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CM Chandrababu Naidu’s Packed Davos Day 2: Key Meetings to Boost Andhra Pradesh Investments

TPN Bureau | January 20

Davos, Switzerland: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu engaged in high-level talks with UAE Minister of State for Financial Affairs, Obaid Humaid Al Marri, on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting here. The discussions focused on deepening economic ties between Andhra Pradesh and the UAE, with key agreements on multi-modal logistics parks, food processing collaborations, and investments across critical sectors.

The WEF, attended by global leaders, policymakers, and business tycoons, provides a prime platform for forging international partnerships. Naidu, representing India's fastest-growing southern state, highlighted Andhra Pradesh's vision to become a \$2.5

trillion economy by 2050 under the TDP-led government's Swarna Andhra-2047 initiative. "Our state is poised for exponential growth in logistics, renewable energy, and urban development," Naidu stated post-meeting, emphasizing the UAE's role as a strategic investor.

At the core of the talks was the establishment of a Multi-Modal Logistics Park in Andhra Pradesh, aimed at streamlining supply chains and boosting export capabilities. Al Marri pledged support from 40 UAE-based companies, signaling strong interest in setting up operations in the state. This comes amid Andhra Pradesh's push to develop world-class infrastructure, including the upcoming Bhogapuram International Airport and expanded port facilities at Visakhapatnam and Krishnapatnam.

A landmark agreement emerged in food processing, where both sides committed to joint

ventures. UAE firms will collaborate with local stakeholders to enhance value addition in agriculture, leveraging Andhra Pradesh's rich produce like chillies, tobacco, and seafood. Discussions also covered food security, with proposals for cold-chain logistics and processing units to minimize post-harvest losses, benefiting millions of farmers. The agenda extended to port-led industries, where UAE's expertise in Dubai's Jebel Ali Port model could transform Andhra Pradesh's coastal economy. Investments in renewable energy, including solar and green hydrogen projects, align with the state's 45 GW renewable target by 2030. Urban development and infrastructure, such as smart cities and high-speed rail corridors, rounded out the talks, with Naidu pitching Amaravati as a futuristic capital. Al Marri lauded Andhra Pradesh's investor-friendly policies, including single-window clear-

ances and the Deep Tech Research Park in Visakhapatnam. "The UAE sees immense potential in Andhra Pradesh's logistics hubs and sustainable development goals," he remarked. These pledges build on prior UAE-Andhra ties, including \$10 billion MoUs signed during Naidu's 2024 Dubai roadshow. This Davos outreach underscores Naidu's aggressive foreign investment drive since reclaiming office in June 2024, following the TDP-JSP-BJP alliance victory. With over 1,000 MoUs worth \$25 billion already secured, the UAE partnership could create lakhs of jobs and position Andhra Pradesh as South India's logistics capital. Stakeholders hail the move as a game-changer for regional development, though implementation timelines remain key. Naidu is scheduled for more WEF sessions, including panels on AI-driven governance and climate resilience.



CM Chandrababu Naidu’s Packed Davos Day 2: Key Meetings to Boost Andhra Pradesh Investments

TPN Bureau | January 20:

Amaravati | Davos: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is set for a high-stakes second day at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland, on Tuesday. Amid global leaders and investors, Naidu will spotlight the state's investment potential through strategic sessions and one-on-one meetings with top industrialists. This follows his Day 1 engagements, where he pitched Andhra Pradesh as India's next growth engine, emphasizing infrastructure, IT, and green energy.

The day kicks off with a high-profile Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) breakfast session. Naidu will deliver a keynote on "The Andhra Pradesh Advantage," highlighting the state's investor-friendly policies, world-class ports, and ambitious Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor. Sources close to the CM's office say the speech will underscore recent reforms like single-window clearances and the Deep Tech Research Park in Visakhapatnam, aiming to attract \$50 billion in FDI over the next five years. Post-breakfast, Naidu joins the India

Lounge inaugural, a hub for bilateral talks. Here, he'll engage with global investors eyeing India's \$5 trillion economy. Discussions are expected to focus on Andhra's solar parks, data centers, and the upcoming Bhogapuram International Airport, positioning the state as a logistics gateway to Southeast Asia. A centerpiece is Naidu's meeting with IBM Chairman and CEO Arvind Krishna. The duo will explore AI-driven smart city projects, building on IBM's prior MoUs for cloud computing in Amaravati. This aligns with Naidu's vision of a "Digital Andhra," where AI could transform agriculture and governance.

Next, Naidu meets Google Cloud CEO Thomas Kurian, discussing hyperscale data centers and digital skilling. With Google's expanding India footprint, this could fast-track Andhra's ambition to host one of Asia's largest cloud hubs, creating thousands of jobs. The evening lineup features heavyweights from manufacturing and logistics. Naidu will huddle with JSW Group Chairman and MD Sajjan Jindal, alongside JSW Cement and Paints MD Parth Jindal.

Talks may cover steel plants in Vizag and green cement units, leveraging JSW's expertise amid Andhra's push for sustainable industry. Capping the day is a session with Maersk's CEO Vincent Clerc, head of global container logistics giant A.P. Moller-Maersk. With Krishnapatnam Port's expansion, Naidu aims to double cargo capacity, integrating it into global supply chains disrupted post-pandemic.

These engagements reflect Naidu's aggressive outreach since TDP's 2024 return to power. After YSRCP's tenure stalled projects like Polavaram and Amaravati, Naidu has revived investor confidence, securing \$10 billion commitments already. Davos 2026, themed "Collaboration for the Intelligent Age," offers the perfect stage.

Stakeholders hail the itinerary as a masterstroke. "Naidu's blending policy with people IT giants for tech, industries for jobs," said a CII official. Opposition YSRCP, however, questions the trip's costs amid state debt.

As Naidu networks, Andhra watches eagerly. Success here could turbocharge the state's GDP growth to 12%, rivaling Gujarat. Updates from Davos will shape Andhra's 2026 budget.

Survey Reveals Anti-Incumbency Against 42 TDP-Led Alliance MLAs in Andhra Pradesh

TPN Bureau | January 20

Amaravati: A forthcoming survey has exposed pockets of public discontent against 42 MLAs from the TDP-led alliance, even as the coalition government enjoys a commanding majority following its landslide victory in the 2024 Assembly elections. With 164 seats in its grasp compared to YSRCP's mere 11, the alliance appeared unsailable amid minimal large-scale opposition.

However, the survey—yet to be publicly released—indicates that anti-incumbency targets individual MLAs rather than the government's overall performance, sparking concerns within party ranks.

The data suggests that even if these 42 MLAs were to lose support, the coalition's majority would remain intact at over 120 seats. Notably, no backlash has been reported against TDP, JSP, or BJP at the constituency level, nor against key government initiatives. Instead, grievances center on the personal conduct and overreach of these MLAs, who hail from all three regions: Uttarandhra, Coastal Andhra, and Rayalaseema.

Sources familiar with the survey describe a



pattern of "every penny must come to us" attitudes, where MLAs demand oversight of even minor constituency matters like sand allocation or small expenditures. Allegations paint a picture of MLAs deeply entangled in sand mining, wine businesses, and other lucrative ventures.

They are accused of meddling in police post-

ings, routine government staff transfers, outsourcing hires, and contract recruitments treating their constituencies as personal fiefdoms. One striking claim involves an MLA instructing a municipal corporation commissioner that no file should move without his knowledge, underscoring the extent of their influence. "They

act like Chief Ministers in their areas," a source quoted in the survey noted.

This revelation comes at a time when YSRCP leaders are amplifying narratives of widespread anti-government sentiment, predicting an alliance collapse and even early elections. Despite the coalition's strong showing in 2024, opposition

voices like those from former Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy have ramped up criticism over minor issues, claiming public disillusionment.

The survey counters this, affirming approval for the government's track record while isolating discontent to these 42 individuals. TDP high command now faces a dilemma: replacing them is infeasible mid-term, but reining them in could prevent broader damage. Party insiders worry that unchecked behavior might erode goodwill ahead of local polls or by-elections.

"It's a wake-up call these MLAs are busy with their 'empires,' ignoring public service," one senior leader remarked anonymously.

Government machinery is reportedly monitoring the situation closely, with internal advisories urging discipline. As the survey's full details and names emerge soon, all eyes are on how alliance leaders respond. Will they crack down to safeguard their dominance, or will these 42 continue operating with impunity? For now, the coalition's numerical strength offers a buffer, but public pulse checks like this underscore the fragility of personal popularity in Andhra politics.

Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh Urges Green Hydrogen Vehicle Pilots at Vizag, Kakinada Ports



TPN Bureau | January 20

Davos | Amaravati: In a strategic push towards sustainable mobility, Andhra Pradesh Minister for Education, IT, and Electronics, Nara Lokesh, has called on a leading Spanish automotive firm to develop and deploy hydrogen terminal tractors as pilot vehicles at Visakhapatnam and Kakinada ports.

The proposal emerged during Lokesh's meeting with José Mellado, Managing Director of Evolution Synergetic Automotive SL, on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos. Lokesh emphasized the state government's keen interest in forging international partnerships to bolster green hydrogen and zero-emission vehicles (ZEV) sectors. "The Andhra Pradesh gov-

ernment is eager to empower global partners in these fields," he stated. Highlighting the state's readiness to provide industrial parks, ports, and engineering sandboxes, Lokesh outlined plans to realize AP's green energy ambitions through collaborative innovation. Key initiatives include co-developing off-road electric and hydrogen vehicles within AP's industrial parks. The minister urged the company to lead redesign and optimization efforts, with the government committing full support via test beds, permits, and infrastructure. "We will facilitate prototype development and engineer training," Lokesh assured, adding that small-scale engineering sandboxes in industrial or academic campuses would be made available to kickstart innovations. This move aligns with Andhra Pradesh's broader vision under Chief Min-

ister N. Chandrababu Naidu to position the state as a green energy hub. Visakhapatnam and Kakinada, with their strategic port infrastructure, offer ideal testing grounds for hydrogen-powered terminal tractors critical for decarbonizing logistics and cargo handling. Such pilots could reduce emissions in heavy-duty transport, a sector notorious for its carbon footprint. Evolution Synergetic Automotive SL, known for expertise in complete vehicles and mobility systems, brings proven capabilities in sustainable automotive solutions. The firm's involvement could catalyze investments, job creation, and technology transfer in AP. Lokesh's proactive outreach at Davos underscores the state's aggressive investor-friendly policies, including single-window clearances and incentives for clean tech.

EESL to Highlight India’s Energy Efficiency Success at Indian Energy Week 2026, Spotlights Andhra Pradesh’s Leadership



TPN Bureau | January 20, 2026

Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh: Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture of public sector undertakings under the Ministry of Power, Government of India, will showcase India’s strides in energy efficiency at the upcoming Indian Energy Week (IEW) 2026, from January 27–30 in Goa.

The event, the year’s first major global energy summit under the patronage of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, will draw over 75,000 professionals, 700+ exhibitors, and 550+ speakers from 120+ countries. EESL, alongside the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), will anchor the Energy Efficiency and Carbon Markets tracks at the Ministry of Power (MOP) Pavilion.

The pavilion will spotlight India’s innovations in smart grids, pumped storage, AI-enabled operations, cybersecurity, regulatory reforms, and energy efficiency. CEO Akhilesh Kumar Dixit will deliver a keynote presentation, emphasizing EESL’s role in pioneering market transformation through aggregation, innovative ESCO financing models, and demand creation.

This aligns with global calls from the International Energy Agency (IEA), IRENA, and the COP28 Presidency to double the annual rate of energy efficiency improvement from over 2% to more than 4% by 2030 via the Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge and G20 initiatives. The IEA roadmap identifies three key levers: fuel switching and electrification (EVs, clean cooking, heat pumps), technical efficiency (appliances, buildings, industry), and avoided demand through behavior change.

EESL’s portfolio addresses all three, positioning India as a practical accelerator for Net-Zero goals. At IEW 2026, EESL will demonstrate super-efficient appliances like LED lighting, efficient cooling/heating, and connected controls for homes, offices, and municipalities, offering immediate paybacks.

S.No.	Parameters	UJALA	SLNP
1	Numbers (in crore)	36.87 Crore	1.34+ Crore
2	Energy Savings (per annum)	47000+ Mn kWh	9000+ Mn kWh
3	Monetary Savings	₹19,000+ crore	₹6,300+ crore
4	Emission Reduced	38.7 million tonnes CO ₂ e	6.2 million tonnes CO ₂ e
5	SDG		

It will promote electric induction cooking under the National Efficient Cooking Programme (NECP) for public health and gender equity, alongside affordable e-bicycles for zero-emission urban mobility. A special spotlight falls on Andhra Pradesh, a pioneering state in EESL’s deployments.

The state has distributed around 2.20 crore LED bulbs, yielding energy savings of 2,863 million kWh and monetary savings of 1,145 crore contributing to national totals of 47,882 million kWh saved and 19,153 crore in benefits. Other leaders include Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Odisha, and Karnataka. The showcase will engage stakeholders through immersive demos, impact dashboards, and total cost of ownership ex-

Spotlight on Andhra Pradesh:

SLNP (Street Light National Programme)					
National Savings	Total Lights Installed	Energy Saved Per Year	Monetary Savings	Avoided Peak Demand	CO2 Emission Reduction
	1.34 Crore	9001 Mn kWh	5400 Cr	1500 MW	6.2 mn t CO2e
AP Urban Development Street lights					
AP Savings	Total Lights Installed	Energy Saved Per Year	Monetary Savings	Avoided Peak Demand	CO2 Emission Reduction
	5.8 Lac	390 Mn kWh	234 Cr	65 MW	0.26 mn t CO2e
AP GP Street Lights					
AP Savings	Total Lights Installed	Energy Saved Per Year	Monetary Savings	Avoided Peak Demand	CO2 Emission Reduction
	23.66 Lac	1590 Mn kWh	954 Cr	265 MW	1.1 mn t CO2e
AP Total Savings	29.46 Lac	1980 Mn kWh	1188 Cr	330 MW	1.36 mn t CO2e

Andhra Pradesh SSC 10th Exams: Final Schedule Confirmed from March 16 to April

TPN Bureau | January 20, 2026

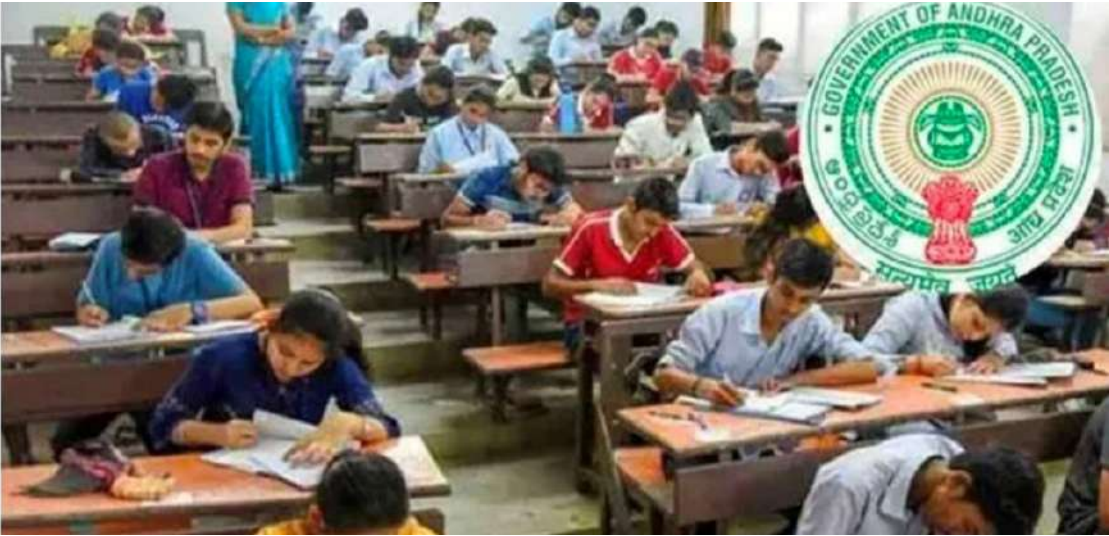
Amaravati: The Directorate of Government Examinations (DGE), Andhra Pradesh, released the final schedule for the Class 10 (SSC) public examinations on Tuesday, confirming three earlier tentative schedules.

The board-wide tests will run from March 16 to April 1, 2026, with sessions held daily from 9:30 AM to 12:45 PM across the state. This announcement brings clarity to over 6.5 lakh students preparing for the

high-stakes exams, a key milestone in Andhra Pradesh’s academic calendar. Director S. Suresh Kumar issued the official notification to all schools, urging principals and teachers to disseminate the details promptly and ensure compliance with exam protocols.

After all this fixation, there may be a possible change in the time table with English Exam Since the 20th falls on the Ramzaan Day. It might be on 21st of March.

Exams conclude on March 31, with April 1 listed as a buffer or potential revision day in the notification. No changes were made from the tentative versions, providing much-needed stability amid ongoing preparations.



Education officials emphasized the importance of adhering to COVID-19 guidelines, including mandatory masking and social distancing at 15,000+ exam centers. “This finalized timetable allows students ample time for focused revision,” Kumar stated in the release. The board has also geared up for advanced evaluation processes, with results expected by late April. Last year’s SSC exams saw a pass percentage of 71.9%, with girls outperforming boys.

