



# Deputy CM Unveils Telangana's Ten-Year Power Expansion Plan

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Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka unveiled Telangana's crucial ten-year power capacity expansion plan (FY25-FY35), positioning electricity as the primary backbone for the state's economic prosperity and job creation across all sectors, including industries, services, AI/data infrastructure, and modern agriculture. Telangana exhibits one of the highest

growth rates in electricity demand nationwide, with an estimated 9.77% Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) over the past decade, and peak demand is projected to double in the next ten years. The state's own bottom-up assessments indicate an 8.5% annual growth, surpassing the national CEA forecasts due to factors like urbanization, data centers, EVs, and irrigation needs. To achieve the ambitious goal of a \$3 trillion GDP by 2047, which demands 13% economic growth,

the state requires a 10% annual increase in electricity demand, ultimately leading to an eightfold surge in peak power demand by 2047. The plan emphasizes the necessity of massive capacity expansion for reliable supply and economic stability. Green Energy, specifically Solar, Wind, and Hydro power, forms a core pillar of this strategy, aiming to drastically cut reliance on fossil fuels, reduce long-term costs, and ensure climate resilience. The Deputy CM warned that non-compliance with

national RPO norms, mandated by India's Paris Agreement commitments, will soon attract penalties as per the Ministry of Power's notifications. Therefore, Telangana must accelerate renewable energy procurement (requiring a three-year lead time) and rapidly deploy Energy Storage solutions—both BES and Pumped Storage Projects (PSPs)—to ensure Round-the-Clock (RTC) power and prevent wastage of cheap solar energy. Despite the focus on renewables, Thermal Power re-

mains indispensable for grid stability and base-load; the lack of it poses a risk of catastrophic blackouts, similar to the Spain-Portugal incident, which could cost Telangana an estimated 1,500-2,000 crore daily. To safeguard the grid, the state must add 5,000-6,000 MW of thermal capacity, making the Ramagundam Thermal power plant strategically vital. Furthermore, the state plans to utilize its significant 25 GW wind potential (at 120-meter hub height) to diversify its future energy mix.

## 'iBomma' Piracy Case Accused Reveals Full Name, Tech Details

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The individual arrested in the notorious 'iBomma' film piracy case, Imdani Ravvi, revealed the full meaning behind the site's name as 'Internet Bomma.' He explained to the police that the word 'Bomma' is a regional term used in Visakhapatnam to refer to a movie. During his second phase of police custody, which concluded today, Ravi provided crucial information over three days of questioning. He disclosed that he had initially planned to name another website "Balapam," but a technical issue during the domain registration process forced him to re-

move the letter 'L', which resulted in the name being changed to 'Bappam.' Ravi also provided investigators with detailed insights into the advanced technology employed in the piracy operations. Furthermore, he admitted to the police that all the films he uploaded to the 'iBomma' platform were sourced from various Telegram channels. Following the completion of his custody period, the accused was presented before the court, bringing the investigation closer to understanding the scope and technical mechanics of the illegal streaming network.

## KTR Defends KCR's Strategic Absence Amidst Political Scrutiny

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TRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) mounted a staunch defense of former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao (KCR) against critics who question his year-and-a-half-long relative silence and public absence, firmly stating that KCR's deliberate timing is a sign of his political mastery. KTR asserted that whether KCR speaks or remains silent, he consistently remains a "sensation." He highlighted KCR's political instinct, emphasizing that the former CM knows exactly "when to launch a counter-attack

and when to strategically retreat." KTR pointed to KCR's history, noting that whenever rivals assumed his political career was over, he would successfully

# Talasani Yadav Credits KCR, Slams Congress For Renaming Schemes

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Former Minister and BRS MLA Talasani Srinivas Yadav, speaking at the Deeksha Diwas event at Telangana Bhavan, vigorously defended KCR's legacy and attacked the ruling Congress party for its governance and political conduct. Talasani asserted that the achievement of a separate Telangana state was a historical feat, tracing the movement back to 1969 and crediting the formation of the state to the TRS party's struggle under KCR's committed leadership in 2001. He emphasized KCR's sincerity and determination in fighting for "water, funds, and jobs" and forcing the central government's hand. Talasani directly challenged the current Congress leadership, claiming that their posts and power are a "gift" (Bhiksha) from KCR. He questioned the



integrity of Congress leaders who now occupy the magnificent new Secretariat, Command Control Centre, and Pragathi Bhavan, all constructed by the KCR government. He highlighted KCR's commitment to social justice by citing the installation

of the 125-foot statue of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. The former Minister strongly criticized the Congress for what he termed a practice of renaming successful BRS-era welfare programs, specifically mentioning that the Annapurna Centers were c

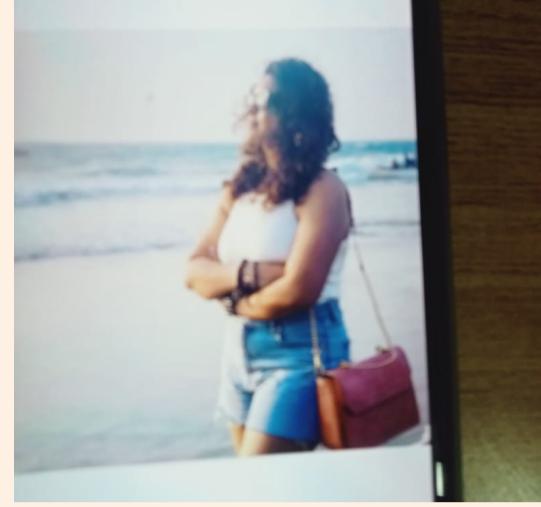
hanged to Indira Canteens, and the distribution of Bathukamma Sarees was rebranded as Indira Sarees. Talasani accused the Congress party of gaining power through "deceitful words and misleading promises" and asserted that in its

two years of governance, the party has engaged in abuse of power and failed on all fronts. He concluded that KCR's achievements constitute a crucial part of history and that the people are already wishing for his return to power.

## Hyderabad Doctor Cheated Of 14 Crore In Facebook Investment Scam

TPN Bureau | Nov 29, 2025

A doctor residing in Erragadda, Hyderabad, became the victim of a sophisticated cybercrime, losing a massive sum of 14 crore after being lured into an investment scheme initiated through Facebook. The fraud began when the doctor accepted a friend request from an unfamiliar profile using a woman's name, who introduced herself as "Vido." She successfully built trust and convinced the doctor to invest in her supposed CNC company, promising exceptionally high, double returns. The doctor started investing in September and, critically, his trust was solidified when he was able to successfully withdraw a small profit of 86,000. Believing the scheme was genuine, he invested his entire savings and even mortgaged his properties over time, accumulating the total loss of 14 crore. When



the doctor attempted to withdraw a larger sum, the cybercriminals suddenly demanded he pay substantial amounts in taxes, prompting him to realize he had been cheated. He immediately filed a complaint with the Cyber Security Bureau, which discovered that the entire 14 crore had been routed into various "mule accounts." Authorities were only able to freeze a small fraction of the funds, totaling 1.20 crore. The Cyber Security Bureau issued a stern warning to the

## BJP Challenges Minister Uttam Reddy, Alleges 6.29 Lakh Crore HILT Land Scam

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In opposition MLA launched a fierce attack on Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy and the Congress government, accusing them of orchestrating a 6.29 lakh crore land scam through the controversial Hyderabad Industrial Land Transformation (HILT) Policy, but on a much larger scale, labeling the Congress as the "Anaconda of Corruption." The MLA further alleged that the HILT Policy is an "Insider Trading Scam" and a "Quid Pro Quo Scam," claiming the move was pre-planned by CM Revanth Reddy's "gang" who struck agreements with land owners beforehand. He sensationally claimed that the scam proceeds are being shared, with a large portion going to CM Revanth Reddy, the "Dushta Chatuhtayam" (four Cabinet Sub-Committee Ministers), and even Congress high command leaders like Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi. He criticized the rationale of relocating industries due to pollution, demanding that CM Revanth Reddy and the Ministers resign if he succeeds.



know where they are being relocated and why the government is allowing residential construction in potentially contaminated zones without an Environmental Study Report. He demanded that the government immediately convene the Assembly to debate the policy and cancel GO-27. Concluding his challenge, the MLA offered to resign his seat and retire from politics if he fails to prove the HILT Policy is a scam, demanding that CM Revanth Reddy and the Ministers resign if he succeeds.

## Speculation Rises Over Imminent Telangana Cabinet Reshuffle

TPN Bureau | Nov 29, 2025

Speculation is running high regarding an imminent cabinet reshuffle in Telangana, anticipated to take place within the next week to ten days, with expectations that four or five current ministers may be dropped. Reports suggest several significant changes are being contemplated to balance political equations and redistribute key roles. Komati Reddy Venkata Reddy might be elevated to a position within the AICC (All India Congress Committee) at the national level. If this happens, Mahesh Kumar Goud is slated to take his place in the cabinet. Simultaneously, there is a possibility that Ponnappa Prabhakar could

be shifted to an AICC General Secretary role. In another key consideration, Minister Sridhar Babu is being considered for the crucial position of PCC Chief (Pradesh Congress Committee President) for the state, with the possibility of him also being offered the sensitive Home Minister portfolio. This significant restructuring effort is seen as the government's move to solidify its governance team, reward loyalty, and optimize the leadership structure ahead of future political challenges.

# Minister Tummala Directs World-Class Vision for Telangana Agriculture 2047

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2025

Minister for Agriculture, Marketing, Handlooms & Textiles, Shri Tummala Nageswara Rao, held a high-level meeting with officials to finalize the "Telangana Agriculture - 2047 Agri-Chapter" which is a key component of the state's overarching Vision Document 2047, set to be unveiled during the Global Summit in December. The Minister stressed that the report must be designed to elevate the state's agricultural sector to a world-class standard by 2047, aligning with the government's ambitious goal of making Telangana a \$3 trillion economy.

Minister Tummala emphasized that the new government has already demonstrated its priority for the sector through measures like allocating a major share of the budget and implementing the Rythu Bharosa scheme (12,000 per acre investment support) and debt waiver. During the meeting, he issued crucial directives to the experts from Agriculture, Horticulture, Research, and Marketing institutions. He mandated that the Agri-Chapter must focus on farmer-centric planning, significantly boosting farmer incomes, emphasizing quality in productivity, and widespread application of technology in farm-



## Minister Reviews Central Projects in Warangal: Focus on Tourism, Airport, and Textiles

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A state minister (name not explicitly mentioned, but implies a key minister overseeing development) held a series of meetings with officials from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation (GWMC), and the Ministry of Textiles at Haritha Plaza in Warangal today. Following these crucial reviews, the Minister also visited the Railway Manufacturing Unit (RMU) site in Kazipet.

The primary focus of the review was to assess the progress of major central government-supported development works aimed at boosting Warangal's economy and infrastructure. Key projects under re-



view included the enhancement of tourism infrastructure around the Bhadrakali Temple, the status of land acquisition for the long-pending Mamnoor Airport project, the development pace of the massive Kakatiya Mega

Textile Park, and the progress of the proposed Railway Manufacturing Unit (RMU). The Minister also issued direct instructions to the relevant officials to prioritize the beautification works at the historic Thousand Pillar

Temple and to take immediate measures to expedite the completion of all ongoing projects.

The meeting signifies the government's commitment to unlocking Warangal's potential as a major hub for tourism, aerospace logistics, and large-scale industrial textile production, ensuring that all central and state projects are executed efficiently and without delay to benefit the region's development.

## Telangana Government Releases 707.30 Crore to Clear Pending Employee Bills

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Fulfilling its commitment to employee unions, the People's Government, under the direction of Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, has issued orders for the release of 707.30 crore to clear pending employee bills for the month of November. This action follows a consistent policy of releasing over 700 crore every month to systematically clear accumulated dues, a promise made to the employee organizations.

The Finance Department officials, acting swiftly on the Deputy Chief Minister's instructions, released this substantial amount on Saturday. With the successful clearance of the November bills, the state government has now cleared employee dues for four consecutive months, adhering strictly to its pre-election and post-election assurances. The cleared bills encompass various critical employee entitlements, including gratuity, General Provident Fund (GPF) withdrawals, surrender leave payments, and different types of advances. This consistent and timely release of funds is aimed at improving the financial security and morale of the state government employees. The government emphasized that this action is part of its commitment to transparent governance and restoring financial discipline, ensuring that employee retirement benefits and accumulated dues are settled promptly, thereby providing much-needed relief and stability to thousands of employee families across the state.



## Doctor Himaja Defends VC Nandakumar Reddy Amidst Resignation Controversy

TPN Bureau | Nov 29, 2025

Dr. Himaja, the student at the center of the controversy that led to the resignation of Kaloji Narayana Rao University (KNUHS) Vice-Chancellor (VC) Nandakumar Reddy, publicly defended the former VC today.

