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CM Revanth Reddy Sets Directions for New Zonal Commissioners, Emphasizes Planned Development of Core Urban Areas

Hyderabad TPN Bureau | December 30

Hyderabad, December 30: Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has issued detailed directives to the newly appointed zonal commissioners, emphasizing the need for planned and systematic development of the Core Urban Region within the Outer Ring Road. The government has decided to implement a structured approach to urban governance, aligning with the Telangana Rising 2047 vision document aimed at the long-term development of the state.

Under the CURE (Core Urban Region Economy) framework, the city has been reorganized into 12 zones, 60 circles, and 300 wards to streamline administration and ensure accountability. CM Reddy stressed that zonal commissioners must be actively present in the field daily, addressing local issues proactively.

Sanitation and waste management, highlighted as the city's most complex challenge, have been prioritized. The government has mandated strict measures to clean the Core Urban Region, including complete prohibition of plastics, protection of lakes and drains from encroach-



ments, and deployment of electric vehicles in place of diesel buses and autos. Surveillance measures, including CCTV cameras at dumping sites, lakes, and drains, are to be implemented. Monthly special sanitation and maintenance drives over three days have also been directed to ensure cleanliness, with no littering or pot-holes permitted on city roads. Technology will play a key role in governance, with online platforms used for issuance of birth and death certificates, trade licenses, and other documents to ensure transparency and efficiency. Regular communication with Colony Wel-

fare Associations and Apartment Associations will be maintained to improve citizen engagement.

Departments including HYDRA, GHMC, and Water Works have been instructed to commence drain desilting and maintenance works from January. Street lighting adequacy and mosquito and vector control will remain a priority, with zonal commissioners tasked with disease prevention and prompt resolution of complaints via a dedicated toll-free number.

The CM also directed that an actionable five-year urban development plan be formulat-

ed, emphasizing collaboration among all departments and stakeholders. "Only by working together can we ensure a sustainable and smart city for the future," he said.

The government's approach reflects a shift from good governance to smart governance, focusing on technology integration, citizen-centric services, and proactive urban management. With structured zones, empowered commissioners, and clear accountability, Hyderabad is poised to transform into a well-managed, eco-friendly, and citizen-friendly metropolis.



Telangana Government Reorganizes Police Commissionerates, Four New Units Created

Hyderabad TPN Bureau | December 30

The Telangana State Government has undertaken a major reorganization of its police administration, creating four new Police Commissionerates to improve public services, maintain law and order, and enhance crime control. The move coincides with the restructuring of the GHMC and the state's Telangana Rising 2047 vision for a \$3 trillion economy.

Under the reorganization, the previously existing three commissionerates have been restructured, and the new Hyderabad, Cyberabad, Malkajgiri, and Future City Commissionerates have been constituted. Key areas including the Assembly, Secretariat, Begumpet, Shamshabad

Airport, and Budvel High Court now fall under the Hyderabad Commissionerate. The Cyberabad Commissionerate will cover rapidly growing IT hubs such as Gachibowli, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Madhapur, and Raidurg, along with industrial zones like Patancheru, Genome Valley, RC Puram, and Ameenpur. The Rachakonda Commissionerate has been reorganized, while the newly established Malkajgiri Commissionerate will include areas like Keesara, Shamirpet, Quthbullapur, and Kompally. Bhongir district, previously part of Rachakonda, has been excluded from the commissionerate jurisdictions and will function as a separate police unit under a newly appointed SPA new Future City Commissionerate has also been formed to over-

see developing areas such as Chevella, Moinabad, Shankarpally, Maheshwaram, and Ibrahimpatnam. The government has issued orders appointing Police Commissioners for all four commissionerates and the SP for Yadadri Bhongir district. This restructuring is aligned with the Telangana Rising 2047 vision, which divides the state into CURE, PURE, and RARE regions and emphasizes planned development. The expanded GHMC, now comprising 12 zones, 60 circles, and 300 wards, will also coordinate with other departments undergoing similar reorganization. Officials stated that the overhaul is aimed at delivering better policing, rapid response, and efficient administration in line with Telangana's growth and urban development plans

CM Revanth Reddy Urges Ministers, MLAs to Present Strong Arguments in Telangana Assembly

TPN Bureau | December 30:

Hyderabad Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has called upon ministers and Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) from the ruling Congress party to actively participate in Assembly proceedings by presenting strong, well-researched, and fact-based arguments on key issues. Stressing the importance of effective legislative debate, the Chief Minister said that ministers and lawmakers must be fully prepared to respond to opposition criticism and clearly articulate the government's stand on various matters.

The Chief Minister made these remarks during a review meeting with senior ministers, party leaders, and Congress legislators after the adjournment of the Assembly session on Monday. He noted that the upcoming sessions would witness intense discussions, particularly on sensitive issues such as river water sharing, irrigation projects, development initiatives, and welfare schemes. Revanth Reddy urged all ministers to come to the House with complete data, historical records, and official documents to ensure meaningful and confident participation in debates.

Highlighting the role of the legislature in



strengthening democracy, the Chief Minister said the Assembly should serve as a platform for constructive dialogue rather than political rhetoric. He emphasized that the government's policies and decisions should be defended with clarity and transparency, enabling the public to understand the rationale behind them. According to him, strong arguments backed by facts would not only counter opposition claims but also enhance the credibility of the government.

Revanth Reddy specifically instructed ministers handling key portfolios, including irrigation and finance, to prepare detailed notes on major projects, water allocations, and agreements entered into by previous administrations. He stated that presenting a clear

comparison between past and present governance would help expose misinformation and set the record straight during debates.

The Chief Minister also spoke about improving coordination among ministers and legislators during Assembly sessions. He proposed the creation of better discussion spaces within the Assembly complex to facilitate consultations and strategy meetings before important debates. Such coordination, he said, would help ensure a unified and confident presentation of the government's position.

Political observers view the Chief Minister's remarks as a strategic move ahead of what is expected to be a highly charged Assembly session. Opposition parties, particularly the Bharat

Rashtra Samithi (BRS), have indicated their intent to raise questions on irrigation projects, river water disputes, and implementation of government promises. The Congress government, in response, appears keen on projecting preparedness and administrative clarity.

Revanth Reddy reiterated that every minister and MLA has a responsibility to uphold the dignity of the House by engaging in informed discussions. He said the government is committed to accountability and welcomes debate, provided it is based on facts and aimed at public welfare. With crucial policy discussions on the agenda, the Chief Minister's call for strong arguments signals an assertive approach by the ruling party in the Telangana Assembly.

KCR Appoints BRS Deputy Floor Leaders in Telangana Assembly and Council

TPN Bureau | Hyderabad December 30

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) president and Leader of Opposition K. Chandrashekhara Rao (KCR) on Tuesday announced key leadership appointments within the party's legislative wings in the Telangana Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council. The move is aimed at strengthening the party's coordination and effectiveness during the ongoing winter session of the legislature.

In the Legislative Assembly, senior leaders T. Harish Rao, Sabitha Indra Reddy, and Talasani Srinivas Yadav have been appointed as Deputy Floor Leaders. All three leaders bring extensive political and

administrative experience to their new roles. Harish Rao, a former minister who has handled key portfolios such as irrigation, finance, and health, is known for his strong command over legislative affairs. Sabitha Indra Reddy and Talasani Srinivas Yadav, both former ministers, are also expected to play crucial roles in steering the party's strategy and articulating its stand on major issues during Assembly proceedings.

In the Legislative Council, the party appointed L. Ramana and Pochampally Srinivas Reddy as Deputy Floor Leaders. Desapati Srinivas was named as the Whip of the BRS in the Council. These appointments are intended to enhance the party's coordination and

legislative performance in the upper house.

Party sources said the appointments come at a time when several important issues are expected to be debated in the legislature, including governance, development initiatives, water-sharing disputes, and public welfare schemes. With the Congress government in power, the BRS leadership has emphasized the need for a strong and well-organized opposition to effectively raise public concerns. The role of Deputy Floor Leaders includes assisting the Floor Leader in managing legislative business, coordinating party members during debates, and responding to government policies and proposals. The Whip is responsible for

maintaining party discipline, ensuring the presence of members during key discussions and votes, and facilitating communication between legislators and the party leadership.

Political observers view the appointments as a strategic step by KCR to blend experience with organizational strength within the party's legislative team. By entrusting senior leaders with key responsibilities, the BRS aims to project a united and proactive stance in both the Assembly and Council.

The newly appointed leaders are expected to play a central role in shaping the party's legislative approach in the coming days as debates intensify on issues of importance to the people of Telangana.



Harish Rao Alleges ‘Water Betrayal’ by Telangana Government Over Godavari Projects

TPN Bureau | December 30

Former minister and senior BRS leader T. Harish Rao launched a sharp attack on the Telangana government during a press conference held at Telangana Bhavan, accusing Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of facilitating Andhra Pradesh’s “water exploitation” through the Godavari-Banakacherla and Nallamala Sagar projects. Harish Rao said that shifting the Banakacherla proposal to the Nallamala Sagar route does not reduce the threat to Telangana. “Whether it is Ba-

nakacherla or Nallamala Sagar, it amounts to the same water plunder,” he alleged. He described Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu as the “mastermind” behind the project and Revanth Reddy as the “executor,” stating, “The knife belongs to Chandrababu, but Revanth is doing the stabbing.”

The former minister questioned whether Revanth Reddy was acting as Telangana’s Chief Minister or paying “guru dakshina” to Chandrababu Naidu. He said BRS had first raised alarm over the Ba-



nakacherla issue and accused the Congress government of remaining inactive despite repeated warnings. Harish Rao alleged

that despite publicly denying discussions, the Telangana government attended meetings, signed documents, and later formed a committee on the issue. He claimed that Andhra Pradesh Irrigation Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu himself confirmed that Banakacherla was discussed and a committee was formed to facilitate the project. The BRS leader further alleged a conspiracy to divert Godavari waters directly to the Penna basin through Nallamala Sagar to avoid water-sharing obligations under the Go-

davari Tribunal Award. He cited objections raised by Karnataka and Maharashtra, stating that both states had warned of withholding their Krishna water shares if Godavari waters were diverted. Harish Rao strongly objected to the appointment of Adityanath Das as irrigation advisor, calling it equivalent to “handing over the lock to a thief.” He accused Das of consistently opposing Telangana’s water interests in the past and aiding Andhra Pradesh projects. He also questioned the Telangana government’s

legal strategy, alleging that forming a committee after approaching the court weakened the state’s case. “On one hand, you file a case; on the other, you create a committee to dilute it,” he said. Concluding, Harish Rao demanded the scrapping of the committee, removal of Adityanath Das, and a resolution in the Assembly opposing the Nallamala Sagar project. He urged the Chief Minister to lead a protest in Delhi to safeguard Telangana’s water rights, accusing the government of betraying the state’s interests.

Journalists’ Body Seeks Revisions to G.O. 252; Minister Assures Action

TPN Bureau | December 30

Telangana State Working Journalists’ Federation (TWJF) has requested certain amendments to the recently issued Government Order 252 concerning accreditation cards for journalists. The demand was presented during a meeting with Minister for Revenue, Information and Public Relations, and Housing, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, at the Secretariat on Tuesday. The TWJF delegation, led by state president K. Virahat Ali, submitted a memorandum highlighting concerns raised by journalists over perceived shortcomings in the G.O. 252 guidelines.

Virahat Ali emphasized that previously, accreditation benefits were not uniformly extended to all desk journalists and reporters. The union urged that all welfare schemes, including bus passes and other government-provided facilities, be made accessible to all eligible journalists without discrimination. The federation also called for clarification regarding cable television channels and requested that G.O. 252 be amended to ensure clear guidelines. They stressed that accreditation for journalists working in major cities beyond Greater Hyderabad should follow district and mandal-based deadlines, and

smaller newspapers should receive cards based on circulation in their respective districts. Further, TWJF urged that journalists working with national print and electronic media, as well as video and camera journalists, should receive accreditation cards based on recommendations from their respective offices. The federation also highlighted the need to recognize Urdu journalists operating in specific districts under a separate category, without comparing their circulation to other language publications. To benefit veteran and freelance journalists, the union suggested a slight relaxation of

the professional experience requirement stated in the G.O. 252. Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy assured the TWJF delegation that the government would consider their suggestions carefully. He promised that a meeting would be convened with journalists’ associations after the Assembly session to review feedback and address gaps in the order. “Accreditation cards and media cards are treated equally. There is no bias or discrimination,” the minister clarified. “All welfare schemes applicable to accredited journalists will also extend to media cardholders. There is no need for any con-

cern or agitation. The government remains committed to supporting eligible journalists fairly.” The TWJF delegation included state vice-president Kalkuri Ramulu, secretaries K. Sreekanth Reddy and V. Yadagiri, treasurer M. Venkat Reddy, executive members A. Rajesh, M.D. Gouse, HUI president Shankar Goud, and leaders of small and medium newspapers such as Yusuf Babu and Ashok. Minister Ponguleti assured that the government would amend G.O. 252 to incorporate the federation’s suggestions, ensuring greater benefits and clarity for all journalists across Telangana.



Urea Supply Stable Across Telangana, Farmers Urged Not to Panic

TPN Bureau | December 30:

Telangana Agriculture Minister has assured farmers that urea supply is continuing smoothly across the state and there is no cause for concern. According to the latest data, the state currently has 47.68 lakh bags of urea in stock, ensuring adequate availability for the ongoing Rabi 2025-26 season. In a video conference held with district collectors, the minister instructed that urea distribution be closely monitored at the district level. Following the directives, JDA and ADA officials have been appointed as district nodal officers to supervise the supply and ensure timely delivery to farmers. For the Rabi season (October to March), the central government allocated a total of 20.10 lakh metric tonnes of fertilizers to Telangana, including 10.40 lakh metric tonnes of urea. Out of the 5.60 lakh metric tonnes expected since October, the state has already received 5.84 lakh metric tonnes, exceeding the allocation by 24,000 metric tonnes. Farmers have so far



purchased 3.71 lakh metric tonnes of urea during the current Rabi season, leaving a stock of 2.15 lakh metric tonnes, equivalent to 47.68 lakh bags, across all districts. The minister urged farmers to avoid panic buying and purchase urea only as per their requirement, warning against being influenced by misinformation from opposition leaders. Authorities emphasized that strict action will be taken against illegal hoarding or black marketing. District-level

stock details have been shared, and continuous monitoring is underway to ensure smooth distribution. The Agriculture Minister reiterated that the state government is committed to managing fertilizer supply systematically for farmers’ benefit. He assured that the entire Rabi season would have uninterrupted urea availability, and all farmers will have access to the fertilizer they need, without facing any shortage or disruption.

Mudiraj Panchayat Leaders Honored at Grand Ceremony in Hyderabad

TPN Bureau | December 30:

A grand felicitation ceremony for Mudiraj Panchayat leaders was held at Ravindra Bharathi under the aegis of the Mudiraj Corporation, with Minister Vakiti Srihari attending as the chief guest. The event recognized Panchayat heads elected across the state during the recent local body elections. Addressing the gathering, Minister Srihari emphasized the pivotal role of Panchayat leaders in promoting rural development. Recalling his own journey, he said, “I became the sole elected Sarpanch of Makthal Major Gram Panchayat at the age of 26. It is the dedication and vision of leaders like you that drive social and community progress.”

