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CM Urges Cardiologists to Lead Mission Against Heart Diseases at Fellows India Conference

Hyderabad, 10 January 2026 (TPN Bureau)

Hyderabad played host to over 500 cardiologists from across India and neighbouring South-East Asian countries at the prestigious Fellows India Conference 2026, held at the city's convention centre on Saturday. Telangana Chief Minister, addressing the gathering of eminent medical professionals, highlighted the critical role of continuous learning, ethical practice, and the integration of cutting-edge technology with compassionate healthcare.

Welcoming the participants, the Chief Minister remarked, "Even after achieving professional success, you have come here to upgrade your knowledge and refine your skills. This is the essence of true excellence. The day we stop learning, our growth slows down." He further pointed out that Hyderabad is fast emerging as a hub for life sciences, pharmaceuticals, and healthcare, and that such international-level events



strengthen the city's reputation as a global destination for medical innovation and research. The Chief Minister reminded the cardiologists of the unique responsibilities that come with their profession. "Very few are privileged enough to become physicians, and with this privilege comes immense responsibility. Your profession is not merely a career; it is service to humanity. Never forget your responsibility towards society," he said. Underlining the Telangana government's commitment to advancing healthcare, the CM said, "We give top priority to healthcare and

are always open to working with doctors like you to improve policies that benefit the public. Your insights and feedback are invaluable in shaping better healthcare systems." He also addressed the transformative role of technology in medicine, noting that artificial intelligence, data-driven diagnostics, and quantum computing are redefining the field. While urging doctors to remain updated with the latest technological innovations, he stressed the importance of retaining the human touch that forms the cornerstone of patient care. Focusing on cardiovascular health, the Chief Minister called for a collective mission to prevent heart diseases and reduce premature mortality. He suggested practical initiatives, such as training school students in life-saving techniques like CPR, and emphasized the importance of preventive medicine in building a healthier society. Highlighting the need for accessible and

high-quality healthcare, he stated, "Quality healthcare should not be limited to urban centres. Every medical professional must strive to excel and contribute to making India a global leader in healthcare. Each of you has a pivotal role in achieving this vision." The CM concluded by expressing gratitude to the medical community for their dedication, commitment to lifelong learning, and service to society. "Keep learning, keep serving, and keep rising. Together, we can save more lives and build a healthier nation," he said. The Fellows India Conference 2026 saw participation from top healthcare professionals, policy-makers, and academicians, reflecting Telangana's growing emphasis on medical excellence, research-driven innovation, and public health initiatives. The event reinforced Hyderabad's standing as a center for knowledge-sharing and collaboration in the life sciences and healthcare sector.



Bhatti Vikramarka Seeks Central Financial Support for Key Telangana Projects at PreBudget Meet

New Delhi, January 10 (TPN Bureau):

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka on Saturday urged the Union Government to extend enhanced financial assistance for major infrastructure and development projects in the state. He made the appeal during the pre-budget consultation meeting chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at Ashoka Hotel, New Delhi. Addressing the meeting, Bhatti Vikramarka thanked the Union Finance Minister for initiating consultations with states ahead of the Union Budget, stating that such dialogue strengthens the spirit of cooperative federalism. He observed that national progress is possible only through close coordination between the Centre and the states, and involving states in budget preparation would help achieve the goal of a developed India.

Welcoming the Centre's vision of transforming India into a \$30 trillion economy by 2047, the Deputy Chief Minister pointed out that Telangana currently contributes 5.1 percent to the national GDP. Under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, the state has unveiled the Telangana Rising 2047 Vision, aiming to grow the state economy from the present \$200 billion to \$3 trillion by 2047, thereby increasing its share in the national GDP to 10 percent.

Bhatti Vikramarka

stressed the need to raise Telangana's investment rate in infrastructure from 37 percent to 50 percent of GSDP. He urged the Centre to enhance the fiscal deficit limit for states to at least 4 percent annually and to convert the existing 50-year interest-free loans into grants while doubling the assistance. He also requested that expenditures on education and healthcare be exempted from FRBM limits. Highlighting welfare initiatives, he noted that Telangana has over 1,000 residential schools catering to different communities and is now establishing Young India Integrated Residential Schools in all 119 constituencies with modern facilities. The state is also setting up super-specialty hospitals and medical colleges to strengthen healthcare.

On financial devolution, the Deputy Chief Minister expressed concern over the rising

share of cesses and surcharges, which has reduced states' effective share of central taxes. He suggested re-directing surcharge collections towards infrastructure or merging them with basic tax rates for equitable sharing. He sought immediate approval for key projects including the Regional Ring Road (RRR), Hyderabad Metro Phase-II, establishment of an IIM in Hyderabad, new airports in Peddapalli, Warangal, Adilabad and Kothagudem, and national project status for the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme. He also sought major allocations for the Musi Riverfront Development, radial roads, and Hyderabad sewerage projects.

Expressing optimism, Bhatti Vikramarka said he hoped the Centre would positively consider Telangana's requests in the spirit of cooperative federalism.

Office of the Deputy Chief Minister
Finance & Planning, Energy

Lr.No.135/Dy.CM/2026
Dt:09-01-2026

Sir,

Sri Bhatti Vikramarka Maillu Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister along with Sri Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy Hon'ble Minister for Revenue, Housing, I&PR, Smt. Danasari Anasuya Seetakka Hon'ble Minister for Panchayath Raj & Rural development (including Rural Water Supply), Women & Child Welfare and Smt. Konda Surekha Hon'ble Minister for Endowment, Environment & Forests will visit Medaram, Mulugu District on 11-01-2026 as for the Programme below.

11-01-2026 (Sunday)	11.45 am	DEP:	RGH Airport, Shamshabad, Hyderabad	By Chopper
	12.30 pm	ARR:	Medaram, Mulugu District	
			Inspection of Arrangements made for Jathara & Review meeting with officials	
	04.00 pm	DEP:	Medaram	By Chopper
	04.45 pm	ARR:	Begumpet, Airport, Hyd.	

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister desired to provide the Government Helicopter to cover the above programme. Please issue suitable instructions to aviation authorities to provide Helicopter.

(T.BHASKARA SARMA)

PRIVATE SECRETARY
to Deputy Chief Minister
Finance & Planning, Energy
Government of Telangana

The Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Government of Telangana
Copy to the Director, Aviation.

Government Will Stand Firmly with Journalists Who Uphold the Dignity of Journalism: Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy



TPN Bureau | January 10:

The Telangana government will extend full support to journalists who uphold the dignity and values of journalism, Revenue, Housing, Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said on Saturday. He made it clear that the people's government led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has no intention of undermining or belittling any journalist and is committed to strengthening the profession with transparency and fairness.

The minister was speaking during a meeting held at the Secretariat with representatives of 14 journalists' associations to discuss Government Order (GO) 252 and issues related to accreditation cards. Addressing concerns raised by journalist bodies, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy assured that the government would carefully examine their valuable suggestions and make suitable amend-

ments to GO 252 wherever necessary.

Dispelling rumours that the number of accreditation cards would be reduced, the minister categorically stated that such propaganda was baseless. On the contrary, he said the number of accreditation cards to be issued this time would be higher than the previous figure of around 23,000 cards. He noted that Telangana stands at the forefront nationally in the issuance of accreditation cards and reiterated the government's intent to ensure that all eligible journalists receive accreditation.

The minister explained that the delay in issuing new accreditation cards occurred due to a detailed and scientific study undertaken by the government. "We conducted multiple consultations, examined norms followed across the country and reviewed existing regulations. Our sole objective is to do justice to genuine newspapers and journalists," he said. Clarifying doubts

over different categories of cards, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said there is no difference between a media card and an accreditation card. He assured that all benefits extended by the government to accreditation cardholders would equally apply to media cardholders as well, leaving no scope for confusion or discrimination.

He stressed that the government is not acting with any prejudice while issuing accreditation cards but is committed to streamlining the system. As part of this process, circulation details and other relevant information would be strictly verified, including scrutiny of Chartered Accountant certificates. This, he said, would ensure fairness and protect the interests of authentic journalists and publications.

The minister also said the government is open to examining the suggestion of issuing accreditations based on population norms rather than allocating one journalist per mandal. He urged journalist associations to share their views on this proposal. He further assured representation to Urdu journalists in accreditation committees and confirmed that journalists covering sports, culture, crime, cable television and other specialised fields would be provided accredi-

tation facilities. Responding to requests from women journalists, he announced that a special quota would be allotted to them in the issuance of accreditation cards.

Highlighting a significant step, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said Telangana is the first state in the country to introduce digital media cards, recognising the growing importance of digital journalism.

During the meeting, representatives of various journalist unions raised issues related to housing plots, pensions, bus passes and insurance for journalists. Responding to queries on housing plots, the minister said the government had resolved a long-pending issue by allotting land to the Jawaharlal Nehru Housing Society soon after coming to power. However, he noted that the matter faced hurdles after a Supreme Court decision. Despite this, he assured that the government remains positive and, as per the Chief Minister's directions, would formulate a policy free from legal obstacles to address journalists' housing needs.

Telangana Media Academy Chairman K. Srinivasa Reddy, Information and Public Relations Commissioner C.H. Priyanka, CPR Officer G. Malsur and others were present at the meeting.

Medaram Jathara Highlights Tourism, Environment, and Women Empowerment: Minister Seetakka



TPN Bureau | January 10:

Mulugu District is taking strides toward holistic development by promoting tourism, women's employment, infrastructure, and environmental conservation, said Minister for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, Smt. Danasari Anasuya Seetakka, during the Medaram Jathara celebrations on Saturday.

As part of the district's efforts to showcase its natural beauty, the Minister inaugurated the "Green Forest Scenic Viewpoint" at Jalgalanch Vagu in Tad-

wai Mandal, developed under the guidance of the Forest Department. She said the district's verdant landscapes provide an ideal destination for families seeking a peaceful retreat away from urban crowds. Highlighting local attractions such as the Bogata Waterfall, Jalgalanch Block Berry Island, and safari facilities at Tadwai Huts, she added that Mulugu is steadily emerging as a preferred tourist destination comparable to Ooty and Kodaikanal.

Focusing on women's empowerment, Minister Seetakka inaugurated tea stalls, local chicken and vegetable sales, and fruit

stalls managed by women's groups at Jangalapalli Cross, Incherla Cross, and Errigattamma areas. She emphasised that such initiatives provide rural women with opportunities for economic independence while enhancing services for pilgrims and tourists attending the Jathara.

The Minister also inspected the ongoing Mallampalli bridge construction and directed officials to expedite the work. She further stressed improving transport and civic facilities to ensure smooth mobility for visitors during the festival.

Promoting environmen-

tal awareness, Minister Seetakka released posters and leaflets under the theme "Avoid Single-Use Plastics – Protect the Environment," organised by ASR Seva Voluntary Organisation. She urged devotees to refrain from using plastic plates, glasses, and covers, warning that single-use plastics pose health risks, including cancer. She called upon everyone to take responsibility for ensuring that the prestigious Medaram Jathara is conducted in an environmentally friendly manner.

The event was attended by District Collector Divakar T.S., SP Sudheer Ramnath Keken, DFO Kishan Jadhav, PACS Chairperson Rega Kalyani, DRDO Srinivas Rao, Additional DRDO Gotte Srinivas, DPM Gaddam Srinivas, APM Srinivas, representatives of ASR Seva Organisation, officials from the Forest and Rural Development Departments, and members of women's associations. Through initiatives like these, Mulugu District is setting an example for combining cultural celebrations with tourism promotion, environmental conservation, and women's empowerment, aligning with the government's vision for inclusive and sustainable rural development.

Telangana Sagara Sangham Calendar Unveiled at Minister Vakiti Srihari’s Residence

Hyderabad, January 10 (TPN Bureau): Telangana Sports and Backward Classes Welfare Minister Vakiti Srihari on Friday formally unveiled the Telangana Sagara Sangham calendar at his official residence in Hyderabad. The programme was attended by several prominent leaders and representatives of backward class organisations, reflecting the increasing socio-political participation of BC communities in the state. The event saw the presence of BC Sangham National President Srinivas Goud, Sagara Sangham President Shekhar, along with Chennayya Sagar, Askani Maruthi,

Ravi, Venkataswamy, Ramulu, Anjaneyulu, Srinivas and other community leaders. Their participation underlined the collective resolve of the Sagara community and allied groups to work towards social empowerment and development. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Vakiti Srihari said that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi’s vision was centred on ensuring adequate representation for backward classes in legislative bodies. He stressed that political empowerment of marginalised sections was crucial for achieving true social justice and inclusive governance in the country. The minis-



ter highlighted the caste census recently undertaken by the Telangana government, calling it a landmark initiative. “After nearly 100 years, Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has conducted a comprehensive caste census, something that has not been attempted anywhere else in the country,” he said. Srihari added that the data generated through the census would help the government frame more effective welfare policies and ensure equitable allocation of resources. Reiterating his commitment to the welfare of Backward Classes (BCs), Scheduled Castes

(SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), the minister said he would continue to strive for their holistic development. He noted that focused planning and sincere implementation were necessary to address long-standing inequalities faced by these communities. Srihari also referred to the recent decision to remove the two-child norm for candidates contesting local body elections. He said that his role in the Cabinet as a representative of backward classes had contributed to this reform, which, according to him, strengthened grassroots democracy by enabling wider partici-

pation from marginalised sections. Calling for unity among backward classes, the minister said that while different social groups may have distinct objectives, there were times when collective unity was essential. “When the need arises, all BCs must come together on a single platform to protect their rights and future,” he asserted. The minister assured the gathering that he would extend full support for the development of the Sagara Sangham and work towards initiatives aimed at improving the social, educational and economic status of the community in the coming days.

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Lays Foundation Stone for Urban Forest at Jilalgadda in Husnabad



Siddipet District, January 10 (TPN Bureau): Telangana Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Friday laid the foundation stone for an Urban Forest Park at Jilalgadda in Husnabad constituency, marking a significant step towards eco-tourism development and environmental conservation in the region. The project is aimed at promoting green spaces, protecting forest land from encroachment and creating a healthy recreational zone for the public. The foundation-laying ceremony was attended by District Collector K. Haimavathi, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) Suvarna, Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) Ramal-

ingam, District Forest Officer Padmaja Rani, Library Organisation Chairman Lingamurthy, RDO Rammurthy, Municipal Commissioner Mallikharjun, Husnabad Market Committee Chairman Tirupati Reddy, local sarpanch Swaroopa, other public representatives and senior forest department officials. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said the Husnabad Urban Forest Park would play a key role in the overall development of the area. He noted that Ellamma Cheruvu, Maha Samudram Gandhi, Raikal Waterfalls and the proposed Urban Forest Park were being developed as integrated tourism destina-

tions. He said forest department officials had brought the proposal to the government’s notice and extended full cooperation for its implementation. The minister said the park would be highly useful for trekking enthusiasts, particularly youth, and would help preserve forest land from encroachments. Highlighting the historical importance of the region, he suggested naming the park after Sardar Sarvai Papanna, noting the presence of Sarvai Papanna forts in the area. Plans include the development of walking tracks, trekking routes with priority for critical zones, children’s play areas, peaceful spaces for meetings,

and health-oriented recreational facilities. He also proposed planting fruit-bearing and other useful plants within the park. District Collector K. Haimavathi said several development projects were being launched and completed in Husnabad constituency. She observed that the town’s profile had transformed significantly with initiatives such as engineering and medical colleges, municipal development works and the Young India Integrated Residential School. She noted that Urban Forest projects were earlier limited to Hyderabad, but Husnabad had now joined that list, bringing people closer to nature.

PCCF Suvarna said the Urban Forest project, initially planned to be inaugurated by the Chief Minister, was delayed due to elections but had now begun. Congratulating the people of Jilalgadda, she said the park would attract visitors from Hyderabad and other places, boosting tourism and local employment. The project is expected to be completed within two years, with proposals also being sent to the Central government for additional funding. She added that the region’s rich history, forests, trekking routes and Raikal Waterfalls would together make Husnabad a prominent eco-tourism destination in the coming years.