Authorities anticipate similar or improved outcomes, bolstered by enhanced teacher training under the NDA government’s education reforms.

Students and parents welcomed the early confirmation, especially after delays in previous cycles due to weather and logistical issues. For official updates, visit bse.ap.gov.in.



APSRTC Sets Record with 27.68 Crore Daily Revenue Amid Sankranti Return Rush

TPN Bureau | January 20, 2026

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) achieved a historic milestone, generating a staggering 27.68 crore in revenue on January 19 alone—the highest single-day earnings in its history. This record-breaking performance came as over 50.6 lakh passengers traveled on APSRTC buses, fueled by the post-Sankranti return exodus from villages to cities across the state.

As Sankranti holidays concluded, millions of Andhra Pradesh residents embarked on their journey back home from native villages, creating unprecedented demand for public transport. Anticipating this surge, APSRTC officials proactively deployed hundreds of special buses statewide, ensuring seamless connectivity from rural hubs like Ongole, Guntur, and Vijayawada to major urban centers including Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam, and Chennai.

These extra services operated round-the-clock from key depots, covering high-traffic routes and minimizing wait times. APSRTC Vice Chairman and Managing Director Dwarka Tirumala Rao extended special congratulations to drivers, conductors, garage staff, supervisors, and officials for their tireless efforts.

“This extraordinary success is a testament to our team’s dedication in serving the people of Andhra Pradesh,” Rao stated in an official release. He highlighted how the corporation’s strategic planning turned potential chaos into a smooth operation, reinforcing public trust in state-run transport.

In the lead-up to the return rush, APSRTC had foreseen challenges like overcrowding and delays. Officials crafted comprehensive plans, ramping up bus schedules by 30-40% on peak routes, deploying additional personnel for crowd management, and streamlining online booking via the APSRTC app and website. Enhanced facilities at major terminals, including temporary helpdesks and real-time tracking, further eased passenger woes.

Safety measures, such as mandatory vehicle checks and health screenings, ensured journeys remained secure amid the high volume. This feat underscores APSRTC’s resilience under the

current TDP-led government, which has prioritized fleet modernization and digital integration since regaining power.

The corporation operates over 12,000 buses daily, serving 70 lakh passengers routinely, but Sankranti a festival marking the harvest season always amplifies demand. Last year, similar efforts yielded 22 crore on peak days, making this year’s record a 25% leap. Industry experts attribute the success to a mix of festive timing and policy boosts, including subsidized fares for rural routes and partnerships with private operators for overflow capacity.

Passenger feedback poured in via social media, praising punctuality and affordability—standard fares remained unchanged despite the rush. Looking ahead, APSRTC plans to analyze this data for future festivals like Ugadi and Dasara, potentially investing in electric buses for sustainable growth.

For now, the record not only bolsters the corporation’s finances but also signals robust economic activity as Andhra Pradesh’s workforce returns to urban jobs, factories, and offices.

Amaravati Gears Up for Historic Republic Day Debut



TPN Bureau | January 20, 2026

Amaravati: Preparations are in full swing for Andhra Pradesh’s first-ever Republic Day celebrations in the people’s capital, Amaravati, scheduled for January 26. This marks a significant shift, as the state government has traditionally held both Independence Day and Republic Day events in Vijayawada each year.

Moving forward, these national festivities will now take place in Amaravati, underscoring the city’s growing role as the state’s administrative hub. The event will unfold on a sprawling 22-acre venue along the route from the MLA Colony and community areas near Rayapudi to the High Court Colony. This prime location promises a grand spectacle blending tradition, pomp, and modern infrastructure.

Infrastructure Push Underway: Construction work is progressing briskly. Multiple galleries are being erected to seat thousands, including dignitaries and the public. The main podium is under meticulous construction for speeches and performances. Elaborately crafted chariots (shakatas), symbolizing India’s cultural diversity, are nearing completion with national and Andhra motifs. Advanced lighting, sound systems, and seating ensure flawless execution.

Mock Parade Signals Readiness: Police conducted a trial run on Monday, with marching bands, NCC cadets, and students practicing along the full route. This rehearsal refined logistics like traffic flow and crowd control. Security is airtight, featuring drones, surveillance, and elite units. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu will preside, with Governor S. Abdul Nazeer as chief guest. Central leaders are invited, spotlighting Amaravati’s revival under the NDA government.

This move revives the single-capital vision, countering past three-capitals confusion. Eco-friendly measures like solar lights and zero-waste protocols align with sustainability goals. Over 20 contingents, folk troupes, and a helicopter flypast will dazzle crowds.

Locals are thrilled, with schools prepping tableaux on farming, tech, and Polavaram. Amaravati stands ready for a patriotic extravaganza symbolizing unity and progress.

TDP Rajya Sabha MP Exposes Rs 1.22 Crore MEPMA Funds Misappropriation in Ramachandrapuram

TPN Bureau | January 19, 2026
Ramachandrapuram, Kona Seema District: In an explosive revelation, TDP Rajya Sabha MP Pilli Subhash Chandra Bose accused YSRCP leaders, the former municipal commissioner, and revenue officials of the previous YSRCP regime of siphoning off 1.22 crore in MEPMA funds allocated to the Ramachandrapuram Municipal Council.

Speaking at a press conference held at the local TDP office on Monday, Bose presented documentary evidence under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, demanding a vigilance inquiry and strict action against the culprits. MEPMA (Mahila Empowerment and Poverty Alleviation) funds are meant strictly for poverty eradication initiatives, such as supporting self-help groups and women's empowerment programs.

However, Bose alleged that these resources were diverted in violation of guidelines for unauthorized purposes, including fictitious housing construction. "The YSRCP government claimed to distribute house pattas and build homes for the poor, but in Ramachandrapuram town, they allocated land to beneficiaries in four locations: Vellanki, Vellasaavaram, Undoori, and Hasanabad villages," Bose explained.

"The then municipal commissioner misused municipal MEPMA funds to 'construct' houses at these sites. Ultimately, no houses were built, and the construction materials were colluded with contractors from Nellore to be swindled away," Bose displayed RTI documents that exposed the scam, showing how funds were funneled into non-existent projects.



He urged the current TDP-led state government to launch a Vigilance Department probe, recover the misappropriated amount, and punish those responsible. "This corruption not only cheated the poor but also burdened honest officials," he added, highlighting the plight of one employee who was transferred out and forced to pay Rs 40 lakh from his own pocket to cover the shortfall caused by the irregularities.

The MP revealed he had already brought the matter to the attention of the Finance Minister and the district Collector. He announced plans to write a detailed letter to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, seeking immediate intervention. "RTI has uncovered the truth—funds meant for the marginalized were looted by those in power. The public deserves

accountability," Bose asserted. This allegation adds to a growing list of financial irregularities unearthed from the YSRCP's five-year tenure (2019-2024), where opposition parties claim widespread misuse of public funds plagued development schemes. Locals in Ramachandrapuram, a key town in Kona Seema district, have long complained about stalled welfare projects.

TDP activists gathered at the press meet raised slogans demanding justice, while YSRCP leaders were yet to respond to the charges as of filing this report. Bose's expose underscores the TDP government's ongoing anti-corruption drive, with similar probes underway in other districts. Residents hope for swift action to prevent future misuse and ensure MEPMA funds reach intended beneficiaries.

Andhra Pradesh Minister Directs Swift Paddy Procurement, Targets Same-Day Payments for Farmers

TPN Bureau | January 20, 2026
Amaravati : In a major push for farmer welfare, Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar announced that the state has procured 41.69 lakh metric tons of paddy worth Rs 9,890 crore from 6,83,623 farmers during the Kharif season so far. Of this, Rs 9,800 crore has already been credited to farmers' accounts within 24 hours, showcasing the government's commitment to timely payments.

Speaking at a review meeting in Vijayawada on Monday morning, the minister issued strict directives to officials. He ordered measures to ensure that paddy purchased in the morning reaches farmers' bank accounts by evening starting immediately. "This will eliminate any delays and provide financial relief to our hardworking farmers," Manohar emphasized. The meeting, held at the Civil Supplies Department Commissionerate office, focused on streamlining procurement for the upcoming

Rabi season. Manohar instructed officials to gear up fully for Rabi paddy purchases, ensuring no bottlenecks in storage, transportation, or processing.

He stressed the need for comprehensive training at Rythu Seva Kendras (farmer service centers) to leverage modern technology, including digital tools for efficient operations. Procurement efforts continue unabated in key districts like Tirupati, Nellore, Bapatla, and Guntur, where Kharif paddy collection is still ongoing. The minister highlighted innovative steps taken this season, such as arranging special trains for the first time to transport paddy from Krishna and Guntur districts. "We've effectively addressed challenges like moisture content, GPS tracking, and transportation issues, ensuring farmers face no hardships," he stated. Manohar urged officials to replicate these successes in the Rabi season, with a focus on adequate godowns, seamless logistics, and ro-



bust storage facilities. "No farmer should suffer due to shortages in pits, transport, or warehousing.

Our goal is zero complaints and maximum efficiency," he added. The procurement drive aligns with the TDP-led government's farmer-friendly policies under Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. Last year's Kharif season saw similar successes, but this year's record collections underscore improved infrastructure and digital integration. Officials reported that the swift payments

totaling nearly Rs 10,000 crore have boosted farmer confidence, encouraging higher yields.

Participating in the meeting were Civil Supplies Corporation Vice Chairman and Managing Director D. Dhilhirao, along with senior department officials. The session reviewed progress across districts and mapped out strategies for Rabi, which typically sees increased production due to better irrigation from projects like Polavaram.

This initiative comes

amid Andhra Pradesh's robust agricultural output, with paddy remaining the state's staple crop. The government's emphasis on technology at procurement centers aims to minimize middlemen interference and ensure fair pricing at the Minimum Support Price (MSP).

Farmers have welcomed the moves, with associations praising the special trains and rapid payments. As Rabi sowing progresses, all eyes are on sustaining this momentum through the harvest season.

AP Information Commission Chief Vows Transparent Governance, Strict Action on RTI Delays



TPN Bureau | January 20, 2026
Mangalagiri, Andhra Pradesh: In a strong commitment to public empowerment, newly appointed Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) of Andhra Pradesh, V. Srinivasa Rao, declared that his office will prioritize disseminating government-related information to ordinary citizens. Taking charge at the RTI (Right to Information) head office in Mangalagiri, Guntur district, alongside fellow commissioners, Rao emphasized accountability and warned of stringent

measures against officials who withhold information. The ceremony marked a seamless transition for the Andhra Pradesh State Information Commission. Former Commissioner Sunil Kumar extended a warm welcome to the new team, highlighting the commission's pivotal role in upholding transparency under the RTI Act, 2005. Speaking exclusively to the media on the occasion, Rao outlined his vision:

"Our sole mission is to ensure that government information reaches the common man without barriers.

We exist to bridge the gap between citizens and administration." Rao's remarks came at a time when RTI applications in Andhra Pradesh have surged, driven by public demand for details on governance, welfare schemes, infrastructure projects, and political accountability. He issued a stern warning to errant officials: "If people seek information and authorities fail to provide it, we will take strict action. No excuses will be tolerated." This pledge addresses long-standing grievances where delays, denials, or vague responses have frustrated appli-

cants, often linked to issues like corruption probes, land acquisitions, and budget allocations. Under Rao's leadership, the commission aims to expedite hearings, digitize records, and conduct awareness campaigns across the state. "RTI is not just a tool; it's a fundamental right that strengthens democracy," Rao added, urging citizens to use it fearlessly. The new commissioners, whose identities were not detailed in the event, bring fresh perspectives to streamline processes amid Andhra Pradesh's dynamic political landscape, including ongoing

ing TDP-led initiatives on development and YSRCP's opposition scrutiny. This appointment reinforces Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's administration's focus on good governance, following recent reforms in e-governance and anti-corruption drives.

Stakeholders, including journalists and activists, hailed the move as a positive step. As the commission gears up, all eyes are on how effectively it will enforce compliance in a state where RTI has exposed irregularities in sectors like irrigation and housing.

10,000 House Pattas to Transform Lives of Poor in Madakasira



On His Birthday

TPN Bureau | January 20, 2026
Madakasira (Anantapur district): In a major boost to housing for the underprivileged, the Andhra Pradesh government is set to distribute land pattas to 10,000 poor families in Madakasira town on January 23. The event coincides with the birthday of Nara Lokesh, state IT and 2G Minister, highlighting the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) government's commitment to welfare amid celebrations.

TDP State Vice-President Gundumalla Tipposwamy inspected preparations at the Government Junior College grounds on Monday. Speaking to reporters, he revealed that the program will unfold in a festive atmosphere, complete with cultural events and fanfare to make it memorable for beneficiaries. "This is not just a distribution; it's a festival of hope for thousands of families who have waited years for their own roofs," Tipposwamy said.

The initiative falls under the state Revenue Department's flagship housing schemes, led by Minister Anagani Satyaprasad. It targets landless poor in rural and semi-urban areas, providing legal title deeds (pattas) for house sites. Madakasira, a drought-prone town in Anantapur

district one of Andhra Pradesh's most backward regions has long grappled with landlessness and migration due to water scarcity and agricultural distress.

These pattas, typically 100-200 square yards each, will enable families to access bank loans for construction under schemes like PMAY (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana) and the state's own housing corpus. The timing ties into Nara Lokesh's birthday, a strategic move by TDP to showcase governance achievements.

Lokesh, son of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, has been vocal about digital governance and welfare delivery since TDP's return to power in 2024. This distribution builds on the government's promise to clear housing backlogs from the previous YSRCP regime, which critics accused of stalling pattas due to political favoritism. Prominent attendees at the venue inspection included State Okkali Corporation Chairman Lakshminarayana, Madakasira Nagar Panchayat President Narasimharaju, and State Minority Director Bakthar.

They reviewed logistics, including shaminas, seating for 10,000 people, and security amid expectations of large crowds. "Everything is geared for a seamless event. Beneficiaries from surrounding mandals will arrive early," Lakshminarayana confirmed. Local residents expressed joy.

"We've lived on government poramboke land for decades without titles. This patta means security for our children," said Mariamma, a daily wageer from Madakasira. TDP leaders project this as part of a larger statewide push, with similar events planned in other districts. Anantapur, with its high poverty rates, stands to benefit immensely. The district administration has verified beneficiaries through Aadhaar-linked surveys to prevent leakages—a hallmark of TDP's tech-driven approach.

Critics from YSRCP, however, call it "election gimmickry," though TDP dismisses this, pointing to ongoing projects like Mission Bhagiratha for water and solar pumps for farmers. As January 23 nears, Madakasira buzzes with anticipation. This patta distribution not only fulfills a key poll promise but also symbolizes TDP's focus on inclusive growth in Andhra Pradesh's arid heartland.

Amaravati Minister Slams YSRCP Over Tirumala Vaikunta Dwara Dar

TPN Bureau | January 12, 2026
Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Minister Kolu Parthasarathy on Monday accused the opposition YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) of spreading malicious disinformation about the seamless conduct of Vaikunta Dwara Darshans at Tirumala, claiming it as part of a desperate political conspiracy.

Speaking to the media here, the minister asserted that the high-profile darshans—annual rituals during the Vaikunta Ekadasi festival at the sacred Tirumala Venkateswara Temple—were executed flawlessly under the current TDP-led government's oversight. "We conducted the darshans efficiently and without any hitches," Parthasarathy declared, emphasizing the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD)'s robust arrangements that ensured smooth pilgrim access despite massive crowds.



He lambasted YSRCP leaders for their inability to digest this success, alleging they fabricated claims of "impurity" or desecration at the temple to malign the administration. "They're plotting smears be-

cause they can't stomach our competent handling," the minister fumed. Parthasarathy revealed that police investigations have already nabbed several culprits behind the disinformation drive, with suspects confessing links to Bhuman Karunakar Reddy, a prominent YSRCP loyalist in Tirupati. The controversy erupted amid heightened devotee fervor for the 10-day Vaikunta Dwara Darshans, which commenced on December 31, 2025, drawing lakhs of pilgrims seeking special entry through the temple's golden doorway. TTD authorities reported over 5 lakh darshans on peak days, with advanced crowd management, AI-enabled token systems, and enhanced security preventing any disruptions contrasting sharply with past complaints under the previous YSRCP regime.

YSRCP's accusations, circulated via social media and fringe outlets, alleged lapses in ritual purity, prompting swift rebuttals from TTD executives. Parthasarathy highlighted that forensic probes into viral videos and audio clips peddled as "evidence" exposed them as doctored propaganda. "These conspirators are Bhuman Karunakar Reddy's followers, as they're admitting in Tirupati police custody," he added, urging stricter action against those undermining religious sentiments for political gain. This episode underscores ongoing TDP-YSRCP tensions post the 2024 elections, where Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's alliance ousted YSRCP. The minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to temple reforms, including digital pilgrim services and hygiene upgrades, positioning Tirumala as a global benchmark. Devotees and BJP allies have praised the arrangements, with no official complaints registered. As investigations continue, Parthasarathy called for unity in protecting sacred sites from partisan mudslinging. TTD has vowed zero tolerance for future misinformation.

Vijayawada Court Grants Bail to YSRCP Leader Jogi Ramesh and Brother in Fake Liquor Case, But Mulakal Cheruvu Probe Keeps Them Behind Bars

TPN Bureau | January 20, 2026

Vijayawada: In a significant development in the ongoing AP Fake Liquor Case, the Sixth Additional Judicial Magistrate of the First Class (AJMFC) Court at Bhavanipuram here on Tuesday granted bail to former YSRCP minister and key party leader Jogi Ramesh, along with his brother Jogi Ramu.