He urged the Mudiraj community to continue contributing to local governance with the spirit of festivals, the Constable Movement, and the vision of social reformers such as Mahatma Jyotirao Phule and B.R. Ambedkar. Srihari highlighted that, given their demographic strength, Mudirajs deserve greater representation in both the Assembly and Parliament. On the community’s socio-political status, the minister announced his commitment to advocate for reclassifying the Mudiraj community from BC-D to BC-A. “If necessary, I am ready to relinquish my ministerial position to ensure the community’s interests are safeguarded. I will engage with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to achieve

this goal,” he added. He also called for a public assembly at the Parade Grounds to strengthen unity among Mudirajs and encourage collective action for their development. The ceremony included flag hoisting and cultural presentations, and was attended by Malkajgiri MP Etela Rajender, Mandal Deputy Chairman Band Prakash, Mudiraj Corporation Chairman Borra Gnaneshwar, former MLC Kasani Gnaneshwar, and various community leaders. Minister Srihari reiterated that while he continues to work for the welfare of all communities as a minister, he remains committed to advancing the social and political interests of the Mudiraj community through strategic initiatives and representation.



Telangana DGP Shivadhar Reddy Releases Annual Police Report

TPN Bureau | Dec. 30

Telangana Director General of Police (DGP) Shivadhar Reddy on Tuesday presented the annual police report for 2025, highlighting the state’s law and order achievements and crime statistics. Addressing officials, he stated that peace and security were effectively maintained throughout the year, including during major events like the Global Summit and Miss World

pageants, where police bandobust played a key role. DGP Reddy said the three-phase Gram Panchayat elections were conducted peacefully, reflecting the state police’s efficiency. Overall crime rates declined compared to 2024, with 2,28,690 cases recorded in 2025 against 2,34,158 the previous year—a 2.33% decrease. Investigation effectiveness improved, with conviction rates rising by 3.09%, from

35.63% in 2024 to 38.72% this year. The report highlighted sentencing milestones: four cases resulted in death sentences, 320 convicts received life imprisonment, and 154 individuals were sentenced under POCSO provisions. Additionally, 53 SC/ST offenders received life sentences. Road accidents saw a marginal increase in frequency (5.68%), but fatalities reduced to 6,499.



DGP Reddy noted that 509 Maoists escaped this year, including 24 from Telangana, but emphasized that police opera-

tions strictly follow the law and are unaffected by political considerations. Phone-tapping cases remain under ac-

tive investigation, and Telangana police continue to prioritize strict enforcement under the “khaki book” framework. Crime-specific statistics showed murders decreased by 8.76%, rapes by 13.45%, robberies by 27%, and thefts by 9.1%. Conversely, breach-of-trust cases rose by 23%. Cyber-crime incidents declined by 3%, despite a national 41% increase. Telangana leads the country

in phone recovery operations, averaging 111 recoveries daily. The police also recovered 246 crore for victims and refunded 159.65 crore to 24,498 victims. DGP Reddy highlighted Telangana police’s proactive disaster management, citing effective handling of floods in Nizamabad and Kamareddy. He also praised the department’s performance in national competitions, including the 68th All

India Police Duty Meet—where Telangana won 18 medals—and the World Police Fire Games, securing 10 medals. Concluding, DGP Shivadhar Reddy reaffirmed the police commitment to public safety, law enforcement, and transparent operations, stating that political influence does not affect Telangana police work, which strictly follows legal procedures

Harish Rao Blasts Congress Government Over Delayed Supreme Court Move on Andhra’s Polavaram Nallamala Sagar Link Project

Hyderabad 30: Senior Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader and former Telangana Irrigation Minister T. Harish Rao on Tuesday launched a strong attack on the state’s Congress government, accusing it of deliberately delaying its legal challenge in the Supreme Court against Andhra Pradesh’s controversial Polavaram Nallamala Sagar Link Project (PNLP). Rao claimed that the postponement has weakened Telangana’s position and misled the public about the government’s commitment to defending the state’s water rights.

Addressing the media in Hyderabad, Harish Rao said that the Telangana government filed its Supreme Court petition only on December 16, weeks after Andhra

Pradesh had already floated tenders for the project and after the deadline for bid submission had passed. He described the timing of the legal move as “shallow and deceptive,” alleging that it created only an illusion of resistance rather than a robust legal fight.

Rao also criticized the Congress government for reportedly constituting a technical committee on December 23 to address issues related to the project, a step he said could undermine Telangana’s case before the apex court. He argued that this move might allow the Centre to claim that Hyderabad had agreed to engage with Andhra Pradesh on the project’s terms.

The PNL, which aims to link surplus Godavari waters to the Rayalasee-

ma region through extensive infrastructure works, has triggered interstate disputes and legal challenges. Telangana’s petition alleges violations of water sharing laws and tribunal awards, seeking a stay on ongoing tender processes and project expansion efforts by Andhra Pradesh. Officials in Hyderabad contend that the plans could divert substantial Godavari water beyond existing allocations, which they say is unlawful.

Harish Rao did not spare Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, accusing him of being a “facilitator” for Andhra Pradesh’s interests and failing to protect Telangana’s rightful share of Godavari waters. Rao urged the Chief Minister to stage

a protest at the Prime Minister’s Office or the Jal Shakti Ministry to demand stricter scrutiny and justice for the state. Highlighting past achievements, Rao contrasted the current government’s response with that of the former BRS leadership, which he said had secured significant water allocations for Telangana. He warned that unless the Supreme Court case is vigorously pursued, the legal challenge could become ineffective, leaving the state vulnerable to losing more water resources.

The controversy over the Polavaram Nallamala Sagar project continues to evoke strong reactions across political lines, with Telangana’s water rights and interstate cooperation at the center of the debate.



Congress Government’s Plan to Allow Toll Free Travel to Andhra Pradesh During Sankranti Draws Sharp Criticism

Hyderabad, December 30:

The Telangana government’s proposal to allow toll free travel for commuters heading to Andhra Pradesh during the upcoming Sankranti festival has sparked widespread criticism from various quarters, raising questions about fairness, political mo-

At a recent review meeting, Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy announced that the state government plans to appeal to the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to allow toll free movement on major highways — particularly the Hyderabad-Vi-

jayawada route — during the peak festive travel season in January. The request is expected to cover travel between January 9 and January 18, aiming to reduce long traffic queues at toll plazas as lakhs of people travel between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh for Sankranti celebrations. Government officials noted that traffic vol-

umes during this period can surge by approxi-

mately 200 percent compared to regular days. While the government says the move is intended to ease congestion and improve commuter convenience, critics argue that it sets a questionable precedent. Many have questioned why similar toll exemptions were not granted during major festivals like Dasara or Diwali, when millions of Telangana residents also travelled long distances. Opponents have described the policy as politically motivated, suggesting it is aimed at garnering support ahead of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) elections.

Social media users and political observers have also voiced skepticism, with some questioning whether taxpayers should shoulder the cost of toll exemptions for travel outside the state. Detractors maintain that seasonal traffic congestion is not unique to Sankranti

and that better traffic management strategies — such as improved road infrastructure, designated high occupancy lanes, and staggered travel advisories — would have been more effective solutions. Supporters of the government’s plan, however, emphasize that Sankranti travel patterns are distinct, with a large portion of commuters undertaking long inter state journeys. They argue that temporary toll relief might reduce delays, lower travel stress, and improve safety on congested highways. The government has indicated it will continue consultations with the Union government and relevant authorities to finalize the proposal.

As debate intensifies, political parties, civic groups, and commuters await further details on whether the toll free travel proposal will be approved and how it might be implemented if sanctioned.



tives, and the impact on taxpayers.

jayawada route — during the peak festive

umes during this period can surge by approxi-

Rajanna-Sircilla Gears Up for Three-Day Maha Shivaratri Celebrations at Vemulawada

Rajanna-Sircilla, December 30, 2025, TPN Bureau

The Rajanna-Sircilla district administration has intensified preparations for the three-day Maha Shivaratri jatara at the renowned Sri Raja Rajeshwara Swamy Temple in Vemulawada, scheduled to be held from February 14 to 16, 2026. Lakhs of devotees from Telangana and neighbouring states are expected to attend the annual festival, prompting authorities to make elaborate arrangements

to ensure a smooth and safe pilgrimage experience. A comprehensive coordination meeting was held at Bheemeshwara Sadan in Vemulawada to review the preparedness of various departments. Government Whip and local MLA Adi Srinivas, In-charge District Collector and jatara chairman Garima Agarwal, Superintendent of Police Mahesh B. Gite, along with senior officials from revenue, police, transport, medical, municipal, and endowments depart-

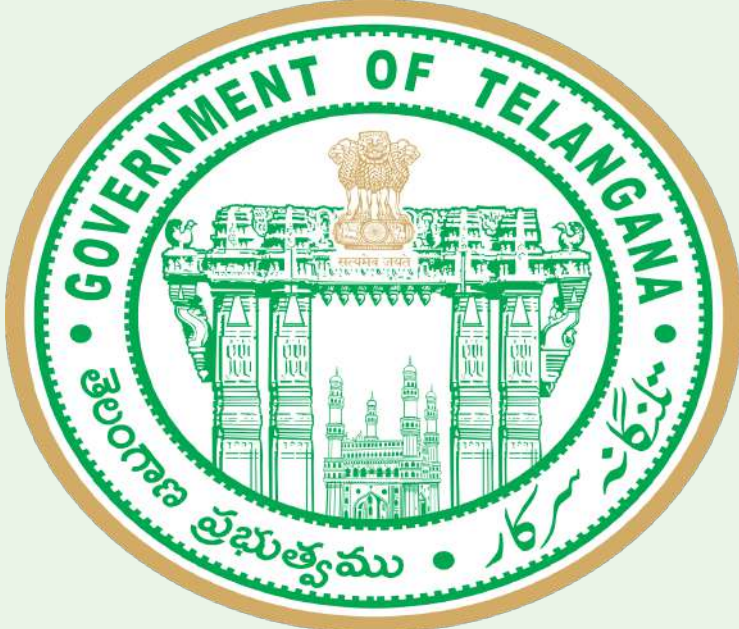
ments, participated in the meeting.

Officials were instructed to complete all infrastructure-related works well in advance. Special focus is being placed on repairing roads leading to Vemulawada to facilitate hassle-free movement of pilgrims. The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation has been directed to operate additional buses during the jatara period, depending on crowd flow, to ensure adequate public transport facilities.

To provide basic amenities, help desks, drinking water facilities, and mobile toilets will be set up at major congregation points, including the Thippapur bus stand. Sanitation arrangements will be strengthened across the temple town, with continuous cleaning operations to maintain hygiene throughout the festival. Signboards displaying emergency contact numbers and guidance information will be installed at key locations. Medical services

will be available round-the-clock, with special medical camps and ambulances stationed at strategic points. Wheel-chairs and assistance will be provided for senior citizens and persons with disabilities. In line with environmental concerns, officials have reiterated a strict ban on plastic usage within the temple premises and surrounding areas.

The police department has drawn up an elaborate security and traffic management plan. Adequate police personnel will be deployed for crowd regulation, and CCTV cameras will be used for surveillance. Special traffic diversions and parking arrangements will be implemented to avoid congestion. District authorities expressed confidence that with coordinated efforts from all departments, the Maha Shivaratri jatara at Vemulawada will be conducted peacefully, ensuring comfort, safety, and a spiritually fulfilling experience for devotees.



Telangana Government Issues Major IAS Transfers and Postings

Hyderabad, December 30, 2025 | TPN Bureau: In a significant administrative move ahead of the New Year and the winter session of the Telangana Legislature, the state government has issued fresh transfer and posting orders for a number of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers. The reshuffle, signed off by the Chief Secretary, is part of an ongoing effort to strengthen governance, improve service delivery and align administrative leadership with the evolving needs of the state’s expanding development agenda.

According to official sources, several senior IAS officers have been reassigned to new departments, key districts and specialised roles across the state. Among the notable changes is the appointment of the Sircilla District Collector as the new Secretary of the Telangana State Public Service Commission, reflecting a focus on enhancing the cadre management and recruitment process for state services. The Chief Secretary’s orders also include the posting of zonal commissioners for newly created administrative zones within the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), following its recent territorial expansion.

The government’s decision to designate zonal IAS officers for the GHMC comes in

the wake of the municipal body’s enlargement from six zones to twelve, resulting in the need for strengthened leadership to oversee urban governance, service delivery, civic infrastructure and sanitation within each zone. These appointments are expected to streamline administration in a rapidly growing metropolitan area that now serves more than 1.3 crore residents.

In addition to the public service commission posting, a number of group-I officers have also been given additional responsibilities, reflecting an emphasis on multi-departmental coordination. Several collectors and secretaries have seen changes in their assignments to ensure that priority sectors such as urban development, revenue, transport, welfare programs and strategic infrastructure projects receive renewed administrative attention.

Officials pointed out that one of the objectives of the reshuffle is to deploy experienced officers in roles that demand specialised expertise, especially where complex policy implementation and interdepartmental coordination are involved. Enhanced focus on ambitious government initiatives — including agricultural development, industrial growth, strengthening urban govern-

ance, and public service delivery — is among the reasons cited for reallocating senior bureaucrats.

While administrative reshuffles are a routine part of governance, sources indicated that the scale of the current transfer list underscores the government’s intent to prepare the bureaucratic machinery for upcoming policy priorities and legislative debates. Some officers have also been entrusted with Full Additional Charge (FAC) arrangements to ensure continuity in key departments pending formal appointments.

The reshuffle has drawn attention from political and civic observers, who note that changes in postings often have ripple effects on local administration, development projects, and coordination with elected representatives. Senior bureaucrats, in their new assignments, are expected to work closely with ministers, legislators and local officials to expedite citizen-centric services and achieve governance targets set for 2026.

The government has advised all transferred officers to complete their handovers promptly and assume charge of their new responsibilities without delay as part of maintaining administrative continuity and ensuring that the transition does not impact ongoing public initiatives and essential services.

All India Industrial Exhibition Returns in Grand Style for New Year Celebrations

Hyderabad, December 30:

As the city gears up to bid farewell to the old year and welcome the New Year with enthusiasm, all eyes are once again on Hyderabad, which is set to host the iconic All India Industrial Exhibition, popularly known as Numaish. A deeply rooted tradition in the city's cultural fabric, the exhibition is ready to captivate visitors with a grand showcase starting January 1.

The 85th edition of Numaish, with a legacy spanning over eight decades, will be held from January 1 to February 15, running for 46 days at the Exhibition Grounds in Nampally. Officials describe the event not



merely as a shopping destination, but as an emotional and cultural celebration that genera-

tions of Hyderabadis have grown up with. The exhibition will be officially inaugurated

on January 1 by Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka and Minister Komatireddy Venkat

Reddy. On regular days, the exhibition will remain open from 4:00 pm to 10:30 pm, while on

weekends and government holidays, visitors can enjoy the fair until 11:00 pm.