Hyderabad Hosts Grand Finale of 19th Rajiv Gandhi Under-19 T20 League Championship 2026



Hyderabad, January 10, 2026 | TPN Bureau Hyderabad witnessed a vibrant celebration of youth cricket as the 19th edition of the Rajiv Gandhi Under-19 T20 League Cricket Championship 2026 concluded with a grand finale at the historic LB Stadium here on Friday. The closing ceremony and final match were attended by Telangana Minister for Sports and Youth Services Vakiti Srihari, who graced the occasion as the chief guest and closely followed the title clash. Organised under the leadership of former Member of Parliament Hanumanthurao, the prestigious tournament brought together young cricketers from 12 states across the country. The league, which ran for several days, featured keenly contested matches and showcased emerging players with strong technical skills and competitive spirit. In the final, the Hyderabad team put up an impressive performance to clinch the championship, earning applause from spectators and dignitaries alike. Addressing the gathering after the final, Minister Vakiti Srihari said sports play a vital role in shaping the physical, mental, and moral strength of young people. He remarked that when sportspersons step onto the field with complete dedication, discipline, and focus, the world begins to recognise their potential. Stressing that sports rise above caste, religion, and social differences, the minister said that success belongs to those who practise with determination and perseverance. The minister observed that the present generation of athletes is fortunate to receive

encouragement from parents and society, which was lacking in earlier times. He said sports teach youth how to handle both victory and defeat with balance and maturity. In the present social environment, where youngsters sometimes take hasty decisions driven by emotion, sports provide a positive direction and help inculcate patience, confidence, and self-control. Highlighting the state government’s commitment, Vakiti Srihari said the Telangana government under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has accorded top priority to the development of sports. He noted that significant budgetary allocations have been made to strengthen sports infrastructure, training facilities, and grassroots talent identification. The minister expressed confidence that Telangana is steadily moving towards becoming a national sports hub. He further informed that the state is expanding sports schools, upgrading existing playgrounds, and implementing a dedicated sports policy to encourage young talent. Recently, a new sports school was inaugurated in Warangal, and similar institutions are planned across the state, he added. Several prominent leaders and officials attended the closing ceremony, including TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, Minister Adluri Laxman, government advisers Keshav Rao and Harkara Venugopal, Farmers’ Commission Chairman Kodanda Reddy, Corporation Chairmen Mettu Sai Kumar and Shivasena Reddy, former MLC Ramulu Naik, DCC President Mothe Rohith, and Syed Saipulla. The successful completion of the Rajiv Gandhi Under-19 T20 League Championship once again highlighted Hyderabad’s growing prominence as a nurturing ground for young cricketing talent and reflected Telangana’s renewed focus on sports-led youth development.



MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy Attends Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Awards Ceremony

Hyderabad, January 10, 2026 (TPN Bureau): Bhongir Member of Parliament Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy participated as the chief guest at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Awards main ceremony held at the Tech Mahindra Auditorium in Hitec City, Hyderabad, in connection with Pravasi Bharatiya Divas celebrations. On the occasion, awards were presented to Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) in recognition of their outstanding contributions in various fields. During the ceremony, MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy presented Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Awards to overseas Indians who have rendered notable services in areas such as social service, business, education, healthcare and community development, thereby enhancing India’s global image. Addressing the gathering, the MP extended warm Pravasi Bharatiya Divas greetings to In-

dians living across the world. He said that no matter where they reside, the heartbeat of overseas Indians always resonates for their motherland. He appreciated the role played by the Indian diaspora in spreading Indian culture, traditions and values across the globe and strengthening India’s soft power internationally. Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy explained the significance of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, which is observed every year on January 9. He recalled that the day commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi to India from South Africa in 1915, a moment that marked a turning point in India’s freedom struggle. He said the occasion also serves to honour the contributions of Indians living abroad towards India’s development. Celebrated since 2003, Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is also popularly known as NRI Day, he added. The MP emphasised

that overseas Indians have played a crucial role in India’s economic growth by contributing through investments, knowledge exchange, innovation and philanthropy. He said the government values the Indian diaspora as an integral part of the nation’s progress and cultural outreach. The event was attended by Armoor MLA

Faidi Rakesh Reddy, Jogulamba Gadwal District Congress Committee President Malicheti Rajeev Reddy, NRI Advisory Committee Chairman B. Vinod Kumar, Hon’ble Vice Chairman of the NRI Advisory Committee Mandha Bheem Reddy, NRI Advisory Committee member N. Devender Reddy and several other dignitaries.

Organisers said the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Awards ceremony was aimed at strengthening bonds between India and its global diaspora and recognising the valuable role played by NRIs in nation-building. The programme concluded with cultural presentations and interactions between award recipients and dignitaries.



Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Reviews Agriculture Preparedness in Husnabad Constituency

Siddipet District, January 10 — TPN Bureau:

Telangana Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Friday conducted a comprehensive review meeting with agriculture department officials of the Husnabad Assembly constituency at the municipal office. The meeting focused on fertiliser availability, farmer welfare schemes, crop planning, mechanisation, allied agriculture activities and livestock development.

Senior officials from various departments participated in the review, including District Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Officers (DVAHOs), Assistant Directors of Agriculture (ADAs), District Horticulture Officers (DHOs), District Agriculture Officers (DAOs), Mandal Agriculture Officers (MAOs), Assistant Ex-

tension Officers (AEOs), Village Agriculture Secretaries (VASs), Horticulture Officers (HOs) and Agriculture Officers (AOs).

Addressing the officials, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar assured that there would be no shortage of fertilisers in the constituency. He said he would personally coordinate with Agriculture Minister Tummala Nag-eswara Rao and the collectors of three districts to ensure uninterrupted supply. “There is no fertiliser shortage anywhere. Officials must ensure smooth distribution without any bottlenecks,” he said, stressing that farmers should not be forced to stand in long queues for fertilisers.

The minister directed officials to ensure fertiliser distribution through Rythu Vedikas, cooperative societies and women’s self-help



groups to make the process more accessible and farmer-friendly. He instructed the agricul-

ture department to prepare a detailed action plan covering farmer issues, implementation of

agriculture and allied schemes, crop patterns, mechanisation and effective execution of cul-

tivation practices.

Calling for excellence in administration, Ponn-am Prabhakar said

that agriculture officers of Husnabad should set an example for the entire state by becoming a role model constituency in agricultural governance. He directed mandal- and village-level agriculture officers to submit detailed reports on farmers’ issues and government-related matters by January 26.

The minister also spoke about upcoming initiatives related to oil palm cultivation. He informed that the oil palm factory constructed at Narmeta would be inaugurated soon by the Chief Minister and directed officials to begin creating awareness among farmers immediately. Special awareness programmes should be organised for farmers owning more than five acres of land to promote oil palm cultivation. He added that oil palm collection centres would be established across the

constituency.

On livestock development, Ponn-am Prabhakar referred to a pilot project launched in Madhira for improving animal husbandry and asked officials to study its implementation. He instructed them to prepare a similar action plan for Husnabad with the objective of ensuring that every household owns a milch animal.

The minister noted that sheep deworming had been completed 100 per cent in the constituency and directed officials to complete vaccination of livestock without delay. He also called for organising special camps to improve animal breeding and increase livestock productivity, emphasising the importance of integrated agriculture and animal husbandry for enhancing farmers’ incomes.

MillerWorkersPlayaCrucialRoleinNation-Building: Minister Vakiti Srihari

Ranga Reddy District, January 10, 2026 (TPN Bureau):

Telangana Minister Vakiti Srihari on Saturday said that miller and construction workers play a vital role in the construction and development of the country, including the growth of Hyderabad. He assured that the state government would stand by workers and take steps to address their long-pending issues.

The minister was speaking after attending a programme organised by the Concrete Millers Labour Welfare Association at a private function hall in Shamshabad mandal of Ranga Reddy district. He participated as the chief guest in the New Year calendar launch organised by the association and distributed financial assistance cheques to the families of miller workers who lost their lives in accidental incidents. As a



mark of respect, the gathering observed a minute’s silence to pay tributes to the deceased workers.

Addressing the gathering, Vakiti Srihari said construction workers are the ones who give shape and beauty to cities and infrastructure. “The role of construction and miller workers in the building of India and Hyderabad is extremely significant. Despite facing numerous hardships, especial-

ly while working on rooftops and high-rise structures, miller workers complete construction projects within the stipulated time,” he said. The minister said he was aware of the challenges faced by miller workers on a daily basis, particularly issues related to transportation and movement of vehicles. During the programme, he spoke over the phone with the Cyberabad Police Commissioner and request-

ed that a specific time slot be allocated to ensure smooth movement of vehicles used by miller workers, so that they do not face unnecessary difficulties.

Vakiti Srihari assured the workers that he would discuss their problems with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and work towards finding lasting solutions. He also announced his support for the construction of a building for the Con-

crete Millers Labour Welfare Association. He said that if the local MLA allocates 1,000 square yards of land, he would make all efforts to ensure the association’s welfare building is constructed.

The minister reiterated that the welfare of labourers was a priority for the government and that their safety, dignity and livelihood concerns would be addressed through coordinated efforts between departments. Rajendranagar MLA Prakash Goud, Concrete Millers Labour Welfare Association President Tirupati, Secretary Gopal and several association members attended the programme. The organisers expressed gratitude to the minister for his assurance and support, stating that his intervention would bring much-needed relief and recognition to miller workers and their families.



Congress Leaders Launch Strong Attack on BJP Over MGNREGA, Warn of Statewide Protests

Hyderabad, January 10, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Senior Congress leaders strongly criticised the BJP-led Union government over alleged attempts to dilute the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and remove Mahatma Gandhi’s name from the flagship welfare scheme. The remarks were made during a press meet organised under the leadership of Khairatabad (Hyderabad Central) District Congress Committee President Motha Rohith Mudiraj.

Addressing the media, former Member of Parliament V.H. said the UPA government had introduced the employment guarantee scheme to ensure food security and livelihood for the poorest sections of society. He alleged that the BJP government was systematically undermining the scheme and “snatching the last morsel of food from the mouths of the poor.” He further accused the BJP of attempting to erase the history of freedom fighters and marginalise Mahatma Gandhi’s legacy as part of a large conspiracy.

V.H. stated that the removal of Gandhi’s name from the scheme was not accidental but a deliberate move

aimed at weakening the programme. He alleged that by shifting a greater financial burden onto state governments, the Centre was trying to render the scheme ineffective. Announcing future plans, he said the Congress would organise protests village by village after Sankranti to oppose what he described as anti-poor policies. “While the world respects Mahatma Gandhi, the BJP government is insulting him,” he said.

Congress leader Firoz Khan described MGNREGA as one of the greatest welfare initiatives in independent India. He asserted that while people worship Lord Ram, they would not remain silent if Mahatma Gandhi was insulted. He alleged that forcing states to bear nearly 40 percent of the financial burden was part of a deep-rooted conspiracy to weaken the scheme. Firoz Khan further claimed that the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi were uncomfortable with Gandhi’s ideology, which is why his name was removed. He also alleged that efforts were being made to erase Gandhi’s image from Indian currency, calling it a dangerous trend.

Khairatabad DCC

President Motha Rohith Mudiraj said the Congress government had introduced MGNREGA as a lifeline for the poor and marginalised. He described the scheme as a “protective shield” for vulnerable families and said Gandhi was not just an individual but a powerful ideology. “Removing Gandhi’s name is a grave mistake, and the people of India will never forgive the BJP for it,” he warned.

He accused Prime Minister Modi of paying homage to Gandhi abroad while attempting to erase his presence within the country. Rohith Mudiraj declared that the Congress would launch a sustained agitation to ensure that Mahatma Gandhi’s name continues to be associated with the employment guarantee scheme. He recalled that the foundations of the scheme were laid in the erstwhile united Andhra Pradesh and said the movement to protect it would now intensify from Telangana, with Hyderabad serving as the centre of major protests. The press meet concluded with Congress leaders reiterating their resolve to fight what they termed as an attack on social justice, welfare, and the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi.

TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud Attacks BRS, Highlights Congress Achievements



Hyderabad, January 10, 2026 (TPN Bureau):

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud on Friday addressed a media conference at Gandhi Bhavan, extending Sankranti greetings to the people of Telangana and launching a sharp attack on the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leadership.

Addressing reporters, Mahesh Kumar Goud made strong remarks

targeting BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) and senior leader Harish Rao, stating that they had failed to respond to serious questions raised by BRS MLC K. Kavitha. He alleged that KTR and Harish Rao appeared “confused” and deliberately avoided answering questions related to corruption allegations and the party’s name change. “If they have courage, KTR and Harish Rao should come forward and give clear answers

to Kavitha’s questions,” he said.

The TPCC chief claimed that Congress had achieved significant electoral success under its public governance model. He said the party had won over 70 per cent of seats in the recent sarpanch elections and secured a decisive victory in the Jubilee Hills by-election with a margin exceeding 25,000 votes. “These results are a clear endorsement of Congress governance, development and wel-

fare,” he asserted.

Mahesh Kumar Goud expressed confidence that Congress would capture more than 90 per cent of municipalities in the upcoming municipal elections. He said the party would enter the polls with a well-structured plan and ensure there was no lack of coordination at any level. Highlighting welfare initiatives, he said the Congress government had implemented several schemes, including Integrated Residential Schools in constituencies, supply of fine rice, free bus travel, Indiramma housing and multiple other welfare programmes. He added that education, healthcare and sports had been given top priority under the people’s government. The TPCC president admitted that Congress suffered some losses in panchayat elections due to rebels within the party, which indirectly benefited BRS and the BJP. He reiterated that the caste survey was conducted following the call given by AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge and

leader Rahul Gandhi.

Condemning what he described as baseless and defamatory media reports, Mahesh Kumar Goud said publishing stories far removed from facts was unfortunate and damaging. He also challenged BJP leaders to speak about development works they had undertaken instead of focusing on issues like district name changes. He further demanded that KTR and Harish Rao take responsibility and respond to Kavitha’s allegations. “Are BRS leaders ready for a debate on how many jobs they provided during their rule?” he asked, alleging that the anger of unemployed youth led to the defeat of BRS. Mahesh Kumar Goud also said cinema ticket prices should remain affordable for common people and accused BRS of selling Hyderabad lands, branding KTR as the “real estate mastermind” behind such deals. He questioned the BJP’s repeated use of God’s name in politics, asking who had given the party that right.

Fisheries Minister Vakiti Srihari Inaugurates YS Fish Mart at Rallaguda

Ranga Reddy District, January 10 (TPN Bureau):
Telangana Fisheries Minister Vakiti Srihari on Friday inaugurated a YS Fish Mart near Rallaguda village in Shamshabad mandal of Ranga Reddy district. The initiative aims to provide fresh, hygienic fish to consumers while ensuring better market access and fair prices for fishermen.

The inauguration programme was attended by Mandal Deputy Chairman Banda Prakash, Rajendranagar MLA Prakash Goud, Corporation Chairmen Mettu Sai Kumar and Gnaneshwar, along with several local public representatives, fisheries department officials

and members of fishermen communities.

After formally opening the YS Fish Mart, Minister Vakiti Srihari inspected the varieties of fish available at the outlet and interacted with staff regarding storage, hygiene standards and pricing. He emphasised that YS Fish Marts were being established to strengthen the fisheries sector by creating a direct link between fishermen and consumers, eliminating middlemen and ensuring quality produce reaches the public.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said the state government was committed to the welfare of fishermen and the overall development of the fisheries



sector. He noted that fisheries had emerged as an important source of livelihood for thousands of families in Telangana and assured that the government would continue to introduce schemes to enhance income generation and employment opportuni-

ties in the sector.

Vakiti Srihari stated that the YS Fish Mart model would help improve consumer confidence by supplying fresh fish under clean and regulated conditions. He added that similar marts would be set up in other mandals

and urban areas across the district in a phased manner, based on demand and feasibility.

Rajendranagar MLA Prakash Goud welcomed the initiative and said the establishment of the fish mart in Shamshabad mandal would benefit both fish-

ermen and local residents. He highlighted that such projects contribute to local economic growth while promoting food safety and nutritional security.

Local representatives and fisheries officials expressed satisfaction

over the launch and said the mart would serve as a reliable platform for fishermen to sell their produce at remunerative prices. They added that awareness programmes would be conducted to encourage consumers to utilise YS

Fish Marts regularly.

The event concluded with interactions between the minister and beneficiaries, reinforcing the government's focus on inclusive development and support for traditional livelihood communities.



Jeedimetla Student Selected for SGF Under-14 Telangana Kho-Kho Team

Quthbullapur, January 10, 2026 (TPN Bureau):
A student from a government school in Jeedimetla has brought pride to Ranga Reddy district by securing a place in the Telangana State Under-14 Kho-Kho boys' team selected under the School Games Federation (SGF).

S. Ajay, an eighth-class student of Zilla Parishad High School, Jeedimetla, Quthbullapur constituency, was selected to represent Telangana following his impressive performance in the state-level SGF Under-14 Kho-Kho tournament. Ajay, son of S. Suresh, represented the Ranga Reddy district team in the tournament held on December 29 and 30 at St. Marks High School, Tandur.

In the highly competitive tournament, the Ranga Reddy district team emerged as the overall champions, securing first place at the state level. From the victorious district

squad, Ajay was selected to the Telangana Under-14 boys' Kho-Kho team, marking a significant achievement for both the student and his school.

School Physical Director Arunajothi expressed happiness over Ajay's selection and said it was a proud moment for the institution. She stated that Ajay would represent Telangana in the National Level SGF Under-14 Kho-Kho Tournament scheduled to be held in Rajasthan from January 16 to 23. "It is a matter of great pride that our student will play at the national level and represent the state," she said, adding that disciplined training and dedication had helped Ajay reach this milestone.

