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Former Telangana Minister Harish Rao Gets Clean Chit in Phone Tapping Case; Supreme Court Rejects State Government Plea

TPN Bureau | Hyderabad January 05

In a major relief to former Telangana minister Harish Rao, the Supreme Court of India has dismissed the state government's Special Leave Petition (SLP) in the high-profile phone tapping case, effectively ending any legal proceedings against him in the matter. The verdict marks a decisive moment in a controversy that has been closely watched in both political and legal circles across Telangana.

The phone tapping case, which had created a stir in the state, was originally registered at the Panjagutta Police Station. Rao was accused of being involved in the illegal surveillance of certain individuals' communications. Earlier, the Telangana High Court had examined the case and concluded that there was no credible evidence linking him to the allegations. Following this verdict, the state government sought to challenge the High Court's decision in the Supreme Court, hoping to reopen the matter.

Senior advocate Siddharth Luthra represented the Telangana government during the proceedings. He argued that the investigation into the alleged phone tapping was ongoing and that certain critical



pieces of evidence necessitated Harish Rao being questioned in connection with the case. Luthra requested the Supreme Court to permit Rao's examination, citing the seriousness of the allegations.

However, after hearing arguments from both the government and Rao's legal team, the Supreme Court rejected the state's plea. The apex court reiterated that the High Court had thoroughly examined the matter and had found no evidence implicating Rao. The Supreme Court emphasized that there is no legal basis for including him in the investigation, making it clear that he cannot be questioned or treated as a defend-

ant in any future proceedings related to the case.

Legal experts have pointed out that the Supreme Court's ruling essentially closes the chapter on Rao's involvement in the phone tapping controversy. The judgment underscores that allegations must be supported by credible evidence, and political assertions cannot override judicial findings. The decision also sends a strong signal regarding the importance of protecting individuals from frivolous legal harassment in politically sensitive matters.

Harish Rao's legal team welcomed the Supreme Court's verdict, describing it as a vindication of their client and a confirmation of his in-

nocence. "This judgment reinforces the principle that no citizen should be subjected to legal proceedings without clear, verifiable evidence," one senior counsel involved in the case said.

The ruling is likely to have political ramifications in Telangana, where Rao continues to play a significant role in state politics. The Supreme Court's clean chit removes any lingering doubts regarding his legal standing, strengthening his position ahead of upcoming political developments.

With the apex court having conclusively dismissed the state government's appeal, the phone tapping case against Harish Rao appears



Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy Speaks on Polavaram Nallamala Project, Supreme Court Hearing

TPN Bureau | January 05

Telangana Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy has reiterated the state's opposition to the Polavaram-Nallamala project, emphasizing that Telangana has consistently raised objections across all relevant forums. Speaking in a recent informal discussion, the minister clarified that letters circulated by former minister Harish Rao are unrelated to the state's formal stance on the project.

Minister Reddy stated that the Telangana government had formally written to the Godavari River Management Board (GRMB), highlighting violations of interstate rules associated with the Polavaram-Nallamala initiative. "Our position was also endorsed by the GRMB," he added. He further noted that Maharashtra and Karnataka have similarly expressed opposition to the project, reflecting the broader interstate concerns regarding en-

vironmental and water-sharing implications. The minister provided an update on the ongoing Supreme Court proceedings related to the project. He revealed that the apex court has suggested that the case should be filed as a suit petition rather than a writ petition. The hearing, initially scheduled for this week, has been postponed to the coming Monday. Minister Reddy said he would personally attend the next hearing and is coordinating closely with senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi to ensure that Telangana's arguments are presented effectively. He also mentioned plans to meet with the legal team again in the next one or two days to finalize the strategy.

Commenting on irrigation schemes, Minister Reddy criticized the previous BRS administration, asserting that the Rayalaseema lift irrigation projects had been stalled only after the Congress government assumed office. He accused the BRS govern-

ment of causing significant damage to Telangana through mismanagement of Krishna and Godavari waters. According to him, irrigation plans such as Palamuru-Rangareddy, Tummidihatti, and Kaleshwaram were realigned in ways that disproportionately benefited other regions, leading to considerable losses for the state.

Minister Reddy emphasized that Telangana is determined to protect its water resources and ensure equitable distribution while contesting projects that violate interstate agreements. He stressed the importance of presenting well-prepared legal arguments in the Supreme Court to safeguard the state's interests. With the next hearing approaching, the minister assured that Telangana's legal team is ready to make a strong case and that he will personally oversee proceedings to ensure that the state's concerns are fully represented before the apex court.

Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka Announces Major Reforms in Telangana Power Sector, Boosting Farmer Electricity Access

TPN Bureau | January 04:

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka on Monday outlined sweeping reforms in the state's power sector, emphasizing improved service delivery for farmers and the general public. Speaking during a detailed discussion in the Legislative Assembly's Question Hour on the Electricity Department, he reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring reliable, modern, and transparent electricity services.

Highlighting the achievements of the past three years, Vikramarka revealed that between January 2022 and December 2025, a total of 3,44,462 new agricultural electricity connections were provided to farmers. Correspondingly, 75,686 new

transformers were installed, based on the connected load requirements. The Deputy CM assured that connections are being issued without any discrimination, following seniority, and an additional 9,700 farmers will receive transformers as soon as line work is completed. Nearly 2 lakh supplementary connections were granted over 2024 and 2025, demonstrating the government's proactive approach to strengthening the power infrastructure.

Innovating service delivery, Vikramarka announced the launch of "Electricity Ambulances," modeled on emergency 108 services, to quickly respond to complaints. Farmers can call the toll-free number 1912, and mobile teams equipped with transformers, thermal vision cameras, and

safety gear boxes will reach the site promptly. Each unit carries an engineer and two staff members capable of resolving issues on the spot. Addressing concerns about shortages, the Deputy CM clarified that Telangana has no deficiency of transformers, poles, or wires anywhere in the state. Under the "Praja Baata" initiative, officials spend three days a week in the fields, repairing bent poles and loose wires directly on-site. He assured that any written complaint submitted by Assembly members would be resolved within 24 hours.

Deputy CM Vikramarka stressed that the government is committed to modernizing the electricity sector, eliminating delays, and using advanced technology to bring power services closer to the people. He highlighted



that these reforms reflect the administration's focus on ensuring farmers have reliable electricity, enhancing productivity, and empowering rural communities. With the combination of large-scale connection drives,

deployment of mobile service units, and continuous monitoring under the Praja Baata program, Telangana aims to set a benchmark for efficient, citizen-friendly power services across India.

Excitement Builds for Medaram Sammakka-Saralamma Jathara in Telangana Assembly



TPN Bureau | Jan 05

The Telangana Legislative Assembly was abuzz with celebrations and enthusiasm as ministers officially presented invitations for the Medaram Sammakka-Saralamma Maha Jathara, one of the largest tribal festivals in the country.

Dr. Dhanasari Anasuya Seethakka, Minister for Panchayat Raj, Rural Development, Women and Child Welfare; Konda Surekha, Minister for Endowments and Forests; and Adluri Lakshman Kumar, Minister for SC/ST Welfare, handed over the official invitation booklets to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar, and several other cabinet ministers in the Assembly.

Accompanying the ministers, EO Veeraswami, Siddaboyin Jaggarao—the Presi-

dent of the Sammakka-Saralamma Temple Priests' Association—and several temple priests conducted traditional rituals, including tying sacred threads, offering bangles, and presenting gold, formally inviting the dignitaries to the festival.

The Medaram Maha Jathara is scheduled to take place from January 28 to 31. In preparation, the Telangana government has undertaken extensive development works costing 230 crore to enhance the temple complex and surrounding infrastructure. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will inaugurate the restoration of the temple premises and Sammakka-Saralamma Gadalu (sacred platforms) on January 19.

The newly renovated temple premises are being constructed entirely with durable granite, designed to last for over a thousand years. Architectural features including gateways and

watchtowers have been crafted to reflect the sacrifices of Sammakka and Saralamma and the rich heritage of the tribal communities. The temple complex combines tribal culture, spirituality, and modern design, creating a unique pilgrimage experience.

Every year, millions of devotees visit Medaram to seek blessings, and this year is expected to witness similar large gatherings. Invitations were officially extended to the State Governor, Chief Minister, ministers, and other dignitaries, all of whom have assured their participation at the grand tribal festival.

With meticulous planning and modern infrastructure blending with tradition, the Medaram Maha Jathara promises to celebrate tribal legacy and spirituality on a grand scale, reinforcing Telangana's commitment to preserving indigenous culture while enhancing facilities for devotees.

Hyderabad Police Crack Down on Chinese 'Maanja' Ahead of Sankranti

TPN Bureau | January 04:

Hyderabad City Police have issued a stern warning against the sale, storage, and use of illegal Chinese 'maanja' (coated kite strings) during the Sankranti festival. Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar, IPS, emphasized that the hazardous strings pose serious threats to birds, pedestrians, and two-wheeler riders. He made it clear that anyone found selling or storing the banned strings would face immediate criminal action.

Commissioner Sajjanar directed field-level officers to strictly enforce the ban and closely monitor all potential points of violation. While flying kites is a festive tradition, he cautioned that it must not endanger public safety. He further highlighted the environmental impact of Chinese maanja, noting that the strings, often mixed with plastic, synthetic materials, and glass-coated threads, do not decompose easily and remain in the soil for years.

Under the Environmental Protection Act of 1986, the manufacture,

sale, storage, and use of Chinese maanja is strictly prohibited. To enforce this, the police have set up a citywide surveillance system. Task forces, including local police personnel, are conducting surprise raids at kite-selling outlets, small grocery stores, and suspected warehouses across all zones of the city. Authorities are also monitoring transport agencies and parcel services bringing the banned strings into the city from other states. Legal action will be taken against agency owners if any involvement is detected.

Commissioner Sajjanar appealed to parents to ensure the safety of children, explaining that the glass-coated strings can cause serious injuries, including cuts to the neck, arms, and even fatal electric shocks if the strings contact live wires. He urged parents to provide only traditional cotton or safe kite strings to their children.

The public has been called upon to act responsibly and report any illegal sale or storage of Chinese maanja. Citizens can inform authorities via Dial 100, Hyderabad Police



WhatsApp at +91 94906 16555, or their local police station. All informants' details will be kept strictly confidential, the Commissioner assured.

The Hyderabad Police's proactive measures aim to ensure a safe and environmentally responsible Sankranti festival for all citizens.



Indira Mahila Shakti Canteens Symbol of Women Empowerment: Minister Seethakka

Hyderabad, January 6, 2026 | TPN Bureau:
The Telangana government is giving top priority to women empowerment and public welfare through innovative programmes like the Indira Mahila Shakti initiative, Minister for Women and Child Welfare, Konda Surekha (popularly known as Seethakka), said in the State Assembly on Monday. Replying to a question raised by members regarding the establishment of Indira Mahila Shakti Canteens, the Minister gave a detailed explanation highlighting the government's commitment to women's economic self-reliance and dignity.

Seethakka stated that within 48 hours of assuming office, the People's Government launched free bus travel for women, reflecting its seriousness towards women's welfare. "Our aim is not limited to welfare schemes alone. We want women to become economically independent and decision-makers in society," she asserted. Under the Indira Mahila Shakti programme, the government is encouraging women to take up entrepreneurship in more than 20 business sectors. The long-term vision, she said, is to ensure that every woman becomes a member of a Self-Help Group (SHG).



