



Multiple Injured as RTC Bus Collides with Tavera in Jagtial District

Jagtial (Telangana), January 4, 2026, TPN Bureau: A severe road accident occurred today in Jagtial district when an RTC bus heading towards Hyderabad was struck head on by a Tavera vehicle near Medipalli village in Metpalli mandal. The collision left several passengers seriously injured, prompting an urgent response from local authorities and rescue teams. According to initial information, the RTC bus was travelling from Medipalli towards Hyderabad when the Tavera, coming from the opposite direction, ploughed into it with significant force. The

impact was so intense that the Tavera was nearly smashed, while the front of the bus sustained heavy damage. The injured, many of whom are residents of Korutla, were returning from a pilgrimage visit to a temple in Karnataka when the accident occurred. Eyewitnesses described a chaotic scene immediately after the crash, with bystanders rushing to help those trapped inside the vehicles. The collision happened on a stretch of road that, according to locals, is frequently used by long distance travellers and is known for heavy traffic. Community members gath-

ered at the site, assisting police and emergency workers in the initial rescue operations while waiting for ambulances to arrive. Police and emergency services reached the spot within minutes of receiving the accident report. Those injured in the crash were transported to nearby medical facilities in Metpalli, Karimnagar and Nizamabad districts for urgent treatment. Some victims sustained serious injuries, including fractures and head trauma, and are currently under medical supervision. Authorities have confirmed that there were eleven people in the Ta-

vera at the time of the accident, most of whom are receiving care at local hospitals.

The police have launched an investigation into the circumstances that led to the collision. Preliminary inquiries suggest that either excessive speed, driver fatigue or a failure to maintain lane discipline may have contributed to the accident, but officials say that a detailed report will clarify the exact cause. Traffic authorities have also warned drivers to exercise greater caution on busy highways, especially when travelling long distances or in adverse conditions. Local

residents expressed concern over frequent serious accidents on this route, highlighting the need for improved road safety measures and stricter traffic enforcement. Many urged authorities to install better signage, enforce speed limits and conduct regular vehicle checks to prevent similar tragedies.

As the investigation continues and the injured receive medical care, the community remains shaken by the incident. Police have appealed to motorists to prioritise safety and obey traffic rules to avoid such dangerous incidents on state and national highways.

Bhogapuram International Airport: When a Region’s Dream Finally Takes Flight



On the morning of January 4, 2026, at exactly 10:30 am, the sound of aircraft wheels touching the runway at Bhogapuram marked far more than a successful test landing. It marked the culmination of decades of aspiration, anticipation, and struggle for the people of North Andhra. When the Air India aircraft from Delhi landed at the Bhogapuram International Airport runway for the first time, history was written—not just in aviation records, but in the collective memory of Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, and Srikakulam districts. For a region that has long felt peripheral to India’s rapid infrastructure growth, Bhogapuram represents arrival, recognition, and opportunity.

The presence of Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu, Vizianagaram MP Kalisetti Appala Naidu, senior officials from the Airports Authority of India, and representatives of the GMR Group on board the inaugural flight lent national significance to the moment. This was not merely a ceremonial event; it was a declaration that Bhogapuram has moved decisively from vision to reality. January 4, 2026, will stand etched in history as the day North Andhra’s long-pending aviation dream finally touched ground.

A Dream Deferred, Not Denied

The idea of an international airport at Bhogapuram has existed for years, shaped by the growing limitations of the Visakhapatnam Airport. Despite Visakhapatnam’s stature as a port city, industrial hub, and emerging IT destination, its airport has faced serious constraints—geographical limitations, surrounding hills, and defense-related restrictions have made large-scale expansion nearly impossible. As passenger traffic grew and economic ambitions expanded, the need for an alternative became unavoidable.

Bhogapuram, located in Vizianagaram district, emerged as the most viable option. Strategically positioned, with vast land availability and the potential for long runways and modern terminals, it promised to meet international aviation standards while serving the broader North Andhra region. Yet, like many large infrastructure projects in India, Bhogapuram’s journey was slow and often contentious. Land acquisition disputes,

environmental concerns, political changes, and shifting timelines tested public faith repeatedly.

For many villagers and local communities, the airport symbolized uncertainty as much as opportunity. For others, it became a litmus test of governance and political will. The successful test landing, therefore, is significant not only for what it achieves technically, but for what it restores emotionally—confidence that long-term public projects, though delayed, can still reach fruition.

More Than Infrastructure: A Gateway to Transformation

Airports today are no longer just transport facilities; they are engines of transformation. Bhogapuram International Airport has the potential to fundamentally alter the economic, social, and cultural trajectory of North Andhra. Once full-scale airline operations begin in June 2026, the region is expected to witness changes that go far beyond easier travel.

Economically, the airport is poised to become a powerful growth catalyst. Improved air connectivity reduces distances—not just geographically, but economically. For businesses, faster access to markets, clients, and investors can be decisive. Industries such as pharmaceuticals,

agro-processing, seafood exports, textiles, and electronics manufacturing stand to benefit significantly. For exporters, proximity to an international airport can translate into lower logistics costs and higher competitiveness.

Tourism is another sector likely to receive a major boost. North Andhra boasts immense yet underutilized tourism potential—unspoiled beaches, scenic hills, tribal cultures, Buddhist heritage sites, and eco-tourism destinations. Until now, limited air connectivity has kept many of these places off mainstream tourist circuits. Bhogapuram offers the chance to reposition the region as a major tourism destination, attracting both domestic and international visitors.

Employment generation is perhaps the most tangible promise of the airport. From airport operations, airlines, security, and ground handling to hotels, transport services, retail, and real estate, Bhogapuram is expected to create thousands of direct and indirect jobs. For young people in Vizianagaram and Srikakulam districts—areas often marked by migration in search of work—this could mean opportunities closer to home.

Redefining Regional Balance

One of the most compelling aspects of Bhogapuram International Airport is its potential to correct long-standing regional imbalances. Andhra Pradesh has often witnessed uneven development, with growth concentrated in a few urban centers while other regions lag behind. North Andhra, despite its strategic coastline and human capital, has struggled to attract investments at the scale it deserves.

Bhogapuram changes that equation. By placing a world-class aviation facility at the heart of the region, it sends a strong signal to investors, entrepreneurs, and institutions. Infrastructure has a magnetic effect—it attracts more infrastructure. Improved roads, logistics parks, industrial corridors, educational institutions, healthcare facilities, and urban housing are likely to follow.

There is also talk of Bhogapuram evolving into an aerotropolis—an integrated urban ecosystem centered around the airport. If planned carefully, this could become a model of balanced, sustainable development, where economic growth goes hand in hand with quality of life.

However, this promise comes with responsibility. Development must be inclusive. Local communities, particularly those who gave up

land or livelihoods for the project, must be active participants in the growth story. Skill development programs, fair compensation, employment opportunities, and social infrastructure will be essential to ensure that progress does not come at the cost of displacement or marginalization.

Strategic and National Importance

Bhogapuram’s significance extends beyond regional development. Situated along India’s eastern seaboard, close to the Bay of Bengal, the airport holds strategic importance. It complements port-led development in Visakhapatnam and strengthens India’s civil aviation presence in a geopolitically sensitive region.

From a disaster management perspective, Bhogapuram could become a crucial hub. Coastal Andhra Pradesh is prone to cyclones and extreme weather events. An international-standard airport with a long runway and modern facilities can play a vital role in evacuation, relief operations, and rapid deployment of aid during emergencies.

The participation of senior central leadership in the inaugural landing underscores the airport’s national

relevance. It aligns with India’s broader vision of strengthening regional connectivity, reducing pressure on metro airports, and ensuring that infrastructure growth reaches beyond a handful of cities.