School Headmaster Sudhakar, along with other teachers, congratulated Ajay for his achievement and wished him success at the national tournament. They noted that his selection highlighted the sporting potential of students study-



ing in government schools. Ajay's parents also expressed happiness over their son's achievement. They said it was a proud moment that a student from a government school had been selected to represent Telangana at the national level. They credited Physical Director Arunajothi for her continuous guidance, encouragement and training, which they said played a key role in Ajay's success.

The achievement has inspired fellow students and reinforced the importance of sports development in government schools across the state.

1.2 Kg Ganja Seized in Nampally; Two Arrested, Eight Absconding

Hyderabad, January 10, 2026 (TPN Bureau):
In a crackdown on drug peddling in the city, the Special Task Force (STF) A-Team seized 1.2 kilograms of ganja in the Nampally area and arrested two persons, while eight others are currently absconding. The operation was carried out near Basti Dawakhana, Mangor Basti bus stop limits in Nampally.

According to STF officials, the accused were involved in selling ganja illegally in the area, targeting local youths and commuters. Acting on specific intelligence inputs, the STF A-Team conducted a surprise raid and caught two persons red-handed while allegedly engaged in ganja sales. During the operation, the police seized 1.2 kg of ganja along with three mobile phones used by the accused for coordinating drug transactions. The arrested persons have been identified as Jawarilal, Madhu, Priya, Akash, Kamli Sony, Arun Kumar and Ambar — are currently on the run. Special teams have been



STF Team Leader Anji Reddy stated that a case has been registered against ten individuals in connection with the drug racket. While two have been arrested, the remaining eight accused — Devender, Jawarilal, Madhu, Priya, Akash, Kamli Sony, Arun Kumar and Ambar — are currently on the run. Special teams have been

formed to trace and apprehend the absconding suspects at the earliest. Preliminary investigation revealed that the accused were procuring ganja from external sources and selling it in small quantities in and around the Nampally area. Police suspect that the network has been operating for some time and may have links to

other drug suppliers in the city. After completing preliminary formalities, the STF handed over the arrested accused along with the seized ganja and mobile phones to the Nampally Excise Station for further investigation and legal action. Officials said that stricter action would be taken under relevant sections of the

law to curb drug-related activities. The STF reiterated its commitment to eliminating drug trafficking and urged the public to share information related to illegal narcotics trade. Police also warned that anyone found involved in drug peddling would face stringent legal consequences.

Three Notorious Offenders Nabbed in Hyderabad for Vehicle Theft and Shutter-Lifting Cases



Hyderabad, January 10, 2026 (TPN Bureau):
The Commissioner's Task Force, West Zone, Hyderabad, arrested three notorious offenders involved in multiple bike thefts and shutter-lifting cases in the Rachakonda Commissionerate. The arrests were made on January 6, 2026, at Balnagar X Road following credible intelligence, and several stolen vehicles and items were recovered from their possession. The accused have been identified as:

1.Sardar Jagjith Singh @ Sahil, 24, son of Guru Charan Singh, resident of BK Guda, Hyderabad. A rowdy sheeter of SR Nagar Police Station, with case opening dated May 27, 2024. Contact: 9963075878.

2.Ajmera Murali Kumar, 19, son of Anil Kumar, resident of Sanath Nagar, Hyderabad. Con-

tact: 9849096683 / 7075123298.

3.Sirsuval Tilak, 19, son of late S. Daya Sagar, resident of Balkampet, SR Nagar, Hyderabad. Contact: 8978560949.

During the operation, the Task Force seized:

- Royal Enfield Bullet (TS08EX7316)
- Honda DIO (TS-08FF7489)
- Hero Passion Pro (TS08EX4263)
- TVS N-Torq (TG), used in committing offences
- Several pieces of clothing

The accused have confessed to multiple criminal cases registered under various sections of the Indian Penal Code at different police stations: Cr. No. 14/2026 (PS Nacharam), Cr. No. 10/2026 (PS Kushaiguda), Cr. No. 877/2025 (PS Keesara), Cr. No. 02/2026 (PS Alwal), and Cr. No. 30/2026 (PS Jawahar Nagar). According to the police, Sardar Jag-

jith Singh, a known rowdy sheeter, allied with Murali and Tilak, and all three were addicted to alcohol and smoking. To maintain a lavish lifestyle, they planned and executed vehicle thefts and shutter-lifting incidents. The stolen property was then used to fund their personal expenses. The arrest was supervised by Inspector of Police Ch. Yadender and SIP D. Ravi Raj of the West Zone Task Force, along with their team members. Officials confirmed that further investigations are ongoing to identify additional accomplices and recover more stolen property. MD Iqbal Siddique, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police, Commissioner's Task Force, Hyderabad, West Zone & South-West Zone, stated that such operations aim to curb organized crime and ensure public safety.

410 Grams of Ganja Seized in Kukatpally; Auto Driver Apprehended

Hyderabad, January 10, 2026 (TPN Bureau):
In another operation aimed at curbing the illegal drug trade in the city, the Special Task Force (STF) seized 410 grams of ganja in the Kukatpally area and apprehended an auto-rickshaw driver who was allegedly involved in selling the banned substance.

According to police officials, the STF received credible information that ganja was being sold near the

Balanagar Metro Station on the Kukatpally-Balanagar Road. Acting swiftly on the tip-off, STF Circle Inspector Nagaraju, along with his team, conducted a targeted raid in the area. During the checks, the STF team intercepted an auto-rickshaw and found the driver in possession of ganja. The accused has been identified as Y. Sunil, an auto driver by profession. Upon thorough inspection of the vehicle, the officials re-

covered 410 grams of ganja, which was reportedly meant for sale to customers in and around the locality.

Preliminary inquiries revealed that the accused was using his auto-rickshaw as a cover to transport and distribute the contraband, taking advantage of busy roads and public movement near the metro station. Police suspect that the accused may have been supplying ganja to regular consumers in the Kukatpally and Balanagar

areas. Following the seizure, the STF took the accused into custody and completed the necessary legal formalities. The seized ganja along with the accused was later handed over to the Balanagar Excise Station for further investigation and action under relevant sections of the law. STF officials stated that efforts are underway to trace the source of the ganja and identify any other individuals involved in the supply chain. They also indi-

cated that more arrests are likely as the investigation progresses.

The police once again appealed to the public to cooperate with law enforcement agencies by providing information about drug peddling and other illegal activities. Officials warned that strict action would be taken against anyone found involved in the sale or transportation of narcotic substances, reiterating their commitment to keeping Hyderabad drug-free.





Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Inspects Gouravelli Right Canal on Bike in Husnabad Constituency



Siddipet District, January 10, 2026 (TPN Bureau):

Telangana Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Friday conducted an extensive inspection of the Gouravelli Project Right Canal in Husnabad Assembly constituency by riding a bike along the canal stretch. The minister covered a distance of about 16.5 kilometres, from Gouravelli to Mallaram, to assess the progress and ground-level issues related to the long-pending irrigation project.

Accompanied by Gouravelli Project Executive Engineer Ramulu, other irrigation officials, local leaders and party workers, the minister closely examined the canal, which was constructed during

2010-11. Despite the completion of the canal structure, he noted several obstacles at multiple locations, including unfinished small bridges and connectivity issues affecting nearby villages.

During the inspection, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar interacted with officials while travelling along the canal and reviewed areas requiring immediate attention. He directed officials to carry out necessary repairs, remove bushes and trees obstructing the canal flow, and expedite the construction of essential bridges across the canal to ensure smooth water distribution.

Expressing optimism, the minister said that once the canals are fully completed and opera-

tional, thousands of acres of dry land in the constituency would turn fertile. He stated that irrigation water would significantly improve agricultural productivity and farmers' livelihoods in the region.

Speaking to the media, Ponnam Prabhakar said the right canal of the Gouravelli Project runs for 16.5 kilometres in the Husnabad constituency and that he undertook the inspection along with local representatives to identify pending issues firsthand. He added that the left canal of the project, extending about 15 kilometres up to Koheda and Chigurumamidi, had already been completed.

He said there were two small bridges causing obstructions along the

canal that still needed to be constructed. In addition, around 1,200 acres of land acquisition was pending across the constituency for completion of distributary canals. The minister said nearly 250 crore was required to complete the remaining works and added that the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister and the Irrigation Minister were extending full cooperation for the release of funds.

Ponnam Prabhakar recalled that the Chief Minister had assured completion of the Gouravelli Project during his visit to Husnabad. He pointed out that projects such as Ranganayaka Sagar, Kondapochamma Sagar and Mallanna Sagar, which were taken up later, had already

been completed, while Gouravelli faced hurdles due to various obstacles.

He said once the project is completed, irrigation water would be supplied to about 57,000 acres through canals, 14,000 acres via Gandipalli and nearly 35,000 acres through tank filling. Though trial runs were conducted earlier, not a single drop of water reached the canals, he noted.

Stating that the responsibility of completing the project lay with the present government, the minister said canal construction would be fast-tracked immediately after land acquisition is completed, ensuring the region turns lush and prosperous.

Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy Assures Continued Focus on Development and Welfare in Paleru Constituency

Khammam, January 10, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Revenue, Housing and Information Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy on Saturday reaffirmed his commitment to balanced development and welfare, stating that the trust reposed in him by the people would not be betrayed under any circumstances. During his tour of the Paleru Assembly constituency, the minister said development and welfare initiatives were being implemented without compromise across the region.

Recalling the mandate he received two years ago, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said the people had wholeheartedly blessed him to be part of a "people's government." "I carry the faith you placed in me close to my heart. Keeping that trust in mind, we are ensuring that there is no shortfall anywhere in development and welfare programmes in the Paleru constituency," he said.

As part of his visit, the minister laid foundation stones for several infrastructure projects aimed at improving civic amenities. In Vidyana, under the Khammam Municipal Corporation limits, he inaugurated works for internal cement concrete roads, drains and culverts to be constructed at an estimated cost of 4 crore. In Nayudupeta of Yedulapuram municipality, he launched development works worth 1.25 crore, including internal CC



roads, a bus shelter, junction development and modernisation of a community hall.

Further, the minister initiated CC road and drainage works in several localities, including Nadimithanda with an estimated cost of 77.10 lakh, Gollagudem at 37.20 lakh, Jalangar at 29.30 lakh, Barugudem at 24.27 lakh and Auto Nagar at 17.20 lakh. He said these projects reflected the government's commitment to strengthening basic infrastructure in both urban and semi-urban areas.

Addressing public gatherings, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy launched a sharp attack on the previous BRS government, alleging that it had failed to address the hardships of the poor during its ten-year rule. He said people were ignored even when they sought basic entitlements such as ration cards. Criticising the delay in issuing new ration cards for nearly a decade, he said the present government had corrected that injustice by ensuring cards for all eligible beneficiaries.

The minister highlighted that Telangana was now supplying fine rice through the

public distribution system, a benefit he claimed no other state government in the country was offering. He also pointed to reforms in welfare hostels, stating that earlier governments neglected the nutritional needs of poor students. "After we came to power, diet charges were increased by 40 per cent and cosmetic charges by 200 per cent to support students from underprivileged backgrounds," he said. Reiterating the government's housing commitment, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said providing a permanent home to every poor family without one remained a core objective. He announced that the second phase of Indiramma housing distribution would begin from April and assured that the process would continue in phases without interruption. Concluding his address, the minister said the people's government would always stand by the poor and vulnerable sections. He appealed to citizens to continue blessing the government in the coming elections, assuring them that development and welfare would remain its top priorities.

Shishu Mandir Schools Serve as Continuous Teacher Training Hubs in Adilabad

Adilabad, January 10, 2026 (TPN Bureau):

Shishu Mandir schools in Adilabad district are playing a pivotal role in developing skilled teachers and nurturing talented students for the nation, according to former headmaster Oraganti Istari. These schools have been functioning as continuous training centers, ensuring that educators are equipped with modern teaching techniques and practical classroom skills.

A month-long training programme was recently conducted at the local Sri Saraswati Shishu Mandir School in Ichod Mandal, which brought together principals and teachers from Ichod, Bazar Hatnur, Neredigonda, Gudihatnur, and Both Shishu Mandir schools. The programme focused on enhancing teaching methods for primary

and pre-primary educators.

School presidents and government teachers, including Devrel Santosh, conducted sessions on effective communication in English. Experts in various subjects trained teachers on innovative approaches to teaching English, Science, Telugu, ethics, and physical education. The training emphasized interactive teaching methods, subject-specific pedagogy, and ways to engage young learners effectively.

Around 45 educators participated in the training sessions, including headmasters Santosh Kumar, Venkat Ramana, Meena, and Ramadevi. School committee members Rajender, Sudarshan, Santosh, and Shekhar also supervised the programme and ensured smooth execution of the sessions. Oraganti Is-



tari highlighted that continuous professional development through such training programmes ensures that Shishu Mandir schools produce highly skilled teachers, who in turn shape students to reach their full potential. He emphasized that these initiatives strengthen

the quality of education and prepare both teachers and students to meet national educational standards.

The training programme was well-received by participants, who expressed that the sessions helped them improve classroom management, subject

delivery, and overall teaching effectiveness. The initiative reflects Shishu Mandir schools' commitment to providing high-quality education while fostering a culture of ongoing learning and professional growth among educators.

Centre Sanctions 50-Bed AYUSH Hospital in Karimnagar at 15 Crore Cost

Karimnagar, January 10, 2026 (TPN Bureau):

In a major boost to healthcare infrastructure in north Telangana, the Central Government has sanctioned the establishment of a 50-bed AYUSH hospital in Karimnagar district, with a total estimated cost of 15 crore. The project is aimed at strengthening traditional and alternative healthcare services and improving access to holistic treatment options for people in the region.

The proposed AYUSH hospital will provide comprehensive medical services under various traditional systems of medicine, including Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy. Officials stated that the hospital will function as a full-fledged treatment centre offering both outpatient and inpatient fa-

cilities, catering to a wide range of health needs using time-tested indigenous medical practices.

As part of the approval, the Central Government has released 7.5 crore in the first phase to initiate construction and related preparatory works. The remaining funds will be released in subsequent stages based on project progress. The Telangana Government has been asked to identify suitable land and extend necessary administrative support to ensure timely execution of the project. The upcoming facility is expected to offer specialized services such as Panchakarma therapies, internal medicine, ENT care, women's health services, yoga therapy and preventive healthcare programmes. Trained AYUSH doctors, nursing



staff, therapists and paramedical personnel will be appointed to run the hospital efficiently. Once operational, the hospital is likely to reduce the burden on existing government hospitals and provide cost-effective treatment alternatives to the public. Union leaders from the region expressed satisfaction over the approval, stating that the long-pending demand of Karimnagar residents has finally been addressed. They noted that

the hospital will not only enhance healthcare delivery but also create employment opportunities for AYUSH professionals and supporting staff. District officials have begun preliminary discussions regarding land identification and infrastructure planning. Coordination between the State Health Department and the Ministry of AYUSH is underway to fast-track implementation. Authorities said efforts will be made to complete

the project within the stipulated timeframe.

The sanction of the AYUSH hospital is seen as part of the Centre's broader vision to promote traditional systems of medicine alongside modern healthcare, especially in tier-two cities and semi-urban areas. Once completed, the Karimnagar AYUSH hospital is expected to emerge as a key healthcare hub, benefiting thousands of patients from Karimnagar and neighboring districts.

Telangana Aims to Emerge as Global Innovation Capital: Minister Sridhar Babu

Hyderabad, January 10, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government is committed to transforming the State into a global "Innovation Capital," with a strong focus on artificial intelligence (AI), research-driven innovation, and the ethical use of technology, Minister for IT and Industries Duddilla Sridhar Babu said on Saturday.

Addressing the BITS Alumni Association Global Meet (BGM) 2026 at the BITS Pilani-Hyderabad campus, the Minister said technology should not remain confined to academic degrees or commercial pursuits alone, but must be meaningfully applied for national service and the larger vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat. He emphasised that innovation rooted in societal needs would define the future trajectory of India's growth.

Drawing compari-

sons with global digital ecosystems, Mr. Sridhar Babu noted that while several countries have promoted private digital monopolies, India has emerged as a unique global model through Digital Public Infrastructure such as Aadhaar and the Unified Payments Interface (UPI). These platforms, he said, have demonstrated how inclusive, public-driven digital systems can create large-scale impact. Telangana, he added, has taken this philosophy forward with the launch of the AI-enabled Telangana Data Exchange (TG-DeX), the first initiative of its kind in the country, which is already providing a strong boost to research, innovation, and data-driven policymaking.

The Minister said the proposed Telangana AI Innovation Hub and the upcoming AI University are expected to set new national benchmarks and serve as reference models for other States. These institutions, he explained, would play a crucial role in nurturing next-generation talent and fostering collaboration between academia, industry, and government.

Highlighting the evolving nature of artificial intelligence, Mr. Sridhar Babu observed that the present era places greater emphasis on coordination and collaboration rather than intelligence alone. He stressed the need to accord the highest priority to data privacy, ethical frameworks, and responsible AI, warning that unchecked technological growth without safeguards could erode public trust. He also called upon technology companies to significantly strengthen their investments in research and development to ensure long-term sustainability.



