



Harish Rao Slams Telangana Government Over Film Ticket Price Hikes, Alleges Governance Breakdown

Hyderabad, January 11, 2026 (TPN Bureau): Former minister and senior Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader T. Harish Rao on Saturday launched a blistering attack on the Telangana government, alleging complete administrative confusion and lack of transparency over the recent hike in cinema ticket prices. He remarked that a “suspense thriller” is currently unfolding not in movie theatres, but within the Secretariat itself. “People are beginning to question whether there is a government in the state at all, and if there is one, who is actually con-

trolling it,” Harish Rao said in a strongly worded statement. He pointed to the contradictory developments surrounding the issuance of Government Orders (GOs) permitting ticket price hikes. According to Harish Rao, while GOs approving higher ticket prices are being issued, the Cinematography Minister has publicly claimed ignorance, stating that he was neither involved nor informed and that no file had reached him. “When a Cabinet minister is unaware of such a major decision taken in his own department, it raises a serious question—who is running this govern-



ment?” he asked. Targeting Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy directly, Harish Rao questioned whether the state was being run as a gov-

ernment or a “circus company.” He said it was unfortunate that despite the High Court expressing displeasure over ticket price hikes earlier, the

government’s approach remained unchanged. Harish Rao recalled the Chief Minister’s assurances on the floor of the Assembly, where Revanth

Reddy had categorically stated that there would be no increase in ticket prices, no benefit shows, and no special privileges during his tenure. “Then how did overnight GOs approving increased ticket rates for at least three films come into force? Preparations are reportedly underway to issue another GO soon,” he alleged, accusing the government of misleading the Assembly and the public. He also expressed sympathy for Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, stating that it was pitiable to see a minister distancing himself from decisions taken by his own depart-

ment. Harish Rao said the minister’s statements indirectly suggest that ticket price hikes are being decided at the Chief Minister’s level, rendering the concerned ministry irrelevant. The BRS leader further alleged discrimination and political vendetta in granting permissions to films. “Some films are denied permissions until midnight, while others receive approvals days in advance with royal treatment,” he said. He accused the government of using the film industry as a tool for settling political scores rather than treating it as an industry. Comparing the situation

with the previous BRS regime, Harish Rao said that during former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao’s decade-long tenure, the film industry was protected without discrimination, enabling Telugu cinema to reach global standards. Demanding accountability, Harish Rao said the BRS would urge the Governor to order a comprehensive inquiry into alleged commission rackets and the role of what he termed a “non-constitutional force” influencing ticket price decisions. “This is not people’s governance; it is the peak of irresponsible rule,” he asserted.

141st Urs of Hazrat Fateh Khan Dargah Celebrated with Religious Fervour in Sangareddy



Sangareddy, January 11, 2026 (TPN Bureau): The 141st Urs celebrations of the renowned Hazrat Fateh Khan Dargah are being held with great devotion and grandeur at the Sangareddy district headquarters. The annual religious event, which began on Friday, is scheduled to conclude on Sunday, drawing large numbers of devotees from Sangareddy and neighbouring districts. On Saturday, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) Working President Jagga Reddy participated in the Urs festivities and offered special prayers at the historic dargah. He visited the shrine along

with minority leaders, members of the Dargah Committee, and Wakf Board officials. As part of the rituals, Jagga Reddy presented a ceremonial chadar at the shrine of Fateh Khan Baba and participated in special prayers seeking peace, harmony, and prosperity for the people. Following the prayers, Jagga Reddy attended the traditional Qawwali programme organised as part of the Urs celebrations. The soulful devotional music enthralled the devotees and added to the spiritual ambience of the event. Extending his greetings on the occasion, Jagga Reddy conveyed Urs festival wishes to devotees

and members of the Dargah Committee, highlighting the importance of such events in promoting communal harmony and cultural unity. Interacting with pilgrims who had arrived for the Urs, Jagga Reddy enquired about the arrangements made for them. He instructed the Dargah Committee members to ensure that devotees do not face any inconvenience during the three-day celebrations. Special emphasis was laid on providing adequate food facilities, safe drinking water, sanitation, and other basic amenities to the visiting pilgrims. “The Urs of Hazrat

Fateh Khan Dargah is not just a religious event but a symbol of brotherhood and coexistence. People from different communities come together here with devotion and respect,” Jagga Reddy said, appreciating the efforts of the organisers in maintaining the sanctity and smooth conduct of the festival. The Urs celebrations have been witnessing a steady flow of devotees offering prayers and participating in religious rituals since the inauguration. The Dargah premises have been decorated, and security and civic arrangements have been put in place in coordination with local authorities to manage the

crowds and ensure safety. Several local leaders and representatives took part in the programme, including councillor Hafiz Sheikh Shafi, Moeiz Taher, Koona Santosh Kiran Goud, Ghouse, Wakf officials, and other minority leaders. Residents of Sangareddy town participated in large numbers, reflecting the deep-rooted cultural and spiritual significance of the Urs in the region. The Fateh Khan Dargah Urs continues to remain an important annual event, reinforcing the message of peace, devotion, and communal harmony among the people of Telangana.

Former Vice President Venkaiah Naidu’s Reflections at Sankranti Celebrations

Hyderabad, January 11, 2026 (TPN Bureau): Former Vice President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu offered poignant reflections on cultural values, traditions and leadership while attending Sankranti celebrations organized by the Swarna Bharat Trust recently. His remarks, delivered against the backdrop of one of the region’s most cherished harvest festivals, underscored the enduring importance of cultural heritage and inclusive governance as India progresses into the future. Addressing those gathered at the Sankranti event, held as part of the festival season, Naidu emphasized the need to preserve and promote India’s rich cultural traditions and values among younger generations. He noted that festivals like Sankranti, which celebrate agricultural bounty and gratitude to nature, also serve as powerful reminders of the country’s deep rooted heritage and the unity that cultural observances can foster among diverse communities. Naidu urged families and communities to ensure that festive occasions are celebrated with dignity and respect for traditional

values, calling on elders to actively pass on cultural knowledge and practices to children. He highlighted that while India continues to advance technologically and economically, the strength of the nation lies equally in its cultural fabric and the shared values that bind people together. In his remarks, Naidu also touched upon the theme of celebrating Sankranti with an emphasis on nature, family, and linguistic identity. He encouraged people to cherish the mother tongue and local customs, noting that embracing one’s cultural roots enriches national unity and fosters a sense of belonging. According to him, the festival season presents an opportunity not only for joyous gatherings but also for reflection on India’s collective identity. Several dignitaries, community members and trustees of the Swarna Bharat Trust participated in the celebrations alongside Naidu, contributing to the festive atmosphere and cultural discourse. The event included traditional songs, performances and community interactions that highlighted the spirit of Sankranti as a har-

vest festival deeply linked with agricultural cycles, family reunions and shared joy. Naidu’s participation in the Sankranti celebrations resonated with attendees, particularly those who view such festivals as vital connectors across generations. His emphasis on the role of culture in shaping society’s future drew positive responses from people who see value in blending modern progress with preservation of heritage. Overall, the celebrations underscored Sankranti’s role beyond a religious festival — as a cultural institution that unites people, honors agrarian roots, and reinforces values of gratitude, togetherness and continuity. Naidu’s reflections at the event highlighted that as India moves forward, its festivals and traditional celebrations remain anchors of collective identity and social harmony. His remarks at the Sankranti gathering served as a reminder of the enduring relevance of culture in contemporary life, inviting citizens to uphold tradition even as they embrace change in a rapidly evolving society.

Kerala Charts Ambitious Path to Carbon Neutrality with EESL Partnership

TPN Bureau | January 11, 2026
Thiruvananthapuram/Vijayawada: Kerala has unveiled a bold, multi-pronged strategy to spearhead India’s climate action, committing to saturation-level energy efficiency measures and renewable energy adoption across government departments. The state aims to slash its financial electricity burden, deliver cost-effective services, and hit carbon neutrality by 2050 while targeting 100% renewable energy by 2040. At a high-level meeting in Thiruvananthapuram, K.R. Jyothis Lal, Additional Chief Secretary (Finance), led discussions with Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) CEO Akhilesh Kumar Dixit and a Delhi delegation. Participants included KSEB CMD Minhaj Alam, Power Secretary Puneet Kumar, Finance Secretaries Patil Ajit and Keshvendra Kumar, ANERT CEO Harshil R. Meena, EMC Director Hari Kumar, and EESL State Head K.N. Mathew.

The talks focused on deploying advanced technologies for sustainable growth. Jyothis Lal emphasized collaboration with EESL a joint venture of PSUs under the Ministry of Power and the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE). “Kerala will champion climate combat, ensuring economic sustainability and high-quality services for future generations,” he stated. The state recently earned BEE’s National Energy Conservation Award for exemplary performance. EESL showcased Andhra Pradesh’s Araku model, using Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) technology for 50-70% energy savings, 300 tonnes annual CO2 cuts, low maintenance, and eco-friendly refrigerants mirroring successes in tourist hubs like Vizag. Officials praised AP’s UJALA scheme, which distributed 2.2 crore LED bulbs, averted 2.3 million tonnes of CO2, and contributed to BEE’s national 321 million tonne reduction in 2023-24. Key Initiatives



Outlined: Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS): Install in Thiruvananthapuram government buildings using 18 MW solar setup; explore at KSEB substations for peak-load management and revenue. LED Streetlights & EV Charging: Roll out statewide, including rural areas, with public EV infrastructure expansion. 25,000 Government Buildings as Prosumers: Solarize to end 300 crore annual bills, add BESS, and sell surplus power to KSEB. Building Code Amendments: EMC and LSGD to enforce conservation in new/existing structures. PMAY/Life Mission Efficiency: Supply BLDC fans, LED lights to beneficiaries for

mass savings. EV Fleet & V2G: Electrify 12,000 government vehicles; integrate Vehicle-to-Grid for peak supply. KWA Upgrades: Assess energy use, deploy efficient pumps via National Motor Replacement Programme, consider BESS. Jyothis Lal directed departments to sign time-bound MoUs for rapid rollout. Puneet Kumar thanked the Ministry of Power and BEE for the award during National Energy Conservation Week. Kerala and Andhra Pradesh have driven UJALA’s national success. This partnership positions Kerala as a clean energy leader, blending efficiency with innovation for a greener future.

Hyderabad Police Commissioner Issues Stern Warning on Dangerous Chinese Manja Ahead of Sankranti



Hyderabad, January 11, 2026 (TPN Bureau): Hyderabad Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar has issued a strong warning to residents about the use, sale, and purchase of banned Chinese manja ahead of the Sankranti festival. He urged the public to remain vigilant and cooperate with law enforcement to prevent accidents and ensure the safety of people, animals, and birds. The Commissioner emphasized that these harmful kite strings can cause serious injuries or even fatalities if used illegally. Commissioner Sajjanar appealed to Hy-

derabadis not to buy or allow others to buy Chinese manja, stressing that the banned product is extremely dangerous. He highlighted that the use or distribution of such materials could result in strict legal action. He also encouraged citizens to report any illegal sale of Chinese manja to help the police enforce the ban effectively. The warning comes amid growing police concern over unsafe kite-flying practices during the festive season. Chinese manja, typically made from synthetic or nylon threads coated with abrasive substances,

has been linked to numerous injuries and hazards in Hyderabad and surrounding areas. Authorities reiterated that the material is banned under safety and environmental regulations and urged kite enthusiasts to use safe alternatives, such as traditional cotton thread. In recent weeks, Hyderabad Police have conducted multiple raids and operations to seize large quantities of banned manja from sellers and storage points. Several arrests have been made, and dozens of cases registered, as authorities continue monitoring communities and markets to pre-

vent illegal distribution and use of the hazardous string. Commissioner Sajjanar also called on parents and community members to educate children and young kite flyers about the dangers of Chinese manja. He emphasized that while kite flying is a joyful and traditional activity, it must be conducted responsibly to avoid endangering others. He stressed that skill, safety, and responsibility are more important than the thrill of flying kites with dangerous strings. The Commissioner’s firm stance reflects Hyderabad Police’s “zero tolerance” policy toward banned kite accessories and demonstrates a broader commitment to public safety and environmental protection during the festival. Residents are urged to support police efforts, report illegal activities, and promote safe kite-flying practices to ensure a secure and enjoyable Sankranti celebration for all.

BRS Alleges Government Chaos and Irregularities in Telangana Film Ticket Pricing

Hyderabad, January 11, 2026 (TPN Bureau): The Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) on Saturday mounted a sharp attack on the Telangana government, alleging administrative confusion, lack of accountability, and opaque decision-making in the recent increase of cinema ticket prices. The party claimed that the developments have created widespread public doubt over whether the state is being governed systematically or arbitrarily. In a strongly worded statement, the BRS remarked that the Secretariat currently resembles a “suspense thriller,” where crucial decisions are taken

without clarity on responsibility. The party pointed out that while Government Orders (GOs) permitting ticket price hikes are being issued, the Cinematography Minister has publicly stated that he has no knowledge of the decisions and that related files never reached him. “Departments seem to belong to one individual, authority to another, and GOs are being issued by someone else altogether,” the BRS said, questioning how such major policy decisions could be taken without the awareness of the concerned Cabinet Minister. The party asked whether the state truly has a functioning government and who is

actually controlling governance in Telangana. The opposition party also recalled Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy’s statements made on the floor of the Assembly, where he had categorically assured that there would be no increase in cinema ticket prices, no benefit shows, and no special privileges for anyone during his tenure. “Despite these assurances, ticket prices for at least three films have already been increased through overnight GOs, and preparations are reportedly underway to issue similar permissions for another film,” the statement alleged. The BRS accused the government of misleading both the



Assembly and the public. The role of Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy came under particular criticism. The BRS said it was unfortunate that a minister had to publicly disown decisions taken by his own department. According

to the party, his remarks indirectly indicate that ticket price hikes are being decided elsewhere, weakening the authority of the concerned ministry and raising questions about collective Cabinet responsibility. The BRS further alleged selective treatment of films, claiming that some productions face delays and denials even until the last moment, while others receive permissions well in advance with what it described as “special favours.” Such practices, the party said, suggest political vendetta and favoritism in handling the film industry. Contrasting the current scenario with the previous BRS regime,

the party said that during former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao’s tenure, the film industry was protected and treated without discrimination, enabling Telugu cinema to gain global recognition. Demanding accountability, the BRS urged the Governor to intervene and order a comprehensive inquiry into the alleged irregularities, including claims of a “non-constitutional force” influencing ticket pricing decisions and collecting commissions. The party asserted that issuing GOs without the knowledge of the concerned minister undermines democratic governance and public trust.

Congress Rule Ensures Social Justice, Revanth Reddy a “Social Doctor”: MP Mallu Ravi

Hyderabad, January 11, 2026 (TPN Bureau): Nagar Kurnool Member of Parliament Mallu Ravi on Saturday described Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy as a “social doctor and social revolutionary,” stating that his governance reflects the core values of the Congress party rooted in social justice and inclusive development. In a press statement released to the media, Mallu Ravi said the Chief Minister’s administration deserves to prosper for a hundred years for the welfare of Telangana society. Mallu Ravi asserted that Congress governance has historically focused on eliminating deep-rooted social inequalities and injustices. From the early days of independence, Congress leaders have undertaken transformative measures to address social evils and uplift the marginalised, he said. Citing the contributions of former Prime Ministers from

Jawaharlal Nehru to Manmohan Singh, the MP said each phase of Congress rule introduced landmark reforms that strengthened social equity and national progress. He listed several flagship initiatives launched under Congress governments, including poverty eradication programmes, the Garibi Hatao movement, land distribution to the poor, implementation of the 20-Point Programme, economic liberalisation, the technological revolution, direct funding to Panchayati Raj institutions, reduction of the voting age to 18 years, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), and wide-ranging economic reforms. “These initiatives were not merely policies, but social revolutions that reshaped India,” Mallu Ravi said. Highlighting the role of Rahul Gandhi, Mallu Ravi said the Congress



leader, as Leader of the Opposition, undertook a nationwide padayatra to understand grassroots realities. He recalled Rahul Gandhi’s call for a caste census and equitable distribution of welfare benefits based on population share, stressing that government benefits should reach every section as per its rightful share. Mallu Ravi said

through political, legal, judicial, and technical measures without compromising their share. The MP also lauded the government’s commitment to social justice in higher education, noting that for the first time in Osmania University’s hundred-year history, a Vice-Chancellor from the Dalit community was appointed. He said similar principles of inclusion are being followed in education, sports, welfare schemes, and development programmes. Drawing a parallel from medical science, Mallu Ravi said, “There is a saying in medicine—poverty is a disease and politics is the medicine. Revanth Reddy is treating poverty through political reforms like a true social doctor.” He concluded by stating that the people of Telangana aspire for the Chief Minister’s rule to flourish for decades, ensuring justice, dignity, and development for all sections of society.