Speaking in front of the University VC office at the DME premises in Koti, Hyderabad, Dr. Himaja stated that she had performed well in all her PG final year examination papers. She alleged that

her answer sheets were deliberately struck out with a pen as part of a conspiracy to fail her.

Dr. Himaja recounted that when she filed a complaint regarding the discrepancy, VC Nandakumar Reddy responded positively by forming an enquiry committee and ensured that she received justice. She expressed her distress that the VC, who had intervened to provide her justice, is now embroiled in a controversy leading to his resignation. Dr.

Himaja categorically stated that no irregularities occurred in her case. To prove the truth of her claim and to clear the VC's name, she challenged the authorities to send her answer sheets to a Forensic Lab, asserting that this would reveal the actual facts. Her statement strongly suggests that the allegations of marks manipulation against the VC are unfounded and that the VC's actions were merely an attempt to right a wrong done to her.

## Minister Seethakka Counters BRS 'Deeksha Diwas,' Calls It a 'Drama'



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Minister Seethakka countered the BRS party's planned 'Deeksha Diwas' during a press meet in Nampally, dismissing the ten-day event as a "drama" designed to deceive the public and destabilize the ruling party. Seethakka pointed out the hypocrisy of the BRS, stating that while they were in power, they limited their 'Deeksha Diwas' to just one day because they had very little development to showcase over their ten-year tenure. She sarcastically questioned the necessity of extending the

event to ten days now that they are out of power, suggesting it is a desperate attempt to gain relevance. The Minister challenged the BRS leaders to use their extended 'Deeksha Diwas' to explain to the public what development they truly achieved in their decade of rule. In contrast, she asserted that the Congress government is organizing its own ten-day program to explain its two years of success and achievements to the people. Seethakka accused the BRS of staging their drama with the intent of sabotaging the Congress party's success celebrations. She commented that the secret of KCR's original fast is known only to the lime juice that broke it and reiterated that the KCR family benefited hundreds of times over after the formation of Telangana. She warned that the BRS, though stripped of power, still possesses vast wealth acquired through alleged misappropriation and would use it to fund such political theatrics. She concluded that the people of Telangana would not be fooled by the BRS's political dramas.

# Gram Panchayat Nominations Concluded For First Phase

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The stipulated deadline for the submission of nomination papers for the initial phase of the crucial Gram Panchayat elections in Telangana has officially concluded, registering a highly encouraging level of participation across several key districts. Reports from various mandals indicated a palpable rush, with a significant number of aspiring candidates forming long queues to file their applications, a clear sign of robust and widespread grassroots democratic engagement. The initial phase saw keen competition particularly for the primary local body posts of Sarpanch and Ward

Member, reflecting the intense political interest and community desire for local leadership. Detailed statistics released following the close of the deadline revealed the extent of this democratic mobilization: in Sangareddy District, seven mandals saw a competitive field emerge, with 305 nominations filed for the 136 Gram Panchayat Sarpanch positions, and 912 individuals submitting nominations for the 1,246 available Ward Member seats. Similarly, Medak District recorded notable participation across six mandals encompassing 160 Gram Panchayats, where 207 nominations were received for the Sarpanch posts, alongside 190 nominations for the

1,402 Ward Member positions, indicating a varying ratio of contestants per post. The trend of strong democratic interest was equally evident in Siddipet District, where seven mandals covering 163 Gram Panchayats registered 325 Sarpanch nominations and a competitive count of 520 nominations for the 1,432 Ward Member seats. These substantial figures collectively underscore the vibrancy of the rural local body elections, illustrating that candidates hailing from diverse professional, social, and economic backgrounds are determinedly finalizing their submissions to contest the local seats of power. This enthusiasm at the grassroots level

suggests a healthy competitive environment and a strong political temperature across the rural landscape of Telangana. With the filing process now complete, the electoral machinery is shifting focus to the next critical stages of the democratic process. These crucial subsequent steps will involve the rigorous scrutiny of all submitted nominations to verify eligibility, followed by the designated period for the voluntary withdrawal of candidatures. These procedures will ultimately determine the definitive and final list of candidates who will be officially contesting the upcoming local body elections, setting the stage for the voting day itself.

# Sub-Inspector Takes Voluntary Retirement To Contest Sarpanch Election

TPN Bureau | Nov 29,

2025, Pulivarthe Venkatesh warlu, who was diligently serving as the Sub-Inspector (SI) of Police in Kodad, has executed a highly decisive career change, making a strategic pivot toward local politics. He achieved this by formally tendering his application for Voluntary Retirement from Service (VRS), a significant move considering he still had a considerable five months of secure government service tenure remaining. This dramatic shift is rooted in his publicly articulated and profound objective: a

personal commitment to directly serve and contribute to the welfare of his native village. SI Venkateshwarlu is now actively preparing to campaign for and contest the highly localized Sarpanch election in Gudibanda village, situated in Kodad Mandal. This transition represents a major shift from the high-stress, regulated environment of law enforcement to the community-focused realm of public service and local governance. His deliberate choice to surrender his remaining tenure and the stability of a government salary

for the unpredictability of a role in local governance emphatically underscores a deep-seated personal commitment to contributing to the genuine development and efficient administration of his birthplace. This bold political candidacy is naturally expected to garner substantial attention and intense discussion not only within the immediate Gudibanda community but also across the surrounding areas and the wider mandal. Its importance, and influence of local governance roles to dedicated professionals drawn from diverse sec-

tors, who are seeking a direct avenue to effect community change. The entry of a former SI, a figure of authority and discipline, injects a uniquely interesting and dynamic dimension into the forthcoming Sarpanch contest. His background in law and order, combined with his dedication to the local community, positions him as a focal point in the upcoming Gram Panchayat elections. His campaign will undoubtedly center on using his administrative experience for village development and transparent governance.

# Harish Rao Counters Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka On Power Data Discrepancies

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Former Minister and BRS MLA T Harish Rao delivered a potent and comprehensive counter-attack against Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka and Minister Sridhar Babu, accusing the current cabinet members of displaying a severe and profound lack of departmental understanding and of consistently presenting wildly inconsistent and contradictory data regarding the state's crucial power sector. Harish Rao systematically highlighted glaring factual discrepancies found across three major official government publications: the State Power Sector White Pa-

per, the subsequent Clean and Green Energy Policy-2025, and the Deputy CM's most recent PPT presentation. His critique centered on specific numerical contradictions: he publicly questioned how the state's official installed solar capacity could have mysteriously decreased from 6,123 MW in December 2023 (as cited in the White Paper) to 5,415 MW in January 2025 (as cited in the Energy Policy). He also drew attention to a major contradiction in future thermal power planning. While the Clean and Green Energy Policy sets a projected maximum thermal power capacity target of 16,966 MW by 2034-35, the Deputy

CM's recent address suddenly claimed there would be a massive shortfall of 5,000-6,000 MW. Harish Rao calculated that based strictly on the government's own policy figures, the maximum credible shortfall should logically be only 2,802 MW, demanding an explanation for the huge disparity. This led him to intensify his attack by challenging the government's seemingly urgent decision to sanction the construction of 2,400 MW of new thermal plants, a move that effectively bypasses the 1,600 MW of NTPC power already available to the state under the AP Reorganization Act. He went on to make a serious al-

legation, claiming this hasty decision constitutes a "massive scam" involving 50,000 crore, suggesting it is driven by an opportunistic motive to secure 30-40% in commissions. Harish Rao also cornered Minister Sridhar Babu regarding the questionable and fluctuating cost of coal transport projected for the Yadadri Thermal Power Project and criticized the government's contradictory statements concerning the proposed thermal plant at Makthal, demanding immediate accountability, consistency, and complete transparency from the Cabinet Ministers on all power sector figures and policy decisions.

# KTR Defends KCR's Silence As Strategic Political Choice

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BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) mounted a staunch and comprehensive defense of former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao (KCR), directly addressing the persistent scrutiny and political commentary surrounding the latter's extended period of relative public silence over the last year and a half. KTR firmly asserted that KCR's actions, whether public or private, are invariably strategically calculated and precisely timed, confirming that the former CM remains a significant and formidable political force in the state. Speaking at the Deeksha Diwas commemorative event at Telangana Bhavan, KTR declared that KCR is undeniably a "sensation" regardless of whether he chooses to

speak or remain silent, possessing an acute and veteran political instinct. He emphasized that KCR has a profound understanding of "when to launch a counter-attack and when to strategically step back" from the political limelight. KTR used history as his evidence, reminding critics that whenever they prematurely presumed KCR's political influence had waned or ended, he invariably and successfully reigned the massive Telangana movement, clearly illustrating his enduring mastery of political timing and mobilization. He then pivoted to a direct and pointed challenge to the current administration, specifically to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, questioning whether the CM has managed to deliver even a single public speech without making men-

tion of KCR's name. This rhetorical challenge effectively highlighted KCR's continued and unavoidable centrality to the state's current political discourse. KTR concluded his defense by confirming that KCR operates with a precise, strategic timetable, knowing exactly "when to speak and when to emerge publicly," strongly suggesting that KCR's next public appearance will not be accidental but a deliberate, impactful, and politically charged move. This commentary serves as a direct and immediate rebuttal to the critique made by Minister Seethakka, who had earlier attempted to dismiss the BRS's Deeksha Diwas activities as mere political drama that the public would not credit, with KTR affirming that the BRS is executing a long-term, severely undermining the fundamental democratic process within the coun-

# Cantonment MLA Sri Ganesh Submits 30,000 Signatures Against Voter Theft



try. The successful mobilization of this large-scale signature campaign, orchestrated by MLA Sri Ganesh and the leadership of the Cantonment Congress party, was systematically carried out by the BJP in collusion with the Election Commission (EC). The Congress denounces this alleged collaboration as a direct and severe undermining of the fundamental democratic process within the coun-

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# BRS Leaders Rally On Deeksha Diwas, Call For KCR's Return As CM

TPN Bureau | Nov 29, 2025

BRS leaders and dedicated party activists convened at the Medchal District BRS party office in Ganti Maisamma to commemorate "Deeksha Diwas," a foundational event in the history of the Telangana statehood movement, emphasizing the party's unwavering commitment to its core ideals. The observance was chaired by the District President and MLC Shambhipur Raju, and witnessed the attendance of several high-ranking party functionaries and elected representatives. Among the prominent figures present were BRS LP Whip and MLA K. P. Vivekana, MLC Naveen Rao, former Minister and current MLA Chankura Mallareddy, along with fellow MLAs Madhavarao Krishna Rao, Bani Laxma Reddy, and Marri Rajasekhar Reddy. Also participating were Parliament In-charge Ragi Laxma Reddy and former MBC Chairman

Nandikanti Sridhar. The collective homage involved a ceremonial milk abhishekham, a traditional form of offering, performed upon the portrait of the revered founder of Telangana state and BRS chief, KCR. During their addresses, the leaders passionately hailed KCR as the visionary architect who successfully steered the region out of years of systemic neglect, widespread discrimination, and numerous humiliations, culminating in the

achievement of separate statehood. They celebrated KCR's transformative decade-long tenure, during which he guided Telangana to unprecedented growth, establishing the new state as a leader among its peers on the national stage. A key theme of the speeches was KCR's profound sacrifice, as leaders recounted his historic decision to readily resign from his political posts without hesitation, treating them as insignificant trifles (tāpāyam) for the

greater cause of securing Telangana's future. This unparalleled commitment was highlighted as an enduring testament to his leadership. The leaders stressed the vital responsibility of the party to effectively communicate the profound history of the statehood struggle and the relentless path of the movement to the younger generation, ensuring the memory and ideals are preserved. The day served as a powerful rallying cry, with the leaders



ers issuing a unified call to every single leader and worker within the BRS, urging them to dedicate themselves with the "solemn commitment of a deeksha (vow)" to the singular goal of ensuring KCR is once again reinstated as the Chief Minister of Telangana in the forthcoming general elections. The event witnessed a large turnout, reflecting the deep dedication of the BRS cadre from the Medchal district, including

numerous public representatives, former elected officials, local leaders, women's wing leaders, activists, and members of various affiliated organizations, all reaffirming their loyalty and political purpose.