Entry tickets have been priced at 50 per person, with free entry for children below five years of age. This year's Numaish promises to be bigger and more diverse, featuring over 2,000 stalls showcasing products from across India and abroad. Around 1,050 manufacturers, artisans, and entrepreneurs will display their craftsmanship, offering everything from handi-crafts and garments to industrial products and household items.

Special priority has been given to women entrepreneurs in stall allotments to encourage women-led businesses.

Several government departments, including the Reserve Bank of India, Forest Department, and Tourism Department, have also set up dedicated stalls to spread awareness about their services. For food lovers, more than 20 food courts will offer a wide variety of cuisines, including Hyderabad's famed delicacies.

With an estimated footfall of 25 lakh visitors, authorities have implemented extensive safety measures. A total of 82 fire points, two water sumps with a combined capacity of 1.5 lakh litres, CCTV surveillance, watch towers, and 330 volunteers have been deployed to ensure safety and smooth

management.

To ease transportation, metro services from Nampally and Gandhi Bhavan stations will operate until midnight, while RTC is running special buses. Free parking facilities have also been arranged.

Beyond commerce and entertainment, Numaish plays a vital social role. Revenue generated from the exhibition supports nearly 19 educational institutions run by the Exhibition Society, benefiting around 30,000 students and providing employment to 2,000 staff members. This year too, Numaish promises to deliver a vibrant blend of shopping, entertainment, and social service for the people of Hyderabad.

CPI Submits Petition to Ensure Peaceful New Year Celebrations in Qutbullapur



TPN Bureau Qutbullapur, December 30: Ahead of the New Year celebrations, the Communist Party of India (CPI) submitted a petition to CI Venkatesh, urging authorities to ensure that festivities in the Jagatgiri Gutta area remain peaceful and well-organized. The petition requested heightened vigilance and security measures in the area. CPI leaders emphasized that "belt shops" must not operate under any circumstances during the two-day celebration period. They also called for increased patrolling at key locations including Srinivas Nagar Last Bus Stop, crematoriums, E-Seva centers, HNT crematorium, Ring

Basti Chowrasta, areas near government schools, temple steps, vacant lands in HNT, Rajiv Gruhakalpa, Guttha Chowrasta, and other public spots.

Highlighting last year's peaceful celebrations, CPI leaders requested that similar measures be implemented this year. They also suggested that authorities consider issuing a public notice to inform citizens about safety arrangements if required. Responding to the petition, CI Venkatesh assured the delegation that the police would take all necessary measures to maintain law and order. He collected detailed information regarding belt shops and key loca-

tions to ensure proper patrolling and prevent any disturbances. The CI guaranteed that no untoward incidents would be allowed during the celebrations.

The delegation, led by CPI district secretary Uma Mahesh, included assistant secretaries Harinath Rao and Ramulu, treasurer Sadanand, journalist Ram Swami, and party leaders Sailu, K. Venkatesh, Srinivas Chari, Radhakrishna, Srinivas Yadav, Kumar Swami, and Vamsi. The CPI emphasized that timely coordination between party representatives and police authorities is crucial to ensure that residents can celebrate New Year in a calm and secure environment.

AP Cab Driver Kills Landlady for Gold, Body Dumped in Godavari

TPN Bureau, Hyderabad, December 30, 2025: The Nacharam police solved a missing person case after a gruesome murder in Mal-lapur's Babanagar area. The victim, 65-year-old Sujata, who lived alone, was found to have been killed for her gold by her tenant, an Andhra Pradesh-based cab driver.

The accused, 33-year-old M. Anjibabu from Kothapalli, Peravali Mandal, Konaseema district, had been renting Sujata's house. On December 24, Sujata's sister filed a complaint with police after she noticed Sujata missing from

her home. Suspicion also arose as Anjibabu was not traceable, prompting the police to take him into custody for questioning.

During interrogation, Anjibabu confessed to murdering Sujata for her gold. He admitted that he, along with his associates—Yuvraju (18) and Durgarao (35)—transported the body to Krishna Lanka in Konaseema district and dumped it in the Godavari River.

Following the confession, the Nacharam police arrested Anjibabu and his two accomplices. Authorities confirmed that a detailed investigation is underway to determine the exact se-

quence of events leading to the crime.

The police have assured residents that stringent action will be taken against those involved in such heinous offenses. They also appealed to the public to report any suspicious activity promptly to prevent similar incidents.

This shocking incident has raised concerns about the safety of senior citizens living alone in the city, highlighting the need for increased vigilance and community awareness. The Nacharam police continue to investigate the case and gather evidence to ensure all involved are brought to justice.



Hyderabad Excise Teams Seize 229 Bottles of Illegally Transported Liquor

TPN Bureau Hyderabad, December 30: In a major crackdown ahead of New Year celebrations, excise enforcement teams seized 229 bottles of illegally transported liquor in the city. The operation was carried out under the directions of the Excise Commissioner to prevent the illegal sale and movement of alcohol during the festive season.

The raids were conducted at Pahadi Sharif, a key route where authorities had received intelligence about liquor being smuggled into Telangana from Goa, Delhi, and Haryana. The enforcement drive involved personnel from the Ranga Reddy Excise Enforcement STF B Team, as well as staff from the Saroor Nagar and Maheshwaram excise stations.

"The seized liquor has

been handed over to the Saroor Nagar Excise Station for further action," officials said. The teams also intercepted 7.165 liters of liquor being transported from Goa along the Sangareddy main road, further curbing illegal distribution in the region. Authorities emphasized that such oper-

ations are part of ongoing efforts to enforce excise laws, especially during peak festive periods when illegal alcohol sales tend to rise. These measures aim to ensure public safety and compliance with the law, preventing unauthorized consumption and distribution of liquor. The Ex-

cise Department has warned citizens and transporters that strict action will be taken against anyone found attempting to smuggle alcohol into the state without proper permits. The crackdown comes at a time when law enforcement agencies are ramping up vigilance to en-

sure a peaceful and safe New Year celebration across Telangana. The Hyderabad Excise Commissioner's office reaffirmed that similar enforcement operations will continue across the state to maintain law and order, emphasizing zero tolerance for illegal alcohol trafficking.



Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Performs Uttara Dwara Darshan on Mukkti Vaikuntha Ekadashi

TPN Bureau Hyderabad, December 30, 2025: Telangana Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, accompanied by his family, performed the Uttara Dwara Darshanam at the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam located in Himayatnagar, Hyderabad, on the auspicious occasion of Mukkti Vaikuntha Ekadashi.

During the visit, the minister offered prayers seeking prosperity and well-being for the people of Telangana, invoking blessings for abundant rains, healthy crops, and the overall happiness of citizens. He expressed

his gratitude to the deity and hoped that all ongoing welfare schemes and development initiatives under the state government would continue smoothly, without any obstacles.

Minister Prabhakar emphasized the significance of community participation in religious and cultural traditions, highlighting that such events bring families together and foster spiritual harmony. He actively engaged in the rituals and offered prayers alongside his family, reinforcing the cultural and devotional values associated with



Vaikuntha Ekadashi.

The temple authorities welcomed the minister and facilitated a smooth darshan, ensuring that the devotional activities were conducted in an orderly manner. Devotees attending the darshan praised the se-

rene environment and the seamless arrangements made for this significant religious event.

Mukkti Vaikuntha Ekadashi, celebrated annually, draws numerous devotees seeking spiritual merit and divine blessings. Minister

Prabhakar's visit underscores the continued involvement of public representatives in cultural and spiritual observances, while also highlighting their commitment to the welfare and prosperity of the people.

Hyderabad: HUDA Safeguards 1,000-Yard Park Worth Rs. 13 Crore, Installs Fencing



Hyderabad, TPN Bureau In a major move to protect public spaces, Hyderabad Urban Development Authority (HUDA) on Monday took

charge of a 1,000-yard park in Madinaguda village, ShereLingampally Mandal, Rangareddy district. Valued at approximately Rs. 13 crore, the park is part of the

Ushodaya Enclave layout, officially allotted for public use under Survey No. 23. The land had been gifted to GHMC through a deed, ensuring it remained accessi-

ble for community recreation. However, a local resident had illegally occupied the park and constructed a precast wall around it, restricting public access. Residents of Ushodaya Enclave, frustrated by the encroachment, lodged complaints with the authorities. Following the grievances, HUDA officials, along with GHMC and Revenue Department representatives, conducted an on-site inspection.

After confirming the land's designation as a public park, HUDA removed the unauthorized barricades and installed secure fencing around the area. Additionally, official signage was erected to indicate that the space is reserved for public use, ensuring

clarity for residents and visitors.

The move has been welcomed by the local community, who can now safely access the park for recreation, leisure, and social gatherings. HUDA officials emphasized that the park will be continuously monitored to prevent future encroachments and to maintain public safety. This initiative highlights the authority's commitment to preserving public spaces amid rapid urbanization, ensuring that residents have access to green areas for recreation and wellness. The project also sets a precedent for timely intervention against illegal occupation of public property in Hyderabad's expanding neighborhoods.

Adilabad Police Strict on New Year Celebrations: Safety, Rules Take Priority

Adilabad, December 30:

Adilabad, December 30: As the New Year approaches, Adilabad district police have issued strict guidelines to ensure peaceful celebrations across the district. District SP Akhil Mahajan, IPS, emphasized that all citizens must follow police instructions and adhere to safety regulations while celebrating.

Police have made it clear that public programs, rallies, or events cannot be conducted without prior permission. Farmhouses, resorts, and private venues must comply with existing rules. Unauthorized DJ arrangements, sound systems, or speakers are strictly prohibited. Residents organizing private parties are required to obtain clearance from the Excise and Police departments.

Special attention will be given to road safety. The police will operate 30 checkpoints across the district, including 15



in urban areas, to catch offenders involved in drunk driving, triple riding, rash driving, and driving on the wrong side. Vehicles violating traffic laws will be seized, and legal action will be taken. Parents of minors caught driving will also be held accountable.

Authorities warned

that activities such as cake cutting, firecracker displays, and bike racing on roads are illegal and will attract immediate action. Serving alcohol in public spaces or causing inconvenience to others will not be tolerated.

SP Mahajan urged the youth to celebrate responsibly, without dis-

turbing the peace or violating regulations. He stressed that uniform rules will be enforced across all mandals, ensuring safety for all citizens during the festivities. "Residents are encouraged to enjoy the New Year celebrations in a calm and lawful manner. The police department is fully pre-

pared to prevent any disturbances and will take strict measures against violators," he added.

The Adilabad police have reiterated that safety and public order will be the top priority this New Year's Eve, and all citizens must cooperate to ensure a peaceful start to 2026.

Sudheer Babu Assumes Charge as Future City Police Commissioner in Ranga Reddy District



Ranga Reddy, December 30, 2025 | TPN Bureau

Ranga Reddy District witnessed a significant administrative development today as Sudheer Babu formally assumed charge as the new Police Commissioner of the newly established Future City Police Commissionerate. The ceremony, held in the evening, was marked by traditional Vedic rituals, with priests offering blessings for the new chapter in his service.

Addressing the gathering, Commissioner Sudheer Babu said, "As per government orders, I have officially taken charge as the Police Commis-

sioner of Future City today. The state recently hosted a Global Summit to showcase its developmental achievements to the world. In line with our growth agenda, four new police commissionerates have been established across the state, and I am privileged to lead one of them."

He emphasized his commitment to contributing to the state's progress and highlighted the importance of coordinated efforts among various departments. "We will work in close coordination with all sections to ensure efficient administration. Within the jurisdiction of the Future City Commissioner-

ate, 22 police stations are operational, and I intend to work alongside their officers with strong teamwork and dedication," he added. Expressing gratitude, Sudheer Babu thanked the state government for entrusting him with this responsibility, noting that he views this role as an opportunity to strengthen law enforcement and public safety in the rapidly developing region. Officials and senior police personnel present at the event lauded the state government's initiative to expand police infrastructure and improve governance through the creation of new commissionerates.

Preparations Underway for Historic Keslapur Nagoba Jatra in Adilabad

Adilabad, December 30, 2025: District Collector Rajarshi Shah has directed officials to complete all arrangements for the grand Keslapur Nagoba Jatra, a historic festival that draws hundreds of thousands of devotees from Adilabad district and neighboring states, including Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, and Madhya Pradesh.

A coordination meeting was held on Tuesday at the Nagoba Temple Darbar Hall in Indraveli Mandal to review preparatory measures. The collector highlighted that the festival will commence with the Maha Puja on January 18 and stressed that all basic amenities must be ensured for devotees to have a seamless darshan experience.

Officials were instructed to complete arrangements well before

the event and to focus on the installation of high-mast electric lights and decorative lighting around the temple premises. Special attention was directed towards sanitation, road repairs, drinking water facilities, toilets, and emergency arrangements to ensure smooth operations.

Superintendent of Police Akhil Mahajan assured that the administration would organize robust security and crowd management measures, including barricades and tight deployment of personnel, to prevent traffic disruptions. Adequate facilities will also be provided for tribal devotees attending the festival.

ITDA Project Officer Yuvaraj Marmat emphasized the need to repair roads in Mutnuru, Harkapur, and sur-

rounding areas and urged all departments to coordinate effectively to ensure the event's success.

Prior to the meeting, the collector, SP, and POs performed special prayers at the Nagoba Temple. The collector

then inspected the festival grounds, Darbar Hall, and Koneru areas, providing detailed instructions to officials for final arrangements.

The meeting was attended by Training Collector Saloni Chabra, Training IPS Rahul

Pant, temple committee members, and other relevant officials. The administration has pledged to ensure that the Keslapur Nagoba Jatra is celebrated in a safe, organized, and grand manner for all devotees.



Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha and Spouse Offer Prayers at Vaikunthapuram



TPN Bureau, Sangareddy, December 30, 2025: Telangana's Health and Medical Education Minister, Damodar Ra-

janarsimha, along with his spouse, visited the renowned Vaikunthapuram Sri Venkateswara Temple in

Sangareddy town to mark the auspicious occasion of Vaikuntha Ekadashi, also known as Mukkoti Ekadashi. The minister emphasized the importance of preserving spiritual and cultural heritage while fostering community participa-

tion in temple activities. Temple authorities and devotees welcomed the minister and his spouse, highlighting that such visits strengthen the bond between public representatives and local religious institutions. Vaikuntha Ekadashi is considered one of the most sacred days in the Vaishnavite calendar, attracting devotees from across the region. The presence of the minister and his spouse during the celebrations underscored the significance of the event and set an example of participation in religious and cultural traditions by public figures. The temple administration reiterated its commitment to maintaining the sanctity and development of the temple, with planned improvements in infrastructure to accommodate the growing number of devotees who visit during festivals.