The duo, accused in cases registered under the jurisdiction of the Bhavanipuram Excise Station, had been languishing in Vijayawada district jail as remand prisoners. However, they remain incarcerated due to pending bail in

a related Mulakal Cheruvu case. Jogi Ramesh is listed as Accused No. 18 (A-18), while Jogi Ramu is A-19 in the fake liquor manufacturing chargesheets.

The court approved their bail petitions after reviewing arguments from the defense and prosecution. Sources indicate the brothers were produced before the magistrate amid tight security, marking a partial relief in one of the high-profile probes rocking Andhra Pradesh's political circles.

The case stems from allegations of illicit liquor production in Bhavanipuram, a suburb notorious for boot-



legging activities. Excise and police officials raided suspected units, uncovering operations allegedly linked to the Jogi brothers. Preliminary investigations revealed crude distillation setups producing counterfeit alcohol, which

posed severe health risks to consumers. Jogi Ramesh, a prominent YSRCP figure and former minister, faces the gravest accusations, including orchestrating the racket for financial gain. His brother Jogi Ramu is implicated as a

key aide. Prior to the bail hearing, Jogi Ramesh was rushed from Vijayawada jail to a local hospital complaining of severe hand pain. Medical examinations were conducted, but he was returned to

custody shortly after. This incident underscores the physical toll of prolonged detention on the accused. Excise and police interrogations of the brothers yielded crucial leads, prompting intensified probes. Officials grilled them on supply chains, raw materials sourced illegally, and distribution networks possibly extending to neighboring districts.

"Key details emerged during questioning, bolstering our case," a senior excise officer told reporters anonymously. The raids exposed not just fake liquor but also spurious labels mimicking popular brands, highlighting systemic

issues in AP's liquor enforcement post-YSRCP's tenure.

Despite the bail in the Bhavanipuram cases, Jogi Ramesh's application in the Mulakal Cheruvu sub-case involving similar spurious liquor operations near a local reservoir remains pending. This has ensured the brothers stay in jail, with legal experts predicting prolonged legal battles. YSRCP supporters hailed the bail as "vindication," while TDP and JSP leaders decried it as "leniency for the corrupt," reigniting debates on political influence in judicial matters.

Andhra Pradesh Po-

lice have registered multiple FIRs under the Andhra Pradesh Prohibition Act, with charges including manufacturing and selling adulterated liquor. Investigations continue, with forensic analysis of seized samples underway.

The case has embarrassed YSRCP, already under scrutiny for governance lapses during its 2019-2024 rule. As the probe deepens, all eyes are on the Mulakal Cheruvu hearing. For now, the Jogi brothers' partial victory offers temporary respite in a saga exposing the underbelly of illicit trade in the state.

AP Home Minister Anita Felicitates Constable Jayashanti for Clearing Massive Traffic Jam in Kakinada

TPN Bureau | January 20, 2026

Vijayawada | Kakinada: Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Vangalapudi Anita personally congratulated woman constable Jayashanti for her exemplary dedication in resolving a severe traffic jam on Kakinada's Canal Road last Saturday. In a heartwarming gesture, Minister Anita called Jayashanti to express her appreciation, highlighting how such committed police personnel are boosting public trust in law enforcement.

The incident unfolded on Saturday evening near the Samarlakota side of Canal Road, a busy stretch close to the railway gate. A lorry broke down due to a technical glitch right in the middle of the road, triggering chaos. Vehicles piled up for nearly five kilometers, snarling traffic and causing significant inconvenience to commuters.

Amid the gridlock, Constable Jayashanti from Rangampeta, who was off-duty, sprang into action. Remarkably, she carried her child in her arms while

single-handedly directing traffic, restoring order and clearing the jam efficiently. Minister Anita praised Jayashanti's initiative during the phone call, noting that officers like her instill greater confidence among the public. "People's trust in the police is growing because of dedicated personnel like Jayashanti," the minister said.

She also inquired about Jayashanti's family welfare, demonstrating a personal touch. Jayashanti responded that she would soon meet the Home Minister in person, to which Anita replied affirmatively, assuring a meeting at the earliest. This episode has been hailed as a shining example of women police officers' courage and commitment to duty.

Social media buzzed with admiration, with netizens and local leaders commending Jayashanti's selflessness especially her balancing motherhood with public service. "It's inspiring to see a woman constable step up with her child in tow, turning a potential



crisis into a smooth resolution," one resident posted.

The event underscores the vital role of traffic police in urban Andhra Pradesh, where infrastructure challenges often lead to such snarls. Officials say Jayashanti's actions not only averted prolonged disruption but also highlighted the need for more women in policing to bring empathy and resilience to the force.

No formal commendation has been announced yet, but sources indicate rewards may follow. Jayashanti's feat aligns with the state government's push for proactive policing under Chief Minister's directives. As AP focuses on women's empowerment in uniformed services, stories like this reinforce the narrative of grit and service.

Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan Reviews Ambitious Great Green Wall Project for Andhra Pradesh Coast

TPN Bureau | January 20, 2026

Vijayawada | Amara-vati: In a significant push towards environmental resilience, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan chaired a high-level review meeting on Tuesday at the Secretariat with officials overseeing the Great Green Wall of Andhra Pradesh and the 50% Green Cover Project.

The initiative aims to transform the state's 1,034 km coastline into a robust 5-km-wide green belt by 2030, positioning it as a flagship environmental endeavor. Pawan Kalyan directed authorities to expedite the project, emphasizing its role as a "living environmental shield" against cyclones, rising sea levels, and coastal erosion.

"This green barrier will safeguard lives, livelihoods, and ecosystems along our vulnerable coastline," he stated during the meeting. Drawing inspiration from Africa's Great Green Wall, a pan-African initiative combat-

ing desertification, Pawan urged focus on mangrove forests, casuarina plantations, and salt-tolerant tree species that thrive in coastal conditions.

The Deputy CM highlighted the project's multifaceted benefits. If implemented effectively, it would boost biodiversity, enhance livelihoods through eco-tourism and sustainable forestry, and contribute to Andhra Pradesh's goal of achieving 50% green cover statewide. "We must learn from successful models like Africa's initiative, adapting them to our coastal realities with mangroves that act as natural barriers," he added.

Officials were instructed to prioritize native, resilient species to ensure long-term sustainability amid climate change threats. Key attendees included Special Principal Secretary Budithi Rajasekhara, Principal Secretary Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Shashibhushan Kumar, and other senior



bureaucrats. They presented progress reports, mapping out planting drives across all 26 coastal districts from Srikakulam to Tirupati. Pawan stressed inter-departmental coordination, integrating the project with ongoing welfare schemes under the NDA government led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. Andhra

Pradesh, with its extensive 974-km mainland coastline (plus 60 km in agency areas), faces frequent cyclones like Hudhud and Fani. The Great Green Wall aligns with national goals under the Green India Mission and UN Sustainable Development Goals, potentially sequestering millions of tons of carbon annually while creating jobs for

local communities. Pawan concluded by calling for public participation, envisioning community-driven sapling drives. "This is not just a project; it's our commitment to future generations," he remarked. Officials assured swift action, with pilot plantations slated for the upcoming monsoon season.

RMZ Group Announces \$10 Billion Investment in Andhra Pradesh at Davos



TPN Bureau | January 20, 2026

Amaravathi | Davos: In a major boost to Andhra Pradesh's economic ambitions, RMZ Group has committed to investing approximately \$10 billion over the next five years, focusing on mixed-use developments, digital infrastructure, and industrial parks. The announcement came during the 2026 World Economic Forum annual meeting, where RMZ Chairman Manoj Menda unveiled plans in the presence of Andhra Pradesh Minister for Education, IT, and Electronics, Nara Lokesh.

The discussions be-

tween Minister Lokesh and Menda proved fruitful, with RMZ greenlighting a Global Capability Centre (GCC) park in Visakhapatnam's Kapulupada Phase-1 IT Park. Spanning 50 acres and 10 million square feet, this project aligns with the state government's vision to transform Visakhapatnam into a next-gen hub for mixed-use and digital infrastructure. Additionally, RMZ revealed plans for a hyperscale data center cluster in the Visakhapatnam region, targeting 1 gigawatt capacity in phases.

This will require 500-700 acres and support next-gen digital and AI

workloads, emphasizing sustainability and green power integration. In Rayalaseema, RMZ proposes developing a 1,000-acre industrial and logistics park near Tekulodu, fostering manufacturing, warehousing, and logistics activities. These initiatives underscore the government's philosophy of advancing industrial growth in Rayalaseema while positioning Visakhapatnam as a digital powerhouse. "Across Andhra Pradesh, we're prioritizing large-scale mixed-use, digital, and industrial infrastructure," Menda stated. The combined projects are projected to generate

around 100,000 jobs in IT, data centers, industry, and logistics sectors. RMZ praised the state's single-window policy for time-bound approvals, reiterating the government's commitment to ease of doing business. "The speed of doing business in AP is commendable," Menda added.

Minister Lokesh hailed the partnership as a strategic milestone, reinforcing Andhra Pradesh's attractiveness for global investors. This infusion aligns with the state's push for rapid development across its 26 districts, blending urban digital hubs with rural industrial growth.

Visakhapatnam Utsav Curtain Raiser Launched Amidst NDA Celebrations

TPN Bureau | January 20, 2026

Visakhapatnam: Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha highlighted the unbreakable bond between Visakhapatnam's people and the NDA alliance during the curtain raiser event for Visakhapatnam Utsav on Tuesday. She emphasized that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's vision is to make the state "healthy, wealthy, and happy."

Anitha noted a transformed atmosphere in the erstwhile Visakhapatnam district, praising Anakapalli district's immense potential. The mega event, branded as "India's Biggest Beach Festival" under the title "Sagaram Nunchi Sikharam Varaku"



to February 1 across Visakhapatnam and Anakapalli districts.

The launch featured the unveiling of the official logo, T-shirts, and event brochures. Attendees included Ministers Anitha, Kandula Durgesh, Kolli Ravindra, Bal Veeranjoneya Swamy, MP Gummadi Sandhyarani, MLAs, and officials. In her address, Anitha urged citizens to cooperate with police

Anakapalli's tourist spots and the unique Etikoppaka wooden toys, which have gained national recognition. Minister Kolli Ravindra described the three-district festival design as "magnificent," contrasting it with the "dark days" from 2019 to 2024 under the previous regime.

He recalled Visakhapatnam's Guinness World Record for International Yoga Day

Minister Gummadi Sandhyarani quipped, "If you drink, choose coffee over alcohol; if you eat, savor Anakapalli jaggery; and if you watch, don't miss Visakhapatnam Utsav."

She stressed efforts to showcase Araku Valley's beauties even more vibrantly and called on people from the three districts to make it a triumph. TDP AP President Palla Srinivasa Rao branded it as the country's largest beach festival, noting the coalition government's joy post-Sankranti celebrations.

He appealed for collective support, prioritizing local artists and cuisine to boost the event. The Utsav promises a vibrant mix of beach festivities, cultural showcases, and tourism promotion, positioning North Andhra as a premier destination.



(From Sea to Summit), will run from January 26

during the festivities. She spotlighted

and predicted a grand success for the Utsav.



Rythu Sangham Urges Srikakulam Collector: Repair Totapalli Barrage Shutters, Ensure Summer Irrigation to Palakonda

TPN Bureau | January 20, 2026
Palakonda: Farmers affiliated with the Andhra Pradesh Rythu Sangham submitted a detailed memorandum to District Collector Gaurav during a grievance redressal meeting at the Palakonda Mandal Parishad office, highlighting critical irrigation and procurement issues plaguing the region.
Leading the delegation, District Secretary Budithi Appalanayudu called for immediate repairs to the aging shutters of the old right and left canals at Totapalli Barrage. “These shutters must be fixed ur-

gently to channel water up to the tail-end ayacut in Palakonda Mandal, quenching the summer thirst of arutadi crops,” he emphasized. The group also pressed for the release of funds to complete the pending Jumper Kotta project reservoir works, which have stalled despite long delays.
Procurement woes dominated the discussions. Despite milling hundreds of quintals of kharif paddy before Sankranti, farmers’ go-downs remain overflowing due to the absence of targets for local millers. Appalanayudu pointed out that directing farmers to distant



mills imposes heavy transportation costs. “Local Palakonda millers should be allowed to procure paddy without targets or with increased quotas to ease this burden,” the memorandum urged.
In a related appeal, Hayi Katta Sangham leaders Seemala Kantarao and Allu Koteswararao drew attention to the Malligedda Anakatta in Velagavad panchayat. This reservoir once irrigated about 600 acres for two crops annually, but rat damage to the bund has disrupted water supply. “Tail-end farmers face severe hardship without assured irrigation,” they warned the Collector.
The meeting also addressed a fresh grievance from Palakonda farmers. On Monday evening, they transported paddy via local RSK to rice mills in Chinna-bagga, Sitanampeta Mandal. However, the miller summoned the farmers and demanded an extra 8 kg of paddy per load, sparking outrage.
The affected farmers brought the issue to the Collector’s notice, prompting Joint Collector (JC) to phone the Sitanampeta MRO and instruct immediate resolution. Participants included Rythu Sangham District Vice President

Vavilapalli Ramana, Dwarapudi Appalanayudu, Pitta Ramana, LL Puram Gram Panchayat Sarpanch Dwarapudi Kumar, Laveti Suryanarayana, and others.
The event underscored ongoing farmer struggles amid irrigation deficits and procurement bottlenecks in Srikakulam district. Rythu Sangham leaders expressed hope for swift action, warning that unresolved issues could escalate into widespread protests. Officials assured they would prioritize the demands, particularly irrigation repairs ahead of the summer season.

Vizianagaram Collector Ramsundar Reddy Inspects Secretariat and PHC in Cheepurupalli Mandal Sudden checks reveal staff absenteeism; directives issued for better healthcare and welfare services



TPN Bureau | January 20, 2026
Cheepurupalli | Gurla (Vizianagaram): District Collector S. Ramsundar Reddy conducted surprise inspections at Secretariat-2 and Secretariat-5 in Cheepurupalli mandal center on Tuesday, focusing on administrative efficiency and public service delivery. The Collector began by scrutinizing staff attendance registers and verifying the presence of employees.
He expressed strong displeasure over the absence of several staff members during duty hours. “Such negligence hampers public service,” he remarked, directing officials to issue show-cause notices to

the errant personnel immediately. This action underscores the administration’s zero-tolerance policy toward absenteeism, which often disrupts essential services at the grassroots level.
Ramsundar Reddy delved deeply into the progress of the Unified Family Survey, a key government initiative aimed at mapping household data for targeted welfare schemes. He reviewed implementation status, data accuracy, and timelines, urging officials to expedite the process without compromising quality.
The inspection extended to the execution of various government programs and welfare

initiatives, including financial aid distribution, pension schemes, and rural development projects. He instructed the team to ensure seamless delivery of benefits to eligible beneficiaries, emphasizing transparency and accountability. PHC Gurla Visit Highlights Healthcare Gap- In a related development, Collector Ramsundar Reddy made an unannounced visit to the Primary Health Centre (PHC) in Gurla, prioritizing public health infrastructure. He interacted directly with patients, inquiring about their experiences and the quality of medical care provided.
The Collector toured the hospital premises,

examining facilities, hygiene standards, cleanliness of surroundings, and availability of essential medicines and equipment. Patients shared mixed feedback, prompting the Collector to stress the need for comprehensive improvements. “Ensure patients receive full satisfaction through enhanced medical services,” he directed the medical staff.
He specifically instructed doctors to focus on the IVRS survey—a real-time feedback mechanism via Interactive Voice Response System—to gauge service quality and address grievances promptly. “Regular monitoring through IVRS will help

identify and rectify shortcomings swiftly,” he added.
Accompanying the Collector were Tahsildar Adilakshmi, MPD O Ravi, and Medical Officer Dr. Sridhar. Their presence ensured coordinated follow-up on the directives issued. These inspections reflect the district administration’s commitment to robust governance under the current regime.
By addressing lapses in real-time, Vizianagaram aims to boost service delivery in rural areas, aligning with state priorities for development and citizen welfare. Officials confirmed that compliance reports will be submitted within a week.

Kadiyam Sub-Registrar Office Scandal: 1,000 Illegal Registrations Exposed, But Details Remain Hidden

TPN Bureau | January 20, 2026
Kadiyam, East Godavari District: A shocking investigation has revealed approximately 1,000 illegal property registrations at the Kadiyam Sub-Registrar’s office over the past year, flouting all norms and causing massive revenue losses to the government. Despite official acknowledgment, critical details like registration numbers, beneficiaries, survey numbers, and villages involved remain shrouded in secrecy, raising serious questions about transparency and accountability. True Point newspaper (TPN Bureau) has previously published multiple reports on the rampant corruption here, triggered by public complaints over registrations of ancestral properties without mandatory documents. Required proofs such as house tax receipts, electricity bills, and possession certificates were blatantly ignored.
Instead, registrations proceeded solely on Aadhaar cards, in direct violation of

regulations, as confirmed in a departmental probe. Officials admitted that rejected applications from nearby offices in Kakinada, Bikkavolu, Samalkot, Thuni, and Pithapuram were routinely approved at Kadiyam.
Properties were undervalued to slash stamp duty, leading to lakhs of rupees in government revenue shortfalls, per AG Audit and Stamps Department records. Beneficiaries were allegedly charged illegal fees, pointing to systemic graft rather than isolated errors. The inquiry, led by DIG Janakidevi, pinpointed these 1,000 irregularities but stopped short of public disclosure.
“Why the secrecy? Fear of exposure?”

questions the report. Authorities claim recommendations for action against the Sub-Registrar and notices to political parties, but no clarity on cancelling registrations, seizing illicitly acquired assets, or filing criminal cases against beneficiaries. This scandal threatens public property rights, potentially sparking future court battles and innocent landowners’ losses.
“Publish the list of 1,000 illegal registrations. Identify the culprits,” demands Nannayavani, echoing public outrage. Is this mere oversight or entrenched corruption? The Stamps and Registration Department’s higher-ups must act swiftly beyond notices to restore faith.