## GHMC Mayor Inaugurates Automated Smart Rotary Car Parking

TPN Bureau | Nov 29, 2025

GHMC Mayor Gudwal Vijayalakshmi officially dedicated a cutting-edge Automated Smart Rotary Car Parking facility situated strategically near the popular KBR Park, marking a significant advancement in the city's efforts to modernize its urban infrastructure. This crucial project, which aims to provide a definitive solution to the chronic and persistent parking difficulties experienced by the thousands of daily visitors to the park and surrounding areas, was executed through a collaborative effort between the GHMC and the firm Nav Nirama Associates. The inauguration ceremony was attended by a host of public representatives and key municipal officials, including MP Anil Kumar Yadav, Deputy Mayor Mothe Srilatha Shobhan Reddy, Additional Commissioner Anurag Jayanthi,

they observed and tested the seamless, automated process of parking the vehicle within the smart rotary mechanism. This practical demonstration was intended to instill confidence in the public and highlight the system's ease of use. In her address, the Mayor expressed absolute confidence that the introduction of this highly modern and technologically advanced facility will serve as a permanent remedy, effectively eradicating the long-standing parking woes that have troubled the KBR Park vicinity for years. This strategic investment in smart parking infrastructure is a clear indication of the city administration's commitment to leveraging advanced technology not only to enhance the convenience for citizens but also to significantly improve urban infrastructure and the overall quality of public service delivery, particularly in areas that experience high-volume traffic and are designated as popular public and recreational spaces. The successful completion and launch of this project underscore the municipal corporation's dedication to developing sustainable and efficient solutions for a rapidly urbanizing environment.



## Environmental Awareness Program Launched

TPN Bureau | Nov 29, 2025

An important environmental conservation and awareness program was formally inaugurated in the Ichoda mandal center of Adilabad, specifically within the Subhash Nagar locality at the Sri Saraswati Shishu Mandir School. The event commenced with the unveiling of informational wall posters related to environmental preservation by the school's Prabhand Karini, Samiti members, teachers, and students. Principal Marathi Santosh Kumar took the lead in addressing the assembly, using the platform to strongly emphasize the urgent and critical need for sustained environmental protection efforts within the community. He is

sued a firm call to action, explicitly urging residents to strictly refrain from the harmful practice of burning garbage. Furthermore, he passionately advocated for the immediate adoption of the essential civic practice of segregating wet and dry waste at the household level before responsibly handing it over to the municipal collection vehicles. Highlighting the long-term, intergenerational goal of saving the environment for future generations, the Principal delivered a strong message calling for a complete and effective ban on the use of plastic materials throughout the area. He encouraged every member of the community—students, staff, and residents alike—to actively

participate in this crucial conservation endeavor. To set an example, he proudly mentioned that the school actively promotes environmentally friendly habits among its students by encouraging the exclusive use of steel water bottles and lunch boxes, replacing single-use plastics.

The program was marked by the active and enthusiastic participation of key committee members, including Utarwar Rajender, Oranganti Istari, and K. Narayana Reddy, alongside the dedicated teachers and students, collectively signifying a strong, collaborative community effort toward promoting environmental consciousness and sustainability.



## Mayor Conducts 'Basti Bata' To Resolve Grassroots Issues

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GHMC Mayor Gudwal Vijayalakshmi personally spearheaded the 'Basti Bata' (Neighborhood Walk) initiative today within her own representative division of Banjara Hills. The core objective of this proactive program is to ensure the direct identification of grassroots problems and their immediate, swift resolution by deploying the municipal machinery to the community's doorstep. The Mayor undertook an extensive and detailed inspection tour, accompanied by a full contingent of municipal officials, covering various residential settlements within the Banjara Hills division. Her itinerary specifically



included deep visits into the Uday Nagar Basti (along Road Number 13), Prem Nagar, Sri Ram Nagar, and Singadi Kunta bastis. During these stops, the Mayor actively and warmly engaged with local residents, making herself accessible and personally inquiring about the specific issues and challenges they were confronting in their daily lives. Following these firsthand interactions, she issued direct, firm, and urgent instructions to the accompanying officials, commanding them to prioritize the

completion of all pending development works within the bastis on a rigorous "war footing" timeline. A key highlight of the 'Basti Bata' was the foundation stone laying ceremony conducted by Mayor Gudwal Vijayalakshmi for the ambitious con-

struction of new CC roads (Cement Concrete roads), a project earmarked with an estimated investment of 8 crore. She gave specific directions to the authorities to immediately commence the work and ensure its completion within the shortest possible timeframe. The residents expressed profound pleasure and sincere satisfaction that the Mayor herself had undertaken a personal visit to their neighborhoods, showcasing a commitment to their welfare and to the rapid resolution of their long-standing issues, affirming the crucial positive impact of this proactive, on-the-ground governance approach by the municipal administration.

## Actor Subhalekha Sudhakar Meets CM



TPN Bureau | Nov 29, 2025

Prominent and veteran film actor Subhalekha Sudhakar held a meeting with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy primarily to extend a formal invitation for the highly anticipated unveiling ceremony of the statue dedicated to the late, revered playback singer, S. P. Balasubrahmanyam (SPB). The significant event is scheduled to take place on December 15 at the prestigious and culturally important venue of Ravindra Bharathi in Hyderabad. During his interaction with the

Chief Minister, Subhalekha Sudhakar took a specific moment to convey the deep gratitude of the entire SPB family. He offered sincere thanks to the Chief Minister for personally granting the official permission necessary for the installation of the celebrated singer's statue at the iconic Ravindra Bharathi premises, a location that underscores the state's respect for the arts. This meeting goes beyond a simple invitation; it clearly underscores the state government's explicit recognition and deep respect for S. P. Balasubrahmanyam's unparalleled and immense contribution to the landscape of Indian arts and culture, particularly his enduring legacy within the regional and national film industries. The Chief Minister's anticipated presence and acceptance of the invitation are expected to greatly lend significant prominence and weight to the unveiling ceremony, solidifying the state's official tribute and collective honoring of the legendary singer's memory and celebrated career.

# Union Minister Kishan Reddy Inspects Warangal Railway Station Development

TPN Bureau | Nov 29, 2025

Union Minister Kishan Reddy undertook an inspection tour of the Warangal Railway Station development works on Saturday morning, signaling the Central Government's focus on upgrading critical infrastructure in Telangana. The Minister traveled from Hyderabad to Warangal via the Vande Bharat Express train, underscoring the importance of modern rail connectivity in the re-

gion. Upon his arrival at Warangal Railway Station, the Minister conducted a detailed review of the ongoing upgrade and modernization efforts. He then held an informal outreach program, titled "Chai Pe Charcha" (Discussion Over Tea), within the railway station's canteen. This format allowed him to engage directly with local party workers, railway officials, and potentially some commuters, discussing various issues and collecting

feedback on the development work and other public concerns. Following his official duties at the railway station, Minister Kishan Reddy proceeded to the revered Bhadrakali Ammavari Temple in the city. There, he offered his prayers and sought blessings from the deity, observing traditional rituals. The temple priests accorded the Union Minister a customary Poornakumbham welcome, a ceremonial gesture signifying honor and respect. The



## Mother And Son Die By Suicide In Sircilla District Tragedy

TPN Bureau | Nov 29, 2025

A devastating incident of familial suicide has shocked Sircilla District, where a police constable and his mother both tragically ended their lives in the Maner River, highlighting a profound moment of despair within the family. The deceased were identified as Abhilash (34), who was serving as a Police Constable at the Thangallapalli Mandal Centre, and his mother, Manikatla Lalitha (56), with whom he resided. The tragic sequence of events began on Thursday when Constable Abhilash returned home after completing his duties and discovered that his mother was missing. Suffering from mental distress, Lalitha had left their residence, causing Abhilash intense anxiety and deep concern. Following the discovery of his missing mother, Abhilash immediately filed a complaint with the local police, prompt-

ing the commencement of an urgent search operation. The worst fears were realized on Friday when a body was discovered in the Maner River, near the famous Yellamma Temple. Upon identification, Abhilash recognized the deceased as his mother, Lalitha. The sight of his mother's body, coupled with the knowledge of her passing, plunged Abhilash into an overwhelming state of mental distress and intense grief.

In a heartbreaking expression of anguish and inability to cope with the loss, Constable Abhilash, in the presence of his relatives and amidst the ongoing investigation, impulsively jumped into the same Maner River. The sudden act necessitated immediate and desperate measures, with police and local authorities launching a massive search and rescue effort. Specialized SDRF (State Disaster Re-

## Sarpanch Nomination Papers Torn In Jogulamba District Amidst Auction Dispute

TPN Bureau | Nov 29, 2025, A serious incident of democratic interference and violence was reported in Erasan Doddi village in the K. T. Doddi mandal of Jogulamba District, where an attempt to file a nomination for the Sarpanch election was violently thwarted, highlighting the contentious issue of auctioning political posts. According to the report, a local man named Rajasekhar successfully secured the

Sarpanch position through an auction conducted in the presence of village elders, committing to pay a sum of 38.50 lakh. Following this controversial auction, the entire village community reportedly passed a resolution, unanimously deciding that no one else should file a nomination, ensuring the post would go uncontested (unanimous election). However, a resident identified as Kuruva Kusha decided to

challenge this restrictive, non-democratic resolution and proceeded to the Erasan Doddi center on Saturday, the final day for nominations, intending to file his papers. Upon his arrival, he was immediately confronted by several individuals from the nearby Chintalakunta village, who were staunch supporters of the unanimous election resolution established at Erasan Doddi. In a blatant act of suppression, these supporters forcibly seized the nomination papers from Kuruva Kusha's hands and tore them up, effectively preventing him from exercising his democratic right. The situation escalated into physical confinement and assault. The perpetrators then allegedly abducted Kuruva Kusha and a supporter who had accompanied him, identified as Badri, and locked them inside a room. Reports indicate that the

victims' mobile phones were confiscated, and they were subjected to a physical assault while being held captive. In this alarming display of electoral obstruction, the incident raises significant concerns regarding the misuse of village resolutions to override constitutional electoral rights and the need for stringent action against those who resort to violence and intimidation to manipulate the democratic process.

## NRI Alumnus Donates Educational Materials Worth 2 Lakh To School In Birkur

TPN Bureau | Nov 29, 2025  
In a generous act of philanthropy, an alumnus of Birkur High School, Saakaja Sunil Chowdary, an Non-Resident Indian (NRD), donated educational and recreational materials valued at 2 lakh to the Kishanpoor Upper Primary School on Saturday, demonstrating his commitment to enhancing local education.

Sunil Chowdary, who once studied at the high school, returned to the area to give back to the community that fostered his education. His significant donation to the Kishanpoor school included 18 new desks and benches, essential furniture to improve classroom seating and learning conditions for students. In addition to the furniture, he distributed school bags to 100 stu-

dents, along with sports uniforms and steel glasses, promoting hygiene and encouraging participation in extracurricular activities. Following the donation ceremony at the Kishanpoor school, Sunil Chowdary visited his alma mater, the Birkur High School. During this visit, he took the time to address the current students, engaging them in a motivational session where he

stressed the paramount importance of education in achieving future success. The school faculty, in recognition of his selfless generosity and contribution to the educational welfare of the children, formally honored and felicitated Sunil Chowdary. The event saw the presence of several key educational officials and school personnel, including MEO Venkanna, Head-

## Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao Announces 220 Crore For Water Supply In Khammam

TPN Bureau | Nov 29, 2025

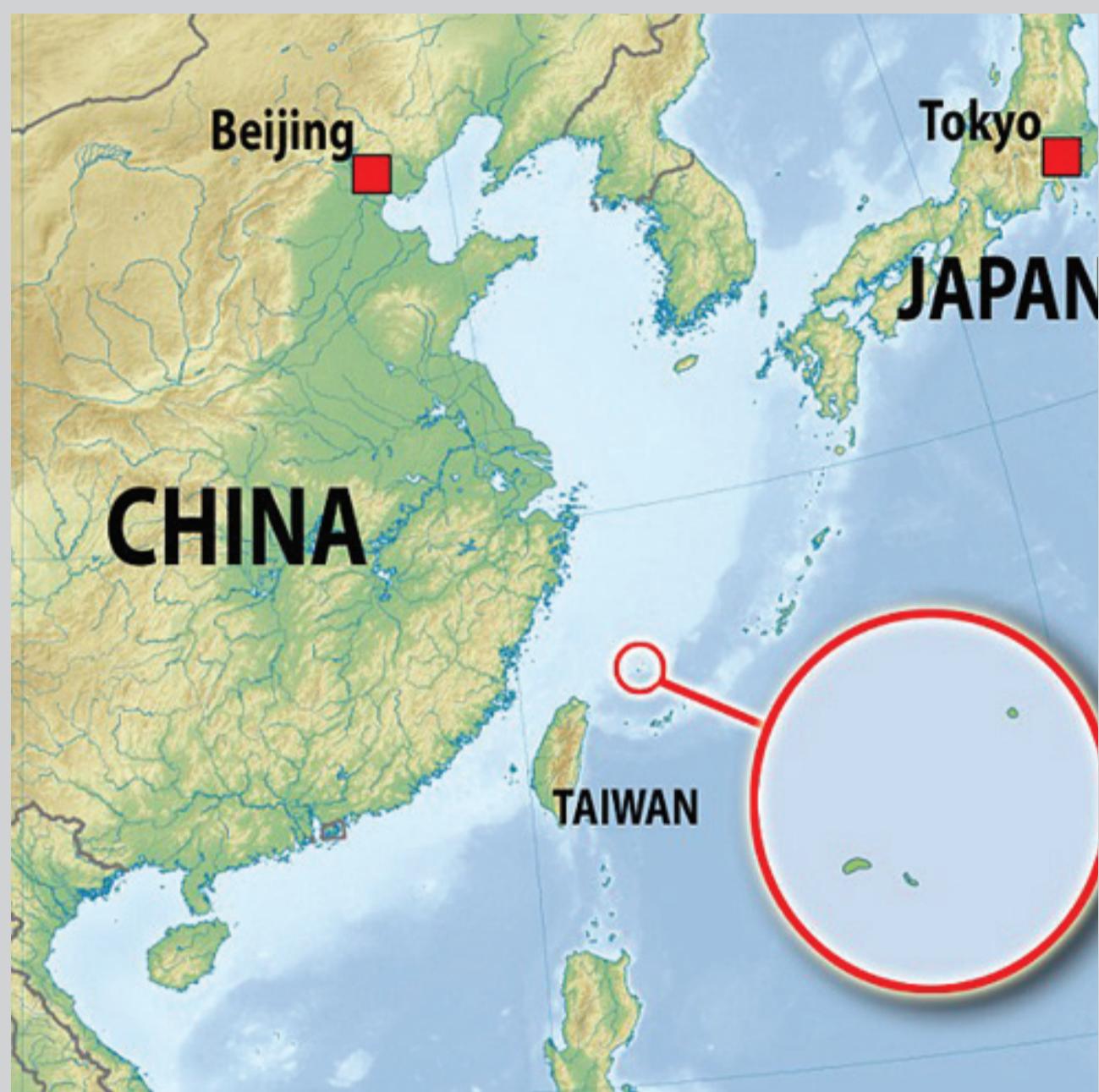
State Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao announced a substantial development package for Khammam Corporation, stating that works estimated at 220 crore would be undertaken to ensure a continuous and uninterrupted supply of drinking water across the city. The Minister made this declaration during his visit to Khammam, where he personally inaugurated development works on Saturday. Specifically,