The Real Test Begins Now

While the successful landing is a proud milestone, it is only the beginning. India’s infrastructure history offers several examples where impressive inaugurations were followed by operational challenges. For Bhogapuram, the real test lies ahead.

Timely completion of passenger terminals, cargo facilities, air traffic systems, and supporting infrastructure will be critical. Equally important is connectivity. Efficient road and rail links between Bhogapuram and Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, and Srikakulam will determine how accessible and attractive the airport becomes. Without seamless last-mile connectivity, even the most advanced airport risks underutilization.

Affordability and airline participation will also matter. Competitive landing charges, incentives for airlines, and passenger-friendly services can help Bhogapuram quickly establish itself as a preferred hub. Coordination between the state government, airport operator, and aviation

authorities will be key to ensuring smooth operations.

Environmental sustainability is another crucial dimension. As a greenfield project, Bhogapuram has the opportunity to adopt global best practices in renewable energy use, water conservation, waste management, and carbon reduction. A truly modern airport must balance growth with environmental responsibility.

A Symbol of Hope and Accountability

The grand event marking the first aircraft landing—attended by MPs, MLAs, district collectors, and senior officials—reflected the emotional significance of the moment. For the people of North Andhra, Bhogapuram is not just an airport; it is a symbol of hope. Hope that their region will finally receive the attention it deserves. Hope that young people will find opportunities without leaving home. Hope that connectivity will bring confidence, investment, and pride.

At the same time, Bhogapuram must also become a symbol of accountability. Public infrastructure is built with public resources and public trust. Transparent governance, efficient management, and people-centric planning will determine whether this airport becomes a lasting success or merely a ceremonial achievement.

Conclusion: A Runway to the Future

January 4, 2026, will be remembered as the day North Andhra’s aspirations found wings. The landing of the first aircraft at Bhogapuram International Airport is not the end of a journey, but the beginning of a new one. It represents what is possible when vision, persistence, and political will align.

As India moves forward on its path to becoming a global economic power, regional infrastructure like Bhogapuram will define the inclusiveness of that growth. If nurtured wisely, Bhogapuram can become more than an airport—it can become a gateway to prosperity, dignity, and balanced development for millions.

The runway has been tested. The aircraft has landed. The challenge now is to ensure that Bhogapuram does not merely take off, but soars—carrying an entire region toward a future that is more connected, confident, and full of promise.



India Voices Deep Concern As US Military Action Unfolds In Venezuela



India has expressed “deep concern” over the rapidly evolving situation in Venezuela following the dramatic US military operation that led to the capture of President Nicolás Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores. In an official statement, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) emphasised India’s commitment to peace, stability, and dialogue, while reaffirming its support for the safety and well-being of the Venezuelan people. The carefully worded response reflects India’s long-standing diplomatic principle of non-intervention and respect for sovereignty.

The US operation, described as a textbook nighttime airborne raid, has drawn global

attention for its scale and implications. Maduro, who ruled Venezuela for 12 years and had a \$50 million US bounty on his head, was flown to New York to face drug and weapons charges. US President Donald Trump openly celebrated the operation, sharing images of Maduro in custody and stating that he followed the raid “like watching a television show.” Such remarks have intensified concerns over the normalisation of military interventions as political tools.

India’s response avoided taking sides, instead calling on “all concerned” to resolve issues peacefully through dialogue. This stance aligns with New Delhi’s broader foreign

policy approach, which prioritises strategic autonomy and avoids alignment in polarising global conflicts. At the same time, India confirmed that its embassy in Caracas is in contact with members of the Indian community and will provide necessary assistance — a reminder that citizen safety remains a core diplomatic priority.

The developments in Venezuela also carry wider implications for global governance. The forcible removal of a sitting head of state by a foreign power raises troubling questions about international law, precedent, and accountability. While Venezuela’s opposition leader Maria Corina Machado declared

the moment as the country’s “hour of freedom,” uncertainty looms large over what follows. Regime change without a clear roadmap risks prolonged instability, economic disruption, and humanitarian consequences.

India’s measured response underscores its preference for stability over spectacle. By urging peaceful dialogue and refraining from celebratory rhetoric, New Delhi signals its discomfort with unilateral military actions, regardless of the target. As geopolitical tensions rise and power politics become increasingly aggressive, India’s position highlights the relevance of restraint and diplomacy in a volatile global order.

Mausam Noor’s Return To Congress Could Reshape Bengal’s Political Equations

Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Mausam Noor’s return to the Congress marks a politically significant moment in West Bengal, particularly ahead of upcoming elections. Noor, a Rajya Sabha MP and niece of veteran leader Ghani Khan Choudhury, began her political journey with the Congress in 2008 before switching to the TMC seven years ago.

Her “homecoming” comes at a time when the Congress is struggling for relevance in Bengal, having lost its traditional stronghold of Malda and lacking prominent leadership. Noor’s re-entry could provide the party with a recognisable Muslim face in a region where identity politics remains influential.

For the TMC, her exit is more symbolic than numerically damaging, but it underscores growing churn within the party. For Congress, the move offers an opportunity to revive organisational morale and reconnect with minority voters disillusioned with both the TMC and BJP.

However, the challenges



are substantial. Congress’s grassroots presence in Bengal has weakened considerably, and translating Noor’s personal influence into electoral success will require

strategic alliances and organisational rebuilding.

Her return also complicates opposition dynamics, potentially affecting seat-sharing calculations and voter

consolidation. Whether Noor’s move signals a broader revival or remains an isolated episode will depend on how effectively Congress capitalises on this moment.

Ajit Pawar And Murlidhar Mohol Clash Highlights Hypocrisy Debate In Electoral Politics

A sharp political exchange between Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and Union Minister Murlidhar Mohol has reignited debate over criminalisation in electoral politics. Mohol criticised the NCP for granting tickets to candidates accused of serious crimes, prompting Pawar to retaliate by accusing the BJP of shielding a goon who allegedly fled the country.

Pawar’s remarks reflect a familiar pattern in Indian politics: moral posturing without collective accountability. While Mohol argued that all parties must keep criminals out of elections, Pawar’s counter-attack suggested selective outrage driven by political convenience rather than principle.

The episode exposes a deeper systemic issue. Across party lines, candidates with criminal backgrounds continue to receive tickets due to their perceived “winnability.” Public condemnation often masks private complicity,



eroding voter trust in political institutions.

Rather than addressing structural reform, such exchanges reduce the debate to point-scoring. The lack of bipartisan consensus on

electoral cleansing ensures that criminalisation remains an entrenched feature of Indian democracy.

Ultimately, the clash serves as a reminder that meaningful reform re-

quires political will beyond rhetoric. Until parties prioritise ethics over expediency, accusations will continue to fly — but accountability will remain elusive.

Virat Kohli’s Switch To Indian Sportswear Brand Signals A Shift In Entrepreneurial Confidence



Virat Kohli’s decision to walk away from a lucrative ₹300 crore partnership with global sportswear giant Puma and align instead with Indian company Agilitas Sports has sparked widespread discussion beyond the realm of sports endorsements. Entrepreneur Ritesh Agarwal, founder of OYO Rooms, described the move as a powerful sign of India’s growing business confidence — a statement that reflects a broader shift in how Indian celebrities view domestic enterprises.

Kohli’s association with Puma, which began in 2017 alongside the launch of his lifestyle brand One8, was seen as a landmark partnership between Indian sporting stardom and global branding. However, after completing the eight-year contract, Kohli chose to back Agilitas Sports, a relatively young

Indian company founded in 2023 and valued at over ₹2,000 crore. The decision suggests that Indian brands are no longer viewed as secondary alternatives but as serious global contenders.

