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CM Revanth Reddy Unveils Vision for Musi River Rejuvenation, Global-Standard Hyderabad

Hyderabad, Jan 2
(TPN Bureau):

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday presented a detailed vision in the State Assembly for the comprehensive rejuvenation of the Musi and Esi rivers, asserting that protecting river ecosystems is central to human civilisation and urban development. Recalling history, the Chief Minister said civilisations across the world flourished along river basins and Telangana too has a legacy of water management from the Kakatiya era to the Nizam period.

The Chief Minister referred to the construction of Bapu Ghat at the confluence of the Musi and Esi rivers, where the ashes of Mahatma Gandhi were immersed. He noted that even during the Nizam rule, long-term solutions were adopted to address Hyderabad's water needs. After the devastating floods of 1908, the Nizam government constructed the Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar reservoirs, which continue to quench the city's thirst even today.

Revanth Reddy said his government had taken a firm stand against pollution entering these reservoirs, even when powerful farmhouses discharged drainage into them. "Despite criticism, we moved forward without



retreating," he said. He added that the government studied global models by visiting cities such as London, New York, Japan, South Korea and Singapore, observing that world-class cities preserved and revitalised their river systems.

Citing examples, the Chief Minister said Gujarat relocated nearly 60,000 families during the Sabarmati riverfront development, while Uttar Pradesh rejuvenated the Ganga and developed riverfront infrastructure. "We did not oppose or criticise those initiatives," he said, adding that Musi pollution has caused severe suffering, especially in Nalgonda district, due to industrial waste, animal carcasses and untreated sewage flowing into the river.

Highlighting serious health concerns, he

said doctors have warned that women in Musi basin areas are facing reproductive health issues due to pollution. With this background, the government decided that clean water must flow in the Musi and appointed consultants to prepare detailed rejuvenation plans.

The Chief Minister announced plans to bring Godavari water to provide a permanent solution. Of the proposed 20 TMC allocation, 15 TMC will be used for drinking water needs and 5 TMC to ensure continuous flow of clean water in the Musi. The Bapu Ghat area will be developed into Gandhi Sarovar, envisioned as a confluence of three rivers, with V-shaped development works underway.

He said project estimates would be finalised and tenders float-

ed by March 31. The Asian Development Bank has agreed in principle to provide a 4,000 crore loan, while the Centre has also approved the Gandhi Sarovar project. An elevated corridor of about 55 km from Gandipet to Gaurrelli is also being planned.

Rejecting allegations of neglecting the Old City, Revanth Reddy said it is the original city and will be transformed into a world-class urban centre. He asserted that urbanisation would rise to 75 per cent in the next 20 years and emphasised inclusive development, better housing for the poor and transparency. "We want to do good work. Give suggestions and advice," the Chief Minister told legislators, reaffirming the government's commitment to making Hyderabad a global city.

Minister Seethakka Strongly Defends MGNREGS, Opposes Proposed VB-G Ramji Framework

Hyderabad, January 2 (TPN Bureau):

Telangana Rural Development Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Thursday made a strong intervention in the Assembly, firmly defending the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and opposing any move to dilute or replace it with alternative frameworks that she described as anti-poor.

Thanking the government for taking up a short-duration discussion on the issue, Seethakka said the very fact that the House debated MGNREGS highlighted its importance to crores of rural poor. Sharing her personal journey, she said she was born into a poor Adivasi agricultural labourer family and today was serving as the state's Rural Development Minister. "Abolishing or weakening MGNREGS is an injustice to millions of workers whose hunger and livelihood security depend on this scheme," she said.

The Minister recalled that Parliament enacted the MGNREGS Act in September 2005 to address critical challenges such as rural poverty, distress migration, unemployment, wage disparity between men and women, and the plight of unskilled labourers in rural areas. She stressed

that the scheme is rights-based and demand-driven, legally guaranteeing the right to work by providing 100 days of unskilled wage employment to rural households while also creating durable and productive assets.

Over the past 20 years, MGNREGS has played a significant role in poverty alleviation, strengthening the bargaining power of agricultural labourers, reducing forced migration, and improving rural infrastructure, Seethakka said. She noted that nearly 90 per cent of beneficiaries belong to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes, while women account for around 62 per cent of the total workforce under the scheme.

For rural women, the programme has provided not only income but also dignity, self-confidence and economic independence.

Highlighting asset creation, the Minister said MGNREGS has contributed to water conservation, irrigation works, land development, nurseries, plantations, CC roads, Gram Panchayat buildings, Anganwadi centres and rural sanitation works, thereby strengthening rural livelihoods.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, she said, the scheme emerged as a vital safety net by absorbing returning migrant workers and preventing large-scale rural

distress.

Explaining Telangana's implementation, Seethakka said MGNREGS is being implemented in 12,760 Gram Panchayats across 565 mandals in 31 rural districts. More than 52 lakh job cards have been issued, covering 1.06 crore individuals. Since 2014, the state has generated over 141.50 crore person-days of employment with an expenditure of 39,176.7 crore, benefiting an average of 25.8 lakh rural families annually.

She strongly criticised the proposed VB-G Ramji framework, stating that it undermines the demand-driven legal structure of MGNREGS by shifting to a budget-limited allocation system. She warned that changes in the funding pattern would impose an additional financial burden of nearly 1,788 crore on Telangana, restrict wage employment, reduce labour-intensive works and potentially exclude genuine workers due to excessive dependence on technology.

Concluding her speech, Seethakka appealed to all members to oppose what she termed the "anti-poor G Ramji law" and demanded that Mahatma Gandhi's name be retained, asserting that a scheme named after the Father of the Nation must continue to safeguard the livelihoods of the poorest sections of society.

BRS Boycotts Telangana Assembly Alleging Undemocratic Conduct, Slams CM Revanth Reddy

Hyderabad, Jan 2
(TPN Bureau):

The Bharat Rashtriya Samithi (BRS) on Thursday announced a complete boycott of the ongoing Telangana Legislative Assembly sessions, alleging that the House was being run in an undemocratic and biased manner by the Speaker and the ruling Congress government. Senior BRS leaders accused Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy of using offensive language on the floor of the House and suppressing the voice of the principal opposition. Speaking at a media interaction at Gun Park after walking out of the Assembly, former ministers T. Harish Rao, T. Srinivas Yadav and G. Jagadish Reddy launched a scathing attack on the Chief Minister and the Speaker's conduct. They alleged that the Assembly was being converted into a "Gandhi Bhavan or CLP meeting" instead of functioning as a democratic legislature.

Former minister T. Srinivas Yadav said the BRS had witnessed several governments in the past but had never seen such a style of functioning. He recalled that even when the Congress had just five MLAs earlier, former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao had given them due respect and opportunities to speak. "We will attend the Assembly only if it is run like an Assembly. The



government is behaving as if it can do whatever it wants," he said, demanding an all-party meeting on the Musi river issue. Former Finance Minister Harish Rao alleged that the Speaker violated Assembly rules by denying the opposition an opportunity to speak. He claimed the government arrived nearly an hour and a half late for the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting and later distorted the minutes. "If Rahul Gandhi can criticise the Prime Minister in Parliament, why can't we question the Chief Minister here?" he asked, alleging that microphones were switched off whenever BRS members tried to raise issues. Harish Rao strongly criticised CM Revanth Reddy's language, stating that the "stench of the Chief

Minister's words is worse than the stench of the Musi river." He accused the CM of behaving "not like a Chief Minister but like a street rowdy" and alleged that corruption and commissions had become rampant in the state. He reiterated that the BRS was ready for an open discussion on Musi rejuvenation but not in a manner that violated Question Hour norms. Former minister Jagadish Reddy said the Telangana Assembly was rapidly losing its dignity. He alleged that while Speakers during the BRS regime acted democratically, the present Speaker was acting in a partisan manner. "If we criticise the Chief Minister, we are denied the microphone. This is unprecedented in legislative history," he said, adding that al-

Ponnam Prabhakar Explains Motor Vehicles Tax Amendments, Stresses Road Safety in Assembly

Hyderabad, January 2 (TPN Bureau):

Telangana Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Thursday elaborated on the Telangana Motor Vehicles Tax (Amendment) Act during a discussion in the Legislative Assembly, highlighting key policy changes related to vehicle taxation, road safety measures and environmental protection.

The Minister said that earlier, light four-wheeler goods vehicles were subject to quarterly tax. After consultations with transport department experts, the government decided to levy a life tax of 7.5 per cent on goods vehicles. He clarified that this revised tax

structure would apply only to newly registered vehicles and not to existing ones.

Referring to road safety, Ponnam Prabhakar said that as per Supreme Court directions, a road safety cess is already being implemented in states such as Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat. In Telangana too, a road safety cess will be levied on new vehicle registrations — 2,000 for two-wheelers, 5,000 for light motor vehicles and 10,000 for heavy vehicles. He made it clear that the cess would not apply to autorickshaws and tractor-trailers.

Citing a recent statement by the Telangana Director General of Police, the Minister said

road accidents were emerging as a major cause of fatalities in the state. To address this, National Road Safety Month is being observed from January 1 to January 31 with extensive awareness programmes. As part of the initiative, students and their parents are being asked to submit affidavits pledging adherence to road safety rules. The Education and Welfare Departments have been roped in to ensure participation from schools.

With UNICEF's support, Children's Traffic Awareness Parks are being set up in schools, while district-level Road Safety Committees have been formed to make Telangana accident-free. The Minister noted that with just



State Government Committed to Employee Welfare, Pending Bills to Be Cleared Promptly: Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu

TPN Bureau

Hyderabad, January 2, 2026: The State Government has reaffirmed its strong commitment to the welfare of its employees, announcing that all pending bills will be cleared at the earliest, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu said on Friday. Speaking in the Legislative Council while responding to questions from members including AVN Reddy, the Deputy Chief Minister emphasized that employee welfare remains a top priority for the government.

He stated that the gov-

ernment has already cleared all pending medical and supplementary salary bills, with over 200 crore in medical bills and 560 crore in supplementary salary dues fully settled. Moving forward, these bills will be processed regularly and promptly, ensuring no further delays.

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu highlighted that delays in salary payments under the previous government caused severe hardships to employees. Salaries were often credited as late as the 18th of the month,



resulting in defaults on EMIs and forcing em-

ployees into debt cycles. After assuming office, the current government engaged with employee

unions and introduced a firm policy to pay salaries on the first of every month. This practice has been maintained without a single day's delay, he added.

Addressing the retirement age issue, the Deputy Chief Minister alleged that the previous government increased the retirement age by three years to defer financial obligations. As a result, only 6,354 employees retired between 2021 and 2023, instead of the expected 26,854. This decision, he said, was purely aimed at postponing the financial

burden.

He further elaborated that the previous administration left behind 43,154 crore in pending bills by December 2023, of which 4,575 crore pertained to employee dues. Since taking charge, the current government has paid 1,752 crore toward pension benefits and is releasing at least 700 crore per month exclusively to clear employee-related bills.

The Deputy Chief Minister also stressed the government's focus on employee health and welfare. A Joint Staff Council has been consti-

tuted to address employee concerns, and employees have been encouraged to design a suitable health scheme. He noted that ensuring timely salary payments is a major achievement, preventing employees from resorting to high-interest private loans. Deputy Chief Minister Mallu concluded that the government's concerted efforts are aimed at creating a financial environment where employees and retirees can live with dignity and security, free from the stress of delayed payments or pending dues.

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Outlines Plans for Welfare of Weaker Sections

TPN Bureau

Hyderabad, January 2, 2026: In response to a question raised by MLC Banda Prakash in the Legislative Council, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar provided a detailed update on the state government's initiatives for housing and development for weaker sections, particularly backward classes (BCs) and marginalized communities. The Minister said that land has been allotted for 42 community buildings, but significant funds would be required for their development. He informed that work on three buildings is already underway and is currently in progress. He

emphasized that representatives of various communities must ensure that these lands are protected and do not fall into the hands of private individuals.

Regarding the Kurum building, which has been completed, Minister Prabhakar said it should be utilized by the education institute for hostel facilities, highlighting that such resources must directly benefit the intended communities. He also mentioned that decisions regarding the development of "AtmaGaurav" buildings will be taken soon.

Minister Prabhakar praised

the Congress Party's role as a champion of social justice and stated that a meeting would be organized with BC representatives to discuss concerns and further strategies. He added that work on the BC sub-plan, which was intended to begin last year, would now proceed using the allocated funds.

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

gressed the most. This demonstrates the crucial link between education and social advancement, he added.

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

Errola Srinivas Slams Congress Government Over Telangana Water Rights

TPN Bureau

Hyderabad, January 2: Former SC & ST Commission Chairman Dr. Errola Srinivas launched a sharp attack on the Congress government, accusing it of betraying Telangana's water rights and misleading the people with false narratives. Responding to remarks made by the Chief Minister, Srinivas questioned who the "real culprits" were in the matter of Telangana's irrigation and water resources.

He alleged that the Congress party itself was the "true offender" that deceived the people of Telangana by failing to safeguard the state's rightful share of river waters. Srinivas questioned whether govern-

ment advisers, ministers, or the administration that allegedly granted approvals without proper understanding should be held responsible for decisions that he claimed favoured Andhra Pradesh at Telangana's expense.

The former commission chairman accused the Congress government of attempting to divert Godavari and Krishna waters and compromising Telangana's interests through what he termed "water betrayal."

He said the government lacked basic knowledge of river basins, irrigation principles, and project management, and criticised the Irrigation Minister and the administration for alleged incompetence.

Srinivas asserted that whenever Telangana faced a crisis over water rights, it was BRS leaders K. Chandrashekhar Rao and T. Harish Rao who consistently raised their voices in defense of the state. He accused the Chief Minister of attacking these leaders out of frustration after being questioned on water-related decisions.

He further alleged that instead of protecting Telangana's interests, the Congress government was mortgaging the region's rights to Andhra Pradesh. He claimed that criticism of KCR and Harish Rao was aimed at diverting public attention and misleading farmers and citizens with falsehoods.