Police Crack Down on Youth’s Viral ‘Rappa Rappa’ Cake-Cutting Stunt in Pedapatnam Village

TPN Bureau | January 20, 2026
Ongole: In a bizarre incident that has gone viral on social media, three young men from Pedapatnam village in the mandal caused quite a stir by cutting a birthday cake with a sword in a style mimicking the popular “Rappa Rappa” trend. The video, shared online by the youths, drew widespread attention but also police scrutiny, leading to swift action against them.
Authorities have identified the individuals as Ranki, Santosh, and Rajesh, all locals. What began as a seemingly harmless celebration quickly escalated into a broader investigation after villagers lodged complaints highlighting the trio’s pattern of disruptive behavior. Locals informed police that on New Year’s Eve, December 31, the youths consumed alcohol excessively and created panic in Pedapatnam, disturbing the peace late into the night. This was not an isolated event.



On January 14, during the Sankranti festival’s Kanuma day, the same group allegedly got drunk again and roamed the village causing chaos. Residents of the otherwise tranquil village expressed frustration over the repeated disturbances, urging police to intervene. “We want our peaceful village back,” one villager told reporters, describing how the youths’ antics have instilled fear among families.
Acting on the complaints, police summoned the three to the station for questioning. Sources indicate the interrogation is being conducted firmly in the department’s characteristic style, emphasizing accountability. No arrests have been made yet, but counseling sessions are underway to address their conduct.
This episode underscores the coalition government’s post-formation drive to steer youth away from negative paths. Since taking office, authorities have ramped up vigilance, particularly monitor-

ing social media posts for content promoting recklessness or public nuisance. Officials stress that such measures aim to instill moral values in the younger generation, preventing minor lapses from escalating into serious issues.
Police sources revealed that the department is now tracking similar viral videos across the district, warning that glorifying alcohol-fueled stunts or disorderly behavior will not be tolerated. “Social media is a pow-

erful tool, but it shouldn’t be misused to normalize anti-social acts,” a senior officer stated. The government has initiated special programs to educate youth on responsible online behavior and civic duties, including awareness drives in rural areas. Villagers have welcomed the police response, hoping it deters others. As investigations continue, the incident serves as a reminder of the fine line between fun and public disturbance in the digital age.

ism to Chhattisgarh in-charge, where he played a key role in electoral wins, positions him perfectly for national responsibilities. The election process underscored overwhelming party unity. Following JP Nadda’s tenure, Nabeen filed a single nomination on Monday, backed by 37 sets from top brass including PM Modi, Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nirmala Sitharaman, and Nitin Gadkari. Chief ministers from BJP-ruled states and regional leaders joined in. In Andhra, state president Madhav, Union Minister Srinivas Varma, state minister Satya Kumar, and Purandeswari herself submitted supporting nominations. “This reflects unbreakable party solidarity,”

BJP’s ‘Hit Combination’ Powers Ahead: Purandeswari Praises Modi, Nabeen, and Madhav Leadership

TPN Bureau | January 20, 2026
Rajamahendravaram, East Godavari: As the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) surges in national politics, Rajamahendravaram MP Daggubati Purandeswari attributed its success to a potent mix of leadership, strategy, and organizational strength. She hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the nation, newly elected BJP National President Nithin Nabeen for the party, and Andhra Pradesh BJP President PVS Madhav for the state as the ultimate “hit combination” driving victories at every level.
Purandeswari spotlighted Nithin Nabeen’s historic unopposed election as BJP chief at just 45 years old a first in party history. “His RSS background and Kayastha community roots, combined with steady rise, inspire young leaders,” she said, echoing sentiments from local leader Kambala Srinivas Rao. Nabeen’s journey from youth wing activ-



ism to Chhattisgarh in-charge, where he played a key role in electoral wins, positions him perfectly for national responsibilities. The election process underscored overwhelming party unity. Following JP Nadda’s tenure, Nabeen filed a single nomination on Monday, backed by 37 sets from top brass including PM Modi, Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nirmala Sitharaman, and Nitin Gadkari. Chief ministers from BJP-ruled states and regional leaders joined in. In Andhra, state president Madhav, Union Minister Srinivas Varma, state minister Satya Kumar, and Purandeswari herself submitted supporting nominations. “This reflects unbreakable party solidarity,”

she emphasized.
Born in Ranchi in 1980 the year BJP was founded Nabeen embodies a rare political serendipity. Entering politics in 2006 after his father Nabien Kishore Prasad Sinha’s death, he won a bye-election and secured five straight MLA terms, proving his mass appeal. Now, as national president, his first test comes in April polls in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Assam. Purandeswari expressed confidence: “He will ace these and strengthen BJP further.” “This leadership synergy from national to state levels is BJP’s victory secret.” Purandeswari asserted. With this “hit combination,” the party is poised for even greater strides ahead.

China Reports Record \$1.19 Trillion Trade Surplus in 2025, While India Eyes Opportunity to Capitalize

Last week, China reported the largest trade surplus in history for 2025, highlighting the nation's continued dominance in global commerce despite ongoing geopolitical tensions. The trade surplus reached a staggering \$1.19 trillion, even as Beijing reduced exports to the United States by 20% amid the ripple effects of Donald Trump's tariffs on over 90 countries. While trade with the US declined, China sold significantly more goods to other parts of the world, including India, demonstrating its ability to adapt and capitalize on shifts in the global economic landscape.

To contextualize the scale of China's trade surplus, the \$1.19 trillion figure is almost half of India's GDP and nearly equivalent to the economic output of Saudi Arabia, a fellow G-20 member. In 2025, China became the largest trading partner for several major economies, including Brazil, Central Asian countries near Russia, and Gulf nations where the United States previously held strong influence. Analysts suggest that Trump's tariffs, while intended to protect American interests, may have accelerated China's rise as a global trading powerhouse. The US has already ceded much of Africa to Beijing's influence, and continued protectionist policies could further allow China to dominate global trade networks, reducing America's leverage in international commerce.

The Making of China's Export-Led Model

China's export-driven economic success traces its roots to the reforms initiated by Deng Xiaoping in 1978. These policies transformed China from one of the world's poorest nations into the "world's factory," setting

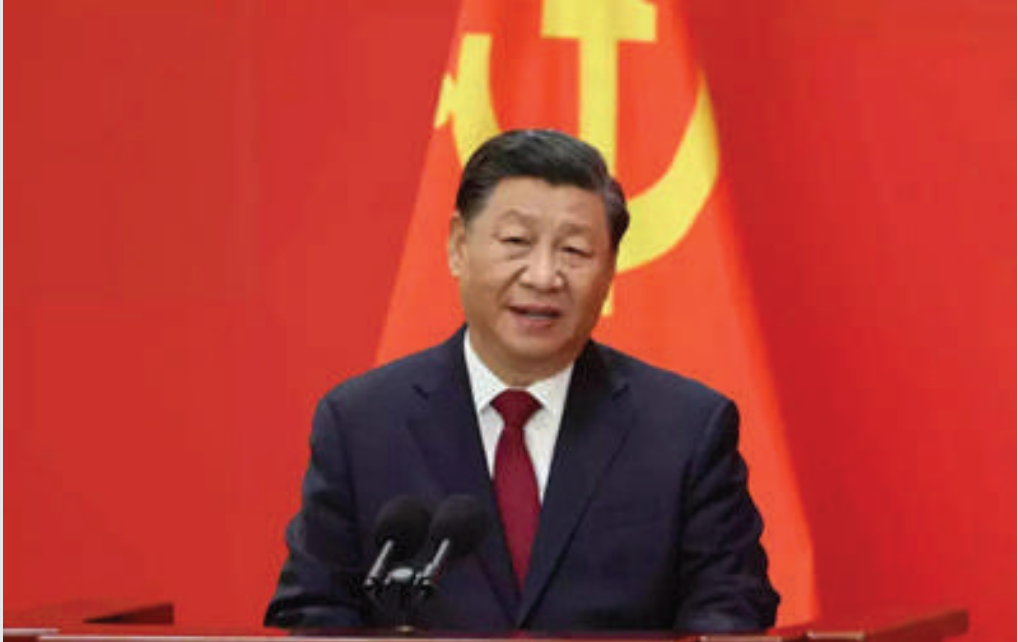
the foundation for decades of economic expansion. Large-scale factories and state-subsidized plants were established across the country to produce inexpensive goods for global markets. This industrial expansion facilitated the outsourcing of millions of manufacturing jobs from Western nations to China, reshaping global supply chains.

The strategy often came at the expense of foreign industries that could not compete with cheap Chinese products. As early as 1994, silk farmers in India were raising complaints about the dumping of inexpensive Chinese synthetic silk, which was driving them out of business. Over the years, similar accusations of dumping have resurfaced as China continues to expand its manufacturing capacity and diversify into advanced fields, including electronics, renewable energy, and pharmaceuticals.

Xi Jinping, who became China's leader in 2013, has taken the country's economic model to a more strategic and sophisticated level. Under his leadership, China shifted focus from sheer volume to "high-quality development," investing heavily in strategic emerging industries to position itself as a global power capable of not only competing with rivals but also controlling critical areas of the global economy.

Self-Reliance and Global Influence

Central to China's economic strategy is self-reliance, particularly in areas critical to national security and global leverage. Xi's "Made in China 2015" program, launched to reduce dependence on Western technology, has largely achieved its goals. China now dominates several strategic sectors, including renewables, electric



vehicles, AI, and advanced manufacturing.

The country's energy consumption underscores this industrial dominance. In 2025, China reportedly consumed 10.4 trillion kilowatt-hours of electricity, more than double the United States and exceeding the combined consumption of India, Russia, Japan, and the European Union. This suggests that China's industrial plants, data centers, and AI infrastructure operate at a scale unmatched anywhere else in the world.

Xi has also strategically prepared China for potential trade conflicts with the United States, developing control over key economic choke points. As early as 2019, he identified rare earth minerals and other critical resources as "important strategic assets." Today, China has near-total control over the global supply of these minerals, which are essential for high-tech industries worldwide.

China also dominates the production of essential ingre-

dients for pharmaceuticals, solar power components, and other strategic sectors, ensuring that many global industries remain dependent on Chinese supply chains.

Domestic Challenges: Deflation and Weak Consumption

While China's global economic influence has expanded, its domestic economy faces growing challenges. The country is experiencing deflation, with prices steadily falling due to overcapacity in factories and weak consumer demand. Persistent deflation discourages spending, as buyers anticipate even lower prices in the future, creating a cycle that undermines domestic economic growth.

Despite government efforts to stimulate consumption through child-care subsidies, higher wages, and improved leave policies, these measures have had minimal impact. The collapse of China's property market in recent years has further increased economic caution among Chinese consumers, who now

spend less and save more, reducing internal demand.

By comparison, domestic consumption drives more than 80% of economic growth in the United States and the United Kingdom and about 70% in India. China, however, has traditionally relied on internal consumption for only 50-55% of its GDP, leaving Xi with a difficult task: persuading citizens to spend more in a climate of caution and uncertainty.

Demographic Challenges

China's economic model faces an additional, long-term threat: a shrinking population. The birth rate recently fell to its lowest level since 1949, when Mao Zedong came to power, with only 7.92 million births recorded in 2025—a 17% decline from 2024. A declining number of young workers threatens the sustainability of China's export-driven economy, which relies heavily on factory labor.

This demographic shift also places additional burdens on younger families, who must care for elderly rel-

atives in a country with limited social security support compared to other industrialized nations. Despite incentives to encourage childbirth, including financial rewards and taxation on contraceptives, many young Chinese remain reluctant to start families.

Currency and Global Economic Strategy

China's economic rise has also been fueled by currency strategy. Western nations have frequently accused Beijing of manipulating global markets by subsidizing state-owned enterprises and keeping the renminbi artificially low, making Chinese goods more competitive abroad. China denies these allegations, but the currency remains deliberately restrained, allowing exports to remain cheap.

Currently, around 30% of China's trade is settled in renminbi, although the currency accounts for less than 2% of global foreign exchange reserves. For China to truly challenge the United States and become a global superpower, the renminbi will eventually need to be strengthened, reflecting the nation's true economic weight.

Opportunity for India

China's economic model, while impressive, appears to be reaching its limits. Years of capital controls, artificially low interest rates, and an undervalued currency have propelled industrial growth but at significant social costs. Economic growth in China now sits at 5%, lower than India's, while India faces no demographic collapse, offering an opportunity for the country to attract global supply chains seeking alternatives to China.

To capitalize on this potential, India must focus on inno-

vation, high-quality manufacturing, and international competitiveness. Programs like Modi's "Make in India" campaign could benefit from strategic investment in technology, infrastructure, and skill development, enabling India to become a viable alternative to China for global industries.

The Road Ahead

China's rise from one of the world's poorest nations in 1978 to the world's second-largest economy has reshaped the global economic order. Its export-led growth model has lifted tens of millions out of poverty and created immense wealth for a segment of the population. However, the model has generated domestic challenges, including deflation, weak consumption, an aging population, and overreliance on state-directed economic control.

As China confronts these challenges, the world is witnessing both the power and the limitations of its economic approach. For India and other emerging economies, the potential disruption of global supply chains presents a unique opportunity to strengthen domestic industries and expand international influence. The key will be learning from China's successes while avoiding the pitfalls of overreliance on exports, demographic imbalance, and financial repression.

China remains a global economic superpower, but its domestic pressures and demographic realities indicate that its unprecedented trade dominance may be approaching a plateau. For India, the next decade could provide a chance to emerge as a central player in global manufacturing, innovation, and trade—turning China's challenges into new opportunities for growth and global influence.

TVK's Silence Over Jana Nayanagan Sparks Questions: Fan Club or Emerging Political Force

The conspicuous silence of Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) over the Jana Nayanagan controversy has sparked intense speculation across Tamil Nadu's political landscape. Observers and political insiders are asking whether Vijay's party is functioning as an extension of his fan base rather than as a serious political organization—or whether this silence is a calculated strategy aimed at preserving its options with the powers that be in Delhi.

The timing of this scrutiny is significant. Actor-turned-politician Vijay is facing a second round of questioning by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), while his much-anticipated film Jana Nayanagan remains caught in a legal limbo between the courts and the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). The overlap of these developments has heightened scrutiny of TVK's approach—or rather, its lack of visible engagement with the public and the media.

Since the controversy erupted, TVK has offered no strong statements criticizing delays in the film's release. There have been no direct attacks on the CBFC, no protests demanding the release of what is projected as Vijay's final film, and no party spokespersons appearing in television debates to defend the actor or the movie. The party's official position has been limited to a familiar refrain: "We trust the judicial process."

Beyond the routine criticism of the DMK and general denunciations of communal politics, often mirroring Vijay's own speeches, TVK has refrained from major politi-

cal interventions or high-profile press conferences. Even in the immediate aftermath of the tragic Karur stampede, which claimed 41 lives, the party remained largely silent while the DMK set the narrative and directly blamed Vijay and TVK for the incident. Only after regrouping did TVK pursue legal recourse, approaching the Supreme Court, which forced the DMK to respond. Yet this strategy of retreating to the courtroom rather than mobilizing on the ground exposed TVK to perceptions of vulnerability, particularly in relation to the Centre and the BJP.

This marks a notable shift in TVK's political posture. Vijay's early rallies had targeted both the BJP's communal politics and the DMK's alleged dynastic corruption with equal vigor. Post-stampede, however, the DMK appears to be TVK's primary political adversary. While Vijay continues to oppose the BJP ideologically, his rhetoric towards the ruling party at the Centre has softened.

Ironically, the DMK's aggressive response following the stampede may have inadvertently strengthened TVK's positioning. The relentless attacks on Vijay exposed the party's nervousness over his political potential, nudging him closer to the corridors of power in Delhi. Since then, subtle signs of support have emerged from both the Congress and the BJP, a rare convergence that has not gone unnoticed in state political circles.

TVK has undeniably made some structural improvements. Senior leaders such as Sengottayan have joined the party from the AIADMK, elec-



toral strategy committees have been established, and journalists have been appointed as official spokespersons. Yet when confronted with crises like the Karur stampede or the Jana Nayanagan controversy, the party's instinct remains political silence outside of legal channels. A narrative of Vijay being targeted by the Centre via the CBFC has begun to take shape, but it is the Congress, not TVK, that has been articulating this argument publicly—a curious abdication of political space for a party aspiring to power.

