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CM Revanth Reddy Inaugurates Sujen Medicare Fluids Manufacturing Unit, Outlines Telangana Rising Vision



TPN Bureau | Hyd-
January 09

Hyderabad, January 9, 2026 | TPN
Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday inaugurated the Sujen Medicare Fluids manufacturing unit and said Telangana's steady progress over the last three decades has enabled Hyderabad to compete with the world's leading global cities. Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister noted that continuous efforts from 1995 to 2025 had transformed Hyderabad into an internationally competitive urban and industrial hub.

Congratulating the promoters of Sujen Medicare, Revanth Reddy described the establishment of a German-technology-based IV fluids manufacturing unit in South India as commendable. He said the unit perfectly aligns with the state's long-term "Telangana Rising 2047" vision and reflects the govern-

ment's commitment to encouraging advanced manufacturing and innovation-driven industries.

The Chief Minister said the Telangana government had unveiled a comprehensive policy document during a recent global summit, laying out a clear roadmap for development. He explained that the state's growth strategy would be driven by three pillars — Cure, Pure and Rare — with healthcare and pharmaceuticals playing a central role. He set ambitious targets of transforming Telangana into a \$1 trillion economy by 2034 and a \$3 trillion economy by 2047.

Revanth Reddy highlighted Telangana's strong position in the pharmaceutical sector, stating that nearly 40 per cent of India's bulk drug production comes from the state. "The world is looking towards Telangana in the pharma sector. Many students educated here are now CEOs of global companies, which is a matter of great

pride for us," he said. He added that promoting private sector investments was essential for creating employment opportunities for the unemployed youth.

Drawing comparisons with global centres, the Chief Minister said Hyderabad and Telangana were competing with cities and regions such as Germany, Japan, South Korea and New York. He assured young entrepreneurs of full government support in setting up industries and expanding operations.

On inter-state issues, Revanth Reddy emphasised that the Congress government preferred solutions over disputes. "If asked whether we want conflict or resolution, we choose resolution. If asked whether we want politics or water, we choose water," he said, making it clear that the government had no intention of gaining political mileage from water disputes.

He appealed to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu to not create hurdles in securing approvals for projects on the Krishna river that existed during the undivided state. He said delays were preventing central funding and placing a financial burden on Telangana. The Chief Minister stressed that his government was thinking in terms of public and farmers' welfare, not political gains.

Revanth Reddy also underlined the need for cooperation from neighbouring states to achieve port connectivity and resolve long-pending issues. He said Telangana sought cordial relations with Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra, adding that dialogue and mutual cooperation would continue.

Concluding his address, the Chief Minister said the government's goal was to develop Telangana in such a way that people would proudly say in the next decade that they are living in India's future city.

KTR Slams Congress Government Over 'Broken Promises and Governance Failure'

TPN Bureau | Hyd-
January 09

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president and former minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) on Thursday strongly criticised the Congress-led Telangana government, alleging that it has failed on governance, development and implementation of election promises since coming to power.

Addressing party leaders and supporters, KTR said the Congress government had not delivered on the assurances made to the people during the elections. He alleged that the much-publicised guarantees and promises had remained largely on paper, creating disappointment among citizens across the state. According to him, public anger was steadily growing as people were yet to see tangible benefits from the new administration.

KTR accused Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy of indulging in publicity-oriented politics instead of focusing on administration. He said the government

was more interested in demolitions and confrontational politics rather than addressing real issues such as employment generation, farmer welfare and infrastructure development. "The Congress promised change, but what people are witnessing today is confusion and instability," he remarked.

Highlighting unemployment as a major concern, the BRS leader said job aspirants were misled during elections with tall promises.

He alleged that recruitment notifications were delayed and the promised job calendar had turned meaningless. He said unemployed youth were feeling betrayed and frustrated by the lack of clarity and action from the government.

KTR also criticised the government's handling of irrigation and water-related issues, stating that farmers continued to suffer due to the absence of a clear policy and effective implementation.

KTR accused Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy of indulging in publicity-oriented politics instead of focusing on administration. He said the government

rural livelihoods.

Taking exception to recent controversies involving educational and institutional lands, KTR questioned the Congress leadership's silence on issues affecting minority and public institutions. He alleged that the government was acting without transparency and accountability, raising serious concerns about its intentions.

Drawing a comparison with the previous BRS government, KTR said Telangana had witnessed rapid development, infrastructure growth and investment inflow during his party's tenure. He claimed that Hyderabad's global image and the state's economic progress had suffered under the previous government.

Stating that the Congress government had lost the trust of the people, KTR asserted that the BRS would continue to expose what he termed as failures and anti-people decisions. He said the party would take up public issues more aggressively and stand firmly with farmers, youth and common citizens in the days to come.

Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka Urges Congress Victory for Madhira's Development

TPN Bureau |
January 09:

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu on Friday called upon Congress leaders and workers to actively campaign for the upcoming Madhira Municipality elections, stressing that only the Congress party can ensure the town's development and safeguard the interests of future generations.

Addressing a special meeting of key Congress leaders at Madupalli within Madhira Municipal limits, the Deputy CM highlighted the contrast between Congress and other political parties. He said, "Other parties continuously boast about works completed decades ago, but Con-

gress cadres often hesitate to publicize the achievements of the government. If Congress were to recount the work it has done, no other party would have a future." He urged party leaders to work with dedication and ensure victory in the municipality polls.

Bhatti Vikramarka emphasized that party workers should personally communicate with voters. "If each leader explains to at least ten people every day about the benefits Madhira town has received under the Congress government—such as ration cards, distribution of fine rice, Arogyasri health coverage, free electricity up to 200 units, and free RTC bus travel for women—it would go a long way in securing voter support,"

he said.

The Deputy CM highlighted significant development initiatives undertaken in Madhira. These include installation of underground drainage and electricity lines, development of lakes into tourism parks, construction of buildings for degree colleges, intermediate and high schools, establishment of an agriculture polytechnic and a general polytechnic, upgradation of the ITI into an advanced technology center, and development of essential infrastructure like a bus

tages of the infrastructure projects. The underground drainage system will ensure that sewage from toilets is safely transported to treatment plants, while rainwater will be diverted into separate streams, improving sanitation and minimizing flood risks. He reiterated that electing Congress candidates is essential for continuing Madhira's development trajectory. "Every project undertaken by the Congress government aims to enhance the quality of life in Madhira. Only through sustained development—ranging from education and health to sanitation and civic infrastructure—can Madhira become a clean, green, and prosperous town for future generations," he said.

ly, acknowledging their contribution in implementing welfare schemes and development programmes at the grassroots level. He stated, "Government employees work tirelessly to ensure that schemes reach every household. Their safety and security are our priority, and this insurance scheme is a step in that direction."

Bhatti Vikramarka noted that consultations with leading state bankers have already been completed to operationalize the insurance scheme efficiently. Despite the state facing financial constraints, the government is releasing

pending dues from the previous regime in a phased manner, maintaining employee welfare as a key objective.

The Deputy CM highlighted that similar insurance coverage of over 1 crore has already been implemented for employees in Singareni Collieries Company Limited, TRANSCO, SPDCL, NPDCL, and GENCO. Under these schemes, 38,000 regular employees of Singareni and 71,387 employees in power utilities are already covered, benefiting from extensive accident protection.

Building on this model, the Telangana government, under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, is committed to

providing benefits and security measures that acknowledge the dedication and hard work of government employees. Bhatti Vikramarka also emphasized the government's proactive approach in addressing employee concerns, noting that the insurance scheme complements other welfare measures, including timely disbursal of pending dues, health benefits, and additional allowances. The announcement has been welcomed by government employees across Telangana, who see it as recognition of their contribution and a vital safeguard against unforeseen accidents.

Telangana Government Introduces 1.02 Crore Accident Insurance for All State Employees

TPN Bureau |
Jan 09

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu on Friday announced that the Telangana State Government is implementing an accident insurance scheme worth 1.02 crore for all government employees in the state. The initiative underscores the government's commitment to employee welfare and recognition of their role in delivering public services across Telangana.

In a statement released on Friday evening, the Deputy CM emphasized that the government treats its employees as members of its own family, acknowledging their contribution in implementing welfare schemes and development programmes at the grassroots level. He stated, "Government employees work tirelessly to ensure that schemes reach every household. Their safety and security are our priority, and this insurance scheme is a step in that direction."

Bhatti Vikramarka noted that consultations with leading state bankers have already been completed to operationalize the insurance scheme efficiently. This ensures comprehensive coverage against accidents, providing financial security and peace of mind for employees and their families.

The Deputy CM described the move as part of the government's larger vision of prioritizing employee welfare while ensuring smooth governance and service delivery. He reiterated that the people's government, under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, is committed to providing benefits and security measures that acknowledge the dedication and hard work of government employees.

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Building on this model, the Telangana government has now extended a 1.02 crore accident insurance cover to all state government employees, including regular, contractual, and other eligible personnel. This ensures comprehensive coverage against accidents, providing financial security and peace of mind for employees and their families.



Bhatti Vikramarka Slams BJP, Demands Repeal of New Employment Law

TPN Bureau |
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Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Inaugurates Mega Health Camp in Koheda, Siddipet

Siddipet, January 9, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Transport and Backward Classes Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Thursday inaugurated a mega health camp organised under the aegis of RVM Hospital at the Government Junior College in Koheda mandal headquarters of Husnabad constituency, Siddipet district. The camp was conducted as per the directions of the state government with the objective of providing comprehensive healthcare services at the grassroots level.

Addressing doctors and medical staff, Ponnam Prabhakar instructed them to ensure that patients receive required medicines immediately after health examinations.

Interacting with people who had gathered for

health check-ups, the minister assured them that all necessary medical tests would be conducted free of cost at the camp itself. He further stated that if advanced treatment was required, arrangements would be made either at RVM Hospital or in Hyderabad without the beneficiaries having to spend even a single rupee. "No one should be deprived of treatment due to financial constraints," he said.

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tions. He also announced that he would personally arrange spectacles for those found to have vision-related problems during eye check-ups, urging people to make full use of the services being offered.

Local residents expressed happiness over the availability of free medical tests in their own mandal, noting that they no longer needed to travel to Hyderabad or other cities for basic diagnostics. The camp in-

cluded services from 18 super-specialty doctors, offering a wide range of examinations and consultations.

The minister later interacted with students of the Government Junior College, enquired about

their issues and encouraged them to focus on their studies. He assured that the government was providing all necessary basic amenities in educational institutions and advised students to work hard to achieve their

goals in life.

Speaking on the occasion, Ponnam Prabhakar said mega health camps would be organised in every village of Koheda mandal. He explained that Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in the mandal would work in coordination with RVM Hospital to conduct required tests and follow-up care. He emphasised that the initiative was taken beyond political considerations, solely to ensure that people remain healthy.

The minister also highlighted the government's broader vision of adopting seven mandals under seven medical colleges to

ensure comprehensive healthcare coverage across Husnabad. He reiterated that camps were being conducted simultaneously at Koheda under RVM Hospital, Husnabad under Surabhi Hospital, and at Akkannapet with support from Siddipet Government Medical College.

District Collector Haimavathi, Library Corporation Chairman Lingamurthy, DMHO Dhanaraj, Koheda Medical Officer Nimra, Sarpanch Sujatha, Market Committee Chairperson Nirmala Jayaraj, doctors from RVM Hospital and other officials were present at the programme.

Harish Rao Challenges CM Revanth Reddy to Meet Unemployed Youth at Ashok Nagar Library



Siddipet, January 9, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Former Telangana minister and senior BRS leader T. Harish Rao on Thursday launched a sharp counterattack against Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, accusing him of betraying unemployed youth and failing to fulfil key election promises related to government jobs.

Reacting to the Chief Minister's participation in a cinema theatre inau-

guration, Harish Rao questioned whether Revanth Reddy had the courage to visit the Ashok Nagar Central Library, a well-known hub for job aspirants in Hyderabad. "The Chief Minister has time to go to a movie theatre inauguration with heavy police security. Does he not have time to meet unemployed youth who are struggling for their future?" he asked.

Harish Rao reminded

that during the election campaign, Revanth Reddy had promised to provide two lakh government jobs every year. "You assured employment to lakhs of youth. Why are you not showing your face to them now?" he questioned, alleging that the promise had remained unfulfilled even after coming to power.

The former minister pointed out that the newly inaugurated cinema theatre is located close to the Ashok Nagar Central Library. He demanded that the Chief Minister visit the library and directly interact with unemployed youth preparing for competitive examinations. "We are demanding that the Chief Minister step into the library and speak to the unemployed. If he avoids the library and escapes, it will clearly mean that he

has cheated the youth of Telangana," Harish Rao alleged.

Criticising the government's job calendar, the BRS leader said what was promised as a "job calendar" had effectively turned into a "jobless calendar." He alleged that the Congress government had failed to issue even basic notifications for government recruitment, creating frustration and despair among aspirants.

Harish Rao also took exception to recent remarks by Minister Sridhar Babu, who reportedly said it was not possible to provide government jobs to everyone. "How can a minister make such statements after the Congress party misled unemployed youth during elections?" he asked. According to Harish Rao, such comments clearly exposed the

government's lack of seriousness towards addressing unemployment.

Accusing the Congress of deceiving job aspirants, Harish Rao said unemployed youth were given false hopes during the elections and were now being ignored. "The youth trusted the promises made by the Congress leadership. Today, they are feeling betrayed," he said.

He warned that continued neglect of unemployment issues would lead to public resentment and loss of credibility for the government. On behalf of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), Harish Rao demanded that the state government immediately issue job notifications, release a transparent recruitment calendar and engage directly with unemployed youth to restore their confidence.

Young IFS Officers of Telangana Cadre Meet Minister Konda Surekha at Secretariat



Hyderabad, January 9, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Newly inducted young Indian Forest Service (IFS) officers of the Telangana cadre on Thursday paid a courtesy call on Forests and Endowments Minister Konda Surekha at Dr B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat. The minister warmly congratulated the officers and extended her best wishes as they begin their careers in public service.

During the interaction, Minister Konda Surekha highlighted the crucial role played by forest officers in the protection of nature and conservation of wildlife. She emphasised that safeguarding forests is not only about enforcing laws but also about preserving ecological balance for future generations.

Members of the GHMC delegation expressed appreciation for the integrated and citizen-friendly approach adopted in the Sabarmati Riverfront project, stating that it offers valuable lessons for Hyderabad's Musi Riverfront development and the management of public urban spaces.

The minister took keen interest in learning about the background of the young IFS officers and enquired in detail about their academic journey and professional training. She interacted with them individually, encouraging them to adopt innovative approaches and modern technologies in forest management and wildlife protection.

As a token of appreciation, Minister Konda Surekha presented specially designed pens to the officers, symbolising responsibility, leadership and commitment to service. She expressed confidence

that the new batch of officers would contribute significantly to strengthening forest governance in Telangana and addressing challenges such as deforestation, human-wildlife conflict and climate change.