The minister and his spouse had the rare opportunity to participate in the Uttara Dwara Darshanam, a special northern entrance viewing that is highly revered by devotees. Following the darshan, the couple took part in exclusive rituals and special pujas conducted by the temple priests. Minister Rajanarsimha also joined devotees in the Pallaki Seva, accompanying the deity in the ceremonial procession, demonstrating his devotion and engagement with the temple community. During the visit, he expressed his commitment to supporting the development of the temple, including initiatives for the construction and enhancement of the Rajagopuram. The minister emphasized the importance of preserving spiritual and cultural heritage while fostering community participation in temple activities. Temple authorities and devotees welcomed the minister and his spouse, highlighting that such visits strengthen the bond between public representatives and local religious institutions. Vaikuntha Ekadashi is considered one of the most sacred days in the Vaishnavite calendar, attracting devotees from across the region. The presence of the minister and his spouse during the celebrations underscored the significance of the event and set an example of participation in religious and cultural traditions by public figures. The temple administration reiterated its commitment to maintaining the sanctity and development of the temple, with planned improvements in infrastructure to accommodate the growing number of devotees who visit during festivals.

BRS Corporators Raise Objections Over Unlawful Tax Levies on Public in Khammam

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) corporators in Khammam Municipal Corporation on Tuesday strongly protested against what they described as unlawful tax levies placing an undue financial burden on residents. In a delegation to the Municipal Commissioner, the BRS leaders highlighted concerns over property tax calculations, unauthorized construction penalties, and the imposition of taxes on parking areas that are legally exempt.

The BRS Municipal Corporation floor leader Karnati Krishna, deputy floor leader Maqbool, and several other corporators met Municipal Commissioner Abhishek and submitted a formal memorandum outlining their objections. They argued that several taxation practices currently enforced are contrary to municipal laws and unfairly impacting citizens.

One key grievance raised was the levying of property tax on

cellars and stilt floor areas used solely for parking. According to the corporators, these spaces should not attract property tax, as they are not considered taxable built-up areas under municipal regulations. They stressed that the current practice is illegal and violates municipal tax rules. The corporators also criticized penalties being imposed for unauthorized construction (UAC). They pointed out that structures built before September 1, 2013, should not attract UAC penalties, yet many citizens are being penalized under surveys conducted by municipal authorities. Additionally, they condemned the imposition of a 50 percent UAC penalty even on buildings with occupancy certificates, calling it unjust and unlawful. Further concerns were raised about beneficiaries of the Indiramma housing scheme and those who received pattas under earlier government orders. These

residents reportedly face issues with house numbering, property record mutations, and access to basic services such as electricity connections. In urging the Municipal Commissioner to take corrective action, the BRS leaders called for permanent and lawful solutions that would prevent unnecessary financial strain on the public. They also requested detailed records on the issuance of ration cards and the status of Indiramma scheme beneficiaries to resolve pending issues efficiently.

The corporators emphasized that resolving these problems in accordance with legal provisions would not only ease the burden on citizens but also enhance municipal revenue and improve governance effectiveness in Khammam. They urged the municipal authorities to act promptly and transparently to ensure fair taxation and public trust.



India’s Economy in 2025: Navigating Opportunity and Uncertainty



As the curtain falls on 2025, India’s economic narrative stands out amid a backdrop of global uncertainty and shifting geopolitical winds. The country’s performance this year was marked by notable achievements — including ascending to the position of the world’s fourth largest economy — and significant challenges such as tariff pressures, currency volatility, and uneven external demand. India’s journey through 2025 reflects resilience, structural dynamism, and a future oriented toward inclusive growth. Yet, the year also underscores areas requiring strategic clarity, sustained reform and policy foresight.

1. The Milestone of Becoming the Fourth Largest Economy

One of 2025’s most widely noted developments was India’s formal recognition as the world’s fourth largest economy by nominal GDP. With an estimated output nearing \$4.2 trillion, India surpassed one of the advanced economies it had long trailed behind. This symbolic and substantive achievement speaks volumes about the country’s growth momentum over the last decade. While nominal size is influenced by exchange rates and price levels, the sheer scale of India’s economy, its expanding domestic market, and structural reforms — such as simplified tax structures and investment inflows — confirm its rising global stature. This milestone is not merely numerical; it signifies India’s expanding footprint in the global economic arena and positions it as a central node for future trade,

investment and strategic partnerships. However, challenges remain. Per capita income in India still lags significantly behind advanced economies. Growth at the aggregate level therefore must translate into meaningful improvements in household incomes, job creation, and reductions in inequality. This remains an unfinished task as India continues its climb.

2. Sustained Growth Amid Global Headwinds

In a year defined by uneven global expansion, India maintained a robust economic growth trajectory. Domestic demand proved resilient, and growth estimates for 2025 hovered around the mid six percent range. This is noteworthy given the backdrop of slowing global trade, rising protectionism, and geopolitical tensions that have dampened investment flows in other emerging economies. A key strength has been India’s expansive service sector — from information technology to business process services — which continued to absorb labor and contribute meaningfully to national income. Private consumption, buoyed by rural demand and rising incomes, remained a major driver. Government capital expenditure and infrastructure investments also played a stabilizing role, preventing growth from decelerating as external demand softened. This internal demand led growth narrative resonated well with policymakers and economists alike, shifting some focus away from export dependence toward strengthening domestic markets and supply chains.

3. The “Goldilocks” Episode of Low Inflation

One of the defining macroeconomic themes of 2025 was the significant easing of inflation. Consumer price inflation dipped to historically low levels at a time when many major economies grappled with persistent price pressures. Ample supplies of essential food items — facilitated by strong agricultural outputs and improved logistics — helped cushion food inflation. Rationalization of indirect taxes, including goods and services tax adjustments in some categories, also played a role. For policymakers, low inflation offered breathing room. With prices stable, monetary authorities had the flexibility to consider supportive measures aimed at growth. Yet, extremely low inflation also raises concerns. It may mask underlying demand weaknesses in certain sectors or indicate



price troughs rather than structural stabilization. Central banks must therefore assess whether such low inflation is transitory or reflective of deeper economic conditions that need calibration.

4. Fiscal Discipline and Revenue Dynamics

Fiscal dynamics in 2025 presented a balanced picture. On the one hand, buoyant tax collections — from both direct and indirect sources — helped narrow the fiscal deficit at a time when public expenditure remained high. Strong revenue performance reflected growing compliance, enhanced tax administration and the positive impact of economic growth on corporate and individual incomes.

This fiscal strength was critical. It provided the government with both the space to continue financing capital expenditure on infrastructure and services and the credibility to maintain fiscal discipline amid shifting global financial conditions. For investors, this translated into greater confidence in India’s economic governance. Still, sustaining revenue growth while controlling expenditure will be pivotal in the coming years. This is especially true at a time when strategic investments in health, education and social welfare are essential for inclusive growth.

5. Trade Policy: New Agreements and Strategic Outreach

In 2025, India made decisive strides in its trade diplomacy. Multiple trade and economic partnership agreements were signed or activated with countries across Europe, the Middle East and Oceania. These agreements seek to lower tariff barriers, expand market access for Indian goods and services and facilitate investment flows. Such trade partnerships align with India’s broader strategy of diversifying export markets and reducing reliance on any single trading bloc. By expanding its global economic footprint, India seeks to mitigate risks associated with trade concentration and political friction. Though the benefits of trade agreements often unfold over several years, these strategic pacts signal India’s intent to integrate more deeply into global value chains, enhance competitiveness and attract foreign capital in sectors from manufacturing to services.

6. External Pressures: Tariffs, Rupee Volatility and Trade Headwinds

Despite progress on trade partnerships, 2025 was not without external headwinds. The imposition of elevated tariffs, particularly by the United States on certain Indian exports, posed challenges for exporters in vulnerable sectors. These tariff actions disrupted traditional trade flows and contributed to uncertainty for businesses that had long relied on established markets. Simultaneously, the Indian rupee experienced depreciation against the US dollar during much of the year. Currency volatility was influenced by capital outflows, slowing foreign portfolio investments and shifting global interest rate expectations. While a weaker rupee can sometimes enhance export competitiveness, it also raises the cost of imports — including critical inputs like crude oil — and can contribute to inflationary pressures. In navigating these pressures, policymakers face a nuanced challenge: balancing export incentives with the need to ensure macroeconomic stability and manage external vulnerabilities.

7. Structural Reforms as a Long Term Foundation

The macroeconomic outcomes of 2025 were not merely the result of cyclical factors, but also structural reforms undertaken over the past decade. Labour market reforms, enhanced ease of doing business, changes in the tax regime and measures to attract foreign direct investment have all played a role in shaping India’s economic landscape. Tax rationalization, including adjustments to the goods and services tax structure, is intended to stimulate consumption and incentivize production. While short term revenue implications were evident, the long term objective remains strengthening domestic demand and reducing distortions that previously hindered investment. Similarly, efforts to simplify regulatory frameworks and promote digital governance have improved India’s business environment, making it more attractive to both domestic and global investors.

8. Socioeconomic Challenges and Inequality

Despite macroeconomic progress, India’s development story continues to grapple with enduring socioeconomic challenges. Income inequality remains a core concern, with gains in growth not uniformly distributed across regions or demographic groups. Rural economies, while showing resilience, still face structural constraints in access to markets, finance and technology. The informal sector — which employs a significant portion of the workforce — continues to operate without stable income safeguards, leaving workers vulnerable to economic shifts. Addressing such disparities requires not only policy support for job creation and skill development, but also targeted investments in healthcare, education and social protection systems.

9. Looking Ahead: Opportunities and Priorities for 2026

As India transitions into 2026, policymakers face a dual mandate: sustaining growth momentum while managing risks that emerged in 2025. Key priorities include:

- Deepening domestic market strength through investments in infrastructure, digitalization and manufacturing capacity.
- Enhancing human capital by focusing on education, skills training and healthcare accessibility.
- Diversifying export markets and ensuring trade agreements are effectively operationalized to benefit Indian producers.
- Strengthening fiscal

frameworks that balance revenue growth with critical public investment.

10. Conclusion: A Balanced View of Progress and Potential

India’s economic performance in 2025 reflects a blend of achievement and challenge. Becoming the fourth largest economy is a testament to progress, but it also illustrates the distance still to travel in terms of inclusive prosperity. Strong growth and low inflation were encouraging, yet trade tensions and currency dynamics offered cautionary lessons. Looking ahead, the nation stands at a crossroads. By reinforcing structural foundations, nurturing domestic capacities and engaging confidently in global economic diplomacy, India can convert 2025’s gains into long lasting prosperity. Growth must be deep, equitable and sustainable — reaching far beyond headline numbers to touch the daily lives of millions. If that vision guides policy into 2026 and beyond, India’s economic narrative will not only be one of resilience, but of transformation.

Managing currency stability through prudent foreign exchange and macroeconomic policy measures.

Promoting sustainability and resilience in supply chains to withstand global shocks.

With the right policy mix and sustained commitment to reform, India’s economic prospects remain bright. Indeed, the 2025 experience demonstrates that while external conditions can be unpredictable, India’s internal economic engines — innovation, entrepreneurship, human capital and demographic advantage — have the potential to sustain growth in the long term.

Conclusion: A Balanced View of Progress and Potential

India’s economic performance in 2025 reflects a blend of achievement and challenge. Becoming the fourth largest economy is a testament to progress, but it also illustrates the distance still to travel in terms of inclusive prosperity. Strong growth and low inflation were encouraging, yet trade tensions and currency dynamics offered cautionary lessons. Looking ahead, the nation stands at a crossroads. By reinforcing structural foundations, nurturing domestic capacities and engaging confidently in global economic diplomacy, India can convert 2025’s gains into long lasting prosperity. Growth must be deep, equitable and sustainable — reaching far beyond headline numbers to touch the daily lives of millions. If that vision guides policy into 2026 and beyond, India’s economic narrative will not only be one of resilience, but of transformation.



Centre Warns Online Platforms Against Hosting Illegal Content, Urges Swift Action

The Union government has issued a stern warning to major online platforms to act decisively against the spread of illegal and harmful content, highlighting growing concerns over digital safety and accountability. The directive comes amid increasing scrutiny over the role of social media and digital intermediaries in the proliferation of unlawful material and misinformation, as authorities push for stricter enforcement of existing rules and a more responsible approach by technology companies.

In a statement reiterating its commitment to upholding law and order in the online space, the government emphasised that platforms have a legal obligation to ensure that content hosted on their services complies with Indian laws. Officials pointed out that while the internet has enabled unprecedented opportunities for communication and commerce, it has also facilitated the rapid spread of content that can threaten public safety, disrupt social harmony or violate individual rights.

The Centre's warning focused on digital platforms that host user generated content, urging them to strengthen their moderation policies and adopt robust mechanisms to promptly identify and remove unlawful material. Authorities stressed that platforms must respond effectively to complaints and legal notices, and that failure to act could result in regulatory action or loss of



intermediary protection under Indian law.

Government representatives highlighted that the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules require social media companies and online services to establish clear grievance redressal systems, appoint compliance officers in India, and follow due process for content removal when required by law. These obligations are designed to balance freedom of expression with the larger public interest and ensure accountability in the digital ecosystem.

The warning comes amid broader efforts by the government to tackle online harms, including cybercrime, hate speech, deepfakes, fraudulent schemes and content that incites violence or discrimina-

tion. Officials noted that while many platforms have made improvements in content moderation, persistent challenges remain, particularly with regard to emerging technologies and encrypted messaging services that make oversight more complex.

Industry representatives welcomed the dialogue with the government but also underscored the need for greater clarity and collaboration. They indicated that technology companies are investing in advanced tools, artificial intelligence and human review processes to detect and take down prohibited material, but urged that enforcement frameworks should be predictable and aligned with global best practices to avoid unintended consequences for legitimate speech.

Legal experts observing the development said that the current regulatory approach aims to strike a balance between protecting digital freedoms and addressing real harms. They noted that evolving jurisprudence and policy responses across the world reflect similar tensions as countries seek to hold platforms accountable without stifling innovation or free expression.

The Centre's warning serves as a reminder that online platforms, while powerful enablers of connectivity, also carry a responsibility to uphold legal and ethical standards. As digital engagement continues to grow, the emphasis on accountability and safety is likely to shape ongoing discussions between regulators, platforms and civil society on the future of the internet in India.

Bangladesh Mourns Former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, Pioneering Female Leader

Bangladesh is mourning the passing of Khaleda Zia, a towering political figure and former Prime Minister, who died at the age of 80 after a prolonged illness. She had been admitted to Evercare Hospital in Dhaka in recent weeks, battling multiple health issues, including infections affecting her heart and lungs as well as pneumonia. Her health had gradually deteriorated due to chronic conditions linked to age.

Khaleda Zia was the first woman to serve as Prime Minister of Bangladesh, holding office in two non-consecutive terms from 1991 to 1996 and 2001 to 2006. Her tenure oversaw significant political transitions, including the shift from a presidential to a parliamentary system of governance. She played a pivotal role in shaping Bangladesh's policies and navigating the country through critical periods of its modern development.

Her political journey began in the aftermath of her husband, President Ziaur Rahman's assassination. Rising to



prominence in a male-dominated political landscape, she led the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and became a central figure in national politics. For decades, she and her long-time rival, Sheikh Hasina, dominated the political arena, often amid intense rivalry and ideological differences.

Zia's leadership emphasized national sovereignty and regional diplomacy. During her tenure, she took firm stances on issues of connectivity, trade, and transit rights, shaping Bangladesh's relations

with neighbouring countries, including India. Her approach to governance reflected a blend of resilience and pragmatism, which earned her both domestic and international recognition.