Maharashtra’s Municipal Elections: Realignments, Reunions and a Battle for Legacy

Maharashtra’s political theatre is undergoing dramatic churn as the state prepares for long-delayed municipal corporation elections across 29 civic bodies, polls that are nearly four years overdue. What might have been routine local elections have instead become a referendum on political survival, legacy, and future alignments—marked most strikingly by the reunion of the estranged Thackeray cousins and tentative reconciliation between rival Pawar factions.

The Thackeray Reunion: Strategy Over Sentiment

In one of the most unexpected developments in recent Maharashtra politics, Uddhav Thackeray’s Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) has walked out of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) and forged an alliance with cousin Raj Thackeray’s Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) for the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) elections.

This alliance is far more than an electoral adjustment. It represents a calculated attempt by the Thackeray cousins to reclaim the political and emotional legacy of Balasaheb Thackeray, whose dominance once defined Maharashtra’s politics.

The arithmetic behind the partnership is clear: Together, the two parties are seeking to consolidate the Marathi Manos vote—around 40% of Mumbai’s population—while also counting on support from the Muslim community, which constitutes roughly 20%. The underlying assumption is that a united Thackeray front is better placed to challenge the BJP than the Congress, leaving minority voters with little alternative if the BJP is to be defeated.

Seat-sharing within



the alliance reflects the relative strength of the partners. Shiv Sena (UBT) will contest 165 seats, the MNS 52, and the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar faction) just 10. At the joint announcement, the Thackeray cousins invoked a familiar warning to Marathi voters—“batenge to katenge”—echoing a slogan popularised by the BJP during the 2024 state elections.

An Existential Battle for Uddhav Thackeray

For Uddhav Thackeray, these municipal elections—especially the BMC—are nothing short of an existential fight. The Shiv Sena ruled Mumbai’s civic body for nearly three decades, making it both a power centre and a symbol of the party’s supremacy. The 2022 split, which saw Eknath Shinde take con-

trol of the party organisation and most MLAs, has left Uddhav’s faction dangerously close to losing its most prized bastion.

So far, the battle between the two Sena factions has been evenly matched. In the Lok Sabha elections (Round One), Uddhav’s faction performed better. In the Vidhan Sabha polls (Round Two), Shinde’s faction gained the upper hand. The municipal elections, particularly in Mumbai, represent a decisive Round Three that could settle the question of who truly inherits Balasaheb Thackeray’s political mantle.

There are reasons for cautious optimism for Uddhav. Of the 20 Vidhan Sabha seats his party won in 2024, half came from the Mumbai region under the BMC. While the party’s statewide vote

share stood at a modest 10%, it surged to 24% in Mumbai—an important advantage in civic elections where local identity and organisational strength matter more than state-level narratives.

The MNS, though diminished, still retains relevance in Mumbai. While its statewide vote share in the 2024 elections was under 2%, it secured around 7% in the Mumbai zone, underscoring that Raj Thackeray’s appeal has not entirely faded in the city where his party was born.

In direct electoral contests between the two Sena factions, the margins have been razor-thin. Out of 11 such fights, Shiv Sena (UBT) won six, while Shinde’s faction won five. Adding to Uddhav’s confidence is an Ascendia Strategies survey showing that

45% of Mumbai’s Marathi Manos consider Shiv Sena (UBT) the “real Sena”—a crucial psychological edge in a contest centred on legitimacy as much as votes.

The Obstacles Before the Thackerays

Despite favourable indicators, the alliance faces formidable challenges. Raj Thackeray’s political credibility has steadily eroded across Maharashtra, with critics branding him an opportunist who has frequently shifted positions over the past decade. This perception could alienate voters seeking consistency.

Uddhav Thackeray faces his own image problem. He is often viewed as lacking the aggression and mass charisma that defined Balasaheb. More damaging is the perception that his

earlier alliance with the Congress diluted the Sena’s Hindutva identity—an accusation that resonates deeply with the party’s traditional base.

Meanwhile, the BJP-Shiv Sena (Shinde faction) combine has made significant inroads among Marathi voters. According to Ascendia Strategies, the Marathi Manos vote is now split almost evenly at 44-42%. The Muslim vote, which backed Uddhav during the MVA phase, may not automatically transfer now that he has broken away from Congress. Many Muslim voters remain uncertain—debating whether to support Congress, SP or AIMIM in pockets, or back the Thackerays as the strongest anti-BJP force. Concerns also linger over a potential future “gharwapsi” of the Thackerays to a BJP-led

alliance.

Adding to the challenge is the urban youth vote. Younger voters, dominant in city constituencies, are increasingly sceptical of dynasty politics and appear more receptive to leaders like Devendra Fadnavis, who project a modern, development-focused image.

The Pawar Reconciliation: Blood Ties and Political Calculus

While the Thackerays explore reunion, the rival Pawar factions are cautiously moving toward rapprochement. The NCP factions led by Ajit Pawar and Sharad Pawar have decided to jointly contest the Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad municipal corporations. Ajit Pawar has publicly stated that party workers want unity and that family tensions have

been resolved, suggesting that grassroots pressure has driven the collaboration.

These moves have revived speculation about larger realignments. Rumours persist of the Sharad Pawar faction eventually joining the NDA, with Ajit Pawar managing Maharashtra affairs and Supriya Sule playing a national role. As Sharad Pawar approaches the twilight of his political career, securing Supriya Sule’s future may be a key consideration—particularly given perceptions that she lacks Ajit Pawar’s mass appeal.

Talks of contesting under a single symbol reportedly failed after resistance from the Sharad Pawar faction, indicating that full reconciliation remains distant. Still, cooperation serves immediate interests: reclaiming lost ground in Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad, once NCP bastions that fell to the BJP in 2017. The BJP’s continued dominance in these regions during the recent Vidhan Sabha polls underscores how steep the NCP’s decline has been.

Strategically, the Pawars may also be preparing for a future where the BJP contests the 2029 elections alone. Maintaining channels between the factions allows Ajit Pawar to hedge against political isolation if such a scenario unfolds.

A Defining Moment for Maharashtra Politics

These municipal elections will test not just organisational strength but long-term political strategy. For the Thackerays, the fight is about survival, legitimacy, and legacy. For the Pawars, it is about revival, relevance, and safeguarding future options. The outcomes will shape Maharashtra’s political trajectory well beyond the civic boundaries of its cities.

Jana Nayagan, the Courts, and the Making of a Political Narrative in Tamil Nadu

The Madras High Court Chief Justice’s decision to stay a single judge’s directive to the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) to grant certification to Jana Nayagan until January 21 may appear, on the face of it, to be a procedural pause. Legally, it is a routine intervention. Politically, however, the delay has already taken on a far greater meaning in Tamil Nadu’s volatile political landscape, where perception often travels faster—and settles deeper—than fact.

In a state where cinema and politics are inseparable, the certification delay has rapidly morphed from a technical issue into a charged political episode. The dominant narrative crystallising on the ground is that actor-politician Vijay is being selectively targeted by the Bharatiya Janata Party, which is widely perceived to exercise considerable influence over the CBFC. Coming on the heels of the Karur stampede case, in which Vijay was targeted by the DMK-led state government, this episode is being read as a double squeeze—pressure from both the state and the Centre—culminating in Vijay being denied even the release of what he has declared to be his final film before fully entering politics.

At the centre of the controversy is the unexplained delay in the CB-

FC’s certification of Jana Nayagan. For Vijay’s supporters and a growing section of the politically attentive public, this is no longer just about a film stuck in bureaucratic limbo. It is increasingly being interpreted as an attempt to discipline a rising political force—to test his resolve, to pressure him into warming up to the BJP, and perhaps even to nudge him toward an understanding with the NDA. Whether or not this is the intent of the Centre, the optics are unmistakable. They feed directly into a familiar opposition charge: that the BJP-led government uses institutions to keep potential challengers in check. In politics, intent matters less than impact—and the impact here is unmistakable.

Among Vijay’s fan base, the emotional fallout has been swift and intense. Jana Nayagan was expected to be a celebratory moment, not merely another mass entertainer but a film imbued with symbolic weight because of Vijay’s political transition. Anticipation, built over months, has now curdled into frustration and anger. For many fans, the delay feels like a denial not just of entertainment, but of recognition—of their star’s stature and their own emotional investment. In Tamil cinema culture, where the relationship between star and



fan is deeply personal and political, such setbacks are rarely viewed as neutral accidents.

The timing of the delay has only sharpened this sense of grievance. A Pongal release is not just another date on the calendar; it is the most prestigious and culturally resonant window in Tamil cinema. Pongal films are family rituals, markers of status, and often statements of dominance. For a star of Vijay’s stature, a Pongal release is a reaffirmation of mass appeal and relevance. Missing that window is seen as a major loss—commercially, symbolically, and emo-

tionally. Fans who had planned celebrations for what Vijay has described as his “last film” before dedicating himself to politics now feel robbed of a moment they believed was rightfully theirs.

This emotional undercurrent is politically significant. Vijay’s fan base is no longer purely cinematic; it is increasingly political, organised, and mobilisable. Any sense of unfairness—real or perceived—has a way of translating into loyalty, anger, and action. Tamil Nadu’s political history offers ample precedent. MGR’s films were targeted during the 1970s, particu-

larly by the DMK, and those attempts only strengthened his political appeal. The idea of the artist or leader being wronged by the establishment has been repeatedly proven to be a powerful mobilising narrative in the state.

Complicating the situation further are the CBI summons issued to Vijay in the Karur stampede case, scheduled for January 12. The question hanging in the air is deceptively simple: will Vijay go to Delhi? His response—or silence—will be parsed relentlessly. So far, Vijay’s party, the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), has cho-

sen a strategy of studied silence, refusing to comment either on the certification delay or the summons. This appears to be a deliberate choice. By saying nothing, the party allows public suspicion and sympathy to grow organically, without risking a statement that could be politically boxed or legally scrutinised.

However, silence is a double-edged sword. It places enormous weight on Vijay’s next move. If he is perceived as softening his stance or warming up to the BJP under pressure, the backlash from his supporters could be swift and unforgiving. Such a move

would risk projecting him as someone who yielded when tested—an image that would be fatal for a leader trying to establish independence and strength. On the other hand, if Vijay chooses to confront the pressure head-on and emerges unscathed, it could cement a powerful narrative: Vijay as the outsider who stood up to both the Centre and the state and refused to bend.

That possibility unsettles more than one political party. A politically stronger Vijay disrupts the calculations of both the DMK and the AIADMK, each of which has been preparing for a large bipolar contest. For the DMK, the optics are already uncomfortable. The smooth release of Parasakthi, widely seen as backed by the ruling party, while Jana Nayagan remains stuck in certification limbo invites comparisons that the DMK would prefer to avoid. Fair or not, it fuels whispers of a tacit understanding between the DMK and the BJP—an allegation the DMK has consistently denied, but one that becomes harder to dismiss amid such contrasts.

Interestingly, unease is also visible within the BJP’s Tamil Nadu unit. Some leaders are reportedly worried about the political fallout and the perception that the party is overreaching. In a state

where anti-Centre sentiment can snowball rapidly, such optics can be costly. Vijay’s rise threatens to destabilise the NDA’s already fragile arithmetic. A strong Vijay could severely weaken the AIADMK, the BJP’s most crucial ally in the state. If Vijay were to capture the opposition space, it could complicate the BJP’s strategy for 2026 and beyond.

Ultimately, Jana Nayagan will receive certification and will be released. The courts will eventually clear the way. But by then, the political damage—or momentum—may already be done. When the film finally hits theatres, the courtroom drama surrounding it is likely to amplify its box-office opening and deepen the emotional bond between Vijay and his supporters. In Tamil Nadu, few things strengthen a star-politician more than the perception that he was denied his moment—and endured.

How Vijay navigates the coming weeks will be critical, not just for his own political future but for the balance of power in the state. What began as a film certification issue has evolved into a test of narrative, authority, and perception. And in Tamil Nadu, where cinema and politics are inseparable, few narratives are as powerful as that of a star denied his Pongal moment—and emerging stronger because of it.

US Ambassador Sergio Gor Returns to India, Pledges Stronger Strategic and Economic Ties

US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor returned to New Delhi on Friday, expressing optimism about the future of the bilateral relationship between the United States and India. In a post on X, Gor wrote, “Great to be back in India! Incredible opportunities ahead for our two nations!” highlighting the potential for expanded cooperation across strategic, economic, and security domains.

Gor was officially sworn in as the US Ambassador to India at the White House in November 2025. Prior to his formal appointment, he had visited India in October, where he met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval. His return marks the start of his full-time tenure in India, tasked with strengthening one of Washington’s most important international relationships.

At the swearing-in ceremony, US President Donald Trump underscored the significance of Gor’s role, stating that the ambassador would play a key part in enhancing the strategic, economic, and security partnership between the two nations. “India is home to one of the world’s oldest civilizations, with over 1.5 billion people. We have a fantastic relationship with Prime Minister Modi, and I am entrusting Sergio to strengthen this partnership even further,” Trump said. The President noted that Gor had already established a rapport with Modi, which would help foster deeper



collaboration.

Following his oath-taking, Gor expressed gratitude to the US President and reaffirmed his commitment to advancing US-India relations. “I look forward to enhancing the relationship between our two nations. I look forward to doing a great job for you,” he said.

Sergio Gor’s nomination as Ambassador and Special Envoy for South and Central Asian Affairs was announced by President Trump in August 2025. During his testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in September, Gor emphasized India’s strategic importance to US foreign policy. He described the Indo-US partnership as “one of the most important relationships our nation has in the world,” noting its significance in shaping regional security and economic cooperation.

Analysts have highlighted that Gor’s tenure comes at a crucial time, as both countries seek to deepen trade ties, strengthen defense collabora-

NCP Factions Unite for Pune Civic Polls, Promise Traffic Relief, Healthcare Boost, and Free Public Transport

The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) factions led by Sharad Pawar and Ajit Pawar have come together to release a joint manifesto for the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) elections, pledging comprehensive development initiatives for the city. The alliance, formed despite ongoing political differences at the state and national levels, aims to address key urban challenges such as traffic congestion, healthcare, water supply, and affordable public transport.

The manifesto outlines plans to fix 33 missing road links across Pune to ease traffic, widen major roads, and improve overall traffic flow. Strengthening public transport is also a priority, with proposals for free bus and metro travel, inspired by models in European cities. Highlighting Pune’s heavy traffic, with nearly 30 lakh vehicles, the leaders noted that traffic jams result in an annual loss of Rs 750 crore in fuel and citizens’ time, while also worsening pollution.

Healthcare improvements are a central focus. The NCP al-



liance promises to establish hospitals within a two-kilometre radius for accessible basic care, along with dedicated facilities such as a cancer hospital and a burns ward to strengthen the city’s medical infrastructure.

The manifesto also emphasizes environmental sustainability. Housing societies adopting eco-friendly practices will receive a 20% property tax rebate and a ‘Green Society’ certification. Solar power initiatives are planned to help reduce electricity costs and promote clean energy usage.

Acknowledging Pune’s chronic water issues, including reliance on tanker water in central areas, the alliance pledged to improve water supply, sewage treatment, and last-mile connectivity to the metro. Municipal approvals, including the Gunthewari regularization process, will be digitized to reduce corruption and delays.

The manifesto also includes measures to promote women’s entrepreneurship, offering interest-free loans of up to Rs 5

lakh to skill-trained women, fostering self-employment and small business development.

Speaking at the launch, Ajit Pawar said the alliance would “deliver results, not just promises” if given control of the PMC, noting that a full term of three and a half years would allow sufficient time to implement initiatives. Supriya Sule highlighted the NCP’s track record of delivering schools and civic infrastructure, even while in opposition, and pledged to resolve Pune’s traffic, water, and public transport challenges.

The event marked the first joint public appearance of Ajit Pawar and Supriya Sule since the NCP split in 2023. The State Election Commission of Maharashtra has announced elections for 29 municipal corporations, including BMC, PMC, and PCMC, with polling scheduled for January 15 and counting on January 16.

This joint manifesto signals a united NCP push to address Pune’s urban issues comprehensively, combining infrastructure, sustainability, and social welfare initiatives.

Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan Assures Protection for Linguistic Minorities Amid Controversy Over Malayalam Language Bill

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Saturday dismissed concerns raised about the Malayalam Language Bill, 2025, saying they do not reflect the facts or the inclusive intent of the legislation passed by the Kerala Legislative Assembly.

Vijayan was responding to Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who had criticised the Bill as “an attack on the freedom of language guaranteed by the Constitution.” Siddaramaiah, along with the Karnataka Border Areas Development Authority (KBADA), has urged Kerala to reconsider the legislation, citing potential impacts on Kannada-speaking communities in the border district of Kasaragod.