The meeting was attended by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Dr C. Suvarna and senior forest official Ratnakar Jawahari, who accompanied the young officers. Senior officials briefed the minister about the deployment and future responsibilities of the officers across various forest divisions in the state.

The interaction underscored the state government's focus on empowering young officers and reinforcing institutional capacity in the forest department. Officials said such engagements help motivate newly recruited officers and align them with the government's vision of sustainable development, environmental conservation and inclusive growth.

GHMC Team Studies Sabarmati Riverfront Model for Musi Rejuvenation

Ahmedabad, January 9, 2026 | TPN Bureau

A team of corporators from the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) undertook a study tour to Ahmedabad, Gujarat, to examine the Sabarmati Riverfront Development Project as a potential model for the rejuvenation of the Musi River in Hyderabad.

The delegation, led by GHMC Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi, along with Deputy Mayor Mothe Srilatha Shobhan Reddy and other corporators, visited the Sabarmati Riverfront project over Thursday and Friday. The visit was aimed at understanding best practices in urban riverfront development, tourism promotion, and public-centric infrastructure



planning. During the visit, officials from the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) and representatives of the Sabarmati Riverfront Development Corporation Limited (SRFDCL) briefed the GHMC team on the conceptualisation, planning, and phased execution of the project. They explained how the once-neglected riverbanks of the Sabarmati were transformed into vibrant public spaces combining tourism, recreation, flood control, environmental restoration, and urban renewal.

Officials informed the delegation that the Sabarmati Riverfront is being developed in seven phases. The first phase, covering a

stretch of 11.5 kilome- tres, has already been completed, while the second phase is expected to be completed within the next six months. A dedicated organisation was constituted exclusively for the project immediately after it was conceived, ensuring focused execution and coordination.

Emphasising transparency and inclusivity, AMC officials noted that direct consultations were held with local residents, and politi-

cal interference was consciously avoided. Rehabilitation and compensation benefits were provided directly to displaced families, ensuring minimal disruption and community cooperation.

The riverfront project, spread across both banks of the river, features walking tracks, parks, gardens, recreational facilities, and theme parks. The GHMC team also visited the iconic Atal Foot

Bridge, which connects the eastern and western banks of the river and has emerged as a major public attraction.

Members of the GHMC delegation expressed appreciation for the integrated and citizen-friendly approach adopted in the Sabarmati Riverfront project, stating that it offers valuable lessons for Hyderabad's Musi Riverfront development and the management of public urban spaces.

Telangana Government Defends Its Commitment to Unemployed Youth Amid Criticism from BRS

Hyderabad, January 9, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Telangana's Minister for IT and Industries, Shri Sridhar Babu, on Friday issued a strong statement countering criticism from BRS leaders over government employment initiatives. The minister described the accusations as politically motivated, emphasizing that the Congress-led state government has taken unprecedented steps to ensure transparent recruitment and provide opportunities to unemployed youth. Sridhar Babu recalled



the period prior to the current administration, saying, "For a decade, systems were neglected, exams were mismanaged, and the lives of unemployed youth were left in darkness. Today, when BRS leaders feign concern, the public sees through it and laughs at their crocodile tears." He specifically referenced the Ashok Nagar Central Library, a symbol of past failures, where notification delays and leaked exams had caused widespread distress among job aspirants.

He highlighted past lapses, including the mishandling of the TGCPS question paper leaks and the re-

peated cancellation of the Group 1 prelims exams, which caused severe anxiety for candidates. He contrasted this

with the current government's record, noting that over 70,000 government jobs have already been filled transparent-

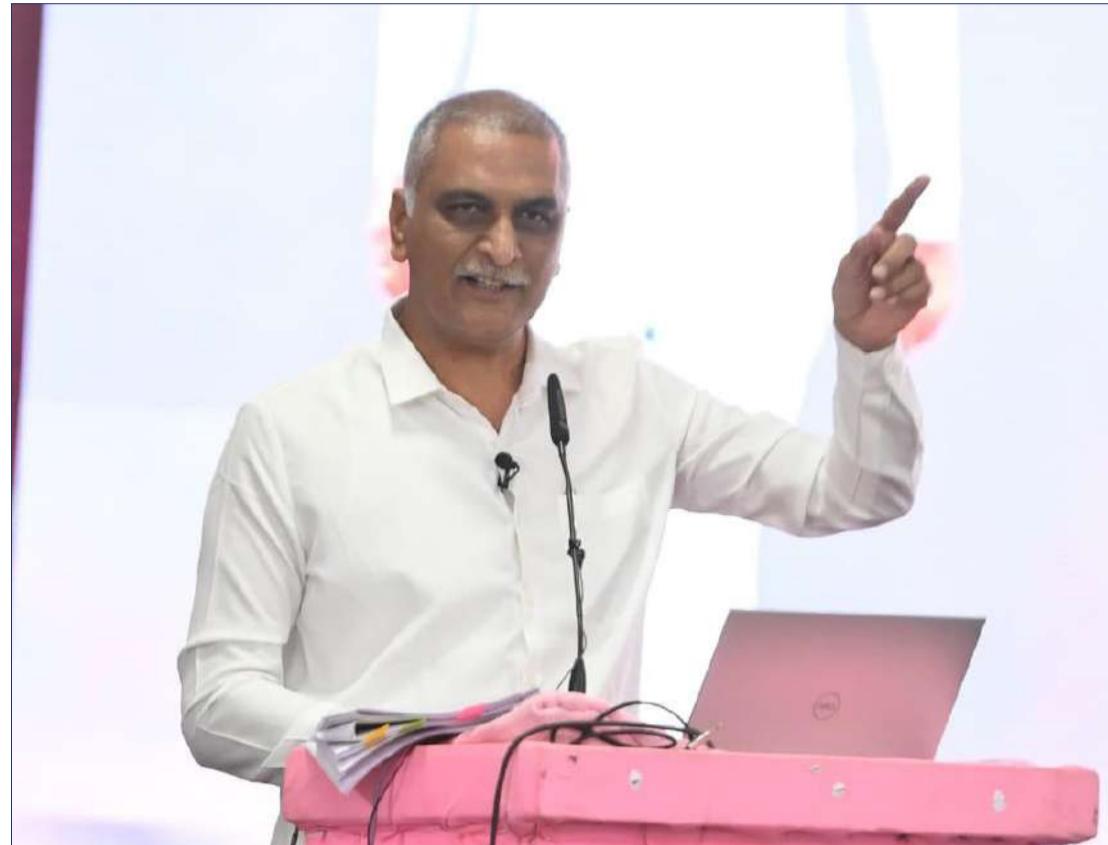
ly, with priority given to marginalized and disadvantaged communities.

Sridhar Babu also stressed that the administration has successfully conducted Group 1, 2, 3, and 4 examinations without any leaks, and preparations are underway to release the remaining Group 3 appointment orders soon. He urged unemployed youth not to fall for distorted political narratives or be influenced by "selfish political agendas" that seek to incite anger. Addressing job seekers directly, he said,

"Our government is committed to your future. We are filling government positions responsibly and ensuring opportunities are delivered fairly," he concluded. The statement reflects the Telangana government's determination to counter political criticism while reinforcing its achievements in providing employment and skill development opportunities to the state's large unemployed population, estimated at around 2.5 million.

Exam Paper Leaks Expose Governance Failures in Telangana: Harish Rao Act

Hyderabad, January 9, 2026 | TPN Bureau
 Former Telangana minister and senior BRS leader T. Harish Rao on Thursday launched a scathing attack on the Congress-led state government, accusing it of administrative failure, inefficiency and corruption in the conduct of competitive and university examinations, following the alleged question paper leak at Acharya Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University (PJSAU). Reacting to reports of irregularities in the BSc Agriculture examinations, Harish Rao said the incident had once again exposed the government's inability to ensure fair and transparent examination processes. He alleged that question papers were leaked in



advance through WhatsApp and that some candidates used AI-enabled pens to write the examinations, calling it a "modern-day scam" that has shocked the state. The former minister pointed out that the agriculture examination controversy comes close on the heels of the recently exposed irregularities in post-graduate medical entrance examinations. "Even before the medical education scam has faded from public memory, another major examination leak has surfaced. This clearly reflects a disturbing pattern of misgovernance," he said. Harish Rao questioned the role of the Congress government under Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, asking what steps it had taken to prevent such bla-

tant violations. "When students' futures are being compromised so openly, why is the government in deep slumber?" he asked, holding the Chief Minister accountable for what he termed systemic failures. Stating that the Congress came to power promising change, Harish Rao said it was unfortunate that within two years the government had become synonymous with scams. He alleged that even educational institutions were now turning into centres of corruption, highlighting what he described as the administrative and moral decline of the present regime. Taking a sharp dig, the BRS leader remarked that while poet Mahakavi Sri Sri famously said that nothing is unfit to be poetry, the

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Inspects Young India Integrated Residential School Works in Siddipet

Siddipet, January 9, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Transport and Backward Classes Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Thursday inspected the ongoing construction works of the Young India Integrated Residential School being built to international standards at Tangalapalli outskirts in Koheda mandal of Husnabad constituency, Siddipet district.

During his visit, the minister reviewed the progress of the large-scale educational infrastructure project and directed officials to accelerate the construction works by operating in multiple shifts. Emphasising the importance of timely completion, he instructed the engineering and executing agencies to ensure that all components of the project progress si-



multaneously without delays.

The minister specifically asked officials to carry out the construction of classroom blocks and hostel buildings in parallel so that academic and residential facilities are completed together. He also stressed the need for developing supporting infrastructure around the campus, including the construction of a compound wall and internal as well as approach

roads, to ensure safety and accessibility for students and staff.

Highlighting the significance of the project, Ponnam Prabhakar said the Young India Integrated Residential School is being developed over an extent of 30 acres at an estimated cost of 200 crore. He noted that the institution is envisioned as a model residential school that will provide high-quality education and modern facilities

on par with international standards, particularly benefiting students from underprivileged backgrounds.

The minister underlined that the state government is committed to strengthening the public education system by creating world-class infrastructure and ensuring equal educational opportunities for all sections of society. He said such integrated residential schools would play a key role in nurturing future leaders by offering holistic education in a well-equipped and secure environment.

Ponnam Prabhakar further instructed that the District Collector should closely monitor the progress of construction on a daily basis. He asked officials to submit regular updates on the work being carried out and ensure strict quality control at every stage of construction. Any lapses or delays, he warned, would be viewed seriously.



Telangana Emerges Number One in Paddy Production, Says Niranjan Reddy

Hyderabad, January 9, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Former Agriculture Minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy on Friday expressed happiness over Telangana emerging as the number one state in paddy production in the country, stating that the achievement was a direct result of the decade-long governance and farmer-friendly policies implemented during the K. Chandrashekhar Rao (KCR) government.

In a press release, Niranjan Reddy cited the latest report released by the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, covering the period from 2014-15 to 2024-25, as clear evidence of Telangana's remarkable growth in agricultural production. He said the data conclusively proved the success of Telangana's agricultural model.

According to the former minister, the unprecedented growth in paddy production was made possible due to a comprehensive set of initiatives introduced during the KCR regime. These included large-scale irrigation projects, uninterrupted 24-hour free power supply to agriculture, and the Rythu Bandhu investment support scheme, Rythu Bima crop insurance, timely availability of quality seeds and fertilisers, and the government's policy of 100 per cent procurement of food grains.

He also pointed out that the creation of adequate storage infrastructure, including godowns, along with the restructuring of the power sector, played a crucial role in strengthening the agricultural ecosystem.

"These measures together ensured stability, confidence and profitability for farmers, leading to record production levels," Niranjan Reddy said.

Highlighting growth comparisons, the former minister said Telangana recorded an extraordinary 240 per cent growth rate in paddy production during the decade, the highest in the country. In contrast, Madhya Pradesh registered 80 per cent growth, Uttar Pradesh 25 per cent, Tamil Nadu 20 per cent and Punjab 12 per cent.

He further noted that several states had witnessed a decline in paddy production during the same period. Neighboring Andhra Pradesh recorded a

growth of only 13 per cent, while Manipur saw a 25 per cent decline, Assam 12 per cent, Karnataka 11 per cent and Odisha 8 per cent. "This contrast highlights the effectiveness of Telangana's agricultural policies," he said.

Niranjan Reddy asserted that the KCR government's approach placed farmers at the centre of policy-making and treated agriculture as a priority sector. He said the Telangana model should be studied and adopted across the country to strengthen food security and improve farmers' livelihoods.

Calling for continued support to farmers, he urged both the state and central governments to extend sustained assistance to the agricultural sector. "If India truly wants to ensure farmer welfare and long-term agricultural growth, the policies implemented in Telangana over the last decade must serve as a guiding framework," he added.

The former minister said Telangana's success story stands as a testament to what consistent policy support and farmer-centric governance can achieve.

State's Road Safety and EV Initiatives at National Transport Development Council Meeting

New Delhi, 08-01-2026
 (TPN Bureau):

The 43rd meeting of the National Transport Development Council, chaired by Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari at Bharat Mandap, New Delhi, saw participation from transport ministers of all states and union territories. Representing Telangana were Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, Special Chief Secretary Vikas Raj, Transport Commissioner Ilamberti, and senior officials from the state transport department.

During the session, Minister Prabhakar emphasized the need to establish a Driving Training and Research



side it.

Minister Prabhakar also outlined the state's vehicle scrapping and green tax policies, stricter automated fitness testing at 37 new sta-

will be enhanced with tracking devices for buses and taxis, linked to an integrated command control center.

Additional initiatives include the establishment of road safety awareness programs in schools and colleges, development of world-class transport academies, improvement of truck terminal parking yards around Hyderabad, and modernization of RTO offices akin to passport service centers. These measures are part of Vision 2047, aimed at training 5 lakh heavy vehicle drivers with advanced skills and ensuring Telangana sets global benchmarks in road safety and transport management.

gimes to politicize minor difficulties, our government has ensured uninterrupted support for the farmers."

Tummala also countered claims about fertilizer availability, emphasizing that 4.60 lakh metric tonnes of urea have already been distributed this Rabi season and that an additional 6 lakh metric tonnes were delivered by the center by December 31.

Highlighting the innovative measures, he mentioned the launch of the Urea App in five districts to monitor fertilizer distribution effectively, similar to the successful Kapas Kisan App introduced for cotton farmers.

On the issue of crop loss compensation, the minister pointed out that the government disbursed 100 crore in the first year and 275 crore in the second year to farmers affected by natural calamities. "Unlike the previous administration, which only offered ad hoc relief and often delayed support, our government has provided timely and transparent compensation," he said. The minister also criticized BRS leaders for attempting to politicize initiatives such as paddy bonuses and loan waivers. He stated, "During their decade in power, they failed to pro-

vide adequate support. Our government has already issued 2 lakh loan waivers in the first year, benefiting thousands of farmers, including small and marginal cultivators, while previous schemes favored only select regions and middlemen." Tummala concluded by reaffirming the government's commitment to Telangana farmers: "Whether it is Rythu Bandhu, Rythu Bima, crop procure-

ment, bonuses, crop loss compensation, or mechanization, every scheme is being implemented efficiently. This is a farmer-first government, and the people of Telangana have full faith in our initiatives." The minister urged political rivals to refrain from spreading misinformation and stressed that the current administration remains focused on ensuring farmers' welfare above political gains.