In response to her passing, the Bangladesh government declared three days of state mourning and announced a public holiday on the day of her funeral. Citizens were urged to observe the mourning period respectfully to honour her legacy.

Tributes poured in from

across the region. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi acknowledged her as a resilient democratic leader who contributed significantly to Bangladesh's development and to India-Bangladesh relations. Leaders from other neighbouring countries also extended condolences, highlighting the impact of her long and influential political career.

Khaleda Zia's legacy is multifaceted. She is remembered for her resilience, leadership, and pioneering role as a female political figure in South Asia. At the same time, her tenure was marked by controversies and challenges that shaped the nation's political discourse. Nonetheless, her place in history as a central figure in modern Bangladesh and as a trailblazer for women in leadership remains undisputed.

Her passing marks the end of a defining chapter in Bangladesh's political history, leaving a lasting imprint on the country's governance, regional diplomacy, and the evolution of democracy in South Asia.

Who Is Aviva Baig? The Delhi Woman Set to Marry Raihan Vadra

Aviva Baig has become a subject of national interest following the announcement of her upcoming marriage to Raihan Vadra, the son of Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Robert Vadra. The engagement has drawn widespread attention, not just because of the prominence of the Vadra-Gandhi family in Indian political and social circles, but also due to Aviva's own unique background and accomplishments.

Aviva Baig hails from Delhi, where she spent her formative years and completed her education. Known for her academic prowess, she pursued higher studies with a focus on arts and humanities, though specific details about her institutions or specialisation have largely remained private, in keeping with her generally low public profile prior to this news.

Professionally, Aviva is described as a creative and culturally inclined individual. She has been associated with projects related to arts, design and cultural initiatives, often blending traditional aesthetics with modern sensibilities. Friends and acquaintances



characterize her as someone with a keen eye for detail and a deep appreciation for heritage and artistic expression.

Despite the spotlight now on her personal life, Aviva has maintained a relatively private presence on social media and in public forums. She is not known to seek public attention, and her circle of close friends and family describe her as grounded, thoughtful and warm hearted — qualities that have reportedly endeared her to Raihan and his extended

family.

Her engagement to Raihan Vadra has brought her into the public eye, especially given the prominent political legacy of the Gandhi family. Raihan, the eldest son of Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Robert Vadra, has largely stayed away from the political limelight, focusing instead on personal pursuits and maintaining a discreet public image. The couple's announcement has sparked interest across social media and news platforms, with many congrat-

ulating them on this new chapter.

Aviva's entry into a family that has been central to Indian politics for decades adds a fresh narrative to public discussions about the personal lives of political families. While she is not a public figure in the traditional sense, her association with Raihan has led to curiosity about her personality, background and future pursuits.

As the wedding plans take shape, much of the focus has been on how Aviva and Raihan will balance personal aspirations with public expectations. Their relationship, rooted in mutual respect and shared values, continues to capture attention — not as a political statement, but as a story of two individuals stepping forward together.

Aviva Baig's journey from a private life in Delhi to becoming part of one of India's most talked about families is a reminder of how personal milestones can resonate broadly in the public imagination, especially when they intertwine with legacy, tradition and contemporary Indian society.

India Upholds Artistic Freedom Amid China's Criticism of Battle of Galwan



India has reaffirmed the importance of artistic freedom following criticism from Chinese state media regarding the upcoming Bollywood film Battle of Galwan. The movie, starring Salman Khan, is based on the 2020 violent clash between Indian and Chinese troops in the Galwan Valley of eastern Ladakh, where Colonel Bikkumalla Santosh Babu and 19 other Indian soldiers were killed. The incident, which marked one of the most serious confrontations along the Line of Actual Control in recent years, remains a sensitive subject in both countries. Government sources emphasised that filmmakers are free to portray historical events under creative expression and that the state does not dictate cinematic content.

Chinese media had strongly criticised the film's teaser, claiming it presented a distorted, one-sided account of the Galwan clash. The commentary suggested that the depiction exaggerated the events and unfairly blamed China for the confrontation, asserting that Indian troops were responsible for crossing the Line of Actual Control. India

firmly rejected these claims, clarifying that the film represents the creative vision of its makers rather than the government's official position. Officials highlighted that cinematic portrayals of real events are an expression of artistic freedom, which is constitutionally protected in India.

Officials also clarified that the government is not involved in producing the film and that those seeking factual clarity about the clash can approach the Ministry of Defence. They pointed out that Indian cinema has a long-standing tradition of depicting significant military engagements, including earlier wars such as the 1962 Sino-Indian conflict and other border confrontations. These films often blend factual events with dramatization, reflecting the filmmaker's interpretation while paying tribute to the bravery and sacrifices of soldiers.

The controversy surrounding Battle of Galwan underscores the tension between creative expression and international sensitivities. While filmmakers aim to tell compelling stories, the reception of such films by foreign governments and

media can sometimes escalate into diplomatic or political discourse. India's response emphasised that artistic narratives should not be conflated with state policy or used as a measure of diplomatic stance.

As the film's release approaches, the debate has drawn attention to the broader issue of how nations perceive historical and contemporary events in popular culture. Indian authorities have reiterated that cinema remains a platform for independent storytelling and that filmmakers should continue to have the freedom to depict events they consider important. The statement reinforces India's commitment to protecting artistic expression, even when creative portrayals intersect with sensitive geopolitical contexts, ensuring that filmmakers can continue to craft narratives that resonate with audiences without fear of censorship.

This approach highlights the delicate balance between respecting historical accuracy, exercising creative freedom, and navigating international sensitivities, asserting that in India, storytelling remains a protected form of expression.

PM Modi Holds Pre-Budget Meeting with Economists to Shape Union Budget Strategy



New Delhi — Prime Minister Narendra Modi convened a crucial session with leading economists and sectoral experts at NITI Aayog as part of preparations for the Union Budget 2026 27, highlighting the government's consultative approach to fiscal planning. The discussion, under the theme "Aatmanirbharta and Structural Transformation: Agenda for Viksit Bharat", brought together distinguished voices from academia, finance, and policy to provide insights ahead of the budget presentation scheduled for February 1.

In his remarks, the Prime Minister emphasised aligning policy and budgeting with India's long-term development vision for 2047, when the country aims to become fully developed. He called for mission-mode reforms across sectors to sustain growth, enhance global competitiveness, and build world-class capabilities. Modi highlighted structural transformation, deeper inte-

gration into global markets, and the importance of positioning India as a hub of skilled talent in the international workforce.

The discussion underscored how the idea of Viksit Bharat has become a shared aspiration among citizens. The Prime Minister noted that economic strategy must account for evolving patterns in education, consumption, and mobility as part of India's journey toward a prosperous future.

Economists present at the meeting offered recommendations on multiple aspects of economic policy, including improving productivity, strengthening infrastructure, boosting household savings, and leveraging cutting-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence and digital public infrastructure to drive growth across sectors.

Senior officials from NITI Aayog, including Vice Chairman Suman Bery and CEO BVR Subrahmanyam, participated alongside other

experts. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, responsible for presenting the budget, also attended, highlighting the collaborative nature of the consultation.

The meeting reflects a broader pattern of stakeholder engagement by the government as part of the annual pre-budget consultation process. Such interactions aim to gather expert views on economic challenges, investment priorities, and reform measures to support key sectors such as manufacturing, agriculture, and services.

As India prepares to unveil the Union Budget for 2026 27, the consultation at NITI Aayog reinforces the government's commitment to inclusive policy formulation. By bringing together diverse expertise, the administration seeks to ensure that the upcoming fiscal roadmap addresses immediate economic needs while laying a foundation for sustainable and equitable growth in the years ahead.

Russia Deploys Nuclear-Capable Oreshnik Missiles Amid Rising Geopolitical Tensions



Russia has officially announced that its nuclear-capable Oreshnik missile system has entered active service, a development that has intensified global security concerns as the Ukraine conflict continues with fragile peace negotiations.

The announcement came following a ceremony in Belarus, where the intermediate-range hypersonic missile systems have been deployed. Belarusian authorities confirmed the arrival of the Oreshnik missiles, which Russia claims will strengthen its strategic deterrence. Russian President Vladimir Putin had previously indicated that the Oreshnik system would become operational before the end of 2025, linking its deployment to Russia's broader military posture and warning that Moscow could escalate operations if Ukraine and its Western allies reject key Kremlin demands during ongoing peace talks.

The Oreshnik — named after the Russian word for “hazelnut tree” — is a mobile intermediate-range ballistic missile system capable of carrying both nuclear and conventional warheads. It reportedly has a range of up to 5,000 kilometres, potentially reaching strategic targets across Europe. The missile's hypersonic speed and manoeuvrability make it difficult for existing defence systems to intercept, according to Russian officials.

The missile system's operationalisation comes at a crucial moment in the Ukraine conflict, as negotiators and international mediators seek a breakthrough in peace discussions. While

talks have seen limited progress, disagreements remain over territorial control and the status of key regions.

Belarus hosting Russian nuclear-capable missiles underscores deep military cooperation between the two nations. Analysts note that placing such weapons beyond Russia's borders — closer to NATO territories — represents a significant strategic shift, prompting concern among Western defence planners. Reports suggest that up to 10 Oreshnik units may be stationed within Belarusian territory, though official numbers have not been disclosed.

Moscow argues that the deployment serves as a deterrent against perceived Western escalation, including the presence of long-range missiles by NATO members. While supporters of the system emphasise national security and strategic necessity, critics warn that the move could heighten tensions in Eastern Europe and complicate diplomatic efforts toward peace.

The deployment of the Oreshnik missile system highlights Russia's determination to maintain a credible nuclear deterrent while signalling its strategic priorities on the global stage. As European capitals and Washington closely monitor the situation, the operationalisation of these missiles marks a significant moment in the evolving security landscape, carrying serious implications for global strategic stability and the future trajectory of the Ukraine conflict.

All Eyes on Tarique Rahman as Successor to Khaleda Zia and Leader of BNP's Next Chapter



Bangladesh's political landscape is poised for a major transition following the death of veteran leader and former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, as attention increasingly centres on her son Tarique Rahman to lead the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) into a new era. The development comes at a critical time, with national elections scheduled for February 2026 and deep questions about the future direction of one of the country's oldest political parties.

Tarique Rahman, 60, has been serving as the acting chairman of the BNP for several years, effectively overseeing party affairs from abroad and later in Bangladesh following his return from exile earlier this month. With his celebrated homecoming just days before his mother's death, there has been no serious internal challenge to his leadership position, and party insiders and political analysts alike see him as the de facto successor to Khaleda Zia's legacy.

Rahman's ascent comes as Bangladesh mourns the loss of Khaleda Zia, a towering figure who dominated the nation's politics for decades and was known for her fierce rivalry with Awami League leader Sheikh Hasina. Her leadership shaped the nation's political culture and electoral battles for years, earning her a place among the most influential figures in Bangladesh's modern history.

Supporters view Tarique Rahman as the natural heir to his mother's political vision. He is widely expected to be the BNP's prime ministerial candi-

date if the party succeeds in next year's elections. Having lived in London for nearly 17 years following political and legal controversies in the late 2000s, Rahman returned to Dhaka in late December 2025. Shortly after his arrival, he completed national identity registration formalities, a key step toward contesting in parliamentary elections.

Rahman has articulated a vision for Bangladesh that emphasises democratic renewal, national unity and socio economic development. In early public statements, he reaffirmed his commitment to democratic principles and spoke about inclusive governance, signalling his intent to chart a new political course while preserving the traditions of his party.

However, his leadership ambitions are not without controversy. Critics point to the turbulent political history of the BNP and Rahman's own past — including corruption allegations that have dogged him for years — as potential points of contention in the run up to elections. Supporters counter that he represents continuity and stability for a party that has long relied on the Zia family's leadership.

With national elections on the horizon, Tarique Rahman's role will be pivotal not only for the BNP's electoral prospects but also for Bangladesh's broader political future. As the party prepares for its next chapter, all eyes are on its new figurehead to see whether he can fulfil the legacy of his mother and reshape the political trajectory of the nation.

US Think Tank Warns of Possible India-Pakistan Conflict in 2026 Amid Terror Threat Concerns



A prominent United States foreign policy think tank has warned of the possibility of renewed armed conflict between India and Pakistan in 2026, largely driven by escalating terrorist activity and unresolved regional tensions. The report, compiled from a survey of American foreign policy experts, highlighted South Asia as one of several global flashpoints that could see increased violence in the coming year.

According to the assessment, there is a moderate likelihood that heightened militant attacks and cross border terrorism could trigger military confrontation between New Delhi and Islamabad. The think tank emphasised that even limited incidents involving non state actors can rapidly escalate due to the

fraught history and sensitive security dynamics between the two nuclear armed neighbours.

The warning comes against the backdrop of the short but intense military face off in May 2025, which saw both countries engage in a series of drone and missile exchanges. The confrontation followed a deadly terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam region that left dozens of civilians dead. In response, the Indian army launched a targeted cross border operation to dismantle terror camps. Pakistan, in turn, attempted to strike both military and civilian targets using armed drones, although these incursions were largely neutralised. The escalating hostilities eventually led to a ceasefire agreement

after several days of exchange along the Line of Control.

The report noted that while a ceasefire remains in place, tense rhetoric from either side and ongoing militant threats could undermine stability. Intelligence inputs cited in the analysis indicate that over 30 militants from Pakistani territory are believed to be active in the Jammu region this winter, raising concerns about potential provocations.

In addition to the India-Pakistan risk, the report also flagged a separate but related flashpoint involving Afghanistan and Pakistan, where renewed cross border attacks could trigger armed clashes. While this scenario is deemed of lower impact compared to the India-Pakistan risk, it

underscores broader regional instability and the interconnected nature of security threats in South Asia.

The warning has drawn attention from policymakers and analysts alike, who underscore the need for robust diplomatic engagement and strengthened counter terror co-operation to prevent escalation. Regional security experts emphasise that military confrontation between India and Pakistan would have severe implications far beyond the immediate theatre, given both countries' nuclear capabilities and extensive military resources.

India and Pakistan have historically oscillated between periods of confrontation and negotiated ceasefires, often influ-

enced by domestic political pressures, militant actions, and international diplomatic interventions. The report suggests that without sustained efforts to address the root causes of terrorism and renewed diplomatic initiatives, the risk of renewed hostilities remains a real concern.

As 2026 approaches, observers note that both governments — alongside international partners — will need to prioritise conflict prevention strategies, strengthen intelligence sharing, and support peace mechanisms to mitigate the likelihood of an armed clash. The spectre of renewed conflict looms large, reminding the world of the fragile security equilibrium that continues to shape South Asia's geopolitical landscape.

US Politician's Son Calls for Complete H 1B Visa Ban Amid Severe Stamping Delays Affecting Indian Workers

As prolonged delays in H 1B visa stamping continue to disrupt the lives and careers of hundreds of Indian professionals, Nalin Haley, son of former United Nations ambassador and Republican leader Nikki Haley, has sparked fresh controversy by calling for a complete ban on the H 1B visa programme. His comments have reignited debate over immigration policy and the ongoing challenges faced by skilled foreign workers trying to return to the United States.