Girls above 15 years of age, elderly women, and even differently-abled women are being brought into SHGs, with special groups formed for ado-

lescent girls, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities. The Minister said Indira Mahila Shakti Canteens have emerged as a strong example of women empowerment and people-centric governance in Telangana. These canteens not only provide tasty and nutritious food at affordable prices but also serve as platforms for women to gain confidence, self-respect, and stable livelihoods. "No matter how many five-star hotels exist, there is no substitute for the taste of home-cooked food. These canteens reflect that warmth and care," she remarked. Starting from Dr B.R.

Ambedkar Secretariat, the canteens have expanded to collectorates, government hospitals, tourist centres, and busy public locations. At present, 250 Indira Mahila Shakti Canteens are functioning successfully across the State. To ensure quality services, SHG members managing the canteens are provided free 10-day training at the National Institute of Tourism and Hospitality Management (NITHM), Hyderabad, at a cost of 22,300 per person. The government is also extending loans for initial investment, providing essential infrastructure, and allocating space free of cost in gov-

ernment premises, thereby reducing financial burden. Seethakka informed that just a day earlier, an Indira Mahila Shakti Canteen was inaugurated at Medaram along with Warangal in-charge Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy. She reiterated that more canteens would be established wherever there is a need. "Women's development is the nation's development," she said, adding that the Telangana government, inspired by Dr B.R. Ambedkar's vision, will continue to strengthen women economically, believing that a stronger women force will make Telangana stronger.

Medaram Festival Undergoes 200 Crore Modernization; Preparations for Grand Celebrations in Full Swing



Hyderabad, January 5, 2026 | TPN Bureau
The iconic Medaram Jatara, revered by tribal and non-tribal devotees of Sammakka Saralamma, is set for a major transformation with modernization works costing over 200 crore, announced P. Srinivas Reddy, Telangana's Minister for Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations. He stated that nearly 95% of the development works have already been completed. Responding to ques-

tions in the Legislative Assembly on Monday, Minister Srinivas Reddy explained that the modernization plan includes durable brick constructions designed to last over 200 years. Additionally, a four-lane road network extending approximately 10 kilometers around the Medaram area has been constructed to facilitate smooth movement of devotees. For the development project, 29 acres of land have already been officially acquired, while an-

other 63 acres have been earmarked to provide enhanced facilities and conveniences for pilgrims. These measures aim to ensure a safe, organized, and modern experience for the millions who attend the festival. The upcoming Medaram Jatara, scheduled from January 29 to 31, will witness arrangements on a scale comparable to the grand Kumbh Mela. Minister Srinivas Reddy emphasized that, following instructions from Chief Minister Re-

vanth Reddy, he has personally overseen multiple inspection rounds along with Minister Seethakka and Endowments Minister Konda Surekha to ensure timely completion and adherence to standards. He further announced that a ceremonial inauguration of the modernization works is planned for January 18, with the presence of the Chief Minister, legislators, and other dignitaries. According to the minister, the comprehensive efforts reflect the

government's commitment to reviving and upgrading the Medaram Jatara, which had faced neglect in previous years. Minister Srinivas Reddy underscored that the modernization and infrastructural improvements will not only preserve the festival's cultural heritage but also enhance the convenience, safety, and overall experience of devotees, ensuring that the Medaram Jatara continues to thrive for centuries to come.

Telangana Ministers Invite Governor to Medaram Sammakka Saralamma Jatara



Hyderabad, January 5, 2026 | TPN Bureau
Telangana Ministers Seethakka and Konda Surekha, along with priests of the Sammakka Saralamma Temple, called on Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan (note: assuming "Jishnu Dev Verma" was intended as the former Governor of Telangana) at the Raj Bhavan in Hyderabad to formally invite him to the upcoming Medaram Sammakka Saralamma Maha Jatara. The delegation handed over the official invitation booklet, highlighting the cultural and religious significance of the festival. During the meeting, Ministers Seethakka and Konda Surekha briefed the Governor on the extensive development and modernization works being undertaken at the Sammakka Saralamma Temple in preparation for the festival. They detailed the infrastructure improvements aimed at accommodating the large number of devotees who converge at Medaram from across the state and the country. These measures in-

clude the construction of durable structures, road expansions, and facilities to ensure the safety and convenience of pilgrims attending the Maha Jatara. The temple priests, adhering to traditional customs, extended ceremonial invitations to the Governor as part of the temple's religious protocol. Elected Village Officer Veeraswami, who was also present, conveyed the customary greetings and explained the significance of the Jatara rituals, emphasizing the spiritual and cultural heritage of the Sammakka Saralamma festival. The ministers emphasized that the Medaram Sammakka Saralamma Jatara is not only a major religious event for tribal and non-tribal communities but also a key occasion that showcases Telangana's rich cultural traditions. They highlighted the government's commitment to maintaining the sanctity of the festival while providing modern amenities and infrastructure to ensure a safe and organized environment for millions of devotees.

Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan appreciated the invitation and acknowledged the government's efforts in modernizing the temple and its surrounding facilities while preserving its spiritual and cultural significance. The Governor expressed her intention to visit Medaram and participate in the celebrations, recognizing the festival's role in promoting communal harmony and cultural unity. The Medaram Sammakka Saralamma Maha Jatara, scheduled for later this month, is one of the largest tribal festivals in India, attracting lakhs of devotees. With active involvement from state ministers and local temple authorities, preparations are progressing rapidly to ensure a seamless and memorable experience for the pilgrims. This meeting at Raj Bhavan underscores the importance the Telangana government places on the festival and reflects ongoing efforts to blend traditional religious observances with modern infrastructure and administrative support.

'Electricity' Lights Up Farmers' Lives: Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka Announces Sweeping Reforms in Telangana Power Sector

Hyderabad, January 5, 2026 | TPN Bureau
Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Monday highlighted major reforms in the state's power sector, emphasizing farmer welfare, modernized service delivery, and rapid field-level problem resolution. Speaking during the Question Hour discussion on the Electricity Department in the Legislative Council, he underlined the government's commitment to strengthening the power sector and ensuring high-quality services for farmers and the general public. Reiterating that electricity is a lifeline for the agricultural community, the Deputy Chief Minister noted that from January 2022 to December 2025, the government cleared all pending applications and provided 3,44,462 new agricultural power connections. In accordance with connected load requirements, 75,686 new transformers

were installed. Connections are issued strictly on the basis of seniority, without discrimination, and an additional 9,700 farmers will receive transformers as soon as line works are completed. Nearly 2 lakh additional connections were granted during 2024 and 2025 alone, underscoring the government's proactive approach. Introducing innovative service delivery, Bhatti Vikramarka announced "electricity ambulances" modeled on the 108 emergency service. Farmers facing power interruptions can simply dial the toll-free number 1912, and a fully equipped mobile team—carrying a transformer, thermal vision cameras, and safety gear—reaches the location promptly. Each unit includes an engineer and two staff members capable of resolving issues swiftly on-site. Addressing concerns regarding shortages, the Deputy CM clarified that Telangana has no

deficiency of electricity poles, transformers, or wires. Under the "Prajata" initiative, officials spend three days a week working in the fields to rectify bent poles and dangling wires. He assured Assembly members that any written complaint brought to his notice will be resolved within 24 hours. Bhatti Vikramarka

emphasized that these reforms represent a paradigm shift in the power sector, combining technology, rapid response, and field-level engagement to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply to farmers. By prioritizing agricultural power connections, rapid troubleshooting, and proactive maintenance, the government is bringing the electric-

ity department closer to the people and reinforcing the administration's commitment to citizen-centric governance. These initiatives signal Telangana's drive to modernize electricity services, enhance operational efficiency, and provide farmers and residents with reliable, safe, and accessible power.



MLC Deshpati Srinivas Criticizes Telangana Government for Toll Exemption Bias, Demands Statewide Relief for Festivals

Hyderabad, January 5, 2026 | TPN Bureau
Telangana Legislative Council member Deshpati Srinivas has raised concerns over what he called a "double standard and discrimination" in the state government's toll exemption decision during the Sankranti festival, urging authorities to announce similar exemptions for all toll plazas across Telangana during upcoming festivals like Dasara and Bathukamma. Speaking in the council, Srinivas welcomed the government's move to waive tolls for travelers head-

ing from Telangana to Andhra Pradesh during the festival. However, he questioned why the decision favors only certain routes, pointing out inconsistencies that he says disadvantage Telangana residents. Srinivas specifically asked why the toll collection at Chilkalguda toll plaza in Andhra Pradesh, beyond the state border, is not stopped, while exemptions at Pantangi and Korlapahad are being covered by the Telangana treasury. "Are Telangana taxpayers expected to bear the cost of toll exemptions for

plazas in another state?" he asked, highlighting what he described as poor governance. The legislator also noted that large numbers of Telangana residents travel via Rayalseema routes (Kurnool, Anantapur) to reach Andhra Pradesh during festivals. Yet, toll exemptions have not been applied on these routes, raising concerns about fairness. Srinivas asked if there was any hidden bias in prioritizing only the Vijayawada route and called on the government to treat all travelers equally.

State Government Prioritising Welfare of Weaker Sections: Minister Ponnam Prabhakar

Hyderabad, January 05 — TPN

Bureau: The Telangana government is according special priority to the welfare, education, and employment of weaker sections, Minister for Backward Classes Welfare Ponnam Prabhakar said while replying to a question raised by MLC Teenmar Mallanna in the Legislative Council on Monday.

The Minister clarified that although 11,000 crore was allocated for schemes related to weaker sections, only about 2,400 crore could be spent so far due to the severe financial crisis inherited from the previous government. “The past government left behind a serious economic burden. Despite this, we are overcoming the challenges and ensuring that the remaining

schemes and programmes are being implemented in a phased manner,” he said. Highlighting key initiatives, Ponnam Prabhakar stated that overseas education scholarships, which were earlier provided to only 300 students, have now been increased to 700 students. The government is committed to extending support to students from weaker sections pursuing higher education abroad, he added. The Minister informed the House that under the Young India Integrated Residential School initiative, one school is being constructed in each of 100 Assembly constituencies, with an estimated expenditure of 200 crore per school. Of this, nearly 5,000 crore is being spent specifically for the benefit of



weaker sections. He stressed that strengthening education infrastructure is crucial for long-term social and

economic progress. Addressing employment generation, the Minister said the Rajiv Yuva Vikasam scheme

was introduced to enhance livelihood opportunities for youth. Though the scheme has not yet been implemented

due to certain unavoidable reasons, the government remains committed to rolling it out at the earliest. He

pointed out that in the last ten years, even the minimum required expenditure of 2,400 crore was not made by the previous administration for weaker sections. Ponnam Prabhakar also announced that a meeting with public representatives belonging to weaker sections would be convened soon to review the implementation of welfare programmes and future action plans. He emphasised that inclusive growth is not possible without the active participation and development of weaker sections. On Kalyana Lakshmi assistance, the Minister assured that there is no delay in issuing cheques, though verification processes at the district level may sometimes take time. To avoid inconvenience, cheques are being issued through the Green

Channel system. He also stated that Geetha workers were provided Katamayya kits worth 10,000 in three phases. The Minister said the caste survey was conducted to improve educational, employment, and political opportunities for weaker sections, and development strategies would be framed based on its findings. He added that mess charges have been increased to ensure quality food for students, and hostel rents of Gurukuls are being paid through the Green Channel without delay. Finally, Ponnam Prabhakar reiterated that SC, ST, BC, and minority welfare has special priority under the People’s Government, and under the leadership of Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, bill payments are being cleared without delays.

