



## KTR Slams Congress Government at BRS Felicitation Meet in Jangaon

TPN Bureau | January 06:

**B**harat Rashtriya Samithi (BRS) Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and the Congress government, alleging governance failure, betrayal of electoral promises, and distress among farmers and common people.

KTR was speaking at a felicitation programme organised at Bharamaramba Convention Hall in Jangaon town to honour newly elected sarpanches

and ward members who won on the BRS ticket in the district. A large number of party leaders and workers attended the event.

Former minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao, MLAs Palla Rajeshwar Reddy and others, Legislative Council Deputy Floor Leader Pochampally Srinivas Reddy, former MLAs Muthireddy Yadagiri Reddy, Thatikonda Rajaiah, Nannapaneni Narender, and senior BRS leader Rakesh Reddy were present on the dais.

Addressing the gathering

KTR alleged that the Congress government had failed to fulfil its promises even after two years in power. He said farmers were struggling, fertiliser shortages persisted, and rural distress had increased. He accused the Chief Minister of lacking basic understanding of irrigation projects and river systems, claiming that misleading statements were being made on crucial issues related to water resources.

KTR also criticised the Congress leadership over what he described as "false assurances" made

during the elections, particularly related to farmer welfare schemes, job creation, and financial

assistance. He alleged that promises such as enhanced farmer support, bonuses on crops, and

large-scale government employment had not been honoured.

Referring to remarks

allegedly made earlier against former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao (KCR), KTR strongly defended his father's legacy. He listed various welfare schemes and infrastructure projects undertaken during the BRS regime, including irrigation projects, pensions, farmer investment support, and drinking water supply, asserting that Telangana had witnessed rapid development under KCR's leadership.

Calling upon party cadres to remain united, KTR urged newly elected sarpanches to actively

work for the party's success in the upcoming municipal elections. He said the strong performance of BRS candidates at the grassroots level, despite pressure and intimidation, reflected public support for the party.

KTR remarked that the enthusiasm witnessed at the Jangaon gathering was reminiscent of earlier mass movements and claimed that people were eager to see KCR return as Chief Minister. He thanked party workers

for their commitment and said disciplined cadre strength remained BRS's biggest asset.



## Uttam Kumar Reddy Defends Hyderabad Industrial Transfer Policy, Calls It Key to City's Future

TPN Bureau | January 04:

**T**elangana Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Tuesday strongly defended the Hyderabad Industrial Transfer (HILT) Policy, calling it essential for making Hyderabad more livable and ensuring sustainable growth for the state. Speaking in the state legislative assembly, Reddy dismissed opposition criticism and emphasized the policy's potential to improve environmental conditions while fostering urban development.

"This policy is good for Hyderabad and Telangana. We played a key role in developing it, and I genuinely consider it the best. It will improve the environment

and position Hyderabad as a global metropolitan city," Reddy stated.

**Policy Remains Voluntary**

Reddy clarified that the HILT policy is voluntary, directly countering opposition claims that it should be made mandatory. He challenged parties like the BRS and BJP to take a clear stand on the issue: "It is voluntary as a policy. Are you criticizing it for being voluntary? Do you want it to be mandatory? If that is your suggestion, please spell it out openly," he said.

He also stressed that only lands with complete ownership would qualify for the policy, while leasehold lands would be excluded. The minister underscored that voluntary

participation is intended to incentivize industries to relocate rather than impose compulsion.

**Responding to Opposition Criticism**

Reddy expressed disappointment over what he described as "harsh and unsubstantiated criticism," including allegations that 9,000 acres of land valued at Rs 5 lakh crore were involved in the policy. "Is this criticism for criticism's sake? Our aim is to make Hyderabad livable. For decades, industrial and residential areas have become uninhabitable. This policy seeks to correct that," he said.

He further urged the opposition to clarify whether they support relocating polluting industries outside the Outer Ring Road or not, emphasizing the



need for practical solutions rather than political point-scoring.

**Personal and Environmental Concerns**

Highlighting his personal connection to the city, Reddy recalled that parts of Hyderabad once included his agricultural land, reflecting his emotional bond with the region. He cited environmental challenges, such as borewell water in areas like Miyapur turning brown due to industrial pollution, as key reasons for implementing the policy. Acknowledging practical challenges, he noted that industries operating at 100% registration rates might have little incentive to relocate without adequate support. "We want to incentivize affected industries to move out of the city," he said, prais-

ing Industries Minister Sridhar Babu for his effective handling of the policy.

**Aiming for Sustainable Growth**

Reddy emphasized that the HILT policy addresses decades-old issues where industrial and residential areas have become "uninhabitable," benefiting both industries and citizens through improved environmental conditions. He reaffirmed his full support: "I genuinely consider it the best and I should defend the policy." He concluded by urging opposition parties to clearly state their position on relocating polluting industries while framing the HILT policy as a critical step toward sustainable urban growth, revenue mobilization, and environmental protection in Telangana.

## EV Policy for Cleaner Future, Major Push for RTC Modernisation: Minister Ponnam Prabhakar

TPN Bureau  
Hyderabad, January 6, 2026: Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Tuesday said the Telangana government has implemented a forward-looking Electric Vehicle (EV) policy to ensure a pollution-free environment and better quality of life for future generations, while also taking decisive steps to modernise the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (RTC).

Replying to questions raised by members during a discussion in the Legislative Assembly on the Transport Department, the minister said the EV policy was introduced through Govern-

ment Order No. 41 with a long-term vision. He noted that more than one lakh EVs were sold in the state during the current year, indicating a sharp rise in adoption.

Highlighting technological advancements, Ponnam Prabhakar said EVs that earlier had a range of around 150 kilometres per charge are now capable of travelling up to 500 kilometres, with continuous reviews underway to further improve performance. He said the government is expanding charging infrastructure by installing charging stations at government offices, Greater Hyderabad community halls, schools,



gated communities, private institutions, collectives, restaurants and tourism centres, with REDCO playing a key role.

The minister said the government is implementing the EV policy despite an estimated rev-

enue loss of nearly 900 crore, reflecting its strong commitment to sustainability. Government employees pur-

chasing EVs are being provided a 20 per cent incentive, contributing to an increase in EV usage from 0.3 per cent earlier to nearly 2 per cent now. He added that state government vehicles, school buses, pharma and IT sector fleets will gradually shift to EVs, with 25 to 50 per cent conversion planned based on operational needs.

Referring to air pollution, Ponnam Prabhakar warned that Delhi's Air Quality Index has crossed dangerous levels and said Telangana is determined to prevent Hyderabad from facing a similar situation. Along with EVs, the government is encouraging the

use of CNG and LPG vehicles and increasing plantation to control pollution.

On RTC reforms, the minister said Telangana has over 9,000 buses, with 500 electric buses already operating under the PM e-Drive scheme. Hyderabad will receive 2,800 electric buses in phases, while Warangal and Nizamabad municipalities will get 100 and 50 electric buses respectively. Diesel buses are being retrofitted into electric buses, and similar retrofitting is being permitted for autos. Only EV, CNG, LPG and retrofitted autos are allowed under AMRUT limits.

He said a scrappage policy has been introduced for vehicles older than 15 years, green tax has been increased, and incentives are being provided for scrapping old vehicles. Ponnam Prabhakar said RTC remains the lifeline of the state, carrying nearly 65 lakh passengers daily, covering 35 lakh kilometres, and connecting 12,000 villages. He stressed that passenger comfort, employee welfare and institutional protection remain the government's top priorities, adding that Telangana aims to become a national role model in EV adoption and sustainable transport.

## Fire Safety Strengthened Across Telangana, Says Minister Ponnam Prabhakar

TPN Bureau Hyderabad, January 6, 2026: In response to a question raised by MLC Banda Prakash in the Legislative Council, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar provided a detailed update on the state government's initiatives for housing and development for weaker sections, particularly backward classes (BCs) and marginalized communities. The Minister said that land has been allotted for 42 community buildings, but signifi-

cant funds would be required for their development. He informed that work on three buildings is already underway and is currently in progress. He emphasized that representatives of various communities must ensure that these lands are protected and do not fall into the hands of private individuals.

Regarding the Kurum building, which has been completed, Minister Prabhakar said it should be utilized by the education institute for hostel

facilities, highlighting that such resources must directly benefit the intended communities. He also mentioned that decisions regarding the development of "AtmaGaurav" buildings will be taken soon.

Minister Prabhakar praised the Congress Party's role as a champion of social justice and stated that a meeting would be organized with BC representatives to discuss concerns and further strategies. He added that work on the

BC sub-plan, which was intended to begin last year, would now proceed using the allocated funds.

Highlighting the government's focus on education, the Minister said priority is being given to the education of weaker sections. Referring to a recent survey of developed families, he noted that families whose members had higher education were the ones that progressed the most. This demonstrates the crucial link between ed-

ucation and social advancement, he added.

Minister Prabhakar concluded by assuring that the government would continue to implement comprehensive development plans for marginalized communities, ensuring their socio-economic upliftment and protection of resources intended for their welfare. The initiatives aim to provide both infrastructure and opportunities, enabling weaker sections to achieve sustainable development.

## HILT Policy Is About Public Health, Not Just Land Use: Minister Sridhar Babu Tells Assembly



TPN Bureau Hyderabad, January 6: Industries and IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu on Tuesday made a strong and emotionally charged intervention in the Telangana Legislative Assembly, asserting that the Hyderabad Industrial Land Transformation (HILT) Policy is not merely about changing land use patterns but about safeguarding public health and securing a clean environment for future generations.

Participating in the Assembly discussion on HILT, the Minister said that while society proudly claims to be living in the age of the Information Revolution and technological advancement, it has failed at a more fundamental lev-

el—ensuring clean air, safe water, and healthy food, which are the basic rights of every living being. He described this contradiction as the hallmark of an "incompetent civilisation."

Sridhar Babu cautioned that development cannot be celebrated if it comes at the cost of ecological destruction. He reminded the House that earlier generations left behind fertile lands, clean rivers, and breathable air as a legacy, and questioned whether the present generation is fulfilling its responsibility to pass on the same inheritance to its children.

"Accumulating wealth and constructing buildings in our children's names is meaningless if

the air they breathe is toxic and the water they drink is poisoned," he said, likening such development to "serving poison in a golden bowl."

Tracing Hyderabad's industrial journey, the Minister recalled that in the 1970s, areas such as Balanagar, Sanathnagar, Upal, Jeedimetla, and Cherlapally were designated as exclusive industrial zones, located far away from residential habitations. Over the last five decades, however, Hyderabad expanded into a global metropolis, engulfing these industrial pockets and converting them into densely populated residential and commercial hubs.

Today, factories and apartment complexes stand wall-to-wall, without any buffer zones, he said, warning that this is not merely an urban planning failure but a "scientific invitation to disaster." He cited the Bhopal gas tragedy and the LG Polymers accident in Visakhapatnam as grim reminders of the

dangers posed by industries operating amidst residential areas.

The Minister also referred to international experiences, including the Minamata tragedy in Japan, London's Great Smog of 1952, and China's Blue Sky Protection Plan, to underline how unchecked industrial pollution can devastate public health. He warned that Hyderabad risks following the path of severely polluted cities if corrective steps are delayed.

Scientific studies, he noted, have already found alarming levels of heavy metals such as lead, mercury, and arsenic in groundwater across several industrial belts in Hyderabad, posing long-term risks including genetic disorders for future generations.

Against this backdrop, Sridhar Babu asserted that the HILT policy is a corrective "surgical intervention" aimed at restoring ecological balance. The policy seeks to

relocate polluting industries beyond the Outer Ring Road and create a cleaner, healthier urban environment.

Rejecting allegations from opposition parties, he clarified that the policy is entirely voluntary, transparent, and does not involve government land. The ownership rights of industrial landholders remain intact, and conversions will be processed through the TGI-PASS portal within a defined time frame.

The Minister emphasized that the policy was formulated after extensive consultations with experts and stakeholders, under the leadership of a Cabinet Sub-Committee headed by Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka.

"No amount of political criticism will deter this government from prioritising people's health," Sridhar Babu said, adding that HILT represents Telangana's commitment to building a livable Hyderabad for generations to come.

## KTR and Jagadish Reddy Unveil TPTU New Diary in Hyderabad



Hyderabad, January 6 (TPN Bureau):

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) and former minister and Suryapet MLA Guntakandla Jagadish Reddy on Wednesday unveiled a newly designed diary brought out by the Telangana Progressive Teachers' Union (TPTU). The diary was formally released at KTR's residence in Hyderabad in the presence of senior leaders and representatives of the teachers' fraternity.