the Minister performed the shan kusthapana (foundation stone laying) for the construction of CC roads (Cement Concrete roads) in the city's 35th Division, a project sanctioned with an allocation of 50 lakh. Ad-

dressing the public at the event, Minister Nageswara Rao confirmed that the substantial funding for the water supply works, amounting to 220 crore, has been officially sanctioned under the Amrit Scheme (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation). He further specified a clear timeline for the completion of this critical infrastructure upgrade, promising that the water supply works would be fully completed by March of the coming year. Beyond the water infrastructure, the Minister also disclosed additional development plans, including the commencement of construction for drainage canals throughout the city, a project that is expected to receive an investment of 200 crore.



# Tensions Rise Between China and Japan Over Taiwan



Diplomatic tensions between China and Japan have escalated sharply following remarks by Japan's new Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, triggering concerns about regional stability in East Asia. On November 7, Takaichi warned that any Chinese military action against Taiwan could threaten Japan's survival, suggesting that Tokyo

might intervene militarily. This marked the first time a sitting Japanese Prime Minister openly articulated a potential military response to a conflict involving Taiwan, departing from decades of strategic ambiguity.

China reacted strongly, demanding a retraction of Takaichi's statement, imposing bans on Japanese

seafood imports, issuing travel advisories against Japan, and accusing Tokyo of planning missile deployments on Yonaguni Island near Taiwan. Chinese Coast Guard vessels have intensified patrols around the disputed Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea, which Japan considers a violation of its territorial waters. Beijing has warned

that any Japanese intervention in Taiwan would be treated as an act of aggression.

The roots of China's anger are deep. Japan's colonial past in China and Taiwan, including its occupation of Taiwan from 1895 to 1945 and brutal campaigns in parts of China, continues to influence Chinese perceptions. Taiwan

was returned to Chinese control after World War II but became a separate administrative entity following the Kuomintang's retreat in 1949. Although Taiwan has been self-governing since, China continues to regard it as a core sovereignty issue, a position supported by the international One-China policy.

Despite these tensions, China and Japan remain heavily economically interdependent. Bilateral trade exceeds \$300 billion annually, reflecting deep commercial ties that both nations rely on. Experts warn that provocative political rhetoric, combined with historical mistrust, could usher in an era of "full-spectrum hostility" unless careful diplomacy prevails.

Analysts emphasize that the Taiwan issue is unlikely to be resolved in the near term. Maintaining the status quo—China's claims, Taiwan's self-rule, U.S. strategic ambiguity, and restraint from all parties—is essential for regional peace. Both China and Japan are urged to de-escalate tensions and prioritize economic collaboration. At the same time, the United States, as Japan's treaty ally, faces the delicate task of balancing security commitments with diplomatic measures to prevent misunderstandings or miscalculations.

With East Asia's security environment already complicated by global conflicts, the coming weeks will be critical. Observers stress that dialogue, restraint, and renewed economic engagement are the only viable paths to prevent a worsening of one of the region's most sensitive flashpoints. Failure to act prudently could have consequences far beyond the Taiwan Strait, affecting global trade and stability.

## Idli, Dosa Done, Raagi Mudde And High Command Next In Karnataka



est-serving CMs in the state's history. Second, Siddaramaiah would continue as the sole Deputy CM and remain state Congress president until then. Third, no major cabinet reshuffles would take place in the interim, ensuring stability. Fourth, Siddaramaiah's loyalists would be accommodated under Shivakumar's leadership, allowing a smooth political handover.

The rationale behind Shivakumar's patience is clear: he currently lacks the numbers to unseat Siddaramaiah without fracturing the party. A sudden takeover could alienate key communities and risk party cohesion. For Siddaramaiah, agreeing to a planned transition secures his legacy as a leader who prioritized party unity, preserved his influence, and ensured the future of his loyalists.

Yet, politics rarely unfolds linearly. Trust between the two leaders, the timing of the handover, and managing caste and factional sensitivities among 137 Congress MLAs remain critical factors. With the Karnataka Assembly session set to begin on December 8 and the BJP threatening a no-confidence motion, every breakfast, lunch, and dinner between Bengaluru and New Delhi could shape the state's political landscape. The story is far from over, and the coming months may decide who holds the reins of power in Karnataka.

Sources suggest that an emerging understanding includes four key elements. First, Siddaramaiah would hand over the chief ministership to Shivakumar before the 2027 state elections, possibly after the budget session in February-March 2026, allowing him to set a record for one of the long-

## Rupee Slide Signals Urgent Need to Cut Oil Dependence



The Indian rupee has depreciated around 7% over the past year, falling from roughly ₹83.4 to ₹89.2 against the U.S. dollar, raising concerns about the currency's stability amid external pressures. While not unprecedented—the rupee slid 11-12% in 2018—the current context mirrors earlier periods of global uncertainty, including rising U.S. interest rates, strong dollar trends, and trade tensions.

To manage volatility, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has actively intervened, selling a net \$50 billion in foreign exchange since November 2024 and employing long-term currency-swap mechanisms. In 2025 alone, the RBI executed a \$10 billion dollar/rupee buy-sell swap auction to inject liquidity into the banking system. Analysts note that under

India's floating-but-managed exchange rate regime, the RBI can smoothen volatility but cannot fully prevent depreciation.

The rupee's slide has been

driven largely by a widening current-account deficit, fueled by rising bullion imports as a hedge and exports adjusting to high U.S. tariffs. Crude oil imports, which account for over 20% of total imports, remain a significant pressure point. As India transitions from cheaper Russian crude to more expensive U.S. oil, currency weakness could translate into higher import bills, potentially impacting inflation.

Despite these challenges, there are reasons for cautious optimism. India's foreign exchange reserves remain comfortable at around \$693 bil-

lion, and retail inflation has eased significantly, with headline CPI at 0.25% in October 2025—well below the RBI's target range of 2%-6%.

This allows the central bank room to tolerate modest depreciation without aggressive rate hikes.

Experts stress that monetary measures alone are insufficient. Structural reforms, particularly reducing dependence on oil through initiatives such as faster transport electrification, are critical.

Coordinated trade policies, rather than a focus on bilateral deals with Japan, the UAE, or ASEAN, are needed to ensure a balanced trade environment. Without addressing these vulnerabilities, the rupee may continue to face pressure amid global volatility.

## India's Chabahar Push Shifts Afghanistan Away From Pakistan



A strategic shift is quietly unfolding in South Asia as Afghanistan moves closer to India, leveraging the Chabahar port in Iran to bypass Pakistan entirely.

Built with Indian investment and sustained diplomatic engagement, Chabahar is emerging as a vital trade gateway, reshaping regional geopolitics and challenging Pakistan's long-held influence over Kabul.

Over the past three months, a series of high-level Taliban visits to India have underscored this realignment. Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi and Acting Commerce Minister Nooruddin Azizi visited India, signaling Kabul's intent to strengthen trade ties with New Delhi while reducing dependency on Pakistan's transit routes. Both officials carried the clear message that Afghani-

stan is looking for reliable alternatives to Pakistan's trade corridors.

Azizi's visit to New Delhi from November 22 for five days was particularly significant. During his meetings, he emphasized that Pakistan's trade routes are increasingly unreliable, and Afghanistan is keen to encourage Indian investment.

"We request the government of India to restore the political, trade and cultural relationship that once existed between our two countries," Azizi told News18, highlighting Kabul's willingness to provide incentives and security guarantees to Indian investors.

The Chabahar port, a project developed with Indian technical and financial support, has become the centerpiece of this strategy. It allows Indian goods to reach

Afghanistan directly, cutting out the Pakistani route, which has historically dominated regional trade. This development strengthens India's economic footprint in Afghanistan and provides Kabul with a secure, stable, and reliable trade alternative.

Experts say the move is not purely economic; it also has far-reaching geopolitical implications. By deepening ties with India, Afghanistan is diversifying its partnerships, ensuring that it is not overly dependent on Pakistan, which has traditionally exerted considerable influence over Kabul. For India, Chabahar represents both an economic opportunity and a strategic lever in the region, supporting Afghanistan's development while expanding its own influence in Central Asia.

In addition to trade, India and Afghanistan are exploring enhanced collaboration in political, cultural, and infrastructure sectors. The recent visits and discussions demonstrate a shared pragmatism despite ideological differences, showing that both nations prioritize strategic and economic stability.

With Chabahar fully operational, the dynamics of South Asian trade and diplomacy are shifting. Pakistan, long accustomed to Kabul's reliance on its territory, now faces the challenge of adjusting to a new reality where India's influence grows, and Afghanistan charts a more independent, India-oriented path. The coming months could see this Indo-Afghan alignment deepen further, marking a historic change in regional power equations.

## 'GDP Growth Reflects Impact Of Our Policies, Reforms': PM Modi

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India's economy recorded a robust 8.2 per cent growth in the second quarter of 2025-26, marking a six-quarter high, driven by a surge in manufacturing and strong double-digit growth in the services sector.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday attributed the impressive GDP performance to the hard work and enterprise of the people and the government's pro-growth policies and reforms.

In a post on X, Modi said, "The 8.2 per cent GDP growth in Q2 of 2025-26 is very encouraging. It reflects the impact of our pro-growth policies and reforms. It also reflects the hard work and enterprise of our people."

The Q2 growth indicates a sustained recovery in the Indian economy, with manufacturing showing a significant uptick due to rising industrial output and domestic consumption. The services sector, a major contributor to India's GDP, posted double-digit growth, reflecting strong performance in IT, finance, and tourism-related services.

The prime minister reaffirmed the govern-



ment's commitment to continuing economic reforms and improving the overall quality of life for citizens. "Our government will continue to advance reforms and strengthen Ease of Living for every citizen," Modi added.

Analysts noted that In-

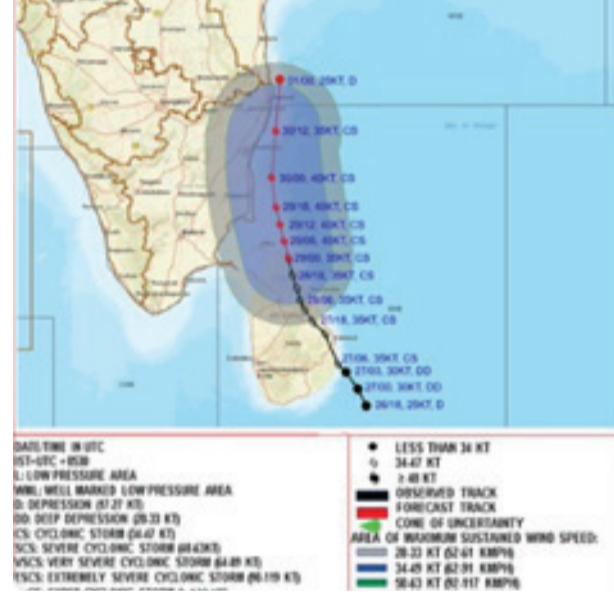
dia's GDP growth outperformed expectations, positioning the country as one of the fastest-growing major economies globally. The government's focus on infrastructure development, digitalisation, and investment-friendly policies is seen as a key factor behind the sustained

momentum. With global uncertainties and geopolitical challenges, maintaining high economic growth remains a priority. Experts believe that continued structural reforms, combined with domestic consumption and export growth, could help India sustain its eco-

nomic trajectory in the coming quarters.