Telangana Leadership Faces Sharp Criticism from Fishery Chairman

Hyderabad, January 5, 2026 – TPN Bureau: In a strongly worded statement at Gandhi Bhavan, Mettu Saikumar, Chairman of the Fishery Association, launched a scathing critique of the Telangana government and its leadership. Addressing a gathering of local activists, Saikumar accused the state administration of repeatedly undermining the aspirations and pride of the Telangana people. Saikumar, known for his outspoken views, specifically targeted Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao and his son Harish Rao. “It is not just once but hundreds of times that the Telangana ethos has been disrespected at Kaleshwaram and elsewhere,” he said, referring to the controversial handling of regional projects and



local grievances. The chairman condemned what he called the humiliation of Telangana activists and the suppression of the region’s self-respect. “You are the ones who

have insulted our movement, belittled the activists, and trampled on the pride of Telangana,” he remarked sharply, addressing the leadership directly. In a pointed critique

of political rhetoric, Saikumar added, “Small words from insignificant voices cannot erase the pain in the eyes of Telangana’s people. The breath and tears of our citizens cannot be reduced to ashes without resistance.” He stressed that the leadership’s alleged failures have caused widespread frustration and anger among the public. Highlighting what he described as the state’s mismanagement, he expressed his disappointment at Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao continuing in office, calling it “a misfortune for the people of Telangana.” Saikumar also targeted the family-centric politics surrounding key leaders, hinting at the upcoming elections. “In the next election, there will be a full 100 percent push against the BR

and Kalvakuntla family, which has been presented like a packaged dynasty,” he warned, indicating plans for a coordinated political response. Observers note that Saikumar’s remarks reflect growing discontent among grassroots activists and sections of civil society who feel sidelined in the state’s political and development processes. His comments underscore the continuing tension over governance, resource management, and the representation of local interests in Telangana’s political landscape. As Telangana approaches the next electoral cycle, statements like these are expected to fuel debates about leadership accountability, public grievances, and the role of political dynasties in shaping the future of the state.



Minister Seethakka Introduces Amendment to Panchayati Raj Act, Removes Restriction on Contesting Local Elections

Telangana Minister Seethakka on Tuesday introduced the 21st Section Amendment Bill of the Panchayati Raj Act in the State Assembly, bringing a significant change to eligibility criteria for local body elections. The amendment removes the provision that disqualified individuals from contesting rural local elections if they had more than two children. Minister Seethakka explained that the amendment aims to modernize the Panchayati Raj framework and align it with current social and political realities. The bill formally eliminates the restriction on candidates with more than two children from participating in Gram Panchayat elections, thereby broadening the pool of eligible leaders for rural governance. She noted that a similar ordinance had been issued in the past to address this issue temporarily. “With the introduction of this bill, we are institutionalizing the change through legislative approval, ensuring clarity and permanence in the law,” the minister stated. The move has been widely welcomed by rural



representatives and political analysts, who view it as a progressive step toward inclusive participation in local governance. By removing the child-limit restriction, the amendment ensures that capable and experienced individuals are not barred from public service solely based on family size. Minister Seethakka emphasized that the government remains com-

mitted to strengthening democratic processes at the grassroots level. She added that the amendment aligns with the broader objectives of empowering rural communities by facilitating greater representation and participation in Panchayati Raj institutions. The bill was formally introduced in the Assembly following its approval, marking a significant milestone in the

state’s efforts to modernize local governance laws. With this legislative change, candidates previously disqualified under the two-child norm can now actively participate in rural elections, reinforcing the democratic spirit and encouraging wider civic engagement. The 21st Section Amendment Bill is expected to go through the standard legislative process before becoming

law, and government officials have assured that all necessary measures will be taken to ensure smooth implementation in upcoming Panchayati Raj elections. This reform is seen as part of Telangana’s broader initiative to modernize governance structures and promote inclusive, transparent, and participatory democracy at the village level.

Former Minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy Criticizes Congress Government for Urea Supply Failure

Hyderabad, January 5, 2026 | TPN Bureau: Former Telangana Agriculture Minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy on Monday strongly condemned the Congress government for its mismanagement in the supply of urea to farmers across the state. Speaking in a press statement, he said the ruling party’s failure is causing severe hardships for the agricultural community during the critical sowing season. “Until yesterday, the government instructed farmers to procure urea through an app. Today, they are demanding a physical urea card. To get just two bags of urea, farmers must repeatedly submit their Aadhaar card and passbook details, which is highly inconvenient and time-consuming,” he said. Niranjan Reddy highlighted that the government has failed to ensure proper distribution, forcing farmers to stand in

long queues from early morning, enduring cold conditions and physical strain. “While the government claims there is no shortage in the market, the reality on the ground is starkly different. Farmers across Telangana are struggling to obtain urea, and the administration’s statements in the Assembly are misleading,” he added. The former minister emphasized that this crisis is a direct result of the Congress government’s negligence. “Instead of addressing the supply issues promptly, the government is creating procedural hurdles that burden the farmers unnecessarily. Telangana’s farming community deserves a public apology for this failure,” he said. He further called for an immediate review of the urea distribution system to make it more transparent, efficient, and farmer-friendly. “Authorities must streamline procedures to ensure that all eligible farmers re-

ceive the required fertilizer without repeated documentation and avoidable delays,” Niranjan Reddy urged. The ex-minister also warned that continued inaction could affect crop yields and the overall agricultural output of the state. “Timely and adequate supply of urea is crucial for the farmers’ livelihood and food security in Telangana. The government must prioritize the needs of the farming community instead of hiding behind technicalities,” he said. Niranjan Reddy’s statement comes amid widespread discontent among farmers, many of whom have reported standing in long queues and being forced to make repeated visits to local distribution points. By highlighting the ground realities, he has called on the government to immediately address the supply gaps and take concrete steps to restore farmers’ confidence.

Telangana to Establish 10 Integrated Sub-Registrar Offices by Month-End; Permanent Buildings for 94 Offices Planned in Three Phases

Hyderabad, January 5, 2026 | TPN Bureau

In a major initiative to enhance public service and ensure transparency, Telangana's Revenue Minister P. Srinivas Reddy announced on Monday that 10 integrated Sub-Registrar offices will be inaugurated by the end of this month, with permanent buildings planned for 94 Sub-Registrar offices across the state in three phases.

Speaking in the Legislative Assembly in response to a question from MLC A.V.N. Reddy, Minister Srinivas Reddy



said the government aims to eliminate long waiting hours under

trees for property registrations and curb corruption by providing efficient, citizen-friendly services through these modernized offices.

Currently, Telangana has 144 Sub-Registrar offices operating from 94 rented and 50 government buildings. The state plans to construct permanent, state-of-the-art, corporately designed integrated Sub-Registrar offices in a phased manner to ensure smooth administration and public convenience.

In the first phase, 39 Sub-Registrar offices in

four districts—Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, Medchal, and Sangareddy—will be reorganized into 11 clusters and housed in integrated buildings. These offices collectively contribute 69% of the state's registration revenue. One key cluster, including offices in Gachibowli, Arvo Ranga Reddy, Gandipet, Sherlingampally, and Rajendranagar, will see its foundation stone laid by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. The remaining 10 integrated buildings will also be inaugurated by the end of this month.

The government has devised plans for private builders to construct these buildings at no cost to the state. Each integrated office will be built on 3-4 acres of land, ensuring ample space for operations and public convenience. The second and third phases will focus on district headquarters and assembly constituency offices, respectively.

Under the arrangement, the private builder responsible for construction will also maintain the buildings for the first five years, again at zero cost to the

government. Additionally, the introduction of a slot booking system has significantly reduced registration processing times, with most property documents completed within 18-21 minutes.

Minister Srinivas Reddy emphasized that these reforms reflect the state government's commitment to providing transparent, efficient, and modern services to citizens, while modernizing critical infrastructure in line with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's vision.

Keesara Police Arrest Five in Daylight Jewelry Shop Robbery



Hyderabad, January 5, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Keesara Police have successfully apprehended five individuals in connection with a daring daylight robbery at Balaji Jewelry Shop in Nagaram, registered as Crime No. 05/2026 under Section 309(4) BNS and Section 27 of the Arms Act. The swift action followed a combination of technical investigation and eyewitness accounts, authorities said.

The incident occurred on January 2 at around 5:15 PM, when two suspects posed as customers—A3 and A4—entered the shop and signaled their accomplices to strike. A1 and A2 then entered armed with an axe and a dummy pistol, assaulting the shopkeeper's husband, Sandeep Gehloth, and attempting to flee with stolen jewelry. While the offenders managed to escape briefly on a stolen Bajaj Pulsar motorbike, Sandeep Gehloth resisted and recovered the bag containing the

jewelry.

The arrested accused include:

- A1: Nazeem Azeez Kotadiya, 39, businessman, Kompally, Medchal
- A2: Bishu Karma Ekendar Singh, 24, laborer, Ram Koti, Hyderabad
- A3: Mohd Saif Ali @ Adnam, 23, AC mechanic, King Kothi, Hyderabad
- A4: Rajendar Singh @ Raj Singh, 19, Rethi Bowli, Mehdi Patnam, Hyderabad, originally from Nepal
- A5: Ratan Singh Bahadur @ Ratan, 23, Santosh Nagar Colony, Mehdi Patnam, Hyderabad

Investigation revealed that the group conducted prior reconnaissance of jewelry shops near city outskirts and escape routes. The offenders used a stolen motorcycle to flee the scene, and during the robbery, the victim sustained minor injuries.

Authorities noted that A1 to A3 are habitual offenders with prior property-related

cases, while A5 is a rowdy-sheeter of Gudimalkapur PS. A1 has multiple previous cases including 606/2025 (Sadashivpet PS) and 604/2024 (Medchal PS), while A2 and A3 also have multiple criminal records.

Seized items include a Maruti Baleno car (TS-11/EN-8530), the stolen Bajaj Pulsar motorbike (TG-34/3459), and a dummy pistol.

The operation was conducted under the supervision of DCPs Ch. Sridhar (Malkajgiri) and Ramana Reddy (SOT), with active support from Addl. DCP N. Narsimha Reddy, ACPs Venkat Reddy and Anjaiah, SHO Anjaneyulu, and other SOT officers.

Police officials lauded the quick action, stating that the combined use of technology, field intelligence, and coordinated investigation led to the arrest of all five accused within a short period, preventing further criminal activity.

Cyber Crime Advisory: Hyderabad Resident Loses 2.42 Lakh in Fake Cruise Booking and Lakshadweep Permit Scam



Hyderabad, January 5, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police have issued a public advisory after a Kachiguda resident fell victim to a sophisticated online fraud involving fake cruise bookings and fraudulent Lakshadweep permits, resulting in a loss of 2,42,488.

According to officials, the victim discovered a website on Google on December 26, 2025, claiming to offer cruise journeys to Kochi, Lakshadweep, and Mumbai. Believing it to be legitimate, he booked a cruise for four passengers and paid an initial advance of 23,680. Since the website allegedly had transaction limits, the victim was instructed to make multiple payments.

Subsequently, the accused manipulated the victim into paying additional amounts, citing the need for Lakshadweep permit letters and charges for two children. Exploiting technical issues as a pretext, the fraudsters repeatedly promised refunds and induced further payments. Eventually, they falsely claimed payment failures and canceled the booking without reason, later demanding 48,500 as cancellation charges while assuring full refund of the total amount.

The fraud was conducted primarily

through WhatsApp, with the perpetrators posing as Cordelia Cruise customer care executives. The victim's repeated payments and the deceptive tactics led to the substantial financial loss.