The controversy arises amid widespread frustration over severe backlogs in visa appointment schedules at U.S. consulates in India. Many H 1B visa holders, including tech workers and other professionals, travelled to India this year for mandatory stamping appointments — required to re-enter the United States — but were informed that their interview dates had been postponed by several months. In numerous cases, appointments originally scheduled for early 2026 have been pushed as late as March or April, leaving applicants stranded in India and unable to return to their American jobs.

In a social media post, Nalin Haley stated that the delays were insufficient and argued that the H 1B programme should be entirely eliminated, claiming that some governments raise the issue only to protect remittance flows rather than address worker hardship. He wrote that workers “can't be stranded in their own country” and



characterised the programme as harmful to domestic labour markets. His tone and stance have drawn sharp criticism, particularly given his family's political background and his previous headline remarks on immigration policy.

The Indian government has formally raised concerns with U.S. authorities about the visa scheduling disruptions. New Delhi's Ministry of External Affairs noted that multiple Indian nationals have faced “extended hardships” due to delays in scheduling or rescheduling interviews, affecting not only workers but also students and dependents. Officials emphasise that such visa matters are within the sovereign jurisdiction

of the issuing country but have engaged with U.S. counterparts to seek resolutions and minimise adverse impacts.

The backlog has also been linked to changes in U.S. consular procedures, including expanded social media vetting of visa applicants, a move aimed at enhanced security screening. The additional scrutiny has increased processing times, resulting in postponed appointments across various visa categories, including H 1B and H 4 dependent visas. Immigration lawyers advise that these new vetting measures are behind much of the scheduling chaos and have urged affected individuals to avoid travel until appointments are definitively confirmed.

The delays have profound implications for companies that rely on H 1B talent, particularly in technology and specialised fields. Many employers have warned that prolonged absences or inability to return could strain project timelines, disrupt operations, and prompt reconsideration of hiring strategies. Some U.S. firms have reportedly cautioned their staff against international travel to avoid losing access to work authorisation.

Critics of Nalin Haley's call for a ban argue that eliminating the H 1B programme would harm businesses that depend on foreign expertise and undercut international collaboration. They em-

phasise that the visa backlog stems from procedural changes rather than an inherent flaw in the system itself and that coordination between governments, industry, and consular services is needed to resolve bottlenecks without dismantling essential migration pathways.

As 2026 approaches, the H 1B controversy remains unresolved, reflecting broader debates on immigration policy, skilled labour mobility, and the balance between national security and economic needs. Government engagements and public discourse triggered by these visa challenges are expected to shape future policy directions in both the United States and India.

Record IPO Year in India Sees New Age and Financial Firms Leading Fundraising; Momentum to Continue in 2026

India's primary capital markets witnessed an exceptional year in 2025, as companies across sectors tapped public markets like never before, marking one of the most active initial public offering (IPO) cycles in the country's history. Fundraising remained robust, driven by strong interest from both domestic and institutional investors, with new age companies and financial services firms dominating the landscape.

Data from market analysts show that hundreds of companies launched IPOs in 2025, with listed issues collectively raising nearly two trillion rupees. Financial services emerged as the dominant segment, accounting for the largest share of capital raised. This category featured significant participation from non banking financial companies (NBFCs), asset managers, insurers and digital financial platforms, highlighting investor confidence in India's expanding financial ecosystem.

Among the prominent mainboard offerings during the year were large ticket issues from marquee financial players that ranked among the biggest funds mobilised in India's public markets. These large cap entries helped propel overall IPO fundraising totals to record levels, underscoring the appeal of established financial names and the depth of investor appetite for growth oriented businesses.

Beyond financial services, other segments such as manufacturing, industrials, technology, healthcare and consumer



products also attracted substantial interest. Technology and digital platforms, including several new age internet and consumer technology firms, contributed significantly to total issuance, reflecting sustained investor enthusiasm for innovation led growth stories. Healthcare and consumer durable companies further diversified the market, indicating broad structural demand across economic sectors.

Small and medium enterprise (SME) listings also played a critical role in the fundraising environment, with a substantial number of smaller companies choosing to list on specialized platforms. This proliferation of SME issues reflects broader participation

across the economic spectrum, where early stage and mid tier enterprises are increasingly using public equity to support expansion and growth ambitions.

Looking ahead to 2026, analysts expect the IPO pipeline to remain strong, supported by a healthy roster of companies at various stages of preparation for market entry. Financial services, manufacturing and infrastructure linked sectors are expected to continue dominating new issuances, while consumption oriented and technology led firms are likely to sustain investor interest.

However, experts also note that IPO activity in 2026 could be more calibrated compared to the peak enthusiasm seen in

2025. With market conditions evolving, issuers may focus on valuation discipline and quality of fundamentals to attract long term investors. Nonetheless, the strong momentum built this year has laid the groundwork for continued engagement with primary markets, positioning India's IPO ecosystem for another active year.

Overall, 2025 proved to be a milestone year for India's IPO market, with diverse sectors raising unprecedented capital and new age companies emerging as major contributors. As the country enters 2026, the combination of a rich pipeline and sustained investor interest suggests continued vibrancy in public market fundraising.

REC and PFC Seen as Attractive Picks for 2026 Amid Dividend Trends and Valuation Opportunities

Shares of several public sector enterprises in India experienced mixed performance in 2025, with some major names outperforming while others lagged. Among the underperformers were REC Ltd. (RECL) and Power Finance Corporation (PFC), which saw their share prices decline by roughly 29 per cent and 22 per cent respectively over the year. The underperformance prompted investors to reassess valuations and potential long term opportunities, particularly in the power and infrastructure finance segments.

Despite the decline, market analysts believe both RECL and PFC present attractive investment opportunities for 2026. Valuations at current levels are seen as compelling, especially when combined with healthy dividend yields. Analysts suggest that both stocks could deliver 15-20 per cent upside over time if the companies continue to execute effectively on their core operations.

From a financial performance perspective, both companies re-



ported modest shifts in quarterly metrics. RECL's consolidated net profit dipped slightly compared with the previous year, while revenue from operations grew modestly. Similarly, PFC posted a small decline in net profit alongside stronger revenue growth. These results reflect resilient operations amid cyclical headwinds in infrastructure

and power financing, offering context to the investor caution that affected share prices during the year.

Dividend payments have been a positive aspect for shareholders. In 2025, RECL distributed dividends five times, while PFC also paid out in five installments. These distributions reinforce the companies' focus on

returning capital to shareholders and provide appeal for income-oriented investors seeking stable yields, even in a volatile market environment.

Looking ahead, analysts expect both companies to benefit if credit growth in the infrastructure and power sectors picks up and if broader economic conditions remain supportive. Their strategic positioning in government-backed sectors provides enduring opportunities, and sustained operational performance could underpin a rebound in investor interest and valuations through 2026.

Overall, while 2025 posed challenges for REC Ltd. and PFC shares, their combination of attractive valuations, solid dividends, and sectoral relevance has drawn attention from analysts and long-term investors. Market watchers see these public sector enterprises as potential beneficiaries of a stable economic environment in the year ahead, with the possibility of delivering both capital appreciation and income to investors.

Gold and Silver Enter 2026 With Strong Fundamentals but Likely Consolidation Ahead

Gold and silver closed out 2025 having delivered some of the most remarkable performances across global commodity markets, but analysts suggest that 2026 may be characterized by a period of consolidation rather than another sharp rally. In 2025, gold prices surged significantly, driven by heightened safe-haven demand amid geopolitical tensions, persistent inflation concerns, and weakening currencies in several emerging markets. Silver's performance was even more impressive, outpacing most other asset classes due to strong investor interest and industrial demand.

In India, both gold and silver reached record levels on domestic exchanges, supported by festival buying, investment demand, and safe-haven flows. Silver, in particular, benefited from robust industrial demand across sectors such as clean energy, electronics, and electric vehicles, which reinforced its dual role as both an investment and industrial metal.

Looking ahead to 2026, analysts expect prices to remain elevated but trade within a defined range, reflecting a consolidation phase. Gold is likely to find support at higher levels as central banks continue strategic purchases and global monetary policies remain accommodative. Its safe-haven appeal remains



strong in the face of geopolitical uncertainties, currency fluctuations, and uneven economic growth in major economies.

Silver is expected to maintain its robustness, though its industrial linkages may lead to higher short-term volatility. While long-term fundamentals are supportive, including rising industrial demand and ongoing supply constraints, profit-taking and technical corrections could occur periodically. Investors should anticipate fluctuations, particularly if global liquidity conditions tighten or economic growth slows in key industrial regions.

Despite potential near-term volatility, the structural backdrop for both precious metals remains constructive. Institutional forecasts indicate that gold prices will likely remain elevated throughout 2026, supported by continued central bank accumulation and sustained investor interest as a hedge against macroeconomic uncertainties. Silver, with its combined industrial and investment demand, may continue to outperform gold in percentage terms if industrial activity remains strong.

Market experts advise that any short-term corrections

should be viewed as accumulation opportunities rather than signals of trend reversals. Overall, while 2026 may not replicate the record-breaking rallies of 2025, precious metals are expected to remain a critical part of diversified investment portfolios, offering stability and protection against economic and geopolitical risks.

In summary, gold and silver enter 2026 with strong fundamentals, likely undergoing a phase of consolidation while maintaining solid support levels amid continued global uncertainties and robust investor demand.

Indian Markets End 2025 on a Flat Note Amid Weak Global Cues



Indian equity markets closed the week on a subdued note, with the Sensex and Nifty 50 ending nearly unchanged after a volatile trading session. Investor sentiment remained cautious as global markets displayed signs of weakness, leaving domestic indices struggling to find clear direction in the final days of 2025.

The Sensex slipped marginally, while the Nifty 50 finished flat, reflecting a lack of conviction among buyers and sellers. Analysts noted that the day's price action formed a technical pattern indicating indecision, often signaling a potential short-term reversal once confirmed by subsequent sessions.

Indian markets opened with a muted tone, as suggested by the GIFT Nifty, which indicated a flat start. Trading remained largely range-bound throughout the session, with investors taking a wait-and-watch approach amid thin year-end volumes.

Global market sentiment weighed heavily on domestic trading. Several Asian indices eased, retreating from recent gains, while U.S. markets also logged modest losses earlier in the week, particularly in technology stocks. This subdued performance abroad tempered risk appetite in India and contributed to the flat session.

Sector-wise, activity was mixed. Energy and metal stocks provided some

support, showing modest gains at intervals, while major IT and financial names faced pressure, keeping broader indices largely unchanged. The divergence highlighted investor caution, as domestic participants balanced sector-specific narratives against global uncertainty.

The Indian economic calendar was light on major catalysts as the year drew to a close. Market participants are now looking ahead to early 2026 events, including corporate earnings, macroeconomic data releases, and policy developments. Global triggers such as Federal Reserve policy signals and geopolitical developments are expected to influence capital flows and investor sentiment in the coming months.

Currency markets remained relatively stable, with the Indian rupee holding steady against the U.S. dollar amid cautious trading. Commodity prices, including gold and silver, traded in narrow ranges, reflecting hedging activity and measured positioning by investors.

Overall, the Indian market's flat finish, combined with weak global cues, suggests that investors are exercising caution at the year-end. With limited domestic triggers and global uncertainties, traders appear to be waiting for fresh catalysts to set the direction for equities as India enters 2026.

Eternal Shares Fall 25% From Record High Amid Investor Concerns



Shares of Eternal Ltd, the parent company of major food delivery and quick commerce platforms, have fallen roughly 25 per cent from their record highs earlier this year. The stock recently touched a more than five month low, trading significantly below its October peak, as investors weighed near term risks and recent corporate developments.

The decline stood out as broader markets remained relatively stable, highlighting investor caution specifically around Eternal. Trading volumes were notably elevated compared with recent averages, indicating active participation by market participants reacting to the stock's underperformance.

Leadership Change Sparks Nervousness

A key factor contributing to the sell-off has been the resignation of a top finance executive at Blinkit, Eternal's quick commerce arm. The chief financial officer, who had joined the company just over a year ago, stepped down recently, raising concerns about continuity at a critical time for the company. Analysts noted that management changes at prominent divisions can create near-term volatility, especially when investor sentiment is already fragile.

Valuation and Technical Pressures Earlier in the year, Eternal's shares surged to record levels on optimism about digital consumption trends and strong user engagement across its platforms. Since reaching those highs, the stock has faced persistent selling pressure, and technical indicators show

resistance at previous peak levels. Traders are watching key support zones closely, as breaks below these levels could trigger further corrections.

Despite the decline, Eternal remains a major player in the online services sector, with high levels of revenue and engagement on its platforms. Some analysts view the current correction as a potential long-term entry point for patient investors, though near-term sentiment remains cautious due to leadership uncertainty and profit-taking following earlier gains.

Sector Dynamics and Competitive Pressures

Eternal's performance is also being influenced by wider trends in the food delivery and quick commerce space. The sector has grown intensely competitive, with rival platforms investing heavily in logistics, discounts, and geographic expansion. Margin pressures from these competitive dynamics have added to investor caution, as operating costs and incremental investments remain key variables affecting profitability.

Looking Ahead

Market watchers believe that clarity on Eternal's leadership, upcoming quarterly earnings, and progress across its core business segments will be crucial to restoring investor confidence. Demonstrating sustained operational momentum and effectively managing competitive pressures could help stabilize the stock and potentially reverse the recent downtrend.

The Year 2025 Science Made Us Rethink the Impossible



If there was ever a year that proved reality can be stranger than fiction, 2025 was it. From space discoveries that re-wrote astronomy textbooks to medical breakthroughs that changed how we understand life itself, the year delivered a cascade of moments that left scientists — and the public — in awe.

One of the most talked-about revelations came from the natural world, where researchers highlighted extraordinary creatures capable of doing what once seemed biologically impossible. Animals displaying plant-like traits reminded humanity that evolution still holds many secrets. At the same time, scientists claimed the identification of a new colour — one that cannot be perceived naturally by the human eye, pushing the boundaries of how we define vision and perception.

Medicine saw some of its most emotional milestones in 2025. In a historic moment, personalised gene therapy was successfully used to treat a rare genetic condition in an infant, offering hope to families facing previously untreatable disorders. Researchers

also announced progress in growing functional human tissues and organs in laboratories, a development that could dramatically reduce transplant waiting lists in the future.

Space, as always, delivered its share of wonder. Astronomers confirmed a massive number of previously unknown moons orbiting Saturn, strengthening its title as the planet with the most satellites. Beyond our solar system, thousands of confirmed exoplanets reinforced the idea that Earth may not be as unique as once believed. Adding to this, the James Webb Space Telescope identified one of the oldest and most distant galaxies ever observed, offering a glimpse into the universe's earliest days.

Technology, too, crossed new thresholds. Quantum computing took a decisive step forward with the unveiling of advanced chips designed to make previously theoretical systems more stable and practical. Experts believe these developments could eventually transform fields ranging from cryptography to climate modelling.

The year also marked

a turning point in space exploration. For the first time, a private commercial lander achieved a successful soft landing on the Moon, signalling a shift toward greater private participation in lunar missions. Meanwhile, India strengthened its space credentials by launching its heaviest satellite yet, showcasing growing confidence in indigenous launch capabilities.