The unveiling ceremony witnessed the participation of several prominent leaders associated with the education sector and teachers' unions.

TPTU State President Mattapalli Radhakrishna and General Secretary Patlolla Chandrasekhar were present along with the organisation's founder Venugopal Swamy.

Former JACTO leaders G. Bhujangarao, G. Madhav Reddy, Somala Naik, Venu Babu and other senior union rep-

resentatives also attended the programme. Speaking on the occasion, KTR appreciated the role played by teachers and progressive teachers' organisations in shaping society and strengthening the education system.

He said teachers are the backbone of the nation and their contribution goes beyond classrooms, playing a vital role in building informed, responsible and progressive citizens. He extended his best wishes to TPTU for its continued efforts in safeguarding the interests of teachers and improving educational standards in Telangana. Former minister Jagadish Reddy highlighted the historic role of teachers' movements in Telangana, stating that teachers have always stood at the forefront of social change and democratic struggles. He said organisations like TPTU have consistently raised issues related to education reforms, service conditions and the welfare of teaching staff. He expressed confidence that the union would continue to work constructively for the benefit of both teachers and students.

TPTU leaders briefed the dignitaries about the content and objectives of the newly released diary, stating that it includes important information related to teachers' rights, educational policies, significant dates and inspirational messages aimed at empowering the teaching community. They said the diary serves as a useful reference tool for teachers while also reflecting the union's progressive ideology. The programme concluded with interactions between the leaders and union members, during which issues related to education policy, teachers' welfare and the future of public education in Telangana were discussed. The TPTU leadership expressed gratitude to KTR and Jagadish Reddy for unveiling the diary and for their continued support to the teaching community.

## KTR Slams Telangana Government Over Attempt to Seize MANUU Land

TPN Bureau Hyderabad, January 6: Telangana Rashtriya Samithi (TRS) Working President K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) has strongly criticized the Telangana government's alleged attempt to seize 50 acres of land belonging to Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) in Hyderabad. Speaking out, KTR directly questioned Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, asking whether he was even aware of what his party's government is doing in Telangana and whether this aligns with Congress' stated commitment to education and

minority welfare.

Recalling past controversies, KTR highlighted the uproar over Hyderabad Central University (HCU), where a green forest was bulldozed, resulting in widespread destruction of wildlife and national embarrassment for the Congress party. He said the current move against MANUU demonstrates a failure to learn from those past mistakes. "Seizing land earmarked for academic blocks, hostels, and future courses is tantamount to burning the aspirations of thousands of students alive," KTR said.

He accused the Chief Minister of prioritizing real estate interests over the welfare of educational institutions, describing the alleged land grab as "an extremely shameful act." KTR emphasized that a responsible government should strengthen universities rather than undermine them, asserting that education is not merely a political tool but the foundation of the nation's future.

The BRS leader also vowed that his party would not remain silent on the issue. KTR announced that the BRS would stand firmly with MANUU students and fight the move both on the ground and in court if necessary. "We will launch an unrelenting

struggle to protect students' interests and ensure that the government reverses its decision," he said.

KTR's statement comes amid growing concerns over the protection of academic land and the expansion of higher education institutions in Telangana. Education activists have echoed the call for transparent governance and warned that interference in university infrastructure could have long-term repercussions on research, innovation, and student development.

The MANUU land is

sue has quickly gained attention among opposition parties, student groups, and civil society organizations. Analysts note that the controversy could have significant political and social implications in Telangana, particularly as it touches upon sensitive topics like minority education and institutional autonomy. As the debate unfolds, stakeholders are watching closely to see whether the state government will reconsider its plans or face sustained opposition from students, political parties, and legal authorities.



## Medaram Sammakka Saralamma Jatara 2026 Schedule Announced; CM Revanth Reddy to Inaugurate Revamped Premises

Medaram, Telangana, January 6, 2026, TPN Bureau

The Medaram Sammakka Saralamma Maha Jatara, one of Asia's largest tribal religious festivals, has released its official schedule for 2026, with the Telangana government announcing a series of grand events ahead of the four-day celebration.

The festival, dedicated to the tribal goddesses Sama and Saralamma, will be held from January 28 to January 31, 2026, attracting millions of devotees from Telangana and neighbouring states. The Jatara is renowned for its sacred rituals, processions, and traditional observances that celebrate the cultural heritage of the region.

Preparations are already in full swing at Medaram in Mulugu district. Extensive renovation and development works have been carried out at the temple premises to ensure comfort, safety, and smooth management for the anticipated crowds. Infrastructure improvements include upgraded facil-



ties for pilgrims, better sanitation, and enhanced security arrangements.

A major highlight of the preparations is the inauguration of the revamped temple premises by Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, scheduled for January 19. The Chief Minister is expected to oversee final arrangements and assess readiness for the massive gathering. Officials confirmed that the Chief

Minister will also stay overnight in Medaram around January 20 to ensure smooth operations before the festival begins.

The ceremonial schedule of the Jatara will witness Saralamma's procession arriving from Kanneppalli on January 28, followed by Sammakka's arrival from Chilakalagutta on January 29. Devotees traditionally offer jaggery and other items to the goddesses as part of

their worship. The festivities will culminate on January 31 with a ceremonial farewell marking the end of the sacred celebrations.

Authorities have announced comprehensive arrangements to manage the large crowds, including water and sanitation facilities, medical support, traffic management, and security measures. State officials have assured that all amenities will be in place to provide a safe and convenient environment for pilgrims attending the Mahaa Jatara.

The Medaram Sammakka Saralamma Jatara continues to be a vital cultural and spiritual event for Telangana, drawing devotees and tourists alike. Officials and community leaders have urged visitors to participate respectfully and responsibly, emphasizing the festival's enduring significance as a celebration of faith, tradition, and tribal heritage.



## Minister Seethakka Extends Medaram Maha Jatara Invitations to Leaders Across Political

Hyderabad, Jan 6, 2026 — TPN Bureau

Minister for Panchayat and Rural Development Danasari Anasuya Seethakka on Tuesday personally extended invitations for the upcoming Medaram Maha Jatara to leaders of various political parties, emphasizing the festival's cultural and spiritual significance beyond political boundaries.

As part of the outreach, Minister Seethakka met CPI, BJP and AIMIM Legislature Party leaders and formally presented them with invitation letters to attend the prestigious tribal festival. In keeping with age-old temple traditions, she invited the leaders by offering sacred turmeric and vermillion along with symbolic gold, reflecting the customs associated with the Medaram Sammakka-Saralamma Jatara.

The minister also paid a personal visit to Telangana Legislative Council Chairman Gutha



Sukhender Reddy and handed over the invitation, requesting him to attend the grand Medaram Jatara. During the interaction, Seethakka highlighted the historical, cultural and spiritual importance of the biennial festival, which draws millions of devotees from across the country and abroad.

Minister Seethakka

has been actively meeting ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly, Members of the Legislative Council and senior government officials to personally invite them to the Medaram Maha Jatara. She said the festival represents the rich heritage, tribal traditions and collective faith of Telangana, and called upon public rep-

resentatives and officials to participate and support its successful organisation.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said the Medaram Jatara is not just a religious congregation but a symbol of unity, equality and respect for indigenous traditions. She stressed that the state government is committed to

preserving tribal culture and ensuring that the festival is conducted smoothly with all necessary facilities for devotees.

Seethakka noted that extensive arrangements are being made by various departments to manage crowd control, sanitation, drinking water, health services, transport and security during the festival. She said coordinated efforts are underway to provide a safe and comfortable experience for devotees while maintaining the sanctity of the rituals.

The minister reiterated that the government views the Medaram Maha Jatara as a people's festival that transcends political affiliations. By personally reaching out to leaders from all parties and constitutional authorities, she said the government aims to foster collective participation and shared responsibility in celebrating one of the largest tribal gatherings in the world.

## State to Correct Unscientific Administrative Divisions of Previous Regime: Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy



Hyderabad, Jan 6, 2026 — TPN Bureau

Revenue, Housing and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy on Tuesday assured

the Telangana Legislative Assembly that the state government will

correct the unscientific

division of mandals, revenue divisions and districts carried out during the tenure of the previous government.

Replying to questions raised by members Rammohan Reddy, Veeresham, Palyayi Harish and others during the Question Hour, the minister said that the earlier administration had undertaken administrative restructuring in a haphazard and arbitrary manner, leading to serious governance and coordination challenges at the grassroots level.

He pointed out that due to unplanned reorganisation, a situation arose where four mandals belonging to a single Assembly constituency were placed under four different districts, creating confusion among officials and in-

convenience to the public. The minister said such decisions were taken without proper study, consultation or consideration of administrative feasibility.

Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy alleged that the previous government divided districts in an unscientific way based on personal preferences rather than public interest. He said different standards were applied for those who praised the government and those who did not, and even numerology was allegedly considered while carving out districts. As a result, the intended objective of improving governance was defeated, he added.

The minister said the present government has carefully reviewed the administrative situation and identified the need for new mandals and revenue divisions in certain areas, while also recognising the necessity to reorganise existing districts. He emphasised that any restructuring will be carried out in a transparent, rational and people-centric manner. He informed the

minister reiterated that the government is committed to rectifying past mistakes and building a strong, well-structured administrative framework that serves the interests of citizens rather than political considerations.

## Union Minister Kishan Reddy Urges Telangana CM to Act on Warangal Fort Encroachments



Hyderabad, Jan 6, 2026

Union Minister and senior BJP leader G. Kishan Reddy has written a formal letter to Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, urging immediate action to address alleged illegal constructions and encroachments around the historic Warangal Fort. The letter calls for prompt measures to safeguard the heritage site and preserve its archaeological and cultural significance.

In his communication, Kishan Reddy highlighted ongoing developments and structures that he claims violate legal norms and pose a threat to the integrity of the centuries-old fort and its surroundings. He appealed to the state government to remove unauthorized buildings and reclaim encroached land, which should then be handed over to the Archaeological Survey of India for proper management and protection.

This letter marks the latest in a series of communications from Kishan Reddy to the Telangana government on matters of public policy, governance, and infrastructure. In the past, he has written on topics ranging from national highways and urban development to renewable energy projects and administrative issues.

Minister has urged swift intervention, the Telangana government has not yet issued an official response regarding the Warangal Fort encroachments. Heritage activists and local stakeholders are closely monitoring the situation, with many expressing support for measures to protect the fort and prevent further encroachments.

The exchange between the Union Minister and the state Chief Minister highlights the ongoing dynamics between central oversight and state administration in heritage conservation. Experts note that proactive collaboration between the two levels of government is essential to ensure the preservation of India's historic monuments while balancing urban development needs.

With public interest in protecting cultural heritage growing, Kishan Reddy's appeal underscores the urgency of safeguarding Warangal Fort and similar sites from illegal encroachments and environmental degradation.

## Telangana Government Ensures Ample Fertilizer Supply for Farmers, Minister Provides Details in Assembly



Hyderabad, January 6, 2026 (TPN Bureau): During the question-and-answer session in the Telangana Assembly today, Minister for Agriculture, Marketing, Cooper-

atives, Handlooms & Textiles, Tummala Nagaswara Rao, responded to queries raised by Hon. MLAs Madan Mohan Rao and Palvai Harish regarding the state's fer-

tilizer supply and distribution.

The Minister presented a comprehensive overview of the availability, sales, stock levels, and monitoring of all types of fertilizers, including urea, across Telangana. He highlighted that while the import of urea by the central government faced delays and the closure of Ramagundam Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd. (RFCL) caused some challenges during the last Kharif season, continuous engagement with the central authorities ensured timely supply. As a result, the state received a total of 979,000 metric tonnes of urea, which is 13,000 metric tonnes higher than the 2024-25 Kharif season.

To enhance transparency in distribution, a Fertilizer App has been launched on a pilot basis in five districts. So far, 159,000 farmers have purchased 455,000 urea bags through the app, and feedback from farmers and dealers has been positive. The Minister

assured that the app will soon be expanded statewide to allow farmers to purchase urea conveniently as per their requirements.

Addressing misinformation, the Minister stated that claims of urea shortage by some media outlets and political groups are baseless, often based on isolated incidents. A dashboard is being maintained to provide real-time stock information to district collectors and will soon be made accessible to MLAs. Additionally, real-time monitoring continues through the e-PoS system and FIVEs (Fertilizer Inventory Verification System), with strict action against illegal stockpiling and overpricing.

Farmers are urged to remain calm, as the government is fully committed to ensuring adequate urea supply through close coordination with the central government.