In response, the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Cyber Crimes, Hyderabad, has issued the following advisory to prevent similar incidents: The Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police also urge citizens to stay updated on cyber awareness initiatives through their official social media channels on Facebook, Instagram, X, YouTube, and WhatsApp. Authorities warn that online scams are becoming increasingly sophisticated, and users must

- Always book cruise packages through official websites or authorized travel agents.
- Be cautious of websites discovered via search results or online advertisements that request advance payments in multiple installments.
- Avoid paying for permit letters, children charges, or other add-ons unless explicitly mentioned in the official booking confirmation.
- Do not trust claims of technical issues, payment failures, or promised refunds used to solicit repeated payments.
- Genuine companies do not demand upfront cancellation charges for processing refunds.
- Verify customer care contacts from the official website, avoiding reliance on WhatsApp communications.
- Report cyber fraud immediately via the 1930 helpline or at www.cyber-crime.gov.in.
- For urgent cyber fraud assistance, call or WhatsApp 8712665171.

exercising vigilance when making online bookings or payments to prevent financial losses.

Congress Leaders Urge Immediate Action on Dilapidated Electricity Poles in Dundigal Division

Quthbullapur, January 5, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Congress leaders on Monday submitted a memorandum to DE Srinivas Reddy, highlighting the dangerous condition of electricity poles in the Dundigal Division, which includes Dundigal, Naguluru, Tandalu, and Gagillapur areas. They warned that the dilapidated poles pose a serious threat to public safety and urged immediate remedial action.

According to the memorandum, several electricity poles in these areas have remained in poor condition for an extended period, becoming hazardous to residents. Some poles obstruct roadways, creating difficulties for both pedestrians and vehicles, increasing the risk of

accidents. With new constructions and urban development progressing rapidly in these localities, the existing smaller and old poles are inadequate to meet the growing electricity demand.

The Congress delegation emphasized the urgent need to replace these outdated poles with larger, more robust structures capable of handling the increased electrical load. They requested that the DE personally inspect the deteriorating poles and take immediate measures to rectify the situation, prioritizing public safety and convenience.

"This is a critical safety concern. The current infrastructure cannot support the growing population and new constructions, and in their present state, the poles are a direct risk to the

community. Proper, high-capacity poles must be installed without delay," the memorandum stated.

The delegation included former Dundigal Sarpanch Kavali Ganesh, senior Congress leaders Amaram Mutyam Reddy, Donthi Mahesh, Panduga Shiva, and other party officials. They emphasized that swift action from the electricity department is necessary to prevent potential accidents and ensure uninterrupted power supply in the region.

The Congress leaders also highlighted the importance of proactive monitoring of electricity infrastructure in rapidly developing areas. They called for periodic inspections and timely upgrades to prevent hazards and ensure that



the power distribution network is safe and reliable.

Residents of Dundigal and surrounding areas have reportedly expressed concerns over the unsafe conditions, with complaints about poles obstructing roads and posing risks during strong winds or storms. The Congress leaders stated that immediate corrective measures would help restore public confidence in the electricity department and ensure safety for all.

By raising these concerns, the party has sought to hold the authorities accountable and push for rapid infrastructure improvements in the Dundigal Division, aiming to safeguard residents while keeping pace with development.

MP Chamal Kiran Kumar Reddy Pushes for Promotion of Jute Cultivation in Telangana



Bhuvanagiri, January 5, 2026 | TPN Bureau
Bhuvanagiri MP Chamal Kiran Kumar Reddy has taken significant steps to promote jute cultivation in Telangana, highlighting its economic and environmental benefits for farmers. His active intervention has led to high-level discussions with officials from the Jute Corporation of India (JCI) regarding strategies to expand jute production in the state. As a member of the Parliament's Textiles Standing Committee, MP Chamal Kiran Kumar Reddy raised pertinent questions about Telangana's limited jute

cultivation during a recent session of the Lok Sabha. Following his queries, officials from the Jute Corporation visited Hyderabad to discuss the matter with local authorities and explore ways to encourage jute farming. During these discussions, the MP emphasized the need for Telangana to increase its jute production. "Jute cultivation is not only environmentally friendly, but it also generates substantial income for farmers, potentially earning up to 1 lakh per acre," he noted. Experts attending the meeting highlighted that jute is a sus-

tainable crop that enriches the soil and supports eco-friendly practices, making it an ideal alternative to chemical-intensive farming. MP Chamal Kiran Kumar Reddy urged the state government to create awareness among farmers about the benefits of jute cultivation and to implement policies that make it easier for them to adopt the crop. He stressed that coordinated efforts between state authorities and the Jute Corporation of India are essential to ensure Telangana farmers are equipped with knowledge, technical

support, and access to markets. The JCI officials, in turn, assured that they would intensify outreach efforts in the state to educate farmers about jute cultivation techniques, marketing opportunities, and the potential profitability of the crop. They also discussed strategies to set up processing and storage facilities to support local production, thereby reducing dependency on imports and encouraging self-sufficiency. MP Chamal Kiran Kumar Reddy's advocacy is being seen as a significant step toward revitalizing jute farming in Tel-

angana. By leveraging parliamentary influence and coordinating with national agencies, he aims to make jute cultivation a viable and profitable option for farmers across the state. With growing concerns over sustainable agriculture and income generation for rural communities, the promotion of jute aligns with broader goals of environmental conservation and farmer welfare. Authorities hope that this initiative will gradually position Telangana as a notable contributor to India's jute production, benefiting both farmers and the ecosystem.

MP Vamsi Krishna Inspects Godavarikhani 11 Incline Mine, Pledges Worker Safety and Welfare



Ramagundam, January 5, 2026 | TPN Bureau
Peddapalli MP Gaddam Vamsi Krishna conducted an in-depth inspection of the 11 Incline Mine at Godavarikhani on Monday, gaining a firsthand understanding of the workings of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) and the conditions faced by coal miners. Dressed in Singareni work attire, Vamsi ventured nearly six kilometers underground to observe mining operations, worker performance, and the safety protocols in place. Accompanied by Local General Manager Lalit Kumar, senior leader Mallikarjun, and Mancherla District Congress President Raghunath, he meticulously assessed the infrastructure supporting worker health, safety, and productivity.

"The workers in coal mines form the strong foundation of the country's economy. We will always ensure their safety, welfare, and provide all necessary facilities," Vamsi stated during his visit. During the inspection, the MP also participated in a special prayer at the Durga Devi temple within the mine premises, symbolically highlighting his concern for the well-being of the workforce. He engaged directly with miners, listening to their issues and instructing officials to strengthen safety measures, particularly for women workers. Workers raised pressing concerns including income tax exemptions, the establishment of a medical board, and other welfare initiatives previously discussed with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and the Deputy Chief Minister. Vamsi reassured the workforce, stating, "I have already spoken to the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister regarding income tax exemption for Singareni workers and the establishment of a medical board. I will bring this issue to their attention again."

Highlighting his advocacy in Parliament, the MP recalled his demand for a 10,000 pension for Singareni holiday workers, which he has raised with both Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. "Whenever I get an opportunity in Parliament, I will speak about the problems faced by the Singareni workers," he affirmed, underlining his commitment to addressing their grievances. Additionally, Vamsi promised to pursue the workers' long-standing aspiration of owning their own homes, stating that he will continue to press the government to make this a reality. The MP's visit reinforced his proactive approach toward worker welfare and demonstrated a strong focus on safety, health, and livelihood concerns, aiming to ensure that the miners of Godavarikhani receive the recognition and support they deserve.

Supreme Court Gives Clean Chit to BRS Leader Harish Rao in Phone Tapping Case

Hyderabad, January 5, 2026 | TPN Bureau
The Supreme Court has cleared BRS leader and senior legislator Harish Rao of all allegations in the high-profile phone tapping case, marking a major setback for the Congress government. Former Minister V. Srinivas Goud described the verdict as a "strong blow" to the ruling party, emphasizing the baseless nature of the accusations. The controversy originated when the Congress government filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) in the Supreme Court, seeking to challenge the High Court's earlier dismissal of the case. The High Court had previously quashed the phone tapping allegations against Harish Rao, citing lack of evidence. Today, after careful review, the Supreme Court upheld the High Court's judgment, officially giving Rao a clean chit. Commenting on the development, V. Srinivas Goud stated that the Congress government's



attempts to malign opposition leaders through fabricated cases were politically motivated. "Attempts to entrap and defame BRS leaders for political gains will not succeed. The state and national intelligence systems provide the government with adequate information; filing cases alleging phone tapping without evidence is an unacceptable practice," he said. Devi Prasad, former Chairman of the Bever-

age Corporation, added that the case was part of a deliberate conspiracy to target Harish Rao, who has been actively fighting for public welfare issues. "The Supreme Court's verdict delivers a clear message: Harish Rao should not be subjected to any further investigations in this matter. These petty actions by the government under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's leadership were meant to intimidate a leader committed to the

people," he noted. The Supreme Court ruling has been hailed as a positive development for the BRS party, reinforcing confidence in the judiciary and the rule of law. Leaders and party workers have called for a renewed focus on governance rather than political vendettas. Harish Rao, a key strategist under KCR's leadership, continues to play a central role in strengthening the BRS party, and the clean chit ensures that efforts to

defame him or weaken the party's position will not succeed. Devi Prasad and other party officials have strongly condemned the political misuse of investigative agencies and vowed to resist any further attempts to undermine Rao or party leaders. This verdict is expected to reinforce the morale of the party cadres and underline the importance of legal safeguards against politically motivated harassment.

National Highway Safety Festival: School Students Receive Awareness Pamphlets

Quthbullapur, January 5, 2026
As part of the month-long National Highway Safety Festival, being conducted from January 1 to 31 under the aegis of the Transport Department, school students and bus drivers in Medchal district were provided with informative pamphlets on traffic rules and road safety. The initiative, aimed at instilling safe road habits from a young age, was carried out at Pet Basheerabad under the guidance of Medchal DTO Raghunandan Goud, with RT Officers overseeing the distribution. Officials emphasized that understanding and

following traffic signals is crucial to prevent accidents. Students were advised to stop at red signals, cross roads only at green signals, and treat yellow signals as warnings. They were also instructed to use zebra crossings, walk on footpaths, and avoid running between vehicles, promoting disciplined behavior on roads. "Learning traffic rules from a young age helps students develop into responsible citizens in the future," officials said, urging them to also educate their parents about traffic safety. The program also addressed school bus safety, highlighting that

even minor negligence can pose serious risks to students. Drivers were reminded to adhere to speed limits, avoid unnecessary horn use near schools, and carefully follow procedures while boarding and deboarding students. Officials reinforced that valid driving licenses, vehicle fitness certificates, and insurance are mandatory, and driving under the influence of alcohol is a serious offense. Officials urged all school bus drivers to prioritize student safety, remain vigilant, and act responsibly on the roads. They highlighted that careful driving, strict adherence to rules, and awareness of



potential hazards can prevent accidents and save lives. The program included participation from RT Officers Shilpa, Sadula Srinivas, Kiran Kumar, and other staff members who actively engaged with students and bus drivers to ensure the messages were effectively conveyed. Through these awareness efforts, the Trans-

port Department aims to create a safer road environment, reduce traffic-related accidents involving schoolchildren, and foster a culture of road discipline across Medchal district. Students and drivers alike were encouraged to take the lessons seriously and practice them daily, ensuring the safety of themselves and others on the road.