Ritesh Agarwal’s remarks resonate in a startup ecosystem often criticised for excessive dependence on foreign capital and validation. Kohli’s move challenges that narrative by demonstrating faith in Indian entrepreneurship, innovation, and scale. It also reflects a deeper evolution: celebrities are no longer merely brand ambassadors but strategic investors shaping long-term business identities.

This transition also mirrors India’s broader economic ambitions. With domestic manufacturing, design, and brand-building gaining momentum, backing homegrown companies

carries symbolic and practical value. Kohli’s global stature offers Agilitas credibility, visibility, and aspirational appeal — advantages traditionally reserved for multinational brands.

At a cultural level, the move reflects changing definitions of success. Instead of maximising immediate financial returns, Kohli appears to be investing in legacy, ownership, and alignment with India’s economic rise. As more high-profile figures make similar choices, the boundary between sports, business, and nation-building continues to blur.

Ultimately, Kohli’s decision is less about rejecting Puma and more about embracing India’s growing confidence in its own entrepreneurial capabilities. It signals a future where Indian brands are not just locally competitive but globally ambitious.

ED Reveals Systemic Corruption In Gujarat Land Use Clearances Involving IAS Officer



The arrest of former Surendranagar collector Rajendrakumar Patel has exposed what the Enforcement Directorate (ED) describes as a systematic corruption network embedded within Gujarat’s land-use clearance mechanism. According to the agency, bribes were allegedly fixed at rates ranging from ₹5 to ₹10 per square metre to expedite applications for change of land use, turning governance into a transactional process.

The ED informed the court that Patel, along with deputy mamlatdar Chandrasinh Mori and other officials, exploited the Integrated Online Revenue Applications (IORA) portal — a platform designed to

enhance transparency. Instead of reducing corruption, the digital system allegedly became a tool for extracting “speed money,” highlighting how technology alone cannot eliminate entrenched administrative malpractice.

Investigators claim Patel was the “biggest beneficiary” of the proceeds of crime, suggesting that corruption was neither incidental nor decentralised, but centrally orchestrated. The case challenges assumptions that digitisation automatically ensures accountability, revealing how discretionary power can still be misused behind digital interfaces.

The implications extend beyond one district. Land-

use approvals influence real estate development, infrastructure planning, and agricultural livelihoods. When such decisions are monetised through bribes, public trust erodes and economic inequality deepens. The scandal also raises uncomfortable questions about oversight mechanisms and political accountability in administrative appointments.

As Patel remains in ED custody, the case serves as a reminder that corruption in governance is adaptive, evolving alongside reforms meant to curb it. The real test lies in whether enforcement actions lead to systemic reform or remain isolated episodes of accountability.

Global Reactions Reveal Deep Divisions Over US Military Intervention In Venezuela



World leaders responded to the US action against Venezuela with sharply divided views. China and Russia strongly condemned the operation, calling it a violation of international law and an act of armed aggression against a sovereign nation. Iran echoed these concerns, warning that such interventions could fuel regional chaos.

Latin American countries, including Brazil, Colombia, Chile, and Uruguay, expressed serious concern and rejected military intervention as a solution. Many leaders warned that ignoring sovereignty could push the region toward instability and conflict. Cuba described the attack as criminal, while Venezuela's interior minister urged citizens to remain calm and trust national

institutions.

In contrast, Argentina's President Javier Milei openly supported the move, framing it as a victory for freedom. Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu congratulated Trump for what he called historic leadership. The UK and EU adopted cautious positions, acknowledging Maduro's lack of legitimacy while stressing the importance of international law and a peaceful transition.

The United Nations Secretary General expressed deep alarm, stating that the strikes set a dangerous precedent. In the US, opposition leaders questioned the legality of the action, warning that military operations without Congressional authorisation could have long-term consequences.

Maduro's Fall Leaves Venezuela At A Crossroads With No Clear Political Roadmap



While the removal of Nicolás Maduro ends a controversial chapter in Venezuela's history, it leaves the country facing deep uncertainty. Maduro controlled key institutions including the military, judiciary, and electoral system, supported by loyal militias. His sudden removal creates a power vacuum with no clearly defined leadership structure.

The US has not recognised Maduro as president since the disputed 2024 elections, which international observers deemed neither free nor fair. Opposition leaders welcomed his fall, but divisions within the opposition raise concerns about governance and legitimacy. Human rights organisations have long documented abuses under Maduro, in-

cluding political prisoners, torture, and extrajudicial killings.

Historically, US-led regime change efforts in Latin America have produced mixed results. The 1989 Panama invasion is often cited as a parallel, but Venezuela's scale, resources, and regional influence make the situation far more complex. Without a clear transition plan, Venezuela risks prolonged instability, internal conflict, and economic disruption.

The crisis highlights a broader global dilemma: removing authoritarian rulers may appear decisive, but sustainable peace depends on inclusive political processes. What happens next in Venezuela will test international norms, regional diplomacy, and the limits of military power in shaping democratic outcomes.

US Detention Of Nicolás Maduro Signals A Historic Shift In Latin American Power Politics



The detention of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and First Lady Cilia Flores in a New York federal detention centre represents one of the most extraordinary episodes in recent international politics. Following coordinated US air and ground strikes on Venezuelan military infrastructure, Maduro was captured in Caracas and flown to the United States to face drug traf-

ficking and weapons-related charges. The move effectively ended more than a decade of his rule and signalled a dramatic escalation in US involvement in Latin America.

President Donald Trump stated that the United States would "run" Venezuela until a "safe, proper and judicious transition" of power could be achieved. He further claimed that US oil companies would help

repair Venezuela's broken infrastructure and revive its economy. These remarks have raised serious concerns about sovereignty, foreign occupation, and economic exploitation, especially given Venezuela's vast oil reserves.

Venezuela immediately declared a national emergency and condemned the operation as military aggression. While Maduro has long denied allega-

tions of leading a drug cartel, the US has repeatedly accused him of heading the "Cartel de los Soles." The capture has deepened fears of prolonged instability, particularly as Venezuelans continue to suffer from economic collapse, inflation, shortages, and mass migration.

This episode marks a sharp reversal of Trump's earlier pledge to avoid new wars. Analysts argue that while the removal of an authoritarian leader may be welcomed by some, direct military intervention without international consensus risks destabilising the region. The situation underscores the tension between enforcing accountability and respecting international law, making Venezuela a new flashpoint in global geopolitics.

Operation Absolute Resolve Shows Unprecedented US Military Precision And Intelligence Reach



The US military operation that led to the capture of Nicolás Maduro was the result of months of meticulous intelligence gathering and strategic planning. Dubbed "Operation Absolute Resolve," the mission involved US spies tracking Maduro's daily movements, security arrangements, and locations. According to offi-

cials, even details about his personal habits were monitored to minimise risk and maximise surprise.

Elite US forces reportedly trained on a full-scale replica of Maduro's Caracas safe house. The operation was launched only after optimal weather and visibility conditions were achieved. More than 150

aircraft, including fighter jets, bombers, and reconnaissance planes, were deployed in one of the largest US military mobilisations in the region in decades.

Explosions were heard across Caracas in the early hours of the morning, with smoke rising from key military installations such as air bases and

ports. Residents described panic, darkness, and confusion as aircraft flew low over the city. Videos circulated widely on social media, showing detonations and helicopters hovering over the capital.

President Trump followed the operation live from his Mar-a-Lago residence, describing it as "incredible" and praising the

speed and force of the mission. Critics, however, argue that bypassing Congressional approval sets a dangerous precedent. The secrecy surrounding the mission and lack of international consultation have intensified debates about accountability, legality, and the future use of military force for regime change.