Minister Tummala Fires Back at BRS Leaders on Farmers' Welfare

Hyderabad, January 9, 2026 (TPN Bureau):

Telangana Minister Tummala Srinivas Yadav on Friday issued a strong rebuttal to criticisms from BRS leaders regarding the state government's farmer welfare initiatives over the past decade. The minister highlighted that the state government has taken unprecedented steps to support Telangana's farming community, which BRS leaders



tempted by previous re-

CCS Special Crime Team Busts Chinese Manja Racket, Five Arrested in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, January 9, 2026 | TPN Bureau

In a significant crackdown on the illegal sale of banned Chinese manja, the Special Crime Team of the Central Crime Station (CCS), Detective Department, Hyderabad, on Thursday busted a racket involved in the storage and sale of monofilament Chinese manja. Five persons were arrested and 155 bobbins of monofil gold Chinese manja were seized during the operation.

Acting on credible information, the Special Crime Team apprehended the accused while they were allegedly attempting to sell the banned manja at high prices to customers ahead of the kite-flying season. Chinese manja, made of synthetic monofilament, is prohibited due to its extreme danger to human life, animals and birds.

The arrested persons were identified as



Kandesh Pawan Kumar (43), a businessman from Badichowdi, Sultanbazar; Rohit Agarwal

(35), a businessman from Sultanbazar; B. Nikhil

(19), a student from Shanker Nagar, Amberpet; Mohd Moin Mallick (26), employed in a pri-

vate job and residing at Chelapura; and Abdul Kareem (24), a welder from Amberpet.

Police recovered 155 bobbins of monofil gold Chinese manja from the possession of the accused. Officials said the material was being stored and distributed illegally despite repeated warnings and a clear ban imposed by authorities to prevent accidents and fatalities.

The operation was carried out by Inspector D. Bikshapathi of the Special Crime Team along with his staff, under the supervision of G. Venkateswar Reddy, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Special Crime Team, CCS, Hyderabad. After preliminary investigation, the accused were handed over to Sultanbazar, Amberpet and Hussainiwalam police stations for further legal action.

Senior police officials reiterated that the use and sale of Chinese

manja is a serious offence and will attract strict legal consequences. Over the years, several incidents involving severe injuries, deaths and harm to birds have been reported due to the use of the banned kite string. Hyderabad City Police issued a strong advisory to citizens, urging them not to use Chinese manja under any circumstances. Kite flyers were asked to opt only for permitted cotton threads to ensure public safety. Manja sellers were strictly instructed not to stock or sell Chinese manja, with police warning that strict surveillance is being maintained across the city.

The police further stated that special teams have been deployed to monitor markets and known hotspots, and similar operations will continue in the coming days to curb the menace and ensure the safety of the public and wildlife.

Hyderabad Zoo Engages Over 3,600 Students in Wildlife Education Initiative



Hyderabad, January 9, 2026: In a move to promote wildlife education among schoolchildren, Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad, hosted students from Rama Devi Public School as part of their educational tour. The students had the opportunity to interact with Smt. J. Vasanthi, IFS, Curator of the zoo, who provided an insightful briefing on zoo management and the critical role zoos play in wildlife conservation.

During the session, the Curator emphasized the importance of protecting biodiversity and creating awareness among young minds about sustainable practices.

She explained how the zoo not only serves as a sanctuary for endangered species but also promotes active participation in conservation activities.

On this day alone, the zoo welcomed approximately 23 schools, totaling 3,606 students. The students toured various sections of the zoo, learned about the care and management of

different species, and observed how conservation strategies are implemented on the ground. The visit provided a hands-on learning experience, complementing the theoretical knowledge taught in classrooms.

The Curator reiterated the zoo's commitment to environmental education and encouraged schools to integrate such field visits into their curriculum to foster a deeper understanding of wildlife and conservation issues.

By engaging thousands of students in educational activities, Nehru Zoological Park continues to strengthen its role as a centre for environmental learning and awareness, preparing the next generation to become proactive custodians of nature.

Dr. Anil Kumar, Additional Director General of Police, Operations (Greyhounds & OCTOPUS), Sri R. Bhaskaran, DIG, CI Cell, and key Greyhounds personnel such as Col. Someshwar Singh Sinsinwar, SM, Training Consultant; Sri J. Raghavendar Reddy, Group Commander (Operations); Sri N. V. Satya Srinivas Rao, Group Commander (Training); Sri A. Venkateswarlu, Group Commander (Headquarters); Sri G. Dayanand, OSD Operations; and Sri P. V. Narayana Swamy, Squadron Commander. During the ceremony,

Hyderabad, January 9, 2026 (TPN Bureau):

The Director General of Police, Sri B. Shivaiah Reddy, IPS, formally released the Greyhounds Official Table Calendar and New Year 2026 Diary at a program held at the DGP office in Hyderabad on Friday. The event celebrated the launch of these annual publications, which highlight the achievements, operational excellence, and enduring legacy of the elite Greyhounds force.

The program was attended by several senior officials, including

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Residents Raise Health, Sanitation and School Land Issues in Bowrampet

Qutubullapur, January 9, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Residents of Bowrampet and Mallampet have expressed growing concerns over sanitation and public health issues in their areas. On Friday, a delegation led by Gandimaisamma-Dundigal Circle BJP President Pisari Krishnareddy submitted petitions to the Dundigal Circle Sanitation Officer, Avinash Reddy, highlighting severe mosquito infestations and public hygiene problems that have arisen over the past week.

The petition noted that the proliferation of mosquitoes and stagnant water has put children, the elderly, and residents with pre-existing health conditions at risk. Citizens urged the authorities to immediately initiate fogging and other preventive measures to curb the spread of mosquito-borne diseases and improve public health conditions.

In addition, the dele-

gation highlighted hazards caused by dust and debris from Ready Mix Concrete (RMC) plants operating along the main roads from Bowrampet to Dundigal and Saregudem. Improper disposal of waste materials from these plants has led to severe dust pollution, causing respiratory problems for pedestrians and motorists alike. The delegation requested authorities to enforce regulations on these plants and conduct regular road cleaning using mechanical sweepers to

ensure public safety. Flooding and drainage issues were also flagged. At locations such as Gayatri Vidyalayam and along the route from Bharamamb Temple to Bodrai, overflowed drainage has been spilling onto main roads for long stretches, causing nuisance and discomfort due to foul odors. Residents requested immediate action to resolve these sanitation problems.

Separately, the delegation submitted a petition to the Mandal Revenue Officer (MRO) of Gandi-

maisamma-Dundigal mandal seeking the allocation of five acres of land to the Bowrampet ZP High School. With over 900 students currently enrolled, the school is struggling with inadequate playground space and open areas. The delegation emphasized that additional land is critical for current and future needs, especially as encroachment attempts by private builders using falsified documents threaten public property.



The petitioners stressed that the allocated land, located along Survey Number 166 and adjacent to the HMWS water tank on the Outer Ring Road, is vital for student access and recreational use. They urged the MRO to take prompt action to secure the land for public and educational purposes, ensuring that it is used primarily to benefit the school and its students.

The petitions were supported by key BJP leaders, including Circle General Secretary Dammagari Seetharam Reddy, senior leaders D. Prabhakar Reddy, Nall Rajireddy, and other party members who accompanied the delegations.

These actions highlight the community's growing demand for effective sanitation measures and secure land allocation for educational infrastructure, reflecting the urgent need for government intervention to safeguard public health and student welfare in Bowrampet.

Hyderabad Police Launches 'C-Mitra' to Enable Cybercrime FIRs from Home



Hyderabad, January 9, 2025 | TPN Bureau

In a pioneering move, the Hyderabad City Police on Friday launched 'C-Mitra' (Cyber-Mitra), a virtual help desk that allows victims of cybercrime to register First Information Reports (FIRs) without having to visit a police station. The initiative is aimed at providing immediate relief to citizens affected by cyber fraud, including OTP scams, digital arrests, and investment or trading frauds.

Hyderabad Commissioner of Police Sri V.C.

Sajjanar, IPS, described C-Mitra as a "virtual police officer" system that leverages technology to bring policing directly to residents' doorsteps. The service is currently available to citizens residing within the Hyderabad Police Commissionerate jurisdiction.

Under the C-Mitra system, victims first report the cyber fraud through the '1930' helpline or the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal. Once the report is received, Virtual Police Officers from the C-Mitra team contact the complainant and assist in drafting the complaint. Using Artificial Intelligence, the team prepares a precise FIR draft, which the victim reviews and signs. The signed copy can be sent by post to the Cyber Mitra Help Desk at the Cyber Crime Police Station in Basheerbagh or deposited in a designated drop box. Upon receiving the physical copy, the police register the FIR and send confirmation details to the victim via SMS. While physical signatures are currently required, officials said a

digital signature option is being explored for the future.

To ensure proper investigation, C-Mitra categorizes cases based on losses. Cases involving losses exceeding 3 lakh are registered and investigated at the Cyber Crime Police Station, while losses below 3 lakh are recorded as a Zero FIR and transferred to the respective local law and order station.

The initiative addresses long-standing delays in cybercrime FIR registration, which typically takes around three hours. Currently, only 18 percent of complaints received through the helpline and national portal are converted into FIRs, and C-Mitra aims to raise this figure to 100 percent. The virtual helpdesk operates from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., supported by a 24-member team using AI tools. Citizens are cautioned that offical C-Mitra communica-

tions will come only from the landline 040-4189-3111 or WhatsApp numbers starting with 87126, and staff will never request OTPs or money.

Officials emphasized that C-Mitra functions solely as a facilitation desk for FIR registration and does not conduct investigations or guarantee fund recovery. Victims seeking updates or legal guidance must contact the police station where the FIR has been lodged. The Commissioner of Police lauded the efforts of Shri M. Srinivasulu, IPS, Additional CP (Crimes & SIT), Shri A. Arvind Babu, DCP (Cyber Crime), Shri Shivamurthy, ACP (Cyber Crime), and their teams, as well as other officers and staff, for implementing the initiative successfully. C-Mitra is expected to make cybercrime reporting faster, safer, and more accessible for residents across Hyderabad.

Food Festival Showcases Creativity and Healthy Eating at Pragathi Patashala in Adilabad



Adilabad, January 9, 2026 | TPN Bureau

A colourful and flavoursome Food Festival was organised at Pragathi Patashala in Ichoda mandal of Adilabad district, drawing enthusiastic participation from students, parents and teachers. The event showcased the culinary creativity of young students and highlighted the importance of healthy food habits. As part of its annual efforts to bring out students' creativity through innovative activities, the Patashala organised the Food Festival this year with active involvement from children and their

parents. Students prepared a wide variety of mouth-watering dishes at home with parental support and displayed them at the Patashala. Nearly 100 varieties of traditional snacks and food items were exhibited, creating a festive atmosphere on the campus. Teachers appreciated the students for their effort and encouraged them to develop awareness about nutrition and balanced diets. Speaking on the occasion, Patashala Principal Kasaram Praveen said the Food Festival was organised not merely as a celebration but as an educational activity to teach chil-

dren about healthy food habits and basic principles of nutrition. He noted that such programmes help students understand the importance of choosing nutritious food over unhealthy and harmful items. Ichoda Major Gram Panchayat Sarpanch Jelai Jaku attended the programme as the chief guest, along with Deputy Sarpanch Loka Shirish Reddy, former MPP Nimmala Preetham Reddy and former MPTC Nimmala Shiva Reddy. Addressing the gathering, they said the festival played a key role in creating awareness among children about food items that can be harmful to health. They appreciated the Patashala management for organising programmes that combine education with practical learning. The guests also lauded the Patashala's consistent efforts in nurturing students not only academically but also in terms of values, scientific thinking and life skills. They said organising at least one such concept-based programme every year helps students become more conscious, responsible and informed individuals. The role of teachers and staff in guiding students and making the programme successful was also appreciated. The event saw

the participation of Patashala Correspondent Smt. Srikanthi Vanamala-Venkat Reddy, Principal Kasaram Praveen, Vice Principal Enugu Manjula, teachers Nizamuddin, Radha, Kaveri, Asan, Sunitha, Nandini, Lasya, Ramya, Gangothri, Akshaya, Srujan, Lakshmi, Sanjana, Savitha, Rachana and Swathi, along with PET Allam Saikiran Reddy. Students actively took part in the festival, making it a memorable learning experience.

The Food Festival concluded on a cheerful note, reinforcing the message of healthy living, creativity and community participation.

Public Welfare Is Our Prime Objective: Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy

Illendu, January 9, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Reaffirming the Congress government's commitment to addressing public issues and strengthening urban infrastructure, Telangana Revenue, Housing and Information Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy on Friday said that providing better basic amenities to citizens remains the government's top priority. The minister laid foundation stones for development works worth 3.17 crore in several wards of Illendu municipality.

Speaking on the occasion, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy stated that the Congress government is firmly focused on the comprehensive development of municipalities across the state. He asserted that Illendu municipality would witness significant progress under the present administration and

promised that urban development would be taken up in a planned and people-centric manner. "The Congress government is committed to resolving public problems and ensuring quality infrastructure in towns and cities. Illendu municipality will see a new phase of development during our tenure," the minister said. He added that special attention was being given to strengthening civic amenities, including roads, drainage systems and sanitation facilities, to improve the overall quality of life for residents.

The minister explained that funds had been allocated to permanently address long-pending issues related to CC roads and drainage in wards 1, 4, 7, 8, 9, 18, 22 and 24 of the municipality. He said that development works were being taken up in



accordance with local needs and after careful planning, ensuring that public funds are utilised effectively and transparently. Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy assured the people that Illendu would be developed as a model municipality with balanced growth across all sectors. He stressed that the government's approach was not limited to temporary measures but aimed at providing long-term solutions to civic problems. "Our goal is to build strong urban infrastructure that serves future generations as well," he said.

The minister also highlighted that the Congress government was giving priority to municipalities as engines of economic and social development. He said sustained investment in urban areas would create better living conditions, boost lo-

cal economies and generate employment opportunities.

The programme was attended by Mahabubabad Member of Parliament Porika Balaram Naik, Illendu MLA Koram Kanakaiah and former municipal chairman Dammalapati Venkateswara Rao. Senior Congress leaders Madugu Sambamurthy, Mandala Ramu, Bolla Suryam and Chilla Srin-

Development Push Gains Momentum as Minister Vakit Srihari Conducts Whirlwind Tour of Makthal



Makthal, January 9, 2026 | TPN Bureau

reviewed the Mini Tank Bund beautification project, being undertaken at a cost of 3.70 crore. Expressing satisfaction with the work in progress, he instructed officials to expedite the remaining works and ensure the facility is opened to the public at the earliest. He noted that the project would significantly enhance the town's aesthetic appeal and provide residents with a much-needed recreational space.