Excise Team Seizes 7.4 kg of Cannabis in Palwancha



Palwancha, January 5, 2026 | TPN Bureau
In a major enforcement action, the Telangana Excise Enforcement Team intercepted 7.4 kilograms of cannabis being transported from Odisha to Palwancha on Monday. The operation underscores the state's proactive approach toward curbing the illicit drug trade. According to official sources, the seizure took place near the Keshavapuram Panchayat office on the outskirts of Palwancha town. Excise Sub-Inspector Srihari Rao and his team conducted thorough checks on the route, which led to the recovery of the contraband. Three individuals involved in the transportation were apprehended on the spot. Authorities identified them as Sambasiva

Rao from Gollapalli Chiragupalli, Bhukya Srihari, and Potula Chinnu. Along with the cannabis, the excise team seized a motorbike and three mobile phones used by the accused. The arrested individuals were handed over to the Palwancha Excise Station for further investigation. The excise operation received commendation from Khammam Deputy Commissioner Janardhan Rao, Assistant Commissioner G. Ganesh, and AES Tirupati, highlighting the effectiveness of field enforcement in tackling illegal narcotics. Officials estimated the value of the confiscated cannabis at approximately 3.5 lakh, reflecting the significant financial stakes involved in drug trafficking. The team emphasized that such operations play

a critical role in preventing the spread of narcotics in the region and protecting public health. The excise authorities also warned that the department would continue to monitor and crack down on similar attempts to smuggle drugs into Telangana. Citizens are encouraged to report suspicious activities and cooperate with law enforcement agencies to ensure safety and curb illegal drug circulation. This successful operation adds to a series of seizures in the region and reinforces the Telangana government's commitment to a zero-tolerance policy against drug trafficking and substance abuse. The authorities have assured that strict legal action will be taken against the perpetrators in accordance with existing laws.



BJP Explores Possible Alliance With Vijay’s TVK Ahead of Tamil Nadu Assembly Elections

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is reportedly seriously exploring an electoral alliance with actor-politician Vijay’s Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) in Tamil Nadu, according to party sources. The development comes as the BJP looks to strengthen its political footprint in the state ahead of the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections scheduled later this year.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, during his recent visit to Tamil Nadu, addressed a BJP core committee meeting where he emphasised that the party should focus on winning elections rather than merely putting up a symbolic fight. Sources present at the meeting said Shah encouraged state leaders to think strategically and remain open to alliances that could consolidate anti-DMK votes.

Vijay, one of Tamil cinema’s biggest stars, launched TVK recently, positioning it as a party focused on clean governance and social justice. His popularity among youth and urban voters has made him a significant political factor, even before his party contests its first major election. Political observers believe an alliance between the BJP and TVK could help the national party overcome its traditional weaknesses in Tamil Nadu, where regional parties dominate.

However, such an alliance would not be without challenges. The BJP’s ideological positioning at the national level may not fully align with Tamil Nadu’s regional political sentiments. Vijay, on the other hand, has been cautious about being seen as aligned too closely with any national party, preferring to project an independent image.

Jharkhand Man Arrested for Posing as IAS Officer for Seven Years



Police in Jharkhand arrested a man who allegedly impersonated an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer for nearly seven years, despite repeatedly failing the UPSC Civil Services Examination. The accused was caught after visiting a police station to seek help in a land dispute involving a relative.

Suspicion arose when officials noticed inconsistencies in his claims regarding his service details. A verification conducted at the sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) level confirmed that no IAS officer matched the name, batch, or cadre details provided by the man. He was later traced and brought in for questioning.

During interrogation, the man confessed that he was not an IAS officer. Police recovered several fake documents from his car, including a blue government nameplate, forged ID cards, and coaching institute materials. He had reportedly used this false identity to influence officials and assert authority in government offices.

The accused revealed that becoming an IAS officer was his father’s dream and his own ambition. After failing to clear the final stage of the UPSC exam, he claimed he could not face his family’s disappointment and chose to live a lie instead.

Political ‘Punch-Up’ in Karnataka: Rival Legislators Clash During Official Meeting



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.

Tensions Within Mahayuti: Ajit Pawar’s Criticism of BJP Sparks Political Fallout



Cracks within Maharashtra’s ruling Mahayuti alliance became visible after Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar launched sharp attacks on his ally, the BJP, accusing it of corruption and power hunger. His remarks, made during local body election campaigning, sent shockwaves through the alliance.

Pawar criticised the BJP’s governance in the Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation, alleging large-scale corruption and claiming his party aimed to “slay the demon of corruption.” He also took a dig at uncontested election wins secured by Mahayuti allies, suggesting fear and intimidation prevented opposition candidates from filing nominations.

The BJP reacted strongly, with state president Ravindra Chavan expressing regret over the alliance and issuing a veiled warning to Pawar. Other BJP leaders urged restraint, reminding Pawar of an internal agreement not to publicly criticise alliance partners.

Political observers see Pawar’s remarks as a calculated political move, aimed at asserting his party’s identity while remaining within the alliance. The episode underscores the fragile nature of coalitions built on convenience rather than ideology, raising questions about the alliance’s long-term stability.

Venezuela’s Nicolás Maduro Pleads Not Guilty in US Court Amid Global Legal and Diplomatic Fallout



Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro made his first appearance before a New York court after being seized by US special forces in a dramatic operation in Caracas. During the hearing, Maduro pleaded not guilty to multiple charges, including drug trafficking and narco-terrorism, while asserting his legitimacy by declaring, “I am still president.” His statement has intensified international debate over sovereignty, international law, and the legality of the United States’ actions.

Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, were captured from their Caracas residence and flown to the United States on Saturday. Images of the couple being escorted in handcuffs by heavily armed officers circulated globally, triggering protests and diplomatic reactions. Outside the courthouse, supporters and protesters gathered, waving Venezuelan flags and chanting slogans both for and against Maduro.

The case has generated significant international concern. At an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council, UN Secretary-General António Guterres expressed seri-

ous concern that international legal norms may not have been respected during the US operation. Several countries have called for an independent review of the circumstances surrounding Maduro’s capture, warning that such actions could set dangerous precedents in international relations.

Maduro’s arrest marks an unprecedented escalation in US–Venezuela tensions, which have been strained for decades due to sanctions, ideological differences, and allegations of human rights abuses. While Washington has framed the operation as a law-enforcement action against alleged criminal activities, critics argue it undermines diplomatic processes and national sovereignty.

The legal proceedings are expected to be lengthy and complex, with global implications extending beyond Venezuela. The case could reshape international norms around extra-territorial arrests and influence future US foreign policy actions. As protests continue and diplomatic pressure mounts, the Maduro trial stands as a defining moment in contemporary geopolitics.

French Court Convicts Ten in Cyber-Bullying Case Against Brigitte Macron



A Paris court has found ten individuals guilty of cyber-bullying Brigitte Macron, the wife of French President Emmanuel Macron, in a landmark ruling addressing online harassment. The defendants were accused of spreading false claims regarding her gender and sexuality, along with making malicious comments about the couple’s age difference.

The court handed down suspended prison sentences of up to eight months for most defendants, while one individual was jailed immediately for failing to appear in court. Several defendants also had their social media accounts suspended. The judge ruled that the accused acted with a clear intent to cause harm through degrading and insulting online behaviour.

The case stems from conspiracy theories circulating since 2017, falsely claiming that Brigitte Macron was

transgender. Her daughter, Tiphaine Auziére, testified that the harassment severely affected her mother’s health and family life, particularly impacting her grandchildren who faced taunts at school.

While legal advisers initially suggested ignoring the rumours to avoid amplifying them, the Macrons later chose to pursue legal action as the scale of online abuse intensified. The ruling is seen as a strong signal against cyber-bullying and misinformation targeting public figures.

The case also sets the stage for a larger defamation trial in the United States against right-wing influencer Candace Owens, who has repeatedly promoted similar conspiracy theories. Legal experts view the verdict as a precedent in holding individuals accountable for digital harassment in an era of unchecked online discourse.

Thirty-Two Cuban Nationals Killed During US Operation in Venezuela, Says Havana

The Cuban government has confirmed that 32 of its nationals were killed during the US military operation to seize Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro, escalating tensions between Havana and Washington. According to official statements, the deceased were members of Cuba’s armed forces and intelligence agencies who were stationed in Venezuela as part of a long-standing security cooperation agreement.

Cuba declared two days of national mourning, describing the deaths as occurring during “fierce combat” with US forces and aerial bombardments. Many of those killed were reportedly part of Maduro’s close security detail and were present at the time of the raid. Venezuelan authorities have not released official casualty figures, though unnamed officials cited by international media suggest the death toll could be as high as 80.

Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel confirmed that Cuba had been providing security assistance to Maduro and his wife at Venezuela’s request. Cuba has long supported Venezuela politically and militarily, supplying intelligence



personnel and advisers over several decades. Havana described the fallen personnel as heroes who “fulfilled their duty with dignity and courage.”

US officials revealed that American intelligence agencies had monitored Maduro’s movements for months prior to the operation. General

Dan Caine stated that US forces had detailed knowledge of Maduro’s daily routines, while reports suggest the CIA recruited a Venezuelan source to provide precise location data.

The deaths have sparked fears of wider regional instability. In remarks following the operation, US

President Donald Trump claimed that military action against Cuba would not be necessary, stating that the country was “ready to fall.” These comments, along with recent US sanctions tightening, have raised concerns that Cuba could become the next focal point of US intervention.

The incident has further strained already hostile US-Cuba relations and drawn condemnation from several Latin American governments. Analysts warn that the deaths of Cuban personnel could lead to diplomatic retaliation and deepen ideological divides across the region.

Swiss Police Identify All 40 Victims of Crans-Montana Bar Fire

Swiss authorities have confirmed the identities of all 40 victims who died in a devastating bar fire at the ski resort town of Crans-Montana on New Year’s Eve. The victims ranged in age from 14 to 39, with 15 under the age of 18. The tragedy also left 119 people injured, many with severe burns.

The victims came from multiple nationalities, highlighting the international character of the resort. Preliminary investigations suggest the fire was caused by sparklers attached to champagne bottles being held too close to the ceiling, allowing flames to spread rapidly through the venue.

A criminal investigation has been launched into the French couple who managed the bar, Le Constellation, which was popular with young patrons. Authorities have withheld detailed



personal information out of respect for the victims’ families. Emotional tributes

poured in from relatives, including the mother of 16-year-old Arthur Brodard, who

confirmed her son’s death on social media. Memorial services and vigils have been held

across Switzerland as the nation mourns one of its deadliest nightlife disasters.

South Korea’s President Lee Jae Myung Meets Xi Jinping to Reset China Ties

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung met Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing in a significant diplomatic effort to reset strained relations between the two countries. The meeting comes amid rising regional tensions over Taiwan, North Korea’s missile tests, and ongoing trade concerns.

China is South Korea’s largest trading partner, and Lee has emphasized the need to ensure economic cooperation is not weaponised amid political disagreements. His visit marks the first by a South Korean leader since 2019 and signals a shift from the confrontational stance of his predecessor.

Discussions included regional security, North Korea’s nuclear programme, and China’s unofficial restrictions on Korean cultural exports such as K-pop and K-dramas. Lee also reiterated South Korea’s respect for



the “One China” policy while seeking balanced relations with both China and Japan.

Experts view the meeting as an attempt by Seoul to walk a diplomatic tightrope, strengthen-

ing ties with China while maintaining its alliance with the United States. The outcome of the talks

could significantly influence regional stability and economic cooperation in East Asia.

Indian Stock Market Ends Lower Amid Global Uncertainty and Sectoral Weakness



Indian benchmark equity indices closed lower on Monday, January 5, 2026, reflecting cautious investor sentiment amid rising geopolitical tensions and mixed corporate cues. The BSE Sensex declined by 322.39 points, or 0.38%, to settle at 85,439.62, while the NSE Nifty 50 fell 78.25 points, or 0.30%, ending the session at 26,250.30. The markets oscillated between modest gains and losses throughout the day as participants balanced optimism around improving quarterly earnings against concerns over escalating global risks.