Nagar Kurnool MP Dr. Mallu Ravi and Kalwakurthy MLA Kasireddy Narayana Reddy Participate in Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Kalyanotsavam



Nagar Kurnool, January 11, 2026 (TPN Bureau): The Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Kalyanotsavam held at Velijala village in Kalwakurthy constituency, Nagar Kurnool Parliament area, witnessed a grand celebration today with the active participation of Nagar Kurnool Parliament Member Dr. Mallu Ravi and Kalwakurthy MLA Kasireddy Narayana Reddy. The leaders offered their prayers to the deity and took part in the special rituals conducted at the temple. Addressing the gathering, both leaders emphasized that village development and public

welfare remain their primary political objectives. They highlighted the importance of connecting directly with the people, understanding their issues firsthand, and working toward practical solutions. According to them, this hands-on approach is a hallmark of the Congress Party’s philosophy of public service and grassroots engagement. The leaders participated actively in the temple’s special pujas and religious ceremonies, demonstrating their commitment to both faith and community service. Their presence was widely appreciated by the villagers, who lauded the leaders for blending devotion

with responsibility toward the community. The event also served as a platform for Dr. Mallu Ravi and Kasireddy Narayana Reddy to interact with the villagers, listen to their concerns, and assure them of continuous support from their offices for welfare schemes and development initiatives. They reiterated that their political work is rooted in service to the people and that such cultural and religious events provide opportunities to strengthen the bond between leaders and the community. The Kalyanotsavam celebrations reflected a seamless combination of tradition, spirituality, and civic engagement.



Villagers expressed their appreciation for the leaders’ efforts, noting that their participation reinforced the sense of unity and cultural pride within the community. By attending these religious ceremonies while simultaneously focusing on the people’s developmental and welfare needs, the leaders set an example of balanced leadership that values both heritage and progress. Their approach underscores the Congress Party’s ongoing commitment to public service, community interaction, and ethical political conduct, which continues to earn the trust and goodwill of the citizens in the region. This event not only celebrated the divine but also highlighted the enduring relationship between faith, leadership, and community development in Kalwakurthy and the wider Nagar Kurnool area.

Telangana AIDS Control Counsellor Union (TACCU) Unveils 2026 Calendar

Hyderabad, January 11, 2026 (TPN Bureau): The Telangana AIDS Control Counsellor Union (TACCU) organized a grand ceremony in Hyderabad to unveil its 2026 calendar at Telangana Bhavan today. The event witnessed the presence of key dignitaries and union members, highlighting the unity and commitment of AIDS counsellors across the state. BRS Working President, Siricilla MLA, and former IT Minister, Honorable Kalvakuntla Taraka Rama Rao (KTR), graced the occasion as the chief guest and officially launched the calendar. Also present were former SC-ST Commission Member Vidyasagar, BRS Vice President Tungabalu, and former BC Commission Member Koti Kishore, who actively participated in the proceedings. During the event, Telangana AIDS control counsellors brought several employment-related concerns to KTR’s attention. Responding positively, he assured the counsellors that their issues would be taken to the central government for resolution, and efforts would be made to address them promptly. TACCU State President Boddireddy Ra-



manareddy and State General Secretary Kamuni Rajeshwar shared the union’s views and expressed appreciation for the government’s support. Several BRS-KV members, including Durgam Dilip, and state leaders like Dasharath, Goli Ravikumar, Jyoti Varaprasad, Parvathala Ashok, Venkat, Anil, and Venkat Reddy, actively participated in the event, contributing to its success. The calendar launch ceremony not only showcased the artistic efforts of the counsellors but also symbolized solidarity, coordination, and the collective spirit of TACCU members. The union highlighted its commitment to serving the state’s AIDS prevention and awareness initiatives while advocating for the welfare and professional interests of its members. Speaking at the event, KTR lauded the dedica-

tion of Telangana AIDS counsellors in reaching vulnerable populations and emphasized the government’s support for their professional development. He encouraged TACCU members to continue their critical work with enthusiasm, ensuring that health awareness and counselling reach every community in the state. The 2026 calendar, launched amid high energy and participation, serves as a token of recognition for the counsellors’ tireless efforts. The event concluded with members expressing their gratitude to the leadership and reaffirming their commitment to public service and community health. This program underscored TACCU’s dedication to unity, professional excellence, and the vital role of counsellors in Telangana’s healthcare ecosystem.

“Misuse of Government Funds Will Not Be Tolerated: Full Recovery and Strict Action on Offenders” – Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy

Hyderabad, January 11, 2026 (TPN Bureau): Telangana Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy has issued strict instructions to take stringent action against anyone involved in the misuse of government funds or irregularities in land and stamp duty transactions. Speaking to revenue officials at his residence in Hyderabad on Sunday, the Minister emphasized that all instances of corruption or malpractice will be thoroughly investigated and the defaulters will be made accountable, regardless of their position. During the review, Minister Srinivas Reddy focused on irregularities in stamp duty and registration payments across various districts, including Janagam. He informed officials that audits of the last five years had identified 4,800 discrepancies in transactions totaling 52 lakh, with nearly 3,000 cases concentrated in Ranga Reddy and Yadadri districts. He made it clear that the total

amount lost due to these irregularities would be fully recovered. The Minister expressed concern over incidents where individuals exploited technical loopholes in the Dharaani portal to misappropriate funds. He stressed that the absence of robust auditing mechanisms in the portal was a key factor enabling such illegal practices. To prevent recurrence, he directed officials to conduct a comprehensive, state-wide audit of all transactions processed through the Dharaani portal since its inception. Minister Srinivas Reddy underscored that officials involved in any irregularities, whether directly or indirectly, will face the strictest legal consequences. “No one will be spared, irrespective of their rank or influence,” he said. He also instructed that if necessary, criminal cases should be registered against those found guilty. Further, the Minister highlighted that any misuse of government

land or public funds, even to the smallest extent, will not be tolerated. “Those who play with public money will be brought before the law and punished severely,” he warned, stressing that such illegal practices will no longer be tolerated. Officials were instructed to ensure full transparency in all revenue-related transactions and to strengthen monitoring mechanisms to prevent misuse. Minister Srinivas Reddy emphasized that the government is committed to safeguarding public resources and restoring public confidence in revenue administration. The review concluded with clear directives to revenue authorities to act decisively, recover all misappropriated funds, and implement preventive measures for the future. The Minister reiterated that accountability and legal compliance are non-negotiable in the management of public assets and funds.

Lions Club Organizes Mega Health Camp at Indiramma Colony, Bowrampet

Quthbullapur, January 11, 2026 (TPN Bureau):

A mega health camp was successfully conducted at Indiramma Colony in Bowrampet, under the banner of the Lions Club, bringing free medical services to the local community. The event, organised by Dundigal Circle 295 Division, witnessed the participation of several community leaders and residents who lauded the initiative for its focus on public health and social welfare.

The camp was inaugurated by former councillor Narsareddy Srinivas Reddy and community leader Murali Yadav, who emphasized the importance of health awareness and

preventive care for all sections of society. The organisers informed that the camp offered free check-ups for blood pressure and blood sugar levels, as well as screenings for women including mammography and Pap smear tests. Additionally, dental, throat, and oral examinations were made available to attendees at no cost.

Speaking at the inauguration, the division leaders highlighted the Lions Club's role as a voluntary service organisation committed to the welfare of the poor and underprivileged. They pointed out that the club has conducted numerous health camps and social service initiatives across the country,



providing vital medical services to those who otherwise have limited access to healthcare. The leaders expressed hope that such initiatives would continue uninterrupted, benefitting more communities in the future.

Several Lions Club

members actively participated in organising the camp, including Ramana Reddy, Venkat Reddy, Raju, Nag Malleshwar Rao, Rami Reddy, Kanjarla Raju, and Gayatri. Local colony leaders, including Kameshwar Rao, Vitthal, Gopal, and Bobby,

also supported the initiative, ensuring smooth coordination and assisting residents during the camp.

The camp not only provided free medical check-ups but also created awareness about the importance of preventive healthcare, es-

pecially for vulnerable groups such as women, the elderly, and people with chronic conditions. Residents appreciated the efforts of the Lions Club, praising the accessibility of medical services and the opportunity to consult specialists without financial burden. Through this initiative, the Lions

Club reinforced its commitment to social responsibility and voluntary service, aiming to improve the overall health and well-being of the community. The event demonstrated the impact that civic organisations can have in complementing government healthcare efforts and supporting local

populations with essential medical services.

The Bowrampet mega health camp marks yet another milestone in the Lions Club's ongoing efforts to make quality healthcare accessible to all, reflecting the spirit of service and community engagement that the organisation upholds.



Ward Delimitation a Constitutional Attack: BRS MLC Dr. Sravan Dasoju Flags Revanth Reddy Govt's Bid to Erase Secunderabad's Identity

Hyderabad, January 11, 2026 (TPN Bureau):

Dr. Sravan Dasoju, BRS MLC, on Sunday launched a scathing critique of the Revanth Reddy-led Congress government, accusing it of violating the Constitution and attempting to erase the historic identity of Secunderabad through GHMC ward delimitation and municipal mergers. Speaking at a meeting held at Balan Ray Lee Palace under the chairmanship of former minister and Sanathnagar MLA T. Srinivas Yadav, Dr. Sravan presented a detailed 45-slide PowerPoint highlighting what he called the government's secretive and dictatorial approach.

According to Dr. Sravan, the process of ward delimitation is a key constitutional exercise that cannot be outsourced or carried out without proper public consultation. He criticized the government for bypassing the Telangana State Election Commission and handing over the process to private entities such as ASCI and CGG, calling it an "outsourcing of democracy." Citing the Su-

preme Court's rulings in Meghraj Kothari vs Delimitation Commission and Menaka Gandhi vs Union of India, he emphasized that elected representatives and citizens must be involved, and secretive map revisions violate natural justice principles.

Dr. Sravan strongly opposed attempts to erase Secunderabad's 220-year-old historical identity by renaming or merging it under "Malkajigiri." He described Secunderabad as the "Twin Soul" of Hyderabad, with iconic landmarks such as the Ujjaini Mahankali Temple, General Bazaar, St. Mary's Church, and the Clock Tower. Drawing a parallel with Aurangzeb's failed attempt to rename Hyderabad as "Dar-ul-Jihad," Dr. Sravan warned that similar efforts to undermine Secunderabad's identity would also fail.

He also accused the government of gerrymandering, redrawing ward boundaries to fragment community clusters and weaken opposition strongholds, which could disrupt the centuries-old G a n g a - J a m u n a

Tehzeeb (composite culture) of the city. Additionally, Dr. Sravan alleged that the expansion of GHMC from 650 sq km to 2,053 sq km, under the guise of urban development, is a "multi-billion dollar real estate fraud" benefiting select private interests and inflating land prices. He questioned the lack of scientific feasibility studies behind the massive expansion, warning it would strain civic infrastructure and governance.

Dr. Sravan demanded the immediate public release of all delimitation maps and data, open consultations in every ward, and restoration of the State Election Commission's authority over the process. He urged citizens, historians, and heritage custodians to unite in protecting Secunderabad's unique identity and safeguarding democracy from unconstitutional overreach. This event reinforces BRS's stance that Secunderabad's historical and civic significance must remain intact and that constitutional processes should be respected in the governance of Telangana's cities.



Accused Nabbed for Illegal Procuring and Selling of Banned Chinese Manja

Hyderabad, January 11, 2026 (TPN Bureau):

The Commissioner's Task Force, West Zone, has apprehended a person involved in the illegal procuring and selling of banned nylon-coated Chinese Manja bobbins. Acting on credible information, the Task Force arrested Mohd. Shazaib at Sadhu Kite Shop, Deccan Bakery, Kalapathar, Hyderabad, under the jurisdiction of Kalapathar Police Station. A total of 345 banned Chinese Manja bobbins, estimated at 6,90,000, were seized from him.

Mohd. Shazaib, son of Mohd. Anees, aged 42, a resident of Guntal Shah Baba ki Dargah, Vatalpally, Hyderabad, and engaged in the kite business, allegedly procured the banned Manja through his associate Vikram Mehta, a native of Karnal, Haryana. The material was transported from Haryana to Hy-

derabad and sold at 2,000 per bobbin for illegal gain.

The Telangana State Government had imposed a ban on procuring, stocking, selling, and using Chinese Manja (nylon thread) for kite flying to protect birds and human life. The ban, declared in January 2016 under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, carries a penalty of up to five years imprisonment, a fine up to 1,00,000, or both for violators.

The accused and the seized material have been handed over to the SHO of Kalapathar Police Station for further investigation and necessary legal action. The arrest was made under the supervision of Inspector of Police Ch. Y.ender and SIP G. Sandeep Reddy of the West Zone Task Force, along with their team members.



China Manja Mafia Busted in Quthbullapur: 22 Bobbins Seized, Accused Lakshman Arrested by Balanagar SOT

Quthbullapur, January 11, 2026 (TPN Bureau):

In a major crackdown on the illegal sale of hazardous kite-flying materials, the Balanagar Special Operations Team (SOT) apprehended an individual selling banned Chinese Manja in Gajularamaram, Indranagar-E, under the jurisdiction of Jagadgirigutta Police Station in Quthbullapur constituency. Acting on specific intelligence, the SOT conducted a targeted raid and seized 22 bobbins of Monofil Gold nylon-coated Chinese Manja from the accused identified as Lakshman.

Following the seizure, Lakshman along with

the contraband material was taken into custody and handed over to Jagadgirigutta Police Station for further investigation. Police have registered a case and initiated a detailed probe into the incident. Authorities emphasized that the use and sale of banned Chinese Manja pose a severe risk to birds, animals, and the general public. They warned that stringent action will be taken against anyone found violating the ban.

The police also assured the public that information provided about such illegal activities will be kept strictly confidential to encourage citizen participation in curbing hazardous

practices. The operation was conducted under the supervision of the Balanagar Zone SOT CI and his team, highlighting the ongoing efforts by law enforcement to prevent the circulation of dangerous kite materials in the city.

This latest seizure underscores the continued vigilance of the police in enforcing safety regulations and protecting both human life and wildlife from the harmful effects of banned Manja. Citizens are urged to report any such illegal activities to the authorities immediately.

The Balanagar SOT's decisive action serves as a stern warning to others involved in the ille-



gal Manja trade, reinforcing the Telangana government's commitment to public safety and environmental protection.

This successful operation reflects the coordi-

nation between local police units and special teams in tackling illicit activities that threaten the community, while ensuring compliance with existing bans and safety norms.

Hyderabad Police Seize Large Quantities of Ganja in Two Separate Operations

Hyderabad, January 11, 2026 (TPN Bureau):

In two separate anti-narcotics operations in Hyderabad, the police successfully seized large quantities of ganja and arrested the accused involved in illegal sales.

In the first operation near Narayanaguda Metro Station, a team conducting a review at Sigate, opposite Time Institute, intercepted an individual allegedly selling ganja. The

accused, identified as Sheikh Musafar, was arrested on the spot. Police recovered 2.6 kilograms of ganja, along with his bike and mobile phone, which were being used in the commission of the crime. The operation was conducted by the Special Task Force (STF) team under C.I. Nagaraju, while patrolling the Sultan Bazar to Narayanaguda road. The seized ganja was handed over to the



Narayanaguda Excise Station for further investigation and legal action.