SUV Dominance In India’s Used-Car Market Persists Despite GST Relief For Small Cars



India’s used-car market continues to show a strong and consistent preference for sport utility vehicles (SUVs), even after recent GST-led price reductions made small cars more affordable. Industry executives and data from used-car platforms indicate that buyer behaviour has remained largely unchanged, with SUVs enjoying faster inventory turnover and stronger residual values compared to hatchbacks.

The revised GST regime reduced prices across segments, but the impact has been uneven. Hatchbacks witnessed a price moderation of around 21 per cent, while SUVs saw a sharper adjustment of nearly 29 per cent. Despite this larger price

correction, SUV demand has remained resilient, highlighting that affordability alone does not dictate consumer choice in the secondary market.

According to Abhishek Pato-dia, President – Used Cars at CarWale, the preference for SUVs reflects evolving consumer priorities. Buyers increasingly value space, comfort, driving confidence, and road presence—factors that SUVs naturally offer. These attributes have gained importance as Indian households travel longer distances, navigate mixed road conditions, and seek vehicles that serve both urban and semi-rural needs.

The faster inventory turnover of SUVs also suggests high-

er liquidity in the segment. Dealers are able to sell SUVs more quickly than hatchbacks, even though SUVs command higher ticket sizes. This trend supports stronger residual values, making SUVs a more attractive asset from both ownership and resale perspectives.

Interestingly, the data suggests that GST changes did not significantly alter buyer psychology. While small cars became cheaper, they did not see a proportionate surge in demand. This may indicate saturation in the entry-level segment, where consumers upgrading from two-wheelers or older hatchbacks are now skipping directly to compact or mid-size SUVs.

From a broader economic

standpoint, the trend reflects rising income aspirations and changing lifestyle expectations. The used-car market often mirrors long-term consumer sentiment more accurately than the new-car market, as buyers are value-conscious yet aspirational.

Overall, the sustained dominance of SUVs in the used-car space underscores a structural shift rather than a temporary trend. Even policy-driven price interventions have not diluted the appeal of larger vehicles, reinforcing the idea that consumer preferences in India’s auto market are increasingly driven by utility and lifestyle rather than cost alone.

Ex-Date Watchlist Highlights How Corporate Actions Shape Short-Term Stock Market Focus

Shares of Orient Technologies, Fairchem Organics, A-1 Limited, and Antariksh Industries are expected to remain in focus in the coming week as they trade ex-date for various corporate actions. These developments underline how announcements such as bonus issues, stock splits, and buybacks influence investor behaviour and short-term market movements.

According to BSE data, Orient Technologies and Antariksh Industries will trade ex-date for bonus issues of equity shares. A-1 Limited will trade ex-date following the subdivision of its equity shares, while Fairchem Organics will go ex-date for its share buyback announcement.

Investors seeking eligibility for these corporate actions must hold the shares on or before the ex-date, although final entitlement depends on the record date set by each company.

Orient Technologies, an IT-enabled services provider, has announced a bonus issue in the ratio of 1:10. This means shareholders will receive one new fully paid-up equity share of ₹10 for every ten existing shares held. Bonus issues are often perceived positively, as they signal management confidence in long-term growth and improve stock liquidity by increasing the number of shares outstanding.

Similarly, stock splits, such as the one announced by A-1 Lim-

ited, aim to make shares more affordable and attractive to retail investors. While such actions do not change a company’s fundamental value, they can increase trading volumes and broaden investor participation.

Fairchem Organics’ buyback announcement places it in focus for a different reason. Buybacks reduce the number of outstanding shares and often signal that management believes the stock is undervalued. They can also improve earnings per share and provide downside support to stock prices.

However, market participants must exercise caution. Stocks often experience price volatility around ex-dates, as prices

adjust to reflect the corporate action. Short-term gains driven purely by corporate announcements may not sustain unless backed by strong fundamentals.

From an economic perspective, these developments highlight the importance of corporate governance decisions in shaping capital market dynamics. They also reflect how companies use financial tools to reward shareholders, manage capital structure, and influence investor sentiment.

In summary, the upcoming ex-dates reinforce the need for investors to look beyond headline announcements and assess whether corporate actions align with long-term value creation.

CPSE Rally Signals Renewed Investor Confidence In Government-Owned Enterprises

Shares of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) witnessed strong buying interest, with several stocks rallying up to 7 per cent in intra-day trade. The BSE CPSE index rose 1.83 per cent, significantly outperforming the broader Sensex, which gained just 0.58 per cent during the same session.

A wide range of CPSE stocks participated in the rally, including Coal India, BHEL, Nalco, NTPC, NHPC, Power Finance Corporation, IRFC, GAIL, and Hindustan Copper. The broad-based nature of the gains indicates renewed investor confidence in public sector enterprises rather than stock-specific speculation.

Coal India emerged as a standout performer, hitting a fresh 52-week high of 426.95 after surging nearly 7 per cent. The rally was supported by a more than three-fold jump in trading volumes, reflecting strong institutional participation. Coal India’s performance also mirrors optimism around stable coal demand, pricing visibility, and healthy dividend expectations.

The renewed interest in CPS-



Es can be attributed to multiple factors. Attractive valuations, improving balance sheets, consistent dividend payouts, and expectations of policy support have made these stocks appealing in a market environment marked by selective participation. Additionally, CPSEs offer exposure to core sectors such as energy, infrastructure, mining, and power financing, which are central to India’s growth agenda.

From a macroeconomic standpoint, the rally suggests a shift toward defensive and value-oriented investing. As global uncertainties persist, investors appear to be favouring companies with predictable cash flows and government backing.

The performance also highlights how CPSE stocks are no longer viewed solely as policy-driven entities but as commercially viable businesses capable of generating shareholder value.

Overall, the surge in CPSE stocks reflects a reassessment of the sector’s role in India’s equity markets and reinforces their importance in long-term portfolio allocation strategies.

IDBI Bank’s 11-Year High Reflects Renewed Confidence In PSU Banking Turnaround



Shares of IDBI Bank surged to their highest level in over 11 years, rising as much as 11.1 per cent to ₹115.1 per share amid a sharp spike in trading volumes. The rally marks the third consecutive session of gains and signals renewed investor confidence in the bank’s turnaround story.

Trading volumes surged nearly four times the 20-day average, indicating strong participation from institutional and high-net-worth investors. At its peak, IDBI Bank was trading at nearly 15 times its average 30-day volume, underscoring heightened market interest.

The rally comes against the backdrop of improving asset quality, stabilising earnings, and expectations surrounding strategic disinvestment. Over the past few years, IDBI Bank has made significant progress in reducing non-performing assets and strengthen-

ing its balance sheet, gradually restoring credibility in the market.

From a broader banking sector perspective, the stock’s performance reflects optimism around PSU banks, many of which have benefited from credit growth, improved capital adequacy, and better risk management practices.

While short-term momentum has driven the recent surge, analysts caution that sustainability will depend on consistent profitability and clarity on ownership changes. Nevertheless, reaching an 11-year high carries strong psychological significance, indicating that investors are increasingly willing to price in long-term improvements.

The episode highlights how turnaround stories, when supported by data and execution, can dramatically reshape market perception.

Auto Ancillary Stocks Rally As Strong OEM Wholesales Boost Sector Outlook



Shares of auto component and equipment manufacturers surged up to 12 per cent amid heavy trading volumes, driven by stronger-than-expected auto wholesales in December 2025. Several companies, including Bosch, JBM Auto, Igarashi Motors, Jamna Auto, and Sansera Engineering, touched fresh 52-week highs.

The rally reflects optimism about sustained demand from original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), as vehicle sales exceeded analyst expectations across multiple segments. Strong wholesales suggest stable production schedules, directly benefiting component suppliers.