Early in the session, equities showed signs of resilience, supported by expectations of robust corporate performance in the

upcoming earnings season. However, sentiment weakened as investors grew wary of the implications of the United States' military action in Venezuela, which raised fears of instability in global energy markets and broader geopolitical fallout.

Heavyweight stocks dragged the benchmarks lower, particularly in the banking and information technology sectors. HDFC Bank, the largest constituent of the indices, dropped 2.4% after its December-quarter business update revealed loan growth outpacing deposit growth. This raised concerns over higher funding costs and margin pressures. IT majors

such as Infosys, HCL Technologies, and Tata Consultancy Services declined between 1% and 2%, ahead of the sector's earnings season. The IT sector as a whole fell 1.4%, reflecting nervousness due to its high exposure to the US economy.

In contrast, broader markets showed mixed trends. Midcap stocks slipped marginally by 0.2%, while small-cap stocks outperformed, rising 0.5%, indicating selective risk-taking by investors. Sectoral divergence suggested that investors preferred stocks with strong domestic growth stories amid global uncertainty.

Globally, markets were relatively stable, with Asian indices

such as Japan's Nikkei and Topix posting gains, while US stock futures edged higher. Commodities also reacted to global events, with crude oil prices firming up due to supply concerns linked to Venezuela.

Overall, the Indian equity market's decline reflected a cautious stance rather than panic selling. Investors remain focused on upcoming corporate earnings, global monetary policy cues, and geopolitical developments. Market experts believe that while short-term volatility may persist, strong domestic fundamentals and earnings growth could support markets in the medium term.

Renewable Energy Stocks Under Pressure: Premier Energies and Waaree Decline



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

Limited, 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.

US Military Action in Venezuela: Implications for Global Oil Markets and India



The US military operation to capture Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has triggered a significant geopolitical development with wide-ranging implications for global energy markets and India's economic interests. On January 3, 2026, US forces detained Maduro and his wife to face charges including narco-terrorism and drug trafficking in New York. This dramatic move has intensified global attention on Venezuela, a country that holds the world's largest proven oil reserves at over 303 billion barrels.

Following the operation, former US President Donald Trump announced that American oil companies would invest billions of dollars to revive Venezuela's oil infrastructure. While this signals a potential long-term increase in oil supply, analysts caution that Venezuela's production capacity has been severely damaged by years of underinvestment, sanctions, mismanagement, and political instability. As of late 2025, Venezuela was producing only about 1 million barrels per day, far below its potential.

In the immediate aftermath, crude oil prices rose modestly as markets priced in a risk premium due to uncertainty and supply disruptions. For India, which imports a significant portion of its oil needs, the situation presents both risks and opportuni-

ties. Analysts describe it as a dual narrative: short-term volatility and long-term strategic benefit.

Indian equity markets remained relatively resilient despite the global shock. Commodity markets, however, saw increased activity, with gold and silver prices rising as investors sought safe-haven assets. According to brokerage firm PL Capital, any meaningful increase in Venezuelan oil supply is unlikely in the next three to six months, limiting immediate downside pressure on oil prices.

Indian upstream companies such as ONGC Videsh and Oil India could benefit if US-led changes ease sanctions and allow access to technology and equipment. These firms have stakes in Venezuelan oil fields like San Cristobal and Carabobo-1, where output could improve over time. Refiners such as Reliance Industries may gain access to discounted heavy crude, improving refining margins.

However, oil marketing companies face uncertainty, as potential government interventions like excise duty hikes could offset benefits from lower crude prices. Overall, while short-term volatility is expected, analysts believe that increased Venezuelan output in the medium term could cap oil prices, benefiting oil-importing countries like India.

Reliance Industries Hits Record High on Optimism Over Venezuelan Oil Access



Shares of Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) touched a fresh all-time high on January 5, 2026, driven by optimism that geopolitical changes in Venezuela could benefit the company's oil refining business. The stock rose as much as 1.2% to ₹1,611.80 during the session before paring gains. Over the past year, RIL has outperformed the broader market, gaining 31% compared to an 11% rise in the Nifty 50.

Analysts believe that a US-led transition in Venezuela could lead to the lifting of sanctions on Venezuelan crude exports. This would allow Reliance to source heavy crude oil at a discount to Brent prices, improving its gross refining margins. Reliance operates one of the world's most complex refining systems, well-suit-

ed to process heavy and sour crude grades.

India was once a major importer of Venezuelan crude, but sanctions significantly reduced trade volumes in recent years. Any revival in bilateral energy trade could enhance supply flexibility for Indian refiners. Experts also point out that stable global oil prices and improved crude availability could support higher capacity utilization for Reliance's refineries.

However, analysts caution that geopolitical developments remain fluid, and investors should closely monitor crude price movements and policy signals. Despite near-term uncertainties, Reliance's diversified business model and scale position it well to benefit from changes in global energy dynamics.

Man vs Machine vs Nature: IShowSpeed’s Wild Race With a Cheetah



Popular YouTuber and streamer IShowSpeed once again pushed the boundaries of viral content by attempting one of his most daring stunts yet—racing a cheetah during his Africa tour. Known for challenging elite athletes and celebrities, Speed’s decision to sprint against the world’s fastest land animal shocked viewers and sparked widespread debate online.

The video begins with Speed confidently introducing his unusual opponent, a fully grown cheetah. However, before the race even began, the situation took a dangerous turn when the cheetah unexpectedly lunged at him, scratching his leg and leaving visible marks. Despite the injury and the inherent risk, Speed chose to continue, showcasing his trade-

mark fearlessness.

As the countdown began, anticipation built among viewers. The race itself was short-lived but dramatic. Speed sprinted at full capacity, but within seconds, the cheetah accelerated effortlessly, overtaking him with ease and crossing the finish line first. The outcome was unsurprising, considering cheetahs can reach speeds between 100 and 120 km/h, while the fastest recorded human speed—achieved by Usain Bolt—is just under 45 km/h.

Social media reactions poured in immediately. Many users expressed disbelief at Speed’s courage, while others questioned the ethics and safety of staging such a stunt. Wildlife experts also weighed in, cautioning against interactions that could stress animals

or put humans at risk.

This was not Speed’s first high-profile race. In November 2024, he went viral after racing Olympic champion Noah Lyles in a high-stakes 50-metre sprint. While he lost that race as well, it earned him respect for pushing himself against the best.

Speed’s Africa tour, scheduled to continue until late January 2026, has been filled with adrenaline-driven challenges and cultural exploration. The cheetah race, however, stands out as one of his most extreme experiments, blurring the line between entertainment and danger.

Ultimately, the stunt reinforced a simple truth: while human ambition and digital fame know no bounds, nature still plays by its own rules—and it always wins.

Two Years of Hope: Indian Driver in Dubai Wins ₹24 Lakh Lottery



Persistence finally paid off for Basheer Kaipurath, a 57-year-old Indian expatriate living in Dubai, who won Dh100,000 (approximately ₹24 lakh) in the UAE’s popular Big Ticket draw. After consistently purchasing tickets every month for over two years, Basheer’s patience was rewarded in a moment that left him stunned and emotional.

When contacted by the Big Ticket show host, Basheer initially struggled to believe the news. He repeatedly asked for confirmation, softly repeating the winning amount to himself as the reality slowly sank in. Once assured, his response was simple and

heartfelt: “Okay, thank you. I am very happy.”

A native of Kerala, Basheer has lived in the UAE for 25 years, working as a driver to support his family. According to reports, buying a Big Ticket entry had become a routine for him—an act of quiet optimism rather than blind gambling. His win resonated with many migrant workers who see such stories as symbols of hope amid daily struggles.

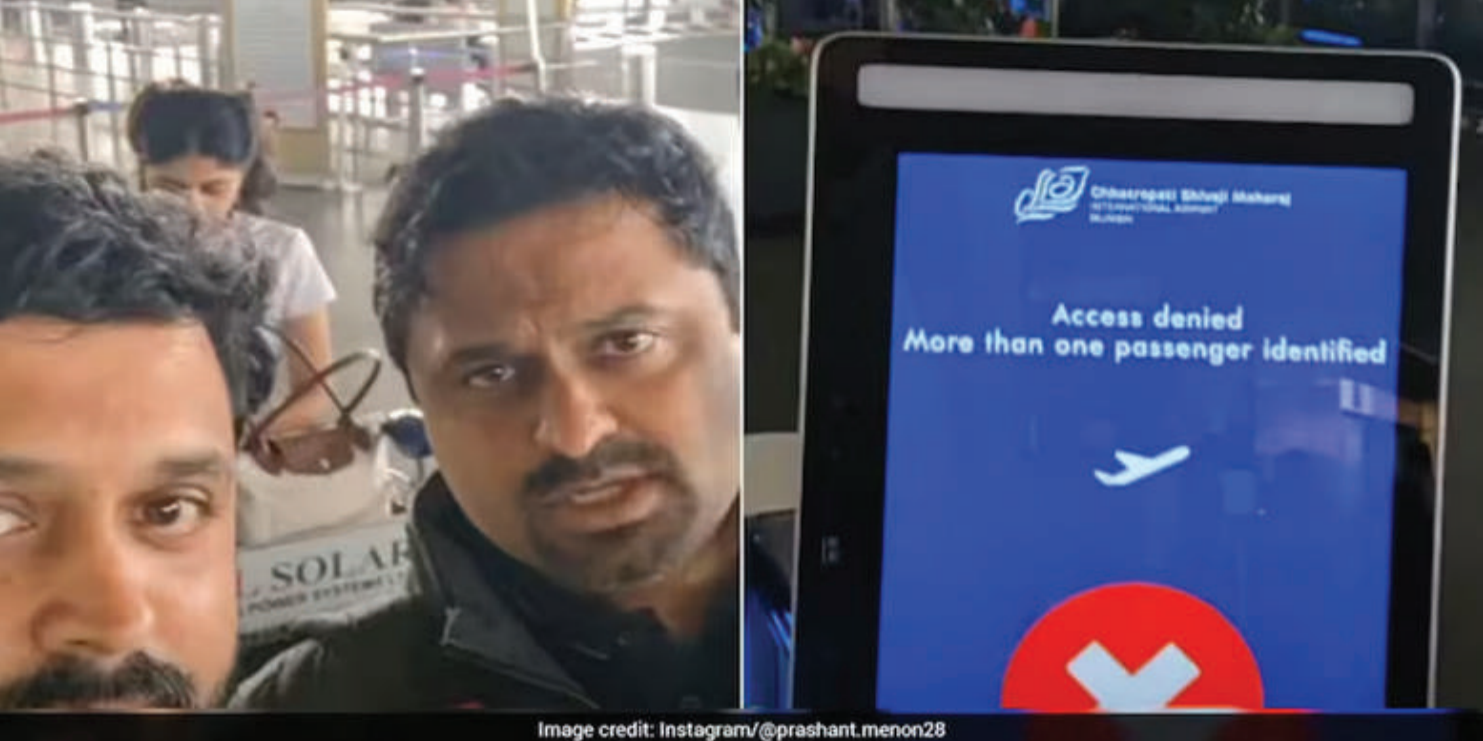
Basheer shared that he plans to use part of the prize money to support his family back home in India. Despite his win, he intends to continue participating in future

draws, firmly believing in perseverance.

The Big Ticket raffle, based in Abu Dhabi, is one of the UAE’s most popular lottery systems. With monthly draws offering cash prizes up to AED 25 million and luxury cars, it attracts participants from across the country. Tickets are available online and at select airport outlets.