In the second operation in Saroornagar, near the Sagar Ring Road, police received intelligence about a person attempting to sell ganja

imported from Latur. Acting on the tip-off, a DTF team led by C.I. Satyanarayana Rao, along with S.I. Shanker and constables Revant, Rajeev, Venkatesh, and Sudhakar, conducted a thorough search. The team seized 3.730 kilo-

grams of ganja, valued at approximately 1.75 lakh, from the accused M.D. Irfan. Police also confiscated his scooter and mobile phone, which were being used in the illegal trade. The ganja was subsequently handed over to the Sa-



roornagar Excise Station.

In both cases, the police emphasized that such seizures are part of ongoing efforts to curb the illegal sale and distribution of narcotics in the city. Authorities warned that selling and

possessing ganja is a criminal offense under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, and anyone found violating the law will face stringent legal action. These operations highlight the proactive role of Hyderabad's Special Task Force and District Task Force units in tackling drug-related crimes and ensuring the safety and security of the public. Law enforcement officials have urged cit-

izens to report any suspicious activity to the nearest police station, assuring confidentiality for informants. The arrested individuals are being processed for further investigation, and efforts are ongoing to identify other persons involved in the illegal drug network. These actions are part of a broader crackdown by Hyderabad Police to dismantle narcotics operations across the city.

Research Paper on Kanakai Fort Presented at History Seminar in Hyderabad

Adilabad / Hyderabad
11 January: TPN Bureau

A detailed research paper shedding new light on the historical significance of Kanakai Fort in Adilabad district was presented at a history review seminar held at Ravindra Bharathi in Hyderabad. The seminar was organised by the Kotha Telangana History Team with the objective of revisiting and documenting lesser-known chapters of the region's past. The paper was presented by Dr. Katkam Murali, Assistant Professor of History at Ichoda Government Degree College. Drawing from his extensive doctoral research on forts in the erstwhile Adilabad district, Dr. Murali explained that evidence of human habitation in the Kanakai region dates back to as early as the 10th century BCE. He said the fort occupies a significant place in Telangana's ancient and medieval history but has not received adequate scholarly attention so far. Elaborating on the medieval period, Dr. Murali stated that the region was ruled by a Gond king named Birsha Shah. According to historical accounts and lo-

cal traditions, the king had four daughters—Arkayi, Girijayi, Bhoothayi and Kanakai. He noted that even today, four villages in the region bear the names of these daughters. The youngest daughter, Kanakai, was appointed as a queen, and the fort was constructed in her name, reflecting both royal lineage and regional heritage. Dr. Murali highlighted the strategic brilliance behind the construction of Kanakai Fort. Located about 1.5 kilometres from Girnur village in Bazarhathnoor mandal of Adilabad district, the fort was built amid the natural curves of the Bosra stream. Three sides of the fort were naturally protected by water, making it difficult for enemies to approach. To further strengthen its defences, a massive man-made tank or trench spread across nearly six acres was excavated on the fourth side. This trench was connected to the Bosra stream, ensuring a continuous flow of water and creating a formidable water barrier around the fort. He emphasised that the fort stands as a remarkable example of advanced engineering and



military strategy, achieved with the technological knowledge available during that era. The design ensured that the fort remained almost impregnable, showcasing the architectural and scientific expertise of the time. Dr. Murali also recalled that the historical site has attracted national and international attention. A BBC News

team had visited the region earlier, and in 2008, members of the Kotha Telangana History Team, including Kalvakuntla Kavitha, Sriramoji Haragopal, Kurra Jitendra Babu and Jai Kisan, had conducted a detailed field visit to the fort. The presentation was widely appreciated at the seminar. Deccan Land newspaper chief Man-

ikonda Veda Kumar, Professor Jayadheer Tirumala Rao, noted film lyricist Suddala Ashok, and former Assistant Director General of the Geological Survey of India, Chakilam Venugopala Rao, congratulated Dr. Katkam Murali for his in-depth research and contribution to preserving Telangana's historical legacy.

Nizamabad Urban Development: Foundation Laid for 60 Crore 33/11 KV Substation

Nizamabad, January 11, 2026 (TPN Bureau):

The Congress government has taken another significant step in the comprehensive development of Nizamabad city by laying the foundation for a 33/11 KV substation, with an estimated investment of 60 crore. The project aims to strengthen the city's infrastructure and improve power supply across all 60 municipal divisions under the Nizamabad Municipal Corporation.

The foundation stone-laying ceremony was graced by TPCC President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud and Government Advisor Mohammad Ali Shabbir, who inaugurated the project and emphasized the government's commitment to urban development. Mahesh Kumar Goud highlighted that the Congress government is dedicated to allocating funds to each

division, ensuring that Nizamabad's urban landscape is transformed comprehensively. Speaking on the occasion, Mahesh Kumar Goud said that the government is prioritizing the development of essential civic amenities such as electricity, roads, and drainage systems to address long-standing infrastructure issues. He stated that the 33/11 KV substation will eliminate low-voltage problems in the city and ensure a continuous and reliable electricity supply to households, businesses, and industries. The project, he noted, will also contribute to commercial and industrial growth, providing a boost to Nizamabad's economy. The TPCC chief further mentioned that since coming to power, the Congress government has given special attention to Nizamabad city, expediting develop-



ment projects to meet the growing demands of its residents. He assured citizens that the government will continue to provide critical infrastructure without delay and will not compromise on the timely implementation of essential services. The foundation-laying event witnessed a large turnout of public representatives, officials, Congress party leaders, and local activists, reflecting widespread support for the government's ur-

ban development initiatives. The project is expected to be a major milestone in enhancing the city's power infrastructure, directly benefiting households and commercial establishments while also enabling sustainable urban growth. With the establishment of the 33/11 KV substation, Nizamabad is set to overcome persistent low-voltage issues, ensuring uninterrupted electricity supply and strengthening the foundation for

the city's long-term development. The Congress government continues to emphasize modern urban planning and infrastructure improvement, positioning Nizamabad for greater economic and social progress in the coming years. This initiative underscores the government's focus on citizen-centric governance and its commitment to providing modern, efficient, and reliable urban services across Nizamabad city.

Hanmakonda Hosts 58th National Senior Kho-Kho Championship: Minister Vakiti Srihari Emphasizes Skill, Dedication, and Grassroots Sports Development

Hanmakonda, January 11, 2026 (TPN Bureau):

The 58th National Senior Kho-Kho Championship commenced at the Khajipet Railway Stadium in Hanmakonda on Sunday, inaugurated by Telangana Sports Minister Vakiti Srihari. The championship, organized under the leadership of Telangana Kho-Kho Association President Janga Raghavareddy, will see participation from teams representing various states across India, running until January 15. The event has drawn nationwide attention, showcasing Hanmakonda as a key hub for promoting traditional sports. Addressing the gathering, Minister Srihari highlighted that Kho-Kho is more than just a game; it is an integral part of India's rural sporting culture, alongside Kabaddi. He described Kho-Kho as a

fast-paced, strategic, and physically demanding sport that cultivates agility, endurance, and tactical intelligence. Stressing the importance of dedication, he reminded players that "sports belong to no one; talent is your true asset" and emphasized that recommendations or political influence do not determine success in sports. Srihari urged players to focus on their roles during the game, stating, "It's not about the reels, it's about your role on the field." The Minister criticized the lack of attention given to sports over the past decade, observing that successive administrations had neglected grassroots sporting activities. He emphasized that the current government, led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, aims to elevate rural sports to international standards through robust policies

and infrastructure development. Minister Srihari outlined initiatives such as increased budget allocations for facilities, provision of coaches, and creating opportunities for athletes through government job reservations. He further announced that 1 crore has been sanctioned for the development of the Jawaharlal Nehru Kho-Kho Indoor Stadium in Hanmakonda, ensuring modern facilities for players and spectators alike. This investment is part of a broader plan to enhance infrastructure and professional training for athletes, particularly from rural areas. Joining Minister Srihari at the inauguration were Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, Kho-Kho Association National President Mittal, Telangana Olympic Association President Jitender Reddy, Sports Chairman Sivasena



Reddy, along with MLAs Donthi Madhavareddy, Gandra Satyanarayana, MLC Basavaraju Sarayya, and several municipal chairpersons and sports officials. The collective presence of political leaders, sports administrators, and community members highlighted the government's commitment to promoting traditional sports while nurturing young talent. Minister Srihari concluded by encouraging athletes to harness their skills with discipline, passion, and perseverance, assuring them of

full support from the government in training, resources, and career opportunities. He reaffirmed the message that sports are a platform for self-growth, national pride, and community development, and that Telangana will continue to invest in its athletes to achieve excellence on both national and international stages. This championship is expected to inspire thousands of young sports enthusiasts, strengthening Telangana's position as a hub for traditional and modern sports alike.

CMRF Assistance Distributed to Beneficiaries by TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud

Nizamabad, January 11, 2026 (TPN Bureau):

In a notable initiative aimed at strengthening welfare measures for the needy, TPCC President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud personally distributed Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) cheques to eligible beneficiaries in Nizamabad town. The event was conducted in the presence of Government Advisor Shabbir Ali, underscoring the Congress government's continued focus on ensuring timely relief and support for vulnerable sections of society. The program attracted considerable attention from local leaders, party activists, and the beneficiaries themselves, highlighting the importance of direct engagement between policymakers and citizens.

Addressing the gathering, Mahesh Kumar Goud emphasized that the Congress government places utmost importance on public welfare. He explained that the CMRF serves as a crucial lifeline for families facing health emergencies, particularly those from economically weaker sections. "The CMRF provides immediate financial assistance to families grappling with illness or unexpected medical expenses," he stated. He further assured that the government is



committed to ensuring that every deserving individual receives aid without delay, reflecting the administration's dedication to transparency and efficiency in welfare distribution. Mahesh Kumar Goud highlighted the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, noting that under his guidance, citizens' concerns are addressed promptly and prioritized by the government. He stressed that families struggling with medical costs benefit significantly from the CMRF, which acts as a support system to ease their burden. "The government recognizes the challenges faced by households during critical health emergencies and is determined to provide immediate relief to restore their confidence and stability," he added. The event also served as a platform for direct interaction between the beneficiaries and government representatives, allowing citizens to voice their concerns and ensur-

ing that future welfare initiatives are tailored to meet real-time needs. Mahesh Kumar Goud emphasized that such programs not only provide financial relief but also reinforce public faith in governance and administrative accountability. The program witnessed active participation from local Congress leaders, party activists, and community members, reflecting strong community engagement and support for the government's welfare policies. Through this initiative, the Congress administration has once again demonstrated its commitment to social responsibility, prioritizing public health and welfare as a central objective. Overall, the CMRF distribution program in Nizamabad represents a significant step in empowering citizens, providing timely financial relief for medical emergencies, and strengthening the social support system under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

MP Chamal Distributes Cricket Kits to Youth

Tungathurthi, January 11, 2026 (TPN Bureau):

In a vibrant effort to promote sports and youth engagement, Bhuvanagiri Parliament Member Shri Chamal Kiran Kumar Reddy participated as the chief guest at a cricket kit distribution program held at C.M.R Function Hall in Shaligaauram Mandal, Tungathurthi constituency. Alongside Tungathurthi MLA Shri Mandula Samal, the MP distributed cricket kits to young players from various villages, aiming to encourage sports and holistic development among the youth.

Speaking on the occasion, MP Chamal emphasized the commitment of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to prioritize youth welfare, health, and happiness through sports and cultural activities. "Our esteemed Chief Minister envisions a society where sports contribute to building a healthy, disciplined, and competitive generation," he said. Highlighting the role of physical activities,

he added that participating in sports helps youth develop mental and physical resilience, enabling them to face challenges in daily life with confidence and determination. MP Chamal also expressed concern over the rising influence of harmful habits and addictions among young people, which can derail their bright futures. He pointed out that programs like the cricket kit distribution serve to channel youthful energy into productive avenues, uncovering hidden talent and encouraging healthy competition. "Through such initiatives, we aim to nurture sportsmanship and help talented youth from villages gain recognition at the state and national levels," he added. The MP also mentioned that following the success of last year's CM Cup organized under the Telangana Sports Authority, the government plans to host it again this year, providing further opportunities for young athletes to showcase their skills. He reiterated that sports play a cru-

cial role in shaping a disciplined and dynamic society while simultaneously contributing to the social and cultural development of Telangana. The event saw participation from local Congress party leaders, mandal presidents, newly elected sarpanches, youth representatives, and community members. Their presence reflected the strong community support for youth-centric programs and highlighted the government's commitment to creating opportunities for young people in rural areas. Through such initiatives, MP Chamal and the state government aim to inspire young people to adopt a healthy lifestyle, develop their athletic abilities, and contribute positively to the growth and reputation of Telangana on larger platforms. The cricket kit distribution program in Shaligaauram thus stands as a significant step toward empowering rural youth and fostering a culture of sportsmanship and discipline.



Parasakthi: When History Becomes a Political Weapon

Parasakthi is not merely a period film rooted in the past; it is history consciously repurposed for the political present. From its opening frames, the film declares its intent with striking clarity, anchoring itself in the anti-Hindi imposition agitations of the 1950s and 1960s. These protests were not marginal episodes in Tamil Nadu's past but seismic movements that reshaped the state's political landscape, ultimately catapulting the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) into power and redefining the relationship between language, identity, and governance in the region.

Subtlety is neither the ambition nor the strength of Parasakthi. It is an openly ideological work that seeks to provoke fear, pride, anger, and resistance—emotions deeply woven into Tamil collective memory whenever questions of language and cultural survival arise. The anxiety surrounding Hindi imposition, and the perceived threat it poses to Tamil and other regional languages, is not confined to history textbooks. It continues to act as a powerful undercurrent in contemporary politics, particularly in opposition to the Bharatiya Janata Party's larger Hindutva project. The film understands this emotional and political continuity and exploits it with calculated precision.

Though its narrative unfolds during the Nehru-Indira Gandhi era, complete with references to the uncompromising and often violent resistance to central language policies, Parasakthi is unmistakably a film of the present. It functions almost pedagogically, explaining the historical roots of the DMK's staunch opposi-



tion to the three-language formula and portraying the party as the principal, if not sole, defender of Tamil identity against what it frames as north Indian cultural dominance. The past is not merely recreated; it is selectively curated to serve a contemporary ideological purpose.

The film foregrounds Dravidian stalwarts such as C N Annadurai and M Karunanidhi, presenting them as towering champions of the Tamil cause. Yet its protagonist, Sezhan—played by Sivakarthikeyan—is not a direct biographical stand-in for any one leader. Instead, he is a symbolic construct, embodying the spirit of the student and youth movements that formed the emotional and organisational

backbone of the anti-Hindi agitations. Through Sezhan, the film collapses individual histories into a singular, heroic narrative of resistance.

Even the choice of the name "Sezhan" is politically loaded. Rooted in Tamil and meaning "prosperity," it reflects the Dravidian movement's long-standing rejection of caste- and religion-marked names derived from Hindu mythology. This tradition, exemplified by figures such as the late Era Sezhan—who abandoned his birth name R. Sreenivasan in favour of a secular Tamil identity—underscores how even personal naming becomes an act of ideological assertion. In this political culture, names are not neutral; they are dec-

larations of resistance.

The title Parasakthi itself is a deliberate provocation. It immediately evokes the iconic 1952 film scripted by Karunanidhi, widely regarded as a cinematic manifesto of Dravidian rationalism and social revolution. The borrowing of this title is no coincidence. It is designed to trigger memory, loyalty, and ideological nostalgia, functioning as political branding of the highest order. The film does not merely tell a story; it invokes a legacy.

That the film is produced by Red Giant Movies further sharpens its political edge. The company's CEO, Inbanidhi, is the son of Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin, whose name is conspicuously

highlighted in the opening credits. To argue that Parasakthi is apolitical would be disingenuous. It is cinema as political communication—crafted, timed, and positioned with remarkable strategic awareness.

One of the film's most crucial interventions is its reiteration of a central DMK argument often misrepresented by opponents: the resistance is not against Hindi as a language, but against its imposition. A striking scene depicts the protagonist protesting in Delhi while holding Tamil placards that read "Hindi Vazhga" (Long Live Hindi). The message is unambiguous—this is a struggle for federalism, dignity, and choice, not linguistic hostility. The film repeatedly stresses

that unity does not require uniformity, a line that resonates strongly in India's current political climate.