Politics, particularly in a state dominated by deeply entrenched Dravidian organizations, is about demonstrating power at the right moment. For TVK, the difference between Vijay's fan power and genuine political power has never been more apparent. Fans respond to the charisma of a star, cheering at rallies

and social media campaigns, but they do not mobilize consistently for elections or grassroots causes. Political workers, on the other hand, engage with local issues, organize voters, and convert sentiment into tangible electoral outcomes. TVK has demonstrated the former repeatedly; it has yet to prove the latter.

Historical precedents in South Indian politics underline this distinction. MGR succeeded because he embedded himself in Dravidian ideology and built a durable political organization. Jayalalithaa strengthened these structures further, ensuring continuity. In Andhra Pradesh, NT Rama Rao leveraged fan enthusiasm to establish the Telugu Desam Party in 1984, but it was only through structured organization and grassroots work after his party's defeat in 1989 that long-term stability was

achieved under Chandrababu Naidu. Similarly, in Tamil Nadu, Vijayakanth's DMDK became a credible third political force, securing 8% of the vote in its first election in 2006 due to its robust organizational base—something that other actor-led parties, including Kamal Hassan's ventures, failed to accomplish.

TVK, by contrast, has largely remained centered on Vijay's star power. Even on pressing issues—from local governance matters in Thiruparankundram to broader political debates—the party has rarely taken categorical or aggressive positions. Its headquarters has yet to emerge as a strategic hub of ideas, policy, and direction. The party's electoral prospects are still overwhelmingly tied to Vijay's persona rather than the development of a committed cadre capable of working at the grassroots level.

Ambiguity over alliances further complicates the picture. Smaller parties may align with TVK to benefit from Vijay's fan base, but such partnerships often enhance the allies more than TVK itself. Without a strong organizational foundation, even respectable vote shares may fail to translate into lasting political impact.

The Jana Nayanagan controversy has exposed these weaknesses starkly. TVK's reluctance to engage publicly or confront the CBFC directly, instead allowing other parties like Congress to frame the narrative, illustrates the party's ongoing dependence on courtroom intervention rather than proactive political action. In doing so, TVK risks sending a signal that its priorities lie more in managing Vijay's image than in cultivating a mature political machine.

This raises critical questions about TVK's future. Can a party built around star power successfully transition into a durable political organization? Can it develop a cadre that responds to issues rather than the charisma of its leader? Without demonstrating grassroots mobilization, issue-based agitation, and consistent public engagement, these questions remain unanswered.

The difference between a fan base and a politically committed cadre is fundamental. Fans react emotionally to the star; cadres react to issues, mobilize public sentiment, and translate it into votes. Cadres understand local problems, cultivate relationships, and build political momentum on the ground. Fans, no matter how enthusi-

astic, cannot perform these functions consistently. For TVK to become a serious political player, it must make this transition.

TVK's future trajectory will also depend on how it navigates broader political dynamics. Vijay's positioning vis-à-vis the DMK, his ideological stance toward the BJP, and subtle engagement with Delhi power centers will all influence the party's capacity to grow. Yet structural weaknesses—the lack of committed grassroots organizers, overreliance on Vijay's fan appeal, and hesitation to engage with crises directly—remain pressing challenges.

The stakes are high. Tamil Nadu's political environment is fiercely competitive, dominated by parties with deep organizational roots. A party that relies primarily on fan appeal may struggle to convert popularity into electoral success. TVK's ability to transition from a celebrity-centric movement to a politically disciplined organization will determine not only its future, but also the shape of Dravidian politics in the coming years.

Ultimately, TVK faces a defining moment. Without demonstrating political mettle through grassroots organization, strategic engagement, and issue-based mobilization, it risks being seen as little more than a fan club, albeit one with extraordinary celebrity backing. Whether the party can evolve in time for the next elections may well determine whether it becomes a serious contender in Tamil Nadu politics or remains on the periphery of the state's political arena.

Nitin Nabin Takes Charge as BJP National President, Pledges ‘Nation First’

Nitin Nabin was elected as the new BJP National President on Tuesday during the party’s organisational event, Sangathan Parv, at its headquarters in New Delhi. At 40, he becomes the youngest leader to assume the top organisational post in the party’s history, signalling a strategic move to infuse youthful leadership while maintaining continuity.

Addressing the gathering, Nabin described the day as “a moment of resolve,” saying he was not merely assuming a position but also embracing “the ideology, traditions, and responsibility of a nationalist movement of the party.” He paid tribute to the former national presidents, including J.P. Nadda, Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari, and Rajnath Singh, for their contributions. “I extend my heartfelt congratulations to them; they have made a tremendous contribution in bringing the party to this point,” he said.

The newly elected chief expressed deep gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and party workers. “Today, above all else, I want to sincerely thank each of you. You have allowed an everyday worker like me to attain this esteemed position within the party. Prime Minister, I want to convey my genuine gratitude to you, as we, the ordinary workers, have consistently watched you work-



ing tirelessly for the service of our nation,” Nabin said.

Recalling a programme with PM Modi in Anand, Gujarat, he shared that his experience as National General Secretary during the Sadbhavana Mission made him realise the importance of connecting emotionally with the public. “A person becomes great when they emotionally connect themselves with the public,” he noted.

Nabin highlighted the party’s core values, stating, “We are associated with a political party where politics is not about power but spiritual

practice; not indulgence but sacrifice; not luxury or comfort but austerity. Politics is not a position of authority, it is responsibility.”

He also credited PM Modi’s leadership in major national initiatives, including the abrogation of Article 370, noting, “The atmosphere of Kashmir changed, and today the Tricolour flies proudly at every corner of Kashmir.” Nabin reiterated the party’s guiding principle: “Nation First, Party Next, Self Last.”

As the sole candidate, Nabin was formally elected by the BJP’s electoral college,

which includes members of the national council and state councils. Party rules require candidates to be proposed by at least 20 electoral college members from a state and have a minimum of 15 years of party membership.

The ceremony saw felicitations from outgoing BJP National President J.P. Nadda, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, marking a moment of generational transition within the party while preserving its organisational legacy.

SC Criticises Maneka Gandhi Over Podcast Comments on Stray Dog Case

The Supreme Court on Tuesday took a strong view of remarks made by animal rights activist and former Union Minister Maneka Gandhi during a podcast, flagging her “body language” and comments on the court’s observations in the ongoing stray dogs case. The bench comprising Justice Vikram Nath, Justice Sandeep Mehta, and Justice NV Anjaria said it was the court’s “magnanimity” that it had not initiated contempt proceedings against Gandhi.

The bench underscored that its earlier statements, suggesting dog feeders could be held responsible for attacks by stray dogs, were serious and not sarcastic. Addressing Gandhi’s lawyer, Senior Advocate Raju Ramachandran, the court said, “A little while ago, you were telling the court we should be circumspect. Did you find out what kind of remarks your client has been making? Your client has committed contempt. We are not taking cognisance of that. That is our magnanimity. Have you heard her podcast? What is her body language? What she says and how she says it.”

The bench added, “You



made a comment that the court should be circumspect. On the other hand, your client is making all sorts of comments on anybody and anything she likes.” Ramachandran declined to comment on the court’s observations, noting that it was not a contempt hearing. He drew parallels to his previous legal appearances, including representing 26/11 terrorist Ajmal Kasab, to which Justice Nath responded, “Kasab had not committed contempt.”

During the hearing, Ramachandran addressed is-

ssues related to rabies control, the availability of vaccines, and capacity-building of professionals to manage stray dog attacks. The court pressed on Gandhi’s contributions, asking, “Since your client is an animal rights activist, she was a cabinet minister, what are her contributions to budgetary allocations for implementing these schemes?”

Senior Advocate Prashant Bhushan, representing one of the petitioners, emphasised the importance of sterilisation to reduce aggression

among stray dogs but noted that effective implementation remains lacking in most cities. He also highlighted the unintended consequences of the court’s remarks, pointing out that some dog feeders faced attacks allegedly citing the court’s statements. The bench clarified that its comments were oral arguments made during discussions with counsel and reiterated, “No, we didn’t make it sarcastically. We said it very seriously.”

Ramachandran noted that the remarks had been televised and stressed the duty of both the bar and the bench to maintain decorum. The bench responded, “Yes, because of this, only we are restraining ourselves from making many more remarks.”

In a previous hearing, the Supreme Court had indicated that state governments could be asked to pay heavy compensation for stray dog attacks causing death or injury, particularly among children and the elderly. It had also questioned why those deeply committed to animal welfare, like Gandhi, did not personally care for these animals, instead of letting them roam freely and pose risks to the public.

Kerala Man Dies by Suicide After Social Media Harassment Allegation

A tragic incident in Kerala has sparked nationwide debate over social media trials after a 40-year-old man, Deepak, allegedly took his own life following accusations of sexual harassment by social media influencer Shimjitha Musthafa. The case has ignited controversy, with videos of the alleged harassment going viral and online users divided over the events.

Deepak, a resident of Kozhikode district, was accused in a video shared by Musthafa of sexually harassing her on a bus. The video quickly spread across social media platforms, drawing widespread public attention and criticism. Many online users trolled Deepak, which his family said left him shattered and pushed to the brink. His mother revealed that he did not eat anything on the day following the viral video, which also happened to be his birthday. Relatives said he had tried to explain the situation to friends and family, but the social media backlash proved overwhelming.



Following the incident, Deepak’s family filed a police complaint against Musthafa, leading to a case of abetment to suicide. Investigators stated that the accused is currently absconding. While Musthafa had claimed to have reported the incident to the police, authorities denied receiving any complaint. In the wake of public outrage and criticism, her Facebook and Instagram ac-

counts were taken down.

The Kerala Human Rights Commission has ordered an inquiry into the case, highlighting growing concerns over the impact of online accusations. Experts and activists have emphasized that social media trials can have devastating consequences, often bypassing legal procedures and harming lives before the law can intervene.

Some observers also noted that the pursuit of online fame and followers may drive influencers to extremes, intensifying the reach and impact of such accusations.

In the video shared by Musthafa, she can be heard stating, “Yesterday I shared a video from a public bus where a man deliberately touched me without my consent. This was not an accident or a misunderstanding. It was a clear violation of my sexual boundaries.” She further remarked that despite being recorded, the alleged act continued, reflecting a “deliberate act, a lack of empathy, and the belief that he would face no consequences.”

Deepak’s mother expressed her grief, saying, “My child could not bear it. He has not been accused of anything wrong ever.” The incident has intensified conversations around the power and dangers of social media, raising urgent questions about accountability, mental health, and the consequences of online public shaming.

Karnataka DGP Ramachandra Rao Suspended After Controversial Videos Surface



Top Karnataka Police officer Ramachandra Rao has come under intense scrutiny after videos allegedly showing him in compromising situations with women in an office setting surfaced online. Following the release of the clips, Rao was suspended, and the state government initiated a formal inquiry. The Karnataka State Commission for Women has also sought a detailed action-taken report within seven days. Rao has denied any wrongdoing, contesting the authenticity of the videos, which sources suggest may have been recorded seven to eight years ago during his tenure as Inspector-General in Belagavi. There are claims the clips could be linked to a broader “honey-trap” network targeting senior officials and politicians.

Rao, a 1993-batch officer currently holding the rank of Director-General of Police, was scheduled to retire in May 2026 after serving in multiple senior positions across the state. His person-

al life has also attracted attention; his first wife died in a road accident, and he later remarried. His stepdaughter, Ranya Rao, is a Kannada film actress.

The officer has faced several controversies throughout his career. One of the earliest incidents occurred in 2014 while Rao was serving as Inspector-General of Police (Southern Range). A bus carrying a large sum of cash was intercepted near Yelwala in Mysuru, but reports later indicated that a portion of the seized money went missing. Rao and other officers were investigated, and he was transferred during the probe, though his name did not appear in subsequent reports.

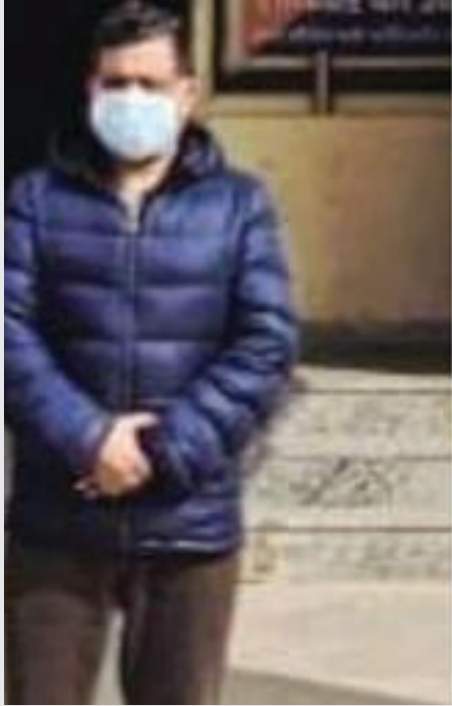
Rao was also linked to the Chadchan encounter in Vijayapura district, involving the killing of Dhar-maraj Chadchan. While police maintained the operation was self-defense during an attempted arrest, allegations persisted that the encounter had been staged. Rao, then IGP

(Northern Range), was questioned by the CID, who later filed chargesheets against several officers, but Rao was not implicated.

Another controversy involved his stepdaughter, Ranya Rao, who was arrested at Bengaluru airport in March 2025 for allegedly smuggling 14 kilos of gold from Dubai, valued at around Rs 12.5 crore. Allegations surfaced that she received protocol assistance at the airport linked to her DGP-rank stepfather. Rao was placed on compulsory leave during the investigation but was later reinstated while the probe continued.

The latest scandal, involving the alleged sleaze videos, has intensified public scrutiny and could have broader implications given Rao’s high-profile career and previous controversies. A detailed investigation is underway to ascertain the authenticity of the clips and the circumstances surrounding their creation.

Noida Builder Arrested After Yuvraj Mehta Drowns in Water-Filled Pit



Noida police have arrested a builder in connection with the tragic death of 27-year-old Yuvraj Mehta, whose SUV fell into a water-filled construction pit, leading to his drowning. Authorities confirmed on Tuesday that Abhay Kumar, one of the owners of Wishtown Planners Pvt Ltd, has been taken into custody, while the other owner, Manish Kumar, remains at large.

The incident occurred in Sector 150, Noida, where a 20-foot-deep pit had been dug in 2021 for the basement of a mall project. The pit had remained filled with water since 2022. Mehta’s father filed a First Information Report (FIR) against Wishtown Planners and Lotus Greens following the accident. Lotus Greens later stated that they had sold the project in 2019–2020 to Wishtown Planners and the Grihapraves Group with the Noida Authority’s approval.

In the wake of the trage-

dy, the Uttar Pradesh government removed Noida Authority CEO Lokesh M, a 2005-batch IAS officer, and ordered the formation of a Special Investigation Team to probe the incident. Lokesh had earlier sacked a junior engineer and issued show-cause notices to other officials responsible for supervising road and traffic works in Sector 150.

Mehta, a software engineer, died in the early hours of Saturday after his Grand Vitara skidded off the road in dense fog while turning towards his apartment building, Tata Eureka Park. Two barriers had been placed between the road and the pit, but the car either jumped or broke through them and landed in the water. Unable to swim, Mehta remained trapped for about 90 minutes before drowning. His father reached the scene first, followed by the police, fire brigade, and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF). Thick fog

hampered rescue efforts, preventing teams from locating him in time.

The pit had posed a recurring danger. Earlier this month, truck driver Gurvinder Singh narrowly avoided falling into the same ditch. “The drain and the ditch are barely ten steps from the road. There is no signboard or proper barricade. The truck hit the drain wall and overshot. The front tyres were in the air, and the middle ones got stuck on the wall. I jumped off and landed in neck-deep water,” he recounted to TPN.

Authorities are investigating the safety lapses and the responsibility of the builders, as well as the oversight by local authorities. The incident has raised concerns over unmarked and unprotected construction pits in the area, highlighting the need for stricter monitoring and preventive measures to avoid further tragedies.

Eight-Year-Old Hindu Student Forced to Leave London School Over Religious Symbol, Advocacy Group Says



An eight-year-old Hindu student in London was reportedly forced to change schools after facing discrimination for wearing a Tilak-Chandlo, a sacred religious symbol applied on the forehead. The incident occurred at Vicar’s Green Primary School, where staff allegedly asked the young child to explain and justify his religious practice—an approach described by advocacy group Insight UK as “entirely inappropriate for a minor.”

According to Insight UK, a social movement representing the British Hindu and Indian community, the headteacher monitored the child during break times in a way that the pupil found intimidating. This reportedly led him to withdraw from play and isolate himself from peers. In addition, the child was allegedly removed from positions of responsibility within the school solely because of his religious observance. If confirmed, such

actions would constitute direct religious discrimination under the Equality Act 2010, which protects religion as a characteristic.

“No child should feel watched, singled out, or isolated because of their faith, especially not from a person of authority,” an Insight UK spokesperson said. “Such experiences can have lasting emotional impacts and raise serious safeguarding concerns.”

The child’s parents, along with other Hindu parents, reportedly made repeated efforts to educate the headteacher and school governors about the significance of Hindu practices, including the Tilak-Chandlo. However, these efforts were allegedly met with dismissive responses, with school leadership showing little willingness to acknowledge or understand the religious practice.

Insight UK criticized the school’s handling of the situation,

describing it as a “power imbalance” in which Hindu practices were scrutinized, minimized, and ultimately rejected rather than discussed in good faith.