Auto ancillary companies play a criti-

cal role in the automotive value chain, supplying parts across passenger vehicles, commercial vehicles, and two-wheelers. Improved OEM performance translates into better capacity utilisation, pricing power, and earnings visibility for these firms.

The sector’s performance also indicates confidence in India’s manufacturing growth story. Government initiatives supporting domestic manufacturing and supply chain localisation have strengthened the long-term outlook for auto ancillaries.

Overall, the rally underscores how cyclical recovery combined with structural tailwinds can drive sustained investor interest.

Silver’s Historic Rally Faces Volatility But Long-Term Outlook Remains Strong



Silver delivered its best annual performance since 1979, surging 148 per cent in 2025 to reach \$71.66, driven by supply constraints, speculative interest, and China’s export restrictions. The metal briefly touched an all-time high of \$84 in December before cooling off following margin hikes by global exchanges.

China’s decision to impose export restrictions effective January 2026 has tightened global supply, impacting 7–10 per cent of global silver availability. With silver already in its fifth consecutive year of deficit, estimated at around 200 million ounces, the restrictions have intensified price volatility.

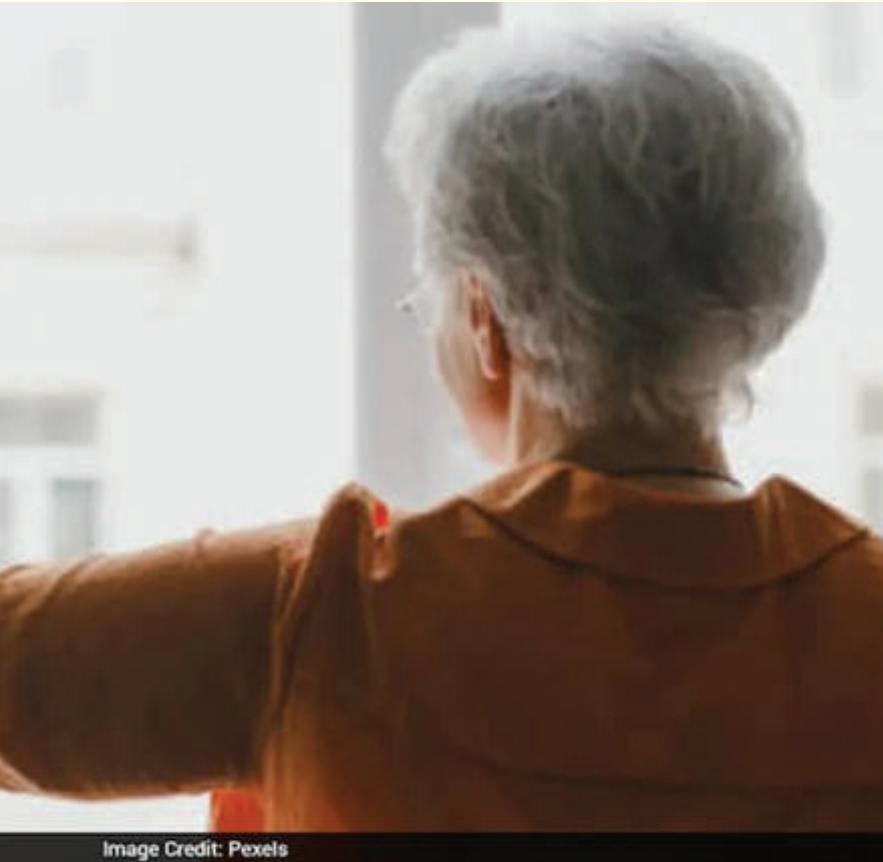
ETF holdings remain near multi-year

highs, while COMEX inventories are at their lowest levels since early 2025, further highlighting supply stress. However, sharp margin hikes by the CME and other exchanges have acted as a near-term bearish catalyst.

Analysts suggest silver must hold above \$70 to attempt a fresh rally, with risks of consolidation or correction if support breaks. Despite short-term volatility, the long-term outlook remains positive, supported by industrial demand, green energy applications, and structural supply deficits.

For long-term investors, silver continues to be viewed as an accumulation asset with a 3–5 year horizon, provided risk management is maintained.

From War Orphan To Midwife A Life Shaped By Compassion Across Borders



The story of Xu Yan, a Japanese woman raised by Chinese families after being orphaned by war, stands as a powerful testament to humanity's capacity for compassion amid conflict. Born Sakura Yamamoto during the Second Sino-Japanese War, she lost both parents as an infant — her father in combat and her mother during childbirth. Left behind in China after Japan's defeat in 1945, her life could have easily slipped into obscurity. Instead, it was transformed by kindness. Adopted first by one Chinese family and later lovingly raised by another, she was renamed Xu Yan — “swallow” — symbolising resilience and inde-

pendence. In Dalian, under the care of her grandmother, she experienced unconditional love, stability, and education. These formative years shaped her worldview and sense of belonging. As an adult, Xu Yan chose a path of service. After medical training, she became a midwife in rural China, assisting in the safe birth of countless children. For her, the work was deeply personal — a way to repay the life she had been given by strangers who became family. Every newborn she helped deliver represented continuity, healing, and hope beyond historical trauma. Only later in life did she discover her Japa-

nese origins through vaccination records. Yet even then, she chose not to search for her biological roots. Her sense of identity was already complete. Dalian, not Japan, was home. Her story challenges rigid notions of nationality, showing that belonging is defined by care, not blood. In a world still fractured by borders and historical grievances, Xu Yan's life quietly defies cynicism. It shows how compassion can outlast conflict, and how humanity can rebuild what war destroys — one act of kindness at a time.

A Fear-Free Walk At 3 AM And What It Reveals About Women's Safety



When Kritika Jain shared a video of herself walking alone at 3 am in Singapore, the internet reacted strongly — not because the act was dramatic, but because it was ordinary. The quiet streets, calm atmosphere, and absence of fear stood in stark contrast to what many women experience in other parts of the world, including India. Jain's reflection was simple yet powerful. She explained that walking alone at night in Singapore felt normal, not brave. She did not feel the need to constantly look back or stay alert. This sense of security, she not-

ed, was the true reason she loved the city — not its skyline or infrastructure, but the assurance of personal safety. The post sparked mixed reactions. Some users praised Singapore's civic discipline and law enforcement, while others questioned whether comparisons were fair. Yet the core message remained undeniable: safety profoundly shapes freedom. The ability to exist without fear is not a luxury; it is a basic right. What made the post resonate was its honesty. Jain did not attack India, nor did she exaggerate Singapore's perfection.

She simply shared a lived experience, allowing viewers to draw their own conclusions. In doing so, she highlighted a truth often buried in statistics — that safety is felt in everyday moments, not policies alone. The conversation it sparked reflects a growing demand for accountability and systemic change. When a peaceful walk becomes viral, it signals how rare such experiences remain for many women. The video ultimately serves as both inspiration and indictment — showing what is possible, and what is missing.