Emphasizing the fort's importance, Kishan Reddy noted that Warangal Fort is not only a landmark of cultural and his-

torical value for Telangana but also a site of national significance, drawing scholars, tourists, and heritage enthusiasts from across India and abroad. He stressed the need for collaborative efforts between the Centre and the state to ensure the preservation of this legacy for future generations. Kishan Reddy also underscored that heritage conservation must be a priority and warned that unchecked encroachments could cause irreversible damage. He suggested that once unlawful structures are removed, the ASI should be empowered to take control of the reclaimed areas to maintain and protect the site. This letter marks the latest in a series of communications from Kishan Reddy to the Telangana government on matters of public policy, governance, and infrastructure. In the past, he has written on topics ranging from national highways and urban development to renewable energy projects and administrative issues.

While the Union

## Parents Assault School Principal Over Alleged Sexual Harassment of Student in Jagadgirigutta

Quthbullapur,  
January 6 (TPN  
Bureau):

Tension prevailed in Chandragiri Nagar under the Jagadgirigutta police station limits on Monday following allegations of sexual harassment against a private school principal, which led to angry parents assaulting him and vandalising the school premises.

According to police, the incident took place at a private school allegedly operating without proper permissions under the name "Nissi Swathi School." The

school was reportedly being run by a person identified as Vijay Kumar, who also served as its principal and resided in the same building.

Parents alleged that the principal had been behaving inappropriately with girl students for some time. It was further alleged that female students were forced to do household chores at his residence located within the school premises. Parents claimed that the principal threatened students with academic consequences if they reported his behaviour.

The issue came to light after a Class 10 stu-



dent reportedly informed her parents that the principal had be-

haved indecently with her on Monday. Enraged by the incident, the par-

ents, along with local residents, gathered at the school, damaged fur-

niture and allegedly as- saulted the principal before handing him over to the police.

Jagadgirigutta police rushed to the spot, brought the situation under control and registered a case. The accused was taken into custody, and an investigation is currently underway to ascertain the facts and verify the allegations. Police officials said further action would be taken based on the findings of the investigation.

Meanwhile, officials from the education department also took note of the incident. The Mandal Education Of-

Education department officials reiterated that running schools without proper permissions is illegal and poses serious risks to student safety. They assured that inspections would be intensified and action initiated against such institutions to prevent similar incidents in the future.

The incident has triggered concern among parents and residents, with many demanding stringent action against unauthorised schools and stronger safeguards to protect students, particularly girls, within educational institutions operating in the area.

### Rajesh Naik Appointed State Joint Convener of TPCC Legal Cell and RTI Departments

Quthbullapur, Jan 6, 2026 — TPN Bureau:

Advocate K. Rajesh Naik, a resident of Dundigal Thanda-2 in Medchal district, has been appointed as the Telangana State Joint Convener of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) Legal Cell and RTI Departments. The appointment letter was formally handed over to him on Tuesday by TPCC Legal Cell Chairman Ponnamp Ashok Goud.

The appointment recognises Rajesh Naik's legal expertise and his continued involvement in public service and party activities. Speaking on the occasion, Rajesh Naik expressed his gratitude to TPCC Legal Cell Chairman Ponnamp Ashok Goud and Quthbullapur Assembly Constituency Congress Party in-charge Hanumanth Reddy for entrusting him with the responsibility.

Rajesh Naik stated that he would work diligently to ensure that the services of the TPCC Legal Cell reach every Congress worker across the state. He emphasised that the Legal Cell would play a crucial role in providing legal assistance to party activists, especially in cases related to alleged false cases registered against them during the ten-



ure of the previous government.

Highlighting the importance of legal awareness, he said that every Congress worker would be encouraged to make use of Legal Cell services whenever necessary. He also underlined the role of the RTI Department in ensuring transparency and accountability in governance.

Rajesh Naik asserted that the RTI Act would be used effectively to prevent diversion of government welfare schemes and to ensure that benefits reach the poor and marginalised sections of society. He added that the Legal Cell and RTI Departments would stand firmly in support of the underprivileged by promoting awareness on legal rights, RTI provisions, and human rights issues.

He further said that efforts would be made to educate the public

about the importance of the RTI Act and how it can be used as a powerful tool to question irregularities and demand accountability from authorities. The Legal Cell, he added, would also extend guidance in matters related to civil rights and constitutional protections.

Party leaders present at the event expressed confidence that Rajesh Naik's appointment would strengthen the functioning of the TPCC Legal Cell and RTI Departments. They noted that his legal background and commitment to public causes would help in effectively addressing the grievances of party workers and the public.

Several members of the TPCC State Legal Cell Committee, including Deva and other party functionaries, were present during the appointment programme.

### Gym Owner and Supplier Arrested for Selling Cannabis in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, January 6, 2026 (TPN Bureau): In a shocking revelation, authorities have uncovered that a gym in Madavanagar Colony near Mysore Bakery was involved in the sale of cannabis to its clients. The Enforcement Special Task Force (ESTF), D-Team, acting on intelligence, conducted a raid and seized 310 grams of cannabis, arresting two individuals in connection with the case.

The gym, previously known for selling certain injections to aid muscle growth, had reportedly expanded its illegal activities to include cannabis sales. According to officials, the gym owner, identified as Sunil Birder, was directly selling cannabis to customers who visited the facility.

The cannabis was allegedly supplied by a man named Poturu Ajay, who was also taken into custody during the operation. The raid was led by CI Nagaraju and his ESTF D-Team, who acted swiftly after receiving credible in-



formation about the illegal activities taking place inside the gym.

During the operation, authorities recovered not only the cannabis but also two mobile phones and a two-wheeler associated with the accused. All seized items were handed over to the Kukatpally Excise Station for further investigation. Officials emphasized that the swift action was aimed at curbing the spread of narcotics among unsuspecting gym-goers and maintaining public safety. The arrests highlight the increasing need for vigilance against the use and sale of illegal drugs, even in places considered as fitness centers. The investigation is ongoing, and authori-

## Cyberabad Police Highlight Dangers of Academic Pressure Following Student Suicide

Cyberabad, January 6 (TPN Bureau):

In a tragic incident within the Gachibowli Police Station limits, a young student reportedly took his own life after facing pressure from his parents to attend school. This incident has once again brought into focus the severe academic and psychological pressures faced by students in India. The Cyberabad Police Commissioner's Office has issued a detailed advisory to parents, teachers, and the public, emphasizing that examinations and academic performance are only one part of life, not the entirety of it.

Authorities noted that students are often pushed into extreme mental stress due to constant comparisons with peers, rank chasing, and relentless focus on marks. This undue pressure has, in many cases across the country, led young individuals to consider suicide as a solution to their problems. The po-

lice stressed that education should be a tool for personal development and learning, not a source of fear or anxiety. Life is much larger than grades or rankings, and children must understand that failures are stepping stones to success rather than endpoints. History offers numerous examples of individuals who achieved greatness despite early setbacks or limited formal education. Figures like Abraham Lincoln, Srinivasa Ramanujan, Walt Disney, Steve Jobs, Thomas Edison, Alexander Graham Bell, and Michael Faraday all faced failures before achieving remarkable success, proving that determination, hard work, and passion often matter more than marks alone.

The Cyberabad Police urged parents to prioritize their children's mental and emotional well-being above academic performance. They highlighted the importance of nurturing confidence, resil-

ience, and self-belief in children rather than overwhelming them with relentless expectations. Open communication, spending time with children, understanding their challenges, and guiding them patiently can prevent severe stress. Students should be encouraged to pursue activities that interest them, participate in physical exercises, yoga, and meditation, and explore motiva-

tional literature to build perseverance and a positive outlook. Mental health professionals should be consulted if a child exhibits signs of depression or extreme stress.

The police also emphasized the need for parents and teachers to instill the understanding that life presents multiple pathways to success, and one exam or academic setback does not define the future. By fostering a

supportive environment that balances education with personal growth, society can help children navigate challenges without succumbing to undue pressure. The Cyberabad Police reiterated that education must serve as a tool for life enhancement, not a cause for despair, and parents and educators must work together to protect the mental health of students.

## Telangana Launches "Arrive Alive" Campaign to Promote Safer Roads

Hyderabad, January 6 (TPN Bureau):

In a strong initiative to curb road accidents and save lives, the Telangana Police have launched a comprehensive state-wide program called the "Arrive Alive" campaign, aimed at promoting safer driving practices and increasing public awareness about road safety.

The campaign was inaugurated by Director General of Police B. Shivaiah Reddy, along with Hyderabad Police

Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar, at a public event in L.B. Stadium, Hyderabad. Officials highlighted that road accidents continue to pose a significant threat in Telangana, with a rising number of fatalities every year, making road safety an urgent priority.

DGP Reddy emphasized that defensive driving and adherence to traffic rules are essential to prevent accidents. He said, "Road safety is not just an indi-

vidual concern but a social responsibility. Every citizen must play their part to ensure safe roads for all." Authorities pointed out that Hyderabad alone records thousands of road accidents annually, resulting in hundreds of deaths, underscoring the need for immediate and sustained action.

The "Arrive Alive" campaign adopts a multi-pronged strategy to address road safety comprehensively. It includes awareness and educa-

tion programs for motorists, pedestrians, and commuters. Key messages focus on avoiding speeding, wearing helmets and seatbelts, obeying traffic signals, and avoiding distractions like mobile phones while driving.

Community participation forms a key component of the campaign. NGOs, civil society organizations, and corporate partners are being encouraged to join forces with the police to expand the campaign's



reach and effectiveness. To strengthen enforcement, authorities are also employing technology-driven solutions, including AI-enabled traffic monitoring systems that detect violations such as speeding or unsafe maneuvers, allowing for real-time action by officers. To engage younger populations, the campaign leverages digital platforms and social media, promoting responsible driving through contests, creative messaging, and youth-oriented programs. These efforts aim to instill a culture of safety and responsibility among new drivers and commuters.

During the launch, public figures and film personalities shared emotional accounts of the impact of road accidents on families, reinforcing the human cost of reckless driving and the importance of the campaign's core message: reaching one's destination safely is a collective responsibility.

Officials stressed that "Arrive Alive" is envisioned as a long-term movement rather than a short-term initiative, focusing on education, enforcement, and public participation to foster a culture of road safety across Telangana, ensuring safer roads for every citizen.

## Singareni Hospital Vacancies to Be Filled by March; Cath Lab to Open in Godavari Khani, Says Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka

Hyderabad, Jan 6, 2026

— TPN Bureau  
The Telangana government has reaffirmed its commitment to the welfare of Singareni coal workers, announcing a series of key measures aimed at strengthening healthcare facilities and ensuring the long-term survival of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL).

Replying to questions during a discussion on Singareni in the State Assembly on Tuesday, Deputy Chief Minister and Energy Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said all pending vacancies of doctors and paramedical staff in Singareni regional hospitals would be filled by March 2026. He stated that protecting the health of Singareni workers and their family members remains a top priority of the government.

Bhatti Vikramarka informed the House that currently 11 contract doctors are working in Singareni hospitals and that notifications have already been issued for the recruitment of 32 doctors. He assured legislators that the recruit-



ment process would be completed soon. In addition, he said the internal recruitment process for filling 176 paramedical staff posts is currently underway.

Announcing a major healthcare infrastructure upgrade, the Deputy Chief Minister said a Cath Lab would be established at Godavari Khani under the Public-Private Partnership model. He revealed that the contract for the project has already been awarded and that the Cath Lab will be operational within 75 days, significantly improving access to advanced car-

diac care for workers in the coal belt region.

He also stated that retired Singareni employees are being provided medicines through Singareni hospitals under the CPRMS health scheme. Retired workers are eligible to receive medicines worth up to 8 lakh. Terminal benefits are also being disbursed regularly. On the issue of housing, Bhatti Vikramarka said the allocation of plots to retired employees on vacant Singareni lands would be discussed by the company's board before taking a final decision.

Highlighting Singareni's importance, Bhatti Vikramarka described the company as the largest public sector undertaking in Telangana and a major source of employment for thousands of youth. He stressed that safeguarding the organisation is a shared responsibility of employees, public representatives, and the government.

Expressing concern over challenges arising from privatisation and globalisation, the Deputy Chief Minister said the Centre's coal auction policy has allowed private players to enter

the sector, impacting Singareni's market share. He noted that after the Congress government came to power, Singareni was encouraged to participate in coal block auctions and successfully secured several mines.

To address these challenges, Bhatti Vikramarka announced that a high-level meeting would be convened within ten days of the Assembly session's conclusion. The meeting will include ministers, MPs, MLAs, MLCs, and Singareni's CMD and directors to discuss strategies for the company's survival and worker welfare.