Continuing his inspection, Vakit Srihari visited the under-construction 150-bed hospital, being built at a cost of 43 crore. He examined the quality of construction and interacted with engineers on-site, directing them to accelerate the pace of work without compromising standards.

Once completed, the hospital is expected to improve access to healthcare services not only for Makthal residents but also for people from surrounding rural areas. In Ward No. 16, the minister laid the foundation stone for new cement concrete

roads. In a symbolic gesture reflecting his commitment to development, he instructed officials to remove portions of his own house that were obstructing road widening. The minister remarked that it was a matter of personal satisfaction to develop the very lanes where he spent his childhood.

During the visit, he interacted warmly with local residents, including children and senior citizens.

He also inspected an Indiramma housing unit belonging to a woman named Swapna, appreciating the near-completion of the house and congratulating the family. The minister assured them that he would personally attend the housewarming ceremony once it is scheduled.

Local residents welcomed the minister's proactive approach, expressing optimism that the ongoing initiatives would bring lasting development and improved quality of life to Makthal town.

Cyberabad W&CSW Reports Major Actions for Women and Child Safety



Cyberabad, January 9, 2026 (TPN Bureau):

The Women and Children Safety Wing (W&CSW) of Cyberabad Police reported significant enforcement and awareness initiatives for the week spanning January 3 to January 9, 2026, aimed at safeguarding women and children across the commissionate.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Srujan Karanam highlighted the department's commitment to protecting vulnerable groups and ensuring public safety.

Under Operation Smile-XII, the Cyberabad Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) conducted targeted raids across the commissionate, resulting in 49 cases registered under JJ Act and the successful rescue of 215 children, including 200 boys and 15 girls. During the week, W&CSW teams also conducted 127 decoy operations in public spaces to curb indecent and inappropriate behavior.

apprehending 59 individuals red-handed. Of these, 63 petty cases were formally registered, while the remaining individuals received counseling.

In addition to law enforcement actions, the W&CSW responded to 17 complaints from women and actively engaged in family counseling initiatives.

Through the Family Counseling Centres (CDEW), officers successfully mediated and reconciled 31 families, fostering harmony and resolving domestic disputes.

Awareness campaigns were conducted across Cyberabad's jurisdictions, covering issues including human trafficking, child trafficking, child labor, child marriages, harassment of women, cyber harassment, stalking, begging, and cyber scams. These programs reached 6,615 people, educating citizens on their rights and responsibilities.

Officials emphasized

Youth from Maktal Embarks on Foot Journey to Meet CM Revanth Reddy

Maktal/Hyderabad, January 9, 2026 (TPN Bureau):

A young resident of Maktal, identified as Pawan, recently embarked on a foot journey to Hyderabad with the aim of meeting Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, driven by his admiration for the leader. The 22-year-old reportedly wanted to personally express his support and appreciation for the Chief Minister.

The incident occurred near Kothur on the National Highway, where Minister Vakit Srihari, who was traveling from Maktal to Hyderabad, noticed Pawan walking along the road. Pawan was seen carrying a Congress party flag and wearing a T-shirt featuring CM Revanth Reddy's photograph. Intrigued, the minister instructed his convoy to stop and approached the youth to



learn more about his unusual journey.

Speaking to Minister Srihari, Pawan explained that his admiration for CM Revanth Reddy motivated him to walk all the way from Maktal to Hyderabad. He emphasized that his

act was purely out of personal respect and support, and he wished to convey his sentiments directly to the Chief Minister.

Minister Srihari as-

sumed Pawan that he would personally bring the youth's message to the notice of CM Revanth Reddy and promised to facilitate the meeting. The encounter was described as a heartwarming interaction, reflecting the enthusiasm of the youth and the responsiveness of Telangana's ministers in engaging with the public.

This incident highlights the personal connect and admiration some citizens hold for political leaders and underscores the approachable nature of Telangana's ministers in engaging with the public.

Officials emphasized

the significance of helpline services for women and children, including Women's Helpline 181, Child Helpline 1098, Dial 100, and the Crime Reporting Helpline 1930, urging the public to utilize these channels for immediate assistance.

DCP Karanam stated that these efforts demonstrate Cyberabad Police's proactive approach in protecting vulnerable populations, preventing crimes, and raising public awareness. "We continue to work tirelessly to ensure that children and women are safe in all public and private spaces, while empowering citizens with knowledge and resources to prevent and report crimes," she said. The W&CSW stressed that collaboration between law enforcement, families, and the community is key to achieving a safer environment for women and children in Cyberabad.

Beneath Kerala's Sands Lies India's Strategic Future

For decades, India has spoken of technological sovereignty, energy independence, and strategic autonomy. Yet one of the most powerful tools to achieve all three lies quietly beneath our feet—embedded in the mineral-rich sands of Kerala's coastline. With the passage of the nuclear SHANTI Bill, flawed though it may be, the moment has arrived to move from rhetoric to action.

The Chavara-Neendakara-Kayamkulam stretch of Kerala's coast contains one of the world's richest concentrations of thorium-bearing monazite, titanium minerals such as ilmenite, rutile, and leucoxene, zircon, and associated rare earth elements (REEs). Very few regions globally host all three categories at such scale. Kerala does. These deposits are among the most accessible strategic minerals in the world, requiring neither underground mining nor the prolonged lead times of hard-rock extraction.

Kerala's heavy mineral sands—monazite, ilmenite, rutile, zircon, and sillimanite—are indispensable to the global energy transition, defence manufacturing, aerospace, electronics, and advanced metallurgy. Yet India has barely begun to treat this endowment as the strategic asset it truly is. We continue the irrational practice of exporting rare earth oxides while importing finished magnets and high-value components. If this cycle is to be broken, Kerala is the most logical place to begin.

India Needs Imagination—and Will

Handled strategically, these minerals could form the backbone of India's long-term energy security, aerospace capability, and technological self-reliance. The challenge is not the absence of resources; it is the absence of imagination and institutional resolve to treat minerals as instruments of national



power.

Kerala should be officially designated India's pilot state for strategic mineral development. Done correctly, it could become a living demonstration that democratic governance, environmental responsibility, and national security can coexist. If Kerala leads responsibly, it can set a replicable model for the rest of the country.

Thorium: Energy Independence Deferred

During parliamentary debates on the SHANTI Bill, several speakers highlighted India's thorium advantage. India's nuclear establishment has long recognised thorium as the holy grail of energy security. With the world's largest monazite reserves, India holds roughly a quarter of global thorium resources—much of it located in Kerala.

Thorium is not just another mineral. It is a long-duration energy asset capable of powering

India for centuries through advanced breeder reactors. Yet today, thorium remains confined to laboratories and policy papers. The three-stage nuclear programme—once a symbol of Indian scientific ambition—has progressed at a glacial pace, even as other nations accelerate toward next-generation nuclear technologies.

Kerala could alter this trajectory. A state-level thorium innovation mission—anchored in collaboration between the Department of Atomic Energy, leading research institutions, and private engineering firms—could accelerate reactor component manufacturing, materials research, and safety systems.

The objective need not be immediate commercial deployment; demonstrable technological progress alone would be transformative. A pilot thorium cluster in Kerala would send a clear message: India intends to shape the future of nuclear energy, not

merely observe it.

Titanium: The Metal of Strategic Autonomy

If thorium represents energy independence, titanium represents strategic autonomy. Titanium alloys are indispensable for aerospace, defence, naval engineering, hypersonic platforms, and space exploration. Their unique combination of strength, light weight, and corrosion resistance makes them essential to any modern military or spacefaring nation.

Kerala's coastal sands contain some of the world's richest ilmenite deposits, the primary ore for titanium. India is the world's largest producer of ilmenite, yet remains a marginal player in titanium metal and alloy production. Raw ore is exported; value addition takes place overseas.

This dependence is a strategic vulnerability. No nation aspiring to great-power status can afford to outsource the production of a metal so

central to its defence and aerospace ecosystems. Kerala can again serve as the proving ground. A titanium downstream manufacturing corridor—integrating beneficiation, slag production, sponge titanium, and alloy fabrication—could create a domestic ecosystem India currently lacks. With ISRO, DRDO, and the Indian Navy as anchor customers, Kerala could emerge as the titanium hub of the Indian Ocean region.

Rare Earths: The Hidden Backbone of Power

Rare earth elements are the quiet enablers of 21st-century technology. China's near-hegemonic control over rare earth mining, refining, and magnet manufacturing has already been weaponised, including against India. Today, China controls about 60% of global rare-earth mining, over 90% of refining capacity, and much of the downstream supply chain.

Rare earths power permanent magnets, electric vehicles, wind turbines, advanced electronics, precision sensors, and precision-guided weapons. Dependence on a single supplier is no longer just an economic risk—it is a strategic one.

Kerala's monazite and zircon sands contain significant rare earth content, though coastal erosion is steadily depleting these reserves. Yet India's REE separation capacity remains minimal, and downstream manufacturing—magnets, alloys, and components—is almost non-existent.

We export raw materials and import finished products at high cost.

A Kerala Rare Earths Mission could reverse this trajectory. By integrating mining, separation, metallurgy, and component manufacturing, Kerala could host India's first complete REE value chain. This is not merely an industrial opportunity;

it is a national security necessity.

Why Kerala Is the Right Place

Critics will argue that this is parochial advocacy, or that mining is environmentally destructive, socially disruptive, and politically contentious.

Within Kerala, some will insist that the state's dense population and strong civic culture make it unsuitable for such an experiment. But that is precisely why Kerala is the right place.

If strategic mineral development can be done responsibly in Kerala—with transparency, community participation, scientific oversight, and strict environmental safeguards—it can be done anywhere in India.

Kerala's regulatory capacity, political awareness, and social engagement make it uniquely positioned to pioneer an ethical, sustainable model of

extraction.

Community consent will not emerge from rhetoric alone. It will come from visible benefits: skilled employment, revenue sharing, improved infrastructure, educational opportunities, and credible ecological protection. Kerala already has a public-sector legacy through IREL and KMML. What it lacks is a 21st-century vision that integrates science, industry, and national strategy.

Let Kerala Lead

India's mineral policy has long been extractive rather than strategic. We mine, export, and re-import value-added products at a premium. That era must end. In the decades ahead, minerals will not merely be commodities—they will be instruments of power.

Kerala offers India a rare convergence: thorium, titanium, and rare earths in one globally significant region. Very few places in the world can claim this combination. But resources alone do not confer power. Strategy does.

Kerala should be declared India's pilot state for strategic minerals. This requires a Kerala Strategic Minerals Authority; a thorium downstream manufacturing corridor; a rare earths value-chain mission; a transparent, community-first environmental framework; and a deep national security partnership with the Central Government.

India often speaks of becoming a global power. Kerala offers a chance to build the material foundations of that ambition.

Handled passively, these minerals will remain sand.

Handled strategically, they can become the steel, fuel, and circuitry of India's future.

India's 'Clean' Cities and the Poison Beneath the Tap

Indore, Gandhinagar, and Bengaluru are frequently held up as symbols of India's urban success. Indore has repeatedly topped the Swachh Survekshan rankings as the country's "cleanest" city. Gandhinagar and Ahmedabad are showcased as planned, green, and efficiently governed urban centres, with Gandhinagar slated to host the Commonwealth Games in 2030. At the Swachh Survekshan 2024-25 awards in July 2025, Ahmedabad was named India's cleanest big city, while Gandhinagar topped the Super Swachh League in the mid-sized city category. Bengaluru, despite its well-known struggles, continues to be branded India's technology capital and boasts one of the highest municipal revenues in the country.

Yet beneath these accolades lies a deeply troubling reality: contaminated drinking water caused by the mixing of sewage and water supply lines. Cracks develop in pipelines, sewer lines overflow, pressure changes force contamination into drinking water systems—and people fall sick. Increasingly, these incidents are no longer confined to the monsoon season. That such severe water contamination continues to recur in major Indian cities is not merely alarming; it is indefensible.

The recent deaths in In-

dore, the typhoid outbreak in Gandhinagar, and widespread illness linked to contaminated water in Bengaluru expose a profound failure of urban governance. They compel us to ask a fundamental question: what do "clean" and "well-managed" actually mean in India's cities?

The Reality Behind the Rankings

On January 6, the Madhya Pradesh government confirmed before the High Court that at least eight people had died in Indore. Reports indicate that since December 24, over 310 residents from the Bhagirathpura area have been admitted to hospitals with symptoms linked to water contamination.

In Gandhinagar, a sudden surge in typhoid cases has affected multiple localities. As of January 7, health authorities confirmed 85 active cases, with a total of 144 reported infections. Anticipating a rise in paediatric cases, Gandhinagar Civil Hospital opened a dedicated 30-bed ward for children suffering from high fever, vomiting, and gastrointestinal distress. Contaminated water has been identified as the primary cause.

In Bengaluru, residents of KSFC Layout in Lingarajapuram have been forced to rely on private water supplies for more than a week due to foul-

smelling, discoloured tap water. Many reported months of gastrointestinal illness, vomiting, and diarrhoea, but the scale of contamination became evident only recently.

Access to safe drinking water is not a luxury or an aspirational goal. It is a constitutional obligation. Article 21 of the Constitution, as interpreted by the Supreme Court, includes the right to clean water as intrinsic to the right to life. When sewage enters drinking water pipelines and people fall seriously ill or die, it is not an accident—it is a failure of planning, maintenance, governance, and accountability.

The Illusion of Cleanliness

Indore's tragedy is especially stark given its reputation. Cleanliness rankings focus heavily on visible sanitation—solid waste management, street sweeping, behavioural campaigns, and public toilets. Water infrastructure, buried underground and out of sight, receives far less attention until it fails catastrophically.

Gandhinagar's typhoid outbreak reveals a similar contradiction. Officials have acknowledged that the problem was not ageing infrastructure but newly laid pipelines installed dangerously close to sewer lines. When high-

pressure water began

flowing, weak joints developed leaks, allowing sewage to contaminate drinking water. This is not a technical mishap; it is a grave lapse in public safety, and those responsible must be held accountable.

Planned cities are often assumed to be safer. But planning without continuous maintenance is meaningless. Preventive maintenance is a well-established principle in urban management, yet in practice it remains largely confined to reports and presentations.

Bengaluru exposes another systemic weakness: fragmented governance. Different agencies handle water supply, sewage, stormwater drains, and roadworks. One agency damages pipelines during excavation, another is responsible for repairs, and a third monitors water quality—often resulting in no one being held accountable. During the monsoon, overflowing drains and flooded streets further increase contamination risks. For a city that markets itself as a global technology hub, the routine necessity of boiling water or buying expensive tankers supplies is an irony bordering on the absurd.

Why This Should Alarm Us

Nearly 70% of India's surface water is unfit for consumption. Rivers are heavily polluted by sewage

and industrial waste, while groundwater is contaminated by arsenic, fluoride, and other naturally occurring toxins. Millions suffer the health and economic consequences, placing enormous strain on already scarce freshwater resources.

As policymakers focus on extending piped water coverage, these recurring tragedies underline a critical truth: access alone is not the problem. Even cities with established water networks cannot guarantee safe drinking water.