Referring to election promises, Srinivas accused the Congress of failing to implement its "six guarantees" and said the party was responsible for pushing Telangana's farming community into distress. He warned that the people, particularly farmers, were closely watching the government's actions and would respond at the appropriate time.

Concluding his statement, Srinivas said Telangana society and its farming community would not tolerate what he described as "cheap attacks" on leaders who fought for the state's water rights, and asserted that public resentment against the Congress government was steadily growing.

Opposition Slams Speaker's Conduct, Alleges Assault on Democracy in Telangana Assembly

Hyderabad, January 2 (TPN Bureau):

Telangana Legislative Council member Dasoju Sravan on Thursday strongly raised the issue of Group-1 and GO 46 aspirants in the Legislative Council, accusing the government of negligence and demanding immediate justice for affected students.

Participating in the debate, Sravan said serious irregularities in the conduct of the Group-1 examination had pushed thousands of aspirants into uncertainty, forcing many to approach courts for relief. He expressed concern that instead of concentrating on their studies and careers, students were spending precious time and resources fighting legal battles due to administrative lapses. The MLC demanded that the government release a White Paper detailing the flaws and failures in the

Group-1 examination process. "Transparency is essential. The government must clearly explain what went wrong, who is responsible and what corrective steps are being taken to restore confidence among aspirants," he said. Sravan pointed out that information obtained through the Right to Information Act revealed that the Group-1 mains evaluation was conducted at Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTU). He said this disclosure had raised further questions regarding the evaluation process, assessment standards and overall supervision.

The MLC also alleged that governments tend to use lakhs of students as a political force during elections but fail to address their problems after coming to power. "Students are remembered during election campaigns, but once the elections are over, their genuine issues are neglected," he remarked. Appealing to the government to act with sensitivity, Sravan said the future of students should not be sacrificed due to administrative failures.

Holding the government accountable, Sravan said official negligence had driven students to knock on the doors of courts repeatedly. He criticised the authorities for failing to

Minister Seethakka Counters Maheshwar Reddy on Employment Guarantee and Farmer Pensions



TPN Bureau
Hyderabad, Janu-

ary 2: Minister Seethakka on Friday responded sharply to criticisms from Maheshwar Reddy regarding farmer pensions and employment guarantee schemes, defending the government's position

and highlighting historical context. The Minister pointed out that promises made by the central BJP in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections to provide pensions to farmers remain unfulfilled. She questioned why these pledges have not been imple-

mented, emphasizing the discrepancy between electoral assurances and actual delivery. Seethakka also clarified the origins of the Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in recognition of Gandhi's vision for rural welfare. "Just because the central government changes the name or attempts to remove Gandhi's legacy, it cannot erase his ideals or sacrifices," she asserted. Addressing claims of reduced workdays, the Minister highlighted that Telangana has seen a reduction of five crore workdays compared to the previous year, attributing it to the central government's policies that provide cheap labour to corporate companies at the expense of rural employment. She described this as a deliberate attempt to undermine the state's leaders and obscure the achievements of historical welfare programs.

In conclusion, the Minister reaffirmed that the state government will continue to prioritize employment generation and rural welfare, ensuring that the principles behind MGNREGS and farmers' welfare schemes are upheld, regardless of political narratives or attempts to dilute the historical contributions of Mahatma Gandhi.

Minister Vakiti Srihari Slams BRS for Assembly Boycott, Demands Debate on Krishna Waters

Hyderabad, January 2 — TPN Bureau:

Telangana Minister Vakiti Srihari on Thursday launched a sharp attack on the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), accusing the party of deliberately avoiding debate on crucial public issues, particularly the sharing of Krishna river waters. Speaking to the media at the Assembly media point, the Minister said the opposition party was more interested in political theatrics than constructive discussion.

Srihari questioned the relevance of BRS leaders holding "power-point presentations inside their homes," stating that such exercises would not benefit the people of Telangana. "If they want to present their arguments, they should come to the Assembly and speak on the floor of the House. Running away from debate

serves no public purpose," he said.

He alleged that BRS leaders were constantly on the lookout for opportunities to boycott the Assembly instead of participating in discussions. According to the Minister, the recent boycott was aimed at avoiding a debate on the Krishna waters issue, particularly the BRS government's earlier acceptance that 299 TMCs of water would suffice for Telangana. "They walked out because they feared that the truth about their decisions would be exposed in the House," he alleged.

Taking a dig at senior BRS leader T. Harish Rao, Srihari said it was ironic that a leader known for raising his voice on minor issues chose to remain silent and leave the House on such a serious matter. "Harish Rao must explain why he left the Assembly without speaking when the issue of



Krishna waters came up," he said.

The Minister empha-

sized that the role of the opposition in a democracy is to offer suggestions and hold the government accountable through debate. "But

BRS leaders are inventing excuses to step out. Even when the micro-

phone is given, their only aim is to criticise the Chief Minister rath-

er than discuss public issues," he remarked.

Srihari further alleged that Telangana suffered greater injustice in water sharing during the BRS regime than during the united Andhra Pradesh period. He maintained that decisions taken under BRS rule had weakened Telangana's rightful claims over Krishna river waters.

Reiterating his challenge, the Minister called upon the BRS to participate in a detailed Assembly discussion on Krishna waters. "If Harish Rao and BRS leaders do not come forward for a debate, it will be nothing but an admission of guilt," he asserted.

Concluding his remarks, Srihari said the government was ready for an open and transparent discussion in the Assembly and urged the opposition to act responsibly in the interest of Telangana's people.

TPCC General Secretary Channagani Dayakar Demands KCR's Presence in Assembly for Debate on Krishna Waters



Hyderabad, January 2 — TPN Bureau

TPCC General Secretary Channagani Dayakar on Thursday demanded that former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao attend the Assembly and participate in a detailed discussion on Krishna river waters and pending irrigation projects in Telangana. Addressing the media at Gandhi Bhavan, Dayakar accused KCR and BRS

leaders of deliberately avoiding debate to escape accountability.

Dayakar said the Congress party was openly challenging KCR to come to the Assembly and explain his government's failure to complete key irrigation projects, particularly the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme. He questioned why KCR, despite ruling Telangana for ten years, failed to complete the

project, which is crucial for drought-prone regions.

Alleging financial neglect, Dayakar said that during KCR's decade-long rule, only 1.83 lakh crore was allocated to Telangana irrigation projects, while claims of massive spending were misleading. He further stated that despite projecting large budgets, actual expenditure on Telangana projects remained inadequate, resulting in delays and incomplete works.

The TPCC leader also questioned why no Detailed Project Report (DPR) was prepared for the Palamuru-Rangareddy project for seven years, calling it a clear example of administrative apathy. Launching a sharp attack on BRS leader T. Harish Rao, Dayakar used strong words, accusing him of misleading the Assembly with false statements and wasting valuable House time.

Dayakar alleged that KCR had no genuine concern for Telangana's water resources or irrigation projects, and claimed that projects were redesigned only to facilitate large-scale corruption. "KCR and Harish Rao looted Telangana, yet their hunger for power and mon-

ey has not ended," he alleged.

He further criticised KCR for skipping Assembly sessions and evading public scrutiny. "Tomorrow, KCR must come to the Assembly and explain why the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme was ignored while Kaleshwaram received all the attention," he said. He also questioned why KCR showed unequal concern towards different irrigation projects.

Reiterating the Congress government's commitment, Dayakar said the present government is working to complete the Palamuru-Rangareddy project to provide irrigation and drinking water to 1,226 villages and nearly 12 lakh acres. He asserted that the Congress would ensure transparency, accountability, and justice to Telangana farmers.



Over 52.82 Lakh Families Benefit from Gruha Jyothi Scheme: Government Pays 3,593 Crore in Power Subsidy

Urea Stocks Adequate in Telangana, No Shortage Situation: Minister Tummala

Hyderabad, January 2, 2025 | TPN Bureau:

The Telangana government on Thursday clarified that urea stocks in the state are adequate and there is no shortage, dismissing reports of scarcity as politically motivated. In a press note issued on January 2, Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao said the state has ensured sufficient availability of urea to meet farmers' requirements during the ongoing Yasangi season.

The Minister stated that by December 31, a total of 4.04 lakh metric tonnes of urea had already been supplied to farmers, which is the highest supply recorded in the last eight years. He presented comparative figures to highlight the trend, noting that urea sales during October–December stood at 2.57 lakh metric tonnes in 2018–19, 2.42 lakh metric tonnes in 2019–20, 1.22 lakh metric tonnes in 2020–21, 1.75 lakh metric tonnes in 2021–22, 2.63 lakh metric tonnes in 2022–23, 2.17 lakh metric tonnes in 2023–24, and 3.04 lakh

metric tonnes in 2024–25.

For the current 2025–26 Yasangi season, urea sales between October and December 31 touched 4.04 lakh metric tonnes, marking a significant increase. Against a central allocation of 5.60 lakh metric tonnes up to December, the state has already procured 5.78 lakh metric tonnes, ensuring buffer availability. The government, the Minister said, is fully prepared to supply urea as per farmers' needs.

He criticised attempts to portray queues at two or three centres out of nearly 12,000 fertiliser outlets as evidence of shortage. "Showing isolated instances of farmers waiting at shops and branding it as a urea crisis for political gain will not be forgiven by farmers," he warned.

The Minister also spoke about the implementation of the Karpas Kisan App introduced by the Centre, stating that it has been successfully adopted in Telangana, especially by small and marginal cotton farmers. A urea

distribution app based on this model is being implemented on a pilot basis in five districts. Despite initial technical issues during the pilot phase, all problems were addressed, and

volunteers were deployed at retail outlets to assist farmers.

From December 20 till date, about 1.18 lakh farmers have purchased 3.36 lakh bags of urea through the app. The

Minister said farmers expressed satisfaction during his interactions at Rythu Vedikas and assured that no farmer, including tenant farmers, would face inconvenience.



Hyderabad, Jan 2, 2025 | TPN Bureau:

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu informed the Legislative Council that the Telangana government has extended the benefits of the Gruha Jyothi Scheme to more than 52.82 lakh families across the state by providing free electricity up to 200 units. On behalf of these beneficiaries, the government has so far paid 3,593.17 crore to electricity distribution companies, easing the financial burden on households.

Replying to a question raised by Member of Legislative Council Vijayashanti during the Council session, the Deputy Chief Minister said the scheme has emerged as one of the most impactful welfare initiatives of the state government. He explained that the objective of the Gruha Jyothi Scheme is to ensure energy security for households while supporting their overall social and economic development.

According to the details placed before the House, a total of

52,82,498 consumers are currently benefiting under the scheme. Of these, 25,35,560 beneficiaries fall under the Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited (SPDCL), while the remaining 27,46,938 beneficiaries come under the jurisdiction of the Northern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited (NPDCL).

Bhatti Vikramarka stated that the government has borne the full cost of electricity consumption up to 200 units for these families, resulting in an expenditure of 3,593.17 crore so far. He emphasised that this financial support has provided significant relief to middle-class and economically weaker sections, particularly at a time when household expenses have been steadily rising.

The Deputy Chief Minister highlighted that the Gruha Jyothi Scheme has played a crucial role in improving the quality of life of beneficiaries. "By reducing the monthly electricity bill burden, families are able to di-

vert their savings towards health care, nutrition, and education," he said. He added that the scheme has also helped households improve living conditions and invest more in their children's education, thereby contributing to long-term social progress.

Bhatti Vikramarka further noted that access to reliable and affordable electricity has a direct impact on health and productivity, especially for women and students. The scheme, he said, reflects the government's commitment to inclusive development and welfare-driven governance. Reiterating the government's resolve to continue the programme, the Deputy Chief Minister assured the House that steps are being taken to ensure timely payments to power utilities and smooth implementation of the scheme.

He maintained that the Gruha Jyothi Scheme stands as a key pillar of the government's welfare agenda, benefiting lakhs of families and strengthening the state's social and economic fabric.

National Road Safety Month Observed Under Medchal District Transport Department

Quthbullapur, January 2 (TPN Bureau):

As part of the National Road Safety Month celebrations, the Medchal District Transport Department is organising road safety awareness programmes from January 1 to January 31 across the district. In this connection, a road safety pledge programme was conducted on Thursday at the Medchal District Transport Office premises located at Pet Basheerabad.

During the programme, vehicle users were administered the Road Safety Pledge, reaffirming their commitment as responsible citizens to strictly follow traffic rules prescribed under the Motor Vehicles Act. The participants pledged to respect fellow road users, prioritise public safety, avoid traffic violations, and discharge their duties with sincerity to prevent road accidents. They also vowed to cooperate in ensuring safe travel for everyone on public roads.



tory use of helmets and the role of protective gear in preventing fatal injuries. Officials cau-

tioned motorists against driving while drowsy, advising them to stop the vehicle safely and resume travel only after adequate rest.

Special emphasis was laid on discouraging under-age driving. Officials urged parents and guardians not to give vehicles to minors under any circumstances, warning that negligence could lead to irreversible tragedies.

"A single road accident can destroy an entire family. Every citizen must take personal responsibility for road safety," they said.

The speakers also underlined that road safety is not just the responsibility of enforcement agen-

cies but a shared duty of citizens, drivers, pedestrians, and vehicle owners alike. They appealed to people to follow speed limits, avoid mobile phone usage while driving, wear seat belts, and respect traffic signals.

Transport department officials, staff members, and a large number of vehicle users participated in the programme. The district administration stated that similar awareness activities, rallies, and educational programmes will be conducted throughout the month to promote a culture of safe and responsible road usage and to reduce road accidents in Medchal district.

Integrated Planning to Match Hyderabad's Megacity Scale: Minister Ponnam Prabhakar

TPN Bureau
Hyderabad, January 1, 2026:

With Hyderabad emerging as a vast metropolitan hub, the government, under Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, is pursuing integrated planning to strengthen infrastructure in line with the city's rapid expansion, said District In-Charge Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Friday.