Reiterating the government's commitment, he said the present Praja Government is giving top priority to Singareni workers' welfare, including providing 1 crore accident insurance coverage through banks without placing any financial burden on the state or the company. He added that the government has decided to extend a similar insurance scheme to employees working in power distribution companies as well.

## Adilabad Police Arrest Man for Attempted Lottery Fraud

Adilabad, January 6, 2026 (TPN Bureau):

Adilabad police have taken strict action against individuals attempting to defraud the public in the name of lottery schemes. A case has been registered at Both Police Station, and the accused has been taken into custody following an investigation into a lottery scam targeting unsuspecting residents.

The accused, identified as Tummu Mahipal, aged 38, son of Ganganna from Sonal village under Both Police Station limits, reportedly attempted to cheat people by selling lottery tickets for personal gain. According to DSP L. Jeevan Reddy, Mahipal sought to make quick and large profits by exploiting the promise of prize winnings and deceiving innocent citizens. The tickets were being sold at Rs. 2,000 each, and Mahipal

had in his possession 13 lottery ticket books intended for the scam.

The police acted promptly to prevent the fraud from escalating, recovering all lottery books and detaining the accused for questioning. Authorities highlighted that such fraudulent activities not only target the financial resources of ordinary citizens but also erode public trust in legitimate lottery systems and prize schemes.

DSP L. Jeevan Reddy emphasized that the police will not tolerate any attempts to mislead the public using lottery schemes or "lucky draw" promotions. Businesspersons and individuals attempting to make easy money by exploiting such schemes will face strict legal action. He advised citizens to remain vigilant and cautious when approached by anyone promising prizes through lotteries, emphasizing that genuine lotteries and prize draws are conducted under regulated authorities, and any private attempt to collect money in the guise of lottery tickets is illegal.

The Both Police Station has assured continued monitoring of lottery-related scams and urged the public to report any suspicious activities immediately. Officials stressed the importance of awareness among residents, warning them against purchasing tickets from unauthorized sources or responding to claims of guaranteed winnings, as these are common methods employed by fraudsters.

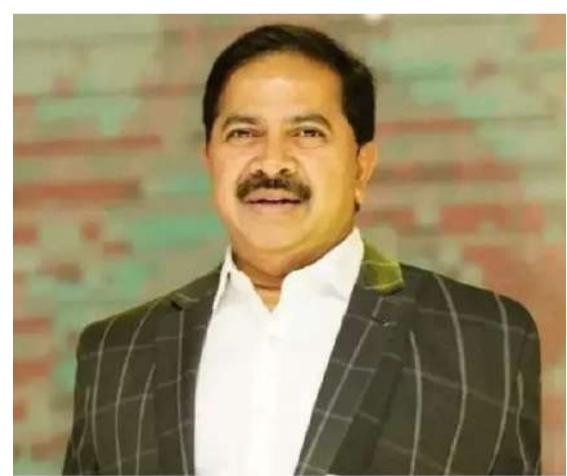
This action reflects the Adilabad police's proactive approach in curbing frauds and ensuring public safety. Authorities reiterated that anyone attempting to mislead the public through lottery schemes

or similar scams will be held accountable under law. Citizens are encouraged to verify the authenticity of any lottery or prize draw before participating and to report any irregularities to the nearest police station promptly.

Tummu Mahipal remains in police custody as the investigation continues, and further legal proceedings are expected against him for his involvement in the attempted lottery scam.



## Chargesheet Filed in Sahiti Infra Real Estate Scam



**Sahiti**  
ELEVATING LIFESTYLES

Hyderabad, Telangana, January 6, 2026 — TPN Bureau

Telangana police have made a major development in the long-running Sahiti Infra Real Estate fraud case, filing a detailed chargesheet against key

accused involved in the scam. The filing marks an important step toward delivering justice to the thousands of homebuyers allegedly cheated by the company, which reportedly collected hundreds of crores of rupees for un-

finished projects.

The chargesheet, submitted by the Central Crime Station (CCS) Police in Nampally, follows a comprehensive investigation covering multiple complaints filed by affected investors. Authorities have already filed chargesheets in 19 separate cases, naming 13 accused, including directors and executives of Sahiti InfraTech Ventures India Pvt Ltd.

The cases involve allegations that the company collected large sums of money under "pre-launch offers" for residential projects but failed to deliver the promised apartments or refund deposits. One of the major projects under scrutiny is Sahiti Sarvani Elite in Ameerpet, where over a thousand investors reportedly lost substantial amounts after paying deposits based on attractive pre-launch rates.

Authorities stated that

Investigators say that Sahiti InfraTech promoted multiple housing ventures across Hyderabad suburbs, including Madhapur, Bachupally, Kompa, Tellapur, and Nallagandla, as well as sites in Vijayawada. Buyers were enticed with lucrative rates and promises of timely construction, but many projects stalled or never began, leaving investors financially stranded.

Police estimates suggest that roughly 2,500 victims were affected in these schemes, with total alleged losses nearing 3,000 crore. The chargesheet names the Managing Director and several directors responsible for sales and marketing. Earlier, multiple arrests were made, and police have attached properties linked to the accused as part of efforts to recover investor funds.

With this development, authorities hope to bring closure to a case that has affected thousands of families and restore faith in regulatory oversight of the property market.

additional chargesheets will be filed as the investigation progresses. Police are coordinating with other agencies to trace the flow of funds and ensure restitution for the victims. The court will now examine the chargesheet and initiate further proceedings against the accused. The filing of this chargesheet is seen as a critical milestone in the decade-long struggle of aggrieved homebuyers seeking justice. Legal experts say the move strengthens efforts to hold real estate developers accountable for financial misconduct and protects the interests of investors in Telangana's real estate sector.

With this development, authorities hope to bring closure to a case that has affected thousands of families and restore faith in regulatory oversight of the property market.

## ACB Nets Kamareddy Tahsildar for Bribery, Arrest Made in Hyderabad Court



Kamareddy / Hyderabad, January 6, 2026 (TPN Bureau)

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Telangana, has caught a Kamareddy district Tahsildar red-handed for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs. 50,000 from a complainant for performing an official favour.

The accused officer, Sri Yarlagadda Srinivas Rao, Tahsildar of Nagedipet Mandal, Kamareddy District, was apprehended by ACB officials on January 6, 2026. According to the complaint, the officer sought a bribe through an intermediary, Sri Chinoori Ajay, a private individual, in exchange for writing a favourable report to the concerned authorities.

The report was intended to facilitate the transfer of agricultural land from the complainant's late father's name to the complainant's name.

Following the operation, both the accused and the intermediary were arrested and produced before the Hon'ble II Additional Special Judge for Trial of SPE & ACB Cases at the Nampally Court, Hyderabad. The case is currently under investigation.

The ACB has urged the public to report any incidents of bribery or corruption by public servants. Citizens can contact the ACB through its toll-free number, 1064, or via social media platforms: WhatsApp at 9440446106, Facebook (Telangana ACB), and X

## Falcon Scam Mastermind Amardeep Arrested in Mumbai



Hyderabad, Telangana, January 6, 2026 — TPN Bureau

St. Telangana police have scored a major breakthrough in the high-profile Falcon digital investment scam with the arrest of its alleged mastermind, Amardeep, in Mumbai on Tuesday. The arrest is a significant step toward resolving a case that has affected thousands of investors and drawn attention across multiple states.

Amardeep, the Managing Director of the Falcon Group, was apprehended by a special team of Telangana Crime Investigation Department officials at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport shortly after he arrived from a Gulf country. His detention followed a Look Out Circular issued by Telangana police last year, after he went missing soon after the scam came to light.

Sources reveal that Amardeep and several accomplices fled the country shortly after complaints began surfacing, reportedly traveling to Dubai on a chartered flight. Following his arrest in Mumbai, Amardeep is expected to be brought back to Hyderabad on a transit remand to face further investigation and legal proceedings.

The Falcon case has already led to multiple arrests, with several directors, executives, and close associates of Amardeep taken into custody over the past year. Authorities are also tracing the flow of funds and identifying assets and properties that may have been acquired through the proceeds of the scam.

The Crime Investigation Department has registered cases under various sections related to criminal breach of trust, cheating, and criminal conspiracy. Investigations are ongoing, with state and central agencies coordinating closely to ensure all aspects of the case are thoroughly examined.

The arrest of Amardeep is seen as a critical step toward delivering justice to the numerous victims who were allegedly duped by the Falcon schemes. Investigators have stated that they will continue pursuing all leads to recover investor funds and hold all those involved accountable.



## Konaseema's Silent Risk: What Repeated Blowouts Reveal About Development, Safety, and Accountability



Konaseema has long been celebrated as one of Andhra Pradesh's most fertile and culturally rich regions. Crisscrossed by the Godavari's branches, it represents agricultural prosperity, ecological balance, and a deeply rooted rural way of life. Yet beneath this serene surface lies a history of industrial risk that has repeatedly disrupted lives and challenged the idea of safe development. Over the past several decades, blowouts, gas leaks, and explosions linked to oil, gas, and related infrastructure have occurred with troubling regularity. These incidents are not merely technical failures; they are warnings that demand deeper reflection on how development is planned, regulated, and sustained.

The discovery and exploitation of hydrocarbons in the Krishna-Godavari basin brought Konaseema into the national energy map. Oil and gas exploration promised economic growth, energy security, and employment. Drilling rigs rose alongside coconut groves, and pipelines cut across paddy fields. For policymakers and corporations, this coexistence appeared manageable. For residents, however, it meant living next to invisible but ever-present danger. Each incident, whether large or small, reinforced the uneasy truth that industrial

risk had become part of daily life.

Early blowouts in the 1990s signaled that Konaseema's subsurface geology was complex and volatile. Pressurized gas zones, if not handled with extreme precision, could overwhelm even sophisticated equipment. These early events should have served as foundational lessons, prompting

out in the mid-1990s marked a defining moment. The scale and duration of that event shocked not only Andhra Pradesh but the entire country. For weeks, flames dominated the skyline, forcing thousands to flee and leaving a trail of fear and uncertainty. While the absence of fatalities was remarkable, the broader consequences were pro-



long-term investments in safety systems, independent oversight, and community preparedness. Instead, responses often focused on containment and restoration, treating each incident as an exception rather than a symptom of systemic vulnerability.

The Pasarapudi blow-

found. Agriculture was disrupted, livelihoods stalled, and an entire generation of villagers grew up with memories of evacuation and fire. The incident exposed the gap between industrial ambition and ground-level safety, a gap that has never been fully closed. Subsequent incidents,

though sometimes smaller in scale, reinforced the same message. Each new gas leak or blowout reopened old wounds and raised fresh questions. Were safety protocols truly improving, or were they merely sufficient to prevent the worst-case scenario? Were lessons being institutionalized, or were they fading as memories dimmed? The recurrence of incidents suggested that progress was uneven and fragile.

The tragedy of pipeline explosions added another layer to Konaseema's risk profile. Unlike drilling sites, pipelines run silently through villages, farms, and waterways. Their presence is often normalized, their dangers underestimated. When a pipeline fails, the consequences are sudden and devastating. Loss of life, destruction of homes, and irreversible trauma reveal how dangerous complacency can be. Such incidents highlight that industrial safety is not limited to active operations; it extends to maintenance, monitoring, and the lifecycle of infrastructure.

ground. Yet this reality should compel greater caution, not resignation. When development encroaches upon everyday life, the responsibility to ensure safety multiplies.

Another emerging concern is the expanding scope of risk. Recent gas eruptions from borewells demonstrate that danger is no longer confined to formal industrial operations. As groundwater extraction deepens and land use intensifies, the possibility of accidentally intersecting gas-bearing formations increases. This blurs the line between industrial and non-industrial activity, making safety a shared concern rather than a specialized one.

At the heart of these recurring incidents lies a governance challenge. Industrial safety demands proactive regulation, continuous monitoring, and strict accountability. Yet enforcement often struggles against institutional inertia, resource constraints, and competing priorities. Investigations may follow major incidents, but their findings rarely translate into visible, lasting reform. Without transparency and public scrutiny, safety measures risk becoming procedural rather than practical.

Corporate responsibility also warrants closer examination. Companies operating in high-risk regions must recognize that compliance with minimum standards is not enough. Ethical responsibility extends to anticipating risks, engaging with communities, and investing in preventive measures even when they are costly. Trust is built not through assurances after an incident, but through consistent action before one occurs.

The human dimension of these incidents deserves greater attention. Beyond physical harm and economic loss lies psychological impact. Repeated exposure to danger erodes a community's sense of security. Children grow up associating their home with hazard. Farmers worry about land value and crop safety. Such intangible losses



rarely appear in compensation calculations, yet they shape the social fabric of the region.