Back on Earth, scientists revisited human history with fresh eyes. Fossil evidence shed new light on ancient human relatives, reshaping theories about early migration and evolution. At the same time, studies on urban wildlife revealed how animals are rapidly adapting to life alongside humans in expanding cities.

Taken together, 2025 was not just a year of discoveries — it was a year that challenged assumptions. It reminded us that science is not a closed book, but an ever-unfolding story, one where each answer sparks even bigger questions about who we are, where we come from, and what lies ahead.

India's 'Bandar Apna Dost' Tops Global AI Video Charts, Earns ₹38 Crore



In a striking example of how artificial intelligence is reshaping digital entertainment, an India-based YouTube channel titled Bandar Apna Dost has emerged as the world's top-earning AI-generated video platform. The channel has reportedly earned around 38 crore in annual revenue, placing it at the forefront of a fast-growing global trend driven by automated content creation.

Bandar Apna Dost features short, fast-paced animated videos centred on a cartoon monkey character and a superhero-like figure. Created largely using AI tools, these videos require minimal human involvement yet have managed to attract massive viewership. The channel has accumulated over two billion views, making it one of the most-watched AI-driven content creators on the platform.

Industry analysts studying thousands of YouTube channels worldwide have identified a growing category of content often described as "AI-generated bulk videos." These

videos are produced rapidly using artificial intelligence for animation, scripting and voice generation. While such content is often criticised for lacking depth or originality, its popularity is undeniable, driven largely by algorithms that reward frequent uploads and high engagement.

What sets Bandar Apna Dost apart is its extraordinary financial success. With billions of views and consistent watch time, the channel's advertising revenue has soared, surpassing that of many traditional content creators. The estimated 38 crore annual earnings highlight how AI-powered creativity — even in its simplest form — can translate into significant commercial returns.

The rise of such channels has sparked debate within the digital creator community. Supporters argue that AI democratises content creation, allowing individuals or small teams to compete with large production houses. Critics, however, warn that an influx of low-effort automated vid-

eos could overshadow human-driven storytelling and reduce the overall quality of online content.

Despite the criticism, platforms continue to promote content that keeps users engaged, and AI-generated videos appear well-suited to this model. Their bright visuals, rapid pacing and universal themes make them easily consumable across languages and regions, helping them reach a global audience.

The success of Bandar Apna Dost reflects a broader shift in how entertainment is produced and consumed. As artificial intelligence tools become more accessible, the boundaries between technology and creativity continue to blur. Whether this trend represents the future of digital media or a temporary phase remains to be seen.

For now, Bandar Apna Dost stands as a powerful symbol of India's growing presence in the global digital economy — proving that in the age of AI, even a simple animated monkey can become a worldwide phenomenon.

“Dear Indians, Stop Behaving Like This”: Viral Beach Video Triggers a Wake-Up Call on Civic Sense

A quiet stretch of Kerala's picturesque coastline has unexpectedly become the center of a loud national conversation on civic responsibility and environmental awareness. A viral video from Varkala Cliff Beach, showing plastic waste and food litter scattered across the sand, has sparked widespread debate on how tourists treat public spaces meant for collective enjoyment.

The video, shared by a social media user, contrasts the natural beauty of the beach with the disturbing sight of trash left behind by visitors. The accompanying message was direct and emotional, calling out fellow Indians for careless behavior and questioning whether basic civic sense has been forgotten while traveling. The blunt appeal struck a chord, rapidly spreading across platforms and drawing strong reactions from viewers.



sponsibility in keeping them clean. For them, the video served as a mirror, reflecting uncomfortable truths about everyday habits and attitudes toward shared spaces.

At the same time, the viral clip also opened up a broader discussion. Some viewers argued that tourists alone should not shoulder all the blame. They highlighted the lack of adequate dustbins, poor waste segregation systems, and weak enforcement of cleanliness rules in crowded tourist zones. According to them, sustainable tour-

ism requires a joint effort from visitors, local authorities, and businesses operating in these areas.

Varkala, known for its unique cliffside views and serene atmosphere, attracts thousands of domestic and international tourists every year. Like many scenic destinations across the country, it faces the growing challenge of balancing tourism growth with environmental preservation. As travel becomes more accessible, pressure on natural spaces has increased, often revealing gaps in infrastructure and public

awareness.

Environmental experts note that littering is not merely an aesthetic issue but a serious ecological concern. Plastic waste threatens marine life, contaminates soil, and undermines local ecosystems that depend on clean surroundings. Once damaged, such environments can take years to recover, if at all.

What makes this incident offbeat is not just the viral outrage, but the uncomfortable self-reflection it has triggered. The video does not showcase an extraordinary event,

but an ordinary failure repeated across beaches, hills, and heritage sites nationwide. Its impact lies in reminding people that patriotism and pride in natural beauty must translate into everyday actions.

As the debate continues online, the message remains simple yet powerful: enjoying nature comes with responsibility. Whether this viral moment leads to lasting behavioral change or fades into digital noise will depend on how seriously people choose to listen — and act.

“They Just Need to Be Invited”: A Founder's Observation Rekindles the Gender Gap Debate in Startups



A single observation at a startup event in Delhi has reignited a much-needed conversation about women's visibility in India's entrepreneurial ecosystem. When a young founder noted that only a handful of women were present at a gathering buzzing with innovation and ambition, her reflection struck a nerve far beyond the room it described.

The founder's post was not angry or accusatory. Instead, it was quietly un-

settling. Amid pitches, panels and networking conversations, she could count the women attendees on one hand. Her takeaway was simple yet powerful: women are building businesses, generating ideas and leading teams — but they are often missing from the spaces where visibility, funding and influence converge. Not because they lack ambition, she argued, but because they are rarely invited or encouraged enough.

The reaction was immediate. Entrepreneurs, professionals and students weighed in, many acknowledging that the scene described felt familiar. Startup events, especially those focused on funding, technology or high-growth ventures, continue to be male-dominated. While India has seen a steady rise in women-led startups, their presence at industry forums does not reflect that progress.

What makes this epi-

sode offbeat is its ordinariness. There was no controversy on stage, no policy announcement, no headline-grabbing incident — just a moment of noticing. And yet, that moment revealed a deeper imbalance. Startup events are more than social gatherings; they are gateways to mentorship, capital, partnerships and credibility. Absence from these spaces can quietly reinforce existing inequalities.

Several women entrepreneurs responding to the discussion shared similar experiences. Some said they hesitated to attend events where they felt outnumbered or overlooked. Others pointed to practical barriers — safety concerns, timing, lack of childcare support, or simply not being on the invitation list. A recurring theme emerged: inclusion rarely happens by accident. It has to be intentional.

At the same time, the conversation also invited

introspection from organisers and investors. Diversity panels and women-focused initiatives exist, but many argued that true inclusion means integrating women into mainstream startup spaces, not sidelining them into separate conversations. Representation, they said, should be normal, not symbolic.

The founder's closing thought resonated most strongly: women do not need special treatment — they need access. An invitation, a nudge, a seat at the table can change trajectories. In an ecosystem that prides itself on disruption and innovation, overlooking half the population feels like an old problem in a new industry.

Sometimes, progress begins not with grand reforms, but with someone pausing to ask a simple question: who is missing from the room — and why?

Mocked for a Christmas Post, an Engineer's Calm Response Exposes Online Bias

What began as a light-hearted Christmas moment quickly turned into an unexpected lesson on online prejudice, after a woman engineer working at a global tech company was mocked for sharing a festive photograph on social media. The episode, though seemingly trivial, revealed deeper issues surrounding gender bias, insecurity and toxic online behaviour.

The engineer, who works at Amazon, had posted a cheerful photo with a friend employed at Google and an inflatable Santa Claus. The caption was playful, meant to capture the spirit of the season and the coincidence of two tech professionals posing alongside a festive symbol. However, instead of spreading holiday cheer, the post attracted a wave of criticism and personal attacks.



branding her a “diversity hire.” Others accused her of arrogance, turning a harmless celebration into an excuse for hostility. The comments reflected a familiar pattern: when women in high-visibility roles share moments of joy or pride, they are often judged more harshly than their male counterparts.

Rather than deleting the post or responding defensively, the engineer chose a measured and

thoughtful approach. She addressed the backlash directly, pointing out that much of the criticism seemed rooted in misogyny and resentment toward Indians in global tech roles. In a firm but composed message, she noted that such reactions revealed outdated mindsets struggling to accept changing realities in the workplace.

Her response struck a chord. Many users rallied in her support, calling

out the unnecessary negativity and applauding her clarity and confidence. Supporters noted that a simple festive photo had somehow triggered deep-seated insecurities in strangers online, exposing how social media can amplify prejudice under the guise of opinion.

The incident also reopened conversations about the challenges women continue to face in the technology sector.

Despite growing representation, women engineers often find their achievements questioned or minimised, especially in public forums. Online spaces, while offering visibility and connection, can also become arenas for unchecked bias and harassment.

What makes this story offbeat is not just the trolling itself, but the dignity of the response. Instead of escalating the conflict, the engineer used the moment to highlight a broader truth: that society must evolve beyond narrow stereotypes and outdated thinking. Her message was simple yet powerful — talent does not need justification, and celebration does not require permission.

In the end, a Christmas photo did more than mark a festive moment. It sparked reflection on how far conversations around gender, merit and respect have come — and how far they still need to go.

Jasprit Bumrah Makes Surprise Nets Appearance During Vijay Hazare Trophy



In a delightful turn of events for cricket fans, India's star fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah made a surprise appearance at the nets on the sidelines

of a Vijay Hazare Trophy match in Ahmedabad on Tuesday. The sight of the pacer, who has been carefully managed by the national team's support

staff, bowling in practice sparked excitement among players and spectators alike. Bumrah did not participate in the ongoing List-

A match but engaged in a controlled nets session, focusing on short spells to maintain rhythm without putting undue strain on his body. Observers noted that he concentrated on maintaining line and length while running in at moderate intensity, suggesting a measured approach to workload management.

The session comes at a critical time as Bumrah is being gradually prepared for India's upcoming international assignments, including the T20 series against New Zealand. The Indian team management has been taking a cautious approach with its frontline pacers, balancing domestic exposure with rest and recovery to ensure peak performance for major tournaments like the ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

Local players and supporters at the Gujarat College Ground had the rare opportunity to witness Bumrah in action. Young cricketers found the session particularly inspiring, with some even getting a chance to bowl against or face a few deliveries from the national star. Such experiences are invaluable for domestic players, offering motivation and practical lessons in fast-bowl-

ing techniques and professional discipline.

Cricket analysts believe that these controlled training stints reflect a broader strategy by the team management to reintegrate Bumrah gradually, avoiding injury while ensuring he stays match-fit. Managing workloads for fast bowlers has become a key priority, especially given the intense schedule of modern international cricket.

The timing of the nets appearance is also significant, as selectors are preparing the squad for upcoming international fixtures with an eye on long-term performance rather than short-term gains. Bumrah, along with other senior players, is likely to be rested from less critical matches to safeguard fitness for major tournaments.

Fans and experts are keeping a close watch on Bumrah's progress, and even a brief nets session has reignited excitement about his return to competitive action. His presence at the domestic venue underscores India's careful yet proactive approach in managing its premier fast bowler, giving confidence that he will be ready to spearhead the team's pace attack in the near future.

Ashwin Picks India's Stand-Out Stars of 2025, Spotlights Chakravarthy & Abhishek Sharma

Former India spin great Ravichandran Ashwin has named two of the national team's standout performers of 2025, and surprisingly, neither pick was the current India captain. In a year packed with memorable cricket from the Indian setup across formats, Ashwin selected mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy and explosive opener Abhishek Sharma as his two most impactful teammates, highlighting their contributions to India's success and future potential.

Ashwin described Varun Chakravarthy as India's bowler of the year, labelling him a "huge MVP" for the team. Chakravarthy, known for his enigmatic mystery spin, consistently delivered whenever given the ball. His ability to break partnerships and stem scoring rates made him a reliable wicket taker in white ball cricket throughout the year. Beyond raw numbers, Ashwin pointed to Chakravarthy's remarkable personal jour-

ney — from being sidelined and overlooked to reinventing himself in domestic circuits and lower division leagues — as evidence of his dedication and resilience. Ashwin believes this reinvention and Chakravarthy's knack for unpredictable spin will be key to India's bowling strategy, especially with big tournaments like the upcoming T20 World Cup on the horizon.

Equally enthusiastic, Ashwin singled out Abhishek Sharma as possibly the best Indian performer overall in 2025. The left handed opener enjoyed a prolific season in T20 Internationals, amassing huge run tallies at a blistering strike rate that reimagined India's powerplay batting template. Ashwin highlighted Sharma's fearless strokeplay and consistency, saying the young batter didn't just arrive but redefined top order aggression for the year. Such dominance at the start of the innings forced bowlers onto the

back foot and gave India the momentum in many key matches.

Ashwin also voiced hope that Sharma's success in T20s could soon translate into opportunities in the 50 over format, suggesting his dynamic approach would benefit India's batting lineup and potentially earn him accolades as the men's team player of the year.

Reflecting on veterans like Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, Ashwin noted that their hunger to win a 50 over World Cup remained undiminished. Despite speculation about their careers and the challenges of a packed schedule, both senior stars continued to display passion and form throughout domestic and international fixtures.

Ashwin's selections underline a broader shift in Indian cricket, where emerging talents are making defining contributions alongside established greats, shaping a vibrant and competitive future for the national team.



Pakistan Cricket Board Parts Ways With Test Coach Azhar Mahmood Three Months Early

In a surprising development, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has decided to end the tenure of Azhar Mahmood as the head coach of the men's Test team, with three months still remaining on his contract. The move comes as Pakistan prepares for the next phase of its red-ball cricket schedule, including the upcoming ICC World Test Championship cycle.

Mahmood, a former all-rounder for Pakistan, was appointed Test head coach in June and had a contract that was due to run until March 2026. Despite the remaining term, the PCB granted him an early release, citing the decision was strategic rather than performance-based, aiming for a smooth transition and continuity in preparation for upcoming tours.

During his brief tenure, Mahmood oversaw only one home series, against South Africa, which ended in a 1-1 draw. While the re-



sults were competitive, the board emphasized that the decision was strategic rather than performance-based, aiming for a smooth transition and continuity in preparation for upcoming tours.

Sources within the PCB indicated that since Pakistan has no Test fixtures until March 2026, the board preferred to start its

search for a new head coach now. The proactive move is intended to allow the incoming coach to settle in and shape the team well before the resumption of competitive red-ball cricket.

This change highlights the ongoing volatility in Pakistan's Test setup, which has seen several shifts in coaching and sup-

port staff in recent years. Interim coaches have often stepped in, and structural changes continue as the PCB seeks the right formula for consistent success at the international level.

Along with appointing Mahmood's successor, the PCB is expected to review its broader coaching framework, including as-

sistant coaches and support staff, to ensure stability and effective management. With challenging tours ahead, including series in the West Indies and England, followed by home matches against Sri Lanka and New Zealand, clarity in the coaching ranks is seen as crucial.