What makes these failures especially disturbing is that they occur in cities with higher revenues, stronger administrative capacity, and greater civic awareness than most towns and peri-urban areas. If Indore, Gandhinagar, and Bengaluru cannot ensure safe water, conditions elsewhere are likely far worse. This exposes a structural flaw in India's urban governance—an obsession with rankings, optics, and announcements, at the expense of unglamorous but vital systems such as pipeline integrity, routine testing, and preventive maintenance.

Rapid urbanisation has only compounded the problem, pushing more people into congested cities and placing immense strain on ageing water and sewage infrastructure.

A Silent Social Crisis

Water contamination



disproportionately affects children, the elderly, and the poor. Middle-class households may install filters or buy bottled water, but low-income families depend entirely on municipal supply. When contamination occurs, it quickly escalates into a public health emergency—causing missed school days, mounting medical expenses, malnutrition, and, in extreme cases, death.

These human costs never appear in cleanliness rankings or GDP statistics, yet they steadily erode public trust and deepen inequality.

Accountability remains the weakest link. Investigations are announced, compensation promised, and officials suspended or transferred. But systemic

reform rarely follows. There is little transparency around water quality reports, pipeline audits, or the frequency of contamination incidents. Citizens often learn of danger only after hospitals report spikes in waterborne diseases. A truly "clean" city would publish real-time water quality data and issue immediate alerts, much like air quality warnings.

Redefining Urban Cleanliness

India's urban future depends on confronting this blind spot. Investment must shift from surface-level sanitation to underground infrastructure—modernising pipelines, physically separating water and sewage networks, managing

pressure systems, and deploying sensors for early contamination detection. Regular third-party audits and community monitoring should be mandatory, not optional. Above all, water safety must be treated as a public health priority, not merely an engineering concern.

The deaths in Indore and the illnesses in Gandhinagar and Bengaluru are not isolated incidents. They are warnings. Clean streets and awards cannot compensate for poisoned taps. Until Indian cities redefine cleanliness to include safe, reliable drinking water, urban success will remain a hollow promise—one that costs lives instead of improving them.

“Mamata Leads Kolkata Rally Against ED Raids as BJP Alleges Corruption”

The political confrontation between the Centre and the West Bengal government intensified on Friday after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) conducted raids on the Indian Political Action Committee (I-PAC) and its co-founder Pratik Jain. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee took to the streets of Kolkata in protest, while the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) accused her of being “knee-deep in corruption,” amplifying an already heated standoff.

The matter also disrupted proceedings in the Calcutta High Court. Justice Suvarna Ghosh, who was hearing multiple petitions related to the raids, temporarily left the courtroom, citing excessive crowding. With the high court scheduled to remain closed over the weekend, the case is now set to resume only on Wednesday.

I-PAC, a political consultancy firm, has been actively involved in assisting the Trinamool Congress (TMC) with its strategy for the upcoming West Bengal Assembly elections later this year. The ED's raids on Thursday alleged that Banerjee had walked out with a laptop, phone, and documents from Jain's residence during the action, which is linked to a coal smuggling case.

In its petition filed with the court, the ED claimed that Banerjee misused her constitutional position by obstructing officials carrying out their duties at the I-PAC office and Jain's home. The agency also sought a CBI investigation into the matter, including the



chief minister's role.

In response, Pratik Jain and the Trinamool Congress filed counter-petitions, arguing that the ED's raids were politically motivated. According to the TMC, the agency was attempting to seize documents related to the party's election strategy so that they could potentially be handed over to the BJP ahead of the state polls.

While the legal proceedings were underway, Mamata Banerjee led a massive protest rally to demonstrate her opposition to the raids. Starting from Jadavpur and moving towards Hazra Crossing, a distance of roughly six kilometers, the rally saw Banerjee at the forefront, flanked by senior party leaders and surrounded by a large contingent of party workers. Crowds

lined the streets to show support for the chief minister, chanting slogans and waving party flags, underscoring the TMC's message that the BJP was resorting to all possible means to influence the upcoming elections.

Banerjee and other TMC leaders accused the BJP of desperation in its efforts to secure victory in the Bengal polls, framing the ED raids as part of a broader strategy to undermine their party. “The timing of these actions is clearly aimed at disrupting the democratic process and intimidating political opponents,” TMC sources said.

The BJP, on the other hand, accused Mamata Banerjee of corruption and interference in the enforcement process. Senior party leader Ravi Shankar Prasad called for her

to be formally named as an accused for allegedly intimidating ED officials. “There are multiple suspicious circumstances surrounding Mamata Banerjee's actions during the raids. It appears she was attempting to rescue sensitive material that implicates her and her party,” he said, emphasizing the need for accountability.

As the political battle unfolds, the standoff has added another layer of tension to West Bengal's already charged pre-election environment. With the High Court proceedings set to resume on Wednesday and public demonstrations continuing, the confrontation between the Centre and the state government is poised to remain a major flashpoint in the run-up to the assembly elections.

Ajit and Sharad Pawar Factions Patch Up Ahead of Pimpri-Chinchwad Civic Polls

Mumbai: The two factions of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) have reportedly reconciled, with tensions within the Pawar family resolved. Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and NCP leader Ajit Pawar told NDTV in an exclusive interview.

“The workers of both parties want to unite. The two NCPs are together now. All tensions in our family have ended,” he said, signaling a formal truce between his faction and the one led by Sharad Pawar.

The NCP had split two years ago after a mutiny by Ajit Pawar, who subsequently aligned his faction with the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and assumed the role of Deputy Chief Minister. The division had also involved a tussle over party symbols: Ajit Pawar retained the NCP's original name and the iconic ‘clock’ symbol, while Sharad Pawar's faction adopted the name NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar) and a trumpet symbol.

Both factions have now decided to join forces for the upcoming Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation elections. Sharad Pawar's daughter



and Lok Sabha MP, Supriya Sule, confirmed to NDTV that the alliance was formed at the request of party workers. She clarified, however, that there has been no discussion regarding whether this collaboration will continue beyond the civic polls.

Sule also dismissed rumours linking NCP (SP) to Maharashtra's BJP-led government or suggesting that she would assume a ministerial post. “Let those who are happy with such rumours talk about them,” she said.

Ajit Pawar also addressed

other controversies, including allegations related to a land deal involving his son, Parth Pawar. “He didn't give a single rupee. We also didn't buy any land,” he stated, rejecting the claims outright.

On the political front, Ajit Pawar expressed confidence about the Pimpri-Chinchwad elections despite the recent rapprochement between MNS chief Raj Thackeray and Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray. “Raj Thackeray's speech is like a mimicry show; it gives entertainment for a short time, but nothing can be

achieved with it. Both Raj and Uddhav will not be successful,” he remarked, downplaying any potential threat from the alliance.

Meanwhile, Supriya Sule took aim at the BJP, accusing the party of creating divisions among smaller parties. She also highlighted broader governance concerns, citing controversies like the Enforcement Directorate's raids on political consultancy I-PAC in West Bengal. “Pollution, potholes, and traffic problems are at their peak in Mumbai, and no work has been done on the ground. The public and voters are troubled by the mismatched alliances happening in Maharashtra. How are so many leaders being elected unopposed? This is a disturbing trend,” she said, emphasizing the need for accountability and better governance.

With the Pawar factions now united, the NCP aims to consolidate its position in the Pimpri-Chinchwad polls, sending a strong signal about its intent to present a united front in Maharashtra's increasingly complex political landscape.

Sabarimala Gold Theft Probe: Temple Chief Priest Kandararu Rajeevaru Arrested by SIT

The investigation into the alleged theft of gold from Sabarimala temple artefacts took a dramatic turn on Friday with the arrest of the temple's chief priest, Tantri Kandararu Rajeevaru, by the special investigation team (SIT). Rajeevaru is the first member of the Tantri clan to be arrested in the ongoing case, which comes amid the temple's annual festival.

The SIT, formed by the Kerala High Court, has registered two cases related to the scandal and so far has arrested nine individuals, including senior employees of the Travancore Devaswom Board and CPI(M) leaders who headed the board overseeing the hill shrine. Rajeevaru, a senior priest from the Thazhamon family, has been a key figure at Sabarimala since joining in 1995. His son, Kandararu Brahmathan, also became a priest at the temple in 2024.

Police allege that Rajeevaru facilitated the entry of the key



accused, Unnikrishnan Potty, into the temple as an assistant to the priests. Potty, who is accused of removing gold-plated temple items under the pretext of “gold covering” in 2019 and 2025, began working at the shrine in 2007-08. Over the years, he allegedly leveraged his position to manage VIP darshan for businessmen, celebrities, and influential visitors, ultimately presenting himself as a sponsor for

the temple's gold covering ceremonies. Rajeevaru is expected to be produced before the vigilance court in Kollam, where the case is being heard.

Earlier this week, the High Court, which oversaw the formation of the SIT, classified the investigation into four distinct phases. The first phase focuses on the gold cladding of various artefacts in and around the Sreekrishna temple. The sec-

ond pertains to the replacement of the old gold-plated door of the Sreekrishna temple in 2019. The third phase examines the removal of the gold-clad Dwarapalaka idol plates, side plates, and door frame plates, also in 2019. The fourth phase involves all transactions related to the gold plating of the Dwarapalaka idol plates in 2025.

The High Court noted that the gold was allegedly removed, replaced, or misappropriated through a premeditated and concerted plan by individuals entrusted with safeguarding the temple's valuables. The next hearing in the case has been scheduled for January 19.

The arrest of Rajeevaru marks a significant development in the case, highlighting the widening scope of the probe and the involvement of senior temple authorities in the alleged misappropriation of gold from one of India's most revered shrines.

India Rejects US Commerce Secretary's Remarks on Trade Talks, Reaffirms Commitment to Bilateral Deal



New Delhi: India has firmly pushed back against comments made by United States Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick suggesting that a long-discussed India-US trade agreement stalled because Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not place a phone call to US President Donald Trump. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) described Lutnick's remarks as “not accurate,” emphasizing that the two countries have been engaged in sustained, detailed negotiations on a bilateral trade pact for over a year.

MEA spokesperson Randeep Singh Jaiswal clarified that India and the United States had committed to negotiating a trade agreement as early as February 13, 2025, and multiple rounds of discussions have since been held, aimed at reaching a mutually beneficial outcome. “We have seen the remarks. India and the US were committed to negotiating a bilateral trade agreement as far back as February 13 last year,” he said. “On several occasions, we have been close to a deal. The characterisation of these discussions in the reported remarks is not accurate.”

Jaiswal stressed that India remains interested in finalizing a trade pact that benefits both countries. “We remain interested in a mutually beneficial trade

deal between two complementary economies and look forward to concluding it,” he added.

The MEA also addressed any implication that political communication at the highest level had broken down. Jaiswal pointed out that Prime Minister Modi and President Trump have spoken on the phone on eight occasions during 2025, covering various aspects of the wide-ranging India-US partnership. “Incredibly, Prime Minister Modi and President Trump have also spoken on the phone on eight occasions during 2025, covering different aspects of our wide-ranging partnership,” he said, emphasizing that high-level dialogue has remained consistent.

The Centre's response came in the wake of Lutnick's interview on a podcast released on Thursday. During the interview, the US Commerce Secretary remarked that negotiations with India failed to reach a conclusion while the United States proceeded with trade agreements with other countries. While Lutnick did not specify the reasons behind India's stance, he implied that the absence of direct communication at the highest level contributed to the delay.

India, however, has maintained that the negotiations have been ongoing and productive, with both sides

working toward a comprehensive agreement. Officials have repeatedly highlighted that trade discussions involve complex issues, ranging from tariffs and market access to intellectual property rights and investment rules, which require careful negotiation rather than a single phone call to resolve.

Experts suggest that the MEA's rebuttal seeks to clarify that bilateral negotiations are a matter of process and substance rather than personalities or isolated gestures. They note that framing the delays as a result of a missed call oversimplifies the multifaceted nature of international trade agreements.

Despite the comments by Lutnick, India has signaled its continued interest in concluding a bilateral trade pact with the United States. Both governments appear committed to finding a path forward that strengthens economic ties between the two complementary economies, underlining that the India-US partnership remains robust and multi-dimensional, spanning trade, technology, defense, and strategic cooperation.

With negotiations ongoing, officials have indicated that both countries are exploring ways to address outstanding issues, aiming for a deal that balances mutual interests and fosters deeper economic engagement.

Madras High Court Stays UA Certification for Vijay's Jana Nayagan, Release Postponed



The Madras High Court on Friday stayed a single judge's order directing the Censor Board to grant a UA certificate to Vijay-starrer Jana Nayagan, pushing the matter for hearing on January 21, after the Pongal holidays.

The film, widely touted as Vijay's swansong before his transitions to full-time politics, was originally scheduled for release today, January 9.

Earlier on Friday morning, a single judge had ordered the Censor Board to issue a UA certificate once the filmmakers made the required modifications. The court had also criticized the board for entertaining complaints against the film, terming it a “dangerous trend.”

Rohatgi, representing the filmmakers, questioned how a member of the Examining Committee could lodge a complaint against the film. The Chief Justice also criticized the producers for announcing the release date before the certificate was officially granted, suggesting that they had pressured the court.

The Censor Board has previously stated that Jana

Nayagan includes emblems related to the armed forces, which, according to the board, require expert examination.

The film, produced by KVN Productions, was slated for a worldwide release with screenings in the US, UK, Malaysia, and Canada. However, on January 7, the production house announced the postponement of the release, citing “unavoidable circumstances beyond our control.” The statement expressed regret that fans and stakeholders would be disappointed.

Jana Nayagan also stars Bobby Deol and Pooja Hegde and has been one of the most anticipated releases of the year, with fans eagerly awaiting Vijay's last outing before his political journey. The filmmakers are reportedly discussing the option of approaching the Supreme Court to expedite the certification process.

Sensex, Nifty Slide for Fifth Straight Session as US Tariff Fears and FII Outflows Rattle Markets

Indian equity markets extended their losing streak for a fifth consecutive session on Friday, weighed down by renewed concerns over potential US tariff actions and sustained foreign institutional investor (FII) outflows. Investor sentiment remained fragile despite a brief rebound in early trade.

The benchmark Sensex slipped 604.72 points, or 0.72 per cent, to close at 83,576.24, while the Nifty50 fell 193.55 points, or 0.75 per cent, to settle at 25,683.30. The decline followed a sharp sell-off in the previous session, as global trade uncertainties continued to cloud the outlook for risk assets.

Heavyweight stocks such as ICICI Bank, Adani Enterprises, and Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone were among the top losers on the Nifty50, shedding up to 2 per cent. On the other hand, ETERNAL and Oil & Natural Gas Corporation outperformed, gaining as much as 3 per cent. Market breadth remained decisively negative, with 2,919 stocks declining, 863 advancing, and 127 remaining unchanged.

Persistent FII selling remained a major drag on the markets. On Thursday alone, foreign investors sold equities worth 3,367.12 crore, marking the fourth straight session of net outflows following a brief pause earlier this month.