The Minister, along with Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi, inaugurated the newly constructed Chikkadpally-Domalguda link bridge over the Hussain Sagar surplus nala. Built by the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) at a cost of 6 crore, the bridge aims to significantly improve connectivity in central Hyderabad.

Prominent officials and representatives at the inauguration included Member of Parliament Anil Kumar Yadav, MLA Muttha Gopal, Deputy Mayor Srilatha Shobhan Reddy, GHMC Commissioner R.V. Karnan, Additional Commissioner Raghu Prasad, CE Projects Bhaskar Reddy, Zonal Commissioner Ravi Kiran, local corporators, SE



Mohan Reddy, EE Rohini, DEE Renuka, and AEE Prashanth.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Prabhakar highlighted Hyderabad's rapid urban expansion following the merger of municipalities around the Outer Ring Road (ORR). "Greater Hyderabad is now the largest city in the country in both area and population. Infrastructure such as roads, stormwater drains, street lighting, parks, and civic amenities must expand proportionally to meet the growing demand. The Chief Minister is actively implementing comprehensive plans to address these critical needs," he said.

He assured that all local public representatives would be closely involved in the planning and execution of infrastructure projects to ensure coordinated development and an improved quality of life for residents. Emphasizing Hy-

Hyderabad Man Arrested for Possessing Country-Made Pistol in Hussaini

Hyderabad police have arrested a 29-year-old man for illegally possessing a country-made pistol in the Hussaini area, highlighting ongoing concerns about unlicensed firearms in the city. The accused, identified as Amjad Khan, a businessman from Charminar who recently returned from Saudi Arabia, was apprehended during a routine checking drive at Khilwath in Hussaini on Thursday. Police recovered a 0.7 mm country-made pistol from his possession.

Investigations revealed that the firearm had been procured several months ago through intermediaries from Madhya Pradesh at a reported cost of around 80,000. Authorities stated that the pistol was allegedly intended to intimidate members of the public. The police are also investigating links to two other suspects who are believed to have supplied the illegal weapon and are currently absconding. Efforts are underway

to trace and apprehend them.

The arrest underscores the Hyderabad Police's heightened vigilance, particularly in Old City areas, to curb the circulation of unlicensed firearms and prevent their misuse. Routine checking drives and patrolling in densely populated and sensitive localities aim to intercept individuals carrying illegal weapons and reduce potential criminal incidents.

Illegal possession of firearms is a serious offence under Indian law, and cases have been registered to ensure strict legal action against the accused. Authorities emphasized that the confiscation of the country-made pistol and the arrest of Amjad Khan demonstrate the police's ongoing efforts to enforce arms regulations and maintain public safety, especially during periods of increased movement and gatherings.

Experts note that the availability of country-made firearms, often sourced

from other states, remains a significant challenge for law enforcement in urban centres like Hyderabad. Past seizures indicate that such weapons are frequently circulated illegally, raising concerns about their potential misuse in criminal activities.

The Hyderabad Police have appealed to the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity. Officials stated that community cooperation is essential to combat the illegal arms trade and enhance the overall safety of city residents.

Investigations are ongoing to locate the remaining suspects and uncover the full extent of the illegal weapons network.

This arrest is part of broader efforts by the police to address the persistent issue of unlicensed firearms in the city, aiming to create a safer environment for citizens while deterring criminal elements from exploiting gaps in arms regulation enforcement.

Blood Donation Camp Organised on Savitri Jayanti, Deputy Mayor Attends as Chief Guest

Hyderabad, January 2 (TPN Bureau):

A blood donation camp was organised with great enthusiasm under the aegis of the Naraparaju Savitri Foundation on the occasion of the 62nd birth anniversary of late Naraparaju Savitri. The camp was held in her memory as a tribute to her commitment to social service and humanitarian values.

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Deputy Mayor Mothe Srilatha Shobhan Reddy attended the programme as the chief guest, along with TTUC State President Mothe Shobhan Reddy. Their presence added significance to the event and encouraged large-scale participation from the public.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Mayor emphasised the importance of voluntary blood donation, stating that a single unit of blood can save multiple

lives. She said blood donation is one of the noblest forms of service to humanity and called upon citizens, especially youth, to come forward and participate in such life-saving initiatives. She also appreciated the Naraparaju Savitri Foundation for organising a meaningful programme that combined remembrance with social responsibility.

TTUC State President

Greater Hyderabad Mothe Shobhan Reddy highlighted the need for continuous blood donation drives,

noting that the demand for blood remains constant in hospitals due to emergencies, surgeries, and medical treatments.

He urged social organisations and individuals to actively support such initiatives to ensure adequate blood availability for those in need.

During the camp, several volunteers came forward to donate blood voluntarily. The dignitaries personally

interacted with the donors, appreciated their selfless gesture, and distributed certificates to honour their contribution.

Medical staff ensured that the blood donation process was conducted safely and in accordance with health protocols.

Representatives of

the Naraparaju Savitri Foundation coordinated the event efficiently, ensuring smooth organisation and participation. Local residents, social activists, and foundation members attended the programme in large numbers, making it a grand success.

The organisers stated that the blood donation camp reflected the values and ideals of late Naraparaju Savitri and reaffirmed their commitment to continue similar service-oriented activities in the future for the welfare of society.

Hyderabad Awaits Vande Bharat Sleeper as Indian Railways Rolls Out First Service

Hyderabad, January 2 (TPN Bureau):

Hyderabad is gearing up with anticipation as Indian Railways prepares to introduce the first-ever Vande Bharat Sleeper train in the country. Slated to begin operations in January 2026, this sleeper version of the popular Vande Bharat Express is expected to revolutionize overnight rail travel by offering passengers faster, more comfortable, and technologically advanced journeys. The announcement has sparked excitement among commuters in Hyderabad, who hope that the city will soon be included in the network of sleeper services.

The inaugural Vande Bharat Sleeper will run between Guwahati in Assam and Howrah in West Bengal, providing a modern alternative for long-distance passengers traveling overnight. While Hyderabad is not part of the initial route, railway enthusiasts and daily long-distance travellers in the city remain optimistic that future phases will include a Secunderabad-New Delhi route, which could significantly improve travel convenience for southern India. Social media discussions and commuter forums reflect growing public interest in the potential introduction of the sleeper service in Telangana.

Designed specifically for overnight journeys, the Vande Bharat Sleeper combines speed, safety, and modern passenger amenities. Unlike the existing daytime Vande Bharat trains, which feature reclining seats for shorter trips, the sleeper variant offers spacious berths, upgraded interiors, automatic doors, USB charging ports, Wi-Fi connectivity, and advanced safety features. This makes it suitable for long-distance travel, ensuring that passengers can rest comfortably while covering large distances efficiently.

If introduced on the Hyderabad-Delhi corridor, the Vande Bharat Sleeper reflects Indian Railways' broader strategy to modernize long-

distance travel in the country. It aims to combine high-speed rail technology with passenger comfort and convenience, addressing gaps in overnight train services. The production of additional sleeper rakes is ongoing, and railway authorities are reportedly evaluating demand across various routes to determine where the service should be expanded next. Telangana, with its large population of long-distance travellers, is considered a potential candidate for upcoming Vande Bharat Sleeper services.

Commuters and rail enthusiasts are particularly hopeful that Hyderabad, as a major transport hub in southern India, will soon benefit from this next-generation train. The introduction of a Vande Bharat Sleeper service promises not only faster travel but also a significant improvement in passenger experience, offering a modern, safe, and comfortable option for overnight rail journeys. With the initial service set to commence soon, public attention is focused on how quickly this innovative travel solution can be expanded to meet the growing demand for premium long-distance rail travel in India.



Two Journalists Arrested for Extortion and Blackmail

Adilabad, January 2, TPN Bureau

The Adilabad Police have registered a case and arrested two journalists for allegedly extorting money from a victim to prevent news coverage. The accused, who were previously implicated under the Gaming Act, reportedly demanded 6,000 from the complainant and collected 5,200, resorting to threats to recover the remaining amount.

Both Town CI D. Guruswami confirmed that the accused, identified as Thumu Surya and Mallepoul Ganganna, were arrested following a complaint by the victim, Shake Ali. The incident reportedly took place on December 25 in Both Town, where the journalists allegedly demanded money to prevent publication of news about their prior involvement under the Gaming Act.

The case has been registered under Sec 308 (5) read with 3(5) at Both Police Station. CI Guruswami emphasized that the law treats everyone equally, and anyone



engaging in blackmail, extortion, or threats will face legal action without exception, regardless of their profession.

The arrest was carried out by Both Town

police in coordination with SI Sri Sai and other staff, ensuring strict enforcement of the law. The police warned that authorities will not tolerate misuse of position

or threats to coerce individuals, and action will be taken against anyone attempting to commit such offenses in the future.

This strict action un-

derscores the police department's commitment to protecting citizens from extortion and blackmail and maintaining law and order in the district.

Top Maoist Commander Barse Deva Surrenders to Telangana Police

Hyderabad, Telangana, January 2, 2026 — TPN Bureau

In a major setback for the outlawed Communist Party of India (Maoist), top People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) commander Barse Deva has surrendered before Telangana Police, marking a significant blow to the insurgent group's operations in the region.

Deva, a high-ranking commander of PLGA Battalion No. 1 and a close associate of the late Maoist leader Madvi Hidma, laid down his arms before Telangana Director General of Police B. Shivadhar Reddy after operating for years along the dense forest belt bordering Telangana, Chhattisgarh, and Maharashtra.

Hailing from Puvarti

village in Sukma district, Chhattisgarh, Deva was considered one of the most important operational leaders of the Maoist military wing following Hidma's death in a gunfight with security forces in November 2025. Authorities say he was linked to several deadly ambushes and carried a substantial bounty on his head. Alongside Deva, 15 other armed Maoist cadres also surrendered, according to police sources. The state government is expected to officially announce the surrender at a press conference, underlining it as a major strategic victory in the ongoing anti-insurgency campaign. Security officials and the Telangana government have welcomed the development, saying it



underscores the success of rehabilitation and surrender incentive policies aimed at encouraging underground extremists to renounce violence and reintegrate

into society. In 2025 alone, more than 500 Maoist cadres laid down arms in the state.

The defection of a senior commander like Barse Deva is expected

to weaken the Maoist movement's operational capabilities further, delivering a psychological and tactical blow to the organization in central India.

Several Engineering Students Injured in Kothagudem Bus Accident

Hyderabad, Telangana, January 2, 2026 — TPN Bureau

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Soybean Procurement Protests Escalate in Adilabad, Farmers Demand Policy Change



Adilabad, Telangana, January 2, 2026 — TPN Bureau

Protests by soybean farmers continued across Adilabad district on Friday as growers pressed officials to lift restrictions on government procurement of soybean produce, highlighting deepening distress in the agricultural community.

Farmers, many of whom have harvested their crops amid adverse weather conditions, staged demonstrations at multiple locations demanding "unrestricted" procurement by government agencies. They argue that current norms on quality and moisture content are preventing them from selling large portions of their yield under the government's Price Support Scheme (PSS), forcing them to accept low prices from private traders.

Officials from Telangana Markfed said the district had procured more than 14,000 quintals of soybeans classified as First Grade—the highest quantity in the state so far—but rejected non-First-Grade produce that failed to meet standards set by the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) and Union Ministry of Agriculture rules.

their grievances, citing mounting financial losses from low market rates and delayed procurement. The ongoing agitation reflects broader frustration among farmers in Adilabad, who have previously staged sit-ins, bandh actions, and highway blockades over procurement norms and delayed support.

Political leaders have also joined the protests, criticizing both State and Central governments for what they call inadequate action to protect farmers' interests. Officials say they have appealed to NAFED for relaxation of quality standards to help farmers sell more of their produce, but no formal change has been announced yet. The situation remains tense as farmers continue to demand immediate intervention and policy reforms to safeguard their livelihoods.

Students Protest Poor Facilities at Social Welfare Hostel in Sangareddy



Sangareddy, Telangana, January 2, 2026 — TPN Bureau

Students of a Social Welfare residential school in Sirgapur village, Sangareddy district, staged a protest on Friday citing poor living conditions and severe neglect in their hostel facilities.

The agitation, supported by several student organisations, highlighted multiple issues that the inmates said have made daily life difficult and unsafe.

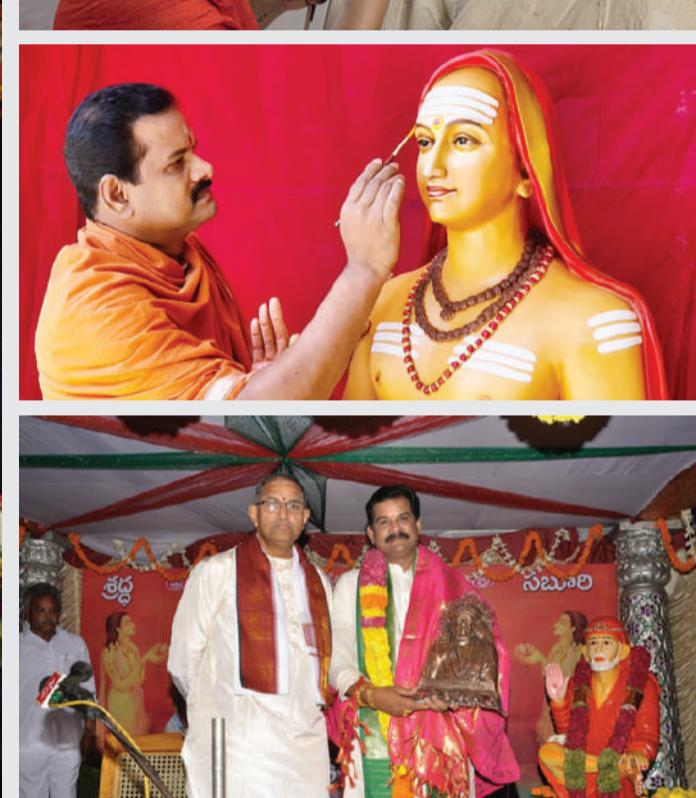
According to the protesting students, the hostel has been without power supply for more than two weeks, leaving them in darkness at night. With the borewell not functioning, they were often forced to

fetch water from outside and, at times, had to use unsafe sources due to lack of safe drinking water.