The Bill, passed by the Kerala Assembly last October, designates Malayalam as the official state language and mandates its use in government services, the judiciary, and other administrative functions. It also proposes the establishment of a Malayalam Language Development Au-



thority and makes Malayalam compulsory as the first language in all Kerala syllabus schools. Additionally, the Bill requires products sold or manufactured in the state to carry labels in Malayalam.

Addressing these concerns on social media, Vijayan emphasized that the Bill is designed to safeguard the rights of linguistic minorities, particularly Kannada- and Tamil-speaking communities. He highlighted Clause 7, a non-obstante provision, which ensures that no language is im-

posed and the freedom to use one’s mother tongue is fully protected.

“In notified areas, Tamil and Kannada speakers may continue to use their mother tongues for official correspondence with the Secretariat, heads of departments, and local offices, with responses issued in the same language,” Vijayan said. He added that students whose mother tongue is not Malayalam are free to choose other languages available in schools under the National Education Curriculum,

and students from other states or foreign countries are not required to appear for Malayalam exams at the IX, X, or higher secondary levels.

Vijayan reaffirmed that Kerala’s language policy aligns with the Official Languages Act, 1963, and Articles 346 and 347 of the Constitution, asserting that India’s linguistic diversity must be celebrated rather than restricted to a single language.

“Kerala’s progress has always been rooted in inclusive development anchored in equality and brotherhood,” he stated. “Our government resists any erosion of federal rights while remaining committed to protecting the linguistic identity of every citizen.”

The Kerala Language Bill remains pending with Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, who is yet to provide assent. Meanwhile, debates around the legislation continue to spark discussion on linguistic rights and federal principles along the Kerala-Karnataka border.

Nine-Seater Flight Makes Emergency Landing Near Rourkela, All Passengers Safe



A nine-seater aircraft on the Bhubaneswar-Rourkela route experienced a mishap while attempting to land at Rourkela Airport on Saturday, officials confirmed. On board were four passengers and two crew members, all of whom survived the incident. The passengers sustained minor injuries and were admitted to local hospitals for treatment.

State Commerce and Transport Minister Bibhuti Jena said the captain detected technical issues shortly after takeoff, prompting an emergency landing approximately 10 kilometers from Rourkela. “All passengers are stable. The mishap occurred while the captain tried to land safely after identifying technical issues,” Jena stated. The state government is sending a team to the site to assess the situation further.

Odisha Chief Minister

Mohan Charan Majhi expressed relief that everyone on board was safe and confirmed that he is personally monitoring the response. “I am deeply saddened by the plane crash in Rourkela. By the grace of Lord Jagannath, all passengers are safe. Immediate medical care is being provided to those injured, and I am praying for their swift recovery,” Majhi tweeted.

The Directorate of Aviation reported that the India One Air aircraft, carrying two pilots and four passengers, departed Bhubaneswar at 12:27 hours. Eight nautical miles short of Rourkela, the plane was forced to land near Jalda. Thanks to the crew’s actions, all lives were saved. District authorities quickly responded, transporting three passengers to J.P. Hospital and the two pilots along with one passenger

to Rourkela Government Hospital for medical observation.

The Directorate confirmed that the accident has been reported to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and the Ministry of Civil Aviation. “In accordance with regulations, the airline will submit a detailed report to the DGCA and the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) for further investigation. The Directorate of Civil Aviation is actively supporting both the passengers and the airline. The situation is under close observation, and updates will be provided as they become available,” the statement read.

No fatalities have been reported, and authorities are continuing to monitor the passengers’ conditions while investigating the cause of the incident.

Operation Sindoor Exposed Pakistan’s Weaknesses, Says CDS Gen Anil Chauhan; India’s Joint Theatre Commands Near Completion



Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan on Friday stated that Operation Sindoor compelled Pakistan to undertake hurried constitutional amendments, acknowledging that the neighbouring country faced significant shortcomings during the operation. Speaking at the Pune Public Policy Festival, Gen Chauhan said the changes in Pakistan’s higher defence structure reflect attempts to consolidate power rather than achieve true jointness among the three services.

“The changes which have been brought about in Pakistan, including the constitutional amendment done hurriedly, are actually an acknowledgement of the fact that everything didn’t go well for them in this operation. They found a lot of shortcomings and deficiencies,” Gen Chauhan said. He clarified that the amendments primarily relate to the constitution of federal customs courts but have broader implications for Pakistan’s defence hierarchy.

One key reform in Paki-

stan was the abolition of the post of Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, previously intended to promote coordination among the Army, Navy, and Air Force. It has been replaced with a Chief of Defence Forces (CDF), a position that can only be appointed by the Chief of Army Staff. “This goes against the basic principle of jointness,” Gen Chauhan noted.

Pakistan also established a National Strategy Command and an Army Rocket Forces Command, centralising both conventional and strategic capabilities. “Today, the Army Chief will be responsible for land operations, joint operations with the Navy and Air Force through the CDF, as well as strategic and nuclear matters. The creation of the Rocket Forces Command adds another layer, reflecting a land-centric mindset,” the CDS said.

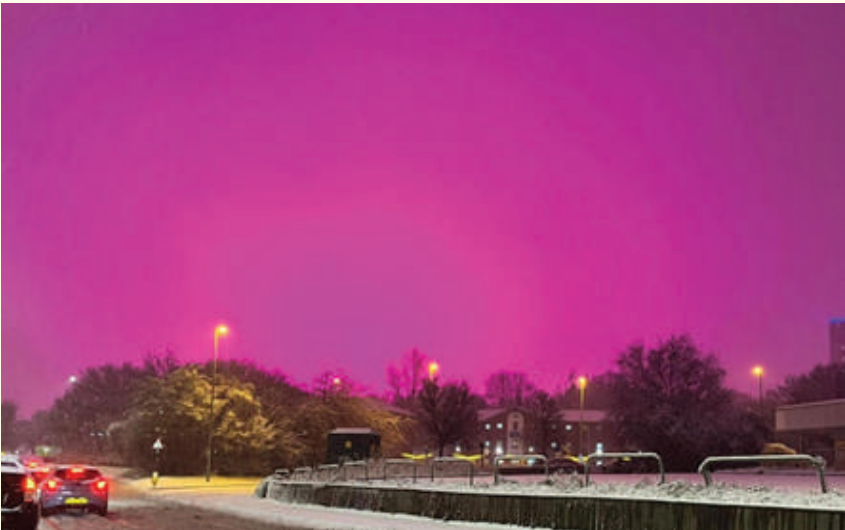
On India’s own defence reforms, Gen Chauhan highlighted that the government has extended the deadline for setting up joint theatre commands to May 30, 2026. However, he added

that the armed forces are pushing to implement the structure well before the deadline. “This is one of my key responsibilities, and the process is now in its final stages,” he said.

Drawing lessons from recent military engagements—including the Uri surgical strikes, Doklam and Galwan standoffs, the Balakot air strike, and Operation Sindoor—Gen Chauhan emphasised the importance of developing standardised, situation-specific command structures. “Indian armed forces have often operated through innovative, flexible command arrangements. What we are now working towards is a standardised system that will be applicable across all contingencies,” he said.

He also clarified that strategic forces, mentioned in his discussion of Pakistan’s reforms, primarily refer to nuclear capabilities. These insights underscore India’s continued focus on joint operational readiness and strategic preparedness in response to evolving regional challenges.

Pink Sky Stuns West Midlands Residents, Stadium Lights and Snow Reveal the Surprising Cause



Residents across the West Midlands were left both surprised and fascinated on Thursday evening when the night sky suddenly turned a striking shade of bright pink. The unusual sight quickly sparked curiosity and speculation, with many people taking to social media to share photographs and ask what could have caused such an extraordinary display. Some believed it was an especially vivid sunset, while others wondered if the phenomenon might be a rare glimpse of the Northern Lights appearing over central England.

As it turned out, the explanation behind the colourful sky was far more down to earth. Birmingham City Football Club later clarified that the pink glow was caused by powerful LED lighting at their St Andrew's stadium. The club even joined in on the online conversation by sharing a photograph of the illuminated sky on its official X account, cheekily captioned, "Pink sky at night, Blues delight."

Images of the pink-tinted sky were reported not only over Birmingham but also in surrounding areas across the region. Residents in towns such as Hednesford in Staffordshire also noticed the unusual colouring, adding to the widespread intrigue. The consistent appearance of the glow across different locations suggested that it was not a localised natural event, but rather something being reflected across the low cloud cover.

Weather experts soon stepped in to explain why the effect appeared so

dramatic. BBC meteorologist Simon King said that the combination of cloud cover and falling snow played a key role in amplifying the pink hue. According to him, clouds and snow are highly reflective surfaces that can bounce light back towards the ground. When strong artificial lights from roads, buildings, or stadiums shine upwards, they can illuminate the clouds above, creating unusual colours in the sky.

Graham Madge from the Met Office offered further scientific insight, explaining that snow scatters shorter wavelengths of light, particularly blue light. This scattering effect allows red and pink tones to stand out more prominently, making the sky appear dramatically coloured when illuminated by artificial lighting.

While the pink sky was not the result of a rare atmospheric phenomenon, it nevertheless captured the imagination of many people. For some, the sight brought a sense of wonder and beauty to an otherwise ordinary winter evening. Others simply enjoyed the moment as a reminder of how everyday elements—such as weather conditions and city lighting—can come together to create something unexpectedly magical.

In the end, the glowing pink sky over the West Midlands proved that even familiar surroundings can surprise, turning a football stadium's LED lights and snowy weather into a stunning visual spectacle that left residents talking long after the colour faded.

Tesla Model Y Crashes and Bursts Into Flames in Chicago After Driver Suffers Medical Emergency



A Tesla vehicle crashed and caught fire in the Chicago suburb of Naperville on Friday evening after the driver reportedly suffered a medical emergency. The dramatic incident occurred at around 5 pm on Route 59 near Cantore Road and prompted a swift response from emergency services.

According to a report by NBC5 Chicago, a 37-year-old man was driving a 2025 Tesla Model Y when he suddenly became ill behind the wheel. As a result, the vehicle first collided with another car before veering off the roadway. The Tesla then struck a tree and quickly burst into flames.

An off-duty Naperville police officer who happened to witness the crash immediately stepped in to help. Acting without hesitation, the officer managed to pull the driver out of the burning vehicle, potentially saving his life. Shortly afterward, police officers, firefighters, and other emergency responders rushed to the scene following reports of a serious crash and an active vehicle fire.

Visuals from the site showed extensive damage. The Tesla appeared heavily wrecked, with debris scattered across the road and shoulder. Helicopters were also seen hovering above the area as emergency crews worked to control the situation and secure the crash site. Photos taken after the fire was extinguished revealed that the vehicle had been almost completely destroyed, reduced to a charred shell.

Firefighters faced additional challenges due to the nature of electric vehicle fires. To extinguish the blaze and prevent reignition, crews used a large volume of water to both put out the flames and cool the lithium-ion batteries. The Naperville Fire Department deployed a specialised firefighting tool known as a "Poseidon Nozzle," which is specifically designed to address electric vehicle battery fires. Notably, the tool was invented by a Naperville firefighter and allows responders to directly cool battery packs more effectively during EV-related fires.

A bystander-recorded video circulating online showed the black Tesla engulfed in flames, with thick black smoke rising into the air as it burned on the roadway. The footage highlighted the intensity of the fire and the urgency of the rescue effort.

This incident comes amid ongoing discussions about electric vehicle fire safety. Separately, another video circulating on social media shows a red Tesla with its roof open suddenly catching fire from the rear while being driven. In that clip, the driver is seen quickly exiting the vehicle and moving to safety as flames spread.

As of now, authorities have not released an official statement regarding the extent of the driver's injuries or the condition of others involved in the crash. Investigations into the incident are ongoing.

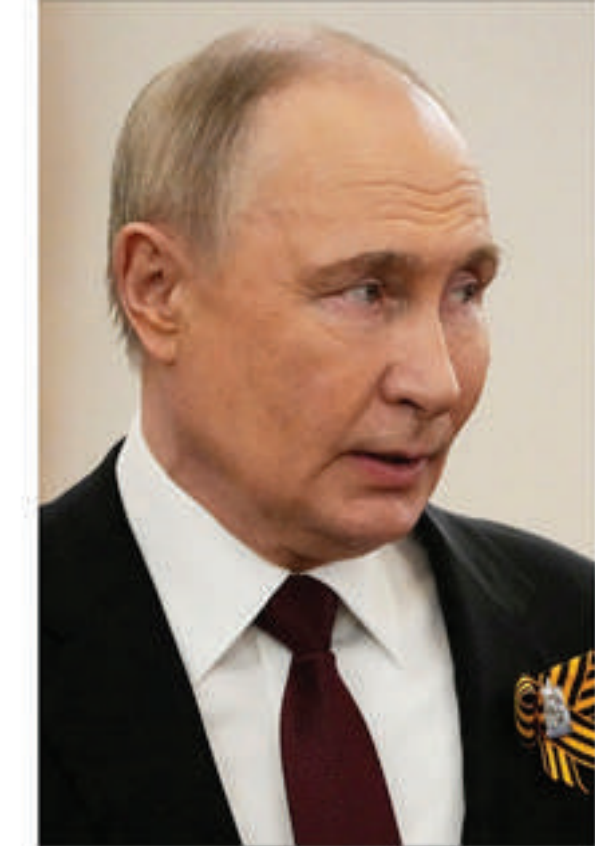
Maduro's Dramatic Arrest Sparks Global Debate as Trump Rules Out Similar Action Against Putin

Washington – A week after a dramatic US military operation in Venezuela, there is growing global focus on how Washington's bold action reshaped geopolitics and stirred fresh debate about international law and its implications for other global conflicts.

In the early hours of January 3, 2026, the United States launched a coordinated military operation in Caracas to capture Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores. The mission—described by US officials as a "surgical strike" involving special operations forces—resulted in Maduro's detention and swift transfer to New York, where he appeared in a federal courtroom to face charges including drug trafficking and narco-terrorism.

The scale and audacity of the operation stunned many international observers. US President Donald Trump announced that Maduro and Flores had been apprehended and flown out of Venezuelan territory after precision strikes on key locations in Caracas. Maduro later pleaded not guilty in a Manhattan court, asserting his innocence and rejecting the legitimacy of his arrest.

The capture drew immediate international reaction. Venezuela's vice-president, Delcy Rodríguez, assumed leadership as acting president and condemned the US operation as a violation of



sovereignty and a blatant breach of international law. Critics pointed out that forcibly removing a sitting head of state without United Nations authorization undermines global norms against the use of force in foreign affairs.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky referenced the episode in comments about Russia's war in Ukraine, suggesting the United States now knows how to deal with dictatorial leaders. President Trump, however, was clear

in his response to such remarks, telling reporters he did not believe a similar action against Vladimir Putin would be "necessary," even as he reiterated US disappointment with Russia's conduct in Ukraine.

Trump also defended his broader foreign policy record to reporters, noting that he had previously negotiated the end of eight conflicts and saying he hoped the Russia-Ukraine war would conclude soon, despite sub-



stantial casualties.

The US operation appears to have significant strategic motivations. Caracas sits atop one of the world's largest reserves of oil, and US officials have signaled interest in stabilising Venezuela's energy sector under American oversight. Meanwhile, debates over the legality and long-term regional impact continue in capitals around the world.

Allies and adversaries alike have weighed in. Some governments called

for respect for international law and caution, while others condemned the strikes outright as aggression that flouts the UN Charter.

As Venezuela enters a new chapter under interim leadership and diplomatic efforts begin to recalibrate relations with Washington, the broader geopolitical repercussions—especially concerning Russia, Ukraine, and international norms—are likely to unfold in the weeks and months ahead.

'Greenland Is Not for Sale': MP Rejects Trump's Annexation Push, Calls for Sovereignty Through Diplomacy

Greenland MP Kuno Fencker has firmly stated that the vast, mineral-rich Arctic island is "not for sale," pushing back against renewed remarks by US President Donald Trump, who has once again expressed interest in acquiring the Danish autonomous territory. Fencker's comments come amid rising geopolitical tension and renewed debate over Greenland's future, sovereignty, and strategic importance.

Speaking to TPN, Fencker emphasised that Greenland aspires to become a sovereign state, though he acknowledged the practical limitations of full independence. With a small population spread across one of the world's largest islands, Greenland would continue to rely on strong alliances even as it seeks greater autonomy. According to Fencker, these partners would naturally include the United States, NATO, Denmark, and

neighbouring European nations.

"Greenland's sovereignty is not for sale," Fencker said, while also reflecting on the moral complexities of the island's current arrangement with Denmark. He noted that Greenland receives an annual subsidy from Copenhagen, which he described as resembling a form of rent or purchase. "In principle, no country should be on sale," he added, stressing that Greenlanders would never accept annexation by any foreign power.

Fencker urged calm and diplomacy in dealing with Washington, particularly as US rhetoric has fluctuated since Trump returned to office following his 2024 election victory. While protests have taken place in Greenland declaring the island "not for sale," Fencker believes open dialogue is the only viable path forward. He said Greenland must engage directly with the US

to understand American security concerns and strategic interests, especially given the island's growing importance in the Arctic.