Investor caution was further heightened ahead of a key US



Supreme Court ruling on the legality of tariffs imposed during former President Donald Trump's tenure. If the court declares the tariffs illegal, the US government may have to refund nearly \$150 billion to importers. Market participants are closely watching whether the verdict leads to a partial rollback or a complete invalidation of the tariffs.

Adding to the uncertainty, Trump has hinted at imposing higher tariffs on Indian goods over New Delhi's continued pur-

chase of Russian crude. Over the past four sessions, the Sensex and Nifty have declined 1.8 per cent and 1.7 per cent, respectively. Meanwhile, a newly approved bipartisan Russia sanctions bill could allow tariffs as steep as 500 per cent on countries importing Russian oil, further unsettling markets.

Rising crude oil prices also weighed on sentiment. Brent crude climbed 0.53 per cent to \$62.32 per barrel, raising concerns over India's import bill and inflationary pressures. The

rupee weakened alongside equities, slipping 7 paise to 89.97 against the US dollar amid continued FII outflows and higher oil prices.

From a technical perspective, analysts warned of further downside risks. The Nifty has breached key support levels, including its 50-day exponential moving average. Experts see immediate support around the 25,700 mark, while the 26,000-26,050 zone is expected to act as strong resistance in the near term.

TCS Set to Kick Off Q3 Earnings Season; Brokerages Expect Modest Revenue Growth and Stable Deal Pipeline

Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. (TCS) is set to kick off the third-quarter earnings season for India Inc. on Monday, with brokerages anticipating steady growth in both revenue and profit, supported largely by its international operations. Analysts believe demand from developed markets, particularly in the banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) and hi-tech verticals, will be key drivers during the quarter.

According to consensus estimates compiled by Business Standard, TCS is expected to post a 1.21 per cent quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) increase in revenue to ₹66,595 crore in Q3. Growth is likely to be led by overseas markets, while the domestic business may remain under pressure.

On the profitability front, the company's net profit is projected to rise by 6.9 per cent QoQ to ₹12,908.7 crore, despite expectations of some margin compression. On a year-on-year (YoY) basis, net profit is estimated to grow by an average of 4.27 per cent. Analysts also expect the total contract value (TCV) for the quarter to stay in the range of ₹10-11 billion, indicating a stable deal pipeline.

In the previous quarter, TCS reported a net profit of ₹12,075 crore, marking a 1.4 per cent YoY increase. Revenue grew 2.4 per cent to ₹65,799 crore, beating market expectations.

Market participants will closely track management commen-



tary on measures to accelerate revenue growth, visibility on the deal pipeline, client spending patterns, and progress on planned investments in data centres and artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure.

Brokerages largely expect muted sequential growth. One brokerage estimates a 0.7 per cent QoQ rise in international revenues, which could be partly offset by a sharp decline in the India business in constant currency terms. Margins are

stable, as higher investments may be balanced by rupee depreciation.

Kotak Securities expects TCS to remain within the \$10-11 billion range and believes investor focus will be on TCS's renewed growth strategy and increased investments aimed at improving momentum.

Another brokerage anticipates a 0.5 per cent QoQ revenue growth in constant currency, driven by international business growth and ramp-up of the BSNL project. Management

guidance on near-term demand, client technology budgets, AI-led data centre opportunities and deal wins will be key.

Motilal Oswal expects Ebit margins to decline by about 30 basis points sequentially due to wage hikes, BSNL project costs and redundancy-related expenses, though recent acquisitions could support near-term growth.

Overall, analysts see Q3 as a stable quarter for TCS, with modest growth and strong focus on future demand signals.

Adani Enterprises' ₹1,000-Crore NCD Issue Fully Subscribed Within 45 Minutes

Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL) saw overwhelming investor interest in its ₹1,000 crore public issue of non-convertible debentures (NCDs), which was fully subscribed within 45 minutes of opening, according to stock exchange data.

The base issue of ₹500 crore was subscribed in just 10 minutes, while total bids crossed ₹1,000 crore, including the green shoe option, in under an hour. Data from the BSE showed that by the end of the first day, AEL had received bids for 2.19 crore NCDs against an issue size of 50 lakh debentures.

The issue opened on Tuesday and will remain open until January 19, 2026, with allotment being made on a first-come, first-served basis. The NCDs offer an effective yield of up to 8.90 percent per annum, making them attractive compared to similarly rated debt instruments and fixed deposits.

The issue comprises a base size of ₹500 crore along with a green shoe option of an additional ₹500 crore. The NCDs are



proposed to be listed on both the BSE and NSE and carry a 'AA-' rating with a stable outlook from ICRA and CARE Ratings.

This marks AEL's strong second showing in the debt market, following its ₹1,000 crore NCD issuance in July 2025, which was

fully subscribed within three hours on the first day, reflecting sustained investor confidence.

ing to a wide range of investor preferences.

Adani Enterprises continues to expand its infrastructure portfolio across India. Key projects include the Navi Mumbai International Airport, which was inaugurated on October 8, 2025, and became operational on December 25, 2025. In October, Google and AdaniConnex announced a partnership to develop India's largest AI data centre campus along with supporting green energy infrastructure in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

The company also operationalised the Nanasa-Pidgaon HAM road project in September 2025, its seventh active road project, and recently received letters of award for three new infrastructure projects, including a rope-way connecting Sonprayag and Kedarnath in Uttarakhand, and two road projects in Bihar under the hybrid annuity model.

The issue is being managed by Nuvama Wealth Management, Trust Investment Advisors, and Tiptsons Consultancy Services.

Ashok Leyland Shares Rally 3% on Strong Volumes as CV Demand Outlook Improves



Shares of Ashok Leyland rose sharply on Friday, gaining nearly 3 per cent to touch an intraday high of ₹190.70 on the BSE, even as broader markets traded under pressure. At around 2:01 pm, the stock was trading 2.3 per cent higher at ₹188.75, outperforming the BSE Sensex, which was down 0.74 per cent at the same time.

The rally was supported by strong trading activity, with volumes more than doubling compared to the daily average. A combined 20.42 million equity shares were traded across the NSE and BSE, reflecting heightened investor interest. Earlier in the week, on January 5, 2026, the commercial vehicle maker had touched a fresh record

high of ₹191.80.

Ashok Leyland has significantly outperformed the broader market across multiple timeframes. Over the past one month, the stock has surged 18 per cent, while the Sensex declined 1.3 per cent. In the last six months, Ashok Leyland has rallied 50 per cent, compared to a marginal 0.04 per cent rise in the benchmark index. On a year-on-year basis, the stock has zoomed 76 per cent, far exceeding the Sensex's gain of 7.7 per cent.

The strong performance comes amid robust sales momentum in India's automotive sector. Original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) reported healthy volume growth in December 2025, largely driven by sustained demand following GST rate cuts that re-

duced vehicle prices. The commercial vehicle (CV) and tractor segments outperformed peers during the month, with visible recovery across both medium and heavy commercial vehicles (M&HCVs) and light commercial vehicles (LCVs).

Ashok Leyland led the growth with-

in the CV segment, reporting a 27 per cent year-on-year increase in total sales to 21,533 units in December 2025. M&HCV volumes rose 29.2 per cent to 14,830 units, while export volumes jumped 35 per cent year-on-year to 1,678 units.

The company noted a smooth transition of M&HCV trucks to air-conditioning mandates, highlighting growing acceptance of improved safety and comfort standards in the trucking industry. Management also pointed out that GST 2.0 boosted demand by reducing GST on trucks and buses from 28 per cent to 18 per cent, while rate cuts in other goods categories are expected to support higher freight demand.

Looking ahead, Ashok Leyland's

management remains optimistic about CV industry growth in the second half of FY26, supported by improving con-

sumption, infrastructure spending,

higher fleet utilisation, and interest

rate transmission. Analysts at ICICI

Securities expect margins to improve in H2FY26 and reach mid-teens levels over the medium term, though near-

term volume visibility remains a key

monitorable.

Manappuram Finance Shares Tumble 7% After RBI Flags Concerns Over Bain Capital Deal



Shares of Manappuram Finance Ltd declined sharply on January 9, sliding nearly 7 percent, after a Reuters report said the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised concerns over Bain Capital's proposal to acquire a controlling stake in the non-banking financial company (NBFC).

At around 2:40 pm, Manappuram Finance shares were trading 7 percent lower at ₹287.30 on the stock exchanges.

Bain Capital, which announced its proposed investment in the gold loan-focused NBFC in March last year, is reportedly exploring a phased divestment of its stake in Tyger Capital, a smaller NBFC, to address the RBI's objections, according to sources cited by Reuters.

The RBI has consistently discouraged investors from exercising control over multiple lending entities, whether banks or non-bank lenders. In the past, private equity firms holding 20 percent or more stakes in NBFCs have been compelled to reduce their holdings following regulatory pushback.

While Bain has already received approvals for the Manappuram transaction from market regulator SEBI and the Competition Commission of India (CCI), the RBI remains the final authority for approving significant stake acquisitions in banks and NBFCs.

Under the proposed deal, Bain plans

to acquire an 18 percent stake in Manappuram Finance for approximately ₹4,400 crore, followed by an open offer to purchase an additional 26 percent. If completed, Bain would become one of the two controlling shareholders, with the ability to influence key management decisions. The investment is planned through two Bain funds—BC Asia Investments XXV and BC Asia Investments XIV.

Bain currently holds a 93 percent stake in Tyger Capital, formerly known as Adani Capital, which it acquired from the Adani family in 2023 through its Special Situations fund. Although Bain has argued that its investments are managed by separate funds and teams, sources indicated that this explanation is unlikely to satisfy the RBI.

Manappuram Finance operates a loan book of around ₹31,500 crore, primarily focused on the rapidly expanding gold loan segment. In comparison, Tyger Capital has a smaller asset base of ₹7,320 crore, spanning business, agricultural and home loans.

India's financial services sector has witnessed strong foreign investor interest over the past year. In December, Japan's MUFG announced plans to acquire a 20 percent stake in Shriram Finance for \$4.4 billion, while Blackstone agreed in October to invest around \$700 million for a 9.9 percent stake in Federal Bank.

Noida Entrepreneur's Post on 'Everyday Luxuries' Abroad Sparks Online Debate



A Noida-based entrepreneur has triggered a lively online discussion after questioning why many everyday comforts taken for granted in several foreign countries still feel like luxuries in India. Her post has drawn widespread attention, prompting conversations around cleanliness, civic sense, public hygiene, and overall quality of life.

Neha Nagar shared her reflections on X, drawing from her travel experiences. She wrote that travelling abroad often highlights how basic amenities in India are still not universally available or consistently maintained. According to her, one does not need to travel far to notice the difference, as similar contrasts are visible in popular destinations such as Bali and Vietnam.

Social Media Reactions

The post sparked mixed reactions online. Some users agreed with her observations, sharing similar experiences from

in street food, stricter regulation on plastic usage, improved air quality, and safer environments for women, particularly at night.

While acknowledging that no country is without flaws, Neha noted that India continues to struggle with providing basic civic amenities to all its citizens. At the same time, she expressed optimism about the country's potential to improve. She highlighted India's rich history, spirituality, food, art, culture, and people as strengths that could support meaningful progress.

Neha concluded by emphasising that real change would require intention, care, and accountability at every level—from governance to everyday civic behaviour.

Social Media Reactions

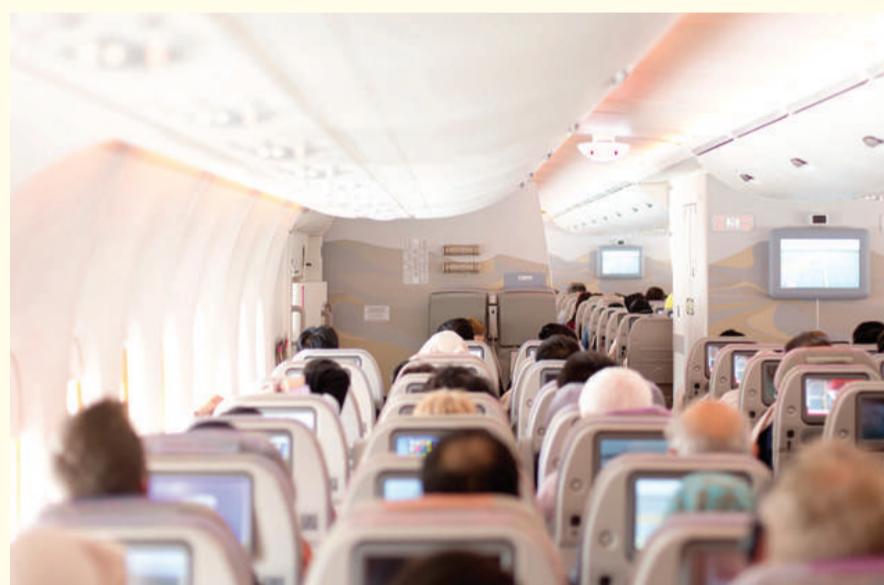
The post sparked mixed reactions online. Some users agreed with her observations, sharing similar experiences from

their travels. "Just back from Malaysia—amazingly clean with great infrastructure," one user commented. Another added, "Travelling abroad often sharpens our eye for what works better elsewhere."

Others pushed back against the comparison. One user questioned the choice of countries, writing, "Why compare India with Vietnam? Compare it with the US. In India, we get grocery delivery in 15 minutes, affordable healthcare that's far better than in America, UPI payments without carrying cash, easily available domestic help, and even medicines delivered at home."

The discussion continues to divide opinion, reflecting broader debates on how India measures quality of life, what benchmarks it should aspire to, and how everyday convenience compares with long-term civic and environmental well-being.

A First Flight, A Lifetime Dream: Son's Gesture Moves Social Media



A heartwarming video of an Indian man fulfilling a long-cherished dream for his parents has struck an emotional chord with social media users across the country. The short clip, shared on Instagram by a man named Vishnu, shows him taking his parents on their first-ever flight—a moment that resonates deeply with countless middle-class families in India.

The video opens with Vishnu standing proudly in front of an IndiGo aircraft alongside his parents, a simple yet powerful image that symbolises years of aspiration, sacrifice, and perseverance. In subsequent shots, the trio can be seen walking through the airport terminal, taking in the surroundings with visible excitement. Vishnu's parents appear delighted, smiling as they experience the unfamiliar yet thrilling world of air travel for the first time.

The response on social media has been overwhelmingly positive. Users flooded the comments section with messages of admiration and emotion.

"Pure love and gratitude. This is what success looks like," one user wrote. Another commented, "Such a proud moment. So happy to see this." A third user summed up the sentiment shared by many, saying, "It's every middle-class family's dream."

The video's appeal lies in its simplicity. There are no dramatic gestures or extravagant displays—just a son quietly fulfilling a promise he carried in his heart. In a country where millions grow up watching planes fly overhead, imagining what it would be like to be inside one, this moment reflects the quiet victories that define real success.

In an age dominated by curated luxury and viral trends, Vishnu's video stands out as a reminder that the most meaningful achievements are often deeply personal. For many who watched, it wasn't just a video—it was a reflection of their own dreams, hopes, and the love that binds families together.