Students also alleged that the food served was unhygienic, with complaints of insect infested meals, and that the hostel rooms lacked basic amenities such as proper windows to protect them from cold weather.

Student organisations have called for the suspension of the warden and urgent intervention by education and welfare officials to address infrastructural deficiencies, ensure reliable power and water supply, and improve food quality. The protest reflects growing discontent over inadequate hostel conditions in welfare institutions, and authorities are expected to respond to the demands soon.

Breathing Life into Stone: Sculptor Wadayar Rajkumar and the Soul of Art



Art is often described as imitation, representation or beauty carved into form. But true art goes far beyond shaping stone or metal — it breathes life into the inanimate. Few artists embody this philosophy as profoundly as sculptor Wadayar Rajkumar, a name that today resonates with pride not only in the Konaseema region but across both Telugu states.

To call Wadayar Rajkumar merely a sculptor would be an understatement. He is an artist who crowns art with dignity, who transforms statues into

living presences, and who infuses stone with breath. Every sculpture shaped by his hands reflects not just physical likeness but inner personality. His work speaks, feels and connects — a rare quality that separates craftsmen from true artists.

Hailing from Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema district, Wadayar Rajkumar stands as a shining example of how talent rooted in rural soil can achieve national recognition through dedication, discipline and devotion to craft. His journey is not just personal success; it

is a cultural statement — that art born in villages can command respect on the grandest stages.

Over the years, he has sculpted thousands of statues of eminent personalities. What sets his work apart is his intense attention to natural expression, emotional depth and subtle detailing. His sculptures do not merely resemble their subjects; they represent them. The eyes convey thought, the posture suggests character, and the facial expressions reveal the soul. Each statue becomes a silent storyteller.

A striking example of his mastery is the recently unveiled statue of legendary singer S.P. Balasubrahmanyam at Hyderabad's Ravindra Bharathi. Standing 7.2 feet tall and cast in bronze, the sculpture is more than a tribute — it is an emotion frozen in time. SPB's gentle smile, warmth, humility and musical soul are etched with astonishing realism. Artists, dignitaries and fans alike were left awestruck, praising the sculpture as a living reflection of the legend himself.

Such moments raise an important thought: why do

some statues move us while others merely occupy space? The answer lies in intent. For Wadayar Rajkumar, sculpture is not a profession — it is his breath. He treats every creation as a form of meditation. Before carving, he studies the life, ideology and journey of the individual. Only when he understands the person beyond the face does he begin shaping the form. This spiritual connection is what gives his sculptures timeless value.

In an era dominated by speed, shortcuts and superficial recognition, Wadayar Rajkumar's approach feels

refreshingly sincere. His work reminds us that art demands patience, humility and surrender. It teaches young artists that mastery is earned through discipline, not shortcuts.

More importantly, his success serves as inspiration for countless aspiring sculptors from rural backgrounds. Rising from Konaseema and earning respect at state and national levels, he proves that geography does not limit greatness — commitment does.

Though he belongs to Konaseema, Wadayar Rajkumar today stands as a sym-

bol of pride for both Telugu states. His name is steadily carving its place not just in stone, but in the cultural consciousness of the nation.

As art lovers, one can only hope that his journey continues to shine brighter — that his chisels keep shaping history, that his statues keep breathing life into memory, and that the name Wadayar Rajkumar becomes synonymous with living sculpture across India.

Because when stone begins to breathe, it is no longer stone — it is art.

Jadav's Political 'Magic' and the Municipal Chessboard of Adilabad

Jadav's Political 'Magic' and the Municipal Chessboard of Adilabad

Politics in Adilabad has suddenly taken on the intensity of a high-stakes chess match, where every move is scrutinised and every missstep punished. The overnight release of the draft voters' list has acted as a political catalyst, unsettling established equations and injecting fresh urgency into the municipal battle. What might appear as a routine administrative exercise has, in reality, exposed deeper demographic shifts and emerging power centres that could decisively shape Adilabad's political future.

At the centre of this evolving scenario is what many observers describe as "Jadav's magic" — a strategic blend of political timing, organisational discipline, and social arithmetic that seems to have left opposition parties momentarily disoriented. Under the leadership of District Congress chief Dr. Naresh Jadav, the party is attempting a calculated transition from rural dominance to urban consolidation. The narrative has clearly shifted from whether the Congress

is relevant in the municipal contest to whether its rivals are prepared to counter its momentum.

One of the most revealing aspects of the draft voters' list is the numerical strength of women voters. With women exceeding male voters by more than 4,000 and forming nearly half of the total electorate of 1,43,773 voters, the electoral dynamics have undergone a subtle but decisive transformation. This is not merely a statistical observation; it is a political signal that demands attention. Women voters today are more politically aware, issue-focused, and independent in their choices than ever before.

For the Congress, this demographic reality appears to work in its favour. The party's campaign emphasis on civic amenities, welfare delivery, and grassroots engagement resonates strongly with women voters who experience governance at the household level. Municipal politics, after all, is less about ideological grandstanding and more about water supply, sanitation, roads, healthcare access, and education. Parties that fail to align

their messaging with these lived realities risk alienating a decisive voter base.

Equally significant is the growing assertion of youth in Adilabad's political space. Social media-driven outreach, ward-level mobilisation, and peer-to-peer campaigning have transformed young voters from passive participants into active influencers. This shift has disrupted traditional campaign models that relied heavily on cadre networks and established voter loyalties. For opposition parties accustomed to predictable voting patterns, this fluid and energetic youth participation has become a source of discomfort.

Dr. Naresh Jadav's strategy draws confidence from the Congress party's recent panchayat-level successes. These victories were not accidental; they were built on sustained local engagement, careful candidate selection, and a governance-oriented narrative. By projecting these wins as a mere "trailer" to the upcoming municipal contest, the Congress has successfully boosted cadre morale while applying psychological pressure on its rivals. In politics, perception often

shapes reality, and the Congress is clearly attempting to define the electoral mood even before polling begins.

Another critical factor reshaping the municipal contest is the evolving role of minority voters, particularly Muslims, who have historically been decisive in Adilabad politics. This time, however, the nature of participation has changed. Minority youth are no longer content with symbolic representation; they seek meaningful inclusion in governance and decision-making. The rise of young leaders like Khizer Pasha reflects this generational shift and has injected fresh energy into the Congress campaign.

This renewed assertion has altered long-held assumptions among political veterans who believed minority votes could be mobilised mechanically. The growing organisational role of minority youth has transformed vote banks into active political stakeholders. If effectively consolidated, this support could tilt outcomes in several crucial wards, especially where margins are traditionally narrow.

The opposition's biggest

challenge lies in its apparent lack of a coherent counter-strategy. Administrative uncertainties surrounding voter list revisions have added to the confusion, but they have not translated into political clarity for rival parties. Instead, demographic shifts, combined with the Congress party's aggressive confidence, have resulted in a visible hesitation — a political "mind block" that can prove costly in tightly fought elections.

That said, municipal elections are rarely predictable. Local equations, individual candidate credibility, turnout patterns, and last-minute political manoeuvres can still alter the final outcome. History offers enough examples where early momentum dissolved due to complacency. The Congress, despite its apparent advantage, must guard against overconfidence and ensure disciplined execution at the booth level.

Ultimately, this election is not merely about capturing the municipal chair; it is about defining Adilabad's urban future. The convergence of experienced leadership, women's electoral strength, minority

youth assertion, and Dr. Naresh Jadav's strategic direction presents a rare political moment. Whether this alignment results in electoral victory remains to be seen, but one fact is undeniable: Adilabad's political grammar is changing.

Regardless of the final ver-

rules of the game. Old formulas no longer guarantee success, and new voices are demanding accountability and inclusion. In that sense, this municipal election marks not just a contest for power, but a turning point in the city's democratic evolution.



Firoz Khan, Senior Freelance Journalist (9640466464)

Baloch Leader's Open Letter Signals A New Geopolitical Undercurrent In South Asia



The open letter written by Baloch leader and human rights activist Mir Yar Baloch to India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar marks a significant moment in South Asian geopolitics. From Pakistani soil, the letter expresses "unwavering support to Bharat" and warns of an expanding China-Pakistan stra-

tegian alliance, particularly in Balochistan. The leader claims that China may soon deploy military troops in the region as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) reaches its final stages.

The letter reflects long-standing grievances of the Baloch people, who allege decades of political repression,

enforced disappearances, and human rights abuses under Pakistan's control. By praising India's Operation Sindoora and openly engaging with New Delhi, Baloch leadership appears to be seeking international legitimacy and diplomatic recognition.

While India has officially maintained restraint on sep-

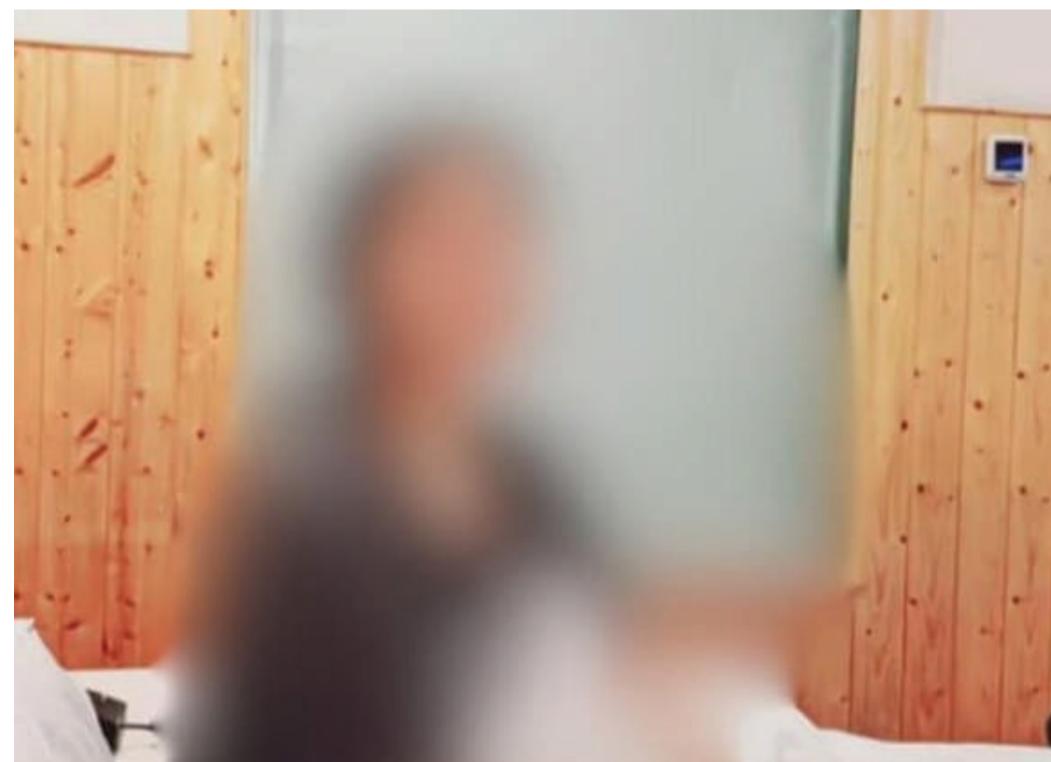
aratist movements beyond its borders, such communications underline growing regional unease over China's expanding footprint. The episode also highlights how internal conflicts in Pakistan increasingly intersect with broader regional power rivalries involving India and China.

Campus Tragedy In Himachal Raises Alarming Questions On Institutional Failure

Aggri-gation has shocked the nation and exposed deep cracks in campus safety mechanisms. The student's recorded video, detailing inappropriate behaviour by a professor and harassment by senior students, paints a disturbing picture of unchecked abuse of authority.

The case is particularly troubling because it involves those entrusted with safeguarding students. Allegations against a faculty member underline how power imbalance can silence victims and delay accountability. The fact that the student's health deteriorated due to prolonged mental stress suggests systemic failure rather than an isolated incident.

This tragedy raises urgent questions about grievance redressal systems in educational institutions. While laws against ragging and sexual harassment exist, implementation remains inconsistent. Fear, stigma, and institutional pressure often prevent students from speaking out.



The incident serves as a grim reminder that academic spaces must prioritise safety

and dignity alongside education. Without strict enforcement and cultural change,

campuses risk becoming places of silent suffering rather than learning.

BJP-Congress Clash Over Umar Khalid Reflects Deepening Global Political Polarisation

The BJP's attack on Rahul Gandhi over US lawmakers' letter seeking bail for Umar Khalid highlights how domestic politics is increasingly intersecting with international advocacy. By linking Gandhi's past meetings with American lawmakers to recent human rights concerns raised abroad, the BJP has reinforced its narrative of an "anti-India lobby."

The controversy centres on the Combating International Islamophobia Act and foreign criticism of India's handling of sensitive legal cases. While the BJP views such interventions as external interference in India's sovereign legal process, the opposition sees it as part of global human rights discourse.

This episode underscores a broader dilemma: how democracies respond when internal issues draw international attention. The absence of a Congress response has allowed the ruling party to dominate the narrative, framing criticism as politically motivated rather



than rights-based.

The debate reflects growing polarisation,

where legal cases are viewed less through judicial lenses and more as

ideological battlegrounds, both domestically and internationally.

Indore Water Crisis Highlights Urban Governance And Public Health Neglect



The Madhya Pradesh High Court's intervention in Indore's contaminated water crisis highlights the serious consequences of civic negligence. Reports of deaths linked to unsafe drinking water prompted the court to order additional water tankers and immediate medical care, stressing that a city's "beauty" cannot exist without basic public health safeguards.