Basheer’s story joins a growing list of Indian expatriates who have struck luck through consistency rather than chance. In a world driven by instant gratification, his journey serves as a reminder that sometimes, steady hope over time makes all the difference.

AI vs Identity: When DigiYatra Failed to Tell Twins Apart



A recent incident at Mumbai Airport brought unexpected attention to the limitations of facial recognition technology, after India’s DigiYatra system failed to distinguish between identical twin brothers. Designed to simplify airport entry through biometric authentication, DigiYatra instead created confusion when both twins attempted to enter the terminal together. Despite being individually registered users, the system denied them access, flagging an error that more than one person matched the same facial data.

The incident came to public notice after Instagram user Prashant Menon posted a video documenting the moment. In the clip, Prashant explains that both he and his twin brother had completed DigiYatra registration, yet the facial recognition gates rejected them. The automated system detected a single facial identity instead of two distinct individuals, prompting an “Access Denied” message. Speaking humorously in Hindi, Prashant said, “DigiYatra waalon, hum judwa logon ke liye kuch kijiye,” calling attention

to the oversight in biometric design.

The video quickly gained traction on social media, amassing over 62,000 views and nearly 200 comments. Many users found the situation amusing, while others highlighted a serious technological gap. One commenter joked that Bollywood’s iconic twin characters “Sita and Gita” were not included in the AI’s training model. Another user took a more analytical view, stating that the system correctly flagged an anomaly and routed the users for manual verification.

DigiYatra responded promptly, acknowledging the concern and reaching out to Prashant via direct message for further assistance. While the issue was handled politely, the incident raised broader questions about inclusivity and edge-case scenarios in AI-driven public infrastructure.

Facial recognition systems rely heavily on machine learning models trained on vast datasets. However, identical twins pose a known challenge because their facial structures are extremely similar, often exceeding the discrimination capa-

bility of current algorithms. Experts have long cautioned that biometric systems should always include fallback mechanisms, especially in critical public spaces like airports.

This episode, while humorous on the surface, underscores the importance of designing technology that accounts for real-world human diversity. As India accelerates its adoption of digital identity solutions, such moments serve as reminders that automation must evolve alongside inclusivity, accuracy, and human oversight.

A New Year Act of Kindness That Touched the World

A simple act of compassion by an Indian man in the United States has captured hearts across social media, reminding viewers that kindness transcends borders. The viral video shows Instagram creator Noah approaching a homeless American couple on New Year’s Day and offering them bottles of water before asking if they needed anything else.

Visibly emotional, the man politely requested something modest—McDonald’s food. Noah returned shortly with the meal, handing it over without cameras intruding on the moment. Overwhelmed, the couple repeatedly thanked him, with the man softly saying, “God bless you.”



The video was captioned with Noah’s reflection on the incident, explaining how deeply affected he was by seeing people without access even to drinking water. His genuine emo-

tion struck a chord with viewers worldwide.

Social media reactions poured in, praising the act as a model of humanity. Many users noted that offering food rather than money ensured meaningful help,

while others expressed hope that more people would follow such examples.

This was not Noah’s first viral moment of kindness. Earlier, he had gained attention for helping a paralysed

woman stranded in heavy rain, personally driving her to her daughter’s home. Together, these actions built his reputation as a creator who uses his platform for empathy rather than spectacle.

In an internet landscape often dominated by outrage and controversy, this quiet moment of generosity stood out—proving that sometimes, the most powerful stories are the simplest ones.

Potluck Priorities: When Food Beats Files at the Office

An office potluck turned hilariously memorable after a manager arrived with delicious food—but forgot his laptop. The incident, captured in a viral Instagram video shared by Siddharth Maheshwari, showcased a lighthearted workplace moment that resonated with millions online.

In the video, colleagues can be heard teasing the manager as he laughs off his mistake, saying in Hindi, “Yaar khana toh laya na main! Ho jaati hai mistake.” While the laptop was essential for work, the food clearly stole the spotlight, and one teammate even lent him their device so the day could continue smoothly.

The video amassed nearly 2 million views and tens of thousands of likes. Viewers praised the manager’s camaraderie and relaxed attitude, calling him a rare exam-



ple of a stress-free leader. Many users shared similar childhood or office memories of forgetting essentials while

proudly carrying snacks or treats.

In a corporate world often associated with pressure and hierarchy,

the clip offered a refreshing glimpse of warmth and relatability. It served as a reminder that sometimes, human connec-

tion matters just as much as productivity—and that good food can soften almost any mistake.

Vaibhav Suryavanshi’s Blitz Powers India U-19 to Series-Sealing Win

India Under-19 clinched an unassailable 2-0 lead against South Africa Under-19 in the Youth ODI series after a dominant eight-wicket victory via the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method in the second ODI. The match, held at Willowmoore Park, Benoni, was heavily affected by adverse weather, but India's aggressive batting display—led by skipper Vaibhav Suryavanshi—proved decisive.

Chasing a revised target of 174 runs in 27 overs following rain interruptions and lightning delays, India were well placed at 115 for 2 in just 12.5 overs when play was halted for the first time. Although the match resumed briefly, persistent weather issues forced officials to call off play once India reached 176 for 2 in 23.3 overs, comfortably surpassing the DLS-adjusted target.

The standout performance came from captain Vaibhav Suryavanshi, who played a breathtaking innings of 68 runs off just 24 balls. His knock included an astonishing 10 sixes and one four, completely dismantling the South African bowling attack. Suryavanshi's fearless stroke play shifted momentum instantly and took the game away from the hosts within minutes.

Supporting contributions came from Abhigyan Kundu, who remained unbeaten on 48 off 42 balls,



and Vedant Trivedi, who scored a steady 31 not out from 57 deliveries, ensuring stability after the early fireworks.

Earlier, South Africa posted a competitive total of 245 runs after being

bowled out in 49.3 overs. Jason Rowles anchored the innings with a composed 114 off 117 balls, including seven fours and three sixes. However, Indian bowlers kept pressure throughout the in-

nings. Kishan Singh was the pick of the bowlers, returning impressive figures of 4 for 46 in 8.3 overs, while R S Ambrish chipped in with two wickets.

With this win, India not

only sealed the series but also showcased their depth, adaptability, and explosive batting potential—key indicators of a strong youth setup heading into future international tournaments.

Ben Stokes Under Fire After On-Field Clash With Marnus Labuschagne

England captain Ben Stokes found himself at the centre of controversy during the fifth Ashes Test against Australia in Sydney after an aggressive on-field exchange with Marnus Labuschagne. Despite the Ashes already being decided in Australia's favour, tensions flared as Stokes appeared to place his hand around Labuschagne's neck during a verbal confrontation.

The incident occurred on Day 2 as England struggled to make inroads with the ball after posting 384 in the first innings. Travis Head's counter-attacking 91 frustrated the English bowlers, prompting Stokes to attempt psychological tactics to unsettle the Australian batter.

Umpires intervened immediately, and the moment sparked widespread debate among former cricketers and commentators. Brett Lee questioned whether physical contact was acceptable, while Alyssa Healy suggested the aggression came too late in a series already lost.



Adam Gilchrist noted that such incidents often surface in final Ashes Tests due to fatigue and rising tempers. While some defended Stokes' intensity as part of Ashes tradition, others argued that physical gestures crossed the line of sportsmanship.

The episode once again highlighted the fine balance between competitive aggression and disciplinary boundaries in elite international cricket.

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Joe Root Equals Ponting’s Record, Eyes Sachin Tendulkar Next

England's Joe Root etched his name deeper into cricketing history by scoring his 41st Test century, equalling Australian legend Ricky Ponting's tally. The milestone came during the fifth Ashes Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground, further cementing Root's status among the game's all-time greats.

Root reached his century in 146 balls and remained unbeaten on 138 at lunch on Day 2. This was his second hundred of the series and his 24th Test century since 2021—the most by any batter in that period.

With 13,777 Test runs at an average of 50.83, Root now trails only Jacques Kallis (45 centuries) and Sachin Tendulkar (51 centuries) on the all-time list. He is also closing in on the



14,000-run mark, a feat achieved by only a handful of players.

Root's innings helped England reach 336 for 6 at lunch, placing them in a

strong position despite rain disruptions. His consistency, longevity, and

technical excellence continue to define England's red-ball resurgence.

Bangladesh Bans IPL Telecast Amid Mustafizur Rahman Controversy



In an unprecedented move, the Government of Bangladesh ordered an immediate ban on the telecast of the Indian Premier League (IPL) across the country. The decision follows a major diplomatic and sporting fallout involving Bangladeshi pacer Mustafizur Rahman and his exclusion from the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) squad ahead of the IPL 2026 season.

The controversy erupted after the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) reportedly instructed KKR to release Mustafizur Rahman without providing a publicly stated or rational justification. Mustafizur, a national icon in Bangladesh and a seasoned IPL performer, was expected to play a key role for KKR in the upcoming season.

The Bangladeshi government expressed strong displeasure, stating that the decision had "pained, saddened, and aggrieved" the people of Bangladesh. In an official direc-

tive, authorities ordered broadcasters to halt all IPL-related telecasts and programming until further notice, citing public interest and national sentiment.

The issue has extended beyond IPL broadcasting. The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) formally informed the International Cricket Council (ICC) that it would not send its national team to India for the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup, scheduled to begin on February 7. The BCB requested that Bangladesh's matches be relocated to Sri Lanka due to concerns over player safety and trust.

This development threatens to create long-term repercussions, including a potential freeze in bilateral cricket ties between India and Bangladesh, reminiscent of India-Pakistan cricket relations. The controversy underscores how sporting decisions can escalate into geopolitical disputes when national pride and player dignity are perceived to be at stake.

ICC Scrambles as Bangladesh Seeks T20 World Cup Venue Change



The ICC has been forced into emergency planning after Bangladesh requested a last-minute change of venues for its matches in the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup. The request follows diplomatic tensions triggered by the BCCI's decision to terminate Mustafizur Rahman's IPL contract with KKR.

Bangladesh's interim government, led by advisor Asif Nazrul, strongly condemned the move, stating that Bangladesh would not tolerate disrespect toward its cricketers. As a result, the BCB formally asked the ICC to relocate their group-stage matches—originally scheduled in Kolkata and Mumbai—to Sri Lanka.

With the tournament just one month away, ICC chairman Jay Shah now faces a massive logisti-

cal challenge. According to reports, the ICC has begun drafting a revised schedule, involving venue bookings, accommodation arrangements, broadcasting changes, and security planning.

Bangladesh was initially set to face West Indies, Italy, England, and Nepal across Indian venues. Relocating these fixtures could disrupt ticketing, sponsorship commitments, and broadcasting logistics.

Despite the uncertainty, the BCB has announced its 15-member squad, with Litton Das named captain. The episode highlights how political tensions can spill into global sporting events, placing governing bodies under immense pressure to maintain neutrality and ensure tournament integrity.

Teaser of 'Jockey' produced by PK7 Studios and directed by Dr. Pragabhal unveiled in style



'Jockey', starring Yuvaan Krishna, Ridhaan Krishnas, and Ammu Abhirami in lead roles, is centered around the traditional cultural sport of goat fight (keda sandai) that takes place in Madurai. Following the success and critical acclaim of 'Muddy', the first film in India based on the challenging mud racing sport conducted in rainforests, director Dr. Pragabhal is gearing up with next film titled 'Jockey'. Produced and presented by PK7 Studios, 'Jockey' is set in Madurai and revolves around the traditional cultural sport of goat fighting (keda sandai), capturing the essence of the land and the character of its people. Yuvaan Krishna and Ridhaan Krishnas, who starred in director Dr. Pragabhal's maiden movie 'Muddy', play the protagonists, while Ammu Abhirami plays the female lead. Several popular actors have played important characters.