This theme is reinforced through dialogues in which the protagonist confronts a central government minister—clearly a reference to Indira Gandhi during her tenure as Information and Broadcasting Minister after Nehru's death. He asserts his commitment to national unity while accusing the Centre of confusing unity with enforced sameness. In this framing, the conflict is not between patriotism and separatism, but between competing visions of the nation.

Intriguingly, the film's antagonist is a fiercely patriotic police officer determined to crush the

Tamil agitation through brute force. The narrative thus stages a confrontation between two forms of nationalism: one rigid, centralised, and coercive; the other rooted in regional dignity and democratic resistance. In this inversion, the defender of Tamil identity emerges as the truer patriot.

By extending solidarity to Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, and Bengali voices, Parasakthi broadens its canvas beyond Tamil Nadu. It reframes Hindi imposition as a pan-Indian issue of regional identity versus cultural centralisation, lending the film resonance far beyond state borders. The struggle is no longer portrayed as parochial but as a national debate

about the nature of India's federal structure.

None of this ideological weight would matter if the film failed as cinema. It does not. Parasakthi is gripping, emotionally charged, and accessible across generations. Its narrative momentum ensures that ideology never feels like a dry lecture but rather an immersive experience. The dramatization is heightened, sometimes exaggerated, but always effective.

Commercially, the film appears poised for an unchallenged box-office run. Politically, it feeds directly into the DMK-versus-BJP language narrative at a strategically crucial moment. Cinema alone may not swing elections, but as a tool of political mobilisation, it is undeniably potent. The film may even compel non-DMK supporters to reconsider fundamental questions of language, identity, and federalism in contemporary India.

Ultimately, Parasakthi strengthens the political standing of Udhayanidhi Stalin and his family, positioning them not merely as administrators but as custodians of the Dravidian ideological legacy. In Tamil Nadu, where politics has long found its loudest voice on the silver screen, this is cinema with intent, impact, and impeccable timing.

Directed by Sudha Kongara—already acclaimed for her cinematic craft—Parasakthi stands as both a powerful film and a calculated political statement. It is an exaggerated, fiercely dramatized version of history. But as the film itself seems to argue, in the charged atmosphere of an election season, facts often matter less than the narratives built upon them.

Rashtriya Khanij Chintan Shivir-2026: Telangana's Vision for a Future-Ready Mining Sector

The Rashtriya Khanij Chintan Shivir-2026 emerged as a significant and timely initiative aimed at strengthening India's mining sector through cooperation, shared learning, and policy alignment. At a time when minerals—especially critical minerals—are central to economic growth, industrial expansion, and the global energy transition, the Shivir provided a rare and valuable platform for states to engage in open dialogue rather than operate in isolation. By bringing together mining ministers and senior officials from across the country, the forum enabled honest discussions on challenges, best practices, and solutions grounded in real-world experience.

More than a ceremonial gathering marked by prepared speeches, the Chintan Shivir encouraged meaningful exchange. States were able to candidly present what is working on the ground and where reforms require course correction. This collective approach reinforced an important reality: mining reforms cannot succeed through top-down directives alone. They require active and confident participation from states as equal partners, not merely as implementers of central policies. The Shivir effectively highlighted the importance of Centre-state coordination in building sustainable, efficient, and secure mineral supply chains for the future.

A key focus of the discussions was the growing importance of critical

minerals in India's development journey. With global supply chains under pressure and geopolitical uncertainties affecting mineral availability, domestic mineral security has become a national priority. The Shivir underscored the need for strategic planning, improved exploration, and responsible mining practices to support India's ambitions in manufacturing, renewable energy, electric mobility, and advanced technologies.

Among the participating states, Telangana stood out for the clarity and confidence of its approach. Labour and Mines Minister Dr. Gaddam Vivek Venkatswamy played a strong and constructive role, articulating Telangana's vision with precision and purpose. He clearly outlined the state's focus on strengthening domestic mineral security, expanding exploration activities, promoting self-reliance in critical minerals, and aligning mining reforms with long-term economic development goals. His interventions reflected not only policy clarity but also a deep understanding of the sector's complexities.

One of the most practical and relevant points raised by Dr. Vivek was the need for smoother coordination between the Centre and the states, particularly in areas such as approvals, land acquisition, and forest and environmental clearances. These processes often become bottlenecks, delaying projects and increas-



ing costs. Faster, transparent, and predictable clearances—without compromising environmental safeguards—are essential for improving efficiency and investor confidence. This concern resonates strongly across states and highlights the need for systemic reforms rather than piecemeal solutions.

In his detailed address at the Shivir and in interactions with the media, Dr. Vivek spoke extensively about identifying critical minerals, improving exploration strategies, refining auction mechanisms, and strengthening domestic mining and processing capacities. Importantly, he stressed the need for value addition within India, rather than limiting the sector to raw

material extraction. This holistic approach recognises that mining must be integrated with downstream industries, research institutions, and innovation ecosystems to deliver long-term economic benefits.

From a broader perspective, Telangana's participation demonstrated that the state is thinking beyond short-term gains. It is engaging with the entire mining ecosystem—from exploration and extraction to processing, logistics, and supply chains. This comprehensive outlook positions Telangana as a serious and forward-looking contributor to the national mining conversation.

A particularly notable aspect of Telangana's approach is its firm stance

against illegal mining. The state has openly acknowledged that illegal mining harms public resources, damages the environment, and undermines governance. Instead of downplaying the problem, Telangana has chosen to confront it decisively. Under Dr. Vivek Venkatswamy's leadership, the state has gradually adopted modern technological tools such as GPS-based vehicle tracking, drone surveillance, and satellite mapping. These systems enable real-time monitoring of mining operations, helping authorities detect violations early and prevent large-scale damage.

What stands out most is Dr. Vivek's forward-looking vision. At the Chintan Shivir, he strong-

ly advocated the use of Artificial Intelligence to control illegal mining more effectively. This is both timely and sensible. AI-driven systems can analyse large datasets, identify unusual patterns in transportation and extraction, and flag suspicious activities for immediate action. By embracing such technologies, Telangana is not merely reacting to existing problems but preparing for future challenges. This proactive mindset offers a model that other states can learn from and adapt.

Telangana's policy position on mining enforcement is also unambiguous. The government follows the principle of "zero illegal mining, zero illegal transport, and zero overloading." This

is not a symbolic slogan but a clear policy commitment reflecting transparency, sustainability, and accountability. Such clarity is essential if mining is to become a driver of development rather than a source of environmental degradation and social conflict.

Dr. Vivek has also effectively linked mining reforms to Telangana's broader economic vision. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has articulated an ambitious goal of building a \$3 trillion economy by 2047. If managed responsibly, the mining sector can play a crucial role in achieving this target by supporting infrastructure development, industrial growth, employment generation, and energy security. Telangana's approach seeks to balance economic expansion with environmental care and social responsibility, recognising that sustainable development is the only viable path forward.

Examples from other states further reinforce the importance of strategic mineral planning. Projects such as the Ambaji Copper Project in Gujarat demonstrate how domestic mineral development can reduce import dependence, strengthen industrial capabilities, and create local employment. India currently relies heavily on imports for many critical minerals, exposing the economy to global supply disruptions. Well-planned domestic mining projects, supported by clear policies and strong governance, can signifi-

cantly improve national resilience.

In this context, Telangana's leadership deserves national attention. By combining strict enforcement, advanced technology, and a clearly articulated long-term vision, the state is emerging as a leader in mining reforms. Dr. Gaddam Vivek Venkatswamy's emphasis on innovation, transparency, and accountability reflects a modern and responsible approach to governance. His contributions at the Rashtriya Khanij Chintan Shivir-2026 underline the idea that mining reforms succeed best when states lead with confidence and clarity.

If more states follow Telangana's example—embracing cooperation, technological innovation, and ethical governance—India's mining sector can become cleaner, stronger, and genuinely future-ready. The Chintan Shivir has shown what is possible when dialogue replaces isolation and vision replaces inertia. Telangana's role in this process stands as a reminder that meaningful reform begins with leadership willing to think ahead.



Sagar Vanaparthi, Policy Analyst.

PM Modi Slams ‘Colonial Mindset’, Says India’s Glorious Past Was Erased After Independence

Somnath, Gujarat — Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday strongly criticised what he described as a “colonial mindset” in post-Independence historical narratives, accusing certain historians and politicians of attempting to erase or distort India’s civilisational past. Addressing a massive gathering after the culmination of the Shaurya Yatra at Somnath, the Prime Minister said India’s history had been deliberately misrepresented in textbooks, particularly regarding religious invasions.

PM Modi alleged that the brutal invasions and destruction of sacred sites were downplayed or mislabelled as mere acts of looting. “Those who fought for the Somnath Temple were not given their due recognition and importance. Some historians and politicians even tried to whitewash the history of invaders. Religious invasion was labelled as loot. We were taught that Somnath was demolished only to loot treasures, while the cruel history of hate, atrocities, and terror was hidden from us,” he said.

Referring to the reconstruction of the Somnath Temple after Independence, the Prime Minister recalled how Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel’s resolve to rebuild the shrine faced opposition. “After Independence, when Sardar Patel pledged to renovate the Somnath Temple, he was stopped from doing so. Objections were raised even to President Rajendra Prasad’s visit to Somnath in 1951,” PM Modi said. He warned that the



same forces were still active today, though their methods had changed. “Those who opposed the redevelopment then are present even now. Swords have been replaced with hidden conspiracies against India,” he cautioned.

Calling for unity and vigilance, the Prime Minister urged people to remain alert to such forces. “We need to strengthen ourselves and stay united. We must defeat every power that tries to divide us. The journey of the last 1,000 years should inspire us to prepare for the next 1,000 years,” he added.

PM Modi also highlighted the significance of India’s ancient sacred sites, describing them as symbols of resilience and civilisational strength. “India has thousands of sacred sites like Somnath that are

thousands of years old. Unfortunately, after Independence, people with a slave mentality tried to distance themselves from this heritage. Despicable attempts were made to forget this history,” he said.

The Prime Minister participated in the Shaurya Yatra as part of the four-day Somnath Swabhiman Parv, commemorating 1,000 years of unbroken faith since Mahmud of Ghazni’s first attack on the Somnath Temple in 1026. The symbolic procession, marked by the participation of 108 horses from the Gujarat Police Mounted Unit, represented courage, sacrifice, and the indomitable spirit that preserved Somnath through centuries of destruction and revival.

Despite repeated attacks and demolitions over centuries, Somnath remained alive in the

collective consciousness of the people. Its repeated reconstruction stands as a unique example in world history, symbolising faith, identity, and civilisational pride.

The present Somnath Temple was rebuilt following Sardar Patel’s resolve expressed on Kartak Sud 1, Diwali day, November 12, 1947. The reconstruction, funded by public participation, culminated in the consecration ceremony on May 11, 1951, attended by then-President Rajendra Prasad. In 2026, India will mark 75 years of this historic moment, reaffirming its civilisational self-respect. Revered as the first among the 12 Aadi Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva, the Somnath Temple stands majestically along the Arabian Sea as a lasting symbol of faith and national resolve.

Suvendu Adhikari Sits on Dharna Inside Chandrakona Police Station, Demands FIR Over Alleged Attack

West Bengal Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari on Saturday night staged a protest inside the Chandrakona police station, demanding the immediate registration of an FIR after alleging that his convoy was attacked by workers of the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) in Paschim Medinipur district.

Adhikari accused the TMC of orchestrating the attack as part of an attempt to intimidate and eliminate the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) from the state ahead of upcoming elections. Speaking to TPN from inside the police station, the BJP leader said he would not leave until action was taken against those responsible.

“We are here for justice. The elections are not far, and they know they are about to lose. That is why they want to demolish the BJP,” Adhikari said. He alleged that senior leaders from the TMC’s youth wing and labour union were involved in the incident and claimed that he had provided the police with the names of those responsible. “I am urging that an FIR be registered



immediately and that these people be arrested,” he added.

Earlier, Adhikari had taken to social media platform X to describe the alleged attack. He claimed that the incident took place around 8:20 pm on Chandrakona Road while he was returning from Purulia. According to him, his convoy was “viciously attacked” by TMC workers in the presence of police personnel.

“These cowards, emboldened by the Mamata Banerjee regime’s culture of violence

and impunity, attacked me right in the presence of the Mamata Police,” Adhikari wrote. He further alleged that the police remained silent spectators during the incident. “This is not just an attack on me; it is an assault on every voice of opposition in West Bengal,” he said.

Accusing the ruling party of political desperation, Adhikari claimed that the TMC was resorting to violence because it could not counter growing public an-

ger. He reiterated that he was sitting on a dharna inside the police station demanding immediate action and arrests. “I will not budge until accountability is enforced. The people of Bengal deserve better than this lawless dictatorship,” he stated.

Reacting to the incident earlier in the day, West Bengal BJP president Samik Bhattacharya alleged a complete collapse of law and order in the state. Speaking to ANI, Bhattacharya said the situation amounted to a “total breakdown of constitutional machinery” and called for immediate intervention by constitutional authorities.

“What is happening in West Bengal is not merely the absence of law and order. It amounts to a total breakdown of constitutional machinery. The custodians of the Constitution must intervene immediately,” he said.

As of late Saturday night, there was no official response from the state police or the Trinamool Congress regarding the allegations.

Alleged Audio of Masood Azhar Surfaces, Claims Thousands of Suicide Bombers Ready to Strike

An audio recording allegedly featuring Masood Azhar, the chief of the banned terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), has surfaced, in which he claims that a large number of suicide attackers are ready to strike at any moment. Masood Azhar is a UN-designated terrorist who has long been accused of orchestrating attacks against India while operating from Pakistan.

In the purported audio, Azhar is heard boasting about the strength and preparedness of his cadre, claiming that thousands of suicide bombers are awaiting his approval to infiltrate India. He suggests that the actual number of fighters at his disposal is far greater than what is publicly known and that revealing the full figure would shock the international community.

In the recording, Azhar says in Urdu, “These suicide bombers are not one, not two, not 100, not even 1,000. If I reveal the complete number, there will be an uproar in the world’s media.” He further



claims that these individuals are highly motivated and eager to carry out attacks, describing their intent as achieving what he calls martyrdom for their cause.

However, the date, location, and authenticity of the audio clip could not be independently verified. There has been no official confirmation from security agencies so far regarding when the recording was made or whether it genuinely features Azhar.

Masood Azhar has a long

history of issuing inflammatory statements against India. He is accused of being the mastermind behind several high-profile terror attacks, including the 2001 attack on the Indian Parliament and the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks. JeM has been responsible for multiple suicide bombings and militant strikes in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of the country over the years.

The emergence of this audio comes months after Indi-

an armed forces carried out targeted strikes on Jaish-e-Mohammed infrastructure inside Pakistan. Among the locations hit was the group’s headquarters in Bahawalpur. Those strikes were part of India’s response to the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, in which 26 people lost their lives. Reports indicated that several of Azhar’s close relatives were killed in the strikes.

Separately, Delhi Police sources have linked Umar Mohammad, a suspect in a recent blast in the national capital that killed at least 15 people and injured around 20 others, to the Pakistan-based terror group.

Masood Azhar has not made a public appearance since 2019. That year, his hideout in Bahawalpur was reportedly targeted in a powerful blast by unknown assailants, which he survived. Since then, he has largely remained out of public view, though intelligence agencies continue to monitor his activities closely.

Trust India, Not Speculation: Piyush Goyal Responds to Claims on India–US Trade Talks



Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Sunday urged citizens to place their trust in India rather than “foreign statements,” responding to speculation around the status of the India–US trade agreement. His remarks came a day after the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) firmly rejected claims that the proposed trade deal failed to materialise because Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not make a phone call to former US President Donald Trump.

Speaking at the NDTV Power Play conclave, Goyal addressed comments made by United States Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, who had suggested that negotiations with India did not progress while Washington moved ahead with trade agreements with other countries. Lutnick had compared trade negotiations to a staircase, claiming that countries that acted first secured better terms. “The first stair gets the best deal,” Lutnick had said, implying that late movers faced less favourable outcomes.