Indore, often praised for

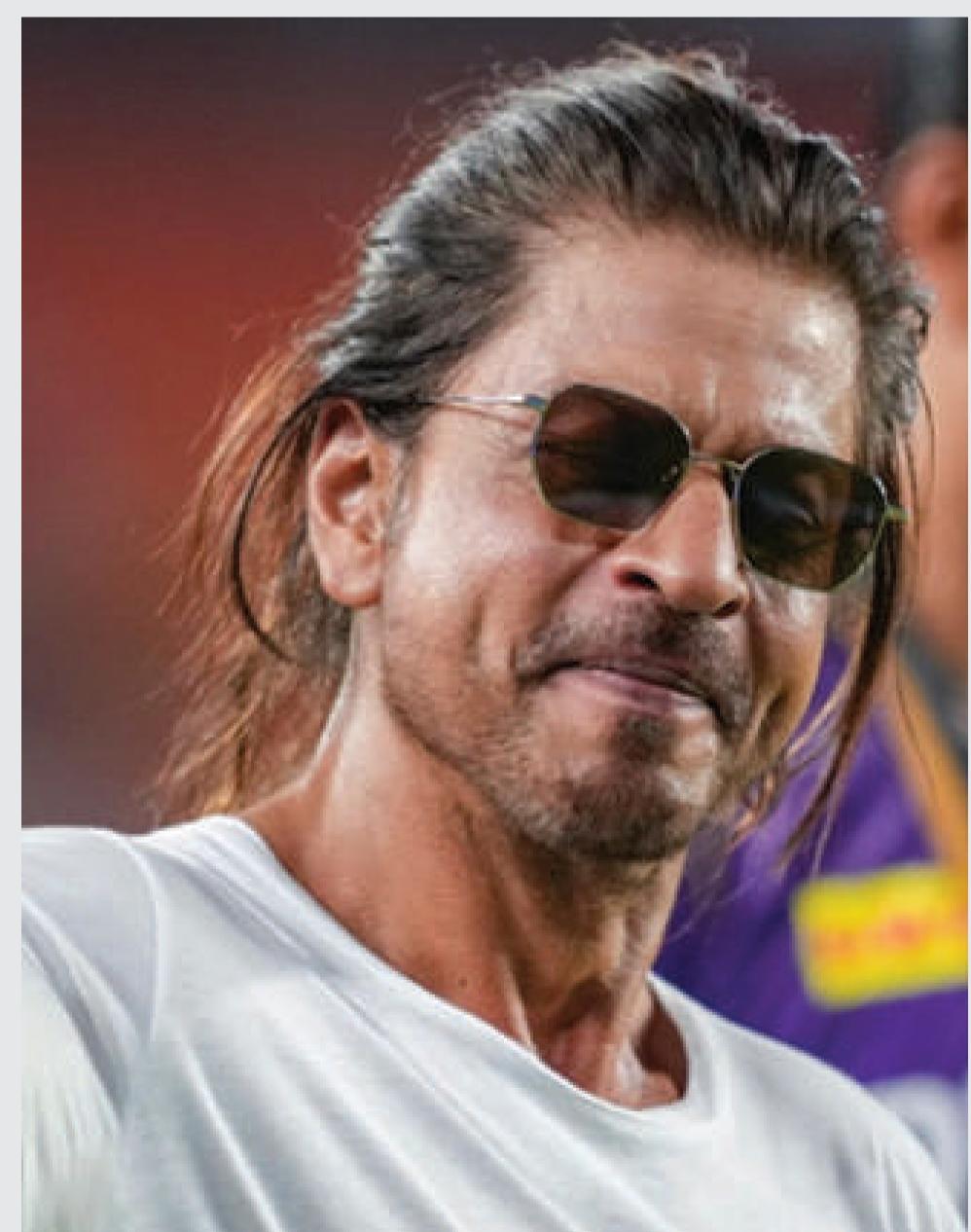
cleanliness rankings, now faces uncomfortable scrutiny. The crisis reveals how surface-level achievements can mask deeper infrastructural vulnerabilities. Access to clean water remains a fundamental right, not a privilege dependent on emergency judicial orders.

The court's remarks underline the responsibility of municipal authorities to ensure routine water qual-

ity checks, transparent communication, and swift corrective action. Preventable tragedies caused by contaminated water point to failures in monitoring and accountability.

This incident serves as a warning to urban administrations across India: sustainable development is measured not by rankings or aesthetics, but by the safety and well-being of citizens.

IPL Controversy Shows How Sport Is Increasingly Entangled With National Politics



The objection raised by Shiv Sena (UBT) against Kolkata Knight Riders for including Bangladeshi cricketer Mustafizur Rahman reveals how sport in India is becoming deeply politicised. Framing the issue as one of national security, party leaders demanded a boycott of players from Bangladesh and Pakistan, invoking emotional and nationalist rhetoric.

Such statements blur

the line between sport and state policy. The IPL has long positioned itself as a professional sporting league governed by cricketing bodies, not political ideologies. Targeting team owners and players based on nationality risks undermining the league's credibility and inclusiveness.

While geopolitical tensions are real, conflating athletes with state actions sets a dan-

gerous precedent. Cricket has historically served as a bridge between nations, even during diplomatic strains.

The episode reflects a broader trend where cultural platforms are increasingly used for political signalling. It raises a crucial question: should sport remain a unifying space, or be shaped by shifting political narratives?

Trump's Iran Warning Raises Stakes Amid Widening Middle East Unrest



President Donald Trump's warning that the US would "come to the rescue" of Iranian protesters if they are violently suppressed has sharply escalated tensions between Washington and Tehran. Issued amid widespread protests in Iran over economic collapse and currency devaluation, the statement has been met with stern warnings from Iran's leadership.

Iranian officials have accused the US of interference, cautioning that any direct intervention could destabilise the entire Middle East. With recent US strikes on Iranian-linked

targets promotes and Iran's retaliatory actions still fresh, the rhetoric inflaming an already volatile region.

The protests, though not yet at the scale of earlier uprisings, reflect deep-rooted frustration over inflation, governance and political repression. Trump's comments, while framed as a defense of human rights, blur the line between moral support and military threat. The episode illustrates how domestic unrest in Iran continues to intersect dangerously with global power politics.

Maduro's Overture To US Talks Contrasts With Silence On Military Strikes



Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro's willingness to negotiate with the US on drug trafficking marks a cautious diplomatic opening. His remarks, however, were notably silent on recent CIA-linked drone strikes on Venezuelan soil — a silence that speaks volumes about the sensitivity of the issue.

Maduro framed the US pressure campaign as an attempt to force regime change and gain access to Venezuela's oil reserves, while also signalling openness to American investment. The contrast between diplomatic rhetoric and escalating

military actions highlights the complexity of US-Venezuela relations.

The strikes, justified by Washington as part of an "armed conflict" against drug cartels, represent a significant escalation and raise concerns about sovereignty and civilian casualties. Maduro's calibrated response suggests a balancing act between resistance and negotiation, as Venezuela seeks economic relief without conceding political ground. The situation underscores how counter-narcotics operations can blur into geopolitical power plays.

Swiss Bar Fire Tragedy Exposes Deadly Risks Of Festive Negligence



The devastating fire at a Swiss bar in Crans-Montana that killed 40 people has cast a harsh spotlight on safety lapses during festive celebrations. Authorities believe the blaze was triggered by sparklers placed on champagne bottles, which were moved too

close to the ceiling, causing flames to spread rapidly across the venue. What was meant to be a moment of celebration quickly turned into one of Switzerland's deadliest civilian tragedies in recent years.

The incident occurred during the New Year hol-

iday period, when Valais' population believes to have doubled due to tourism. Hospitals were already stretched with routine emergencies, compounding the crisis response. Despite this, emergency services acted swiftly, treating over 100 injured individuals

and transferring critical patients across Switzerland and neighbouring countries.

The painstaking identification of victims has become the authorities' top priority, involving international coordination and forensic protocols. Beyond the immediate

loss of life, the tragedy raises urgent questions about crowd safety, fire regulations and the unchecked use of indoor pyrotechnics. It is a stark reminder that festive excess, when paired with poor safety enforcement, can have irreversible consequences.

BYD Overtakes Tesla As Global EV Leadership Shriveled by Competition



Musk's divided focus — spanning politics, robotics and social media — have unsettled investors.

BYD's success highlights China's growing influence in future mobility, particularly as its vehicles undercut Western rivals on price while matching them on technology. Even as trade barriers rise against Chinese EVs, BYD's penetration into Europe, Southeast Asia and Latin America signals a new era of competition. The EV race is no longer about who innovated first, but who can scale fastest and adapt globally.

Expanded US Travel Ban Signals Return To Hardline Immigration Policy



The United States' decision to impose travel restrictions on citizens from 39 countries beginning January 1, 2026, signals a renewed hardline stance on immigration and border control. Believed to be rooted in national security concerns, the policy extends to immediate family members of US citizens from affected countries, intensifying its human impact.

The White House has justified the move by citing insufficient data-sharing and risk assessment mechanisms in certain countries. However, critics argue that such blanket bans disproportionately affect ordinary civilians, students and families rather than genuine security threats. The inclusion of partial and full bans has also raised fears of diplomatic fallout and legal challenges.

Historically, travel bans have sparked global criticism and domestic debate

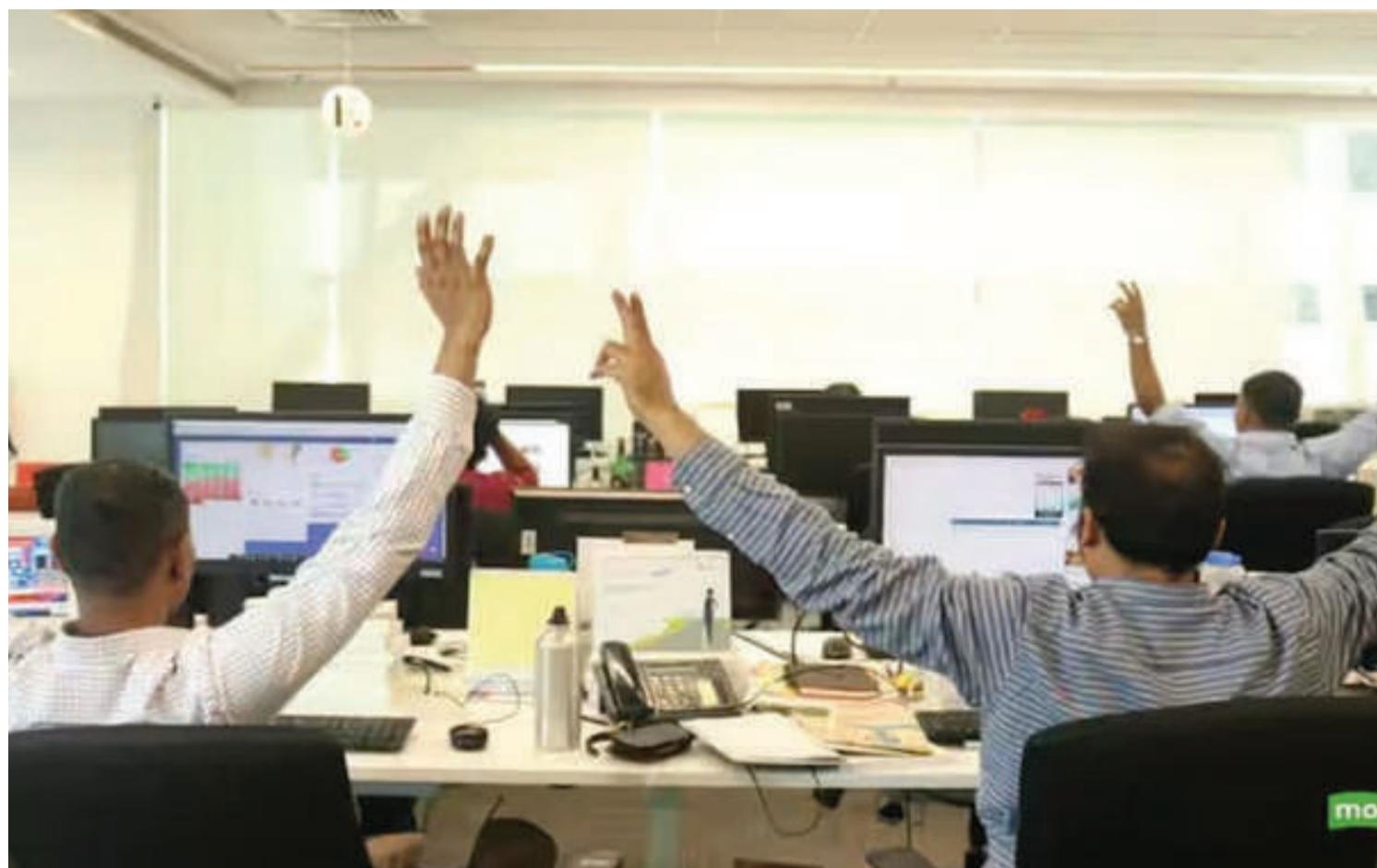
over civil liberties. This expansion revives those concerns, particularly as

it coincides with heightened geopolitical tensions. The move under-

scores how immigration policy remains a powerful political tool — one that

balances security narratives against humanitarian and diplomatic costs.

Record Highs On Dalal Street Reflect Domestic Strength Over Global Uncertainty



Indian equity markets began 2026 on a confident note, with the Nifty closing at a fresh all-time high above 26,300 and the Sensex jumping over 570 points. The rally was broad-based, with most sectoral indices ending in the green, signalling strong underlying domestic sentiment despite mixed global cues.