The advocacy group also highlighted that Vicar’s Green Primary School’s alleged discrimination has forced at least four Hindu children to leave the school. The case underscores broader concerns about safeguarding, inclusivity, and the treatment of religious practices in educational settings.

“No child should have to leave a school because of their faith,” the spokesperson added, calling for greater awareness and accountability in handling religious observance within schools.

This incident has prompted wider discussions about religious discrimination in the UK and the need for schools to respect and accommodate the diverse beliefs of their students.

Rare Snowfall Hits Shanghai Amid Sudden Cold Wave in Southern China



A rare wave of low temperatures sweeping across southern China brought snowfall to Shanghai on Tuesday, captivating residents of the financial hub while prompting authorities to issue warnings that the cold spell could persist for at least three days. The city, located on China’s east coast, last witnessed a significant snowfall in January 2018, making Tuesday’s event an unusual meteorological occurrence.

Shanghai had only recently experienced unusually high temperatures, with local media reporting that the city reached 20 degrees Celsius (68 degrees Fahrenheit) just last week. The warmth had even caused some osmanthus trees to bloom, highlighting the stark contrast between the recent heat and the sudden cold.

“The weather seems rather strange this year,” said Yu Xin, a 30-year-old Shanghai resident. “In general, the temperature fluctuations have been

quite significant, so some people might feel a bit uncomfortable.”

The low temperatures were not confined to Shanghai. Other regions in southern China also faced sharp drops, including Jiangxi and Guizhou provinces, located south of the Yangtze and Huai rivers. Guizhou, in particular, is forecast to see temperatures plummet by 10 to 14 degrees Celsius, according to Zhejiang News.

The extreme weather has caused disruptions beyond discomfort for residents. Across the country, authorities have closed 241 sections of major roads in 12 provinces, including Shanxi, Inner Mongolia, and Heilongjiang, due to hazardous snowfall and icy road conditions. State broadcaster CCTV highlighted the risk these conditions pose to commuters and stressed the need for caution while traveling.

For Shanghai residents, the snowfall offered a rare opportunity to witness the city’s streets

blanketed in white, a sight not seen in nearly five years. While some welcomed the unusual weather as a chance to enjoy winter scenery, meteorologists cautioned that the cold snap could pose challenges, particularly for those unprepared for sudden weather shifts.

Experts note that such rapid temperature swings—ranging from unseasonably warm conditions to unexpected snowfall—can be attributed to atmospheric instability in the region, which brings cold air from northern areas into southern China. The authorities have advised residents to dress warmly and take necessary precautions to stay safe amid the continuing cold.

As the cold wave continues, it serves as a reminder of the country’s diverse climate patterns, where extreme weather can shift rapidly over short periods, impacting daily life, transportation, and public safety across multiple provinces.

Trump Threatens 200% Tariffs on French Wine After Macron Snubs ‘Board of Peace’ Invitation

US President Donald Trump has threatened to impose a 200 per cent tariff on French wine and champagne after France signaled it would likely decline his invitation to join his proposed “Board of Peace.” The dispute escalated following Paris’s criticism of the US, including its mocking of Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent’s explanation for Trump’s focus on Greenland.

Trump addressed the issue in a post on Truth Social, saying, “I’ll put a 200 per cent tariff on his wines and champagnes. And he’ll join. But he doesn’t have to join,” referring to French President Emmanuel Macron. The US-proposed board was initially intended to oversee the reconstruction of Gaza, though its mandate is not explicitly limited to the Palestinian territory.

In the same post, Trump shared a private message he received from Macron. According



ing to Trump, the French president acknowledged agreement on issues like Iran and Syria but questioned Trump’s interest in Greenland, asking, “I do not understand what you are doing on Greenland?” Macron also suggested a meeting with Trump and other G7 leaders on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos

and offered to invite representatives from Ukraine, Denmark, Syria, and Russia. He even extended an invitation to dinner on Thursday.

The tensions emerged after reports from AFP indicated that France “does not intend to answer favorably” to Trump’s invitation to the Board of Peace. A source

close to Macron noted that the board’s charter “goes beyond the sole framework of Gaza.”

France also publicly mocked Trump’s focus on Greenland. The French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs shared a post on X ridiculing Bessent’s justification for the Arctic initiative. Using satirical analogies, the post suggested that

Trump’s approach was like “burning a house to prevent a future fire” or “eating the lifeguard to avoid a shark attack.” Bessent had defended Trump’s stance, stating that the Arctic region is strategically important due to potential threats from Russia and that the US would be drawn into any conflict there because of NATO commitments.

Responding to Trump’s tariff threat, a source close to Macron described the move as “unacceptable” and “ineffective.” They told AFP that attempting to use tariffs to influence France’s foreign policy decisions would not succeed.

The exchange highlights growing tensions between the US and France over both Trump’s proposed international initiatives and his geopolitical interests in Greenland, with both sides firmly standing by their positions.

Netanyahu Warns Iran of “Unprecedented Force” as US Carrier Heads to Middle East Amid Rising Tensions

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has issued a stark warning to Iran, vowing an “attack of unprecedented force” if Tehran were to target Israel amid rising regional tensions. Speaking to the Knesset, Israel’s parliament, Netanyahu emphasized that Tel Aviv is monitoring Iran closely as the country attempts to regain a fragile calm following a wave of deadly protests.

“If it makes a mistake and attacks us, we will act with a force it has not yet experienced,” Netanyahu said, according to Xinhua. He added that while the future for Iran remains uncertain, any aggression would carry irreversible consequences for the country.

Netanyahu’s remarks coincide with reports that the United States is repositioning the nuclear-powered USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group toward the Middle East. This move follows escalating tensions with Iran over



the regime’s violent crackdown on nationwide anti-government protests.

Situation in Iran

The crackdown on demonstrators has been severe, with the US-based Human Rights Activists News Agency reporting at least 4,029 fatalities and more than 26,000 detentions. Among the dead were 3,786 protesters, 180 security personnel, 28 children, and 35 by-

standers. The agency, which relies on a network of activists on the ground, warned that the actual death toll could be even higher. NDTV was unable to independently verify the figures, in part due to Iran’s internet shutdown.

US Military Movements

Tensions between Washington and Tehran have intensified after President Donald

Trump drew two clear red lines: the killing of peaceful protesters and mass executions in the aftermath of demonstrations. In a strategic maneuver, the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier, previously operating in the South China Sea amid tensions with China over Taiwan, has passed Singapore through the Strait of Malacca, potentially heading toward the Middle East.

Ship-tracking data

analyzed by the Associated Press showed that the Lincoln was accompanied by guided missile destroyers USS Frank E. Petersen Jr., USS Michael Murphy, and USS Spruance. While the strike group would still require several days of travel to reach the region, its movement signals increased US military presence in the Middle East.

The deployment comes at a time when the region lacks an aircraft carrier group or amphibious ready group, complicating potential US military operations against Iran. Gulf Arab states, broadly opposed to military action, could also influence any strategic decisions regarding intervention.

As Israel, Iran, and the United States navigate this tense situation, Netanyahu’s warnings underscore the volatility of the region and the potential for severe consequences if hostilities escalate further.

Indian Man Dies Mysteriously at Phuket’s Electric Daisy Carnival, Autopsy Ordered



A 28-year-old Indian man tragically died under mysterious circumstances during the Electric Daisy Carnival (EDC) music festival in Phuket, Thailand, leaving festival-goers and local authorities shocked. According to the Bangkok Post, the incident occurred in the early hours of January 18, and police have confirmed that there were no visible injuries or signs of assault on the man’s body. The deceased has been identified as Jain Saksham,

an Indian national.

What Happened at EDC Phuket?

Saksham was reportedly attending the three-day international music festival in Cherng Talay, Phuket. Following the event, he moved to a nearby parking area where witnesses observed unusual behavior. He reportedly climbed onto a parked pickup truck and appeared disoriented and agitated. During this time, he also caused damage to several

parked vehicles along Bandon-Choeng Thale Road.

Concerned by his erratic actions, bystanders contacted emergency responders who quickly rushed Saksham to Thalang Hospital. Upon arrival, doctors found him in a state of shock, and he lost consciousness shortly after being admitted. Despite medical efforts to stabilize him, Saksham tragically passed away. Authorities have yet to determine the precise cause of death.

Investigation Underway

Police reported no visible injuries or signs of violence on Saksham’s body, leaving the circumstances surrounding his death unclear. In response, authorities have ordered an autopsy at Vachira Phuket Hospital to determine the exact cause. Investigators are considering several possibilities, including potential substance use or pre-existing medical conditions, though nothing has been confirmed at this stage.

The investigation remains ongoing as officials seek to piece together the events leading up to the incident. Meanwhile, the Indian embassy is in communication with local authorities to ensure that Saksham’s family is promptly informed. Once the autopsy is completed, the family will be able to collect the body and carry out the appropriate religious rites in accordance with their traditions.

International Attention

The incident has drawn attention not only from Thai authorities but also from festival attendees, both local and international, who expressed shock at the sudden and unexplained death. The Electric Daisy Carnival is a major international music festival, and such incidents highlight the importance of safety measures and medical preparedness during large-scale events.

Authorities have urged anyone with additional information about Saksham’s actions before his hospitalization to come forward, as they continue to investigate the unusual circumstances of his death. Meanwhile, the autopsy results are expected to provide crucial insight into what led to this tragic outcome.

This mysterious death has left the festival community and Saksham’s family grappling with shock and grief as they await clarity on the exact cause.

Sensex Crashes 1,066 Points, Nifty Logs Sharpest Fall in Weeks Amid Global Worries

Dalal Street witnessed a sharp sell-off on January 20, with benchmark indices tumbling more than 1 percent each amid a confluence of negative triggers. Weak global cues, concerns over escalating global trade tensions, mixed quarterly earnings, continued foreign institutional investor (FII) outflows, a depreciating rupee, and broad-based selling pressure weighed heavily on market sentiment, pushing the Nifty below the 25,200 mark intraday.

At the close of trade, the Sensex plunged 1,065.78 points, or 1.28 percent, to settle at 82,180.47, while the Nifty slipped 353 points, or 1.38 percent, to end at 25,232.50.

The sell-off was sharper in the broader markets, with the BSE Midcap and Smallcap indices both falling over 2 percent, significantly underperforming the benchmark indices.

Among Nifty stocks, the biggest losers included Eternal, Bajaj Finance, Coal India, Adani Enterprises and Jio Financial Services. On the other hand, Tata Consumer Products, Dr Reddy's Laboratories and HDFC Bank managed to close in the green.

The steep decline eroded investor wealth substantially, with the total market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies falling by nearly Rs 10 lakh crore to Rs 455.72 lakh crore from Rs 465.68 lakh crore in the previous session.

Sectorally, all indices ended in the red. The Realty index was the worst hit, plunging 5 percent, while auto, IT, media, metal, PSU banking, pharma, oil & gas and consumer durables indices declined between 1.5 and 2.5



percent.

Stock-specific action remained intense. Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) shares dropped 4 percent after the company missed Q3 estimates. Ola Electric Mobility plunged 8 percent following the resignation of its chief financial officer. LTIMindtree shares fell 7 percent after reporting an 11 percent decline in Q3 profit. Aditya Birla Fashion slipped 6 percent after 4.35 crore shares changed hands in a bulk deal. On the positive side, Hindustan Zinc gained 3 percent on improved earnings and rising silver prices, while Deepak Nitrite advanced 4 percent after its subsidiary commenced operations at its second hydrogenation plant in Dahej.

Market breadth remained extremely weak, with over 700 stocks hitting their 52-week lows. Notable names included Aditya Birla Fashion, Aditya Birla Real Estate, Godrej Properties, Praj Industries, Lodha Developers, Zee Entertainment, Relaxo Footwear, Network18, Tejas Networks, NCC, Inox Wind, Indian Hotels, Jyothy Labs and Concord Biotech.

Outlook for January 21

Rupak De, Senior Technical Analyst at LKP Securities, said bears have regained firm control as the Nifty continues to breach key support levels amid aggressive institutional selling. He noted that indicators remain in a bearish crossover

and are nearing oversold territory, with the index drifting towards its 200-day moving average. Immediate support is seen around 25,100–25,150, and a pullback could occur if this zone holds.

Rajesh Bhosale, Equity Technical Analyst at Angel One, observed that the Nifty has erased over 1,100 points in the past 15 sessions, breaking multiple key support levels. He cautioned that despite deeply oversold indicators, the broad-based nature of the sell-off suggests it may be premature to call a bottom. The 25,100–25,000 zone remains a crucial support, while the 25,500–25,600 range could act as a strong resistance in the near term.

Budget 2026 to Push Capex, Trade Facilitation and GST Reforms Amid 7–7.5% Growth Outlook

As Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman prepares to present the Union Budget 2026 on February 1, expectations are mounting around a set of targeted policy initiatives designed to sustain economic growth, reduce regulatory bottlenecks and strengthen India's global competitiveness amid an uncertain international environment.

India's economy is projected to grow between 7 and 7.5 percent in 2026–27, driven by resilient domestic consumption and continued government-led public investment. However, policymakers face several persistent challenges. These include prolonged tax litigation, procedural inefficiencies in customs and the goods and services tax (GST) framework, climate-related risks impacting agriculture, and ongoing financial stress in power distribution companies.

Against this backdrop, the Centre is expected to strike a careful balance between medium-term fiscal consolidation and growth support. The fiscal deficit for 2026–27 is estimated at around 4.3 percent of gross domestic product, while capital expenditure is likely to see a double-digit increase as infrastructure investment re-



mains central to the government's growth strategy.

Key expectations from Union Budget 2026–27

One of the primary demands from industry is tax simplification and effective dispute resolution. Businesses are seeking faster clearance of pending tax cases, tax neutrality for fast-track corporate demergers, rationalisation of holding periods for slump sales, clarity on minimum alternate tax for foreign companies and a reduction in transfer pricing disputes through clearer definitions and

guidelines.

Sustained public capital expenditure is expected to remain a cornerstone of the budget. While adhering to a path of fiscal discipline, the government is likely to maintain a strong push towards infrastructure development across sectors such as roads, railways, urban infrastructure, logistics and renewable energy to support long-term economic growth and crowd in private investment.

Trade and customs reforms are also in focus. Key expectations include rationalisation of customs duty structures, a fully

functional single-window clearance mechanism, faster issuance of Authorised Economic Operator certifications and measures to unlock significant funds currently tied up in customs-related litigation.

In agriculture and food security, Budget 2026 is expected to prioritise self-sufficiency in oilseeds and pulses, encourage crop diversification with an emphasis on millets, and increase investment in storage infrastructure, cold chains and climate-resilient farming practices. These measures aim to reduce post-harvest losses, stabilise farm incomes and enhance long-term sustainability.

Sector-specific reforms and GST relief are another area of attention. Industry expects steps to improve the financial health of power distribution companies, alongside targeted GST reforms to expedite refunds, address inverted duty structures, reduce disputes and improve cash flows for exporters and micro, small and medium enterprises.

Overall, the Union Budget 2026–27 is expected to focus on policy stability, reform continuity and growth-oriented fiscal management in a challenging global economic landscape.

Geopolitical Tensions Hit Wall Street and Indian Markets

Wall Street futures fell sharply on Tuesday as renewed tariff threats from US President Donald Trump against European allies over Greenland heightened concerns about a potential “Sell America” trade. The dollar slipped to a one-week low as comments from the White House on Greenland's future triggered selling pressure across US equities and government bonds.

US markets were closed on Monday for Martin Luther King Jr. Day, returning Tuesday to increased volatility amid geopolitical uncertainty.

Devarsh Vakil, Head of Prime Research at HDFC Securities, noted that US stock futures declined after Trump threatened to impose 10 percent tariffs on eight NATO allies from February 1, potentially rising to 25 percent by June 1, linked to his Greenland demands. He added that investors are also closely watching quarterly earnings from major corporates including Netflix, Johnson & Johnson, and Intel, with corporate guidance gaining prominence amid



global uncertainties.

By 12 pm IST, Nasdaq 100 futures were down 1.4 percent, S&P 500 futures slipped 1.2 percent, and Dow Jones Industrial Average futures fell 1.6 percent, signaling a weak start for US equities. Investors are also awaiting a likely US Supreme Court decision on Trump-era tariffs, which could further influence market sentiment.

In Asian markets, performance was mixed. South Korea's Kospi traded higher, while Japan's Nikkei 225, Shanghai's SSE Composite, and Hong Kong's Hang Seng indices were in the red, reflecting regional caution amid global trade tensions.

Back home in India, benchmark indices followed the negative cues from abroad. The

Sensex was trading 388.54 points, or 0.47 percent, lower at 82,857.64, while the broader Nifty slipped 133.75 points, or 0.52 percent, to 25,451.75.

Overall, investors are navigating a volatile environment shaped by geopolitical developments, tariff-related concerns, and upcoming corporate earnings, keeping markets on edge across regions.

Gold ETFs Hit Record Highs as Prices Surge Amid Geopolitical Tensions



Gold exchange-traded funds (ETFs) continued their upward trajectory on January 20, mirroring a sharp surge in gold prices and hitting fresh lifetime highs. Analysts and market experts have weighed in on what lies ahead for the precious metal after the record-breaking rally.