He highlighted that the US has maintained a defence agreement with Denmark regarding Greenland since 1951, with amendments made in 2004 that limited American operational freedom. Fencker suggested these agreements could be revisited to address evolving security realities, including missile surveillance, Arctic shipping routes, and broader international security concerns—provided such discussions support Greenland's path toward independence.

Trump first proposed buying Greenland in 2019, a suggestion that was swiftly rejected by both Greenland and Denmark. After returning to office, he revived the idea and went further, hinting that the US could take the ter-



ritory "the easy or difficult way," regardless of Denmark's position. Denmark responded by stating it would be forced to defend itself if Greenland were attacked.

Fencker warned that any military confrontation would be catastrophic, potentially leading to conflict between NATO allies. While Denmark would be compelled to defend Greenland, he said such a scenario would be "devastating, unneces-

sary, and very stupid," given the overwhelming military dominance of the United States.

Criticising Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, Fencker accused Denmark of maintaining a colonial relationship with Greenland. He argued that Greenland should belong solely to Greenlanders—not Denmark and not the US—and called for true independence, identity, and citizenship for his people.

Iran Gripped by Nationwide Protests as Crackdown Intensifies and Death Toll Rises



France – Iran has witnessed a fresh wave of nationwide protests, now entering their thirteenth consecutive day, marking the largest challenge to the Islamic Republic in more than three years. Demonstrations continued on Friday despite a sweeping internet blackout imposed by authorities as part of a crackdown that has reportedly left dozens dead.

The protests, which erupted over rising living

costs, have rapidly evolved into broader calls for an end to Iran's clerical system established after the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Demonstrators have taken to the streets in cities across the country, including Tehran, Mashhad, Tabriz, and Qom, chanting slogans against Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and banging pots from balconies. Videos verified by international media showed cars

honking in support as crowds gathered, even as security forces attempted to suppress the unrest.

Reacting to the developments, US President Donald Trump said Iran's leadership appeared to be "in big trouble," noting that protesters were gaining control of areas previously thought unlikely to see such resistance. He reiterated an earlier warning that military action could be considered if peaceful protesters continue to be killed.

The renewed demonstrations follow massive rallies on Thursday described as the largest since the 2022–2023 protests sparked by the death of Mahsa Amini while in police custody. As tensions escalated, internet monitoring group NetBlocks reported a nationwide shutdown lasting more than 24 hours, calling it a violation of basic rights and a move designed

to conceal violence by authorities.

Human rights organisations have raised alarm over the rising death toll. Norway-based Iran Human Rights reported that at least 51 protesters, including nine children, have been killed, with hundreds injured. Amnesty International said the blackout is intended to hide "grave human rights violations," while warning of excessive and lethal force used against largely peaceful demonstrators.

Iran's Supreme Leader responded on Friday with his first public remarks since the protests intensified, branding demonstrators as "vandals" and "saboteurs." In a televised speech, Khamenei accused President Trump of having "blood-stained hands," referencing US-backed military actions against Iran, and vowed that the Islamic Republic would

not retreat.

Iranian officials have accused the US and Israel of inciting violence, claims dismissed by Washington as baseless. Meanwhile, judiciary chief Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei warned that punishment for "rioters" would be severe and uncompromising.

International condemnation has grown. Foreign ministers from Australia, Canada, and the European Union called on Iran to immediately halt the use of lethal force, while leaders of France, the UK, and Germany urged restraint. Nobel Peace Prize laureate Shirin Ebadi warned that the blackout could be a prelude to mass violence.

State media, however, aired images of pro-government counter-protests, underscoring the deep divisions as Iran faces mounting unrest and international scrutiny.

Sebi Proposes Major Overhaul of Trading Rules to Simplify Framework and Ease Compliance

Markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on Friday proposed a sweeping revamp of the trading framework at stock exchanges, aimed at simplifying regulations, eliminating duplication, and easing the compliance burden on market participants. The move is part of Sebi's broader effort to promote ease of doing business across all exchanges, including those dealing in commodity derivatives.

In a consultation paper, Sebi suggested consolidating several overlapping and fragmented trading-related rules into a single, unified framework applicable to both equity and commodity segments. The regulator proposed merging provisions related to trading norms, price bands, circuit breakers, bulk and block deal disclosures, call auction mechanisms, liquidity enhancement schemes, margin trading facility (MTF), unique client code (UCC), PAN requirements, trading hours, and daily price limits.

To reduce regulatory overlap, Sebi recommended that provisions specifically relevant to clearing corporations be separated and housed in a dedicated master circular. This would clearly distinguish the roles and responsibilities of stock exchanges and clearing corporations.

In a bid to enhance transparency and reduce manual compliance, the regulator proposed merging bulk and block deal disclosures and shifting reporting to the client PAN level instead of the UCC level. Sebi also suggested presenting market-wide circuit breaker rules, dynamic price band flexing, IPO price bands, and call auction procedures in a simplified tab-



ular format, while removing outdated or repetitive operational examples.

The regulator further proposed rationalising norms for the margin trading facility, including increasing the minimum net worth requirement for brokers from the current Rs 3 crore to Rs 5 crore or a higher threshold as specified by exchanges. Timelines for submitting net worth and auditor certificates would be aligned with standard financial reporting cycles, and redundant due diligence provisions would be removed.

Obsolete market-making provisions in the cash segment are proposed to be scrapped and merged into a principle-based Liquidity Enhancement Scheme (LES) framework, which would uniformly cover

equities, derivatives, and commodities. Under the revised framework, exchanges would have greater flexibility in designing liquidity schemes, offering incentives, and conducting half-yearly board reviews, with higher incentive caps for new exchanges or new market segments.

Sebi has also proposed eliminating several outdated provisions, including negotiated deal exemptions, guidelines for dedicated debt segments, forward contracts in commodities, MOU-based trading, and unnecessary reporting requirements. Trading hours across all market segments—equity, derivatives, commodities, currency, RFQ, EGR, and the Social Stock Exchange—would be consolidated into a single section.

Client Code Modification

rules would be liberalised to allow genuine corrections, permit PAN-linked multiple UCCs for specified client categories, ease obligation transfers among FPI family accounts, increase waiver frequency to once a month, and discontinue quarterly waiver reporting to Sebi. Penalties would be harmonised between exchanges and clearing corporations.

Short-selling and securities lending and borrowing provisions would be clarified and integrated into the main framework, with mandatory daily disclosures. Commodity-specific disclosures, UPI-based secondary market trading with blocked funds, and other updates would also be incorporated. Sebi has invited public comments on the proposals until January 30.

Wall Street Hits Record Highs as Broad Risk Rally Signals Renewed Confidence in US Economic Momentum

US equity markets kicked off 2026 on a powerful note, with stocks closing at record highs amid growing optimism about the strength and direction of the American economy. The rally, which unfolded during the first full trading week of the year, has been driven by improving economic data, rising productivity, and easing inflation concerns—

together creating a favorable environment for risk-taking across asset classes. Wall Street's appetite for risk has broadened well beyond last year's narrow leadership by technology megacaps. A synchronized rally is now visible across equities, credit, commodities, and even speculative corners of the market. Small-cap stocks, high-yield bonds, meme stocks, and industrial-linked assets have all surged, suggesting investors are positioning for an economic upswing rather than hiding in defensive plays.

There was no single catalyst behind the rally. Instead, a steady stream of better-than-expected data has reinforced confidence that growth is stabilizing and potentially improving. Strategists at firms such as Nomura Securities International point to resilient employment conditions, rising shipping rates, and firm demand in the auto sector as signs that the economy is regaining momentum. This has encouraged investors to rotate out of safe-haven trades and high-flying technology giants into cyclical sectors that typically outperform in the early stages of economic expansion.

Markets advanced even in the absence of clarity on major policy uncertainties, including the future of Trump-era tariffs and the Federal Reserve's next interest-rate move. Industrial stocks posted strong gains, metal prices climbed, and demand for semiconductors remained robust—particularly chips used in automobiles, appliances, and industrial machinery—underscoring the breadth of economic activity.

Policy developments in Washington also added fuel to the rally. President Donald Trump announced new measures aimed at supporting the housing market, injecting fresh momentum into credit-sensitive and real estate-related sectors that were already performing well. According to Julie Biel, portfolio manager at Kayne Anderson Rudnick, the



scale of fiscal and monetary support means investors cannot afford to remain overly defensive. "There's too much sugar coming into the economy," she said.

Still, not everyone is convinced the enthusiasm is perfectly timed. The S&P 500 is now nearly double its level from three years ago, and some strategists see signs of speculative excess. Michael O'Rourke, chief market strategist at JonesTrading, argued that markets appear overly reactive to marginal developments. He cited instances where individual stocks surged 10% or more on relatively minor news, such as executive meetings with political leaders or reiterations of existing policy themes. To him, the speed and intensity of these moves suggest a market driven as much by sentiment as by fundamentals.

The hunger for risk has been unmistakable. The S&P 500 gained 1.6% for the week, while the Russell 2000, a benchmark for small-cap stocks, jumped 4.6%. The Vanguard S&P 500 ETF attracted nearly \$10 billion in inflows in just a few days, an unusually rapid pace for a passive investment vehicle. A meme-stock-focused ETF soared almost 15%, while a basket of heavily shorted stocks advanced 7%, reflecting renewed enthusiasm for speculative trades.

Credit markets have echoed this optimism. Spreads on junk bonds tightened by around 10 basis points, lowering borrowing costs and encouraging new cor-

porate debt issuance. Even meprecins—often seen as a barometer of speculative fervor—have rebounded after their sharp declines last year.

Some investors argue the broadening rally is justified. Sameer Samana, head of global equities and real assets at Wells Fargo Investment Institute, said improving data across sectors and regions supports the shift toward riskier assets, though he cautioned against venturing too far down the market-cap spectrum.

Rather than relying solely on a handful of technology behemoths, investors are increasingly betting on real economic strength. Industrial production is showing signs of recovery, while December car sales exceeded expectations despite shrinking dealership inventories and fewer discounts—signals of resilient consumer demand. The US services sector expanded at its fastest pace in more than a year in December, defying softer readings elsewhere in the global economy.

Productivity has also emerged as a key positive. Labor productivity rose at its fastest rate in two years, helping to offset wage pressures and contain employment costs. In the semiconductor sector, long viewed as a proxy for industrial demand, Microchip Technology raised its outlook after reporting stronger-than-expected sales tied to the physical economy.

According to Nathan Thooft,

chief investment officer at Manulife Investment Management, accommodative monetary policy and robust fiscal support continue to provide a favorable backdrop. He expects economic activity to strengthen further in the second quarter of 2026 and beyond, driven by the lagged effects of monetary stimulus, fiscal measures, and tax refunds boosting lower-income households.

Friday's employment report added another layer of nuance. While it triggered fresh buying in equities, the data itself was mixed. Nonfarm payrolls increased by just 50,000, falling short of expectations, and previous months were revised lower. The unemployment rate edged down to 4.4% following the end of a prolonged government shutdown. For some investors, the report suggests stability rather than acceleration.

Priya Misra, a portfolio manager at JPMorgan Asset Management, said she would stop short of calling the current environment a growth re-acceleration. However, she noted that GDP growth of 2-3% combined with a stable labor market would still be supportive for equities.

For now, markets appear content to focus on improving fundamentals, abundant liquidity, and a policy environment that continues to favor risk. Whether the rally proves durable or overheated remains an open question—but the year has begun with unmistakable confidence.

US Tariff Uncertainty Clouds India-US Trade Deal Hopes, Fund Managers Urge Long-Term Focus



The US Supreme Court on Friday did not deliver a ruling on the legality of former President Donald Trump's sweeping tariff regime, extending uncertainty over whether existing tariffs will remain in place or be struck down following legal challenges. Adding to the unease, proposed legislation currently under discussion in the United States includes provisions for punitive tariffs of up to 500 per cent, a move that could significantly hurt Indian exports if implemented.

Against this backdrop, expectations around the timing of an India-US trade agreement have weakened. Fund managers say the likelihood of a near-term deal has diminished, and even if an agreement is delayed or announced unexpectedly, it may not have a meaningful impact on Indian equity markets.

Speaking at the CFA Society's India Investment Conference on Friday, WhiteOak Capital founder Prashant Khemka said he had been optimistic about a trade deal until a few months ago, based on public statements and developments at the time. However, he noted that the probability of a deal being concluded soon now appears to be falling. "At this point, from whatever little I know, I'd be happy if it happens within this calendar year," he remarked.

Khemka also pointed to the legal uncertainty surrounding US tariffs, observing that the Supreme Court appears cautious about executive overreach. While some tariffs could eventually be challenged or moderated, he cautioned investors against assuming that any rollback would automatically trigger a positive market reaction, given broader

macroeconomic and liquidity considerations. He acknowledged that certain sectors, particularly textiles, remain under significant pressure and would benefit from a resolution.

Other fund managers noted that markets have so far shown limited sensitivity to tariff-related developments. Addressing investment opportunities amid ongoing trade tensions, Carnelian Capital's Vikas Khemani stressed the importance of focusing on individual companies rather than entire sectors. "In every sector that we don't like, there are companies that we like, and vice versa," he said, adding that the macro impact of trade tensions remains limited. He pointed out that US exports account for less than 2 per cent of GDP, a figure India adds in growth within a single quarter.

Beyond tariffs, fund managers highlighted a deeper shift in the global economic order. HDFC AMC's Chirag Setalvad said the issue extends beyond trade barriers, noting that countries are increasingly prioritising self-interest over global integration. "We are no longer in a phase of globalisation," he said, adding that even if tariffs are resolved, new concerns are likely to emerge.

Khemka concluded that sharp market corrections typically occur only when there is widespread economic distress. Rather than reacting to headline-driven trade developments, fund managers advised investors to stay focused on long-term fundamentals, invest systematically, and take advantage of opportunities that arise during periods of crisis.

Walmart to Join Nasdaq 100, Replacing AstraZeneca After Historic Listing Switch



Walmart Inc. is set to join the Nasdaq 100 Index, replacing pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca Plc, according to an announcement by Nasdaq Global Indices on Friday. The change will take effect before the US market opens on January 20, with markets closed on January 19 for a public holiday.

Walmart's inclusion follows its landmark decision last year to shift its stock listing from the New York Stock Exchange to the Nasdaq, marking the largest exchange transfer in US market history. The move paved the way for the retail behemoth's entry into the Nasdaq 100, which tracks the largest non-financial companies listed on the exchange.

Analysts at Jefferies Financial Group Inc. estimated in December that Walmart's addition to the benchmark could trigger close to \$19 billion in inflows, as index-tracking funds and exchange-traded products rebalance their portfolios to reflect the new composition. Although Walmart had been widely expected to enter the index during Nasdaq's annual December reconstitution, the timing of its listing switch meant it missed the cutoff used for compiling market data, delaying its inclusion.

Based in Bentonville, Arkansas, Walmart has seen its market capitalisation surge to nearly \$1 trillion, driven by consistent sales growth and rising market share as consumers increasingly turn to lower-priced essentials. The company has also made significant progress in its digital transformation. Its US e-commerce business is expected to turn profitable this year, supported by strong growth in advertising, third-party marketplace services and membership programs.

Beyond retail expansion, Walmart has been ramping up its use of artificial intelligence across internal operations, including workforce scheduling and supply-chain optimisation. The company has also begun rolling out AI-powered tools for shoppers, developed in partnership with OpenAI, as it looks to enhance customer experience and efficiency.

Walmart's stock performance has been equally striking. The shares have delivered a total return of about 146% over the past three years, far outpacing AstraZeneca's 42% gain over the same period.

For AstraZeneca, the removal from the Nasdaq 100 reflects a longer-term retreat from its pandemic-era highs. The drugmaker was added to the index when its Covid-19 vaccine drove a surge in revenue and investor interest. Since then, shares have lagged as vaccine-related sales declined and market attention shifted toward obesity and weight-loss treatments being developed by rival pharmaceutical companies.

The Nasdaq 100 underpins hundreds of billions of dollars in investment products worldwide. As of December 2025, more than \$600 billion in assets tracked the index through exchange-traded funds, according to Nasdaq, including the \$408 billion Invesco QQQ Trust Series 1.

The index itself posted a strong performance in 2025, rising about 21% on a total-return basis. That outpaced gains of roughly 18% for the S&P 500 and 16% for the Dow Jones Industrial Average, underscoring the continued strength of large-cap growth and technology-oriented companies listed on the Nasdaq.

Mumbai Local Train Ride Turns Emotional as Woman Reunites With School Teacher After 10 Years



What began as an ordinary commute on a Mumbai local train turned into a deeply emotional and heartwarming moment when a woman unexpectedly reunited with her former school teacher after a decade. The chance encounter, captured on video and later shared on Instagram, has since gone viral, winning over viewers with its simplicity, nostalgia, and quiet display of pride and affection.