Community involvement is equally crucial. Residents should not be passive recipients of information after an incident; they should be active participants in preparedness. Awareness programs, evacuation drills, and clear communication channels can transform vulnerability into resilience.

Environmental consequences further complicate the picture. Gas leaks and fires release pollutants into the air and may affect soil and water quality. Even when damage appears temporary, cumulative effects can alter ecosystems over time. In a delta region dependent on agriculture and fisheries, environmental disruption directly threatens livelihoods.

The path forward requires a shift in perspective.

Safety cannot be treated as a technical add-on to development; it must be its foundation. This means investing in modern monitoring systems, replacing aging infrastructure, and conducting regular, independent safety audits. It also means empowering local administrations with the resources and

authority needed to act decisively.

Community involvement is equally crucial. Residents should not be passive recipients of information after an incident; they should be active participants in preparedness. Awareness programs, evacuation drills, and clear communication channels can transform vulnerability into resilience.

A future where Konaseema thrives without fear is possible, but it requires sustained commitment. Regulators must enforce, companies must invest responsibly, and communities must be engaged as partners. Only through such a collective approach can the region move beyond a cycle of incident and response toward lasting safety.

Konaseema's experience also offers lessons beyond regional boundaries. As India expands its energy infrastructure, many rural and semi-urban areas will face similar challenges. The question is not whether development should occur, but how it should occur. A model that sacrifices safety for speed ultimately undermines both economic and social goals.





## Pakistan's Washington Lobbying Exposed Amid India's Operation Sindoor

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is reportedly seriously exploring an electoral alliance with actor-politician Vijay's Tamilaga Vettai 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.

At present, discussions are said to be at an exploratory stage, with no formal announcement made by either party. Analysts believe the coming months will be crucial in determining whether political pragmatism outweighs ideological differences, potentially reshaping Tamil Nadu's political landscape.

## Mustafizur Rahman: From Humble Beginnings To Political Crossfire



Mustafizur Rahman's journey from a small village in Bangladesh's Satkira district to becoming one of world cricket's most skilful pacers is a story of talent, perseverance, and quiet determination.

Known for his deceptive cutters and calm demeanour, Mustafizur has rarely courted controversy—until geopoliti-

cal tensions thrust him unwillingly into the spotlight.

Born in Tetulia, near the India-Bangladesh border, Mustafizur initially dreamed of being a batsman. Encouraged by his cricket-loving farmer father, he travelled long distances to train at a local academy. Coaches soon noticed his exceptional wrist move-

ment, a rare asset that later defined his bowling success.

Despite lacking raw pace, his off-cutters troubled the world's best batters, earning him IPL contracts and international acclaim. However, recent political tensions between India and Bangladesh have led to his IPL exclusion, turning him into an unintended casualty of diplo-

matic fallout.

His story illustrates how modern sport is increasingly entangled with politics, where athletes can become symbols or victims of forces beyond their control. Mustafizur's case raises uncomfortable questions about fairness, player rights, and the politicisation of sport.

## Peace Advocacy With Pakistan Not Sedition, Rules Himachal Pradesh High Court

The Himachal Pradesh High Court has delivered a significant ruling by observing that advocating peace and an end to hostilities between India and Pakistan cannot amount to sedition. The judgment came while granting bail to Abhishek Singh Bhardwaj, accused of posting online content allegedly sympathetic to Pakistan.

Justice Rakesh Kainthla noted that expressing a desire for peace, unity across religions, and criticism of war does not threaten the sovereignty or integrity of India. The court emphasised that dissent and dialogue are fundamental democratic values.

The accused had allegedly shared images of weapons, Pakistan's flag, and chats criticising Operation Sindoor. However, the court found no direct incitement to violence or anti-

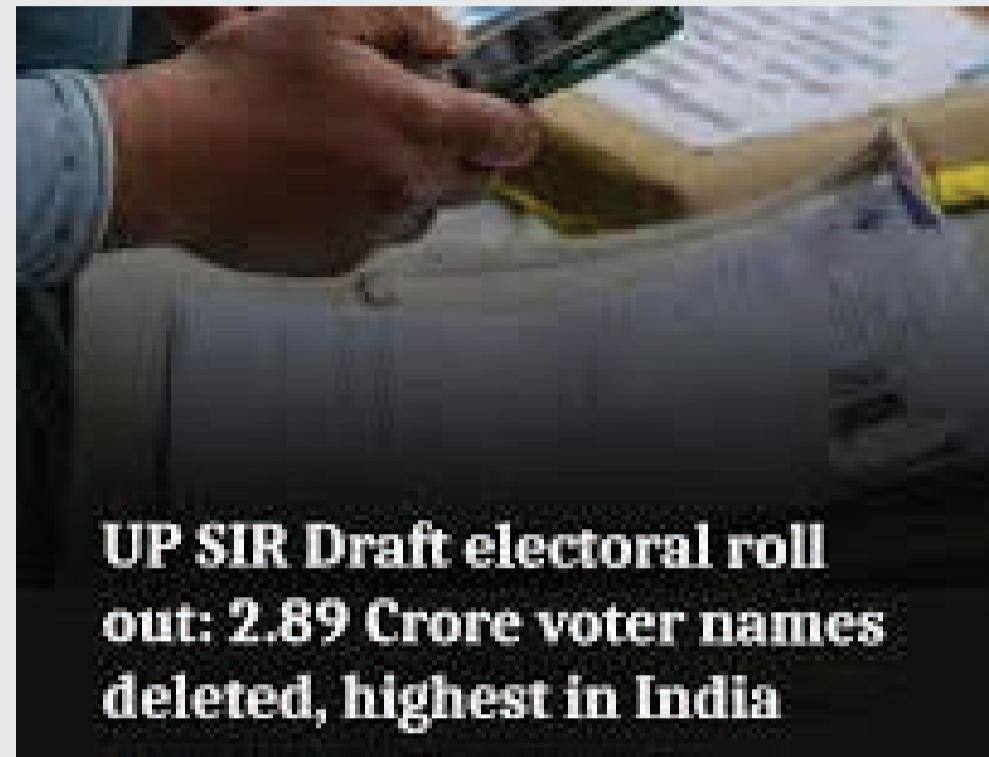
national activity.

The ruling reinforces constitutional protections for free speech and clarifies the limits of sedition laws. It comes amid

broader national debates on balancing national security with civil liberties. The judgment is likely to be cited in future cases involving

online expression, highlighting the judiciary's role in safeguarding democratic freedoms while upholding the rule of law.

## Massive Electoral Roll Revision In Uttar Pradesh Raises Questions On Voter Inclusion



### UP SIR Draft electoral roll out: 2.89 Crore voter names deleted, highest in India

March 6.

The Election Commission of India's draft electoral roll for Uttar Pradesh, released after the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), has revealed the removal of an unprecedented 2.89 crore voters from the state's electoral list. This large-scale revision has drawn national attention given Uttar Pradesh's status as India's most populous state and its critical role in determining national political outcomes.

According to the Election Commission, of the voters removed, approximately 2.17 crore individuals were classified as having moved to other locations, 46.23 lakh were identified as deceased, and 25.47 lakh were found to be registered in more than one constituency. The maximum deletions were reported from urban centres, particularly Lucknow. The final electoral roll is scheduled for publication on

rather than genuine ineligibility. There are fears that vulnerable sections such as migrant workers, the urban poor, and elderly voters may have been disproportionately affected.

The Election Commission maintains that the revision was necessary to ensure accuracy, remove duplicate entries, and strengthen electoral integrity. Officials emphasised that voters whose names have been deleted can still file claims and objections before the final list is published.

This exercise has reopened debates around balancing electoral roll accuracy with voter inclusion. While periodic revisions are essential for democratic credibility, the scale of deletions highlights the need for improved outreach, transparency, and grievance redressal mechanisms to prevent disenfranchisement in future revisions.

## Communal Unrest In Nepal Prompts India To Seal Border And Heighten Security



Communal violence in southern Nepal has triggered a major security response from India, including the complete sealing of the India-Nepal border in sensitive areas.

The unrest began in Nepal's Parsa and Dhanusha districts after a video containing allegedly offensive religious content went viral on social media.

The situation escalated rapidly in Birgunj, near Bihar's Raxaul district, where protests turned violent following the vandalism of a mosque in Kamala Municipality.

Authorities imposed a curfew in Birgunj as demonstrators clashed with police, pelted stones, and vandalised public property.

Tear gas was used to control crowds.

Given the proximity to the Indian border and fears of spillover violence, India's Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) sealed all border crossings except for emergency services.

Security was intensified at the Maitri Bridge and other vulnerable points, with dog squads and enhanced patrolling deployed.

The unrest highlights the fragile communal balance in border regions and the role of social media in rapidly inflaming tensions. Indian authorities are particularly concerned about illegal crossings, refugee movement, and the potential for extremist elements to exploit instability.

Indian migrant workers employed in Nepal have begun returning home, citing shutdowns of markets and fear of violence. The incident underscores the deep interdependence of border communities and how internal disturbances in one country can have immediate cross-border implications.

Diplomatically, the situation tests India-Nepal relations, which are rooted in open borders and people-to-people ties. It also highlights the growing challenge of managing communal harmony in an era of instant digital communication.



EXPRESS  
LEGAL

## Swiss Bar Fire Exposes Serious Failures In Safety Oversight And Local Governance



The deadly fire at Le Constellation ski bar in Crans-Montana, Switzerland, which killed 40 people and injured 116, has exposed grave shortcomings in safety enforcement and municipal oversight. Authorities confirmed that the venue had not undergone mandatory safety inspections for five years, despite regulations requiring annual checks.

Crans-Montana Mayor Nicolas Feraud publicly acknowledged the failure and apologised to victims' families, stating that the local council accepts responsibility. However, his admission that he had "no answer" for why inspections were missed has intensified public outrage. The revelation that just five inspectors were responsible for monitoring over 10,000 buildings highlights structural deficiencies in enforcement capacity.

The fire, which occurred during New Year celebrations, is believed to have been caused by sparklers igniting sound-proofing material on the ceiling. Sparklers had been widely used and even promoted on

social media by the bar, raising serious questions about why authorities failed to intervene despite visible warning signs.

Swiss prosecutors have launched a criminal investigation, charging the bar's French managers with manslaughter by negligence, bodily harm by negligence, and negligent arson. Questions also remain about overcrowding, as the venue reportedly exceeded legal capacity limits.

In response, local authorities have banned sparklers in entertainment venues and ordered a full external safety audit of all bars and clubs in the region. The tragedy has sparked a nationwide debate in Switzerland about regulatory enforcement, accountability of elected officials, and the dangers of complacency in public safety governance.

The incident underscores how even countries known for strong governance systems are vulnerable to catastrophic failures when oversight mechanisms weaken.

## Suspicious Crypto Betting On Maduro Capture Raises Alarms Over Insider Trading



The revelation that an anonymous crypto gambler made over \$436,000 by betting on Nicolás Maduro's capture before it was officially announced has triggered global concerns about insider trading and regulatory gaps in prediction markets. The bets were placed on Polymarket, a crypto-based platform that allows users to wager on political outcomes.

Data shows that odds of Maduro's removal surged hours before President Trump publicly confirmed the operation, suggesting access to material non-public information. Experts argue the timing and scale of the bets resemble classic insider trading patterns, even though prediction markets currently operate in a regulatory grey area.

The incident has prompted US lawmakers to act. Congressman Ritchie Torres introduced legislation seeking to ban government employees from

participating in prediction markets where they may possess privileged information. This reflects growing concern that unregulated platforms could undermine national security and public trust.

Prediction markets have exploded in popularity, attracting hundreds of millions of dollars in wagers during recent US elections. Unlike stock markets, however, they lack robust oversight mechanisms, making enforcement difficult. The involvement of Donald Trump Jr in advisory roles at major platforms has further complicated public perception.

The case raises urgent questions about transparency, ethics, and accountability in digital financial markets. As prediction markets grow, regulators face increasing pressure to close loopholes that allow exploitation of sensitive political information for personal gain.

## Trump's Post-Venezuela Foreign Policy Signals Expanding US Interventionist Ambitions

US President Donald Trump's dramatic capture of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro has reshaped global discussions around American foreign policy in his second term. By invoking the 1823 Monroe Doctrine—rebranded as the "Donroe Doctrine"—Trump has signalled a renewed assertion of US dominance, particularly in the Western Hemisphere. The operation against Venezuela appears not as an isolated action but as part of a broader strategy aimed at reshaping geopolitical alignments.