The Q2 GDP figures underscore India's resilience and the effectiveness of policies aimed at boosting industrial output, enhancing services, and creating a conducive environment for businesses and entrepreneurs.

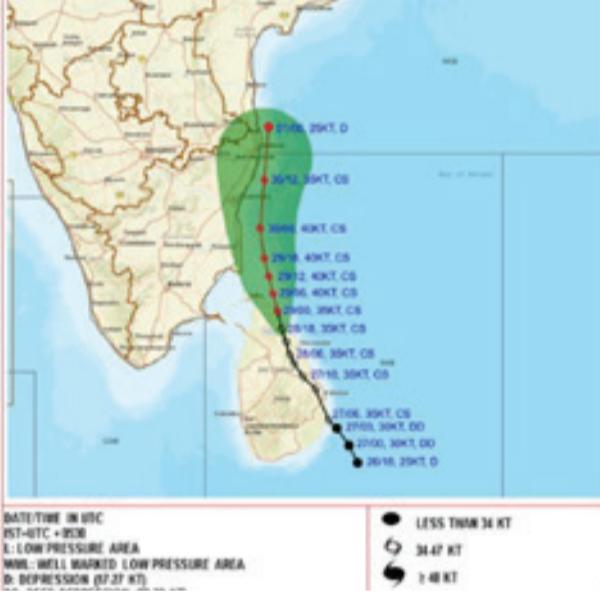
## Cyclone Ditwah Approaches Tamil Nadu, Moves Northwest from Sri Lanka



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Cyclonic Storm Ditwah, which has already wreaked havoc in Sri Lanka, is now moving towards the southeastern coast of India, prompting authorities in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh to issue alerts.

According to the India Meteorological Depart-



ment (IMD), the storm is currently located about 80 km west of the Sri Lankan coast, moving northwest at 7 kmph. It is approximately 220 km southeast of Karaikal and 380 km from Puducherry.

The IMD has warned that Ditwah is very likely to reach the Southwest Bay of Bengal, near the North

over 120 deaths, hundreds of missing persons, and the displacement of nearly 44,000 people to state-run relief centers. Floods and landslides damaged infrastructure, homes, and disrupted power and water supplies. Relief operations are ongoing, with neighboring countries like India stepping in to provide aid.

Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh administrations have already advised fishermen to avoid venturing into the sea, and disaster management teams are on alert. Coastal districts are being prepared for potential evacuations, while local authorities are coordinating with the Indian Meteorological Department to provide timely updates to residents.

The IMD has also cau-

tioned that strong winds, heavy rainfall, and high waves may continue over the Bay of Bengal and adjoining coastal areas, urging residents to remain vigilant and adhere to safety advisories.

Authorities have urged the public to stay indoors, avoid non-essential travel, and keep emergency supplies ready as Cyclone Ditwah advances toward the Indian coast. Continuous monitoring and precautionary measures are being prioritized to minimize the impact of the approaching storm.

## Shivakumar, Siddaramaiah Reaffirm Loyalty to Party High Command

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Bengaluru, Nov 29: In a clear message of unity and discipline, Karnataka Congress leaders have reaffirmed their commitment to the party high command amid speculation over state leadership. Addressing the media, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar emphasized that both he and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah are following the directives of the party leadership and remain focused on governance and development.

Shivakumar revealed that he and Siddaramaiah held a breakfast meeting recently to discuss governance and party strategy. He also mentioned that the CM will visit his residence for further discussions over lunch or dinner in the coming days, reflecting ongoing coordination between the two leaders. "We have joined together and worked together. The workers of the state have supported us, and the people of Karnataka have blessed us with a massive

mandate," he said.

Highlighting the government's focus, Shivakumar stated, "Whatever promises we have given to the people, it is our bound duty to deliver them. It is our responsibility to fulfil every commitment made to our people. We are fortunate to have their support, and we are delivering a government focused on good governance."

The leaders also discussed the upcoming Assembly session starting December 8 and electoral strategy for 2028, indicating a proactive approach to legislative and political planning.

On the sensitive issue of state leadership, Shivakumar clarified, "As far as the leadership issue is concerned, we will go by the decision of the party high command. We have always been loyal soldiers of the party." He expressed confidence in Congress' continued dominance in Karnataka, stating that the party aims to repeat its government in 2028 and continue



its progress in 2029 under the guidance of Shri Mallikarjun Kharge and Shri Rahul Gandhi.

The statement underscores the Congress leadership's focus on unity, stability, and governance,

sending a strong signal to both the party cadre and opposition ahead of crucial legislative sessions.

## India Re-elected to IMO Council with Highest Votes



### INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India has been re-elected to the Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for the 2026-27 biennium, securing 154 out of 169 valid votes, the highest tally in its category. The announcement came during the 34th Session of the IMO Assembly in London, underscoring India's leadership and constructive engagement in global shipping.

An official statement highlighted that the result validates the Government of India's reform and forward-looking initiatives to strengthen the maritime sector, including enhanced regulatory frameworks, port modernization, and promotion of international trade routes.

The Council, the executive body of the IMO, comprises 40 member states elected for two-year terms and supervises the organization's work between Assembly sessions. The IMO, a United Nations agency headquartered in London, aims to ensure safe, secure, and environmentally sustainable shipping.

Minister of Ports, Shipping and Water-

ways, Sarbananda Sonowal, described the re-election as a "proud moment for India's maritime sector," emphasizing that the highest vote tally reflects the international community's strong confidence in India's leadership and constructive engagement in global shipping.

During the Assembly, the Indian delegation engaged with multiple countries, international organizations, and IMO officials to explore cooperation in shipping safety, environmental protection, and maritime trade facilitation.

India's re-election reinforces its position among the world's leading maritime nations, ensuring continued influence in shaping IMO policies and decisions affecting international seaborne trade.

The Council membership allows India to further contribute to global maritime governance, advance sustainable shipping practices, and enhance collaboration on technical, legal, and operational standards within the international shipping community.

## NIA Convicts Two in Lucknow Al-Qaeda Terror Case



TPN Correspondent | Lucknow

A special court of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has convicted two more individuals in connection with the 2021 Lucknow Al-Qaeda terror conspiracy case. Mohammad Mustaqueem and Shakeel, both residents of Lucknow, were found guilty under Section 25(1B)(a) of the Arms Act and Section 120B of the Indian Penal Code.

The court sentenced them to 20 months imprisonment in August of the same year. The main accused, Minhaz Ahmed and Masiruddin (aka Mushir), allegedly received instructions from Halmandi to plan terror activities across Uttar Pradesh, including Lucknow, before August 15, 2021. Mustaqueem and Shakeel aided the duo in

procuring weapons and ammunition.

Earlier, on October 30, 2025, the court had convicted Mohammad Moid, also in this case, sentencing him to 20 months imprisonment and a fine of Rs 5,000 after he pleaded guilty.

The NIA highlighted that Minhaz and Masiruddin, radicalised by other operatives, had conspired to wage war against the Indian government, acquiring arms, ammunition, and explosives to further Al-Qaeda's objectives.

The convictions mark another step in India's ongoing efforts to dismantle terror networks and curb radicalisation, reinforcing the NIA's commitment to national security and counter-terrorism operations.

## 'Harm To Him Will Push Pak Into Chaos'

Imran Khan's Sister On Death Rumours



TPN Correspondent | Abuja, Nigeria

Noreen Niazi, sister of former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, has warned that any attempt to physically harm the jailed PTI leader would push the country into "chaos," citing his strong public support. Speaking to NDTV, she called her brother "a hundred percent healthy" and criticized rumours about his condition as attempts to distract the public and his supporters.

Khan has been held in Adiala Jail since August 2023, facing multiple cases, including corruption and terrorism, following his removal from power through a no-confidence motion in 2022. Niazi highlighted that Khan has spent nearly a month in solitary confinement, far exceeding the jail manual limit of four days, calling it "mental and physical abuse." She added that family visits are being restricted to prevent his messages from reaching the public.

Niazi also commented on Pakistan's military leadership changes, noting the recent assumption of charge by Asim Munir as the country's first Chief of Defence Forces (CDF).

"He thinks he's all-powerful, but he's still not. In our religion, there is nobody more powerful than God," she remarked.

Despite her criticism of the system, she expressed hope for judicial fairness. "There is no justice system left, but we will stand for his justice, and Inshallah, he will get justice," she said. Her sister Aleema has also filed a contempt of court petition against the jail superintendent for failing to comply with an Islamabad High Court order mandating twice-weekly meetings with Khan.

Authorities maintain that Khan remains in "good health" and has not been shifted from prison. Niazi's statements come amid heightened tensions in Pakistan, with concerns over public reaction and the treatment of a high-profile political figure. Her warning underscores the sensitivity surrounding Khan's imprisonment and the potential for unrest if perceived injustices continue.

The situation highlights ongoing political and judicial challenges in Pakistan, with Khan's supporters closely monitoring developments.

## Trump Backs Asfura in Tight Honduras Presidential Race



TPN Correspondent | Washington

US President Donald Trump has thrown his support behind Nasry Asfura, the conservative National Party candidate, in Honduras' closely contested presidential election. Trump, posting on Truth Social, said Asfura can work with the United States to counter drug trafficking and urged Hondurans to "vote for Freedom and Democracy."

Hondurans will head to the polls on Sunday in a race widely seen as a toss-up. Current polls show Asfura, former mayor of Tegucigalpa, nearly tied with former defense minister Rixi Moncada of the leftist LIBRE Party and television host Salvador Nasralla of the centrist Liberal Party. The winner will govern Honduras from 2026 to 2030.

Trump criticized both Moncada and Nasralla, calling the former a communist and the latter a "borderline communist" seeking to siphon votes from Asfura, although neither candidate identifies as communist. The US administration has voiced concern over the influence of leftist governments in the region, particularly in Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua.

"Will Maduro and his Narco-

terrorists take over another country like they have taken over Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela?" Trump questioned in his post, claiming Asfura would stand against Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, whom the US has accused of links to drug trafficking—a charge Maduro denies.

Asfura's National Party has historically maintained close ties with Washington under former President Juan Orlando Hernandez, who governed from 2014 to 2022. Hernandez was arrested after leaving office and is serving a 45-year prison sentence in the United States for drug trafficking and firearms charges.

Observers caution that the razor-thin margins could spark disputes over the results. The Organization of American States (OAS) and the US State Department have both expressed concern over Honduras' electoral process and will monitor the vote closely to ensure transparency.

With high stakes and international attention, the outcome of Sunday's election could shape Honduras' political alignment and its relations with the United States and regional powers for years to come.

## 'Trump 2028, Yes': US President Hints At Running For 3rd Term With AI Image

TPN Bureau | Washington

US President Donald Trump ignited speculation over a possible 2028 presidential campaign after posting an AI-generated image on his Truth Social account showing him holding a blue sign reading "TRUMP 2028, YES!" The post, captioned "TRUMPLICANS!"—a mix of Trump and Republicans—quickly became the focus of political debate. The image comes nearly ten months into Trump's second non-consecutive term, which began January 20, 2025, as he pursues his "America First 2.0" agenda with a Republican-controlled Congress, including measures on immigration and higher tariffs. References to "Trump 2028" have also appeared on merchandise and during public events, fueling speculation

about the president's long-term political strategy.

However, constitutional limits remain clear. The 22nd Amendment restricts presidents to two elected terms. House Speaker Mike Johnson downplayed the post as "trolling," noting Trump is well aware of the constitutional constraints. Trump himself acknowledged last month, "I'm not allowed to run, it's too bad."

Despite Trump's legal ineligibility for a third term, the "Trump 2028" messaging may be laying groundwork for his political influence or promoting a family succession. Polls show his eldest son, Donald Trump Jr., gaining traction among Republicans as a potential 2028 nominee. A McLaughlin and Associates survey indicates

Vice President JD Vance led Trump Jr. 38% to 20% in October, but by November, the gap narrowed to 34% versus 24%, signaling a tightening contest.

The post follows earlier displays of "Trump 2028" branding, including hats on Trump's Oval Office desk during meetings with Democratic leaders Hakeem Jeffries and Chuck Schumer. Analysts suggest these signals may aim to consolidate the Trump base and maintain visibility within the party, even as legal and constitutional barriers prevent a direct run.

As the 2028 Republican nomination approaches, all eyes will remain on the Trump family and its influence on the party's future, with potential ramifications for both party dynamics and US electoral politics.