"I Love Bengaluru, But I Can't Take It Anymore": Viral Post Sparks Debate on City's Declining Quality of Life



A heartfelt social media post by a Bengaluru resident has ignited a widespread debate about the city's present-day reality, increasingly shaped by relentless urbanisation, crumbling infrastructure, and a steadily declining quality of life. The post, shared on Reddit and now widely circulated, captures the growing frustration of residents struggling with poor roads, chronic traffic congestion, and overstretched civic services.

Titled "Bengaluru is my city, I love it. But I just can't take it anymore," the post struck a chord with thousands. The author, a lifelong resident, expressed deep emotional attachment to the city while lamenting how everyday living has become exhausting.

"Dear Bengaluru government, please do not make me hate this city. I've lived here all my life and loved every bit of it. I have not lived in any other city, and I have no problem with that. Bangalore is my city. But in the past few years, everything has gotten worse—the traffic, the air, the water, and most impor-

tantly, the roads," the resident wrote.

One of the key concerns raised was the severe traffic congestion along the Outer Ring Road (ORR), particularly the stretch from Silk Board to Mahadevpura, where commuters routinely spend hours stuck in gridlock.

"I just can't anymore. The traffic has gotten so terrible. I've tried everything—office cabs, switching between multiple metro lines, buses, my personal car, and even a bike. Every option

has its pros and cons, but the problem remains the same across all modes of transport," the post said.

Calling for stronger government intervention, the resident urged authorities to address poor lane discipline, fix deteriorating roads, and deploy more traffic police to manage congestion at key choke points.

"I agree that we citizens must play our part. But the government needs to intervene more. Do more. Be more. We pay nearly 30 per cent of our income in taxes for a

reason," the post added.

As the post gained traction, social media users were divided. Many echoed the resident's frustrations, while others argued that meaningful change would require sustained public action rather than online complaints.

"The only thing that will save this city is mass protests. None of these politicians are working for us. Every MLA, MP, contractor, and bureaucrat is only filling their pockets," one user commented.

Another wrote, "Instead of ranting online, we should come together and stage large-scale protests for days."

Others pointed to structural issues. "Bengaluru desperately needs a new extension city like Navi Mumbai, Gurgaon, or Noida. No city—especially one that grew as unplanned as Bangalore—can handle continuous population growth for decades," another user observed.

Residents also flagged persistent power outages as an additional burden. "Don't forget the power cuts. I've been waiting for over three hours in the middle of a workday for electricity to return. Maintenance happens randomly during office hours, and despite that, we still face 10-30 minute power cuts almost every day," one commenter said.

The viral post has re-ignited conversations about Bengaluru's future—raising difficult questions about governance, infrastructure planning, and whether India's technology capital can reconcile rapid growth with livable urban conditions.

AI Cuts a Year of Coding to a Month, Leaves Zoho Chief Scientist Stunned



Artificial intelligence is rapidly reshaping how software is designed and built, and Zoho co-founder and Chief Scientist Sridhar Vembu recently offered a compelling glimpse into just how transformative this shift could be. Sharing details of an internal demonstration at Zoho, Vembu said he was "blown away" by what a single engineer managed to accomplish using advanced AI tools.

According to Vembu, the engineer independently developed an entire device over the course of just one month—without any formal directive or team support. "I did not know he was building it," Vembu wrote, adding that he was astonished by both the scope and sophistication of the tool. What stood out even more was the speed of execution. Vembu noted that the same project would traditionally have required a team of three to four engineers working for at least a year.

The key driver behind this dramatic acceleration, the engineer explained, was the Opus 4.5 AI model. Vembu said the engineer described the model as a "game-changer" that fundamentally altered his approach to AI-assisted development. Until encountering Opus 4.5, the engineer had reportedly been sceptical of AI-generated code and unconvinced of its practical value. That scepti-

cism, however, was quickly replaced by enthusiasm once he saw the model's capabilities in action.

This experience, Vembu suggested, highlights a broader transformation underway in the software industry. Powerful AI systems are no longer just assisting developers with small tasks but are beginning to rival traditional, labour-intensive development processes. Drawing

a vivid analogy, Vembu compared the shift to the arrival of machine looms during the Industrial Revolution, which challenged skilled handloom weavers. "Powerful machine looms have arrived for software development," he wrote, warning that the implications would be far-reaching.

At Zoho, Vembu said, this moment is being met with both excitement and urgency. He emphasised the company's long-standing culture of experimentation, where engineers are encouraged to explore new ideas independently. "This is how we learn in Zoho—we let smart people experiment and find new pathways," he noted, suggesting that such freedom is essential in an era of rapid technological change.

However, Vembu also acknowledged the pressure this transformation brings. As Zoho's Chief Scientist, he said the rise of increasingly capable AI tools presents both a challenge and an opportunity for the company. "At Zoho, we have our work cut out," he wrote candidly. "The implications are enormous."

Ending his reflection on a hopeful note, Vembu added, "Wish us luck," underscoring that while AI may redefine software development, navigating this new landscape will require adaptability, curiosity, and sustained innovation.

62-Year-Old Chinese Woman's Pregnancy After Son's Death Sparks Emotional and Medical Debate Online



A 62-year-old woman in China has sparked widespread discussion on social media after revealing that she is six months pregnant and believes the unborn child represents the return of her only son, who passed away earlier this year. The story, first reported by the South China Morning Post, has drawn both emotional responses and medical concern from online users.

The woman, who lives in Songyuan city in northeast China's Jilin province, has come into the public eye largely through videos shared by her younger sister on a major Chinese social media platform. Under the username "Xiao Wei," the sister regularly posts updates about the pregnancy, documenting hospital visits, health check-ups, and the emotional journey of the expectant mother.

This is the woman's second pregnancy. She lost her only son in January 2025, though details about his age and the cause of death have not

been publicly disclosed. Several months later, she conceived through in vitro fertilisation (IVF), a decision that has generated intense public interest given her age.

In a video posted in late December, the woman shared that she felt the baby might arrive prematurely. She also described feeling frequent kicks and noted that the baby becomes particularly active when she eats sweets. In China,

doctors are legally prohibited from revealing the sex of an unborn child due to longstanding concerns over sex-selective abortions. However, the woman said many people around her had suggested that her cravings for sweets indicated she was carrying a boy. She referred to the unborn baby as "the return of my son," a remark that has stirred emotional debate online.

Due to her age, the woman undergoes prenatal check-ups more frequently than younger pregnant women. Her sister accompanies her to every appointment and continues to share updates online. For specialised examinations, the woman must travel approximately 170 kilometres to Changchun, the provincial capital, where larger and better-equipped medical facilities are available.

Medical experts have cautioned against pregnancies at an advanced age. Dr. Chen Min, a senior gynaecologist at Harbin No. 1 Hospital in Heilongjiang province, told local media that pregnancy in older women carries significantly higher risks. These include complications such as hypertension, gestational diabetes, and a greater likelihood of requiring a caesarean section, which itself poses additional dangers.

Dr. Chen advised that women considering childbirth later in life should undergo comprehensive medical evaluations before conception, strictly adhere to medical guidance throughout pregnancy, and plan delivery at a major hospital with advanced emergency care facilities.

While the woman's story has touched many emotionally, it has also reignited discussions about reproductive health, grief, and the medical and ethical challenges surrounding late-age pregnancies.

KL Rahul and Shreyas Iyer: India's Perfect Middle-Order Duo

For decades, India's cricket success has been built on stellar top-order batsmen, but history shows that behind every title-winning team lies a strong, reliable middle order. Kapil Dev's "devs" had Yashpal Sharma and Sandeep Patil at four and five. MS Dhoni's champions could slot anyone from himself to Yuvraj Singh, Suresh Raina, or Virat Kohli. In the post-2019 World Cup era, India has finally discovered a consistent 4-5 combination in KL Rahul and Shreyas Iyer.

Since joining forces during the post-World Cup rebuilding phase, the pair has scored 823 runs in 14 innings at an average of 64, with roughly one in three partnerships crossing the 100-run mark. Their partnership is a fascinating study in contrasts—attitude, temperament, approach, and strokeplay.

Shreyas thrives on risk, frequently altering his stance to suit bowlers and conditions. He is particularly devastating against spin, using his feet and strong wrists to disrupt lengths, making him a nightmare for bowlers, as Australia painfully realized in the 2023 World Cup final. Rahul, on the other hand, is a stabilizer. Calm under pressure, he can anchor an innings when



wickets fall early, allowing Shreyas to rebuild momentum—or accelerate if the top order has already laid a foundation.

Their complementary strike rates ensure India's innings never stagnate. Shreyas hits at 99.07 while batting from 4 to 7, dispatching a boundary every ninth ball. Rahul, with a strike rate of 94.72, finds the fence every 11th ball. This blend of muscle, momentum, stability, and scoring speed makes them central to India's ODI aspirations.

Their differences in technique are equally

of their synergy came in Hamilton, 2020, where they stitched a 136-run partnership in 101 balls. Arriving at 156 for 3 in the 29th over, Rahul anchored while Shreyas accelerated, setting India up for a massive 347 for 4. Even partnerships of 60-70 runs from this duo can swing a match. With Hardik Pandya's return, India's top six could become a fearsome force capable of capturing the World Cup that eluded them in 2023.

Their differences in technique are equally

compelling. Shreyas slashes short balls aggressively, sometimes legally; Rahul cuts them delicately through slips. Shreyas is the aggressor in crises, while Rahul excels as an accumulator, enforcer, or attacker as the situation demands. Since 2020, no middle-order batsman has averaged higher than Rahul's 61.72 at No. 5 (minimum 20 innings).

Both are master field manipulators and run-accumulation experts, especially strong on the leg side. Their combined skill

set forces bowlers to constantly adjust lines and lengths. While Shreyas was groomed for the middle order, Rahul's journey—from opener to floatier in a crowded top order—has forged his versatility. Together, they are the muscle, momentum, and stability India needs in the middle overs. Like Yuvraj Singh and Suresh Raina before them, Rahul and Shreyas have proven that a dangerous middle-order pair doesn't always need to be left-right—they just need to complement each other perfectly.

Mumbai Fall Short Against Punjab, Set Up Vijay Hazare Trophy Quarterfinal Clash with Karnataka

Mumbai missed an opportunity to top Group C in the Vijay Hazare Trophy 2025-26 after collapsing from 201/5 to 215 against Punjab in their final group match on Thursday at Jaipur Vidyalaya Ground, Jaipur. The defeat handed Punjab the top spot in the group, setting up a quarterfinal clash with Madhya Pradesh, while Mumbai will now face rivals Karnataka in Bengaluru on January 12.

Chasing a modest total of 216, Mumbai were well placed before the dismissal of captain Shreyas Iyer sparked a dramatic collapse. Punjab's spinners—Mayank Markande, Harpreet Brar, and Haroon Singh—exploited Mumbai's fragile tail as the last five wickets fell for just 14 runs, leaving Mumbai all out in 26.2 overs.

Mumbai's innings, however, had bright moments. Sarfaraz Khan produced a blistering knock, scoring the fastest List A fifty by



an Indian off just 15 balls, finishing with 62 from 20 deliveries that included seven boundaries and five sixes. Shreyas Iyer also contributed a well-paced 45 off 34 balls. Despite their efforts, Mumbai's collapse meant the team couldn't chase down the target.

Earlier, Punjab had

posted 216 in 45.1 overs, thanks to 74-ball 72 from Ramandeep Singh and a solid 57 from Anmolpreet Singh. With Shardul Thakur already ruled out and Shreyas Iyer expected to join India's ODI squad against New Zealand, Mumbai will enter the knockouts without two key players.

Ghosh's final-over maiden. Leg-spinner Prashant Solanki claimed 4/56 as Maharashtra held on for victory.

Group A saw Madhya Pradesh overcome Karnataka comfortably. Left-arm wrist-spinner Shiva Kumar dismantled Karnataka's batting, restricting them to 207 in 47.4 overs. Venkatesh Iyer's unbeaten 65 guided Madhya Pradesh to a seven-wicket win in 23.2 overs. Kerala, meanwhile, faltered against Tamil Nadu; despite a strong start at 117/1, they collapsed to 217 in 40.2 overs, chasing TN's 294/8, anchored by N Jagadeesan's 139.

In Group B, Uttar Pradesh topped the table on net run-rate after Vidarbha's 160-run win over Assam edged out Baroda, who had defeated Chandigarh by 149 runs. In Group D, Delhi and Saurashtra secured their spots in the quarterfinals.

Bangladesh Cricket's T20 World Cup Dilemma: Between Passion and Precaution

With less than a month to go before the T20 World Cup, Bangladesh cricket finds itself in a tense and emotionally charged situation. The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has, for the second time in recent weeks, written to the ICC expressing discomfort with traveling to India for the tournament and requesting that the team's matches be relocated to Sri Lanka. On the surface, this appears to be a logistical issue, but the concerns run much deeper.

At its core, the BCB's correspondence reflects not just administrative worries but a sense of unease among fans and players alike. Recent controversies, including the high-profile dropping of Mustafizur Rahman from the IPL, have fueled a feeling that Bangladeshi cricket is often sidelined in global decision-making. Public sentiment is sensitive, and the board's request is as



much about national pride as it is about tournament arrangements.

Stripped of rhetoric, the BCB's primary demand is security. The board is reportedly seeking individual assurances for every member of its World Cup contingent—from players to coaches, support staff, and officials. The ICC has responded by presenting its

comprehensive security plan and a range of options, while leaving the final decision to Bangladesh. Yet, reports suggest that the ICC has rejected the idea of relocating matches and warned that refusing to travel could result in forfeited points.

For Bangladesh, the stakes go beyond fixtures and clauses. Cricket is woven into the country's cul-

tural and emotional fabric—moments on the field unite millions, inspire debates, and foster national pride. Any decision to pull out of the World Cup would carry profound repercussions at home, far beyond the sport itself.

At the same time, no cricket board can ignore genuine safety concerns. The BCB must weigh the potential risks carefully, aware that even a minor incident in India could have serious ramifications. This episode is less about defiance and more about trust—how much reassurance is enough, and whether empathy can coexist with the rigid schedules of billion-dollar tournaments.

Bangladesh's commitment to participating is clear, but the next few days will be crucial in determining whether the gap between caution and ambition can be bridged—or whether this controversy leaves scars that last far beyond the World Cup.

Anand's Enduring Brilliance and Arjun's Miraculous Swindle Highlight Tata Steel Chess India



Kolkata, long celebrated for its passion for sports, has always embraced chess with equal fervor. Since its inception in 2018, the Tata Steel Chess India Rapid and Blitz tournament has been a fixture of pride for the city, drawing hundreds of enthusiasts each year. This edition, however, initially lacked the buzz of previous years, with the absence of Magnus Carlsen—whose 2024 visit had electrified the city—and D Gukesh leaving the atmosphere noticeably subdued.