Autos, metals, capital goods, power and PSU stocks led the

charge, reflecting optimism around economic activity, infrastructure spending and manufacturing momentum. Strong GST collections for December reinforced confidence in consumption recovery and fiscal stability, acting as a key catalyst for the rally. The BSE midcap and smallcap indices also gained around 1 per cent, indicating wider market participation rather than a narrow

large-cap move. However, FMCG stocks underperformed, reminding investors that consumption recovery remains uneven. Rising input costs, margin pressures and cautious volume growth have weighed on defensive plays. This divergence highlights the market's preference for cyclical and growth-linked sectors at this stage of the economic cycle.

Technically, the Nifty's decisive breakout above the 26,200-26,300 resistance zone signals continued bullish momentum in the short term. Analysts now see higher targets in the coming weeks, provided the index holds above key support levels. While valuations are stretched, the market's resilience underscores a shift toward domestically driven optimism as India enters the new calendar year.

Auto Stocks' Multi-Year Outperformance Shows Structural Shift In Demand

The Nifty Auto index's three-fold outperformance versus the Nifty over the past four years highlights a structural transformation in India's automobile sector. Strong domestic demand, GST rationalisation, premiumisation and recovery in urban consumption have all contributed to sustained momentum.

Passenger vehicle sales surged sharply in December, driven by pre-emptive buying ahead of price hikes and improving consumer confidence. Analysts believe this is not merely a cyclical rebound but part of a longer-term trend supported by rising incomes, aspirational consumption and better financing availability.

Technically, the auto index has broken out on long-term charts, with analysts projecting further upside if key support levels hold. While risks remain—such as rural demand volatility and cost pressures—the sector's resilience suggests it will continue to outperform in the near term.

The auto sector's performance also reflects a broader policy environment favouring manufacturing, localisation



and infrastructure development. As India positions itself as a global auto and EV hub, the sector's leadership role in

the equity market may persist well into 2026.

IT Sector Faces Short-Term Softness But Eyes AI-Led Revival In 2026

Indian IT stocks may see muted performance in the December quarter due to seasonal furloughs and wage hikes, but investor focus is already shifting beyond short-term noise. According to Motilal Oswal, commentary around client budgets, deal pipelines and AI adoption will matter far more than near-term earnings fluctuations.

While growth remains subdued amid global macro uncertainty, artificial intelligence is emerging as a powerful medium-term driver. Clients are cautious about large transformation spends, but targeted AI investments are gaining traction, especially in productivity enhancement and automation.

Large IT firms are expected to post modest sequential growth, with mid-caps showing relatively better momentum. The divergence reflects agility and faster deal execution among smaller players.

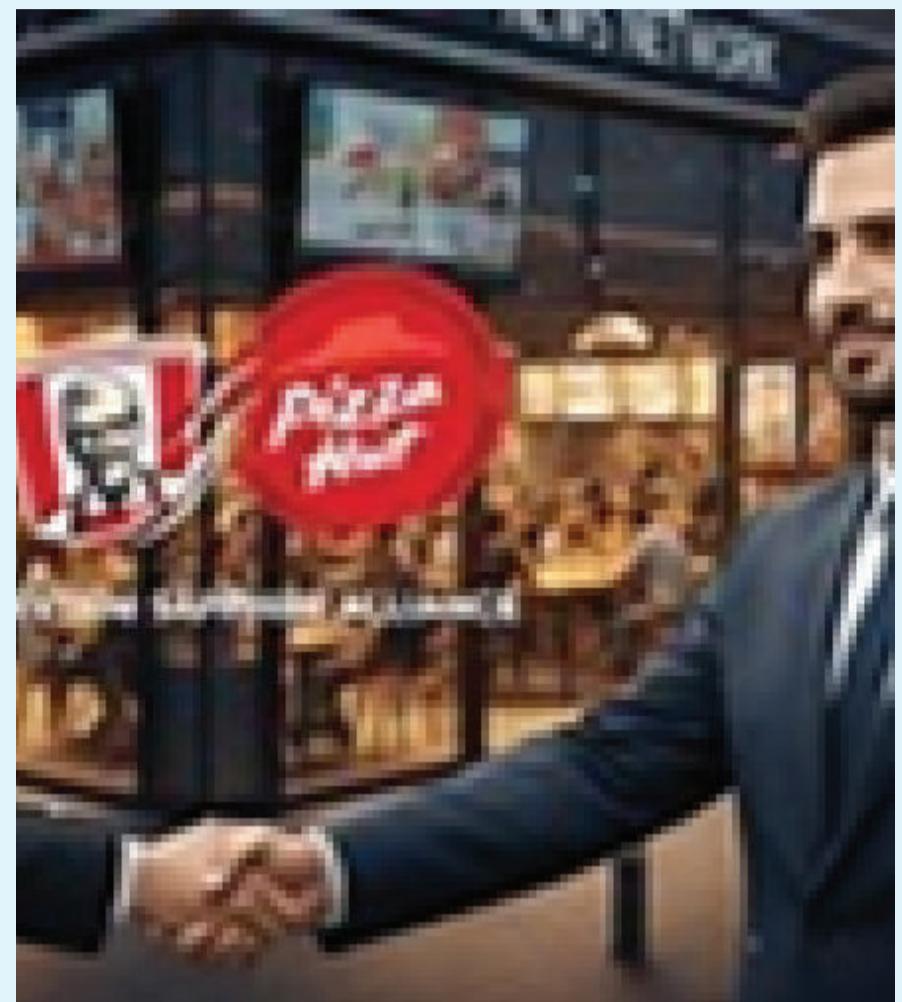


Investors are likely to reward companies that demonstrate early leadership in AI capabilities and deal conversion.

The IT sector's story is no longer about volume growth alone, but about relevance in a rapidly evolving tech cycle.

Those who adapt fastest to AI-driven demand are likely to regain investor confidence in calendar year 2026.

Devyani-Sapphire Merger Signals Consolidation Phase In India's QSR Industry

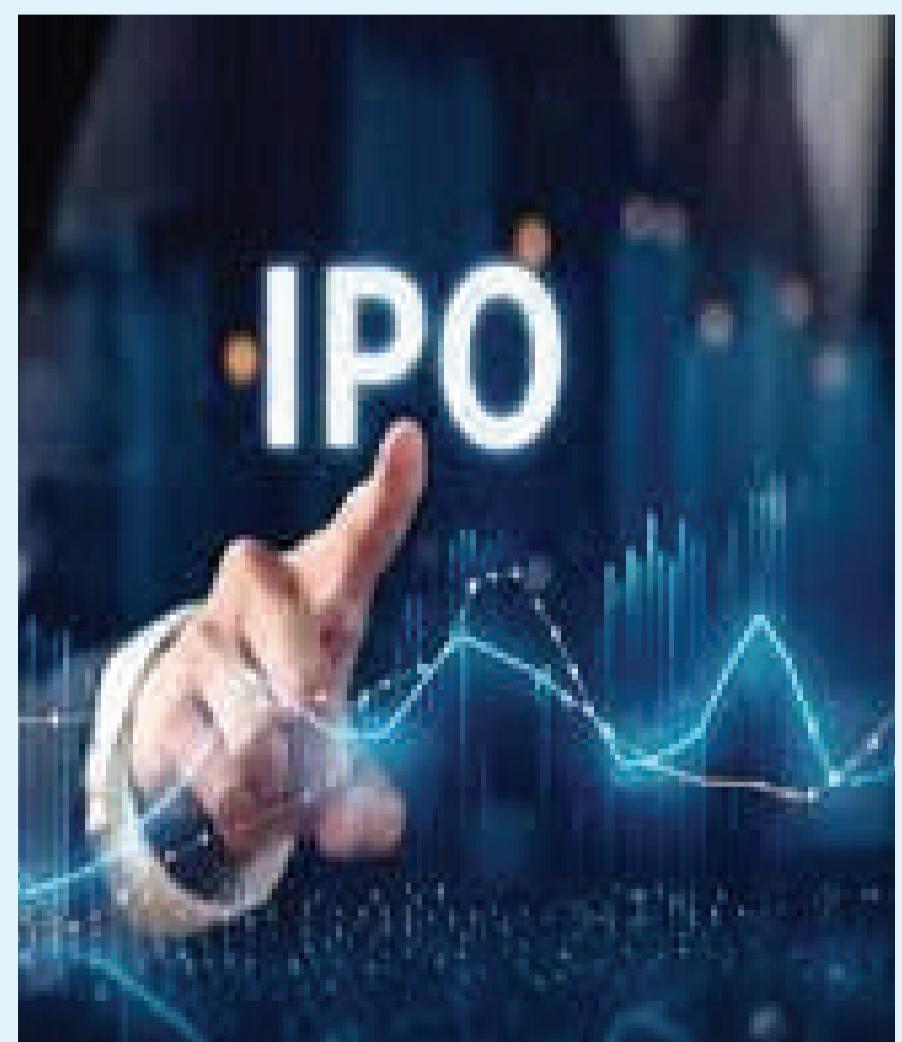


hance efficiency and accelerate expansion.

That said, the fine print reveals near-term complexities. One-time payments, stake realignments and regulatory approvals mean benefits will accrue gradually rather than immediately. Market reactions reflected this nuance, with Devyani shares initially rallying before paring gains.

Strategically, the merger reflects a broader trend of consolidation in consumer-facing businesses, where scale is increasingly vital to absorb costs, invest in technology and withstand competitive pressures. As dining habits evolve and organised food services expand, this deal could set a template for future consolidation in India's consumption-driven sectors.

Quiet IPO Calendar Signals Cautious Optimism In Primary Markets



The absence of mainboard IPOs and the limited activity in the SME segment suggest a cautious but stable primary market environment. Investors appear selective, focusing on business fundamentals rather than chasing listings indiscriminately.

Upcoming SME issues such as Gajbon Technologies, Victory Electric Vehicles and Yajur Fibres indicate continued interest in niche manufacturing and emerging sectors. However, higher minimum investment requirements and selec-

tive participation reflect growing maturity among retail investors.

The quiet calendar may actually be healthy, allowing markets to digest recent gains and avoid speculative excess. As valuations remain elevated, disciplined capital raising could strengthen long-term confidence in India's IPO ecosystem.

Overall, the primary market's measured pace aligns with broader market sentiment—optimistic, but grounded in fundamentals rather than exuberance.

How A Working Mother With A Baby Redefined Professionalism

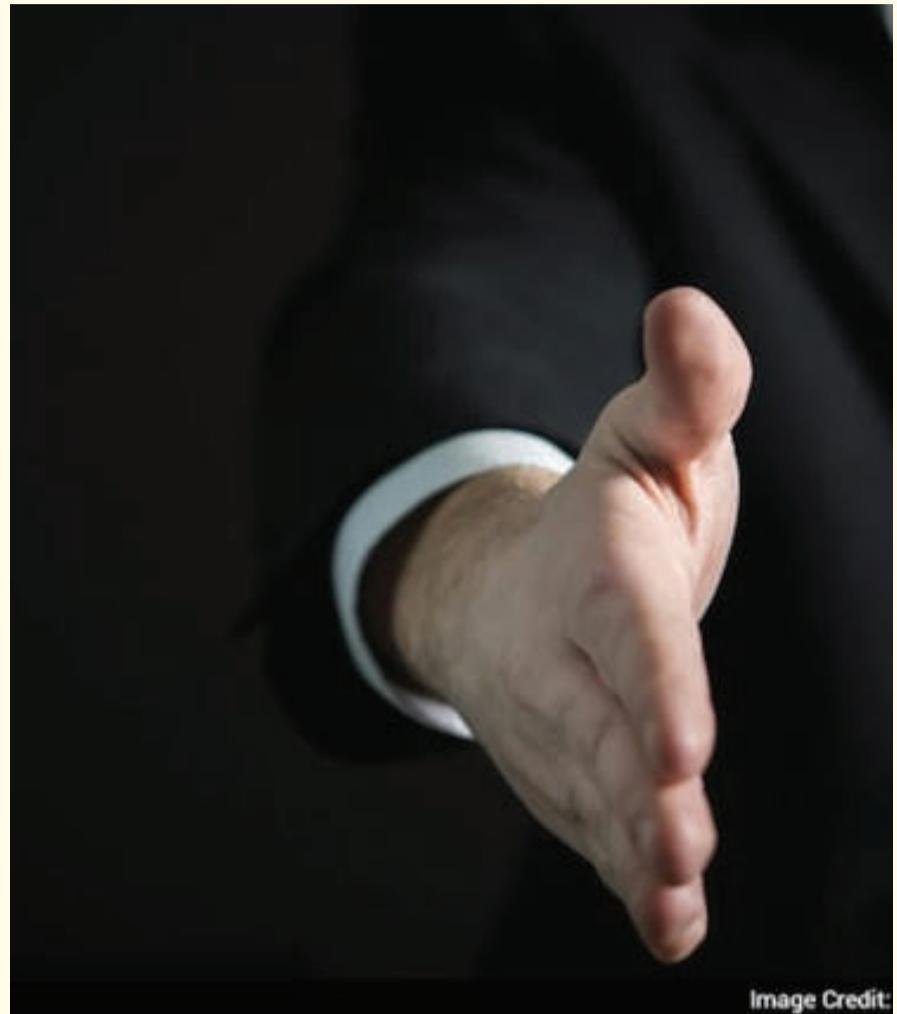


Image Credit:

A recruiter's viral post about hiring a candidate who brought her eight-month-old baby to an interview has struck a chord online. Faced with sudden childcare issues, the candidate requested permission to attend the interview with her child, displaying honesty and respect for professional boundaries.

During the interview, she answered complex questions while calming her baby, demonstrating composure, multitasking, and emotional resilience. Instead of viewing the situation as unpro-

fessional, the interviewer recognised it as proof of capability. Handling pressure, interruptions, and responsibility simultaneously was central to the role she applied for.

The story challenges deeply ingrained workplace biases that assume parents—especially mothers—are less committed or reliable. In reality, parenting often sharpens skills like time management, prioritisation, empathy, and crisis handling. These qualities are invaluable in modern workplaces but are rarely acknowledged formally.