A Quiet Act Of Art Turns An Ordinary Bus Ride Into A Shared Human Moment

In an age dominated by fast-scrolling content and performative generosity, a simple pencil sketch created during a bus journey in Karnataka has reminded the internet of the power of quiet kindness. The viral video shows artist Akash Selvarasu surprising a Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) bus conductor with a hand-drawn portrait, made silently while she went about her demanding daily routine of collecting fares and issuing tickets. What makes the moment striking is its complete lack of spectacle. There was no announcement, no staged reveal, and no expectation of applause. The conductor remained unaware of the sketch as she focused on her responsibilities, embodying the unnoticed labour that keeps public services functioning. When Selvarasu finally handed over the drawing, her reaction was immediate and genuine — a wide smile, visible disbelief, and an instinctive desire to share the joy with fellow passengers. The conductor's response resonated deeply online. She proudly showed the sketch to oth-



ers on the bus, not as a symbol of personal recognition alone, but as a shared moment of happiness. Selvarasu later reflected that language was not a barrier; although she spoke only Kannada, emotion became the bridge. His words underscored a universal truth — appreciation does not need translation. Social media users re-

sponded overwhelmingly positively, with millions of likes and comments praising the humility of the conductor and the thoughtfulness of the artist. Many noted how rare it is to see public workers acknowledged beyond complaints or routine interactions. In a society where service staff often remain invisible, the sketch became a

symbol of dignity and recognition. Beyond virality, the incident offers a gentle critique of modern online culture. It shows that meaningful content does not require shock value or controversy. Sometimes, a quiet gesture rooted in empathy carries more weight than grand displays of generosity. The

moment lingers because it feels real — unscripted, human, and deeply respectful. Ultimately, this small act of art transformed an ordinary commute into a shared emotional experience. It reminds us that creativity, when paired with empathy, has the power to uplift lives in ways that algorithms cannot predict.

A DNA Test, A Rescue Dog, And How Identity Can Surprise Even The Most Loving Owners



Adopting a rescue dog often comes with unknowns, but for Brett Miller, a simple DNA test rewrote everything he thought he knew about his pet. Birdie, a two-year-old rescue adopted from a shelter in Los Angeles, was initially believed to be a pit bull-terrier mix. Her unusual appearance became a source of affectionate

jokes, but also concern — particularly when Miller hoped to fly with her. Airline restrictions on pit bull breeds posed a potential barrier, and when a veterinarian refused to clear Birdie for air travel, Miller turned to a DNA test for clarity. What emerged was not just surprising, but deeply revealing about how

assumptions shape perception. Birdie turned out to be primarily American Bully, with notable traces of Chihuahua, Pomeranian, Poodle, and Super Mutt — and only a minimal percentage of pit bull ancestry. The revelation was both relieving and reflective. It opened the possibility of travel while also exposing how breed la-

bels can carry disproportionate consequences. The story sparked online discussions about breed-based restrictions, shelter misidentifications, and the broader stigma surrounding certain dog breeds. Beyond logistics, the story highlights a deeper emotional truth. Birdie's temperament — friendly, playful, calm, and deeply

bonded with her family — never matched the stereotypes often associated with pit bulls. The DNA results merely confirmed what her behaviour had already proven: identity cannot be reduced to labels. The viral reaction also revealed growing awareness about adoption biases. Many users shared similar stories of misidentified rescue dogs and questioned the fairness of policies that judge animals based on appearance rather than behaviour. In that sense, Birdie's story becomes less about genetics and more about compassion. Ultimately, the DNA test didn't change Birdie — it changed human perception. Her story reminds us that whether in animals or people, identity is complex, layered, and often defies expectation. Love, it seems, already knew the truth long before science did.

A Small New Year Gift That Shows Why Thoughtfulness Still Matters In Business

In a world of automated deliveries and impersonal transactions, a Blinkit customer's New Year surprise stood out for its simplicity. When Geet opened her grocery delivery, she found not just essentials, but a small keychain and a handwritten note thanking her for being among the company's most valued customers. The gesture was modest, but its impact was outsized. The note described her as part of a rare group of customers Blinkit proudly discusses in meetings. The message wasn't about discounts or loyalty points — it was about appreciation. Geet's reaction, shared online, captured genuine joy at being seen as more than a transaction. The post quickly went viral, sparking discussions about customer relationships in the digital economy. While some questioned whether the note was mass-produced, many argued that intent



matters more than exclusivity. In an era where customer service is often reduced to chatbots and templates, even symbolic gestures can restore warmth. What makes the mo-

ment meaningful is timing. During New Year celebrations, small affirmations carry emotional weight. The keychain wasn't valuable, but the feeling it created was. It reinforced that business-

es thrive not just on efficiency, but on emotional connection. The episode highlights a broader lesson: trust and loyalty are built through human moments, not algorithms

alone. As companies race toward automation, those that retain empathy may ultimately stand out — not through grand promises, but through small acts that customers remember.

Bangladesh’s T20 World Cup Standoff Shows How Cricket Can Spiral Into Diplomatic Crisis



The Bangladesh Cricket Board’s (BCB) decision to refuse travel to India for the 2026 T20 World Cup has triggered unprecedented uncertainty in global cricket administration. The move follows the controversial release of fast bowler Mustafizur Rahman from the Kolkata Knight Riders’ IPL squad on instructions from the BCCI, a decision rooted not in cricketing performance but in escalating political tensions between India and Bangladesh.

Mustafizur Rahman, Bangladesh’s most valuable fast bowler and the country’s most expensive IPL signing ever at ₹9.20 crore, was abruptly removed from KKR amid security concerns raised in India following communal violence in Bangladesh. While the BCCI framed the decision as precautionary, the BCB viewed it as discriminatory and humiliating, questioning the safety and respect afforded to Bangladeshi cricketers in India.

In response, the BCB announced it would not send its national team to India for the T20 World Cup matches and formally requested the ICC to shift Bangladesh’s fixtures to Sri Lanka. Importantly, Bangladesh has not withdrawn from the tournament itself — a distinction that highlights how the conflict is logistical and diplomatic rather than sporting.

The issue escalated further when Bangladesh revoked Mustafizur Rahman’s No Objection Certificate (NOC), barring him from IPL participation even if KKR were to reconsider. This step transformed the dispute from a franchise-level issue into a full-fledged international standoff. Statements from Bangladesh government advisor Asif Nazrul framed the BCCI’s actions as part of “aggressive communal policies,” intensifying rhetoric on both sides.

The consequences extend beyond one player. Bangladesh was scheduled to play all group matches at iconic Indian venues like Eden Gardens and Wankhede Stadium. Venue uncertainty threatens ticketing, broadcasting, scheduling, and tournament credibility. The call to suspend IPL broadcasts in Bangladesh further signals how economic and cultural ties through cricket are now at risk.

At its core, the crisis exposes the fragile boundary between sport and geopolitics. While cricket claims neutrality, its institutions often reflect national sentiments and political pressure. The ICC now faces a critical test of governance — whether it can protect the integrity of a global tournament while addressing genuine security concerns.

This episode serves as a warning that modern cricket, deeply entangled with nationalism and diplomacy, can no longer isolate itself from political realities. If unresolved, the standoff could redefine how international tournaments are hosted, negotiated, and protected in politically sensitive regions.

Australian Prime Minister’s Tribute To Usman Khawaja Highlights Cricket’s Social Legacy

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese’s tribute to Usman Khawaja upon his retirement transcended cricket statistics, focusing instead on identity, representation, and leadership beyond the boundary rope. Khawaja’s retirement at age 39, following 87 Test appearances, marks the end of a career that reshaped Australian cricket’s cultural narrative.



Born in Islamabad and raised in Australia, Khawaja became the first Muslim and Pakistan-born cricketer to represent Australia. His journey symbolised inclusivity in a traditionally conservative sporting culture. Albanese’s message acknowledged not only Khawaja’s on-field contributions but his broader social impact.

Khawaja’s calm dignity, outspoken advocacy for humanitarian causes, and ability to bridge cultural divides made him more than a cricketer. He represented modern Australia — diverse, vocal, and values-driven.

The Prime Minister’s public appreciation reinforces how athletes can shape national identity. It also highlights cricket’s evolving role as a platform for social leadership rather than mere entertainment.

Khawaja’s legacy will endure not just in runs scored, but in barriers broken.