Responding to this, Goyal said trade negotiations are complex and cannot be

judged through public remarks. “Trust your country, your motherland, not foreign statements,” he said, adding that the intricacies of trade agreements are discussed behind closed doors and not in the media. He emphasised that sensitive negotiations require patience and discretion.

The MEA also countered the narrative, calling the characterisation of the negotiations “not accurate.” Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India and the US have been engaged in sustained and detailed discussions on a bilateral trade pact for more than a year. He further clarified that Prime Minister Modi and President Trump had spoken over the phone on eight occasions during 2025, covering a wide range of issues related to the India–US partnership.

Speaking at the Mumbai conclave ahead of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation elections scheduled for January 15, Goyal also addressed local political and civic issues. He dismissed opposition claims centred on the “Marathi Maanoos” narrative, asserting that Mumbai belongs to eve-

ryone. “Nobody is an outsider in Mumbai,” he said.

In a conversation with NDTV’s CEO and Editor-in-Chief Rahul Kanwal, Managing Editor Padmaja Joshi, and Associate Editor Puja Bhardwaj, Goyal spoke about ongoing infrastructure projects aimed at easing Mumbai’s chronic traffic problems. He said residents were prepared to endure short-term inconvenience for long-term benefits. “The people of Mumbai are willing to suffer short-term pain for long-term gain,” he said, describing the infrastructure push as part of the futuristic vision of Prime Minister Modi and Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

Goyal also made political remarks, claiming that Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar and his daughter, Lok Sabha MP Supriya Sule, regret aligning with the opposition against the BJP. He alleged they are now attempting a political course correction by aligning with Ajit Pawar ahead of the Pimpri Chinchwad municipal corporation elections.

Fadnavis Says Shinde Is Easy to Work With, Calls Uddhav Thackeray Unpredictable



Maharashtra Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis has drawn a sharp contrast between his experiences of working with Shiv Sena leaders Uddhav Thackeray and Eknath Shinde, describing the former as difficult to handle and the latter as relatively easy to work with.

Speaking at NDTV’s Power Play programme on the upcoming elections to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), Fadnavis shared insights from his political journey alongside both leaders. The interaction was moderated by NDTV CEO and Editor-in-Chief Rahul Kanwal, Managing Editor Padmaja Joshi, and Executive Editor Jiten-dra Dixit.

Fadnavis, who has been part of alliances with both Thackeray and Shinde at different stages, was asked how his working relationships with the two leaders differed. He responded candidly, saying that Eknath Shinde’s emotional nature makes him easier to understand

and manage. “Shinde ji is an emotional person, and I am emotional too, though perhaps more practical. If you understand his emotional side, working with him becomes easy,” Fadnavis said.

In contrast, he described former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray as unpredictable. “Uddhav ji is unpredictable. To understand him, I would probably need to appoint a researcher. That is why handling him is difficult,” he remarked, underlining the challenges he faced while working with the Shiv Sena leader.

Fadnavis’ political association with both leaders spans several years. His first term as Chief Minister was in alliance with the undivided Shiv Sena led by Uddhav Thackeray. However, following the 2019 Maharashtra Assembly elections, Thackeray exited the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and formed a government with the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Congress. In 2022, a rebellion led by Eknath Shinde

split the Shiv Sena, resulting in the collapse of the Thackeray-led government. Shinde then aligned with the NDA and assumed office as Chief Minister. After the NDA returned to power in the state elections last year, Fadnavis took over as Chief Minister, with Shinde serving as his deputy.

Addressing speculation about possible tensions within the NDA, Fadnavis dismissed such claims, asserting that the alliance remains stable. “We are in a strong alliance and will continue together for the next five years as well,” he said.

He also brushed aside interpretations of Shinde’s frequent visits to Delhi as signs of discord. Fadnavis clarified that Shinde often travels to the national capital to meet his grandson and party leaders. “He is meeting BJP leaders in Delhi. I would be concerned only if he were meeting leaders from another party,” he added, reaffirming confidence in the unity of the NDA government.

Iranian Hospitals Overwhelmed Amid Deadly Nationwide Protests



Hospitals across Iran are struggling to cope with a surge of casualties as anti-government protests continue to spread nationwide, medical workers have reported. Emergency wards in multiple cities, including Tehran, are overwhelmed, with some hospitals describing “bodies piled on top of one another” following a violent crackdown by security forces.

At Poursina Hospital in Rasht, northern Iran, 70 bodies arrived on Friday night alone. A hospital source said the morgue quickly reached full capacity, forcing staff to temporarily store bodies in the hospital’s prayer room. “The bodies were placed on top of one another,” she said, underscoring the severity of the situation.

In Tehran, medics reported that many of the injured were young protesters arriving with fatal gunshot wounds. One emergency worker told the BBC that approximately 38 people died immediately upon reaching hospital beds, often before CPR could be administered. “There were direct shots to the heads of young people, to their hearts as well. Many didn’t even make it to the hospital,” she said. Most victims were reportedly aged between 20 and 25.

In other cities, injuries were similarly severe. A physician in Kashan noted that some protesters were shot in the eyes, while a Tehran doctor recounted seeing a patient with a bullet passing through the head.

US Conducts Retaliatory Strikes Against ISIS in Syria Following Deadly Attack on American Personnel



The United States launched another series of retaliatory airstrikes against the Islamic State (ISIS) in Syria on Saturday, responding to last month’s deadly ambush that killed two US soldiers and an American civilian interpreter. The large-scale strikes, conducted alongside partner forces, targeted multiple ISIS positions across Syria around 12:30 p.m. ET, according to US Central Command.

The operation, dubbed Operation Hawkeye Strike by the Trump administration, is part of Washington’s broader response to the December attack in Palmyra that claimed the lives of Sgt. Edgar Brian Torres-Tovar and Sgt. William Nathaniel Howard, both members of the Iowa National Guard, as well as civilian interpreter Ayad Mansoor Sakat.

“Our message remains strong: if you harm our warfighters, we will find you and kill you anywhere in the world, no matter how hard you try to evade justice,” US Central Command said in a statement on Saturday, underscoring the administration’s commitment to retaliating against threats to American personnel.

The strikes follow a similar operation launched on December 19, which targeted 70 locations in central Syria, hitting ISIS infrastructure and weapons depots. While the US military did not disclose the identities of the partner forces involved in Saturday’s op-

erations, the attacks reflect ongoing coordination with local allies.

For years, the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) have served as Washington’s primary partner in the fight against ISIS within Syria. However, since the ouster of former Syrian President Bashar Assad in December 2024, the US has increasingly coordinated with the central government in Damascus, which recently joined the global coalition against ISIS.

Adding to pressure on ISIS, Syrian security forces announced on Friday that they had arrested the military leader responsible for IS operations in the Levant. Analysts say this development, combined with US-led strikes, could weaken the group’s operational capabilities in the region.

Operation Hawkeye Strike is the latest demonstration of the US commitment to pursuing ISIS militants following attacks on American forces abroad. The coordinated response signals that the US intends to hold ISIS accountable for attacks on its personnel and maintain pressure on the terror group in Syria.

As the US continues its counter-ISIS operations, the strikes also reflect a broader shift in strategy, combining support for local partners such as the SDF with coordination with the Syrian central government to target terrorist networks effectively across the region.

Trump Revives Pledge to Cap Credit Card Interest Rates at 10%, Drawing Industry Opposition

Former President Donald Trump has renewed his campaign promise to cap credit card interest rates at 10% for one year, a move that could save Americans tens of billions of dollars but has drawn immediate opposition from the banking and credit card industries.

Trump announced the plan in a social media post on Friday night, though he did not specify whether the cap would be implemented through executive action or legislation. A Republican senator, Sen. Roger Marshall (R-Kan.), said he spoke with Trump and intends to work on a bill “with his full support,” aiming for it to take effect on January 20, marking one year since Trump took office.

In his post, Trump wrote, “We will no longer let the American public be ripped off by credit card companies that are charging interest rates of 20 to 30%.” Analysts estimate that a 10% cap could save Americans roughly \$100 billion annually, while still leaving credit card companies profitable, though some rewards and perks might be reduced.

Currently, around 195 million Americans hold credit cards, accruing \$160 billion in interest charges in 2024, according to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). Average interest rates on credit cards range between 19.65% and 21.5%, down slightly from recent highs



but still significantly higher than the roughly 12% average a decade ago.

Banks argue that such a cap would harm low-income and high-risk borrowers, potentially forcing them toward high-cost alternatives like payday loans or pawnshops. The American Bankers Association and allied groups issued a joint statement opposing Trump’s proposal, warning that it could drive consumers toward “less regulated, more costly alternatives.”

Researchers, however, contend that a 10% cap could be implemented without widespread account closures. Brian Shearer, director of competition and regulatory policy at the Vanderbilt Policy Accelerator, noted that the dominant credit card issuers earn massive profits across income levels and could absorb the change while remaining profitable.

Historically, interest rate caps have existed in some sectors. The Military

Lending Act limits rates for active-duty service members to 36%, and some credit unions cap their credit card rates at 18%. Critics cite states like Arkansas, where strict caps have limited credit access for lower-credit borrowers, highlighting the potential trade-offs of nationwide limits.

Trump’s proposal has received support from a bipartisan group of lawmakers. Senators Bernie Sanders (D-Vt.) and Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) previously

introduced a plan to cap rates at 10% for five years. Representatives Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) and Anna Paulina Luna (R-Fla.) have also proposed similar legislation.

While the credit card industry has been a consistent supporter of Trump’s administration and campaign, the new proposal underscores growing public scrutiny over high interest rates amid rising consumer debt, which now totals approximately \$1.23 trillion.

Protests in Iran Enter Third Week Amid Rising Violence and US Warnings

Nationwide protests challenging Iran’s theocracy continued into Sunday, with demonstrators flooding the streets of Tehran and Mashhad, the country’s capital and second-largest city. Activists report that the ongoing unrest has resulted in at least 116 deaths, with more than 2,600 arrests, though Iran’s internet blackout and cut phone lines have made independent verification difficult.

The demonstrations, which began on December 28 over the collapse of the Iranian rial, have grown into broader anti-regime protests, challenging the foundations of the Islamic Republic amid economic hardship and international sanctions targeting Iran’s nuclear program. The rial has plummeted to over 1.4 million to the US dollar, fueling widespread frustration.

Iranian officials re-

sponded with threats. Parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf warned that the US military and Israel would be “legitimate targets” if Washington carried out strikes against Iran, citing President Donald Trump’s statements offering potential military action. Qalibaf, a hardline figure, praised the police, the Revolutionary Guard, and the volunteer Basij forces for “standing firm” during the unrest and promised harsh punishment for those arrested or involved in the protests.

Meanwhile, Trump publicly supported the protesters, tweeting that “Iran is looking at FREEDOM, perhaps like never before. The USA stands ready to help!!!” US officials told media outlets that Trump has been presented with military options to protect American interests but has not made a final decision.

The State Department emphasized that Trump’s warnings should be taken seriously.

Videos circulating online, likely transmitted via satellite connections such as Starlink, showed demonstrators gathering in northern Tehran, holding lit mobile phones and marching peacefully. In Mashhad, protesters reportedly confronted security forces, with streets blocked by flaming debris and overturned dumpsters near the holy Imam Reza shrine, giving the protests added symbolic weight. Protests were also reported in Kerman and other cities.

Iranian state media attempted to downplay the unrest, broadcasting pro-government demonstrations in cities such as Qom and Qazvin, and highlighting areas of calm elsewhere, while excluding Tehran and Mashhad.

Exiled Crown Prince



Reza Pahlavi, who has called for protests and encouraged demonstrators to display Iran’s old lion-and-sun flag, has voiced support from abroad, though it remains unclear whether protesters are rallying for him personally or for a return to pre-1979 conditions.

The escalating unrest comes amid fears of a severe crackdown. Iran’s attorney general, Mohammad Movahedi Azad,

warned that anyone participating in the protests could be deemed an “enemy of God,” a charge carrying the death penalty, and threatened punishment for those assisting rioters. The combination of an information blackout, economic crisis, and violent repression has created a tense environment, leaving both citizens and foreign observers anxious about the future trajectory of the unrest.

Reza Pahlavi Urges Iranian Protesters to Stay on Streets Amid US Support, Khamenei Defiant



Reza Pahlavi, the US-based son of Iran’s former Shah, has urged protesters across Iran to remain on the streets, promising that he will soon join them. Addressing demonstrators as “my compatriots,” Pahlavi praised their resilience over three consecutive nights, saying their actions have “severely weakened Khamenei’s repressive apparatus and

his regime.”

Pahlavi claimed he received reliable reports indicating a shortage of security personnel willing to confront the massive crowds. “Many armed and security forces have left their workplaces or disobeyed orders to suppress the people,” he said, adding that only a minority of violent mercenaries, whom he described as

non-Iranian and anti-Iranian, remain loyal to the regime. He warned that these forces would face consequences for their actions.

He also advised protesters to avoid venturing alone or taking side streets that could endanger their lives. “Know that you are not alone. Your compatriots around the world are proudly shouting your voice, and the world admires your courage. President Trump, as leader of the free world, is closely observing your bravery and has declared he is ready to help,” Pahlavi said on X (formerly Twitter).

Protests Intensify Amid Crackdown

Despite a severe crackdown, including a nationwide Internet blackout, protests against Iran’s Khamenei-led regime have intensified over the

past several days. Human rights groups report dozens of deaths, while Net-Blocks, a global Internet monitoring organization, said the country has had virtually no connectivity since Thursday.

The demonstrations, initially sparked about two weeks ago by economic hardship worsened by international sanctions and last year’s conflict with Israel, have evolved into a broader nationwide movement demanding the removal of the Supreme Leader.

US Signals Support

US President Donald Trump expressed support for the protesters, posting on Truth Social that “Iran is looking at FREEDOM, perhaps like never before. The USA stands ready to help!!!” Reports indicate Trump has been briefed on potential military options,

though officials stressed that no final decision has been made.

Khamenei Responds

In response, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Hosseini Khamenei dismissed Trump’s statements, criticizing the US and portraying protesters as being misled. “The US President has said that if the Iranian government does such-and-such, I’ll take the side of the rioters. The rioters have put their hopes in him. If he’s so capable, he should manage his own country,” Khamenei said on X.

He reaffirmed the regime’s defiance, asserting that “the Islamic Republic of Iran, established with the sacrifice of several hundred thousand honorable people, won’t back down in the face of those causing destruction.”

Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund Reopens Subscriptions to Three International Equity Schemes

Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund has resumed accepting fresh investments in its three international equity schemes after a suspension of over three months. The fund house issued a notice-cum-addendum on January 9, 2026, reversing the suspension that had been in place since October 7, 2025.

The reopening applies to the following schemes: Aditya Birla Sun Life International Equity Fund, Aditya Birla Sun Life Global Emerging Opportunities Fund, and Aditya Birla Sun Life Global Excellence Equity Fund of Fund. Investors can now make fresh purchases, switch-in investments, and systematic contributions such as SIPs (Systematic Investment Plans) and STPs (Systematic Transfer Plans) under these schemes, subject to certain limits.

As per the circular, the AMC will accept investments up to Rs 1 crore per PAN per day across all subscription transactions. The limit applies to fresh investments, additional purchases, and systematic transactions wherever available. The resumption of inflows will be effective from Monday, January 12, 2026. However, the fund house has clarified that it retains the right to revise the maximum subscription limit at any time in the future.

While subscriptions have reopened, all other features, terms, and conditions outlined in the Scheme Information Document



(SID) and Key Information Memorandum (KIM) remain unchanged. The notice-cum-addendum issued will form an integral part of the existing scheme documents.

The three international equity schemes focus on providing investors exposure to global markets. The International Equity Fund primarily invests in large-cap and mid-cap companies listed overseas, while the Global Emerging Opportunities Fund targets high-growth companies in emerging markets. The Global

Excellence Equity Fund of Fund invests in other international mutual funds to achieve diversified global exposure.

The suspension of fresh inflows in October 2025 was implemented due to operational considerations. During the suspension period, the AMC had halted new SIP and STP registrations, although existing systematic investments registered before October 7, 2025, were allowed to continue uninterrupted. This move was aimed at managing the operational and liquid-

ity challenges arising from overseas investments in international markets.