## Sri Lanka Declares Emergency as Cyclone Ditwah Kills 123

TPN Correspondent | Colombo

Sri Lanka has declared a state of emergency after Cyclone Ditwah caused widespread devastation, leaving 123 people dead and 130 reported missing, the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) confirmed on Saturday. Torrential rains and severe flooding over the past week have submerged vast areas, destroying homes and infrastructure across the island nation.

Director General of the DMC, Sampath Kotuwageda, said relief operations are actively underway. "So far, 43,995 people have been moved to state-run welfare centres after their homes were destroyed in the heavy rains," he stated. Rescue teams, supported by the military and police, are navigating submerged roads to evacuate stranded residents and provide essential supplies such

as food, drinking water, and medical aid.

Authorities warned that the situation remains critical as many areas are still inaccessible due to collapsed bridges, blocked roads,

and overflowing rivers. The emergency declaration allows the government to mobilize resources quickly, enforce curfews in severely affected regions, and coordinate

disaster relief efforts more efficiently.

Meteorologists have noted that Cyclone Ditwah is among the deadliest storms to hit Sri Lanka in recent years, intensifying

fears over the impact of climate change on the region. Hospitals in Colombo and other affected districts are stretched to capacity, treating injuries caused by flooding, landslides, and collapsed structures.

The international community has begun offering support, with neighbouring countries and global aid agencies pledging humanitarian assistance. The Sri Lankan government has appealed for immediate assistance to ensure that displaced residents receive shelter, food, and medical care.

Authorities have urged citizens to remain indoors where possible and to follow official instructions closely. Meanwhile, search-and-rescue teams continue combing through flood-affected areas to locate missing individuals and provide relief to the hardest-hit communities.

Cyclone Ditwah has left Sri Lanka facing a long road to recovery, with emergency measures and relief efforts now the country's top priority.



## India Launches Op Sagar Bandhu to Aid Flood-Hit Sri Lanka



TPN Correspondent | Colombo

India has launched Operation Sagar Bandhu to assist Sri Lanka in the wake of devastating floods caused by Cyclone Ditwah. Early Saturday, an Indian Air Force C130 aircraft carrying essential food and sanitary supplies

landed at Colombo's Bandaranaike International Airport around 1:30 am. The relief materials were received by Indian High Commission officials and Sri Lanka Air Force personnel.

This is part of a broader effort involving the Indian Navy,

with the aircraft carrier INS Vikrant and frontline ship INS Udaigiri transporting the first tranche of relief materials to Sri Lanka. The operation reflects India's commitment to regional support under its Neighbourhood First policy.

Sri Lankan authorities have declared the situation an "unprecedented disaster" in the Western Province, as rising water levels in the Kelani and Attanagalu rivers inundated communities. Cyclone Ditwah has caused widespread floods and landslides, particularly impacting Kandy, Badulla, and other central districts. According to the Disaster Management Centre (DMC), 69 deaths were confirmed by Saturday morning, with at least 34 people still missing. Local reports suggest the death toll in Kandy alone could exceed 50,

though official figures remain unverified. Over 200,000 people from 61,000 families have been affected.

The cyclone also caused reservoir overflows and disrupted power supply to nearly 35% of the island, leaving around seven million customers of the Ceylon Electricity Board without electricity. Restoration efforts have been hampered by continuous heavy rainfall, with over 200 mm more rain expected before the storm moves away late Saturday.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi conveyed condolences to the affected families and reiterated India's commitment to support Sri Lanka during this crisis. Relief operations under Operation Sagar Bandhu continue, with both air and naval assets mobilized to ensure timely delivery of aid to flood-affected areas.

This mission highlights India's swift humanitarian response and regional solidarity in times of natural disasters.

# Nifty December Seasonality: 60% Success Rate Over Last Decade

The Nifty 50 has started the December series on a strong note, climbing to a fresh lifetime high of 26,310.45 on Thursday, ending a 14-month rally drought. Market participants are optimistic that the rally could continue throughout the month, supported by December's historically favourable seasonality.

Over the past 10 years, the Nifty has delivered positive returns in six out of ten Decembers, translating to a 60% success rate. On average, December returns have been around 1.6%, despite typically lower global market activity ahead of Christmas and New Year holidays.

Institutional flows have also historically bolstered December rallies. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in six of the past ten Decembers, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) maintained a stronger buying streak, injecting funds in seven Decembers over the same period.



Examining the decade-long trend, the Nifty ended December higher in 2015, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2023, while closing in the red in 2016, 2018, 2022, and 2024, with declines ranging from 0.13% to 3.48%. The sharpest December

rally occurred in 2023, when the index surged 7.94%, closely followed by a 7.81% jump in 2020. Other notable gains include 2.97% in 2017 and 2.18% in 2021, while 2015 and 2019 delivered modest increases of 0.15% and 0.93%, respectively.

Analysts suggest that December's performance is influenced by a combination of domestic investor sentiment, institutional inflows, and end-of-year portfolio adjustments. The early signs of strength in 2025, along with positive

global cues, could help sustain momentum.

As investors position themselves for the last month of the calendar year, market watchers will closely track earnings announcements, foreign fund flows, and

macroeconomic indicators to gauge whether the seasonal trend continues. If historical trends hold, December could again provide a boost to the benchmark index, reinforcing optimism among market participants.

## RBI Issues 244 Consolidated Master Directions to Ease Compliance

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday issued 244 consolidated Master Directions (MDs), aiming to streamline regulatory compliance for banks and other financial institutions. The move comes after a comprehensive review of nearly 3,500 existing directions, circulars, and guidelines issued over the decades.

Speaking at a press conference, RBI Deputy Governor Shirish Chandra Murtu said, "These 244 MDs consolidate all the regulatory instructions issued to the Regulated Entities (REs) over several decades which are currently administered by the Department of Regulation." The consolidation is expected to simplify adherence to RBI norms and reduce the compliance burden on financial institutions.



lated entities can focus on core banking activities without navigating overlapping instructions.

The move also aligns with the RBI's broader objective of regulatory simplification and transparency.

Analysts believe that consolidating decades of instructions into a single, structured framework will help improve com-

pliance monitoring and make regulatory expectations clearer for banks, non-banking financial companies, and other financial institutions.

Murtu emphasized that the review and consolidation exercise reflects the RBI's commitment to modernizing its regulatory framework, keeping pace with evolving

financial markets, technological advancements, and the growing complexity of the banking sector.

Financial sector experts have welcomed the move, noting that it will reduce ambiguity and enable REs to allocate resources more efficiently toward business growth while ensuring adherence to prudential norms.

The consolidated Master Directions are now accessible on the RBI's official website and will serve as the primary reference point for regulated entities going forward.

This step is expected to mark a significant milestone in easing regulatory compliance while maintaining strong oversight over the financial system.

## India Posts Six-Quarter High GDP Growth of 8.2% in Q2 FY26



India's economy grew by 8.2% in Q2 of 2025-26, marking a six-quarter high, driven by a robust manufacturing surge and strong services sec-

tor performance, according to data from the National Statistics Office (NSO). The manufacturing sector expanded 9.1%, up from 2.2% in the year-ago period, as factories ramped up production ahead of the festive season following the GST rate cut on Sep-

tember 22. The services sector recorded 10.2% growth, supported by banking, real estate, and other service industries. However, the agri-

culture sector slowed, with growth declining to 3.5% from 4.1% in the same period last year.

The first half of FY26 saw a GDP growth of 8%, up from 6.1% in H1 FY25, positioning India to potentially exceed the annual growth target of 6.3-6.8% projected in the Economic Survey. The Real Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE) rose 7.9%, indicating healthy domestic demand.

Analysts noted that while government final consumption moderated due to weak revenue spending, strong gross capital formation and the GST-driven manufacturing push helped boost GDP. Deloitte India economist Rumki Majumdar said, "Despite the strong Q2 growth, factors such as US tariffs and limited government capital spending could temper momentum, but FY26 growth is set to comfortably exceed 7%."

India's Q2 performance reaffirms its position as the world's fastest-growing major economy, surpassing China's 4.8% growth during the same period.

The nominal GDP for Q2 FY26 stood at ₹85.25 lakh crore, up 8.7% from ₹78.40 lakh crore a year ago, while gross fixed capital formation grew 7.3%, compared to 6.7% in Q2 FY25.

Experts caution that while the GDP growth is impressive, the low GDP deflator and nominal growth may pose challenges for fiscal deficit and debt ratios. ICRA Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said, "Despite the strong Q2 growth, factors such as US tariffs and limited government capital spending could temper momentum, but FY26 growth is set to comfortably exceed 7%."

India's Q2 performance reaffirms its position as the world's fastest-growing major economy, surpassing China's 4.8% growth during the same period.

## Govt Reforms, Manufacturing Boost Q2 GDP to 8.2%: Goyal



India's economy recorded a strong 8.2% growth in the second quarter (Q2) of 2025-26, driven by government reforms, a manufacturing push, and robust performance in the services sector, said Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday.

Addressing the media, Goyal highlighted that the government's initiatives to enhance ease of doing business, streamline regulatory processes, and support domestic manufacturing have contributed significantly to the strong economic performance. If historical trends hold, December could again provide a boost to the benchmark index, reinforcing optimism among market participants.

Goyal also noted that India's merchandise and services exports have recorded high growth during April-October of the current fiscal year, despite global uncertainties in trade. Merchandise exports rose marginally by 0.63% to ₹254.25 billion, while imports increased by 6.37% to ₹451.08 billion in the same period.

"We will continue to see relentless growth," the minister said, stressing that India's focus on strengthening industrial output, boosting domestic manufacturing, and

promoting exports will help sustain momentum in the coming quarters.

The manufacturing sector showed a marked improvement, benefiting from government schemes and policy interventions aimed at enhancing competitiveness and technological adoption.

The services sector also contributed to the overall growth, reflecting strong domestic demand and recovery in trade, IT, and financial services.

Economic analysts said the Q2 growth is a six-quarter high, underlining India's resilience amid global economic challenges. They attributed the performance to a combination of policy reforms, export growth, and domestic consumption.

With continued emphasis on reforms, innovation, and export promotion, the government expects sustained growth and stability in India's economic trajectory for the remainder of the fiscal year.

The strong Q2 numbers reaffirm India's position as one of the fastest-growing major economies globally, highlighting the impact of pro-growth policies and structural reforms.

## Rupee Slips 7 Paise to 89.43 Against U.S. Dollar



The Indian rupee fell 7 paise to settle at 89.43 against the U.S. dollar on Friday, pressured by a stronger greenback and rising crude oil prices in global markets.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 89.41 and touched an intra-day low of 89.49 before closing at 89.43 (provisional). Forex traders noted that subdued domestic equity markets and foreign fund outflows further weighed on the currency.

Market participants were also cautious ahead of the release of key domestic macroeconomic data, which could influence near-term currency movements.

"The rupee was under pressure from external factors, including trade and inflation figures, which could determine the rupee's trajectory in the final weeks of 2025."

with domestic equity weakness," said a forex trader.

The depreciation comes amid a strengthening U.S. dollar globally, which has impacted several emerging market currencies in recent weeks. Analysts said that continued volatility in crude oil prices and foreign capital flows could keep the rupee under pressure in the near term.

Despite the slip, the rupee remains within its recent trading range against the greenback, reflecting investor caution ahead of key economic indicators and global market developments.

Investors will closely watch upcoming economic data, including trade and inflation figures, which could determine the rupee's trajectory in the final weeks of 2025.

## Apple Responds to iPhone 17 'Scratchgate' Concerns



Apple has addressed growing concerns about the so-called 'scratchgate' affecting its new iPhone 17 series. Several users of the iPhone 17 Pro, iPhone 17 Pro Max, and iPhone Air have reported that their devices are developing visible scratches, particularly around the camera island, just weeks after launch. The issue appears more pronounced in the Deep Blue, Cosmic Orange, and Space Black colour variants.

Tech reviewers and users noticed that the scratches tend to form around the sharp edges of the camera bump. Popular YouTuber JerryRigEverything suggested that the anodised aluminium layer on the iPhone 17 and iPhone 17 Pro Max "does not stick to corners very well," potentially causing these marks. While the iPhone 17 series performed well in official durability and scratch tests, real-world usage has highlighted a vulnerability that some customers weren't expecting.

In response, Apple clarified that the scratches are not permanent and can generally be cleaned. The company emphasized that the devices remain highly durable and that normal

handling might produce minor marks, which do not affect the performance or functionality of the phone. Apple reassured users that the iPhone 17's materials, including the camera housing and aluminium frame, were designed for long-term use and everyday wear, but recommended handling the devices with care to avoid scratches in vulnerable areas.