Despite the hiccup, Anand's day was impressive. At 56, he remained tied for the lead with Nihal Sarin, having scored brilliant wins over Hans Niemann and Volodar Murzin. Arjun expressed admiration for Anand's longevity: "It's impressive to see him playing at this level at his age. I'm not sure how many of us will achieve the same."

For Arjun, Thursday marked a turnaround after a poor start, including losses to Vidit Gujrathi and R. Praggnanandhaa and a near-defeat to Nihal Sarin. Luck favored him again with the swindle against Anand and a victory over an overambitious Wei Yi. Yet Arjun remained self-critical: "Honestly, I was still playing badly. I was lost against Anand, and Wei Yi overpushed, which gave me the win. My best game was actually against Aravindh Chithambaram—I played well but didn't convert it into a win."

The day highlighted the drama, unpredictability, and enduring talent that make the Tata Steel Chess India tournament a showcase of world-class chess.

"PV Sindhu Cruises into Malaysia Open Super 1000 Semis as Yamaguchi Retires Injured"



PV Sindhu continued her dominant run at the Super 1000 Malaysia Open, following a commanding performance against Tomoka Miyazaki, as she faced world champion Akane Yamaguchi in the quarterfinals. However, the match ended abruptly after the first set, with Yamaguchi conceding due to an injury that severely affected her movement. Sindhu's relentless attacking game, coupled with Yamaguchi's discomfort, made the result almost inevitable, as the Japanese player retired after losing the opening set 21-11.

Yamaguchi, entering the court with a knee brace, struggled from the very beginning. Sindhu immediately imposed her pace with aggressive strokes, including short-back swings, sharp down-the-line shots, and precise smashes, quickly establishing a commanding 10-2 lead. Known for her defensive prowess, Yamaguchi found herself unable to move freely and expressed visible frustration as errors mounted. Her strategy, which aimed to restrict Sindhu to the backcourt and neutralize her attacking elevation, only yielded 11 points and proved insufficient against the Indian's fluid game.

Sindhu, meanwhile, appeared relaxed and confident on court, striking the shuttle with precision and variety. Her high clears, powerful smashes, and crisp drop shots left Yamaguchi with little room to recover. Within just over ten minutes, Sindhu had wrapped up the first set convincingly, prompting Yamaguchi to concede and handing the Indian her first Super 1000 semifinal appearance in three years.

Looking ahead, Sindhu faces a challenging semifinal against either Wang Zhiyi or Putri Kusuma Wardani. Wardani, who has defeated Sindhu twice in recent encounters, including at the Paris World Championships, poses a threat, but Sindhu's improved speed and tactical variety make her far from unbeatable. On the other hand, Wang Zhiyi, the World No. 2 from China, represents Sindhu's most significant scalp in recent times, having fallen to the Indian at the World Championships.

Earlier on Thursday, Sindhu had dispatched 19-year-old Tomoka Miyazaki in a dominant 21-8, 21-13 victory that lasted just 33 minutes. Her commanding display ensured she reached her first Super 1000 quarterfinal of the season, carrying momentum and confidence into the semifinals. With her attacking flair and court awareness at peak levels, Sindhu looks well-positioned to challenge for the title, continuing her resurgence on the international badminton stage.

Veteran Producer Thummalapalli Ramasatyanarayana Sets Another Historic Milestone with Seven Trailer Launch



Tollywood stalwart Thummalapalli Ramasatyanarayana, celebrated for his extraordinary career spanning over 114 films in just two decades, has once again made headlines with a record-breaking feat. Following his historic launch of 15 films simultaneously on August 15 last year, the veteran producer recently unveiled the trailers of seven of these films on the same day at a grand event held at Prasad Labs, Hyderabad. Trailers for the remaining eight films are set to be released shortly, generating anticipation among fans and industry insiders alike.

The grand trailer launch drew a star-studded audience from the film fraternity, including prominent personalities such as Suman, Saikumar, V. Vijayendra Prasad, K. S. Rama Rao, Relangi Narasimha Rao, Yandamoori Veerendranath, J. K. Bharavi, Veera Shankar, Chandra Mahesh, K. L. Damodar

Prasad, T. Prasanna Kumar, K. Ashok Kumar, Kavitha, Kalva Sujatha Gupta, and V. Vijay Kumar, who graced the occasion as chief guests and extended their best wishes to the directors, cast, and crew for achieving this extraordinary milestone.

The trailers unveiled included films such as Mahanaga directed by Uday Bhaskar, Yandamoori Kathalu directed by Ravi Basara, Maa Nanna Hero directed by Vijay Erramsetti, Robo-47 and Mahabalu directed by Nuthan, Rudra Thandavam directed by Harsha, and Manam-2036 directed by Sai Ramesh. The directors were felicitated by the dignitaries, along with music director duo Dr. A. J. Sandhyavarshini and Dr. V. R. A. Pradeep, who have composed music for all 15 films. PRO Dheeraj Appaji, responsible for publicity across all the films, and Creative Head Thallada Sai Krishna were also honored, while cast and crew

members from the entire Bhimavaram Talkies lineup attended in large numbers, creating a celebratory and enthusiastic atmosphere.

Speaking at the event, Thummalapalli Ramasatyanarayana praised the directors for completing the shooting and trailer work at a record pace through meticulous planning. He announced that release dates for each film will be revealed soon and expressed confidence that all 15 films will be released by August this year, setting yet another industry record. He concluded by expressing heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of the event.

Through this ambitious initiative, Thummalapalli Ramasatyanarayana continues to redefine productivity and scale in Tollywood, reinforcing his position as one of the most respected and visionary producers in the Indian film industry.

Star Director Buchi Babu Sana Unveils Fun-Filled Teaser of 'Purushaha'



TPN Bureau | Hyderabad, January 2026

The upcoming entertainer Purushaha has already generated considerable buzz with its quirky first-look posters and humorous promotional lines, and the excitement skyrocketed when star director Buchi Babu Sana, known for hits like Uppena and Peddi, unveiled the film's teaser. The film marks the debut of Pavan Kalyan as a lead actor, supported by a vibrant ensemble including Saptagiri, Kasireddy Rajkumar, Vaishnavi Kokkura, Vishika, and Hasini Sudheer. Presented by Battula Saraswathi under the Kalyan Productions banner and produced by Battula Koteswara Rao, the film is directed by Veeru Ulaval and is gearing up for a lively theatrical release.

The teaser opens on an intriguing note, featuring a dramatic voiceover that introduces the three

protagonists as valiant warriors battling to conquer the world. However, the narrative soon takes a hilarious turn, revealing that these "mighty warriors" are comically tossed around by their wives. Frustrated and exasperated, the trio decides to head to court seeking a divorce, setting the stage for a rib-tickling comedic journey.

Director Veeru Ulaval has been praised for crafting a relatable premise and presenting it with sharp, contemporary humor. The witty dialogues and lively characterizations immediately connect with the audience, while the comic trio of Pavan Kalyan, Saptagiri, and Kasireddy Rajkumar deliver standout performances that anchor the film's humor. Vennela Kishore's natural comedic timing further enhances the fun quotient, and the leading ladies—Vaishnavi Kokkura, Vishika, and Hasini Sudheer—add their own

spark, complementing the film's playful tone. The supporting cast, including Sri Sandhya, Gabi Rock, Anaira Gupta, Rajeev Kanakala, Pammie Sai, and VTV Ganesh, also contribute with impeccable comic timing.

On the technical front, Satish Muthyalu's colorful cinematography captures the lively spirit of the film, while Shravan Bharadwaj's peppy musical score elevates the light-hearted mood. Editor Koti ensures smooth pacing, and art director Ravi Babu Dondapati's sets add visual polish to the production.

With its quirky premise, youthful dialogues, and engaging comic performances, the teaser of Purushaha successfully raises expectations, promising a fun-filled cinematic experience. The film, backed by Kalyan Productions, is now one of the most anticipated entertainers of the year.

Legendary Actor Nandamuri Balakrishna Joins Hands with Anvita Group as Brand Ambassador

Hyderabad: Legendary actor and Padma Bhushan awardee Nandamuri Balakrishna has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Anvita Group, the company announced recently. The announcement was made by the company's Chairman and Managing Director, Achyut Rao Boppana, who also unveiled the group's new brand films at a special event held in Hyderabad on Friday.

Speaking to the media, Achyut Rao Boppana highlighted Balakrishna's five-decade-long journey in cinema and his extensive social contributions in the fields of education and healthcare. "Balakrishna's integrity and unwavering principles make him an ideal representative of Anvita Group's core values," he said. He added that the actor's agreement to serve as the brand ambassador was a matter of pride for the company.

Boppana emphasized that 'Build Happiness' is the guiding philosophy of Anvita Group, and Balakrishna perfectly embodies the spirit of bringing joy and creating lasting value in society. "His participation in our journey to build a legacy filled with happiness strengthens our mission significantly," he noted.

Anvita Group has completed over four million square feet of construction in residential, commercial, and hospitality projects across Dubai and Abu Dhabi over the past two decades. The company is currently developing a lifestyle community in Dallas, USA, and continuing construction of 8 million square feet across three major projects in Hyderabad.

Highlighting the company's recent achievements, Boppana noted that the Anvita Ivana project in Kolluru received its occupancy certificate ahead of schedule, with 400 units ready

for handover in the first phase. He also mentioned the ongoing Anvita High Nine and Anvita Parkside projects in Medchal, which are set to redefine urban living in the city.

Looking ahead, Anvita Group plans to expand with world-class projects not only in Hyderabad

but also in Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam. In Vijayawada, the group is set to construct the city's tallest buildings near Benz Circle. Over the next five to six years, Anvita Group aims to deliver approximately a thousand units annually to buyers, underlining its rapid growth and ambi-

tious vision. The event was attended by Anvita Group directors Nagabhushanam Boppana, Srikant Boppana, Vijayaraju, and Murali, Director of Happy Homes, among others, celebrating the partnership with the iconic actor and the unveiling of the new brand films.

Nivetha Pethuraj Graces the Grand Launch of VCare Center of Excellence in Jubilee Hills!



Hyderabad, January 2026: Hollywood sensation Nivetha Pethuraj kickstarted the new year with a glamorous appearance at the grand inauguration of the VCare Center of Excellence (CoE) in Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad. Radiating elegance, the actress officially opened the center, which marks a significant milestone in India's advanced skin and aesthetic care industry. Speaking at the event, Nivetha expressed her excitement about international-standard treatments now being accessible in Hyderabad, particularly the much-coveted 'Korean Glass Skin' technology.

The Magic of Single-Day Facial Architecture

For the first time in India, the center introduces the 'Single-Day Facial

Architecture'—a revolutionary glass-skin-focused protocol. This unique method integrates seven advanced laser technologies using a three-dimensional approach. It is designed to provide visible results from day one, with significant skin improvement continuing over 90 days. This breakthrough technology has quickly become the talk of the town among beauty and wellness enthusiasts.

Led by Industry Pioneers

The center is led by E. Carolina Prabha, Founder and Managing Director of VCare Group, who holds the distinction of being India's first female Trichologist. Joining her was VCare CEO Mukundan Satyanarayanan, a veteran with over

22 years of leadership in Trichology and Cosmetic Sciences. Together, they highlighted how the center bridges the gap between traditional wellness and research-driven innovation using FDA-approved technologies.

Global Standards in Hyderabad

"World beauty standards are evolving, and so are we," stated the leadership team. By targeting the skin at a structural level through personalized, multi-step procedures, the center aims to be a premier destination for aesthetic excellence. With Nivetha Pethuraj's star power and VCare's cutting-edge technology, the Jubilee Hills center is set to become the ultimate hub for those seeking world-class skin transformations.

Sivakarthikeyan's Parasakthi Cleared for Release with U/A Certificate



TPN Bureau | January 2026

Sivakarthikeyan's much-anticipated period drama Parasakthi has officially received a U/A certificate from the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), clearing the way for its release on January 10, 2026. The certification comes just a day before the film's scheduled theatrical debut, much to the delight of fans and theatre owners alike.

Directed by Sudha Kongara, Parasakthi features an ensemble cast including Ravi Mohan, Atharvaa, and Sreeleela. The film had faced scrutiny from the censor board in recent days amid wider certification challenges for other big-budget Tamil films, highlighting the industry's ongoing efforts to meet CBFC guidelines while keeping holiday releases on schedule.

With its U/A certification in place, Parasakthi is now ready to premiere in theatres worldwide, raising high expectations among audiences for both its critical reception and box office performance.

dress the board's content concerns. These steps ensured the film met the certification requirements in time for its launch during the Pongal season.

Originally slated for a later release, the film's release was advanced to January 10 to capitalize on the holiday audience. With its certification cleared, Parasakthi joins the festive slate of Tamil releases, offering viewers a mix of historical drama, strong performances, and engaging storytelling.

The clearance also comes amid a backdrop of certification challenges for other big-budget Tamil films, highlighting the industry's ongoing efforts to meet CBFC guidelines while keeping holiday releases on schedule.

Reports indicate that the film underwent a few modifications, including minor cuts and adjustments to certain visuals and dialogues, to ad-

Prabhas' The Raja Saab Release Sparks Fan Frenzy with Crocodile-Themed Celebrations



Telugu superstar Prabhas' much-anticipated film The Raja Saab hit theaters worldwide today, and the release day celebrations have taken an unexpectedly wild turn as fans turned their excitement into a full-on spectacle. Enthusiastic supporters of the "Rebel Star" brought crocodile props and dummies into cinemas to recreate an iconic moment from the film's trailer, creating a buzz that's grabbing attention across social media and in theaters.

The craze stems from a striking scene in The Raja Saab trailer, where Prabhas' character engages in a fierce face-off with a crocodile. Inspired by this action-packed moment, fans arrived at screenings carrying fake crocodiles, inflatable reptiles, and plush replicas, lifting them above their heads and cheering loudly as they entered auditoriums.

Videos shared online show moviegoers chanting, posing for photos, and even mimicking battle stances, adding a playful and surreal energy to the release day atmosphere.

Inside theaters, some fans took the celebration further by moving toward the screen with their props during the crocodile fight scene, humorously re-enacting the on-screen mayhem. Fellow audience members were taken by surprise, initially mistaking the

props for real animals; however, it quickly became clear that the crocodiles were harmless replicas used in good fun. Many moviegoers embraced the spirited spectacle, turning the ordinary viewing experience into an interactive celebration of fandom.

The trend—playfully dubbed the "crocodile craze"—underscores the unmatched devotion of Prabhas' fanbase and highlights the unique cultural phenomenon that surrounds his film releases. Social media platforms have been flooded with clips of fans holding their reptilian tributes high, prompting jokes, memes, and widespread discussion online about the extraordinary measures some devotees take to show support for their favorite star.

Alongside the crocodile celebrations, The Raja Saab is making a strong commercial impact. Early box office figures indicate that the film has recorded significant earnings on opening day across multiple languages, reflecting its pan Indian appeal and the fierce anticipation built up through promotions.

With its mix of fantasy, action, and larger-than-life visuals, The Raja Saab is already proving to be more than just a movie—it has become an event celebrated in its own unique and unforgettable way by Prabhas' passionate fans.