With the reopening, investors can once again tap into international diversification through these schemes, which provide a vehicle to gain exposure to global equities and emerging market opportunities. The AMC's move to resume subscriptions is likely to attract investors looking to diversify their portfolios amid ongoing volatility in domestic markets and strong growth potential overseas.

Gold's Bullish Momentum Set to Continue in 2026 Despite Record Rally in 2025

After one of the most dramatic rallies in modern market history, few investors are expecting gold to replicate its astonishing performance in 2026. Yet, despite the improbability of a repeat surge, many top money managers remain bullish on the precious metal, arguing that the underlying forces that propelled bullion to historic highs last year remain intact.

Gold surged an extraordinary 65% in 2025, marking its strongest annual performance in nearly 50 years. Retail and institutional investors alike piled into bullion alongside central banks, fueling unprecedented momentum. A convergence of almost every tailwind imaginable—falling interest rates, geopolitical tension, and inflation fears—propelled gold to surpass even its inflation-adjusted high, a level that had held since 1980. In an environment where most asset classes struggled to gain traction, gold became the standout performer, drawing attention from seasoned market participants and casual investors alike.

Despite the dramatic run, many money managers who oversee trillions in assets say they are not rushing to take profits, maintaining conviction in the metal's long-term appeal. "We continue to expect gold to rally in 2026, as the drivers of its strong run remain intact," said Ian Samson, a portfolio manager at Fidelity International. Samson, who trimmed his position during a particularly frenzied stretch in October, has since added back, citing central bank purchases, declining interest rates, and high fiscal deficits as ongoing supportive factors for gold.

A key underpinning of gold's appeal lies in waning confidence in major developed-market currencies. Attacks on central bank independence, ballooning sovereign debt, and mounting political discord have undermined trust in fiat currencies, driving investors toward bullion. The past year was particularly illustrative: a congressional standoff in the United States, governmental paralysis in France, and scrutiny of Japan's record budget under its new leadership all contributed to the narrative that fiat currencies are increasingly vulnerable.

"Gold is basically an anti-fiat currency play now more than anything else," said Mike Wilson, chief investment officer and strategist at Morgan Stanley. The view gained traction in late 2025 as the so-called debasement trade—buying gold as a hedge against currency dilution—took hold. Prominent investors such as Ken Griffin and Ray Dalio highlighted gold's meteoric rise as a warning signal, reinforcing its status as a hedge



against systemic risks.

Wilson suggests that investors should allocate roughly 20% of their portfolios into real assets, including gold, as a hedge against inflation, replacing the traditional 60/40 split between stocks and bonds with a 60/20/20 structure. He emphasizes that the debasement thesis has gone mainstream, yet he believes the market has not fully priced in the implications of global fiscal indiscipline. "When everybody understands the story, you have to ask yourself: Well, is it priced now?" Wilson said. "I don't think it's fully priced, only because I don't see the change in behavior yet. I don't see fiscal discipline anywhere in the world. In fact, I see the opposite."

Darwei Kung, head of commodities and portfolio manager at DWS Group, echoed similar sentiments. His firm maintains a slightly larger-than-usual allocation to gold-related investments, expecting to sustain that stance through 2026. Kung forecasts modest price gains over the year, while also anticipating trading volatility driven by broader market forces. "Gold's performance will be influenced not just by the metal itself but also by currency movements, bond yields, and investor sentiment globally," he said.

Institutional demand, particularly from pension and insurance funds, continued to grow in 2025. Some funds that had previously avoided the asset took positions of around 5% of their strategic allocations. Massimiliano Castelli, head of global sovereign markets strategy at UBS Asset Management, explained that investors were drawn to gold's dual appeal: strong returns and protection against

downside risks elsewhere in their portfolios. "Of course, we don't see the same upside potential as last year, when gold was basically the best asset class of all," Castelli noted. "But we are still bullish on gold."

Historical precedent suggests a note of caution. Oversized rallies have often been followed by long periods of underperformance. After bullion hit \$1,921 an ounce in 2011, propelled by the aftermath of the global financial crisis, it took nine years to revisit that level. Similarly, gold's 127% surge in 1979 was followed by a prolonged bear market. These examples illustrate that even after monumental gains, periods of consolidation and moderate price appreciation are common.

Despite its record rally, gold remains lightly held in the United States. Exchange-traded funds backed by gold account for just 0.17% of private US financial portfolios, according to a December analysis by Goldman Sachs. This figure remains six basis points below the 2012 peak. Goldman analysts estimate that each 0.01% increase in gold's share of US portfolios could lift prices by roughly 1.4%, highlighting the metal's potential for further upside if investor allocation grows.

Central bank purchases remain a major driver of gold prices. Goldman Sachs expects monthly acquisitions of around 80 tons in 2026. Central bank demand accelerated in 2022 after the immobilization of Russia's foreign exchange reserves underscored the appeal of bullion, a liquid asset that cannot be frozen. Thomas Roderick, portfolio manager at hedge fund Trium Capital LLP, emphasized that gold is one of the few assets al-

lowing investors to build wealth outside US influence. Roderick has slightly trimmed his position since October but maintains significant exposure.

A central component of Roderick's bullish thesis is China's continued accumulation of gold. The country's strategy involves using vast trade surpluses to acquire assets insulated from US geopolitical pressure. "China won't say 'gold is too expensive, let's accumulate more Treasuries,'" he explained. "That just doesn't work for them from a geopolitical perspective."

Looking ahead, gold's trajectory in 2026 will likely be shaped by a combination of structural and short-term factors. Low real interest rates, rising fiscal deficits, continued central bank buying, and geopolitical uncertainties provide long-term support. At the same time, market volatility, investor sentiment shifts, and global economic developments could drive short-term fluctuations. Even if gold does not replicate its 65% gain, its role as a hedge against currency debasement, inflation, and geopolitical risk remains compelling for investors worldwide.

In conclusion, while 2026 may not see a repeat of last year's historic rally, gold is expected to remain a key component of diversified portfolios. From central bank purchases to institutional adoption, from concerns over fiat currencies to China's strategic accumulation, the forces supporting bullion remain robust. For investors seeking protection against uncertainty and long-term wealth preservation, gold continues to offer a unique combination of safety, liquidity, and potential upside in a volatile global environment.

Techno Paints to Launch Rs 500 Crore IPO, Appoints Sachin Tendulkar as Brand Ambassador



Techno Paints and Chemicals is gearing up to raise Rs 500 crore through an initial public offering (IPO) in the next financial year, company sources confirmed on Saturday. The move comes as the paint manufacturer seeks to expand its presence nationwide and strengthen its market position.

In a major marketing boost, Techno Paints has appointed cricket legend and Bharat Ratna Sachin Tendulkar as its brand ambassador for the next three years. The company said the collaboration with the "Master Blaster" is expected to enhance its visibility and support its growth strategy across India.

"We are honoured to collaborate with one of the world's most iconic cricketers and a Bharat Ratna, Sachin Tendulkar. We are looking forward to achieving bigger and greater milestones this year with our expansion plans and the IPO. No one could have been a better ambassador or growth partner for us," said Akuri Srinivas Reddy, Chairman of Techno Paints and Chemicals.

This is the latest high-profile endorsement for Techno Paints, which had earlier appointed film actor Mahesh Babu as its brand ambassador for a two-year period starting in 2023. The addition of Tendulkar signals the company's ambition to strengthen its national footprint and connect with a

wider audience.

On the financial front, Techno Paints reported revenue of Rs 210 crore for 2024-25 and is expecting to nearly double that to Rs 450 crore in the current fiscal year. Looking ahead, the company has set an ambitious revenue target of Rs 2,000 crore by 2029-30.

Techno Paints manufactures a diverse range of decorative, industrial, and specialty paints, offering more than 3,000 shades of decorative products. Currently, the company operates in eight states and union territories, including Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Delhi, Odisha, and Chandigarh.

The company plans to expand further within India, entering Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, West Bengal, and Uttar Pradesh by the end of 2026. Beyond domestic growth, Techno Paints aims to enter the Middle Eastern market in the 2026-27 financial year, leveraging its expanded portfolio and brand visibility through Tendulkar's endorsement.

With the IPO, increased marketing initiatives, and strategic expansion plans, Techno Paints aims to position itself as one of India's leading paint manufacturers. The combination of a strong product portfolio, national and international growth plans, and high-profile brand ambassadors is expected to drive both market presence and investor interest in the coming years.

Asia's Technology Stocks Surge on AI Optimism and Strong Fundamentals



Asia's technology stocks have started 2026 with strong momentum, as investors bet that the region's tech sector will continue to outperform its US peers. Analysts point to rising demand for artificial intelligence (AI)-related products, solid earnings potential, and attractive valuations as key drivers behind the bullish sentiment.

Strategists at Goldman Sachs are overweight on Asian tech, citing further gains driven by AI adoption and reasonable valuations. Citigroup noted that global long-term investors are accumulating positions in Asia's technology firms, highlighting the region's central role in the semiconductor supply chain and its earnings potential.

The MSCI Asia Pacific Information Technology Index has climbed about 6% this year, outperforming the Nasdaq 100's 2% gain, reflecting a rotation toward Asia amid growing doubts over the sustainability of US tech's AI-driven rally. Strong corporate results are bolstering confidence: Samsung Electronics reported preliminary operating profit more than triple last year's, while Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. (TSMC) surpassed revenue expectations. Chinese AI firms also delivered impressive stock market debuts, further fueling optimism.

"This comes down to a shift in where investors see the best risk-reward," said Dilin Wu, research strategist at Pepperstone Group. "US tech is like a mature gold mine — already rich in value. Asian tech, on the other hand, is undervalued but fundamentally strong, rewarding those who recognize it."

Asian tech stocks trade at a forward

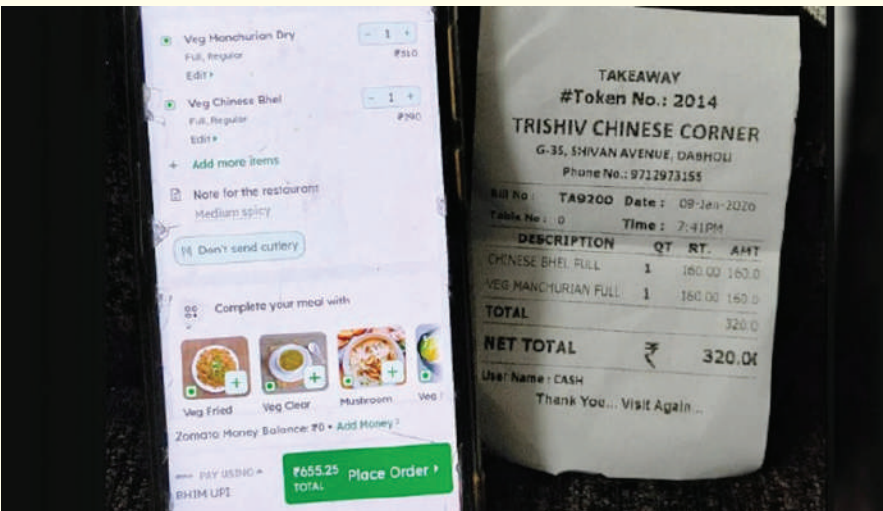
price-to-earnings ratio of 16.3 times, compared with roughly 25 times for the Nasdaq 100, even after outperforming the US index by 33 percentage points since the end of 2024. South Korea and Taiwan, Asia's two tech-heavy markets, are expected to see earnings-per-share growth of 79% and 36%, respectively, over the next year, compared with a forecast 28% for Nasdaq firms.

Key companies, including Samsung, TSMC, and SK Hynix, have gained between 8% and 16% this year, while Hong Kong-based Hua Hong Semiconductor surged more than 20%. Investors are also keeping an eye on upcoming TSMC full-year results, with several brokerages raising price targets amid expectations of improving profitability.

China remains a central focus, with enthusiasm driven by innovations such as DeepSeek's AI development paper, Kuaishou Technology's AI video editing model, and Beijing's self-sufficiency push. Earnings growth for China's tech megacaps is poised to surpass the US "Magnificent 7" for the first time since 2022. A growing pipeline of AI-related IPOs in Hong Kong and mainland China adds further upside potential.

"AI is a multi-year global growth driver, and North Asia's tech ecosystem — spanning hardware, software, and infrastructure — positions the region at the forefront of this trend," said Gary Tan, portfolio manager at Allspring Global Investments in Singapore. Analysts note, however, that geopolitical tensions, particularly in Taiwan, and any slowdown in global AI spending could pose risks to the sector.

Former YouTuber Flags Price Discrepancy on Zomato, Sparks Debate on Food Delivery Transparency



Former YouTuber Nalini Unagar has sparked an online debate after sharing her experience of what she described as excessive pricing on the food delivery platform Zomato. Taking to social media, Unagar highlighted a sharp difference between the actual cost of her food and the amount charged on the app, raising questions about transparency in third-party food delivery services.

According to Unagar, she ordered Veg Manchurian Dry and Chinese Bhel, items that should have cost ₹320 based on the restaurant's regular pricing. However, the bill generated on Zomato showed a total of ₹655. Even after applying available discounts, she said she was still required to pay ₹550. Expressing her frustration, Unagar termed the final amount "absolutely insane" and accused the platform of blatantly overcharging customers.

In her post, she directly tagged Zomato and demanded an explanation for the significant discrepancy.

"Customers are being overcharged openly," she wrote, urging the company to take responsibility and provide clarity on how such pricing differences occur.

Zomato responded to her post, stating that prices listed on the app are "solely determined by restaurant partners." The company clarified that it functions only as an intermediary between customers and restaurants and claimed it has no control over menu pricing. Zomato also said it would forward Unagar's feedback to the concerned restaurant.

However, the company's response did not end the discussion. Instead, it triggered further criticism from social media users who questioned Zomato's role in influencing prices. One user replied to Zomato's comment, arguing that if restaurants set the prices, the platform should be transparent about the commissions, advertising fees, and payment processing charges it collects from them.

The user pointed out that many restaurants increase menu prices on delivery apps not to make extra profit, but to offset the high fees charged by aggregators. "If Zomato calls itself just an intermediary, it still carries responsibility," the comment read, adding that the platform's business model directly affects pricing decisions.

Unagar's post has since resonated with many users, reigniting broader concerns about rising food delivery costs, inflated online menus, and a lack of clear pricing breakdowns. Several users shared similar experiences, questioning why food ordered online often costs significantly more than dine-in or direct takeaway prices.

The incident has once again brought attention to the growing demand for transparency in the food delivery ecosystem, as customers increasingly question who bears responsibility for higher prices—the restaurants, the platforms, or the system as a whole.

From Tragedy to Triumph: How Wang Xinyi Turned Disability into Opportunity for Others

Five years after a devastating car accident altered her life forever, a young Chinese woman has transformed personal tragedy into a mission of hope and empowerment, creating jobs for people with disabilities and inspiring thousands with her resilience. Wang Xinyi's remarkable journey has drawn widespread attention across China, with her story recently highlighted by the South China Morning Post.

Wang, now a well-known social media influencer, was just in her early twenties when a car crash in 2020 left her critically injured. The Porsche sports car, driven by a friend, crashed violently, resulting in Wang losing her left arm and left leg. Her injuries were severe—she suffered three cardiac arrests and underwent 14 surgeries to survive. As she fought for her life, she also faced emotional devastation. Her boyfriend left her during her recovery, and the friend who survived the crash stopped covering her medical expenses.

The physical and emotional recovery was long and painful. It took Wang nearly a year to fully accept her new reality.



Rather than allowing despair to define her future, she chose to see the accident as a turning point. She renamed herself "Yuu," meaning "right right," symbolising a fresh beginning and a conscious decision to move forward with strength and positivity.

Determined to prove that her disability did not diminish her abilities, Wang began rebuilding her life. In 2022, she launched a yoga wear brand and confidently modelled the clothing herself, challenging conventional

beauty and fitness standards. Her bold presence resonated with audiences and helped her regain confidence and independence.