This incident highlights the challenges smartphone makers face when balancing sleek design with durability, particularly as devices increasingly feature sharp edges, large camera modules, and premium finishes. Despite the 'scratchgate' reports, early reviews show that the iPhone 17 series continues to deliver strong performance, advanced features, and reliability, with Apple taking steps to address user concerns and provide guidance on keeping devices in top condition.

As the conversation around iPhone 17 scratches continues online, Apple encourages customers to report any concerns and follow care recommendations to maintain the phone's finish while enjoying its full suite of features.

## NASA's Artemis 2 Moon Mission Set for 2026, Could Launch Earlier



NASA officials confirmed on September 23, 2025, that the agency's first crewed flight in its Artemis program, a mission circling the moon and returning to Earth, remains on track for April 2026, with potential launch as early as February if conditions allow. Artemis 2 is a critical precursor to NASA's goal of landing astronauts on the moon for the first time since 1972, testing the Space Launch System (SLS) rocket and Orion capsule with a human crew aboard.

The Artemis program represents the United States' flagship lunar initiative, a multi-billion-dollar effort to return humans to the moon, coinciding with China's similar goal of a 2030 astronaut moon landing. Artemis 2 will be a 10-day mission, with four astronauts flying around the moon and back, preparing for Artemis 3, the ambitious 2027 lunar landing using a Starship moon lander.

Artemis 2 will utilize NASA's 322-foot-tall SLS rocket, developed by Boeing and Northrop Grumman, and the Orion capsule, built by Lockheed Martin.

This mission marks the first time the SLS-Orion combination will carry humans. Acting senior NASA official Lakiesha Hawkins emphasized that while the mission could potentially launch earlier, astronaut safety will guide the final schedule.

The crew includes Commander Reid Wiseman, who previously flew to the International Space Station (ISS) on a Russian Soyuz in 2014; Pilot Victor Glover, a 2020 SpaceX ISS mission veteran; Mission Specialist Christina Koch, who flew to the ISS in 2019; and Canadian astronaut Jeremy Hansen, flying to space for the first time and becoming the first Canadian to travel near the moon.

Artemis 2 represents a major milestone in lunar exploration, testing systems, crew readiness, and deep-space operations ahead of the historic Artemis 3 landing. NASA continues to monitor space-craft readiness, ensuring both safety and mission success as humanity prepares to return to the moon.

## Climate Change Forces Fish to New Homes: DNA Tells the Story



Across the planet, species are on the move, with climate change forcing over 12,000 species to shift their homes across land, freshwater, and seas. In the ocean, tropical fish are moving into temperate reefs along Australia's east coast, one of the fastest-warming marine regions. New coral and fish species are arriving in Sydney's waters, and their numbers are expected to rise as the climate changes. Traditionally, researchers and citizen scientists monitor these shifts through visual surveys, but small, rare, nocturnal, or cave-dwelling species are often missed, meaning the true rate of movement is likely underestimated.

Our new research, published in *Diversity and Distributions*, uses environmental DNA, or eDNA, to detect these hidden migrations. Fish shed mucus, scales, and waste that

contain DNA. By collecting seawater and filtering it, we can extract these genetic fingerprints and identify the species present,

much like forensic scientists solving a crime from hair or fingerprints. While eDNA has been used since the 1980s for microbes, its

application to larger animals and plants has transformed biodiversity monitoring.

We surveyed 2,000

kilometres of Australia's east coast, from tropical reefs to temperate kelp forests. Alongside traditional visual transects, we collected seawater for

DNA analysis. Back in the lab, filtering and sequencing the water revealed species often missed by divers. Tropical species like lined surgeonfish, striated surgeonfish, and black-blotched porcupinefish were detected in temperate ecosystems for the first time. Conversely, divers were often better at spotting temperate species, highlighting that eDNA complements rather than replaces visual surveys.

Combining eDNA with traditional methods provides the clearest view yet of how climate change is reshaping marine life. Globally, species are shifting ranges as oceans warm and currents change. Tracking these movements is essential to understand ecological transformations, anticipate which species may thrive or decline, and better manage our oceans in a rapidly changing climate.

## Samsung India Announces Festive Discounts Across Galaxy Smartphones



Samsung India, the country's largest consumer electronics brand, has unveiled special festive pricing across its Galaxy smartphone lineup, giving customers an opportunity to own premium and feature-rich devices at some of the most attractive prices since launch. The offers are designed to bring AI-powered features to enhance creativity, productivity, and everyday experiences within reach of more users.

The premium Galaxy S24 series takes the spotlight in this festive sale. The Galaxy S24 Ultra, India's best-selling premium smartphone, is available at Rs 71,999, down from Rs 1,29,999. The Galaxy S24, powered by the Qualcomm Snapdragon 8 Gen 3 processor, is priced at Rs 39,999 (originally Rs 74,999), while the Galaxy S24 FE, offering the same advanced AI experience, can be purchased for Rs 29,999 (originally Rs 59,999).

The Galaxy A series is also seeing discounts of up to 42%. The Galaxy A55 5G is available for Rs 23,999 (originally Rs 39,999), and the Galaxy A35 5G is priced at Rs

17,999 (originally Rs 30,999). Both feature a 6.6-inch FHD+ 120Hz Super AMOLED display, Dolby stereo speakers, Vision Booster technology, and a versatile camera setup with a 50MP main sensor, ultra-wide and macro lenses, plus enhanced Nightography capabilities.

The Galaxy M series offers up to 30% off, with the M36 5G at Rs 13,999 (originally Rs 19,999), M16 5G at Rs 10,499 (originally Rs 13,499), and M06 5G at Rs 7,499 (originally Rs 9,999). Designed for Indian Gen Z consumers, the M36 5G brings AI innovations and Corning® Gorilla® Glass Victus®+ for durability.

The Galaxy F series also sees up to 30% discounts, including the F36 5G at Rs 13,999 and F06 5G at Rs 7,499. The F06 5G supports 12 5G bands across operators, offering a complete 5G experience at an affordable price.

These festive offers across Galaxy S, A, M, and F series go live from 22 September 2025, giving customers a prime chance to upgrade their smartphones with cutting-edge technology at unbeatable prices.

## Quantum Entanglement Breakthrough Brings Nuclear Spin Computers Closer



Quantum entanglement — famously called "spooky action at a distance" by Albert Einstein — is the key feature that makes quantum computers powerful. It allows particles to be connected in ways that enable computations impossible for classical computers, such as simulating molecules, pharmaceuticals, or

catalysts. In new research published in *Science*, scientists have demonstrated entanglement between two atomic nuclei separated by about 20 nanometres, a breakthrough that could accelerate the development of quantum computers using nuclear spins.

Quantum engineers face a

fundamental challenge: balancing the need to shield qubits from noise while allowing them to interact for computations. Many quantum hardware platforms either excel in shielding but are hard to control, or perform fast operations but are prone to errors. The team, led by Professor Andrea Mo-

rello, works with phosphorus atoms implanted in silicon chips, using the spins of atomic nuclei to store quantum information reliably. Until now, entanglement between nuclei required them to share a single electron, limiting scalability.

The new approach uses

electrons as "telephones" to enable communication between nuclei even when they are physically separated. Each electron interacts with a nucleus, and electrons interact with one another, creating entanglement between distant nuclei via a method called the "geometric gate." In the experiment, the phosphorus nuclei were 20 nanometres apart — a distance compatible with existing silicon transistor fabrication.

This breakthrough integrates long-lived nuclear spin qubits into standard silicon chips, opening the path for scalable, reliable quantum computing. The team envisions extending entanglement over even greater distances by manipulating electron shapes and positions, allowing more complex quantum circuits. This research bridges electron-based quantum devices and nuclear spin qubits, bringing practical, high-fidelity quantum computers closer to reality.

By combining precision, stability, and scalability, this work marks a significant step toward the next generation of quantum computing built on silicon, the backbone of today's electronics.

# Rohit, Kohli Begin High-Stakes ODI Audition Against South Africa

India face South Africa in the first ODI on Sunday in Ranchi, where Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli return to the limited-overs setup for a crucial three-match series that could influence their prospects for the 2027 ODI World Cup. With India scheduled to play only six ODIs over the next two months—three against the Proteas and three versus New Zealand in January—the stage is set for a high-pressure evaluation of two modern greats who now feature in just one international format.

The JSCA Stadium holds symbolic relevance for Rohit, who in 2013 was first backed as a full-time opener at this venue, a move that transformed his white-ball career. Now, at 37, he returns seeking a different kind of resurgence as India rebuild following their recent home Test defeat.

Head coach Gautam Gambhir also enters the series under scrutiny. While his job is secure until the 2027 World Cup, his tactical decisions during the Test series were widely questioned. The ODIs present

an opportunity for Gambhir to reset the narrative and reinforce clarity in India's white-ball plans, even as the immediate focus remains on the 2026 T20 World Cup at home.

India's squad remains unsettled with key players missing. Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj have been rested, while Shubman Gill and Shreyas Iyer are recovering from injuries. This forces stand-in captain KL Rahul and Gambhir to experiment, especially in the middle order where Washington Sundar, Nitish Kumar Reddy, and Tilak Varma are competing for key roles. The team will also assess wicketkeeping options between Rahul and Rishabh Pant.

South Africa, buoyant after their Test series win, arrive confident despite missing pace stars Kagiso Rabada and Anrich Nortje. Captain Temba Bavuma leads a balanced squad featuring Quinton de Kock, Dewald Brevis, Tony de Zorzi, and spinner Keshav Maharaj, who is expected to play a pivotal role on



slowing surfaces.

## Squads

India: KL Rahul (c), Rohit Sharma, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Tilak Varma, Rishabh Pant, Washington Sundar, Ravindra Jadeja,

Kuldeep Yadav, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Harshit Rana, Rituraj Gaikwad, Prasidh Krishna, Arshdeep Singh, Dhruv Jurel.

South Africa: Temba Bavuma (c), Aiden Markram, Dewald Brevis, Nandre

Burger, Quinton de Kock, Marco Jansen, Tony de Zorzi, Rubin Hermann, Ottneil Baartman, Corbin Bosch, Matthew Breetzke, Keshav Maharaj, Lungi Ngidi, Ryan Rickleton, Prenelan Subrayen.

## Athlead Juba Ingolstadt Academy Launched in Delhi-NCR



The Athlead Juba Ingolstadt Academy (AJIA) was officially inaugurated on November 26 at the Juba Sangha Club in New Delhi, marking a major step toward strengthening Indo-German collaboration in

grassroots football development. The launch coincided with an AIFF Elite Youth League Under-18 match featuring the Athlead Juba Sangha team, adding significance to the ceremony.

Ghosal, Susanta Deb and Managing Director Rahul Todi, along with officials from the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and the Delhi Soccer Association (DSA).

Football legends and members of the AJIA technical leadership graced the inauguration, including former India captain and celebrated goalkeeper Bhaskar Ganguly, former East Bengal winger Alvito D'Cunha, Mohun Bagan icon José Barreto and East Bengal stalwart Suley Musah. Their presence highlighted the academy's ambition to build a robust, professional football development structure.

Speaking at the launch, Rahul Todi emphasised the academy's mission to merge German technical standards with India's evolving grassroots ecosystem to create world-class pathways for young footballers. FC Ingolstadt CEO Dietmar Beiersdorfer echoed this vision, stressing the club's commitment to

nurturing international talent and supporting sustainable development models in India.

A central part of the collaboration is the International Player and Coach Exchange Programme, which will bring German coaches to India while sending promising Indian talents to Germany for training. The initiative includes advanced coaching workshops, high-performance camps and structured competitive exposure, with formal pathways for players to secure trial opportunities with FC Ingolstadt 04 and other European clubs.

The Athlead Juba Sangha setup features a fully integrated residential development programme, including a 70-bed facility, physiotherapy and S&C units, a performance gym, data analysis department and a nutrition-focused cafeteria. The comprehensive ecosystem aims to create a new benchmark for youth football development in India.

## Mbappé Hits Four as PSG, Arsenal and Teen Stars Light Up Champions League

A thrilling night of Champions League action on November 26 produced a storm of goals, standout performances and a reminder that football's biggest stage belongs not only to rising teenage stars but also to seasoned elite performers. At the centre of it all was Kylian Mbappé, who delivered a sensational four-goal display for Real Madrid in their dominant win over Olympiakos.

Mbappé's haul included the second-fastest hat-trick in Champions League history, reaffirming his status as one of the sport's most explosive finishers. Celebrating alongside Vinicius Júnior, the French superstar headlined a night packed with drama across Europe.

In London, Arsenal climbed to the top of their group after a commanding 3-1 victory over Bayern Munich. The win not only dethroned Bayern from the summit but also strengthened Arsenal's case as genuine contenders in this season's tournament. Their high-intensity press and sharp finishing



proved too strong for the German giants, who struggled to match Arsenal's tempo.