The exciting teaser of 'Jockey' was released on Saturday (January 3) evening at the 13th Annual Veethi Virudhu event held at Velammal Higher Secondary School, Mogappair East, Chennai. The audience who watched the teaser congratulated the film crew. The film features music by Sakthi Balaji, cinematography by Udhayakumar, and editing by Srikanth. R.P. Bala worked as the Creative Producer. Production Controller: S. Sivakumar, Art Director: C. Udhayakumar, Audiography: M.R. Rajakrishnan, Stunt Choreography: Jackie Prabhu, Costumes: Joshua Maxwell J, Makeup: Pandiyarajan, Colorist: Ranga. 'Jockey', produced by PK7 Studios and directed by Dr. Pragabhal, starring Yuvaan Krishna, Ridhaan Krishnas, and Ammu Abhirami in lead roles, will be released in theatres soon.

'Crazy Kalyanam' Title-Look Poster Unveiled, Promises a Wholesome Wedding Entertainer

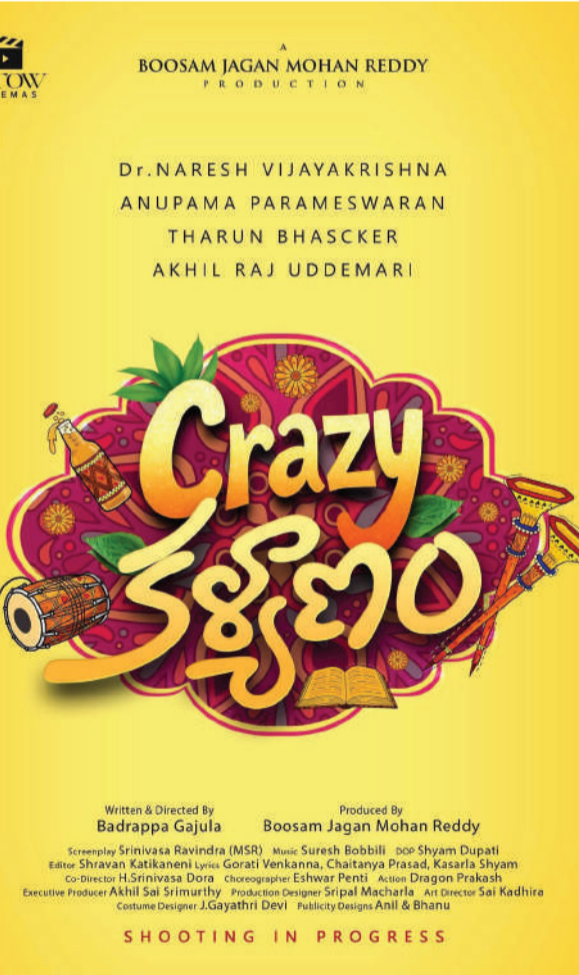
The title-look poster of the upcoming Telugu film "Crazy Kalyanam" has been officially released, instantly drawing attention with its vibrant colours and festive wedding vibe. Designed to reflect celebration, humour and emotions, the poster sets the tone for a complete family entertainer rooted in relationships and marriage.

The film features a strong and interesting lead cast including Naresh VK, Anupama Parameswaran, Tharun Bhascker, and Raju Weds Rambai fame Akhil Udumari. With this unique combination of performers, the makers are promising a refreshing cinematic experience filled with laughter, warmth and relatable moments.

Crazy Kalyanam is being produced as Production No. 2 under the Arrow Cinemas banner by producer Boosam Jagan Mohan Reddy, who is backing the project with a clear focus on content-driven entertainment. The film is written and directed by Badrappa Gajula, known for his grounded storytelling and understanding of middle-class family dynamics.

Set against the lively backdrop of a wedding, the film revolves around marriage, relationships and the chaos that naturally follows. Blending comedy with emotion, Crazy Kalyanam aims to connect with audiences of all age groups, particularly family viewers who enjoy light-hearted yet meaningful narratives. The title-look poster reflects this vision, showcasing a celebratory atmosphere that hints at fun-filled drama and engaging character interactions.

Adding authenticity to the storytelling, major



portions of the film were shot in rural locations across Telangana, capturing the local culture, traditions and natural settings. This regional flavour is expected to enhance the film's relatability and visual appeal, making the wedding backdrop feel organic rather than artificial.

Music plays a vital role in wedding-based entertainers, and Crazy Kalyanam has roped in Suresh Bobbili as the music director. Known for his memorable work in The Great Pre-Wedding Show and Raju Weds Rambai, Suresh Bobbili is expected to deliver catchy, festive and emotionally rich songs that elevate the film's mood and narrative.

The technical team

further strengthens the project. Shyam Dupati handles cinematography, while Shravan Katikaneni is in charge of editing. Art direction is led by Sai Kadhira, with Sripal Macharla serving as production designer. Lyrics are penned by Goret Venkanna, Chaitanya Prasad and Kasarla Shyam, adding lyrical depth rooted in culture and emotion.

With its appealing title, festive theme and promising cast and crew, Crazy Kalyanam is shaping up as a joyful entertainer. The makers have announced that more updates will be shared soon, and the film is already generating curiosity among audiences eager for a fun, feel-good wedding drama.

Anasuya Issues Public Apology to Actress Raasi, Sparks Discussion in Tollywood

Hyderabad: Popular actress and television anchor Anasuya Bharadwaj has issued a public apology to senior actress Raasi, following a controversy that resurfaced on social media and stirred fresh debate within the Telugu entertainment industry. The incident has drawn widespread attention, highlighting issues of accountability, sensitivity, and evolving perspectives in showbiz.

The controversy traces back to a comedy show aired a few years ago, where Anasuya, as the anchor, was part of a skit that included a double-meaning dialogue referring to actress Raasi. Though the episode was broadcast long ago, a clip from the show recently went viral on social media platforms, prompting strong reactions from netizens. Actress Raasi openly expressed her displeasure, questioning the appropriateness of such remarks and stating that she felt hurt by the reference.

Responding to the renewed criticism, Anasuya took to social media to offer a heartfelt apology. Addressing Raasi with respect, she expressed deep regret over the incident and acknowledged that she



should have objected to the dialogue at the time of filming. Anasuya admitted that back then, she did not have the confidence or voice to challenge the creative decisions taken on the show.

In her statement, Anasuya emphasized that people grow and evolve with time. She said her outlook has changed over the years and that she now firmly stands against objectification and insensitive portrayals, especially of women. She also pointed out that she has consciously moved away from shows that rely on double-meaning humor and has been more vocal about issues concerning dignity and respect.

The apology has triggered mixed reactions from fans and industry observers. While many praised Anasuya for taking responsibility and showing maturity, others felt the apology came too

late. Nevertheless, several voices from the industry noted that acknowledging past mistakes publicly requires courage and should be seen as a positive step.

This episode has also reignited a broader discussion about content in television comedy shows and the fine line between humor and disrespect. With audiences becoming more socially aware, celebrities are increasingly being held account-

able for both current and past actions.

As of now, Raasi has not issued an official response to Anasuya's apology. Fans of both actresses continue to closely follow the developments, hoping for an amicable closure. The incident serves as a reminder that the entertainment industry, like society at large, is undergoing a shift toward greater sensitivity and responsibility.

Vishika's Hilarious First Look from Purushaha Unveiled, Sparks Fresh Buzz

The makers of the upcoming Telugu entertainer Purushaha have unveiled the first-look poster of actress Vishika, adding a fresh dose of humour and excitement to the film's steadily growing buzz. Known for its quirky promotional strategy, the film continues to grab attention with character-driven posters that reflect everyday middle-class life through wit, emotion and relatable chaos.

Set against the backdrop of modern family and workplace dynamics, Purushaha explores how ordinary people juggle dreams, responsibilities and unspoken pressures. Instead of relying on grand teasers or loud promotional campaigns, the team has smartly opted for visually engaging posters paired with clever captions. Each reveal offers a humorous slice of life, striking a chord with audiences across social media platforms.

The newly released

poster featuring Vishika stands out for its bold and comic presentation. Wearing a T-shirt with the line "Touch Me If You Dare!", Vishika is seen delivering a powerful kick that sends Kasireddy Rajkumar flying across the frame. The caption, "He pressed the wrong button, the result is....", perfectly sets the tone for the chaos that follows. With papers scattered around an office setup and Vishika's fierce, no-nonsense stance, the poster promises laugh-out-loud moments rooted in situational comedy.

Earlier, first-look posters of female leads Vaishnavi Kukkura and Hasini Sudheer received positive responses for blending intensity with humour. Before that, character posters of the three male leads went viral for their sharp comic timing and relatable portrayals. Together, these reveals have built curiosity around the film's nar-

rative style and character dynamics.

Presented by Battula Saraswathi under the Kalyan Productions banner and produced by Battula Koteswara Rao, Purushaha introduces Pavan Kalyan Battula as the lead actor. The film is directed by Veeru Vulavala, who aims to deliver a rooted entertainer with a strong emotional core and consistent humour.

The technical crew adds further strength to the project, with Satish Muthyala handling cinematography, Shravan Bharadwaj composing the music, Koti overseeing editing, and Ravi Babu Dondapati serving as art director. Lyrics are penned by Anantha Sriram, enhancing the film's narrative depth.

With comedy favourites like Vennela Kishore, VTV Ganesh, Pammi Sai, Anantha Sriram and Mirchi Kiran on board, Purushaha promises wholesome entertainment



packed with laughter and relatable emotions. As post-production progresses and each new poster fuels fresh chat-

ter, the film is shaping up as an entertainer audiences are eagerly waiting to experience on the big screen

Akhil Akkineni's Lenin Unveils Soulful Romantic Track "Vaare Vaa Vaare Vaa", Targets Summer Release



The makers of Akhil Akkineni's upcoming film Lenin have released the soulful romantic song "Vaare Vaa Vaare Vaa", which is quickly winning hearts among music lovers. With its soothing melody and emotional richness, the track adds a fresh romantic layer to the film and has already started creating a strong buzz.

The song is beautifully rendered by Shweta Mohan and Jubin Nautiyal, whose expressive vocals lend depth and warmth to the composition. Celebrated lyricist Anantha Sriram pens heartfelt lines that enhance the song's poetic charm, making it a memorable romantic number. The lyrics seamlessly blend emotion and melody, elevating the overall listening experience.

Music director Thaman S delivers yet another impactful composition, capturing the emotional essence of the film with finesse. The song complements the on-screen chemistry between the lead pair and effectively sets the tone for the film's romantic narrative. With its calm tempo and soulful arrangement, "Vaare Vaa Vaare Vaa" is being regarded as a standout track in the album.

Lenin is currently progressing at a brisk pace, with nearly 70 percent of the shoot already completed. The makers are confident of wrapping up production soon and are gearing up for a summer theatrical release, adding to the anticipation surrounding the film.

Directed by Murali Kishor Abburu, the film

stars Akhil Akkineni in the lead role alongside Bhagyashri Borse. The project is jointly produced by Manam Enterprises LLP and Sithara Entertainment, and is presented by Annapurna Studios, ensuring strong production values and wide reach.

Producers Akkineni Nagarjuna and Suryadevara Naga Vamsi have come together to back the film, raising expectations among fans and industry circles alike. With a promising combination of music, romance and a compelling narrative, Lenin is shaping up to be an engaging summer entertainer.

As the film moves closer to release, more updates are expected in the coming weeks, keeping audiences eagerly waiting for what Lenin has in store.