Damien Martyn’s Recovery From Coma Is A Reminder Of Cricket’s Human Core

The recovery of Australian cricket legend Damien Martyn from an induced coma due to meningitis has been described by former teammate Adam Gilchrist as nothing short of miraculous. Hospitalised for over a week, Martyn’s ability to speak and respond to treatment marks a remarkable turnaround.



Martyn’s career achievements — over 4,400 Test runs and 5,300 ODI runs — established him as one of Australia’s most elegant batters and greatest finishers. Yet, this episode shifted focus from sporting excellence to human vulnerability.

The outpouring of support from fans, former players, and media coverage played a significant emotional role, according to Martyn’s family. Gilchrist noted that collective goodwill contributed to the recovery process.

The incident serves as a reminder that behind sporting legends are fragile human lives. In moments like these, cricket’s competitive rivalries fade, replaced by shared humanity.

Martyn’s recovery reaffirms that while careers end, compassion endures — often becoming the most powerful legacy of all.

Revoking Mustafizur Rahman’s IPL NOC Marks A Rare Assertion Of National Authority Over Franchise Cricket



The Bangladesh Cricket Board’s decision to revoke Mustafizur Rahman’s No Objection Certificate (NOC) represents one of the strongest assertions of national board authority in the era of franchise-dominated cricket. The move came after the BCCI instructed Kolkata Knight Riders to release Mustafizur Rahman amid escalating India-Bangladesh tensions, effectively preventing the pacer from fulfilling his IPL contract.

By withdrawing the NOC, the BCB ensured that Mustafizur would not participate in the IPL even if KKR attempted to reinstate him or another franchise sought his services. This step signals Bangladesh’s refusal to allow its players to operate in an environment it considers unsafe or politically hostile. Traditionally, NOCs are administrative formalities designed to balance player freedom with national commitments. However, in this case, the NOC became a political instrument. The BCB’s action reflects growing frustration among smaller cricket boards over unequal power dynamics, where financial might often overrides fairness and transparency.

Bangladesh’s T20 World Cup Squad Selection Defies Crisis To Signal Competitive Intent



Despite ongoing diplomatic turmoil with the BCCI, Bangladesh’s announcement of its 15-member squad for the T20 World Cup 2026 reflects continuity, confidence, and competitive ambition. Led by wicketkeeper-batter Litton Das, the squad balances experience with youthful energy, indicating that on-field goals remain intact despite off-field distractions.

The inclusion of Mustafizur Rahman is particularly significant. Amid IPL controversies and security concerns, Bangladesh’s decision to retain him as a central figure underscores trust in his abilities and leadership. Alongside Taskin Ahmed, Mustafizur forms the backbone of a pace attack capable of challenging top teams. Batting responsibilities rest heavily on Litton Das, supported by Tanzid Hasan and Parvez Hossain Emon. The middle order features versatile all-rounders and spin options such as Mahedi Hasan, Nasum Ahmed, and Rishad Hossain — players critical in subcontinent conditions.

Placed in Group C with England, West Indies, Nepal, and Italy, Bangladesh faces a demanding group stage. While advancing beyond the group remains a historical challenge, the squad composition suggests preparedness for both pace-heavy and spin-friendly conditions.

The selection also sends a political message — Bangladesh will not allow administrative disputes to destabilise team unity or preparation. However, uncertainty remains over venues, as the BCB has formally requested that matches be shifted from India to Sri Lanka.

This duality — competitive readiness amid logistical chaos — defines Bangladesh’s World Cup narrative. Whether governance issues overshadow cricketing ambition now depends largely on the ICC’s response.

Sivakarthikeyan’s Parasakthi Trailer Released — Powerful Period Drama Promises Intense Storytelling



Fans of South Indian cinema are buzzing as the official trailer for Parasakthi has been released, giving audiences their first look at this highly anticipated period drama. The trailer immediately captured attention with its striking visuals, intense performances, and a socially and politically charged narrative that sets it apart from typical mainstream films.

Parasakthi stars Sivakarthikeyan in the lead role, portraying a young man caught in a pivotal period of Tamil Nadu's history. Directed by acclaimed filmmaker Sudha Kongara, known for her ability to craft emotionally resonant stories, the film is set against the backdrop of the mid-1960s Anti-Hindi agitations. The story promises to explore themes of resistance, identity, and cultural pride, reflecting the struggles of a generation fighting to have their voices heard.

The trailer introduces

Sivakarthikeyan’s character as an initially peaceful individual whose life is disrupted by the political tensions of the era. Forced to take a stand, he transforms into a determined fighter, testing his courage and convictions. His powerful performance is complemented by Ravi Mohan, who plays a formidable antagonist, creating tense and emotionally charged confrontations that form the core of the story.

Supporting performances by Atharvaa Murali and Sreeleela add depth to the narrative. Atharvaa’s role strengthens the main character’s journey, while Sreeleela’s presence brings emotional layers, highlighting the personal stakes intertwined with the larger social conflict.

Visually, the trailer impresses with authentic period settings, detailed production design, and a carefully curated color palette that reflects the intensity of the time. The background score

enhances the emotional and dramatic impact, making every scene resonate with audiences. Moments of tension, conflict, and subtle sentiment are interwoven to create a compelling cinematic experience.

Parasakthi is scheduled for a January 10, 2026 theatrical release, coinciding with the Pongal festival, making it an ideal time for audiences to experience a film that combines historical significance with cinematic grandeur. The trailer has already sparked conversations, with viewers praising the performances, direction, and the bold narrative.

With its blend of powerful storytelling, historical relevance, and strong performances, Parasakthi is shaping up to be one of the most talked-about films of the year. Audiences are eagerly awaiting its release to witness a period drama that promises both entertainment and thought-provoking content.

Tollywood Action Thriller Akhanda 2: Thaandavam to Stream on Netflix from January 9

Tollywood fans have a reason to celebrate as the highly anticipated sequel Akhanda 2: Thaandavam, following the success of the 2021 blockbuster Akhanda, is set to premiere on Netflix from January 9, 2026. After an action-packed theatrical run that captivated audiences, the film will now be available for viewers to stream at home, offering another chance to experience its high-octane spectacle and larger-than-life drama.

Starring veteran actor Nandamuri Balakrishna in the lead role, Akhanda 2 continues the story of the divine Aghori warrior, blending fantasy, mythology, and action in a style that has become a hallmark of Balakrishna’s career. Directed by Boyapati Sreenu, known for delivering commercially successful and visually striking films, the sequel expands on the first installment’s epic narrative with thrilling fight sequences, devotion-infused drama, and intense emotional moments.

The ensemble cast includes Samyuktha Menon, Aadhi Pinisetty, and Harshaali Malhotra, each contributing to the story’s stakes and dynamic interactions. The film’s plot centers on Balakrishna’s character confronting new supernatural and human threats while protecting justice and righteousness, blending mythology and contemporary storytelling to appeal to fans of mass-action cinema.

While critics gave the film mixed reviews upon



its theatrical release, fans praised Balakrishna’s commanding performance, the visual grandeur, and the scale of the action sequences. The Netflix release allows a wider audience to engage with the film, including viewers who prefer OTT viewing or those who missed it in theatres.

In addition to Telugu, the film will be available in multiple dubbed languages, enabling it to reach audiences across India and beyond. The digital launch also positions Akhanda 2 as one of the first major OTT action releases of 2026, coinciding with strong anticipation for new streaming content at the start of the year.

Buzz is already building online as fans discuss their favourite scenes, stunts, and Balakrishna’s iconic portrayal of the warrior. The OTT release offers an opportunity for the film to gain a second wave of popularity, showcasing its fantasy-driven action sequences, mass appeal, and devotional elements to a global audience.