The video was shared by Krupaya Rahate, who documented the special moment as she sat beside her school teacher in a crowded local train compartment. Despite the years that had passed, their conversation flowed effortlessly, reflecting the bond they once shared in the classroom. The casual exchange made it seem as though their school days were not far behind, highlighting the timeless connection between a teacher and a student.

In the clip, Rahate can be seen updating her teacher about her professional journey. She explains that she is currently working for an American trader, but that the role is coming to an end as it is her last month with the company. She also shares her plans to begin something of her own, signaling a new chapter in her career. Throughout the conversation, her teacher listens with genuine interest, her expressions reflecting pride and happiness at seeing her former student grow and succeed.

One of the most touching moments in the video occurs when the teacher, visibly moved, leans over and gives Rahate a warm hug while they remain seated in the train. The simple gesture speaks volumes, conveying encouragement, approval, and affection without the need for words. It is a moment that resonated strongly with viewers who understand the emotional significance of making one's teachers proud.

Rahate accompanied the video with a heartfelt caption that further amplified its impact. She wrote about meeting her once-strict school teacher after ten years and noted how her facial expressions revealed happiness and pride. Rahate also reflected on how small milestones and moments of success can carry deep emotional meaning, especially when shared with those who played a role in shaping one's journey.

As the video spread across social media, it drew warm reactions from users who found the reunion both touching and relatable. Some commented that the teacher had taught them as well, while others expressed pride and admiration for the moment. Many viewers were reminded of their own teachers and the lasting influence they have long after school ends.

In a fast-paced city and an even faster digital world, this quiet train-side reunion stood out as a reminder of gratitude, growth, and the enduring bonds formed in classrooms.

Bengaluru IT Park Mistaken for 'New York' in Viral Video Sparks Debate on Urban Infrastructure



A Bengaluru-based content creator recently grabbed widespread attention on Instagram after sharing a humorous yet thoughtful video comparing a local IT park to New York City. The creator, Sagar Sonawane, used satire to highlight the quality of urban infrastructure in parts of Bengaluru, sparking conversation about walkable cities and workplace environments across India.

In the viral clip, Sonawane appears dressed in business formal attire and wearing his official Cognizant ID badge, creating the impression that he is heading to work at an international tech hub. Speaking in Marathi, he jokingly tells viewers that he is working from New York's IT park. As the camera pans around, he showcases a sleek foot overbridge equipped with escalators, pointing out how pedestrians can cross busy roads without having to battle traffic.

He further draws attention to the well-maintained surroundings, emphasising the greenery, clean pathways, and organised layout of the area. According to Sonawane, these features make daily commuting smoother and safer for employees. "Guys, I am in New York's IT park. To cross the roads, they have escalators. Look at the roads and the greenery," he says in the video, before delivering the punchline: "This is not New York. This is Bengaluru."

While the tone of the video is lighthearted, it also carries a subtle message. Sonawane goes on to question when similar pedestrian-friendly infrastructure will become common in Pune, another major IT and commercial hub in India. His remark resonated with many viewers who often compare the quality of urban planning across Indian cities.

The video quickly gained traction online, crossing 1.47 lakh views and attracting hundreds of comments. Social media users expressed admiration for Bengaluru's infrastructure and shared their own experiences. One user pointed out that the location featured in the video is Manvata Tech Park, noting that it was built nearly 18 years ago. Another commented that greenery combined with walkable roads significantly improves everyday work life.

The discussion also took a more serious turn when some users argued that such facilities exist only within gated IT parks. Responding to this, Sonawane agreed but stressed that basic infrastructure should not be a privilege limited to private campuses. He wrote that having a "gate" should not be a requirement for decent footpaths, safe crossings, and green surroundings.

He further added that every taxpayer and employee deserves a safe, accessible, and walkable work environment, whether they work in a government industrial area or a privately developed tech park. Through humour and relatable observation, Sonawane's video not only entertained viewers but also reignited an important conversation about inclusive urban planning and the need for better pedestrian infrastructure across Indian cities.

Viral Video Shows Swift Forest Team Action Safely Guiding Elephant Herd Away from Village

Elephants are among the most intelligent and socially complex animals on the planet, living in close-knit herds led by experienced matriarchs who guide them using generations of inherited knowledge. These leaders remember ancient migration routes that ensure access to food, water, and safety. However, with rapid urbanisation and the steady expansion of human settlements, many of these traditional elephant corridors now pass through villages, farms, and plantations. This overlap has led to a rise in human-elephant conflict, often resulting in damage, fear, and sometimes tragic outcomes. Amid these challenges, a recently viral video has offered a hopeful example of how such encounters can be handled calmly and effectively.

The video, shared by Indian Forest Services (IFS) officer Parveen Kaswan on social media, captures an elephant herd assembling in a tea garden during the evening hours. The animals appeared to be preparing to move forward, potentially towards a nearby village. Thanks to constant camera surveillance in the area, the control room detected the herd's movement at around 9:20 pm and immediately alerted forest officials stationed nearby.

In his caption, Kaswan explained the swift chain of events: the control room spotted the elephants gathering, sent an alert to the nearest response team, and within minutes, forest officials reached the location to intervene. The footage shows six forest department personnel arriving in a mini truck and carefully guiding the elephants away from the tea garden and back into the forest, ensuring safety for both the animals and local residents.

Kaswan noted that such situations are not unusual. Vigil teams monitor vulnerable areas every night to track elephant movements and prevent potential accidents or confrontations. While many interventions go unnoticed, some, like this one, are captured on camera and shared widely, offering insight into the behind-the-scenes efforts of forest officials.

As the video circulated online, it drew widespread praise from social media users who applauded the team's quick and effective response. Many expressed gratitude for the officials' dedication, highlighting how rare it is to see wildlife conflicts resolved without harm. Comments poured in commending the calm handling of the situation, with users noting their relief that no villagers, elephants, or team members were injured.

Some viewers also suggested that integrating advanced technologies, such as AI-based recognition systems and multi-channel alert mechanisms, could further improve response times and reduce risks. Overall, the viral video has sparked positive conversation, showcasing how vigilance, coordination, and compassion can play a crucial role in managing human-wildlife coexistence in an increasingly shared landscape.



Life Comes Full Circle: Bombay Shaving Company Founder's Emotional Post on Father Visiting His Office Wins Hearts Online

Shantanu Deshpande, founder and CEO of Bombay Shaving Company, recently shared a deeply emotional and relatable moment on social media that struck a chord with audiences across platforms. In a touching Instagram post, Deshpande reflected on how life had come full circle for him, as his father visited the company's new office and experienced firsthand the world his son has built.

The video shared by Deshpande shows his father quietly walking through the office premises, observing employees at work across different departments. His expressions reflect a mix of curiosity, pride, and gentle wonder as he takes in the bustling workspace. Without saying much, his calm presence and attentive gaze captured a powerful, unspoken emotion that resonated with viewers.

Accompanying the video was a heartfelt caption in which Deshpande revisited his own childhood memories. He recalled how visiting his father's office as a young boy used to be a special and exciting event. At the time, he was fascinated by the large computers, important meetings, and the intelligent people who filled the workplace. Though he didn't fully understand what his father or his colleagues did, Deshpande remembered being deeply impressed by the seriousness and purpose that surrounded their work.

He wrote about how, back then, work symbolised responsibility, discipline, and dedication—values he subconsciously absorbed while watching his father. Those early experiences, he suggested, played a significant role in shaping his own professional journey, even if he didn't realise it at the time.

Reflecting on the present, Deshpande noted how roles and responsibilities have now reversed. Today, it is his father who visits his office with the same innocent curiosity he once had as a child. He shared that his father eagerly asked questions about modern business concepts such as direct-to-consumer (D2C) models, performance marketing, design thinking, consumer insights, quick commerce economics, and artificial intelligence. The founder added that his father appeared genuinely happy and proud while exploring the new office space.

The post quickly gained traction on social media, with users praising its honesty and emotional depth. Many commented on how the video stirred strong feelings, with one user writing, "Videos like this make me so emotional always." Another called it "so inspiring," while others described the moment as "wholesome" and deeply meaningful.

In an age dominated by fast-paced content, Deshpande's post stood out for its simplicity and sincerity, reminding people of the quiet pride parents feel and the invisible influence they have on their children's journeys.



Delhi Auto Driver's Simple Act of Kindness Leaves Internet Emotional, Restores Faith in Humanity

Kindness and empathy often reveal themselves in the smallest, most unexpected moments, reminding us of the humanity that binds people together. Such qualities help build trust, compassion, and a sense of belonging—especially in large, fast-paced cities where daily life can feel rushed and impersonal. Recently, one such moment of quiet generosity captured the attention of social media users after a Delhi man shared a heartwarming experience involving an autorickshaw driver.

The story was posted on Reddit under the title "Kind of crazy, wholesome story" and quickly went viral for its emotional simplicity. The man recalled how he had been trying to book a cab late in the evening when his phone battery was critically low. Unable to secure a ride, he eventually found an autorickshaw, and the driver agreed to take him to his destination using the meter.

Halfway through the journey, the man realised he was in trouble. He had no cash in his wallet—not even a few rupees. Relieved at first, he assumed he could make a digital payment using PhonePe. However, fate had other plans. As soon as they reached his drop location, he pulled out his phone to scan the driver's QR code, only for the device to shut down completely.

"My heart literally sank," the man wrote, describing the panic he felt while standing outside his colony gate in the cold, with no working phone and no way to pay the fare. Nervously, he explained the situation to the driver and offered to go home to get the cash, expecting irritation or suspicion in return.

Instead, the autorickshaw driver responded with surprising warmth. Smiling calmly, he reassured the man, saying, "Arre koi nahi bhai, aap ghar jao, thand ho rahi hai" (It's okay, brother. You go home, it's cold). Despite the passenger insisting on paying, the driver simply started his vehicle and told him not to worry about the Rs 150 fare.

The driver added that if they ever met again, the man could pay him then—or better yet, pass on the kindness by helping someone else. The gesture left the passenger feeling both guilty and deeply touched. Reflecting on the moment, he wrote that in a city where people often argue over small amounts of change, this man chose compassion over money.

As the post gained traction, users across social media praised the autorickshaw driver's generosity. Many called the incident heartwarming and hopeful, with one user writing, "Some people don't have much, yet give the most." Others said the story made them smile and restored their faith in everyday kindness, proving that empathy still thrives in unexpected corners of city life.



India Take on New Zealand in Vadodara for 1st ODI, Kohli, Rohit, and Gill Back in Action

India will take on New Zealand in the first match of a three-game ODI series in Vadodara, with several senior players returning to action. Veterans Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli are back in the squad and could feature in India colors for the last time until July, as this series serves as the team's final ODI assignment before the T20 World Cup and the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL). The series also marks the return of Shubman Gill as India's ODI captain, following his omission from the T20 World Cup squad.

On the eve of the match, Kohli and Rohit spent nearly 90 minutes in net practice against Indian pacers, spinners, and throwdown specialists, fine-tuning their batting skills. Kohli, coming off two strong performances in the Vijay Hazare Trophy where he scored 77 and 131 runs, faced variable bounce from throwdowns and spinners, testing his timing and technique. Notably, other key players like Shreyas Iyer, Rishabh Pant, and pacer Mohammed Siraj did not participate in the session, having recently played for their respective state sides in the Vijay Hazare Trophy on



Thursday, IND vs NZ 1st ODI – Predicted Playing XI

India: Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill (c), Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer (vc), KL Rahul, Rishabh Pant (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Sundar, Harshit Rana, Mohammed Siraj, Arshdeep Singh

Key player to watch: Yashasvi Jaiswal may miss out to accommodate Shubman Gill, with India likely retaining both KL Rahul and Rishabh Pant to strengthen the middle or-

der. This could be unfortunate for Jaiswal, who scored his maiden ODI century in his previous match.

IND vs NZ – ODI Head-to-Head

- Matches played: 120
- India wins: 62
- New Zealand wins: 50
- No result: 7
- Tied: 1

Squads

India: Shubman Gill (c), Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul (wk), Shreyas

Iyer (vc), Washington Sundar, Ravindra Jadeja, Mohammed Siraj, Harshit Rana, Prasidh Krishna, Kuldeep Yadav, Rishabh Pant (wk), Nitish Kumar Reddy, Arshdeep Singh, Yashasvi Jaiswal.

New Zealand: Michael Bracewell (c), Adi Ashok, Kristian Clarke, Josh Clarkson, Devon Conway (wk), Zak Foulkes, Mitch Hay (wk), Kyle Jamieson, Nick Kelly, Jayden Lennox, Daryl Mitchell, Henry Nicholls, Glenn Phillips, Michael Rae, Will Young.

India vs New Zealand 1st ODI – Live Streaming and Telecast

The opening ODI between India and New Zealand will be streamed live on the JioHotstar app and website and televised on Star Sports network starting at 1:30 PM IST on Sunday.

This first clash in Vadodara promises to be exciting, with India looking to assert dominance at home before the T20 World Cup while New Zealand aims to make an early statement on foreign soil.

Boxers, Coaches Left Stranded in Cold as BFI Fails to Arrange Accommodation at Elite Nationals

Boxers, coaches and support staff from several states were left stranded in the cold on Friday night after being abruptly asked to vacate their accommodation during the ongoing Elite National Boxing Championships in Greater Noida. The incident unfolded after teams returned from the penultimate day of competition, triggering widespread anger and embarrassment for the Boxing Federation of India (BFI).

Multiple contingents reported that their luggage had been moved outside their rooms at hostels and lodges where they were staying, with authorities informing them that the bookings were valid only until Friday. As a result, athletes and officials were forced to look for alternative arrangements late in the evening, with temperatures hovering between 6 and 7 degrees Celsius.

Teams from Telangana, Kerala, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh were



among those affected. Several officials said they were caught completely off guard by the situation, especially after a long day that featured around 40 semifinal bouts.

"This happened around 7:30 pm when we returned from the venue," said a coach, speaking on condition of anonymity. "Players and staff were told to vacate immediately, saying the rooms were booked only till today. We were left standing outside with no clarity on where to go next."

Another coach pointed out that the disruption was particularly distressing for athletes who were scheduled to compete in finals the following day. "We have a boxer in the final tomorrow. This kind of uncertainty at such a crucial stage is unacceptable. Something similar happened the previous night as well, though not at this scale," the coach said.

The situation placed the BFI in an awkward position. Federation officials were initially unreachable, but later issued a state-

ment claiming that remedial measures had been taken. According to the BFI, affected athletes were shifted to a nearby facility at Gautam Buddha University, where temporary sleeping arrangements were made.

"Immediate steps have been taken to ensure accommodation at the nearest facility, and the federation is closely monitoring the situation," the statement read. However, several teams said the solution came only after they had spent hours in the

cold, and some contingents were still awaiting proper accommodation at the time of reporting.

Officials also questioned how such a lapse could occur when the tournament prospectus clearly states that free lodging and boarding would be provided to boxers and officials for the duration of the event. "It is the basic responsibility of the organisers to ensure accommodation throughout the tournament. Our biggest concern right now is the well-being of the boxers," a team official said.

The championships, being held at Gautam Buddha University, were originally scheduled from December 30 to January 7 but were postponed to January 4-10 due to poor air quality in the National Capital Region. The event has already faced multiple controversies, including a five-hour delay on the opening day because of logistical issues and allegations of biased refereeing.

Shubman Gill Respects T20 World Cup Omission, Stresses Need for Red-Ball Preparation

India's Test and ODI captain Shubman Gill has expressed his respect for the selectors' decision to leave him out of the T20 World Cup squad last month, while also reflecting on his focus and priorities as he prepares to lead the team in the ongoing ODI series against New Zealand. The 26-year-old, who was appointed T20I vice-captain in August, was omitted from the 15-member squad, with Axar Patel reinstated as deputy to Suryakumar Yadav.

"I respect the selectors' decision. All the best to the team for the T20 World Cup. I am where I have to be, and whatever is written in my destiny, no one can take that from me," Gill told reporters ahead of India's first ODI against New Zealand. "A player always believes he will try his best for the country, and the selectors have taken their decision."

Gill, who took over as In-



dia's ODI captain in October, has been sidelined since mid-November due to a neck injury sustained during the Test series against South Africa. Speaking about the experience of being out of action, he admitted it was frustrating to watch the team play while being unable to contribute.

"Never easy, especially whenever you get injured, watching your team play and feeling like you are missing out on all those games, particularly when you have just been named the captain," he said. "There are so many things you want to do, and when you're unable to, it is definitely frustrating. But at

the same time, you have to focus on what you can do in that moment and build on it."

The right-handed batter also highlighted the need for more preparation in red-ball cricket, particularly when transitioning from white-ball formats. He noted that in the last two Test series, India had

limited time to prepare, making it challenging to perform consistently across conditions.

"One of the suggestions I was very keen on is to have more preparation for red-ball cricket. It's not easy playing in India and then in another country shortly after," Gill explained. "Even if we had won the series against South Africa, it wouldn't have made a huge difference because preparation is key to winning Test matches worldwide. We didn't have enough time to prepare after Australia or the Asia Cup and West Indies series."