Trump's rhetoric and recent statements suggest that several countries may fall under increased US scrutiny. Greenland has emerged as a strategic target due to its rare earth mineral reserves and key Arctic location. Trump argues that Greenland is critical for national security, citing growing Russian and Chinese presence in Arctic waters. However, Greenland's leadership has firmly rejected any idea of US control, warning that annexation would violate international law and strain NATO unity, as Denmark is a NATO member.

Colombia has also faced unusually harsh language from Trump. Despite being a long-standing US ally in the war on drugs, Colombia's left-wing leadership and alleged tolerance of drug cartels have put it at odds with Washington. Trump's comments hint at possible US intervention, a move that would dramatically alter regional stability in Latin America.

Mexico remains another

focal point, with Trump repeatedly accusing it of failing to curb drug trafficking and illegal immigration. Despite Mexico's rejection of US troop deployment, tensions remain high. Cuba, already weakened by Venezuela's collapse, is viewed by Trump as nearing regime failure, reducing the need for direct US intervention.

Collectively, these positions reflect a foreign policy defined by unilateral action, coercive diplomacy, and strategic resource control. While supporters argue this approach reinforces US global leadership, critics warn it risks destabilising alliances, undermining international law, and escalating conflicts across multiple regions simultaneously.



## Venezuela After Maduro: Security Presence Grows Amid Calls For Political Prisoner Release

Following the capture of Nicolás Maduro and his wife by US forces, Venezuela remains in a tense and uncertain transition phase. Armed security personnel have been deployed across Caracas, with videos showing police chanting loyalty slogans, reflecting continued control by figures associated with the former regime.

Despite Maduro's removal, many institutions remain under the influence of his allies, perpetuating fear and intimidation. Opposition leaders and citizens report that political repression has not ended, prompting renewed calls for the release of political prisoners.

Exiled opposition leader María Corina Machado described Maduro's arrest as a historic step toward freedom and human dignity. Her party, Vente Venezuela, has demanded immediate amnesty for detainees imprisoned for opposing



the regime.

The situation illustrates the complexities of regime change. While leadership removal can create opportunities for reform, entrenched power structures often persist.

International observers warn that without institutional reform and reconciliation, Venezuela risks prolonged instability.

The coming months will determine whether Venezuela

can move toward democratic governance or remain trapped in authoritarian inertia despite Maduro's absence.

## Trump's Optimism On Rapid Revival Of Venezuelan Oil Industry Faces Expert Skepticism

President Trump's claim that US oil firms could resume large-scale operations in Venezuela within 18 months has been met with scepticism from energy experts. While Trump argues that American involvement would stabilise oil prices and benefit the US economy, analysts caution that Venezuela's energy infrastructure has suffered decades of neglect.

Restoring production could require tens of billions of dollars and years of political stability. Experts stress that oil companies will seek assurances on legal protections, governance, and security before committing capital.

Trump's remarks reflect a strategic vision of using Venezuela's vast oil reserves to influence global energy markets. However, previous assessments suggest that even with rapid investment, production gains



would take years to materialise.

The episode highlights the gap between political ambition and economic reality. While Venezuela's oil potential remains immense, transforming it into a reliable supply

source will demand sustained reforms, not just military intervention.

# Indian Stock Market Closing Summary (January 6, 2026)

Indian equity markets ended lower for the second consecutive trading session on January 6, 2026, reflecting cautious investor sentiment amid mixed global cues and sector-specific weakness. The BSE Sensex declined by 376.28 points, or 0.44 percent, to close at 85,063.34, while the Nifty 50 slipped 71.60 points, or 0.27 percent, to settle at 26,178.70, falling below the psychologically important 26,200 level.

The market opened on a flat-to-negative note and remained under pressure throughout the session as selling was witnessed in heavyweight stocks and select cyclical sectors. Although some buying interest emerged in defensive and rate-sensitive sectors, it was insufficient to offset losses in infrastructure, oil & gas, and capital goods stocks.

On the sectoral front, IT, pharmaceutical, PSU banking, and metal stocks outperformed the broader market, rising between 0.3 percent and 1.7 percent. Gains in pharma stocks were driven by defensive buying amid global uncertainty, while PSU banks benefited from stable bond yields and expectations of steady credit growth. Metal stocks advanced on optimism surrounding global demand and easing raw material costs.

In contrast, infrastructure, media, oil & gas, and capital goods sectors witnessed declines ranging from 0.6 percent to 1.6 percent. Weak crude oil prices and concerns over global demand weighed on oil & gas stocks, while capital goods stocks saw profit booking after recent rallies.

The broader market underperformed the benchmarks,



with both the BSE Midcap and Smallcap indices closing lower, signaling caution among investors towards riskier stocks. Market breadth also remained negative, indicating more stocks declined than advanced.

Among individual stocks, Trent, Reliance Industries, ITC, Kotak Mahindra Bank, and InterGlobe Aviation

were the major losers on the Nifty index. Pressure in Reliance Industries and banking stocks significantly impacted benchmark performance. On the positive side, Apollo Hospitals, ICICI Bank, HDFC Life, Sun Pharma, and Tata Consumer Products emerged as top gainers, supported by sector-specific buying and stock-specific developments.

Overall, market participants adopted a wait-and-watch approach ahead of key global economic data and ongoing geopolitical developments. Analysts believe that while the long-term outlook for Indian equities remains positive, short-term volatility may persist due to global uncertainty and valuation concerns.

## Safe-Haven Assets, Currencies & Cryptocurrency Markets

Heightened geopolitical tensions following US military actions in Venezuela led to a strong shift toward safe-haven assets. Investors sought protection from uncertainty by allocating funds to gold, bonds, and stable currencies.

Gold prices surged 2.33 percent, with spot gold trading at \$4,430 per ounce, nearing last year's record high of \$4,549.71. The rally was driven by fears of escalating geopolitical conflict and expectations of prolonged global instability. Gold traditionally performs well during periods of uncertainty, and the current environment reinforced its role as a hedge.

Bond markets remained relatively stable. The German 10-year Bund yield edged slightly lower to 2.893 percent, while the US 10-year Treasury yield held steady at 4.173 percent. Stable bond yields suggest that investors are balancing safety with expectations of steady economic growth.

The US dollar index rose 0.13 percent to 98.685, marking its sixth consecutive session of gains. A stronger dollar reflects its safe-haven appeal and expectations that US interest rates may remain higher for longer.



In currency markets, the dollar remained flat against the Japanese yen at 156.79 yen. Meanwhile, Bank of Japan Governor Kazuo Ueda reaffirmed the central bank's commitment to gradually raising interest rates if economic conditions align with forecasts.

Cryptocurrency markets also showed resilience. Bitcoin rose 1.2 percent to \$92,327, while Ether gained 0.4 percent, indicating sustained investor interest despite broader global uncertainty. Digital assets continue

to attract attention as alternative investments, although volatility remains high. Overall, the movement in safe-haven assets reflects investor caution and the desire to protect portfolios amid unpredictable geopolitical and economic developments.

## Corporate & Market Developments – IPOs, ETFs & Castrol India



# Castrol

Several important corporate developments shaped market attention, spanning IPO activity, international ETF listings, and acquisition-related news.

**Deepa Jewellers IPO**

Deepa Jewellers, a Hyderabad-based B2B gold jewellery company, filed draft IPO papers with SEBI to raise ₹250 crore. The issue includes a fresh issue worth ₹250 crore and an offer for sale of 1.18 crore shares by promoters Ashish Agarwal and Seema Agarwal. The company plans to use ₹215 crore for working capital needs, primarily for inventory procurement and scaling operations. In FY25, the company reported ₹1,397 crore in revenue and ₹40.5 crore in net profit, highlighting steady growth.

**ChinaAMC ETF Depository Receipts**

ChinaAMC, in partnership

with Thailand's InnovestX Securities, listed Depository Receipts (DRs) of its CSI 300 ETF and STAR 50 ETF on the Stock Exchange of Thailand. This move allows Thai investors to access China's core economic assets and high-technology sectors, strengthening cross-border capital market integration under the Belt and Road Initiative.

**Castrol India Open Offer**

US private equity firm Stonepeak announced an open offer to acquire 26 percent stake in Castrol India at ₹194.04 per share, only 2.3 percent above the market price. Analysts expect limited upside in the stock due to the modest premium. Additionally, increasing competition and the long-term shift toward electric vehicles pose challenges to Castrol India's lubricant business.

## Bank Nifty Technical Analysis & Outlook



The Bank Nifty index continues to display resilience despite broader market weakness, according to Vatsal Bhuvva, Technical Analyst at LKP Securities. From a technical perspective, the index has witnessed a breakout from a falling trendline on the daily chart, which is considered a bullish signal.

This breakout indicates a potential shift from a corrective phase to a consolidation or upward trend.

After the breakout, Bank Nifty has been consolidating at higher levels, suggesting that buyers are defending their positions and preventing sharp declines. The index is also sustaining above its short-term 50-period Simple Moving Average (SMA) on the hourly timeframe, reinforcing near-term strength.

Momentum indicators further support the bullish outlook. The Relative Strength Index (RSI) on the daily chart is positioned around 65, which reflects strong positive momentum. A bullish crossover in RSI generally indicates increasing buying pressure and a continuation of upward bias unless reversed by strong selling.

On the hourly chart, Bank Nifty's ability to trade consistently above the 50 SMA suggests that short-term traders continue to accumulate the index on

minor dips. This behavior often precedes another leg of upward movement, provided key support levels remain intact.

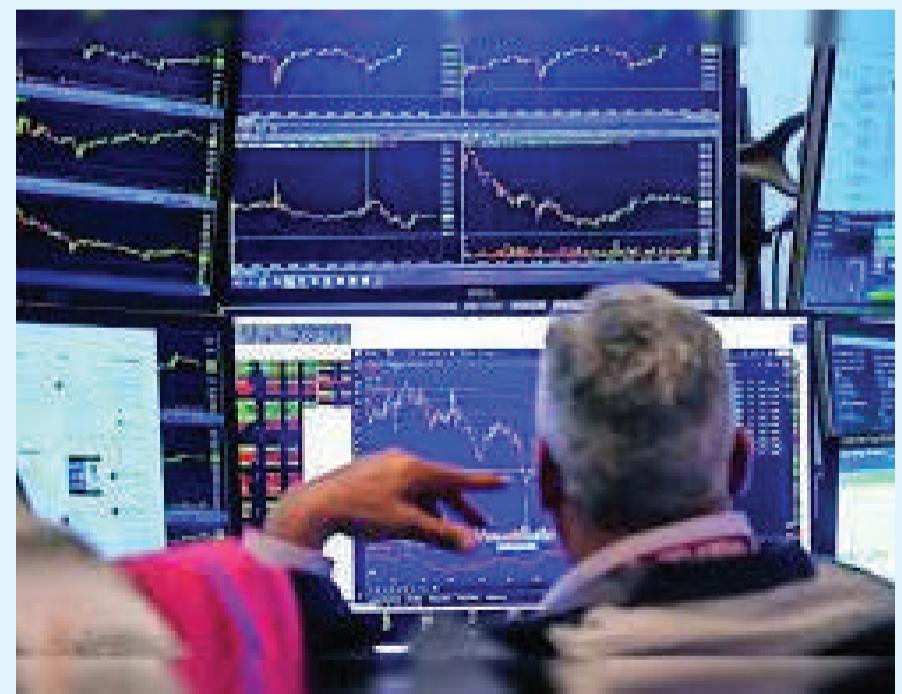
From a strategy standpoint, analysts recommend a buy-on-dips approach for Bank Nifty traders. As long as the index holds above the critical support level of 59,300, the bullish structure remains valid. Immediate support is placed around 59,800, which may act as a cushion during intraday or short-term pullbacks.

On the upside, 60,500 is identified as a key resistance level. A decisive break-out above this zone could open the door for further upside targets and attract fresh buying interest from momentum traders.

However, analysts also advise caution, as global cues and broader market sentiment can influence banking stocks. Any sustained move below 59,300 could weaken the bullish setup and lead to short-term correction.

In summary, Bank Nifty remains technically strong compared to broader indices. Traders and investors are advised to maintain a disciplined approach, focus on defined support and resistance levels, and manage risk effectively amid ongoing market volatility.

## Global Markets & Venezuela Geopolitical Impact



Global financial markets showed mixed reactions as investors assessed the implications of the US capture of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, an event that significantly heightened geopolitical tensions. While equity markets initially responded positively, concerns over political stability, oil supply disruptions, and broader regional risks kept investors cautious.