The viral response reflects a growing demand for empathy-driven hiring practices. Many users shared similar experiences of discrimination or appreciation at work. The incident serves as a reminder that professionalism is not about rigid appearances, but about responsibility, adaptability, and integrity. Inclusive workplaces that recognise human realities are not just kinder—they are often more productive and resilient.

World Introvert Day And Why Quiet Strength Deserves Recognition

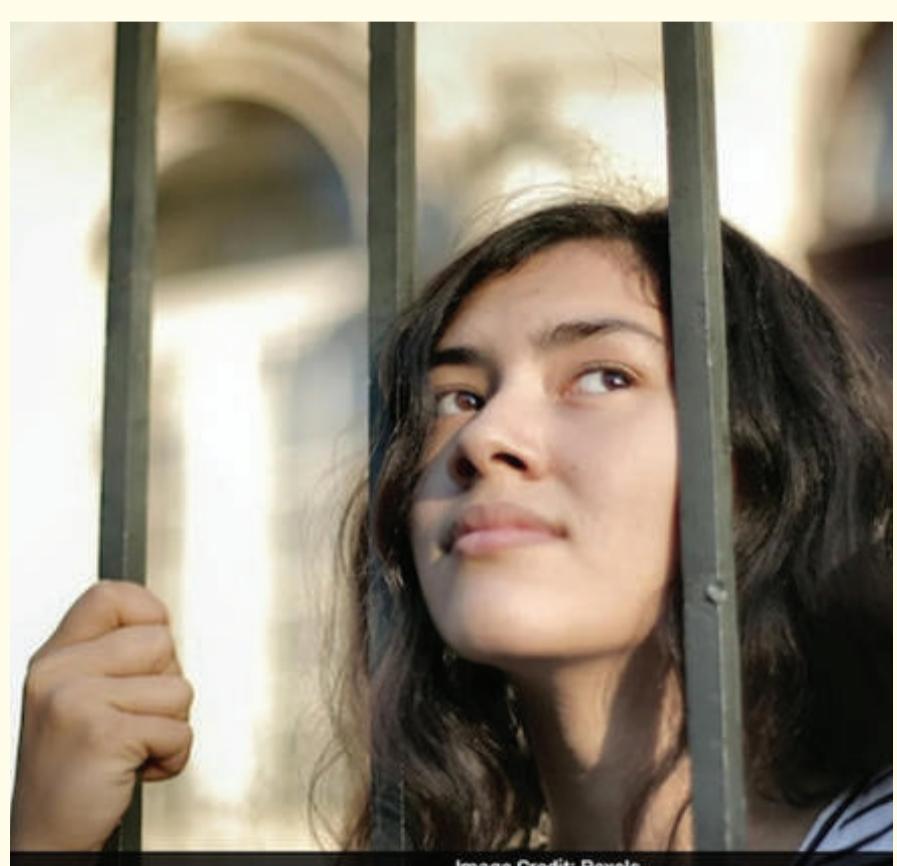


Image Credit: Pixels

Observed annually on January 2, World Introvert Day celebrates individuals who draw energy from solitude and reflection rather than constant social interaction. Originating from psychologist Felicitas Heyne's advocacy, the day aims to correct misconceptions about introversion.

Introverts are often mistaken for being shy or antisocial, but in reality, they are deep thinkers who thrive in calm environments and value meaningful connections.

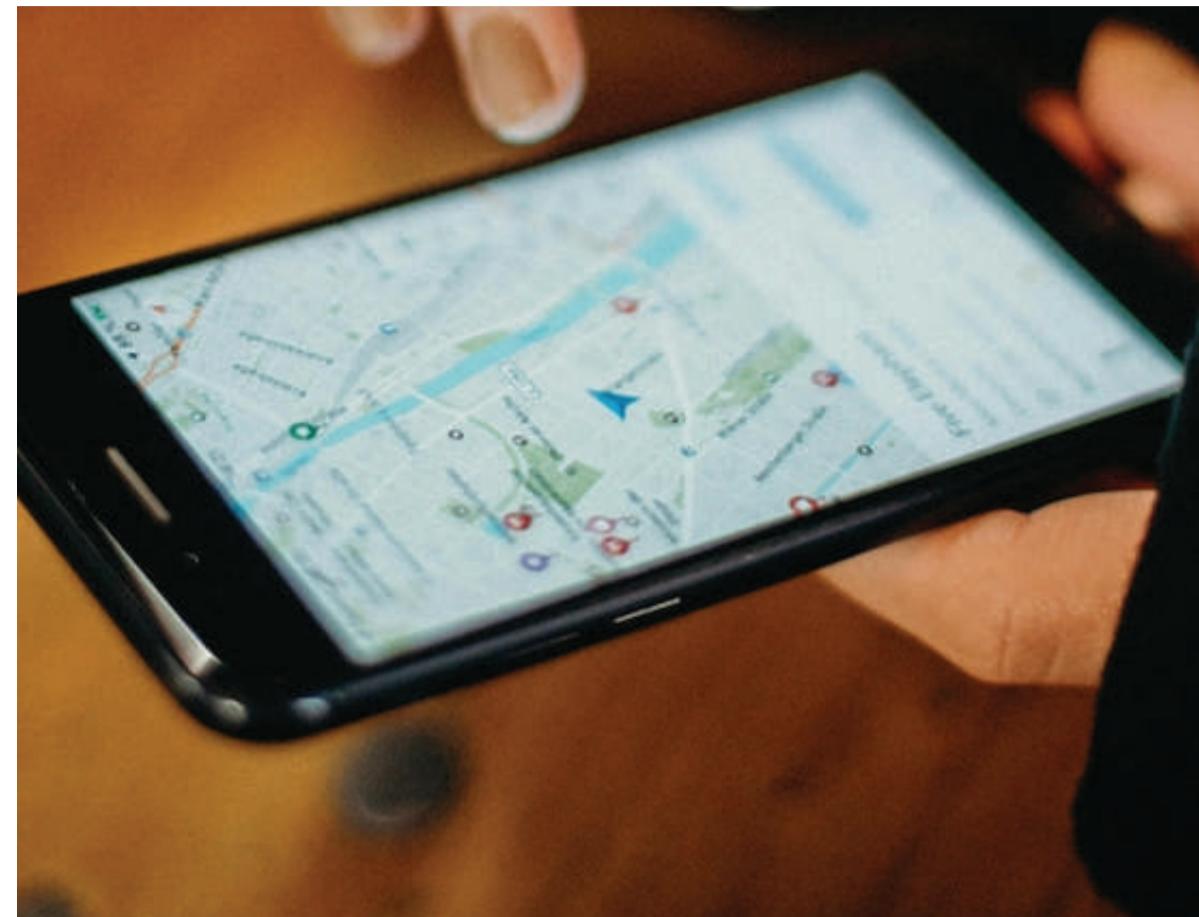
They recharge through solitude and tend to excel in roles requiring focus, creativity, and thoughtful decision-making. Many writers, scientists, leaders, and innovators identify as introverts.

In workplaces and classrooms that reward loud participation, introverts are often overlooked. This creates unnecessary pressure to conform to extroverted norms, leading to exhaustion and undervaluation of quieter contributions. World Introvert

Day encourages a shift in perspective—one that values listening as much as speaking.

In a world that glorifies constant networking and visibility, the day reminds us that leadership, innovation, and empathy can emerge quietly. Silence can foster clarity, reflection, and depth. Recognising introversion is not about creating divisions, but about embracing diverse personality strengths and building more balanced, inclusive societies.

When Sick Leave Turns Into Surveillance At The Workplace



A viral Reddit post has reignited debate around workplace boundaries and employee privacy in India. The incident involved an employee requesting sick leave due to a severe headache, only to be asked by their manager to share live location details as proof. The manager claimed this intrusive demand was part of HR policy, raising serious questions about managerial overreach and ethical work practices.

The request went beyond reasonable verification. Medical documents are a standard requirement, but demanding live location crosses into personal surveillance. Employees do not surrender their right to privacy when they join an organisation, especially during medical distress. Such behaviour reflects a deeper trust deficit in certain workplace cultures, where presence is valued more than productivity or well-being.

What disturbed many readers was the normalisation of such control. If a live location is demanded for a sick leave today, tomorrow it could extend to monitoring movements outside work hours. This blurring of professional authority

and personal autonomy creates an atmosphere of fear rather than accountability. In a country where mental health discussions are already limited, such practices discourage employees from

taking legitimate breaks and push them toward burnout.

The incident sparked online outrage, with many users calling it a red flag for toxic management. Legal experts also

pointed out that forcing employees to share real-time location without consent may violate privacy principles laid down by Indian courts. Ultimately, the episode highlights the urgent need for

Indian workplaces to modernise HR policies, focus on outcome-based performance, and prioritise dignity, trust, and employee mental health over surveillance-driven control.

Can Artificial Intelligence Really Diagnose Better Than Doctors



Elon Musk's claim that Grok AI can diagnose MRI scans better than doctors has once again stirred global debate after a reported life-saving case. According to a viral post, Grok flagged a serious medi-

cal condition that was initially misdiagnosed in a hospital, prompting timely treatment and recovery.

While such examples underline AI's growing potential in medical imaging, they also raise

critical questions. Artificial intelligence can analyse vast datasets rapidly and detect patterns that humans might miss, especially under time pressure or staff shortages. In overcrowded hospitals, where radiolo-

gists often face delays and fatigue, AI tools could offer valuable second opinions.

However, medical diagnosis is not just data interpretation; it involves clinical judgement, patient history,

ethical accountability, and emotional intelligence. Doctors assess symptoms in context, something AI still struggles to replicate fully. There is also the risk of over-reliance, where patients may trust AI outputs blindly without proper medical consultation.

Public reaction to Musk's claim has been mixed. Some users praised AI's speed and accuracy, while others shared experiences of incorrect assessments. Medical professionals warn that AI should assist, not replace, doctors. The episode reflects both excitement and unease surrounding AI in healthcare, highlighting the need for strict validation, regulation, and transparency before such tools are integrated widely. The future likely lies in collaboration, where human expertise and artificial intelligence strengthen healthcare together.

Jolin Tsai's Giant Snake Performance Redefines Concert Spectacle



increasingly rely on digital effects, Tsai's performance stood out for its tangible risk and craftsmanship. It reminded audiences that live music is not just about sound, but

about storytelling and immersive experience. Beyond spectacle, the performance highlighted how Asian pop concerts are increasingly matching—and sometimes

surpassing—global production standards. Tsai's act wasn't just entertainment; it was a statement on artistic evolution, stagecraft, and fearless experimentation. The vi-

ral response reaffirmed her influence and set a new benchmark for how pop performances can blend music, art, and theatre into a single unforgettable moment.

Taiwanese pop icon Jolin Tsai stunned global audiences with a breathtaking performance atop a 30-metre-long moving snake during the opening of her "Pleasure" World Tour. The visuals, blending symbolism, precision choreography, and theatrical daring, instantly went viral across platforms.

The performance showcased Tsai's reputation as one of Asia's most innovative live artists. The giant snake, operated live by crew members, symbolised transformation, temptation, and power—central themes in her artistic identity. Balancing on a moving structure while singing live demanded not just courage but exceptional physical and technical control.

Fans and critics alike praised the act for pushing creative boundaries. In an era where concerts

Selection Dilemmas Before New Zealand ODIs Reflect India's Transition Phase



India's upcoming ODI series against New Zealand is more than just a bilateral contest; it marks a transitional moment for Indian cricket as focus gradually shifts toward the T20 World Cup beginning in February. With the ODIs being the final 50-over assignment before the T20I stretch, the selection committee faces the challenge of balancing workload management with competitive intent.

Key players such as Jasprit Bumrah and Hardik Pandya are likely to be rested to preserve fitness, signalling a strategic prioritisation of global tournaments over short-term results. This cautious approach reflects a broader shift in Indian cricket, where player longevity and peak performance at ICC events now take precedence.

The series, starting in Vadodara and moving through Rajkot and Indore, also offers an opportunity to test bench strength and experiment with combinations. However, the buzz around potential omissions—especially that of Rishabh Pant—has overshadowed other discussions. Selection decisions here will not just shape the New Zealand series, but also indicate how firmly India is committing to defined roles across

formats. In many ways, this ODI squad announcement will act as a preview of India's post-World Cup planning. The message from the selectors will be closely scrutinised: is India merely rotating players, or redefining its white-ball core altogether?

Sai Sudharsan's Injury Highlights The Physical Cost Of Domestic Cricket

Sai Sudharsan's rib fracture during the Vijay Hazare Trophy is a stark reminder of the physical toll domestic cricket places on players striving to break into the national setup. The injury, sustained during a diving run, could sideline the young batter for six to eight weeks, ruling him out of crucial Ranji Trophy fixtures.

For Sudharsan, the timing is particularly unfortunate. Having endured a difficult Test run earlier, domestic cricket represented an opportunity for redemption and rhythm. Instead, injury has once again interrupted momentum—a familiar narrative for many emerging Indian cricketers.

The BCCI's Centre of Excellence has outlined a cautious rehabilitation plan, reflecting improved injury management systems. However, the broader issue remains: packed domestic schedules, high intensity, and constant performance pressure increase injury risk, especially for players pushing physical limits to impress selectors.

Sudharsan's likely availability for the IPL suggests a shift in priorities where franchise commitments may supersede domestic red-ball cricket. While understandable, this trend raises concerns about the long-term health of India's first-class structure. His recovery will be watched closely, not just for his return, but for what it signals about workload management in Indian cricket.

Selection, Injuries, And Identity: Indian Cricket At A Crossroads

The narratives surrounding India's New Zealand ODIs—from selection dilemmas and player philosophy to injuries and IPL controversies—collectively point toward a sport in transition. Indian cricket today is balancing legacy with longevity, flair with structure, and global ambition with domestic realities.