Gill emphasized that proper preparation, especially when switching formats, is essential for consistent performance. "This is something we'll take action on and keep in mind for future red-ball series," he said, underlining his commitment to ensuring the team is ready for challenges across formats.

Tamil Nadu Dragons Stay Unbeaten at Home After Thrilling 4-4 Draw and Shootout Win Over SG Pipers



Tamil Nadu Dragons completed their home leg of the season unbeaten, securing one outright win and two shootout bonus points after a thrilling 4-4 draw against SG Pipers at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium in Chennai on Friday. The Dragons edged past the Pipers in the shootout to maintain their perfect record, while SG Pipers remain winless in outright matches since last season.

A flurry of goals marked the high-octane encounter, with Amit Rohidas (9'), Tom Craig (18'), Paul Philipp Kaufmann (17'), and Selvaraj Kanagaraj (40') scoring for the Dragons. For the Pipers, Tomas Domene (13', 18'), Ky Willott (38'), and Aditya Lalage (59') found the net, keeping the match balanced throughout.

The game began with Rohidas converting a low hit from a penalty corner to give the Dragons the lead. A minute later, the home side appeared to extend their advantage, but the goal was overturned after a successful review by the Pipers. Domene quickly equalized, ending the first quarter at 1-1.

The second quarter delivered instant drama, with three goals in just two minutes. Kaufmann restored the Dragons' lead with a spectacular diving effort, only for Domene to convert a penalty stroke moments later to level the score again. Craig then struck from a

penalty corner to give the Dragons a 3-2 advantage heading into the half.

The third quarter saw the Pipers exploit counter-attacking opportunities, with Willott converting a penalty corner in the 38th minute to make it 3-3. The Dragons regained the lead through Selvaraj's precise deflection from a long ball. In the dying minutes, Pipers removed their goalkeeper in favor of an extra outfield player, and Aditya Lalage scored a brilliant goal to force a shootout.

In the shootout, SG Pipers converted four of their five attempts, all from penalty strokes awarded due to repeated fouls by Dragons' goalkeeper Prince Deep Singh. However, Singh made the decisive save that secured victory for the home side.

Earlier in the day, Soorma Hockey Club earned their first points of the season with a 3-1 shootout win over Hyderabad Toofans, following a 1-1 draw in regulation. Captain Harmanpreet Singh (20') and Amandeep Lakra (46') scored during regulation, helping set up the shootout triumph.

The Tamil Nadu Dragons' unbeaten home performance highlighted their attacking prowess and resilience under pressure, while SG Pipers continue to seek their first outright victory of the season.

From Backup to Key All-Rounder: Axar Patel Credits MS Dhoni for Boosting Batting Confidence



Axar Patel has transformed from being viewed as a spinner who could bat into a senior all-rounder, particularly in T20 Internationals, where he has recently been promoted as high as No. 3 in the batting order. The 31-year-old credits legendary former India captain MS Dhoni, under whom he began his international career, for helping him change his mindset toward batting.

"I started as a batter but became a full-time spinner when I reached the NCA. In my early days, I didn't do well with the bat and started doubting myself," Axar told Times of India. "When I got dropped in 2018, I worked very hard on my batting. During the 2021 T20 World Cup, when MS Dhoni was the team mentor, he told me that in my earlier days, under his captaincy, I put too much pressure on myself, thinking I had to perform all the time, instead of simply believing I was a capable batter. Slowly, I started implementing what Mahi bhai had told me and regained my confidence."

Axar's batting prowess was on full display in the final of the 2024 T20 World Cup, India, struggling at 34 for 3 inside the first five overs,

where he was steadied by a 72-run partnership off 54 balls between Axar and Virat Kohli. Although he was slightly expensive with the ball, Axar took a crucial wicket, contributing significantly to India's remarkable victory. "After the T20 WC final, I never thought I would be dropped again," he said.

India's flexible batting approach has seen Axar occupy various positions in the order. However, in recent matches, he has been trusted more often in and around the top order, a role that emphasizes stability rather than just acceleration. "If I've been sent up the order, it means the team trusts me and believes I have the talent to perform this role. When I go out to bat, I don't think of myself as a floater. The team management doesn't send me just to blindly accelerate the scoring or handle a tough spell. I am given a role like any other specialist batter," Axar explained.

With his evolving role and newfound confidence, Axar Patel has cemented himself as a key all-rounder in India's T20I setup, blending the responsibility of stabilizing the innings with his proven skills as a spinner.

Vishnu Manchu Launches 100% Sports Scholarships at MBU & SVIS, Aims to Nurture India’s Future Olympians



In a move that could redefine India’s sporting landscape, renowned actor and MAA President Vishnu Manchu has announced a pioneering initiative: 100% sports scholarships at Mohan Babu University (MBU) and Sree Vidyaniketan International School (SVIS). The program, set to commence in the 2026-27 academic year, seeks to identify and nurture young athletes with exceptional potential, providing them with world-class support to excel in sports.

The scholarship program will initially focus on three major disciplines: Cricket, Basketball, and Badminton. Selected students will receive comprehensive assistance, covering not just tuition fees but also professional coaching, nutrition, access to high-end training facilities, and accommodation. The institutions plan to col-

laborate with top-tier coaches from India and abroad, ensuring athletes receive guidance on par with international standards.

Speaking about the initiative, Vishnu Manchu explained that the idea is rooted in a personal vision to contribute meaningfully to India’s sporting future. “Many talented children lose out on opportunities due to financial constraints, lack of mentorship, or inadequate infrastructure. Through this scholarship program, we aim to remove all such barriers and create a structured ecosystem where young athletes can thrive,” he said.

Vishnu further highlighted the long-term ambition behind this initiative, noting that India is gearing up for a bid to host the 2036 Olympics. “Our vision is to see athletes from MBU and SVIS

representing India on the Olympic stage. This is not just about nurturing talent; it’s about building a legacy of sports excellence from the grassroots level,” he added.

The scholarship program represents a significant step toward fostering India’s next generation of sporting stars. By integrating academic and athletic development, Vishnu Manchu’s initiative provides a platform where young talent can balance education with intensive sports training.

Parents and aspiring athletes interested in the scholarships can reach out for more details at: sports@mbu.asia.

With this ambitious move, Vishnu Manchu is not only cementing his role as a champion of Indian cinema but also emerging as a visionary in shaping the nation’s future Olympians.

Mahesh Babu Unveils First Look of Nephew Jaya Krishna From Srinivasa Mangapuram



Superstar Mahesh Babu has unveiled the highly anticipated first look of Srinivasa Mangapuram, marking the debut of his nephew Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni. The announcement has already created a buzz across the Telugu film industry, with fans eager to see the latest addition to the Ghattamaneni legacy step onto the big screen.

The first look poster presents Jaya Krishna in a rugged and stylish avatar, holding a gun while riding a motorcycle. The intense action-packed vibe of the poster hints at a thrilling drama, capturing the attention of audiences and industry insiders alike.

Jaya Krishna, grandson of the legendary actor Superstar Krishna and son of the late Ramesh Babu, carries forward his family’s cinematic legacy. Expectations are high for his performance, and the de-

but is being seen as one of the most awaited in Tollywood this year.

The film is directed by acclaimed filmmaker Ajay Bhupathi, known for his successful and high-octane films, and also stars Rasha Thadani, daughter of Bollywood icon Raveena Tandon, in her Telugu debut opposite Jaya Krishna. The pairing of these fresh faces promises to bring a mix of energy and charm to the screen.

Produced by P. Kiran under the Chandamama Kathalu banner and presented by veteran producer C. Ashwini Dutt of Vyjayanthi Movies, the film boasts a strong production team. Music is composed by GV Prakash Kumar, adding to the anticipation around the film’s soundtrack and overall presentation.

Mahesh Babu shared the first look with a heartfelt message wishing his nephew and the entire

team success, calling it a “strong start” and highlighting the collaborative effort behind the project. His support has added to the excitement and goodwill surrounding the debut.

The film has been shot across varied locations, with significant portions of production already completed. The makers are targeting a 2026 release, and insiders suggest that the timing may coincide with celebrations honoring the legacy of Superstar Krishna.

With its combination of cinematic legacy, talented new faces, and high-octane visuals, Srinivasa Mangapuram is being positioned as one of the most anticipated films in Tollywood for 2026. Fans are eagerly awaiting teasers, trailers, and music releases as the countdown begins for Jaya Krishna’s much-anticipated entry into the film industry.

Rebel Star Prabhas’The Raja Saab Opens to a Massive ₹112 Crore Worldwide Gross on Day One

Rebel Star Prabhas has once again demonstrated his formidable box-office pull with the grand opening of his latest film, The Raja Saab. Released worldwide on Friday, the much-anticipated horror-fantasy entertainer stormed cinemas with an extraordinary response, collecting a staggering ₹112 crore gross on its very first day. The sensational opening has positioned The Raja Saab as the highest opener in the horror-fantasy genre, setting a new benchmark for films in this space.

From early morning shows to late-night screenings, theatres across India and overseas reported packed houses, celebratory fan shows, and an electrifying atmosphere. Trade analysts attribute the massive opening to Prabhas’ pan-Indian stardom, strong pre-release buzz, and the film’s intriguing genre combination, which stands apart from conventional commercial entertainers. The unique mix of horror and fanta-

sy has clearly resonated with a wide spectrum of audiences, including youth, children, and family viewers, making it a true four-quadrant success on day one.

Directed by Maruthi, The Raja Saab has been designed as a visually rich and engaging cinematic experience. Known for his flair in blending emotion, entertainment, and humour, Maruthi ventures into the horror-fantasy zone with confidence, delivering a film that balances thrills with mass appeal. The director’s storytelling approach, combined with large-scale production values, has been widely appreciated by audiences on its opening day.

The film is produced on a lavish scale by T. G. Vishwa Prasad and Krithi Prasad under the renowned People Media Factory banner. The producers spared no expense in mounting the project as a global spectacle, evident in its grand visuals, elaborate sets, and extensive international re-

lease. Their ambitious vision has paid off handsomely, at least in the opening phase, with The Raja Saab registering record-breaking numbers.

Adding to the film’s appeal are the performances of the leading ladies—Malavika Mohanan, Nidhi Agerwal, and Riddhi Kumar—who have impressed viewers with their screen presence and roles that complement the narrative. The ensemble cast, coupled with technical finesse and a strong background score, has further enhanced the overall cinematic experience.

With Sankranti festivities underway, industry observers expect the film’s box-office momentum to accelerate further over the coming days. Given its thunderous start and positive audience response, The Raja Saab is well on course for a highly successful theatrical run, reaffirming Prabhas’ status as one of Indian cinema’s biggest box-office draws.



VeCura ReSculpt Launches in Kukatpally, Hyderabad; Redefines Non-Surgical Body Sculpting with a Science-First Vision



VeCura ReSculpt, a trailblazer in next-generation aesthetic and body sculpting care, has officially entered the Hyderabad market with the launch of its cutting-edge clinic in Kukatpally. The launch marks a significant milestone for the brand, which made a strong impression with its successful debut in

Chennai and is now gearing up for further expansion into Bengaluru.

The inauguration ceremony was held in the presence of eminent doctors, healthcare professionals, industry experts, and members of the media. Adding glamour to the event, popular actress and television personality Dimple Hayathi graced



the occasion as the chief guest and formally inaugurated the clinic. Her presence underscored the growing intersection of wellness, science, and lifestyle in contemporary aesthetic care.

VeCura ReSculpt stands out with its unwavering “science-first” philosophy, aimed at redefining non-surgical body sculpting in India. The clinic emphasizes that aesthetic transformation should be rooted in medical science, personalized care, and uncompromised safety, rather than fleeting beauty trends. Every technology deployed at the facility undergoes rigorous medical scrutiny and is backed by global clinical evidence, FDA approvals, and CE certifications.

Speaking at the launch,

Dr. Ram Gautham, Medical Director of VeCura ReSculpt, highlighted the clinic’s core approach. “We strongly believe aesthetic care should deliver tangible, measurable results. Our treatment protocols are designed to provide a comprehensive 360-degree solution—addressing fat reduction, muscle toning, skin tightening, and lymphatic health through a medically structured and ethical framework,” he said.

Designed to go beyond conventional cosmetic clinics, VeCura ReSculpt prioritizes in-depth diagnosis and assessment before initiating any procedure. This ensures that every client receives safe, individualized, and goal-oriented care, aligning wellness with aesthetics in a holistic manner.

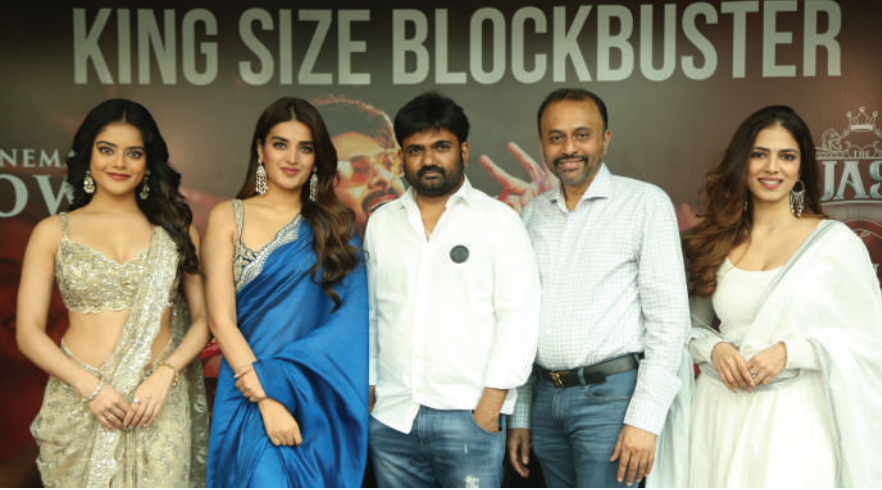
Director E. Carolin Praba Reddy emphasized the brand’s long-term vision, stating, “We are not merely launching a clinic; we are setting a new standard in non-surgical aesthetics. As we expand across Hyderabad and Bengaluru, our commitment will remain focused on consistent medical quality, advanced technologies, and a patient experience built on trust and transparency.”

The Kukatpally clinic is equipped with a comprehensive suite of advanced, globally certified technologies, including medical-grade body composition analysis, non-invasive fat reduction systems, muscle stimulation devices, skin tightening and cellulite reduction solutions, AI-assisted visceral fat management tools, and wellness-focused recovery therapies such as whole-body cryotherapy.

With its Hyderabad launch, VeCura ReSculpt reinforces its mission to elevate non-surgical aesthetics in South India—blending science, innovation, and ethical care to redefine body transformation for the modern audience.

The Raja Saab Celebrates King-Size Blockbuster Success

Rebel Star Prabhas’ prestigious horror-fantasy entertainer The Raja Saab has taken the box office by storm following its theatrical release on Friday. Directed by Maruthi, the film has opened to blockbuster collections worldwide and is currently running successfully across theatres. To celebrate the massive response, the makers hosted a grand “King-Size Blockbuster Success Meet” in Hyderabad on Saturday, attended by the film’s cast, crew, and media.



Produced on a lavish global scale by T. G. Vishwa Prasad and Krithi Prasad under the People Media Factory banner, The Raja Saab has been positioned as an evergreen cinematic experience blending horror, fantasy, and family entertainment. Actresses Malavika Mohanan, Nidhi Agerwal, and Riddhi Kumar have drawn praise for their performances and strong screen presence, adding

further value to the film’s appeal.

Speaking at the event, Riddhi Kumar expressed joy over the audience response, saying viewers and fans are thoroughly enjoying the film. She shared that the team worked on the project for nearly three years and that seeing their efforts being appreciated feels deeply rewarding. She thanked audiences for the overwhelming support and noted that so-

cial media is flooded with positive messages praising the film.

Nidhi Agerwal described The Raja Saab as a perfect Sankranti family entertainer. She highlighted the blockbuster openings and said the film is being enjoyed by children and families together. Special mention was made of key sequences such as the crocodile episode and the climax, which have received loud cheers in

theatres. She added that hearing chants of “Darling Darling” in cinemas has been a memorable experience.

Malavika Mohanan shared that the film is not only entertaining audiences but also registering strong collections. She said her character Bhairavi is receiving an encouraging response, particularly for the action sequences. Thanking director Maruthi for the

powerful role and producer T. G. Vishwa Prasad for backing the film with a big vision, she called acting alongside Prabhas a dream come true.

Producer T. G. Vishwa Prasad revealed that while the team expected ₹100 crore worldwide on day one, the film surpassed expectations with a massive ₹112 crore gross. He also announced that Prabhas’ old-getup scenes, initially excluded due to technical reasons, have now been added to all shows.

Director Maruthi said working with Prabhas was a memorable experience and confirmed that based on audience feedback, additional scenes and a rooftop fight sequence have been included. From the latest shows onward, he said, audiences will witness the “real Raja Saab,” expressing confidence that the film will continue its strong run throughout the Sankranti season.