In Europe, a STOXX index of major companies rose 0.5 percent, supported by gains in defense stocks and improved risk appetite. Similarly, Asia-Pacific markets outside Japan climbed 1.3 percent, reaching a record high, reflecting optimism ahead of key economic data releases. US equity futures, including S&P 500 e-minis, gained 0.2 percent, indicating a positive opening bias.

US President Donald Trump announced that Venezuela was under temporary American control and warned of further military action if the country failed to cooperate with US efforts to liberalize its oil industry and combat drug trafficking. These statements raised uncertainty across global

markets. Despite the dramatic political developments, economists believe the near-term economic impact on the global economy may be limited. According to Neil Shearing of Capital Economics, while economic consequences may be modest initially, the political and geopolitical repercussions could be long-lasting.

Oil prices were volatile as markets weighed the potential disruption in Venezuelan oil production against an OPEC+ decision to keep output unchanged. Brent crude prices fell 0.8 percent to \$60.26 per barrel, reflecting concerns about global demand and excess supply.

European defense stocks surged 2.7 percent, reaching a two-month high, as investors anticipated increased military spending amid rising geopolitical risks.

Analysts warn that uncertainty remains high, especially in an election year in the US. A more volatile geopolitical environment could keep energy prices supported and drive investors toward safe-haven assets.

## Apology For A 6 AM Email Highlights Europe's Strong Work-Life Balance Culture



Image credit: Unsplash

A viral post describing how management apologised for sending a work email at 6 AM has sparked global discussions on work culture, productivity, and employee well-being. The incident, based in the Netherlands, stood out because it reflected a workplace environment where employee welfare is prioritised over constant availability. Management reportedly called a meeting not to reprimand the employee, but to ensure they were not under excessive work pressure.

This reaction highlights the sharp contrast between European and American work cultures. In countries like the Netherlands, labour laws strictly regulate working hours, rest periods, and after-hours communication. Employees typically

work 29–36 hours per week, and employers are legally obligated to respect boundaries between professional and personal life. Sending or responding to emails outside work hours is often discouraged, not rewarded.

The post further revealed tension with a US-based manager who viewed logging out at 5 PM and ignoring weekend emails as a lack of dedication. When the manager threatened a performance review, Dutch HR intervened, reportedly dismissing the complaint and reminding the manager of local labour regulations. This incident exposed the clash between Europe's rights-based labour model and the US "hustle culture" that often glorifies long hours and constant availability.

## Shillong Street Dance Video Becomes Symbol Of Respectful Public Spaces In India



Image instgrammed by chaba\_japang

A viral video showing a foreign tourist dancing freely on a crowded street in Shillong during New Year celebrations has emerged as a powerful example of respectful public behaviour. In the video, local men formed a loose protective circle around the woman, ensuring her safety while maintaining a respectful distance. The moment quickly gained attention for its dignity, warmth, and sense of community.

What made the incident remarkable was not just the act itself, but what it represented. In many parts of the world, crowded public gatherings often raise concerns about harassment, especially for women and tourists. The Shillong video challenged these fears by showing how social responsibility and cultural values can create safe public spaces without heavy policing or enforcement.

Locals explained that such behaviour is deeply ingrained in Khasi society, where respect for women and community harmony are emphasised from a young age. Separating dancing spaces for men and women during festivals and events is a common cultural practice. This "muscle memory" of respect, as some described it, was visible in the spontaneous response of the crowd.

Beyond its viral appeal, the incident carries a deeper message. It shows that inclusive, respectful public spaces are possible when communities take ownership of social responsibility. Shillong's moment of celebration thus turned into a lesson in civic values and cultural pride.

## 8th Pay Commission Raises Hope Of Major Salary And Pension Relief In 2026



The initiation of the 8th Pay Commission has generated widespread anticipation among central government employees and pensioners, marking a crucial phase in India's public sector wage revision cycle. Approved by the government in November 2025, the commission is expected to revise pay structures, pensions, and allowances with retrospective effect from January 1, 2026. Although the final recommendations may take up to 18

months to be implemented, the promise of arrears has already raised expectations of substantial financial relief.

A key driver of optimism is the sharp rise in inflation, reflected in the steady increase of the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (AICPI-IW). With the index reaching 148.2 in November 2025, Dearness Allowance is projected to touch or cross 60 percent in January 2026. This DA hike alone significantly boosts

take-home salaries and pensions, helping employees cope with rising living costs even before the Pay Commission's recommendations are formally implemented.

Under the proposed revisions, the minimum basic salary may rise from ₹18,000 to ₹26,000, while the minimum pension could increase from ₹9,000 to approximately ₹20,500. In addition, allowances such as House Rent Allowance (HRA), medical benefits, and travel concessions are

also expected to be recalibrated. Employee unions are demanding a higher fitment factor, potentially between 2.28 and 3.0, which could result in one of the largest pay hikes in recent decades.

Beyond individual financial relief, the Pay Commission has broader economic implications. Higher disposable income among government employees can stimulate consumption, support demand-driven growth, and provide stability during uncertain economic

phases. However, it also raises concerns about fiscal pressure on the government, especially in managing salary arrears and pension liabilities.

Overall, the 8th Pay Commission represents more than a routine wage revision. It reflects the state's response to inflation, workforce morale, and social security for pensioners. If implemented prudently, it can balance employee welfare with fiscal sustainability.

## Teen Paying Off Mother's Debt Shows Power Of Gratitude And Responsibility



A heart-touching video of a 17-year-old boy paying off his mother's debts has resonated deeply with audiences across social media. In the video, the teenager expresses heartfelt gratitude for his mother's sacrifices before revealing that he has cleared all outstanding debts and promises to take responsibility for future household expenses.

The emotional strength of the moment lies in its simplicity. There is no display of luxury or extravagance—only sincerity, gratitude, and responsibility. His mother's reaction, filled with disbelief and tears, reflects the emotional weight carried by families struggling under financial stress. The boy's gesture symbolised relief not just from debt, but from years of silent worry.

Viewers praised the teenager's maturity and

values, noting that emotional intelligence and responsibility are often more powerful than material success. The video stood out in an online environment often dominated by performative content, reminding audiences that genuine human stories still resonate deeply.

The incident also highlighted broader social realities. Many families in India live under constant financial pressure, where children often

grow up witnessing parental sacrifice. When young individuals respond with empathy rather than entitlement, it reflects strong moral grounding.

Ultimately, the video is not just about money. It is

about appreciation, dignity, and emotional accountability. It reinforces the idea that true success lies in easing the burdens of loved ones, making it one of the most meaningful viral moments in recent times.

## Manager's Insensitive Remark Sparks Outrage Over Toxic Workplace Culture



A Reddit post describing a private bank employee forced to resign after seeking leave to care for her critically ill mother has reignited debate on toxic workplace culture in India. According to the post, the manager suggested placing the employee's mother in a shelter or medical home so she could continue working.

The remark was widely condemned as cruel, inhumane, and emblematic of exploitative work environments. The employee reportedly chose to stay with her mother and resigned after years of service. The incident resonated strongly with readers because it reflected a harsh reality faced by many employees—where compassion is often treated as weakness, and personal cri-

ses are seen as inconveniences.

Social media users

questioned why resigna-

tion was the only option and why such behaviour often goes unpunished. Many advised docu-

menting such remarks and demanding written instructions to ensure accountability. The case

highlighted the power imbalance between management and employees, especially in sectors with limited labour protections.

The outrage also trig-

gered comparisons with work cultures abroad, where family emergencies are legally protected. It raised urgent questions about the need for stronger labour laws, humane HR practices, and cultural change in Indian workplaces.

This incident serves as a warning that productivity achieved at the cost of humanity is unsustainable. As awareness grows, employees are increasingly speaking out against such practices, signalling a slow but necessary shift toward dignity and empathy at work.

## Vijay Hazare Trophy Round 6 Reflects Stark Contrast Between Reputation And Domestic Performance

The sixth round of the Vijay Hazare Trophy 2025-26 underlined an enduring truth of Indian domestic cricket: reputation offers no guarantees. Several high-profile international players struggled, while others reaffirmed the importance of domestic consistency in shaping national selection narratives. India's ODI captain Shubman Gill endured a forgettable outing, managing just 11 runs for Punjab despite his team's win over Goa. Similarly, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Suryakumar Yadav failed to convert starts for Mumbai, raising questions about adaptability across formats and conditions.

In contrast, Mumbai's victory over Himachal Pradesh was anchored by the calm authority of Shreyas Iyer. Leading the side, Iyer produced an explosive yet controlled innings of 82 off 53 balls in a rain-shortened 33-over match. His knock highlighted his growing stature as a dependable middle-order batter capable of shifting gears under pressure. Shivam Dube's four-wicket haul further demonstrated Mumbai's all-round depth, which continues to make them one of the most formidable domestic sides.



Elsewhere, Hyderabad's clash against Bengal became a showcase of bowling quality and individual brilliance. Mohammed Siraj outperformed Mohammed Shami, claiming four wickets to Shami's

three, reinforcing Siraj's growing dominance in limited-overs cricket. The match also featured a rare domestic spectacle as Hyderabad opener Aman Rao smashed a double century, underlining the platform domestic

cricket provides for breakout performances. Delhi's convincing win over Railways saw aggressive cameos from Prithvi Shaw and Rishabh Pant. Pant's 24 off just nine balls reminded observers of his natural attacking instincts, even as he continues to find rhythm after injuries. Overall, the round served as a reminder that domestic cricket remains a crucial testing ground where form, not fame, dictates impact.

## Smith And Head's Centuries Place Australia Firmly In Control Of Fifth Ashes Test

Day 3 of the fifth Ashes Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground belonged entirely to Australia, as Steve Smith and Travis Head delivered master-class centuries to put the hosts firmly ahead. Smith's unbeaten 129 marked his 37th Test century and 12th in Ashes cricket, reinforcing his legacy as one of the greatest batters of the modern era.

Travis Head provided the early momentum with a blistering 163 off 166 balls, dismantling England's bowling attack with fearless strokeplay. His innings shifted the game decisively, forcing England into defensive tactics. Beau Webster's steady support for Smith further ground down England's morale, with their unbeaten partnership pushing Australia beyond the 500-run mark.

England's bowlers struggled for sustained



breakthroughs, with only Brydon Carse and debutant Jacob Bethell managing to make an im-

pact. The match situation now heavily favours Australia, with England facing an uphill task to

avoid defeat.

Beyond the scoreboard, the day reflected Australia's batting depth, com-

posure, and tactical discipline—qualities that have defined their dominance in Ashes contests.

## Vaibhav Suryavanshi's Record-Breaking Blitz Signals Arrival Of A Rare Batting Prodigy

At just 14 years of age, Vaibhav Suryavanshi announced himself as one of Indian cricket's most extraordinary young talents by smashing the fastest fifty by an Indian in Youth ODIs. His 15-ball half-century against South Africa U19 eclipsed Rishabh Pant's long-standing record and left cricket observers stunned.

Leading the team in the absence of regular captain Ayush Mhatre, Suryavanshi displayed remarkable confidence and power, smashing 10 sixes in a 68-run knock off just 24 balls. His innings set the tone for India's chase in a rain-affected match and highlighted his rare ability to dominate bowling attacks at such a young age.

The performance is significant not only for the record but for what it suggests about India's youth development system. Suryavanshi's temperament, leadership, and shot selection indicate maturity well be-



yond his years. While caution is necessary to avoid overburden-

ing young talent, his rise reflects the depth of India's cricketing

pipeline. If nurtured carefully, Suryavanshi could be-

come a defining figure in Indian cricket's next generation.

## Mustafizur Rahman's IPL Release Signals Deepening Cricketing And Political Tensions



The sudden release of Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman

from his IPL 2026 contract with Kolkata Knight Riders has triggered a major controversy that extends far beyond cricket. Bought for a hefty 9.20 crore at the auction, Mustafizur's exit was reportedly ordered directly by the BCCI at the highest level, without consultation with IPL franchises or even members of the IPL Governing Council.

This unprecedented move has strained India-Bangladesh cricketing relations, with the Bangladesh government responding by imposing a nationwide ban on IPL broadcasts. The Bangladesh Cricket Board has also sought to shift its T20 World Cup 2026 matches from India to Sri Lanka, escalating the diplomatic fallout. The situation reflects how geopolitical tensions can rapidly spill into sport, disrupting

long-standing cricketing ties. What has added to the controversy is the lack of transparency. Several BCCI officials reportedly learned of the decision through media reports, suggesting a centralised and opaque decision-making process. While the BCCI cited "recent developments" as justification, the absence of formal explanation has drawn criticism from administrators, players, and fans alike.