Whether it is Pant fighting for his ODI identity, Sudharsan recovering from injury, or Mustafizur navigating controversy, each story reflects broader questions about how modern cricket is managed. As formats multiply and stakes rise, decisions are no longer just about form—they are about vision.

The coming months, especially with a T20



World Cup looming, will test the selectors' ability to think beyond immediate results. Indian cricket's challenge is not tal-

ent scarcity, but choice clarity. How those choices are made will define the next phase of its evolution.

Rishabh Pant And The Cost Of A High-Risk Batting Identity



Rishabh Pant's uncertain place in India's ODI squad for the New Zealand series highlights a deeper philosophical divide within team management.

According to reports, at least one influential voice in the Indian setup remains unconvinced by Pant's high-risk, high-reward batting template—an approach that has brought him fame as well as inconsistency.

Pant's ODI career has been fragmented by circumstances beyond his control, including the COVID-19 disruption and a horrific car accident. Despite flashes of brilliance, he has played just 31 ODIs since debuting in 2018, hardly enough to establish long-term rhythm. Since his return, opportunities have been minimal, making a potential omission without a recent run appear harsh.

What complicates matters is the emergence of alternatives like Ishan Kishan and Dhruv Jurel, both of whom offer different skill sets. With KL Rahul firmly established as the first-choice wicketkeeper-batter, the luxury of carrying three keepers becomes questionable.

Pant's case raises an uncomfortable question: should individuality be reshaped to fit system preferences, or should systems adapt to extraordinary talents? His batting philosophy may defy convention, but it has also delivered match-changing impact. Dropping him now risks not just sidelining a player, but narrowing India's tactical diversity in white-ball cricket.

Mustafizur Rahman And When Cricket Crosses Into Geopolitics



Mohammed Shami's prolonged absence from India's white-ball squads may finally be nearing an end, with selectors signalling a possible rethink as the 2027 ODI World Cup enters long-term planning. Once considered indispensable in global tournaments, Shami has not represented India since the Champions Trophy in March 2025, despite finishing that event as India's joint-highest wicket-taker.

The fast bowler's continued exclusion has puzzled many, particularly given his impressive domestic returns. Shami's recent performances across the Ranji Trophy, Vijay Hazare Trophy, and Svet Mushtaq Ali Trophy demonstrate that his wicket-taking instincts remain intact. His 17 wickets in six limited-overs domestic games and 20 wickets in four Ranji matches have reignited debate about his omission.

The sticking point has never been skill, but fitness. Recurring ankle and knee injuries since the

2023 World Cup led to surgeries and prolonged rehabilitation, creating uncertainty around workload management. That uncertainty strained relations earlier this year, when Shami publicly questioned the selection logic after being overlooked despite playing domestic cricket.

Selectors, led by Ajit Agarkar, have maintained that fitness clearance remains the only barrier. Recent comments suggest that stance is softening as Shami continues to bowl regularly and recover rhythm. A return as early as the New Zealand ODI series is now being discussed, with the longer-term lure of World Cup experience hard to ignore.

For India, the equation is simple but delicate. Younger pacers offer athleticism and durability, but Shami offers proven excellence on the biggest stage. His potential recall reflects a pragmatic approach—experience, when fit, still carries immense value in tournament cricket.

'Godari Gattupaina' Official Teaser Wins Hearts with Rustic Charm and Youthful Energy



The official teaser of the upcoming Telugu film 'Godari Gattupaina' has been released, creating a strong buzz among cinema lovers and setting expectations high for this vibrant rural entertainer. Featuring Sumanth Prabhas in the lead role, the film promises a refreshing mix of friendship, romance and village-rooted storytelling, presented against the scenic backdrop of the Godavari region.

Making her Telugu debut, Nidhi Pradeep plays the female lead Maya. Though her screen time in the teaser is brief, her presence leaves a pleasant impression. The glimpses of romance between the lead pair hint at a simple and sweet love story that unfolds organically within the village setting.

The film also boasts a strong supporting cast, including Jagapathi Babu and Rajeev Kanakala, who lend depth and credibility to the narrative. Comedic elements are well-supported by Sudarshan and Raj Kumar Kasireddy, whose appearances suggest situational

humour rooted in everyday village life.

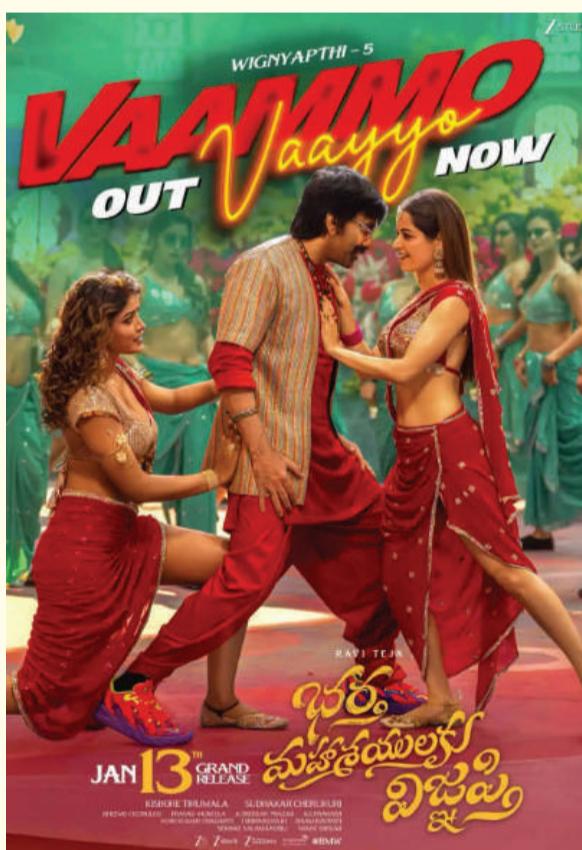
On the technical front, the teaser stands out for its visual appeal. The cinematography beautifully captures the lush greenery, riverbanks and festive atmosphere of the Godavari region, enhancing the film's earthy feel. The background score complements the visuals, adding warmth and emotional resonance without overpowering the scenes.

Directed by Subash Chandra, 'Godari Gattupaina' appears to be a celebration of friendship, youthful dreams and rural traditions. The teaser has been well-received on social media, with viewers appreciating its freshness, cultural flavour and feel-good vibe.

With its strong emotional core and engaging presentation, 'Godari Gattupaina' is shaping up to be a wholesome entertainer. If the film delivers on the promise shown in its teaser, it could strike a chord with audiences across age groups when it arrives in theatres.

Sumanth Prabhas is

'Vaammo Vaayyo' Song Launch Adds Festive Spark to Upcoming Telugu Entertainer



The grand launch of the song "Vaammo Vaayyo" from the upcoming Telugu film 'Bhartha Mahasayulaku Wignyapathi' has created a lively buzz in Tollywood, adding fresh excitement to the film's promotional campaign. Unveiled in a colourful and energetic event, the song has quickly caught the attention of fans for its festive flavour and mass appeal.

Composed by popular music director Bheems Ceciroleo, 'Vaammo Vaayyo' is a high-spirited folk-based number infused with vibrant rhythms and catchy beats. The song reflects strong regional influences and is designed to strike a chord with audiences during the festive season. Its energetic tempo and celebratory mood make it an instant crowd-pleaser, especially among mass music lovers.

The song is picturised on Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja, who once again showcases his trademark energy and charisma. His dynamic screen presence elevates the number, making it visually engaging and entertaining. Sharing the screen with him are leading actresses Ashika Ranganath and Dimple Hayathi, whose glamour and expressive dance moves add to the song's appeal. The choreography, packed with lively steps and colourful visuals, enhances the festive atmosphere.

The launch event witnessed enthusiastic participation from fans and industry personalities, reflecting the growing anticipation around the

film. Clips from the song and the event have been widely shared on social media, with many praising the music, choreography and Ravi Teja's energetic performance.

Directed by Kishore Tirimala, 'Bhartha Mahasayulaku Wignyapathi' is being positioned as a wholesome family entertainer that blends humour, romance and relatable emotions. The film is expected to explore contemporary relationships while retaining traditional values, a combination that has generated curiosity among audiences.

Produced by Sudhakar Cherukuri under the SLV Cinemas banner, the film

features a strong ensemble cast and promises high production values. With promotional content being released at regular intervals, the makers are steadily building momentum ahead of the theatrical release.

The release of 'Vaammo Vaayyo' has further strengthened expectations for the film, setting a celebratory tone and increasing excitement among moviegoers. As the release date approaches, the song is expected to dominate playlists and add to the festive mood, positioning the film as a promising entertainer for Telugu audiences.

Vishnu Manchu Launches '10 Minutes to 10 Crore' – A Game-Changer for Emerging Filmmakers

AVAA Entertainment has unveiled an exciting new initiative for 2026, titled '10 Minutes to 10 Crore', spearheaded by actor-producer Vishnu Manchu. Designed to provide a transformative platform for budding filmmakers and storytellers across India, the project promises to redefine how fresh talent enters the cinematic world.

The initiative stems from Vishnu Manchu's long-standing dedication to nurturing original voices in cinema. Rejecting traditional barriers and conventional entry points, '10 Minutes to 10 Crore' emphasizes storytelling, creative vision, and merit above all. The concept is simple yet powerful: ten minutes of cinema has the potential to change a life. A brief story, told with clarity and passion, could open doors to opportunities previously considered out of reach.

Unlike standard competitions or industry contests, the program is structured as a carefully curated pathway for young creators. AVAA Entertainment underscores that impactful cinema is not about scale, budget, or industry connections, but about emotional truth, innovative



10 MIN SHORT FILM TO A 10 CRORE FEATURE FILM

COMING SOON

thinking, and creative courage. Emerging filmmakers will be evaluated on the strength of their ideas and their ability to communicate them effectively.

Vishnu Manchu, known for his hands-on involvement in cinematic ventures, has personally overseen the initiative. According to AVAA Entertainment, the program has been designed with credibility, transparency, and fairness at its core, ensuring that participants—especially those outside mainstream networks—re-

ceive genuine opportunities to showcase their talent.

While full details of the initiative will be officially revealed on January 15, AVAA Entertainment has already issued a call to action for young storytellers and dreamers. The message is clear: stay alert and be ready to seize this unique opportunity.

The campaign tagline—10 minutes. One vision. A future waiting to unfold—captures the spirit of the initiative, highlighting the transformative power of concise, heartfelt storytelling. With Vishnu Manchu's guidance and AVAA Entertainment's backing, '10 Minutes to 10 Crore' aims to empower a generation of filmmakers, challenging them to break norms and push creative boundaries.

As the countdown begins, India's cinematic community is watching closely. This initiative could well mark a turning point for aspiring filmmakers who have long sought an equitable and merit-based platform to launch their careers. With innovation, passion, and opportunity at its core, '10 Minutes to 10 Crore' is poised to become one of the most talked-about programs of 2026.

Teaser of 'Asura Samhaaram' Released by Legendary Actor Tanikella Bharani

The much-anticipated teaser of 'Asura Samhaaram', starring legendary actor Tanikella Bharani, was recently unveiled in a grand event hosted by the actor himself. The film is presented by Sri Sai Pravartika Boyyala and Mithun Priya have been extremely supportive throughout the production and shooting, which made the process smooth and enjoyable.

Director Kishore Srikrishna highlighted Bharani's unique portrayal, stating, "Tanikella Bharani will be seen in a fresh avatar as a village detective. We are confident that 'Asura Samhaaram' will be remembered as a landmark film in cinema."

Executive producer Mithun Priya played a crucial role in supporting the film, and post-production is progressing at a fast pace. We are planning for a theatrical release in March."

Mithun Priya, the executive producer, added, "I have worked on several films before, but this is a



big project for me. Most of the shooting was done around Nellore, and the team gave their full support. We are eagerly looking forward to audience appreciation and blessings when the film releases in March."

The teaser launch event was well-received,

with fans and media praising the intense visuals and storytelling promise of the film. With its rural backdrop, thrilling narrative, and strong performances, 'Asura Samhaaram' is generating considerable buzz ahead of its release.

As the team gears up

for post-production and final preparations, expectations are high for March, when audiences will finally witness Tanikella Bharani's compelling performance as a village detective navigating crime, justice, and morality in a gripping cinematic journey.

Nayanthara's New Year Special Video Delights Fans, Creates Buzz Across Film Circles

Lady Superstar Nayanthara welcomed the New Year on a cheerful and engaging note by featuring in a special video that has quickly captured the attention of fans and film lovers. The festive clip, released to mark the beginning of the New Year, stands out as a rare and refreshing promotional appearance by the star, who is known for maintaining a low profile and staying away from routine publicity activities.

In the video, Nayanthara is seen in a relaxed and playful mood, conveying New Year wishes with her trademark grace and warmth. The clip blends humour, charm and festive spirit, offering audiences a glimpse of the actress in a light-hearted avatar. Her natural screen presence and subtle expressions once again underline why she continues to enjoy immense popularity across

South Indian cinema. What makes the video particularly special is Nayanthara's self-aware humour. She is seen joking about promotions, a clear nod to her reputation for selectively choosing public appearances. This candid and amusing approach has struck a chord with fans, who have welcomed the video as a pleasant surprise to kick off the New Year.

Soon after its release, the video began trending on social media platforms, with fans widely sharing and praising it. Many viewers appreciated the actress for stepping out of her comfort zone and connecting with audiences in a fun and festive manner. Comments highlighted her elegance, simplicity and the effortless way she commands attention even in a short video.

The New Year special video is also seen as part

of the promotional build-up for her upcoming projects. While details of her next releases are being closely guarded, the timing of the video has added to the excitement surrounding her film lineup. Industry observers believe such creative promotional content helps strengthen audience anticipation while maintaining the star's unique image.

Nayanthara's career has been marked by strong female-centric roles and consistent box office success. Her ability to balance commercial appeal with content-driven cinema has earned her a loyal fan base. The New Year video reinforces her connection with audiences, reminding fans of her versatility and star power beyond the big screen. As the New Year be-