In 2023, Wang took her mission further by opening a shoe-cleaning factory in Guangdong province, close to her hometown in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. The factory employs 10 people, half of whom are specially abled. Wang assigns tasks based on each employee's strengths rather than their limitations. A employee with brittle

bone disease handles shoe sorting and digital record-keeping, while a hearing-impaired worker operates noisy machinery. Another employee, who has polio, is entrusted with detailed cleaning work, valued for his patience and precision.

Wang firmly believes that disability does not define a person's potential. "Everyone has unique abilities," she has said, emphasising that people with disabilities simply need the right opportunities to thrive.

The factory now

cleans between 700 and 800 pairs of shoes each day and generates nearly 300,000 yuan in monthly revenue. Wang hopes to expand the business by opening a branch in her hometown so she can be closer to her parents, who stood by her throughout her recovery. Her efforts have received strong support from the Nanning Association of Professional Services for People with Disabilities.

Beyond entrepreneurship, Wang actively gives back to society. She volunteers as a public representative for the Federation of People with Disabilities and uses her growing influence—nearly 500,000 social media followers—to promote businesses run by disabled individuals and raise funds for medical causes. Recently, she helped raise 800,000 yuan for a 12-year-old girl battling leukemia, enabling the child to undergo a life-saving bone marrow transplant.

Today, Wang Xinyi's story stands as a powerful reminder that resilience, purpose, and compassion can turn even the deepest pain into a source of hope for others.

Bengaluru Resident Flags Worsening Traffic and Road Safety Concerns on Outer Ring Road

A long-time Bengaluru resident has raised serious concerns over deteriorating traffic conditions, poor road quality, and the lack of lane discipline on the city's busy Outer Ring Road (ORR), urging the government to take immediate and strict corrective measures. The resident, who has lived in the city all his life, said Bengaluru's infrastructure has seen a sharp decline in recent years, making daily commuting increasingly stressful and unsafe.

Expressing deep attachment to the city, he said he continues to love Bengaluru despite its growing challenges. However, he noted that issues such as worsening traffic congestion, declining air and water quality, and badly maintained roads have significantly affected the quality of life for residents. Among these, he stressed that road conditions and traffic management have become the most serious concerns.



The resident said he regularly travels the full stretch of the Outer Ring Road—from Silk Board to Mahadevapura—at least twice a week. What was once a manageable commute, he explained, has now turned into a frustrating and time-consuming journey due to relentless congestion and unpredictable traffic movement.

He added that he has

tried almost every mode of transport available in the city, including office cabs, buses, private cars, bikes, and even a combination of three metro lines. While each option comes with its own benefits, he pointed out that all of them ultimately face the same core problems on the road—poor infrastructure, lack of discipline, and constant traffic bottlenecks.

According to him, reckless driving and inconsistent lane usage significantly worsen congestion. He observed that buses and taxis frequently change lanes without warning, often creating sudden slowdowns and long traffic snarls. These abrupt movements, he said, make driving stressful for motorists and dangerous for two-wheeler riders.

The condition of the ORR itself, he noted, is equally alarming. Several stretches are uneven, damaged, or poorly maintained, posing serious risks—especially to those riding motorcycles. The resident explained that when riding his bike, he must remain constantly alert, not just to other vehicles but also to the road surface. Potholes, uneven patches, and loose gravel increase the risk of skidding, which could easily result in fatal accidents.

Calling for urgent action, the resident appealed to civic authorities and traffic officials to prioritise road repairs, enforce strict lane discipline, and improve overall traffic management on the ORR. He stressed that without immediate intervention, commuting on one of Bengaluru's most important arterial roads will continue to endanger lives and strain the city's already overburdened infrastructure.

Young Student in Inner Mongolia Wins Praise for Helping Classmates with Traditional Chinese Medicine



A young student in northern China has drawn widespread admiration for using his growing knowledge of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) to help his classmates. Zhao Tianyu, a Grade Three pupil at Kai-lu No. 1 Middle School in Tongliao, Inner Mongolia, has become known among students as a "little TCM doctor" for offering voluntary health advice during school breaks, according to a report by the South China Morning Post.

Zhao's interest in traditional Chinese medicine began three years ago when he accompanied his grandfather for medical treatment. Fascinated by the diagnostic methods and healing processes he observed, Zhao developed a strong curiosity about TCM. He soon began studying the subject independently, reading old TCM books at home and watching online courses to deepen his understanding.

His unusual skills first

attracted attention when he checked the pulse of a classmate sitting next to him in class. After a brief examination, Zhao correctly identified that the student frequently stayed up late and was experiencing weakness in the spleen and stomach. Impressed by the accuracy of his observations, the classmate shared the experience with others, and word quickly spread.

Soon, students from Zhao's own class and neighbouring classes began approaching him during breaks for advice. According to his teacher, Liu, many of these students were simply curious to see whether the young boy's assessments were reliable. "They had heard that there was a 'little TCM doctor' in our class and wanted to see for themselves," Liu said.

The feedback from both teachers and students has been overwhelmingly positive. Liu noted that Zhao Tianyu's preliminary diagnoses are often surprisingly accurate, in

some cases comparable to assessments made by doctors at hospitals. However, Zhao remains cautious and responsible in his approach. He consistently reminds his classmates that his observations are only preliminary and advises them to seek professional medical attention if they feel unwell.

Liu praised Zhao's maturity, saying that he displays a level of caution and responsibility that is rare for someone his age. Rather than presenting himself as an expert, Zhao understands his limitations and emphasises the importance of proper medical care.

Zhao's dedication to traditional Chinese medicine has earned him the respect and trust of both classmates and teachers. His willingness to help others, combined with his passion for learning, has made him a standout student at his school and an inspiring example of how curiosity and kindness can positively impact a community.

Sixteen Years Late: Nokia Phones Ordered in 2010 Finally Delivered in War-Torn Libya

In a bizarre yet deeply symbolic episode reflecting Libya's prolonged instability, a mobile phone dealer in Tripoli has finally received a shipment of Nokia mobile phones that were originally ordered in 2010—more than a decade and a half ago. The extraordinary delay was the result of the civil war that erupted in 2011 and the subsequent collapse of the country's logistics, customs systems, and basic infrastructure.

According to local accounts, the shipment remained stranded in storage facilities for nearly 16 years as armed conflict, political fragmentation, and widespread insecurity disrupted trade and transportation networks across the country. The forgotten consignment consisted entirely of button-based Nokia phones—models that once dominated the global market but have since been rendered technologically obsolete.

When the long-delayed package finally arrived



at the dealer's shop, the moment was met with disbelief and laughter. A video capturing the unboxing quickly circulated on social media, showing the shopkeeper laughing uncontrollably as he examined the devices. "Are these phones or historical artifacts?" he joked, highlighting the absurdity of receiving technology that belonged to a bygone era.

The shipment reportedly included premium models of the time, such

as music-edition phones and Nokia Communicators, which were once considered status symbols and cutting-edge devices. Today, however, they serve as reminders of how dramatically the mobile phone industry—and Libya itself—has changed over the past decade and a half.

Adding another layer of irony to the story, both the sender and the recipient of the shipment were based in Tripoli, just a few kilometres apart.

Despite the short distance, the package took 16 years to reach its destination, underscoring the scale of institutional collapse caused by years of conflict.

The viral video amused thousands online, with users reacting to both the humour and the underlying tragedy of the situation. Many commented on how prolonged conflict can severely disrupt everyday life and business operations, turning routine

transactions into extraordinary stories.

Some social media users also saw unexpected value in the long-forgotten devices. With a growing global interest in vintage technology, several suggested that the phones could fetch higher prices among collectors. "Looking at the current geopolitical situation, these phones are valuable—there's no tracking," one user wrote. Another commented, "These are trophies from a great lost era and probably worth more now."

Others were simply entertained by the unboxing itself. "I tried to stay serious, but the way they were pulling out the phones made me burst into laughter," one user said.

Beyond the humour, the episode stands as a striking reminder of how deeply conflict can distort time, commerce, and daily life—sometimes in ways that are as surreal as they are revealing.

Dewald Brevis and Keshav Maharaj Focus on SA20 Amid T20 World Cup 2026 Build-Up

South African young gun Dewald Brevis has said he remains unfazed by outside noise and is focused on enjoying his game ahead of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026. Currently featuring for Pretoria Capitals in the SA20 league, Brevis emphasized that whether he plays in domestic tournaments or on the global stage, the external chatter does not impact him.

"It's always outside noise, whether you play SA20 or the World Cup. At the end of the day, it stays a cricket game, it stays a white ball, and I'm just going to enjoy it and play the way I always play. It doesn't affect me," Brevis said. The 22-year-old expressed excitement about the upcoming T20 World Cup, set to begin on February 7, saying, "Everyone's form is building, but we focus on the now, which is the SA20. We're having fun here, and it's super excit-



ing for the World Cup around the corner."

Brevis made his T20I debut against Australia in Durban in August 2023. Since then, he has featured in 19 T20 internationals, scoring 469 runs at an impressive strike rate of 173.70, including one century and one half-century. His aggressive batting style and consistency have

made him a key prospect for South Africa heading into next year's global tournament in India and Sri Lanka.

Meanwhile, Pretoria Capitals captain and South African veteran Keshav Maharaj is also balancing domestic and international commitments ahead of the World Cup. Maharaj, a left-arm spinner with 40

T20I appearances, has taken 38 wickets at an average of 26.50 since debuting against Sri Lanka in Colombo in 2021. The 35-year-old, who leads South Africa's spin attack, said the SA20 is an excellent platform for match practice while preparing for the marquee event.

"Not to think too far ahead, but it's a wonderful

opportunity for us to get match practice under our belt. We've only played one series in India so far, so this is great preparation," Maharaj said. Discussing the nature of T20 cricket, he stressed the importance of trusting the process, adding, "Sometimes you go for runs, sometimes you pick up wickets, sometimes you're economical. You have to keep trusting your processes, keep working hard, and maintain a positive frame of mind."

With Brevis focusing on maintaining his form and Maharaj emphasizing preparation over pressure, South Africa aims to head into the T20 World Cup 2026 well-prepared. Both players reflect the team's strategy of blending youthful exuberance with experienced leadership, creating a balance that could prove decisive in the global tournament.

Mark Boucher Confident Virat Kohli Will Feature in 2027 ODI World Cup

Former South Africa cricketer Mark Boucher has expressed full confidence that India's batting stalwart Virat Kohli will play in the 2027 ODI World Cup, which will be co-hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Namibia next year. Speaking to ANI in Paarl, Boucher highlighted that Kohli's fitness is not a concern and that the decision to participate will rest entirely on the player's own desire.

"Virat is going to be there. There's no doubt in my mind," Boucher said. "He has stepped away from a couple of formats at the moment, but fitness is not an issue. It's simply about whether he wants to play. From what I see, I'm sure his mind is set on coming here and playing in another World Cup."

Boucher emphasized that India continues to rely on Kohli's vast experience, noting the void



left when senior players like Kohli and Rohit Sharma are absent. "We've seen in India, especially in Tests, that when Rohit and Virat are not there, it leaves a significant gap. For South Africa, the World Cup would be a better tournament if Virat is involved, and for India, it would be fantastic to

have him there."

Kohli, who retired from Test cricket and T20Is, has shown exceptional form in the 50-over format following a rough patch earlier this year. In October 2025, he registered two consecutive ducks in Australia, which sparked speculation over his cricketing future. However, he has since silenced critics with consist-

ent performances in both international and domestic 50-over cricket.

In his last six 50-over innings, comprising four ODIs and two Vijay Hazare Trophy (VHT) matches, Kohli has maintained an extraordinary record, scoring three centuries and three fifties without registering a single score below 50. His impressive

form was particularly evident during the three-match ODI series against South Africa in November-December, where he scored 135, 102, and an unbeaten 65*.

Boucher believes that Kohli's participation would not only strengthen India's World Cup prospects but also elevate the competition overall. "India needs him, and the tournament itself gains excitement when a player of his calibre participates," he added.

With the 2027 ODI World Cup set to be held in familiar South African conditions, fans and cricketing pundits alike will be watching closely to see Kohli in action once again. If the former captain continues his current 50-over form, his presence could prove crucial for India's title challenge, adding both experience and firepower to the squad.

Cricket Legend Rahul Dravid Turns 53: A Tribute to 'The Wall'



Former India captain and head coach Rahul Dravid celebrated his 53rd birthday on Sunday, earning tributes from fans and cricketing bodies worldwide. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) took to X to honour the batting great, who became a symbol of discipline, resilience, and technical mastery throughout his career.

Fondly nicknamed "The Wall," Dravid was renowned for his rock-solid defence, mental toughness, and ability to anchor innings under pressure. Beyond statistics, his impact on Indian cricket has been immense, both on the field and as a mentor to the next generation.

Dravid played 164 Test matches for India, amassing 13,388 runs at an average of 52.31, including 36 centuries and 63 half-centuries. His highest score of 270 highlights his ability to bat for extended periods in challenging conditions. He remains India's second-highest run-scorer in Tests and

ranks fourth overall globally.

In One Day Internationals (ODIs), Dravid featured in 344 games, scoring 10,889 runs at an average of 39.16, with 12 centuries and 83 fifties. His highest ODI score of 153 underscores his consistency across formats, making him India's fifth-highest run-getter in ODIs and tenth overall. He also represented India in a single T20 International, scoring 31 runs.

Dravid's presence extended to the Indian Premier League (IPL), where he played for Royal Challengers Bangalore (2008-2010) and Rajasthan Royals (2011-2013). In 89 IPL matches, he scored 2,174 runs at an average of 28.23, including 11 fifties, with a strike rate of 115.52.

After retiring, Dravid transitioned seamlessly into coaching, achieving remarkable success. As India's U19 head coach, he guided the team to the 2018 ICC U19 World Cup title and played a pivotal role in shaping emerging

stars such as Rishabh Pant, Shubman Gill, Ishan Kishan, Sarfaraz Khan, Arshdeep Singh, Abhishek Sharma, and Washington Sundar. As India's senior team coach, he led the side to the finals of the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) 2023 and the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023. Although India narrowly lost the World Cup final to Australia after a dominant 10-match winning streak, Dravid's mentorship was widely praised. Months later, India clinched the 2024 T20 World Cup in Barbados, marking a fitting celebration of his coaching acumen.

Beyond records and trophies, Dravid's legacy lies in his integrity, calm temperament, and commitment to nurturing talent. From his stellar performances as a batsman to his achievements as a coach, Rahul Dravid remains one of the most respected figures in world cricket, inspiring players and fans alike.

Liam Rosenior Praises Chelsea's "Outstanding" Start After 5-1 FA Cup Win



Chelsea manager Liam Rosenior described his team's 5-1 demolition of Charlton in the FA Cup third round as "outstanding," highlighting a strong start to his tenure at Stamford Bridge. Rosenior, who arrived from Strasbourg to replace Enzo Maresca last week, oversaw goals from Jorrel Hato, Tosin Adarabioyo, Marc Guiu, Pedro Neto, and Enzo Fernandez in a dominant display at The Valley on Saturday. The victory marked a perfect introduction for the 41-year-old boss, who is the latest in a line of high-profile managers at Chelsea following a turbulent period at the club.

Chelsea's former manager, Maresca, left after a challenging campaign reportedly affected by rifts with the club hierarchy. Rosenior now faces scrutiny from critics questioning whether he will be influenced by the club's power-brokers, given Chelsea and Strasbourg share the same ownership group. The former Hull manager, who was sacked by the Championship side in 2024, has already demonstrated his authority with a resounding win over Charlton, who sit 19th in the Championship, avoiding any risk of an up-

set in his first match.

"A good start, professional. I thought our first goal came at an important time, a brilliant strike from Jorrel. The quality of my players was outstanding. Strong start, something to build on," Rosenior said. He praised individual performances, singling out Marc Guiu for a "magnificent" display that earned him a goal. Rosenior emphasized that while the victory was encouraging, there was no reason to become complacent.

Chelsea have experienced frequent managerial changes since Todd Boehly's consortium took over, with Thomas Tuchel, Mauricio Pochettino, Graham Potter, and Maresca all unable to last long in charge. Rosenior, however, became the first Chelsea manager since Antonio Conte in 2016 to win his debut match, a milestone after nine previous permanent and caretaker bosses failed to do so.