Gold futures extended their bull run amid escalating geopolitical tensions between the US and Europe over President Donald Trump's controversial Greenland policy. February gold futures rose more than 3 percent to an all-time high of Rs 1,50,360 per 10 grams. Futures contracts with April and June expiries jumped around 5 percent each, touching record levels of Rs 1,58,200 and Rs 1,62,299 per 10 grams respectively, while August contracts climbed nearly 3 percent to Rs 1,61,925 per 10 grams. On the international front, spot gold surpassed \$4,700 an ounce on Comex.

The sharp price rise has been largely attributed to geopolitical uncertainty. Trump recently imposed new tariffs on imports from eight European nations starting February 1, aiming to secure Greenland for the US. The tariffs are set to rise to 25 percent from June 1 if no agreement is reached. Trump has not ruled out military options, while European leaders have rejected his demands and hinted at potential retaliatory measures. “Trump's disruptive approach to international affairs, coupled with his push for lower interest rates, has been favourable for precious metals, as reflected in gold and silver's rampant run,” Reuters quoted Tim Waterer, chief market analyst at KCM Trade.

Gold ETFs have been among the biggest beneficiaries. Tata Gold ETF surged nearly 9 percent to a 52-week high of Rs 15.35 per unit, while Choice Gold ETF and LIC MF Gold ETF rose around 5 percent each to their record highs. Zerodha Gold ETF and Angel One Gold ETF gained more than 4 percent, and Edelweiss Gold ETF, Bandhan Gold ETF, Mirae Asset Gold ETF, SBI Gold ETF, Kotak Gold ETF, Groww Gold ETF, HDFC Gold ETF, ICICI Prudential Gold ETF, and Nippon India ETF Gold BeES all climbed between 3–4 percent.

Looking ahead, HDFC Securities expects the long-term bullish trend for gold and silver to remain intact, offering potential for strong returns in 2026. However, any reduction in import duties in the upcoming Union Budget could weigh on domestic prices in the short term. The brokerage highlighted SBI Gold ETF and HDFC Gold ETF as top picks and recommended allocating about 10 percent of a portfolio to precious metals, with scope to gradually increase exposure based on individual risk appetite.

Experts note that ETFs and fund-of-fund structures provide convenient access to gold and silver without the challenges of physical storage, purity concerns, and high entry costs. Vishal Kapoor, CEO of Bandhan AMC, emphasized the benefits of disciplined investing through SIPs starting at ₹100. NS Ramaswamy, Head of Commodity & CRM at Ventura, added that global tensions, particularly Trump's Greenland policy and tariff threats, continue to support gold prices at record highs.

Realty Shares Slide as Oberoi Reports Weak Quarterly Numbers



Shares of real estate companies faced sharp declines in trading on January 20, led by losses in Oberoi Realty, as investor sentiment turned cautious following the company's Q3 results. The slump dragged the Nifty Realty index down more than 4 percent to 798.90 by 1:50 pm, making it the top sectoral loser of the day. This marked the third consecutive session of declines for the index, which has now fallen in nine of the past ten sessions, shedding over 13 percent in the period. The sector is on track to record its sharpest single-day fall since July 2025.

Oberoi Realty Q3 Performance

Oberoi Realty reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 622.64 crore for Q3 FY26, a marginal increase of 0.69 percent compared with Rs 618.38 crore in Q3 FY25. However, the figure represents an 18 percent quarter-on-quarter drop from Rs 760.26 crore reported in Q2 FY26. Revenue from operations rose 6 percent year-on-year but fell more than 16 percent sequentially to Rs 1,492.64 crore.

The company also announced a third interim dividend of Rs 2 per equity share for FY26, with the record date set for January 23 and payment scheduled on or before February 5. “In 2026, we will continue to pursue attractive land opportunities and remain optimistic about the year ahead, supported by a strong development pipeline, prudent capital management, and a focus on creating future-ready projects aligned with market demand,” said Vikas Oberoi, Chairman and Managing Director of Oberoi Realty.

Despite the weak quarterly numbers,

JP Morgan retains an ‘Overweight’ rating on Oberoi Realty, with a target price of Rs 2,050, implying nearly 24 percent upside. The brokerage cautioned, however, that ongoing weak pre-sales could narrow the stock's outperformance.

Sectoral Losses

Oberoi Realty was the top Nifty Realty loser, falling around 9 percent to Rs 1,510.90. Other major decliners included Sobha, Prestige Estates, and Macrotech Developers (Lodha), down about 6 percent each. Godrej Properties and DLF lost around 5 percent and 3 percent, respectively, while Anant Raj and Phoenix Mills declined nearly 3 percent. Brigade Enterprises and Signature Global also traded in the red with marginal losses.

Market Outlook

Analysts point to the impact of IT sector layoffs on housing demand, particularly in key urban centers like Bangalore and Hyderabad. Shashank Gupta, Director at RPS Group, noted that mid-to-premium housing sales, which have already dropped 15 percent year-on-year, are likely to remain weak as professionals opt to rent amid job uncertainties.

Keshav Mangla, GM at Forteaasia Realty, highlighted that over 1 lakh financial tech layoffs since 2024 have reduced demand for Tier-1 city properties by around 12 percent, affecting developers' cash flows and inventory management. Analysts expect further sector corrections of 5–7 percent, which could reverse in the second quarter of 2026 if RBI rate cuts and policy reforms boost market sentiment.

SBI Employee’s Act of Kindness Wins Hearts, Video Goes Viral with Over 3 Million Views



A heartwarming video capturing a simple yet powerful act of kindness by a State Bank of India (SBI) employee has touched millions of people across social media. Shared on Instagram by content creator Dinesh Sonawane, the clip has garnered over 3 million views, resonating deeply with viewers for its message of compassion and humanity.

The video shows a man who is unable to walk sitting on a bicycle outside an SBI branch, waiting quietly for assistance. Instead of asking the man to return later or directing him to enter the bank on his own, an SBI employee stepped out of the branch to help him personally. The employee completed all the necessary banking formalities outside the premises, including paperwork and deposit-related procedures, ensuring the man could access banking services without discomfort or embarrassment.

This small yet meaningful gesture highlighted an important truth: dignity and empathy matter just as much as efficiency. The post accompanying the video emphasized that while people may lose many things in life—health, mobility, opportunities—humanity still has the power to support and uplift them. It also carried a gentle reminder that life is already full of

challenges, and showing kindness, especially in everyday situations, can make a significant difference.

The video quickly sparked widespread appreciation online, with social media users praising the SBI employee for going beyond the call of duty. One user commented, “Just trying to spread something good,” reflecting the positive intent behind sharing the clip. Another wrote, “It’s good that you praise such persons who don’t think their job is a burden and do something for humanity,” highlighting the importance of recognizing compassion in professional spaces.

Some users also pointed out that such acts often go unnoticed. “Every banker is doing this in their everyday life,” one comment read, suggesting that kindness is more common than it is acknowledged. Another user summed up the collective sentiment by stating, “This is the beauty of India,” celebrating the spirit of empathy and community.

In a digital world often dominated by negativity and outrage, this video stood out as a reminder that kindness still exists in everyday moments. It reinforced the idea that true service lies not just in doing one’s job, but in understanding the human being behind every task.

Indian-Origin Investor Goes Viral for Reflecting on Life-Changing Opportunities in the U.S.



A reflective post by an Indian-origin investor based in the United States has struck a chord with social media users, going viral for its heartfelt insights on opportunity, gratitude, and identity. In his post, Venu shared how moving to the US fundamentally changed the trajectory of his life, while also expressing enduring love for his homeland, India.

Venu described his move to the United States as a “one-time opportunity” that reshaped his future in ways he had never anticipated. He praised the American system for rewarding effort, discipline, and consistency, highlighting the potential for those willing to take risks and stay patient to transform their lives.

“I’m genuinely grateful to the United States. It was a one-time opportunity that completely changed my life. I love India and always will, but coming here altered my trajectory in ways I couldn’t have imagined. This country rewards effort, discipline, and consistency. If you’re willing to work, take risks, and stay patient, you actually have a real shot at changing your outcome,” he wrote.

He also reflected on the unique advantages of being born or having the chance to build a life in the US. “A lot of people criticize the U.S. without ever experiencing life elsewhere. Once you live on the other side of the world, you understand how rare this level of opportunity really is. Being born here is an unreal advantage. Getting a chance to build a life here is something I’ll always be grateful for,” he added.

The post resonated strongly with the Indian diaspora and other immigrants, many of whom shared similar experiences of gratitude and the pursuit of the “American Dream.” One user commented, “This country is built for people to succeed and throws so many opportunities. I am blown away by the kind of exposure kids get in school—you just need to grab them and not expect to be spoon-fed. The founding fathers were such visionaries! Great minds.”

Another wrote, “100% agree, brother. I might not always agree with everything that happens here, but I’m grateful for the opportunity to live in this country. I love Ghana and always will as well, but the United States has provided me opportunities I could only dream of. As long as you’re willing to put in the work and sacrifice, there’s not much you can’t achieve.”

A third user shared a broader perspective, saying, “So true. I grew up in India and have lived in Europe for a while. I have experienced firsthand how this fantastic country is superior to every other first-world place out there. Genuinely grateful for what this land and its people have given me.”

Venu’s post highlights the duality of immigrant life: the appreciation for opportunities abroad, coupled with a deep, lasting connection to one’s roots. It underscores how experiences in different countries can reshape perspectives and foster gratitude for the possibilities that hard work and determination can create.

1990s Chore List from Philadelphia Home Goes Viral, Praised for Teaching Discipline and Responsibility

A decades-old chore list from a Philadelphia household has recently gone viral on social media, drawing widespread praise for its emphasis on discipline, structure, and responsibility. The list, dating back to the early 1990s, was shared on Threads by Carl Randolph Jr., who goes by the username @fatcarl_sp. According to a report by Newsweek, the document outlines a detailed set of daily, weekly, and monthly household responsibilities that Carl Jr. began following when he was just eight years old.

The chore list was created by Carl Randolph Sr., Carl Jr.’s father, who raised him as a single parent. The document provides clear instructions for a wide range of tasks, including making the bed, completing schoolwork, doing laundry, cleaning the bathroom and kitchen, vacuuming floors, dusting furniture, and even washing the outside of the house with a hose when weather conditions allowed. The structure of the list reflects a home where order and routine were taken seriously.

While sharing the post, Carl Jr. explained that his father had recently sent



him the list, bringing back memories of his childhood. He described his father as a “very cool” person, but also someone who was extremely strict about discipline, rules, and maintaining order in the household. The routine, he said, began when he was only eight and continued consistently throughout his upbringing.

Despite the strictness, Carl Jr. emphasized that his childhood was not devoid of warmth. He re-

called a home filled with laughter, closeness, and strong bonding between father and son. However, there was little tolerance for excuses. Completing chores on time and following rules was non-negotiable. Responsibility was treated as a fundamental part of daily life rather than a punishment.

Now 34 years old, Carl Jr. told Newsweek that the list never felt overwhelming when he was a child. The tasks were managea-

ble and gradually became second nature. Over time, they blended seamlessly into his daily routine. Seeing the list again after so many years felt nostalgic, almost like reliving moments from his past.

Mornings before school followed a particularly strict schedule. Carl Jr. had to wake up early, make his bed, eat breakfast, clean up after himself, and ensure his homework was completed. He was required to leave the

house before 6:50 a.m. In later comments, he clarified that his father served in the U.S. Navy, which likely influenced the discipline and structure at home.

The house rules extended beyond basic chores. Dirty dishes were not allowed to sit in the sink, trash had to be taken out regularly, and dustbin liners needed to be replaced on time. Leisure or recreational activities were permitted only after all responsibilities were completed.

Although the tone of the chore list was firm, it was not cruel or demeaning. Its intent was to teach accountability, time management, and self-discipline rather than to punish. Carl Jr. shared that he often enjoyed doing chores alongside his father, even though his father remained strict about punctuality and adherence to rules.

Since resurfacing online, the list has been widely praised by social media users, many of whom admire the values it represents. For many, it serves as a reminder that structure, when paired with care and connection, can leave a lasting positive impact.

11-Year-Old Girl’s Messages to Late Grandfather Move Millions Across China

A touching story from China has moved millions of internet users after it emerged that a young girl regularly sends messages to her late grandfather, quietly holding on to their bond long after his passing. The emotional discovery was reported by the South China Morning Post and has since resonated deeply with people across the country.

The 11-year-old girl lives in Sichuan province with her mother, Han. The messages were found on the girl’s phone-watch, a popular electronic device in China that allows children to make calls and exchange messages with approved contacts but does not permit internet browsing. Han came across the messages while checking her daughter’s chat records, a moment she described as both surprising and deeply moving.

In a video shared online, Han explained that her daughter was only nine years old when her grandfather passed away. Since then, the child had

rarely spoken about him or openly expressed her grief. “She hasn’t tried to talk about him,” Han said, adding that she believed her daughter had learned to quietly carry her emotions within herself as she grew older.

The discovery happened unexpectedly. Han mentioned that her daughter had recently been talking nonstop about a boy at school who treated her kindly. Curious, Han decided to look through the phone-watch messages to see who her daughter had been communicating with. Instead of finding conversations with classmates, she discovered a series of heartfelt messages sent to her late grandfather.

The messages were filled with small moments from the girl’s life—updates about her schoolwork, things she had seen while traveling, and simple expressions of affection. Some messages included “I miss you” memes written in Chinese, reflecting both innocence and longing. Han



recalled that when her father was alive, he always replied to such messages with warm voice notes.

What struck Han most was learning that her daughter had started sending these messages just two weeks after her grandfather’s death. “I had no idea my daughter had such deep love for him,” she said. The child had never mentioned this

quiet habit, choosing instead to maintain a private connection with her grandfather through words left unanswered.

The messages revealed a gentle and emotional way of coping with loss. Rather than expressing grief through tears or conversation, the girl preserved her memories and affection through daily messages, keeping her

grandfather close in her thoughts.

The story has since touched people across China, with many saying it highlights how children experience grief differently from adults. It serves as a reminder that love does not disappear with loss—and that even in silence, bonds can remain strong and deeply meaningful.

Twin Brothers Marry Twin Sisters in Rare Chinese Wedding That Stuns the Internet



An unusual and remarkable wedding in a small part of China has captured widespread attention online, not because of lavish decorations or grand celebrations, but due to an extraordinary family coincidence that left guests amazed. Reported by the South China Morning Post, the wedding stood out for bringing together rare familial connections that

many described as almost miraculous.

The extraordinary event involved twin brothers marrying twin sisters, a rare occurrence in itself. Adding to the uniqueness, it was later revealed that both families also had twin uncles, making the celebration even more exceptional. This surprising detail came to light on the wedding day, when the newlyweds discovered

that twin sets extended beyond just the couples themselves.

According to mainland Chinese media outlet Jiupai News, the revelation about the twin uncles stunned everyone present. The wedding officiant described the event as nothing short of a miracle, while guests expressed both disbelief and joy. One elderly villager shared that in his more than 60

years of life, he had never witnessed such a remarkable scene, offering heartfelt wishes for the couples’ happiness and future.

A report by Jimu News revealed that both couples are in their twenties and come from Fuyang City in central China’s Anhui Province. The two families live close to each other, which later made the coincidence even more surprising. Although the parents of the twins had met nearly two decades ago, they were not closely acquainted at the time and had no idea their families would one day be connected in such an extraordinary way.

The love story began in 2022, when the Shan sisters were introduced to the Song brothers through a marriage broker. The elder sister recalled that she initially felt she was too young to begin a relationship. However, she said the brothers were persistent in their pursuit, eventually winning over both

sisters.

Life after marriage has come with its own amusing challenges. The elder sister revealed that her in-laws often mistake her for her younger twin, while her own parents sometimes struggle to tell the sisters apart. Despite this, the twins themselves rarely confuse each other, having developed a deep understanding of one another’s personalities and behaviors over the years.

Currently, the twins live in separate houses located in different areas. Meanwhile, both families are reportedly considering applying for a Guinness World Record for having four pairs of identical twins, a feat that would further cement their place in the spotlight.

The rare wedding has since fascinated social media users, serving as a reminder of how extraordinary coincidences can bring families together in unforgettable ways.

Scotland Not Approached by ICC Despite Bangladesh T20 World Cup Uncertainty

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has not initiated any discussions with Scotland regarding the possibility of replacing Bangladesh at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, according to a report by the BBC. This clarification comes amid widespread media speculation suggesting that Scotland could step in if Bangladesh withdraws from the tournament due to an on-going dispute over match venues.

Recent reports claimed that the ICC had issued an ultimatum to the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), asking it to confirm by January 21 whether the national team would travel to India for the tournament. It was further suggested that if Bangladesh refused to tour India, the ICC would replace them with Scotland, the highest-ranked team not currently qualified for the competition.

Bangladesh had earlier approached the ICC with a request to relocate their scheduled group-stage matches from India to Sri Lanka, citing security concerns. However, the ICC has so far been unwilling



to alter the existing schedule, which has already been finalised. Sri Lanka is a co-host of the tournament and is set to stage select matches, including the high-profile India-Pakistan clash, under an agreed hosting arrangement for ICC events through 2027.

Despite speculation around Scotland's involve-

ment, the BBC reported that the ICC has not contacted Cricket Scotland regarding any potential replacement scenario. Scottish cricket officials have also chosen not to pursue the matter proactively, stating that they are refraining from initiating talks "out of respect" for their counterparts at the BCB while the issue re-

mains unresolved.