For Azhar Mahmood, the early exit marks the conclusion of a coaching chapter in Pakistan cricket that included roles as assistant coach and bowling mentor. His departure underscores the delicate balance cricket boards must strike between long-term planning and the pressures of elite international sport.

Fans and analysts will now watch closely to see who the PCB appoints as Pakistan's next Test coach and how the team adapts to this leadership change as it prepares for critical matches in the upcoming year.

England Ashes Win Sparks Pitch Debate as Boycott Blasts ECB's Priorities



England's dramatic Boxing Day Test victory over Australia at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) has ignited intense discussion about pitch preparation and the direction of modern cricket. The MCG wicket, traditionally suited for a five-day Test, produced an astonishing 36 wickets in just two days, leaving both sides struggling against sharp seam movement and unpredictable bounce. The early finish has prompted scrutiny of how pitches are prepared for high-profile matches and whether current conditions favour results over fair contest.

Former England batting legend Geoffrey Boycott weighed in strongly on the debate, praising England's performance while criticizing the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) for its focus on commercial priorities. Boycott argued that modern players are not being sufficiently prepared for challenging wickets, particularly in the longer format, and that an overemphasis on limited-overs cricket and franchise leagues is harming skill development. He described the ECB's approach as prioritizing financial gain over Ashes glory or long-term Test success.

Boycott highlighted that the excitement generated by fast-paced, result-oriented matches should not overshadow the importance of nurturing technique and resilience among players. He stressed that bal-

anced Test surfaces, which challenge both batters and bowlers over five days, are essential to preserving the integrity of the game. The recent MCG pitch, while providing thrilling action, raises questions about whether cricket boards are maintaining that balance.

The legendary former opener also emphasized the human aspect of the sport, noting that players must adapt to varying conditions, but administrative decisions should support skill development rather than focusing solely on revenue. Fans and commentators have echoed Boycott's concerns, arguing that repeated early finishes in marquee Tests could erode the traditional challenge and appeal of Test cricket.

The pitch controversy and Boycott's comments have reignited broader debates on how cricket boards balance commercial interests with the long-term health of the sport. Critics argue that an emphasis on short-form formats may compromise player preparation, particularly for challenging conditions in Test matches abroad.

As the Ashes series continues, the discussion around pitch quality, player readiness, and the ECB's priorities is likely to remain a key talking point, prompting reflection on how cricket can maintain both commercial success and the traditions that have defined the sport for over a century.

Travis Head Backs Ben Duckett, Says Ashes Drinking Row Has Been Blown Out of Proportion



In an unexpected twist off the field during the fiercely contested 2025 26 Ashes series, Australia batter Travis Head stepped forward to defend England's Ben Duckett amid a mid series drinking controversy that has dominated social media and cricket talk. Head described the reaction to the episode as exaggerated and admitted he was even "jealous" of England's brief getaway, underscoring that such off field downtime is nothing out of the ordinary during long Test tours.

The issue began after a video circulated showing Duckett apparently intoxicated during a break in Noosa between Ashes Tests. The footage sparked a media storm, with critics questioning the professionalism of the England squad at a time when they were trailing in the series. Duckett, who has struggled for form in the series, found himself at the centre of intense scrutiny.

However, Head's comments shifted the narrative to one of empathy rather than judgment. Speaking after Australia's dramatic loss to England at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, where the visitors inflicted a rare defeat on the hosts, Head said the focus on the drinking story had been overblown. He stressed that players at the elite level are constantly under the microscope and that what happens in their personal time should not overshadow their performance or character. "I am jealous," Head said, laugh-

ing when discussing how the break was handled. He noted that long tours inevitably require periods of mental relaxation and that both teams have indulged in similar breaks in the past without generating controversy. His remarks highlighted the human side of professional athletes, who must balance intense competition with periods of rest and recovery.

Head also revealed that he had reached out to Duckett after the video emerged to check on his well being and to offer support. The gesture drew praise from some quarters as a sign of sportsmanship and camaraderie between players, even amid one of cricket's most historic rivalries.

Meanwhile, cricket officials from England confirmed they were looking into the Noosa incident, emphasizing that while occasional downtime was acceptable, excessive drinking beyond reasonable limits would not be condoned. The governing body's investigation was aimed at establishing facts rather than punishing players outright.

The incident and Head's response have sparked broader discussion about player welfare, media scrutiny, and how modern cricket tours are managed off the field. While the Ashes remains fiercely competitive on the pitch, Head's comments have added a human and humorous dimension to one of the series' most unusual off field stories.

‘Ghantasala The Great’ Musical Biopic to Release on January 2: A Tribute to the Legendary Voice



The life and legacy of legendary music director and singer Ghantasala is being celebrated on the big screen with the upcoming film ‘Ghantasala The Great’, directed by C.H. Rama Rao and produced by Smt. C.H. Phani under the Anyukth Ram Pictures banner. Singer Krishna Chaitanya takes on the titular role, while Suman plays a key supporting character. The film is slated for a grand release on January 2, promising a musical journey that honors one of Telugu cinema’s most iconic voices.

In line with the release, Swaravahini and Sri Bharati Music Academy hosted the “Ghantasala The Great Special Musical Night”, celebrating the legendary singer’s contributions to Indian music. Speaking at the event, director Rama Rao said the aim was not just to present Ghantasala’s songs, which are timeless, but to portray his personality and life story. He recalled accompanying poet Sri Sri to meet Ghantasala and how the poet was mesmerized by

his rendition, noting, “I feel like the song I wrote has come alive in your voice.”

Prominent producer C. Kalyan expressed that Ghantasala’s life deserved such a grand cinematic tribute, while producer Shobha Rani, who is releasing the film, emphasized the unparalleled importance of this project in her long career. She praised Rama Rao’s dedication, calling it a labor of love destined for massive success.

Other contributors to the film also shared their admiration. Producer T.S. Rao lauded Ghantasala’s enduring legacy in Telugu cinema, noting that the singer’s music had elevated countless films. Vakulabharanam Krishna Mohan emphasized that Ghantasala’s music would last as long as the sun and moon and highlighted the film as a celebration of Telugu language, culture, and artistic heritage. Director Samudra echoed the sentiment, noting that Ghantasala created stars with his voice and contributed to the growth of the

industry.

Lyricist Vennigala Rambabu and music director Ravi Shankar highlighted Ghantasala’s global recognition, comparing him with legends like Mohammed Rafi and Kishore Kumar, while praising the film as an essential experience for Telugu audiences. Producer Karri Balaji encouraged viewers to watch the film, stating that its success would pave the way for more such remarkable biopics.

The movie also had a special celebrity preview attended by singer-music director Raghu Kunche and singers Kousalya and Vijayalakshmi, who all praised the film as a must-watch, emphasizing its inspiring portrayal of Ghantasala’s life and artistry.

With a combination of stellar performances, soulful music, and a heartfelt tribute to a legendary icon, ‘Ghantasala The Great’ promises to be both an emotional and musical spectacle for Telugu audiences this January 2.

Aadi’s ‘Shambhala’ Celebrates Success at Star-Studded Divine Blockbuster Event



Aadi Saikumar’s ‘Shambhala’, produced under Shining Pictures by Mahidhar Reddy and Rajasekhar Annabhemoju and directed by Ugandhar Muni, has been running successfully in theaters since its December 25 release. To mark its success, a Divine Blockbuster Event was held, attended by top industry figures including ace producer Allu Aravind, directors Vassishtha and Bobby, actor Sundeep Kishan, and writer Kona Venkat.

Ace producer Allu Aravind praised Ugandhar Muni for his direction, lauding Aadi’s performance and highlighting the emotional connection of three generations in Sai Kumar’s family. He also complimented Archana Iyer and child actor Baby Chaitra for their compelling performances.

Aadi Saikumar thanked everyone for their support, emphasizing the team effort behind the film. He acknowledged director Ugandhar’s two-year dedication, producers’ trust,

and music director Sricharan Pakala’s sleepless nights in composing the soundtrack. Aadi encouraged audiences to watch the film in theaters, promising an engaging experience.

Veteran actor Sai Kumar expressed joy at seeing Aadi achieve success, noting that perseverance and hard work have finally paid off. Director Bobby highlighted the father-son pride and congratulated the team for creating a film that resonates with audiences. Director Vassishtha added that the film’s second-week collections have surpassed expectations, crediting the team for their innovation.

Actor Sundeep Kishan appreciated the honesty and sincerity of the film-making process, calling it a well-deserved hit. Writer Kona Venkat called the film a “Divine Blockbuster,” praising its content-driven storytelling that has captured audience attention.

Producers Mahidhar Reddy and Rajasekhar Annabhemoju expressed gratitude to Aadi and the

team, noting the film’s strong audience response and anticipating higher collections in the coming week. Director Ugandhar Muni emphasized teamwork as the key to the film’s success, citing strong performances, excellent music, visuals, and editing as critical factors.

Actress Archana Iyer reflected on the overwhelming response to her role, saying the audience’s appreciation reinforced the importance of good content. Mythri Shashi highlighted Aadi’s commitment and Prabhas’ support as instrumental in shaping the film into a blockbuster.

Music director Sricharan Pakala described the film as his 49th and most special project, with countless sleepless nights resulting in a soundtrack that complements the film’s narrative.

The event celebrated not just box office success but also the collaborative effort, creativity, and dedication that went into ‘Shambhala’, making it a hit with audiences and critics alike.

American Telugu Association Honors Akavaram Lohith Kumar at ATA Vedukalu 2025

The American Telugu Association (ATA) honored noted actor, anchor, mimicry artist, and social activist Akavaram Lohith Kumar at the prestigious ATA Vedukalu 2025 event held at Ravindra Bharathi in Hyderabad. The ATA team felicitated Lohith Kumar as a distinguished personality, recognizing his multifaceted talents and his decades-long contribution to the entertainment industry and social service.

With a remarkable career spanning over four decades, Akavaram Lohith Kumar has emerged as one of the most versatile performers in Telugu media. Beginning his journey at a young age as a stage artist, he steadily rose to prominence through sheer dedication, discipline, and a passion for entertaining audiences across generations. Over the years, his work has reached viewers not only in India but also across the globe.

Lohith Kumar has been associated with several leading television networks, including Eenadu TV, Star Maa, Gemini TV, and Zee TV. His vast body of work includes performances in more than 20 short films, 30 daily television serials comprising



nearly 30,000 episodes, and over 6,000 mimicry stage shows conducted both in India and abroad. His contribution to cinema is equally notable, with acting roles in more than 60 films, in addition to serving as Executive Producer for three films and Producer for five films.

One of the defining milestones in his career came in 1994, when he earned a place in the Limca Book of Records under the title Fastest

Mimicry, a testament to his exceptional talent and innovation in the art of mimicry. This achievement further cemented his reputation as a pioneer and trendsetter in the field.

Beyond his accomplishments in entertainment, Lohith Kumar has consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to social causes. Through various organizations, he has actively worked for the welfare of people with disabilities, particu-

larly individuals with hearing impairments. His initiatives include facilitating medical treatments, providing assistance programs, and raising awareness about inclusive support systems.

Addressing the gathering after receiving the honor, Lohith Kumar said that his personal philosophy is rooted in the belief that life offers an opportunity to make the world a better place. He emphasized that

wealth creation is not limited to financial gains but also involves empowering people to grow and succeed in their respective fields. He noted that his life’s work reflects a commitment to compassion, service, and meaningful effort.

The felicitation at ATA Vedukalu 2025 stood as a celebration of Akavaram Lohith Kumar’s enduring legacy, applauding his artistic excellence and his unwavering dedication to social responsibility.

Chennai Hosts Grand Finale of ‘Margazhiyil Makkal Isai’ with Actress Shobita Dhulipala as Chief Guest

Chennai witnessed a spectacular conclusion to the 6th edition of ‘Margazhiyil Makkal Isai’, a prestigious music festival organized by the Neelam Cultural Center under the guidance of renowned director P. Ranjith. The three-day event, held from December 26 to 28 at Pachaiyappa’s College Grounds, captivated art and music enthusiasts with a vibrant showcase of talent and cultural performances.

The grand finale was graced by acclaimed Tollywood and Bollywood actress Shobita Dhulipala as the chief guest. She praised the festival’s efforts in bringing marginalized communities’ art forms and folk traditions into the mainstream, highlighting the dedication of P. Ranjith and his team in promoting cultural diversity.

During the closing ceremony, Shobita personally attended several musical performances, applauding artists and encouraging their ef-



forts. She emphasized the importance of celebrating folk arts and blending traditional and contemporary music to engage wider audiences.

The festival featured a wide array of musical styles, ranging from classical Carnatic music to regional folk performances, reflecting the rich tapestry of India’s

cultural heritage. The organizers ensured that both seasoned artists and emerging talents had the opportunity to perform on the same stage, promoting inclusivity and artistic exchange.

Audience members lauded the festival for its well-curated program and immersive

experience, noting the seamless integration of visual and musical storytelling. The event also highlighted the role of cultural festivals in fostering community engagement and appreciation for local art forms.

With the 6th edition now concluded, ‘Margazhiyil Makkal Isai’

has once again reinforced its position as a significant platform for musical and cultural expression in Chennai. The festival’s success is expected to inspire more initiatives that bring together diverse artists and promote the preservation and celebration of India’s folk and classical arts.

Tollywood Veteran Bandla Ganesh Launches New Banner ‘BG Blockbusters’

Tollywood’s sensational producer and actor Bandla Ganesh has announced his return as a producer with a brand-new banner, ‘BG Blockbusters’, marking the second innings of his illustrious career. Previously associated with Parameshwara Art Productions, under which he produced several blockbuster films, Ganesh is now ready to re-enter the industry with fresh energy and innovative ideas. He officially unveiled the banner and shared his future production plans.

Ganesh first tasted success as a producer with ‘Anjaneyulu’ starring Mass Maharaja Raviteja, followed by the massive hit ‘Gabbar Singh’ featuring Power Star Pawan Kalyan, which cemented his position in Tollywood. Subsequent successes include ‘Badsha’ with NTR, ‘Iddara-

mmayilatho’ with Allu Arjun, and ‘Temper’ with Junior NTR. After a brief hiatus, Ganesh has now returned with renewed focus, including involving his family as partners in the new venture.

Under BG Blockbusters, Ganesh aims to produce films that are not only commercially entertaining but also emotionally engaging, giving priority to honest and heartfelt storytelling. The banner also seeks to nurture young talent, including directors, writers, and technical experts, while encouraging creative freedom to deliver fresh cinematic experiences to audiences.

Ganesh confirmed that a new project is already in the works under the BG Blockbusters banner. Details regarding the cast, crew, and technical team will be



officially announced soon. He expressed confidence that the banner will consistently deliver entertaining films and captivate audiences with multiple upcoming projects.

With a track record of commercial hits and a keen understanding of audience preferences, Bandla Ganesh’s BG Blockbusters promises to usher in a new chapter in Tollywood, blending star power, innovative narratives, and technical finesse. Fans eagerly await the first release from this new venture, expecting a combination of mass appeal and creative storytelling.

This launch marks a powerful comeback for the veteran producer, reaffirming his influence in Tollywood and signaling exciting times ahead for audiences and industry insiders alike.