Over in Paris, defending champions Paris Saint-Germain produced a lively 5-3 triumph against Tottenham Hotspur. Midfielder Vitinha was the star of the night, scoring a memo-

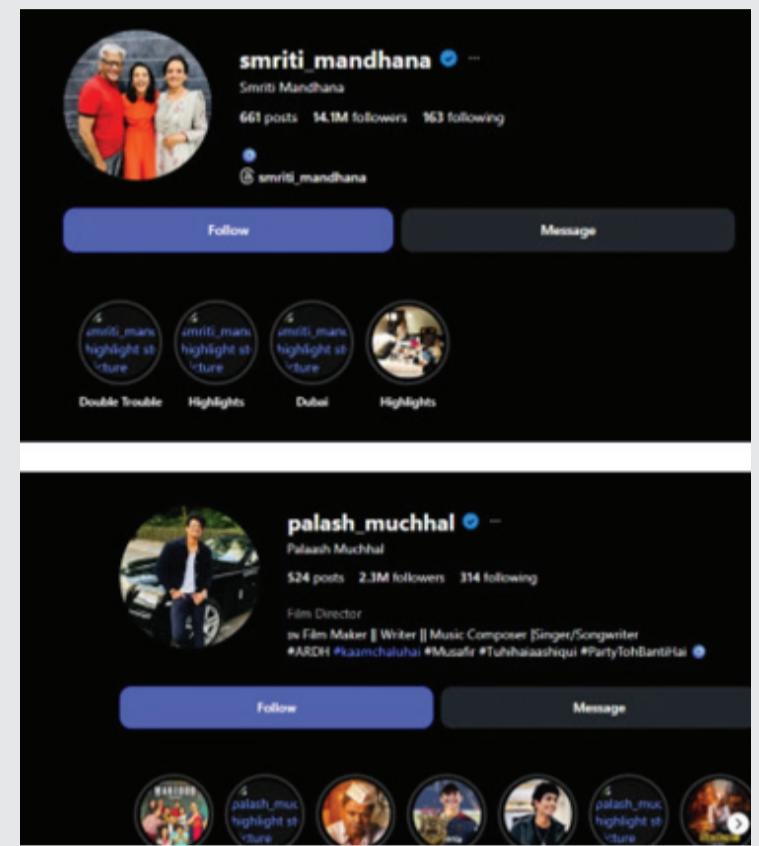
rable hat-trick that dismantled Spurs' defensive structure. PSG's attacking depth shone once again, sending a strong message to rivals eyeing the knockout stages.

Adding to the night's excitement were several teenage scorers across the

home defeat—this time a 4-1 loss to PSV Eindhoven. The Dutch side capitalised on defensive lapses and maintained complete control, deepening Liverpool's struggles in Europe this season.

fixtures, underlining a generational shift within the competition. But with veterans like Mbappé and established sides like Arsenal and PSG delivering powerful statements, the Champions League remains a blend of youthful brilliance and experienced dominance.

## Smriti Mandhana, Palash Muchhal Spark Buzz With Instagram Bio Update



The postponed wedding of Indian cricket star Smriti Mandhana and music composer Palash Muchhal has turned into a swirl of speculation as both updated their Instagram bios with the 'nazar' (evil eye) emoji, triggering fresh curiosity among fans.

The couple was set to tie the knot on November 23 in Sangli, just weeks after India's Women's World Cup triumph, where Smriti played a crucial role. However, the celebrations were halted abruptly when Smriti's father, Shrinivas Mandhana, suffered a medical emergency and was rushed to the hospital on the day of the ceremony. A day later, Palash too was hospitalised in Sangli and later shifted to Mumbai, prompting the families to officially postpone the wedding.

Fans quickly took notice, flooding social media with questions, theories, and well-wishes. Despite the chatter, neither family has issued any statement beyond the initial announcement of the postponement. For now, supporters of the couple remain hopeful that the wedding will simply be rescheduled once the families are ready. Until an official date is shared, the updated bios and subtle social media movements will continue to keep followers guessing.

## MI to Face RCB in WPL 2026 Opener on January 9



The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Saturday announced the full schedule for the 2026 edition of the Women's Premier League (WPL), confirming Navi Mumbai and Vadodara as the host cities for the month-long tournament. The five-team league will run from January 9 to February 5, with two-time champions Mumbai Indians set to take on 2024 winners Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the high-profile opener at DY Patil Stadium.

The opening clash promises a blockbuster start, pitting two of the league's strongest sides against each other. Mumbai Indians, known for their consistency and depth, will look to begin their campaign on a strong note, while RCB aim to recreate the form that brought them their first title in 2024.

According to the schedule released by the WPL, the Navi Mumbai leg will be played from

January 9 to 17. DY Patil Stadium will host the first 11 matches of the tournament, setting the stage for an intense start as teams jostle for early momentum in the tightly contested league.

The action will then shift to Vadodara, where the remaining 11 matches—including the play-offs—will be hosted. The relocation marks the WPL's expansion into a new venue, with Vadodara set to welcome its first major women's cricket event. The city's inclusion underscores the BCCI's ongoing efforts to broaden the reach of women's cricket across India.

With five teams competing over 22 matches, WPL 2026 promises high-quality cricket, renewed rivalries, and emerging stars. As the countdown begins, fans eagerly await another season of impactful performances, thrilling finishes, and standout talent shaping the landscape of women's cricket in India.

## Annagaru Vostaru Teaser Promises Fun-Filled Action Ride



Tamil star Karthi is gearing up to entertain audiences once again with his upcoming film *Vaa Vaathiyaaar*, which is set for a grand theatrical release in December 2025. Directed by the acclaimed Nalan Kumarasamy and produced by KE Gnanavelraja under the Studio Green banner, the film will hit screens simultaneously in Tamil and Telugu. The Telugu version is titled *Annagaru Vostaru*.

The newly released teaser was unveiled by director Anil Ravipudi, who extended his best wishes to the entire team. The one-and-a-half-minute glimpse instantly sets a lively tone, blending Karthi's trademark charm with his action-packed screen presence. The teaser suggests that the film will lean heavily into quirky humour and energetic sequences, creating expectations for a wholesome commercial entertainer.

Karthi plays a police officer who is tough and uncompromising on duty but re-

veals a lighter, playful side outside of it. This duality is showcased effectively in the teaser, offering fans a taste of both intensity and humour. The sleek cutting style, coupled with Santhosh Narayanan's vibrant background score, enhances the excitement and amplifies the teaser's overall impact.

Krithi Shetty plays the female lead, adding freshness to the pairing. The supporting cast includes Shilpa Manjunath, Rajkiran, Anand Raj, and Sathyaraj in key roles. The ensemble is further strengthened by the presence of Karunakaran, GM Sundar, Ramesh Thilak, PL Thenapalan, Vidhya Borgia, Nivas Adithian, and Madhur Mittal.

With a strong technical team, an exciting cast, and a teaser that promises a mix of fun and action, *Annagaru Vostaru* has already started building solid buzz. Fans are eagerly awaiting the film's release as Karthi steps into yet another entertaining avatar.

## Revolver Rita Opens to Disappointing Response



Keerthy Suresh's latest film *Revolver Rita* hit theatres on Friday, but the release went almost unnoticed across most regions. Despite being a dubbed Tamil film, the makers had hoped for a modest opening, especially with known actors like Radhika Sarathkumar, Sunil, and John Vijay in the cast. Keerthy Suresh even promoted the film in Hyderabad, giving interviews to generate interest. One interview moment—where she was unexpectedly asked about Chiranjeevi—briefly went viral, but it did little to boost the film's visibility.

Trade sources report that while a handful of shows were held in Hyderabad, the occupancy remained extremely low. In many centres, screenings reportedly ran with almost no audience, reflecting the minimal buzz surrounding the release.

*Revolver Rita* positions itself as a dark comedy thriller, but the narrative offers little novelty. The premise follows a mother and daughter who accidentally kill a local don who

barges into their home. What unfolds is a string of chaotic attempts to hide the body, escape from the don's vengeful son, avoid the police, and survive the chaos. However, the storytelling lacks conviction, drawing inevitable comparisons to films like *Coco Kokila* and *Keeda Kola*. Despite packing in numerous elements, the film struggles to bring them together cohesively, resulting in a bland and forgettable experience.

The repetitive screenplay makes the film feel stretched, turning it into a lesson in how not to craft a dark comedy. For many viewers, it is disheartening to see Keerthy Suresh—once praised for her exceptional performance in *Mahanati*—stuck in yet another poorly executed project. Her recent attempts at leading roles have largely fallen flat at the box office, with *Miss India*, *Penguin*, and *Good Luck Sakhi* all underperforming. Unfortunately, *Revolver Rita* now joins that list, adding another setback to the actress's inconsistent run.

## Akhanda 2 Pre-Release Event: Balakrishna Promises a Divine Action Spectacle



*Akhanda 2: Tandavam*, the powerful reunion of God of Masses Nandamuri Balakrishna and blockbuster director Boyapati Srinu, held its grand pre-release event ahead of the film's worldwide release on December 5, 2025, in both 2D and 3D formats. Produced by Ram Achanta and Gopichand Achanta, and presented by M. Tejaswini Nandamuri, the film has already created massive buzz with its teaser, trailer, and music by S. Thaman.

Addressing the packed venue, Balakrishna said the audience would witness "the power of Maha Shiva, Rudra Tandava Vinyasa, and the essence of Sanatana Dharma." Calling *Akhanda 2* an "explosive" cinematic experience, he expressed gratitude to fans, whom he described as emotionally connected to him "for many births." He bowed in reverence to his father, legendary actor Dr. Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao, acknowledging him as his guiding force.

Balakrishna spoke of

how *Akhanda* succeeded during the COVID period and expressed confidence that the sequel would surpass expectations. He emphasized the film's spiritual core, stating that the energy of Maha Shiva and Adi Shakti would be strongly felt on screen. He

praised director Boyapati Srinu for their effortless creative chemistry and lauded the cast and crew, including Aadi Pinisetty, Murali Mohan, and the stunt masters Ram-Laxman. He also highlighted Thaman's impactful music and

appreciated the team's efforts during the challenging shoot in Georgia.

Balakrishna revealed that Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had praised the film's portrayal of Sanatana Dharma after watching

the trailer. He described *Akhanda 2* as "Ugadi pacchadi," promising a blend of emotions, action, devotion, and grandeur.

Director Boyapati Srinu thanked governments, police departments, actors, and technicians, calling

Balakrishna "our power and our courage." He assured fans that the film would deliver unmatched divine action.

*Akhanda 2: Tandavam* is set to roar at the box office, carrying sky-high expectations from fans across the globe.

## Janhvi Kapoor Lets Earthy Glam Speak in Silence



Janhvi Kapoor has been dominating social media lately, largely thanks to the unexpectedly viral "Chikiri Chikiri" track from her upcoming rural sports drama *Peddi*. The song's catchy rhythm and rustic flavour have caught on quickly, and Janhvi appears to be embracing the momentum with quiet confidence. Riding the wave, she has now shared a new set of photographs that are sparking fresh conversations online, with many noting a shift toward a calmer, more grounded phase in her career.

The latest pictures reveal Janhvi in an earthy, textured ensemble that exudes

an old-world elegance. The muted, warm-toned background, lightly brushed with greenery, creates an almost cinematic hush. Standing still with her hands poised gracefully and her hair pulled back, Janhvi channels an understated assurance. Her jewelry adds only a whisper of shine, letting the ambience carry most of the mood. Rather than a typical glam shoot, the images feel intimate and atmospheric—a moment suspended in silence, which is why they've struck a chord with viewers.

With *Peddi* slated for a March 2026 release, the promotional campaign is still in its early stages. Yet the team is steadily building intrigue by dropping songs and subtle glimpses that hint at the film's tone. Janhvi's role, described as performance-heavy and rooted in a rural setting, is drawing attention for its potential to showcase a new dimension of her craft.

As the buzz grows, these recent photos reinforce the idea that Janhvi is leaning into authenticity—both in her styling choices and her evolving screen presence.

For now, *Peddi*'s teasers and her grounded aesthetic are doing exactly what they need to: keeping audiences curious and waiting for more.

## "Varanasi" Title Row

### Ends – Telugu Version to Be "Rajamouli Varanasi"

### Other Stick with "Varanasi"



A fresh resolution has emerged in the months-long dispute over the title of *Varanasi*, the upcoming film by S. S. Rajamouli starring Mahesh Babu, Priyanka Chopra and Prithviraj Sukumaran.

Industry insiders say this dual-title strategy allows the filmmakers to respect the prior registration held by Rama Bramha Hanuma Creations, while enabling the much-hyped Rajamouli project to retain its brand identity in non-Telugu markets. The decision reportedly involved buy-out and licensing discussions, ensuring no pending objections remain.

With the title controversy behind them, the makers now plan full-steam ahead for release. According to previous announcements, *Varanasi* is slated for a nationwide, multi-language release in 2027—promising a grand cinematic spectacle worth the wait.