For KKR, the decision presents sporting and logistical challenges, forcing them to rethink overseas combinations. For Mustafizur, the episode is deeply unfair—he neither violated league rules nor withdrew voluntarily. The incident highlights the vulnerability of foreign players to forces beyond their control, raising concerns about contractual stability in global T20 leagues.

## Legal And Contractual Realities Leave Mustafizur Rahman Without Compensation



The legal fallout of Mustafizur Rahman's IPL release paints a stark picture of how player protection mechanisms fail in politically driven scenarios. Despite being a ₹9.20 crore signing, KKR is not obligated to pay Mustafizur any compensation under existing IPL rules and insurance frameworks. Player contracts are insured primarily against injury or cricket-related non-availability, not geopolitical or administrative interventions.

Legal experts suggest that while Mustafizur could technically pursue legal action, the IPL operates under Indian jurisdiction, making international arbitration difficult and unattractive. The Court of Arbitration for Sport is unlikely to be invoked, especially given the fluid

nature of India-Bangladesh relations and the long-term implications for a player's career.

The episode exposes a significant gap in modern cricket governance. While leagues generate enormous revenues, players—especially overseas professionals—remain exposed to non-sporting risks. The absence of political-risk insurance or neutral dispute-resolution mechanisms leaves athletes powerless when decisions are imposed externally.

Ultimately, Mustafizur's case is a cautionary tale. It underscores the need for stronger international player safeguards as cricket becomes increasingly globalised, commercialised, and politically entangled.

## Dil Raju Applauds Team Shambhala at Thanks Meet, Hails Film's Success as "Truly Great"



Tollywood witnessed a celebratory evening as the team of Shambhala came together for a grand Thanks Meet, marking the film's remarkable success at the box office. Released on December 25 amid stiff competition from nearly five other films, Shambhala, starring Aadi Saikumar, emerged as the clear Christmas winner, earning blockbuster status with unanimously positive word of mouth. The film not only proved profitable for its producers but also stands as a major turning point in Aadi Saikumar's career.

Directed by Ugandhar Muni, Shambhala features Archana Iyer as the female lead and is jointly produced by Mahidhar Reddy and Rajashekhar Annabhimoju under the Shining Pictures banner. The film impressed audiences with its striking visuals by cinematographer Praveen K Bangari and a powerful background score by Sricharan Pakala. Ugandhar Muni's fresh narrative style, coupled with a new-age concept and engaging storytelling, played a key role in the film's success.

Adding prestige to the celebrations, ace producer Dil Raju attended the event as the chief guest and congratulated

the entire team. Speaking at the meet, Dil Raju described the success of Shambhala as "truly great," especially considering the crowded festive release window. He revealed that even while he was abroad, he kept hearing consistent positive reports about the film's performance.

"Among the five films released this Christmas, Shambhala standing out as a success is truly commendable," he said.

Dil Raju also highlighted the significance of the film being Aadi Saikumar's 25th project. He noted that milestone films often define an actor's journey and expressed happiness that Shambhala turned out to be such a success. Drawing an interesting comparison, he remarked that films like Bommarillu once brought major changes to the industry and added that if Bommarillu 2 were ever made, Aadi and his father Sai Kumar would be ideal choices.

He praised Sai Kumar's unwavering support, calling him the backbone of the Shambhala team and applauding his unique rapport within the industry.

Aadi Saikumar, addressing the gathering, expressed gratitude to Dil Raju for attending the event and thanked audi-

## Rajamouli–Mahesh Babu's Varanasi Makes History With Paris Teaser Screening



The excitement around SS Rajamouli's highly anticipated film Varanasi has reached international levels, with the latest update making headlines for a historic reason. The announcement teaser of Varanasi was screened at the iconic Le Grand Rex theatre in Paris, marking a significant first for Indian cinema and giving fans around the world a glimpse of the film on a global stage.

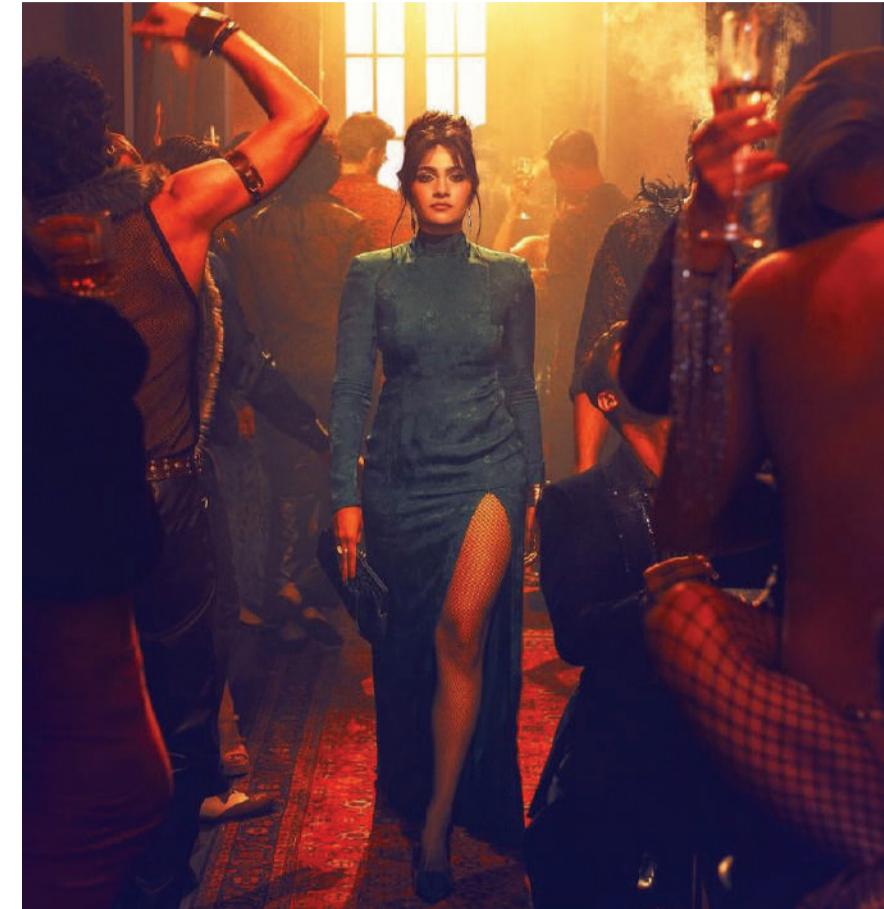
The special screening took place at 9 pm local time during a prominent film festival in Europe, making it the first time an Indian film's teaser has been showcased at Le Grand Rex. This milestone reflects the film's global ambitions and Rajamouli's intent to present Varanasi as more than just a regional block-

buster. The teaser, already praised for its stunning visuals and cinematic scale, reached a wider audience through this prestigious platform, signaling Indian cinema's growing international presence.

Varanasi stars Mahesh Babu in the lead role, marking his first collaboration with director SS Rajamouli. The film also features Priyanka Chopra and Prithviraj Sukumaran in key roles, creating a pan-Indian and international appeal. The combination of this star-studded cast and Rajamouli's cinematic vision has generated massive anticipation among audiences worldwide.

Produced on a large scale, Varanasi is set to be one of the most ambi-

## Rukmini Vasanth Unveiled as Mellisa in Yash's Toxic: A Fairytale for Grown-Ups



The intrigue surrounding Toxic: A Fairytale for Grown-Ups continues to intensify with every new update, and the latest reveal has added a fresh layer of depth to the much-anticipated project. The makers have officially unveiled Rukmini Vasanth as Mellisa, a character described as graceful, commanding, and unflinching, further elevating expectations from this dark, ambitious action drama led by Rocking Star Yash.

Directed by acclaimed filmmaker Geetu Mohandas, Toxic is steadily shaping into an evolving cinematic spectacle that promises to be darker, deeper, and more daring with each reveal. Rukmini Vasanth's introduction marks a striking collaboration with Yash, bringing together her reputation for intelligence-driven performances and emotional nuance with Geetu's layered, atmospheric storytelling. Her casting signals a role that is not merely ornamental but integral to the film's emotional and narrative fabric.

The character of Mellisa is set against the evocative backdrop of a hazy, vibrant party in the late 1960s. Amid the swirl

of music, lights, and drifting conversations, Mellisa stands apart. She moves through the space with absolute self-assurance, her presence commanding attention without seeking it. Her sharp, focused gaze cuts through

the surrounding chaos, suggesting a woman driven by clarity and purpose while the world around her remains fluid and unsettled. The visual language of her introduction hints at a character layered with intent, control, and quiet power.

With Rukmini's reveal, Toxic further expands its immersive universe. The film had earlier introduced Kiara Advani as Nadia, Huma Qureshi as Elizabeth, Nayanthara as Ganga, and Tara Sutaria

as Rebecca, each adding a distinct shade to the story's emotional spectrum. Together, these character unveilings underline the film's ambition to build a richly textured world rather than rely solely on spectacle.

Speaking about Rukmini, Geetu Mohandas praised her thoughtful approach to acting, noting that she doesn't merely perform but deeply processes her characters. According to the director, Rukmini's curiosity-driven questions and quiet habit of journaling between shots reveal an actor constantly constructing an inner world for her roles, resulting in performances that resonate through what is left unsaid.

Written by Yash and Geetu Mohandas and directed by Geetu, Toxic: A Fairytale for Grown-Ups is being filmed simultaneously in Kannada and English, with dubbed versions planned in multiple Indian languages. Backed by a formidable technical team and produced by KVN Productions and Monster Mind Creations, the film is slated for a grand theatrical release on March 19, 2026, positioning it firmly among the most anticipated Indian films of the year.

## Producers Shut Down Surgery Rumours About Megastar Chiranjeevi



Tollywood fans breathed a collective sigh of relief after the makers of Mana Shankara Varaprasad Garu addressed recent rumours about Megastar Chiranjeevi undergoing surgery. In the midst of heavy chatter on social media that claimed the legendary star had a medical procedure and that this was the reason for his absence from promotional events, the film's producers stepped forward to clarify the truth.

Speculation began circulating that Chiranjeevi had undergone a knee surgery due to pain and that he was recuperating quietly. The rumours quickly spread across fan groups and entertainment circles, causing concern among admirers eager to see their favourite star actively promote his upcoming Sankranti offering.

In fact, the team highlighted that Chiranjeevi is currently in excellent physical condition — fit

ter than before — thanks to a dedicated fitness regimen that he maintained even during shooting. They noted his impressive commitment, pointing out that he regularly worked out and kept up outdoor training routines right through the production phase. This, they said, is reflected in his dynamic look in the special post-

ers unveiled for the film.

The movie Mana Shankara Varaprasad Garu, directed by Anil Ravipudi, stars Chiranjeevi in a powerful leading role with Nayanthara as the female lead. The Sankranti release is one of the most highly anticipated films of the season, and the producers' statement has helped ease worries

about Chiranjeevi's health ahead of its theatrical debut.

With all rumours put to rest, fans are now fully focused on the movie itself — eagerly looking forward to the energetic performances, festive entertainment, and the combined star power that the megastar and the film promise to deliver.

## Producers of Raja Saab and Mana Shankara Varaprasad Garu Approach High Court Over Ticket Pricing



As the Sankranti festival season approaches, Tollywood is gearing up for a blockbuster lineup, and two of the most anticipated releases — Prabhas' Raja Saab and Chiranjeevi's Mana Shankara Varaprasad Garu — have taken legal action to address ticket

pricing and screening concerns. The producers of both films have approached the Telangana High Court seeking permission to increase ticket prices and schedule additional shows for their releases.

Earlier, a single bench

heavily on the Sankranti period for their commercial success, the teams have filed special petitions before a division bench of the High Court, urging reconsideration of the earlier orders.

The petitions emphasize the importance of adjusted ticket prices and extra shows to manage the huge budgets involved and to meet audience demand during the festive window. The producers argue that the measures are essential not only to recover production costs but also to offer sufficient seating for the large number of fans expected for these star-studded releases.

The High Court is expected to hear the case soon, and if the requested relief is granted, it could allow both Raja Saab and Mana Shankara Varaprasad Garu to implement higher ticket

rates and add extra shows, helping the teams better capitalise on the festive rush.

This legal development adds another dimension to the Sankranti release battle, as audiences eagerly await entertainment from these major films. The court's decision could influence box-office collections significantly and may set a precedent for how ticket pricing and show allocation are handled for big-budget films in the Telugu film industry.

With the festival season drawing near, industry watchers are closely monitoring the situation, as the outcome will impact not only the revenue potential of these films but also the overall dynamics of one of the busiest periods in Tollywood.