With its mix of mythology, spectacle, and Nandamuri Balakrishna’s larger-than-life performance, Akhanda 2: Thaandavam is set to entertain viewers once again, proving that the franchise continues to resonate with fans of action-packed Telugu cinema.

Chiranjeevi’s Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu Trailer Released – Vintage ‘Chiru’ Is Back!

Tollywood megastar Chiranjeevi has thrilled fans with the release of the official trailer for his upcoming festive entertainer Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu. The trailer showcases Chiranjeevi in a mix of comedy, action, and his signature charm, prompting fans to exclaim, “Vintage Chiru is back!” as anticipation for the film continues to build ahead of its Sankranti release.

Directed by hitmaker Anil Ravipudi, the trailer introduces audiences to Chiranjeevi’s character, Shankara Vara Prasad, a man whose seemingly ordinary family life is disrupted by unexpected excitement from his adventurous past. The blend of domestic warmth and action-packed sequences sets the tone for a story filled with humor, emotion, and high-octane entertainment.



One of the trailer’s highlights is Chiranjeevi’s effortless comic timing and magnetic screen presence. His interactions with co-star Nayanthara, who plays the strong and elegant Sasirekha, add charm and emotional depth. Their on-screen chemistry is highlighted in moments that balance lighthearted

humor with heartfelt emotion, giving audiences a glimpse of the film’s family-friendly appeal.

Adding further excitement is the presence of Venkatesh, whose cameo electrifies the screen and hints at a dynamic relationship with Chiranjeevi’s character. The combination of these two iconic actors promises engaging sequences that are both

fun and dramatic.

The trailer also emphasizes lavish production design, stylish action sequences, and a vibrant musical score that complements the festive tone of the film. Director Anil Ravipudi’s signature style of mixing laughter, sentiment, and mass appeal is evident throughout, ensuring that audiences of all ages will be

entertained.

Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu is scheduled for a January 12, 2026 theatrical release, timed perfectly for the Sankranti festival. Fans are eagerly discussing trailer highlights and speculating about the plot, performances, and high-energy moments, which has only increased anticipation.

With its combination

of comedy, action, family drama, and Chiranjeevi’s vintage charisma, the film is shaping up to be one of the most talked-about releases of the festival season. The trailer has already set high expectations, promising audiences a memorable cinematic experience that celebrates Chiranjeevi’s enduring legacy in Telugu cinema.

Tollywood’s Mr. Work From Home Official Teaser Released – A Fun, Youthful Romance

Tollywood audiences have a reason to get excited as the official teaser for Mr. Work From Home has been released, offering the first glimpse of this fresh and entertaining film. The teaser has quickly captured attention with its playful tone, colourful visuals, and a promise of lighthearted romance blended with workplace comedy.

The film stars Thrigun in the lead role, supported by Payal Radhakrishna and Anish Kuruvilla, among others. The teaser introduces viewers to a lively world where professional life and personal relationships intersect, suggesting a narrative that is both fun and relatable. Thrigun’s character appears to be navigating the challenges of balancing career ambitions with romantic interests, delivering moments of humour and charm along the way.

Produced under the banner of Lotus Creative Works by CH.V.S.N Babji, the movie is aimed at

younger audiences who enjoy contemporary stories with a mix of humour, romance, and emotional moments. The teaser highlights the chemistry between the lead pair and hints at entertaining dynamics in a modern work-from-home environment, a theme many viewers can now easily relate to.

One of the highlights of the teaser is the film’s vibrant and visually appealing cinematography, which gives it a bright and energetic aesthetic. The soundtrack further enhances the mood, with catchy music that complements the playful and romantic elements of the story. The combination of these factors makes the teaser instantly engaging and has already sparked discussion among fans.

While the official plot details and release date are yet to be announced, the teaser has successfully generated curiosity and anticipation. Fans are excited to see how the



story unfolds and how the characters’ personal and professional lives intertwine on screen.

With its blend of romance, comedy, and workplace scenarios, Mr. Work From Home promises to be a youthful entertainer for audiences

looking for fun and lighthearted storytelling. The teaser has set the stage for what could be one of the year’s most relatable and enjoyable films, giving Tollywood audiences plenty to look forward to in the coming months.

As the buzz grows,

viewers are eagerly awaiting further promotional content, including songs, trailers, and an official release date, making Mr. Work From Home one of the most talked-about upcoming films in Telugu cinema.

Vijay Sethupathi’s Gandhi Talks Teaser Released – Silent Film Promises Bold Experimentation

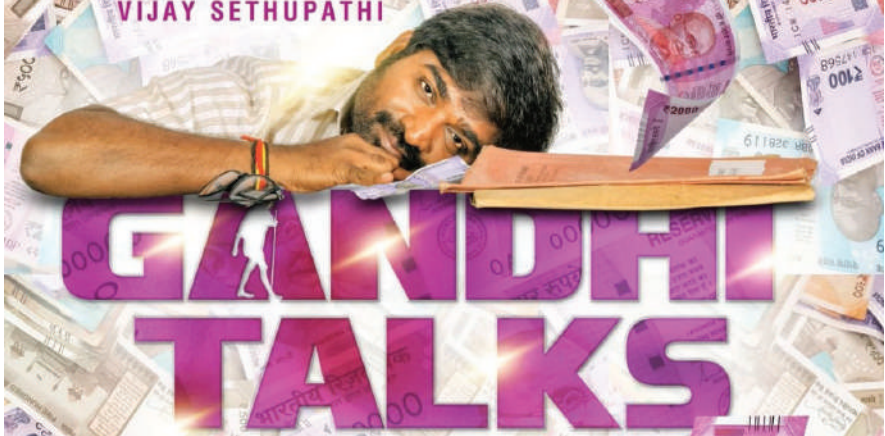
Tollywood and Indian cinema audiences are buzzing with excitement as the official teaser for Gandhi Talks, starring Vijay Sethupathi, has been released. The film stands out as a unique cinematic experiment — it is being presented as a silent film, relying entirely on visual storytelling, acting, and music to convey its narrative. This bold approach has intrigued fans and critics alike, generating considerable anticipation ahead of the film’s release.

The teaser provides the first glimpse of the movie’s tone, showcasing striking visuals, expressive performances, and a carefully crafted atmosphere. Even without dialogue, the trailer effectively conveys emotion, conflict, and character motivation, highlighting the film’s reliance on body language, facial expressions, and cinematic

composition. This departure from conventional storytelling has sparked conversations about the possibilities of silent cinema in modern filmmaking.

In addition to Vijay Sethupathi, the film features Aditi Rao Hydari, Arvind Swamy, and Siddharth Jadhav, all of whom contribute to the film’s expressive storytelling. Their performances in the teaser demonstrate the nuanced acting required to carry a silent narrative, emphasizing emotion and presence over spoken words. The ensemble’s collective energy ensures that the story is both engaging and visually captivating.

A standout element of the teaser is the musical score, which serves as the film’s emotional guide. Music underlines the narrative, accentuating tension, romance, and drama in the absence of



dialogue. The soundtrack is central to the storytelling, making it an integral component that brings depth and rhythm to the film.

The teaser also confirms the film’s theatrical release date as January 30, 2026, coinciding with a day of significant historical reflection.

This timing enhances the thematic resonance of silence and contem-

plation that the film explores. By choosing this release date, the makers underscore the symbolic nature of the project, positioning it as more than just entertainment — it is a cinematic experience designed to provoke thought and reflection.

Critics and audiences alike are calling Gandhi Talks one of the most intriguing cinematic pro-

jects of the year. With its expressive visuals, compelling performances, innovative silent format, and evocative music, the teaser has built significant anticipation. Audiences are now eagerly awaiting the full film to experience how the story unfolds on the big screen, showcasing the power of non-verbal storytelling in contemporary cinema.