Looking ahead, Rosenior and Chelsea face a sterner test in the League Cup semi-final first leg against Premier League leaders Arsenal on Wednesday. "The lads have been really receptive, and I thank them for that. If we keep working in this way, I'm excited for the future," Rosenior said. "Just a small game next on Wednesday!"

The emphatic victory, coupled with Rosenior's positive start, provides a sense of optimism at Chelsea as the club looks to stabilize and regain consistency under a new managerial era.

Sanju Samson Takes Batting Tips from Yuvraj Singh Ahead of T20 World Cup 2026



A video featuring India's wicket-keeper-batter Sanju Samson seeking batting advice from legendary all-rounder Yuvraj Singh is currently making waves on social media. In the clip, Samson can be seen standing attentively as Yuvraj shares his tips, highlighting the continuing role of senior cricketers in mentoring the next generation. Yuvraj has previously guided stars like Shubman Gill and Abhishek Sharma, helping Gill become India's ODI and Test captain and Abhishek establish himself as a dynamic T20I opener.

Samson has earned his place in India's squad for the 2026 T20 World Cup after a string of consistent performances at the international level, coupled with renewed confidence in his abilities. He will open the batting alongside Abhishek Sharma, forming a promising top-order partnership. Ishan Kishan has also been included as the second wicketkeeper option, returning to the side following a spectacular Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT) 2025-26 season. Kishan was instrumental in leading Jharkhand to their first-ever SMAT title, scoring 517 runs in 10 innings at an average of 57.44, including two centuries and two fifties, with a strike rate above 197.

Rinku Singh has also made a comeback to strengthen India's batting depth, providing additional firepower at the top and middle order. The squad boasts a strong core

of all-rounders and specialists to handle different conditions. Pace all-rounders Hardik Pandya and Shivam Dube, along with spin all-rounders Axar Patel and Washington Sundar, bring balance and versatility. Kuldeep Yadav and Varun Chakravarthy are India's primary spinners, while Jasprit Bumrah leads a potent pace attack alongside Arshdeep Singh and Harshit Rana.

Under Suryakumar Yadav's captaincy, India is placed in Group A of the T20 World Cup 2026, alongside Namibia, the Netherlands, Pakistan, and the United States. The team will kick off its campaign against the USA on February 7 in Mumbai.

The full squad for the T20 World Cup 2026 and the upcoming New Zealand T20I series includes: Suryakumar Yadav (captain), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (wicketkeeper), Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel (vice-captain), Rinku Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, Harshit Rana, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav, Varun Chakravarthy, Washington Sundar, and Ishan Kishan (wicketkeeper).

With the squad finalized and young players like Samson seeking guidance from experienced campaigners such as Yuvraj Singh, India aims to combine mentorship, experience, and talent to make a strong challenge in the 2026 T20 World Cup.

India Clinches Thrilling Victory in First ODI Against New Zealand



India began its three-match One Day International (ODI) series against New Zealand with an impressive four-wicket win at the BCA Stadium in Vadodara on Sunday. Chasing a challenging target of 301, India secured the victory with six balls to spare, taking an early 1 0 lead in the series.

Winning the toss, Indian skipper Shubman Gill chose to bowl first, aiming to capitalize on favorable conditions. India's bowlers restricted New Zealand to 300 for 8 in their allotted 50 overs. Openers Devon Conway and Henry Nicholls laid a strong foundation with steady partnerships, while Daryl Mitchell led the scoring with 84 runs. The Indian bowling attack, led by Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, and Harshit Rana, played a crucial role in containing the opposition's batting lineup.

In the run chase, India started steadily with Shubman Gill and Virat Kohli building a vital partnership. Kohli was the star of the innings, scoring a brilliant 93 off 91 balls, including eight fours and one six, guiding India through a tricky phase of the chase. His performance earned him the Player of the Match award and proved decisive in maintaining India's momentum.

Supporting Kohli were Shreyas Iyer, who contributed 49 runs, and

Shubman Gill with 56, providing stability at the top. The lower order, led by KL Rahul who remained unbeaten on 29, and a composed contribution from Harshit Rana, ensured India crossed the finish line comfortably in the 49th over.

The match was a display of India's balanced team effort, combining effective bowling with strong batting depth. It also highlighted the competitiveness of both sides, making for a thrilling contest. Senior Indian players achieved personal milestones during the match, with Rohit Sharma notably becoming the first player in the world to hit 650 international sixes, further cementing his status as one of the modern greats of the game.

The first ODI win has given India a strong start to the series, putting pressure on New Zealand as they prepare for the second ODI in Rajkot later this week. India will aim to maintain momentum and continue their dominance, while New Zealand looks to bounce back and level the series.

Overall, the opener showcased India's resilience and skill under pressure, setting the tone for an exciting ODI series. Fans will be eagerly watching to see whether India can continue their winning form and assert control over the series.



CBFC Clears Ravi Teja’s ‘Bhartha Mahasayulaku Wignyapthi’ with U/A Certificate



Good news for Telugu cinema fans as the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has officially cleared Ravi Teja’s upcoming film Bhartha Mahasayulaku Wignyapthi for theatrical release with a U/A certificate. With the censor formalities now completed, the film is all set to reach audiences during the festive Sankranthi season.

Directed by Kishore Tirumala, the film is positioned as a wholesome entertainer that blends action, comedy, and emotion—elements that align well with Ravi Teja’s signature mass appeal. The U/A certification indicates that the film is suitable for family audiences, with parental guidance advised for younger viewers, making it an ideal festive release.

The film stars Aashika Ranganath and Dimple

Hayathi as the female leads. Dimple Hayathi’s character, Balamani, is said to bring freshness and energy to the narrative, while the supporting cast includes well-known actors such as Sunil, Satya, Vennela Kishore, Sudhakar, and Muralidhar, adding strong comic and emotional depth to the storyline.

Music for the film is composed by Bheems Ceciroleo, whose songs and background score have already generated positive buzz. The technical team also features Prasad Murella as the cinematographer and Sreekar Prasad as the editor, ensuring high production values and a polished cinematic experience.

Since its announcement, Bhartha Mahasayulaku Wignyapthi has attracted attention for its intriguing title and

Ravi Teja’s energetic presence. Promotional material released so far has heightened expectations, especially among fans eager to see the Mass Maharaja return in a full-fledged entertainer.

With Sankranthi being one of the biggest release windows in Telugu cinema, the film is expected to benefit from the festive holiday crowds. The makers are confident that the combination of Ravi Teja’s screen charisma, relatable storytelling, and clean entertainment will strike a chord with audiences across age groups.

As the release date approaches, anticipation continues to build for Bhartha Mahasayulaku Wignyapthi, which promises to deliver laughter, emotions, and mass entertainment on the big screen.

Vijay’s Jana Nayagan Faces Censor Delays — ‘Theri’ to Re-Release for Sankranthi



In a surprising turn of events, the much-anticipated Tamil action drama Jana Nayagan, starring Thalapathy Vijay, has encountered a major hurdle with the censor certification process just days before its planned theatrical release, impacting its Sankranthi launch. The film, which many considered Vijay’s final cinematic outing before his full-time entry into politics, was scheduled for a January 9 release but has now been postponed due to delays in securing a censor certificate from the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). The certification complications emerged after a complaint and subsequent referral to a revising committee, despite the producers completing suggested changes and re-submitting the film for approval. This unexpected situation prompted the team to seek judicial in-

tervention, and multiple hearings are ongoing as they await a final decision on the matter.

The postponement has left fans disappointed, with many expressing their frustration across social media and in fan circles, given the emotional significance attached to Jana Nayagan as a potential farewell project for Vijay. The delay has also sparked broader conversations within the industry about the film certification process and its impact on major releases during key festival windows.

To ensure audiences still get a festive cinematic experience featuring Vijay, producer Kalaipuli S. Thanu announced that the blockbuster hit Theri will be re-released in theatres worldwide on January 15. Originally released in 2016, Theri marked a significant milestone in Vijay’s ca-

reer, showcasing his dual role performance in a high-energy action thriller. The re-release is timed to coincide with the Sankranthi and Pongal celebrations, giving fans another opportunity to relive the excitement of the film on the big screen.

This strategic move has brought cheer to many supporters who were disappointed by the Jana Nayagan delay, as Theri remains a beloved favourite among audiences. The re-release also highlights the enduring popularity of Vijay’s earlier work and offers a festive alternative while Jana Nayagan navigates its certification challenges.

As the censor and legal discussions continue, both fans and industry watchers are closely monitoring developments, hopeful that Jana Nayagan will eventually secure clearance and find its way to screens soon.

Allu Arjun’s Emotional Birthday Wish for Director Sukumar Wins Hearts

Tollywood superstar Allu Arjun won hearts on social media with a deeply emotional birthday message for acclaimed filmmaker Sukumar, highlighting their long-standing creative bond and personal friendship. The actor’s heartfelt post quickly went viral, drawing warm reactions from fans and film industry members alike.

In his message, Allu Arjun described Sukumar’s birthday as “more special for me than for you,” expressing profound gratitude for the director’s influence on his life and career. He wrote that words were insufficient to describe how important Sukumar is to him and ended his note with an affectionate line thanking the filmmaker for being born. The sincerity and simplicity of the message struck a chord with audiences.

The actor-director duo shares one of the most celebrated partnerships in Telugu cinema. Their collaboration began early in Allu Arjun’s career

and has delivered several memorable films that shaped his stardom. Over the years, their association has evolved into a powerful creative alliance, culminating in nationwide blockbusters that redefined commercial success in Indian cinema.

Industry insiders often credit Sukumar for bringing out a unique intensity and depth in Allu Arjun’s performances, while the actor has consistently trusted the director’s vision, even when it involved challenging or unconventional storytelling. Their mutual respect and understanding have been key factors behind the success of their films.

The birthday tribute also served as a reminder of Sukumar’s contribution to Telugu cinema as a filmmaker known for strong characterizations, layered narratives, and emotional depth. His ability to blend realism with mass appeal has earned him



Happy Birthday, darling. It’s a special day for me... more than for you... because this day changed my life. No amount of wishes can convey the joy of having you in my life. #HBDsukumar Puttinandhuku thanks!!! ❤️ (Copyrights @pnaveed26)



critical acclaim and a loyal fan following.

Fans flooded social media with messages celebrating both Allu Arjun and Sukumar, calling their bond inspirational and expressing hope for more collabora-

tions in the future. Many described the post as a rare glimpse into the personal side of a superstar, appreciating the humility and gratitude expressed by the actor.

As both Allu Arjun and Sukumar continue

to work on ambitious projects, their enduring partnership remains one of the most admired relationships in the industry—built not just on box-office success, but on trust, respect, and genuine affection.

Meenakshi Chaudhary Promises Laughter and Fun in ‘Anaganaga Oka Raju’ This Sankranthi



Sankranthi 2026 is set to treat moviegoers with a fresh dose of entertainment as Anaganaga

Oka Raju gears up for its theatrical release on January 14. Starring the ever-popular Naveen

Polishetty and Meenakshi Chaudhary, the film promises to be a complete festive entertainer. Produced by Suryadevara Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya under Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas, and presented by Srikara Studios, the film marks the directorial debut of Mari, with music composed by Mickey J Meyer.

From the outset, the promotional material for Anaganaga Oka Raju has caught the audience’s attention with its refreshing vibe and energetic tone. Following three consecutive blockbusters from Naveen Polishetty, expectations are high, and the recently released trailer has further amplified the excitement.

Speaking to the media, heroine Meenakshi Chaudhary shared her experiences and insights into the film. She plays Charulatha, a pam-

pered girl from a wealthy family, described as innocent, sensitive, and soft-hearted. “My character is completely different from who I am in real life,” Meenakshi revealed. “I’m practical, whereas Charulatha is very emotional. Playing a full-fledged comedy role has been both challenging and exciting.”

Meenakshi highlighted the significance of her comic timing in the film, noting, “Comedy is very tough. Delivering punch dialogues at the right moment requires precision, and this film gave me the perfect opportunity to explore that.” She also praised working with Naveen Polishetty, saying, “Working with Naveen feels like being in a film school. His rhythm in comedy is unique, and it pushed me to bring my best.”

The actress shared delightful experiences from shooting in the Godavari

region, enjoying local cuisine, temple visits, and the warm hospitality of the people. She also spoke about her mass dance numbers like Bhimavaram Balma and Raju Gari Pelliro, describing the shoots as fun and enjoyable.

On her choice of roles, Meenakshi emphasized the importance of the story and character depth over star power. She has previously played diverse roles, from an IPS officer in Sankranthiki Vastunnam to a mother in Lucky Bhaskar, and believes Anaganaga Oka Raju showcases a new dimension of her acting.

With this film, Meenakshi Chaudhary looks poised to charm audiences with her impeccable comic timing and lively performance, making Anaganaga Oka Raju one of the most anticipated releases of this Sankranthi season.

Sharwanand’s ‘Nari Nari Naduma Murari’ Trailer Promises Wholesome Family Entertainment

The trailer of Sharwanand’s upcoming Telugu entertainer Nari Nari Naduma Murari has been unveiled, setting the stage for a laughter-filled festive release this Sankranthi. Packed with humor, emotions, and relatable family moments, the trailer has received a positive response from audiences and film lovers alike.



Directed by Ram Abbaraju, the film is presented as a feel-good family entertainer that revolves around relationships, misunderstandings, and comic situations. The trailer showcases Sharwanand in a light-hearted role, caught between past and present relationships, leading to a series of amusing and emotionally engaging moments. His comic timing and expressive performance stand out, promising a refreshing change from intense roles.

The film features Samyuktha Menon and Sakshi Vaidya as the female leads, both of whom play pivotal roles in driving the narrative forward. Their chemistry with Sharwanand adds charm and depth to

the storyline. Supporting actors like Vennela Kishore, Sunil, Naresh Vijay Krishna, and Sampath Raj add strong comedic and emotional layers, making the film appealing to audiences of all age groups.

Produced by Anil Sunkara and Ramabrahmam Sunkara, Nari Nari Naduma Murari is designed as a complete family package, blending romance, comedy, and sentiment—elements that traditionally work well during the Sankranthi festival season. The makers have focused on clean humor and situational comedy, steering clear of loud or forced gags. The music, composed by Vishal Chandrasekar, complements the film’s tone, while the visuals and

background score elevate the emotional beats showcased in the trailer. The technical values appear polished, hinting at a well-crafted cinematic experience.

With Sankranthi being one of the biggest release windows in Telugu cinema, expectations are high for Nari Nari Naduma Murari. The trailer has successfully generated curiosity and excitement, positioning the film as a strong contender for audiences looking for wholesome entertainment to enjoy with family.

The film is scheduled for a theatrical release on January 14, 2026, and is expected to draw crowds seeking festive fun, laughter, and heartfelt moments on the big screen.

Telugu Film ‘Sindhuri’ Launched, Shooting Begins in Hyderabad



The much-anticipated Telugu film Sindhuri officially went on floors today with a traditional pooja ceremony in Hyderabad. The film is being produced by Kishore Babu and Leela Reddy under their banners, with CK directing the project and Narala Nagawara Rao contributing as the writer. Jay Babu is on board as the executive producer.

Starring Eshwar as the male lead and Aishwarya as the heroine, Sindhuri is set to have an intense 90-day non-stop shooting schedule across various locations in and around Hyderabad. The film is described as a heartfelt love story. Eshwar plays Govindu, a young man who has been in love with a girl named Sindhuri since childhood. The narrative explores the challenges he faces because of his deep affection for her. The story also introduces another girl who has feelings for

him, and the plot delves into the emotional and romantic dilemmas that follow. The central question is whether the young lovers overcome the obstacles in their path and how their relationships finally unfold.

Director CK promises a visually appealing and engaging narrative, while the team aims to capture the nuances of youthful romance and the emotional intensity of love tested by circumstances. With strong performances expected from the lead pair and a compelling story, Sindhuri is already generating buzz among Telugu cinema audiences.

The launch marks the beginning of what promises to be a vibrant and romantic cinematic journey, and the team is optimistic about completing the shooting within the planned schedule, aiming for a smooth production process in the coming months.