There is historical precedent for such a replacement. In 2009, Zimbabwe withdrew from the T20 World Cup in England due to political reasons and were replaced by Scotland, who were next in line based on qualification standings. However, officials have stressed that no such decision has been

taken in the current situation.

The standoff between the ICC and the BCB remains unresolved, with tensions reportedly heightened following the removal of Bangladesh fast bowler Mustafizur Rahman from the 2026 Indian Premier League. The decision, taken on instructions from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), cited unspecified "developments all around" and is believed to have further complicated relations.

An ICC source was quoted as saying that BCB officials have been asked to make a final call on participation by January 21, adding that refusal to travel to India could result in Bangladesh being replaced in line with ICC rankings.

The BCB, meanwhile, has reiterated that it will not send its national team to India for group matches scheduled in Kolkata and Mumbai, citing concerns over security and national dignity. With the deadline approaching and no compromise in sight, the future of Bangladesh's participation in the T20 World Cup remains uncertain.

Brooklyn Beckham Breaks Silence, Details Family Rift in Candid Instagram Posts

Brooklyn Beckham, the eldest son of football icon David Beckham and fashion designer Victoria Beckham, has broken months of silence to address long-standing speculation surrounding tensions within his family. In a series of candid and emotionally charged Instagram stories, the 26-year-old appeared to publicly distance himself from his parents, offering his most detailed account yet of why he believes reconciliation is no longer possible.

Brooklyn's posts went beyond a routine social media update, instead serving as a personal statement aimed at reclaiming his narrative after years of tabloid scrutiny. He suggested that the latest revelations mark a definitive turning point, implying that the rift within the Beckham family has reached an irreversible stage.

Central to Brooklyn's claims is the assertion that his upbringing was shaped by what he described as the demands of "Brand Beckham." He

alleged that public image and media narratives consistently took precedence over authentic family relationships. According to Brooklyn, carefully curated social media moments and public appearances came at the cost of his mental well-being. He stated that since stepping away from the family dynamic, the anxiety he had carried for much of his life has significantly eased.

Brooklyn also revisited the widely reported tensions surrounding his 2022 wedding to actress Nicola Peltz in Palm Beach, which he described as the catalyst for the breakdown in family relations. He confirmed several rumours that had circulated in the media, including claims that his parents pressured him weeks before the wedding to sign away rights to his name, a move he said could have affected his future children.

He further supported Nicola Peltz's long-standing claim that Victoria Beckham cancelled work on her custom wedding



gown shortly before the ceremony, forcing the bride to find an alternative at the last minute. In another striking allegation, Brooklyn claimed his mother disrupted his planned first dance with Nicola by dancing with him in front of guests, an incident he said left him feeling deeply humiliated.

Tensions reportedly escalated further in late 2025 when Brooklyn was

noticeably absent from David Beckham's New Year's Eve social media post highlighting key moments from the year, including his 50th birthday and knighthood. Brooklyn later claimed that although he and Nicola travelled to London for the birthday celebrations, they were effectively sidelined and only offered limited access under restrictive conditions.

Reports in December 2025 suggested Brooklyn had blocked his parents and siblings—Romeo, Cruz and Harper—on social media, a move later confirmed by his brother Cruz.

Brooklyn concluded his statement by expressing a desire for a quieter life focused on privacy, peace and family. David and Victoria Beckham have not publicly responded to his claims.

Series Defeat Sparks Rethink in Indian ODI Setup Ahead of 2027 World Cup



India endured a disappointing end to the ODI series against New Zealand after suffering a 41-run defeat in the third and final match on Sunday in Indore, handing the visitors a historic 2-1 series victory. It was the first time New Zealand had ever won an ODI series on Indian soil, mak-

ing the loss particularly painful for the hosts.

Batting first, New Zealand put up an imposing total of 337 for 8 in their allotted 50 overs. Once again, Daryl Mitchell was the cornerstone of the Blackcaps' innings, producing a magnificent century and continuing his exceptional form

throughout the series.

Supported by valuable contributions from the middle order, New Zealand capitalised on key moments and kept the scoreboard ticking on a batting-friendly surface.

In reply, India's chase revolved almost entirely around Virat Kohli. The veteran batter displayed

his class and composure, registering his 85th international century and anchoring the innings amid falling wickets. However, Kohli found little support from the rest of the batting lineup, with frequent breakthroughs preventing India from building sustained partnerships. Eventually, the hosts were bowled out for 296, falling short by 41 runs.

Speaking after the match, India captain Shubman Gill did not hide his disappointment with the team's performance. He admitted that after levelling the series in the first two games, India failed to seize the momentum in the decider. Gill pointed out that there were several areas the team needed to reflect upon and improve moving forward.

Gill also highlighted positives from the series, praising Kohli's consistency and the fighting performances of younger players. He specifically mentioned Harshit, who batted at number eight during the series, noting that performing

in the lower order is never easy. The captain also lauded the efforts of the fast bowlers, who delivered steady performances across all three matches.

Looking ahead to the 2027 ODI World Cup, Gill revealed that the team management is keen on experimenting with combinations and giving opportunities to emerging all-rounders. He said Nitish Kumar Reddy would be given more chances, including extended bowling spells, to assess how he fits into the team's long-term plans. His remarks came shortly after assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate acknowledged that Reddy had limited opportunities to make an impact so far.

For New Zealand, Daryl Mitchell was named Player of the Series for his outstanding scores of 84, 131 not out, and 137. The star batter said focusing on the present and building partnerships played a key role in the team's success, calling the series win in India a special achievement for the group.

India's ODI Defeat Sparks Selection Debate and Puts Team Management Under Pressure



India's 2-1 ODI series defeat to New Zealand has triggered widespread scrutiny of the team's performance, leadership, and direction, with pressure mounting on players, selectors, and the coaching staff. After winning the opening match of the three-game series, India stumbled in the next two encounters, allowing the visitors to script a historic series win on Indian soil for the first time in 37 years.

As the dust settled on the loss, very few Indian players escaped criticism. Veteran batter Virat Kohli was the lone standout, delivering consistent performances with scores of 93, 23, and a commanding 124 across the series. Beyond Kohli, however, India's batting and bowling units failed to deliver collectively, raising serious concerns about balance and consistency in the ODI setup.

The defeat has intensified pressure on head coach Gautam Gambhir, under whose tenure India has now suffered another home series loss. Gambhir found himself at the centre of controversy after reports emerged that a section of fans at the Holkar Stadium in Indore chanted slogans criticising him during the post-match presentation ceremony. The frustration was echoed on social media, where supporters questioned Gambhir's tactical decisions and his handling of senior players, including former captains Rohit Sharma and Virat

Kohli.

Fans have also expressed dissatisfaction with the team management's messaging, particularly its repeated claims that the squad is "progressing well" despite a string of underwhelming results. The growing disconnect between assurances and outcomes has only fuelled public anger.

Captain Shubman Gill has not been spared either. His recent ODI record has come under the scanner, with comparisons being drawn to Sanju Samson's strong performances in domestic 50-over tournaments. Many fans and analysts have questioned the selectors' decision to persist with Gill while overlooking Samson, adding to the debate around selection consistency and merit.

The series defeat has broader implications as well. Coming on the back of New Zealand's 3-0 Test series whitewash of India last year, the ODI loss underscores a worrying trend. For a team that reached the final of the 2023 ODI World Cup, these results suggest that India are far from settled just over a year ahead of the 2027 World Cup.

With questions surrounding leadership, selection, and long-term planning, Indian cricket finds itself at a crossroads. The coming months may prove crucial in determining whether this setback leads to meaningful change or deeper uncertainty.

Bangladesh Refuse to Budge as ICC Deadline Nears, T20 World Cup Spot in Doubt



As the reported January 21 deadline approaches, uncertainty continues to surround Bangladesh's participation in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, pushing the tournament into a critical phase. With talks between the International Cricket Council (ICC) and the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) still unresolved, speculation has intensified over the possibility of Bangladesh being excluded from the competition altogether. Amid these developments, rumours have emerged suggesting that Scotland could be named as a replacement should Bangladesh withdraw.

Addressing the issue on the eve of the alleged deadline, Bangladesh's Youth and Sports Adviser, Asif Nazrul, made it clear that the country is unwilling to compromise on what it views as legitimate concerns regarding the tournament's venue. Speaking at a press conference on Tuesday, Nazrul said Bangladesh has not received any formal communication from the ICC about potential exclusion or replacement.

"We cannot be forced to play in India under unreasonable and unrealistic pressure," Nazrul stated. "We have not been officially informed that we will be excluded or that Scotland will take our place. If the ICC bows to the BCCI and applies undue pressure on us, we will not accept it."

Nazrul pointed to past precedents where the ICC has altered tournament arrangements due to logistical

or political concerns, referencing India's refusal to travel to Pakistan in previous competitions. "In those cases, the ICC changed the venue. We are requesting a venue change for logical reasons. They cannot compel us to play in India by exerting unreasonable pressure," he added.

The controversy has led to multiple rounds of discussions between the ICC and the BCB over recent weeks. According to reports, the ICC has issued an ultimatum asking Bangladesh to confirm by January 21 whether they will travel to India for the tournament. Failure to do so could result in their removal from the competition, with Scotland emerging as the most likely replacement based on current ICC rankings.

The T20 World Cup is scheduled to begin on February 7, with Bangladesh set to open their campaign on the same day against two-time champions West Indies at Eden Gardens in Kolkata. Their group-stage fixtures also include matches against Italy on February 9, England—winners of the 2022 edition—and Nepal, with all games slated to take place in Kolkata.

With the deadline looming and negotiations still ongoing, Bangladesh's stance remains firm. The coming days will be crucial in determining whether the team features in the tournament or whether the ICC is forced to make a last-minute change to the competition lineup.

Birthday Special: Poster of Versatile Actor Naresh VK Released for Upcoming Film ‘Crazy Kalyanam’

On the occasion of versatile actor Naresh VK’s birthday, the makers of his upcoming film Crazy Kalyanam have released a special poster celebrating the star. In the poster, Naresh VK impresses fans with a traditional avatar as his character Parvataalu, hinting at the film’s fun and festive storyline.

Crazy Kalyanam features an ensemble cast including Naresh VK, Anupama Parameswaran, Tharun Bhascker, and Akhil Udemari of Raj Weds Rambai fame. Produced by Boosam Jagan Mohan Reddy under the Yaro Cinemas banner as Production No. 2, the film is directed by Badrappa Gajula and promises to be a complete entertainer with a wedding-themed plot set in rural Telangana.

The film’s shooting spanned multiple picturesque rural locations, capturing the essence of Telangana’s culture and traditions. With Suresh Bobbili composing the music, the film is expected to feature a lively soundtrack that complements its vibrant narrative.

Behind the camera, a talented technical team has contributed to shaping the film’s visual and creative appeal. Costume designer J. Gayathri Devi brings authenticity to the characters, while art director Sai Kadhir and



production designer Sripal Macharla create immersive settings. The film’s choreography is handled by Eshwar Penti, action sequences by Dragon Prakash, and editing by Shravan Katikneni. Director of photography Shyam Dupati ensures that the wedding festivities and scenic locales are captured beautifully. Lyrics are penned by Gorati Venkanna, Chaitanya Prasad, and Kasarla Shyam, adding a cultural touch to the music.

Speaking about the film, Badrappa Gajula, who is handling story, screenplay, dialogues, and direction, de-

scribed Crazy Kalyanam as a “complete entertainer” that blends humor, emotion, and celebration. The screenplay is crafted by Srinivasa Ravindra (MSR), ensuring a well-paced narrative that keeps audiences engaged. The poster release on Naresh VK’s birthday has created excitement among fans, who are eagerly awaiting the film’s theatrical release. With its mix of talented actors, engaging storyline, and authentic rural backdrop, Crazy Kalyanam is shaping up to be a memorable addition to Telugu cinema.

Allu Arjun’s Heartfelt Tweet Celebrates Chiranjeevi’s Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu



Tollywood icon Allu Arjun took to social media with a heartfelt message lauding his uncle, megastar Chiranjeevi, and the team behind the festive blockbuster Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu. The Pushpa star’s tweet, widely shared and trending online, celebrated the film’s joyful vibe and Chiranjeevi’s impactful return to the screen.

In his post, Allu Arjun wrote with excitement, “The Boss is back,” expressing his happiness at seeing the veteran actor light up the big screen again. He highlighted the film’s “full vintage vibes” and congratulated Chiranjeevi for delivering a performance that resonated with audiences. Along with praising Chiranjeevi, Allu Arjun also applauded the rest of the cast and crew for their contributions to the movie’s success.

The star singled out actor Venkatesh’s performance, offering special appreciation in Kannada for his role, which impressed fans across linguistic lines. He noted the graceful presence of lead actress Nayanthara and the humour brought in by Catherine Tresa, adding that the film’s young Sankranti standout, Bulli Raju, made a memorable impression as well.

Allu Arjun also praised the music of the film, mentioning catchy songs that have already become favourites among audiences. He thanked the



music director and the technicians for their work behind the scenes. In a warm nod to family ties, he extended congratulations to producers Sushmita Konidela and Sahugarapati, who are closely connected to the film’s production.

Directorial credit was given special mention as Allu Arjun applauded Anil Ravipudi for crafting a movie that he described not just as a Sankranti blockbuster, but a true “Sankranti

BOSS buster,” capturing the festive spirit and delivering mass appeal.

The tweet has sparked widespread appreciation across social media, with fans of both stars sharing their excitement and proud reactions. Allu Arjun’s public praise underscores a moment of unity and celebration within the Telugu film industry as Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu continues to enjoy strong audience support.

Indian Filmmaker Launches Boutique International Film Festival in New York, Supporting Independent Voices Worldwide

In a proud moment for the Indian independent film community, Indian-origin filmmaker Venkat Sai Gunda has successfully launched the inaugural edition of The Storyteller Universe Film Festival in New York City. The festival marks a significant step forward, as an Indian filmmaker builds an international platform dedicated to supporting independent storytellers, discovering cinematic gems, and sharing meaningful stories with the world.

Held in an intimate, boutique setting in New York, the festival brought together filmmakers, artists, and creators from across the globe, many of whom traveled internationally to attend the screenings and awards night. The focus remained firmly on authentic, human-centered cinema, celebrating stories driven by emotion, purpose, and originality rather than commercial scale.

What sets The Storyteller Universe Film Festival apart is its creator-first philosophy. Built by filmmakers who understand the journey of storytelling from idea to screen, the festival aims to uplift independent voices and provide visibility to films that might otherwise go unseen. The platform actively seeks out bold, personal narratives and introduces them to global audiences.

The festival was organized and supported by a passionate team including Juggy Arora, JD Brookshire, Maheshwarapandyan Sarvanan, Tarun Degala, Thirumalesh Gundrath, and Prathyusha Vudatha, whose collaborative efforts helped shape the festival into a welcoming and inclusive creative space.

“I know how much it takes to make a film,” said Venkat Sai Gunda. “This festival exists to support filmmakers, to recognize their courage, and to share their stories with the world. If a story is told and received, that itself is success.”

The awards night celebrated excellence across feature films, documentaries, animation, experimental cinema, music-driven storytelling, social impact films, and performances. While



winners were honored, the festival emphasized that every selected filmmaker was already a winner for bringing their story to life.

Having previously received international recognition for his own work, Venkat Sai Gunda now steps into a broader role as a curator and cultural organizer, creating opportunities for emerging voices while representing Indian creatives on a global stage. His journey from award recipient to festival founder resonated strongly with filmmakers and audiences alike.

Looking ahead, The Storyteller Universe Film Festival has announced plans to expand its scope, including the introduction of Vertical Storytelling as an official cinematic category in future editions, reflecting its commitment to evolving forms of global storytelling.

The successful New York debut highlights the growing presence of Indian filmmakers not only participating in international cinema, but actively shaping its future through leadership, collaboration, and creative vision.

Submissions for the 2026 edition are currently open. Additional details on eligibility and curation criteria are expected later this year.

Winners

- Best Feature Film: Mohammadmahdi Katirachi - In Other Words
- Best Short Film: Moon Romance, Moon
- Best Documentary: Matthew Floyd - Lessons from 100: Reflections In My Centennial Year
- Best Director: Nadan Pines - Father's Son
- Best Actor: Taha Mohammedi - In Other Words
- Best Actress: Anja Bothe - Loslassen
- Best Screenplay: Christine Marie Bush - Serenity Peak
- Best Comedy: Greg Kirkpatrick Jr. - Another Day
- Best Editing: Javier Yañez - Amira
- Best AI Film: Michal Jan Owerzczuk - Broken Arrow
- Best Horror/Thriller: Darwin Reina - Blood Mist

- Best Social Impact Story Award: Douglas Ryan - 3 Minutos
- Best Debut Filmmaker - Making Megaforce
- Best Documentary Short (Jury Award): Brian Knappmiller - Sheepdogs
- Best Micro Short: Julia Ulbrich Horta - The Other One
- Best Experimental Film: Ethann Néon - Blickity Black
- Best Music: Malik Maliki - In the Bad Times
- Best Sci-Fi Film: Maxence Bossé & Nolan Corlay - Ignis Oppidum
- Best Animation: Cristina Colmenares, Manuel-Antonio Monteagudo - Memoria Colectiva
- Best South Asian Film: Rishi Raj Acharya - Drawapadi
- Best Photo/ Visual Art: CR Sherman - Drawing in Dreams
- Storyteller Appreciation Award: Guruswamy Raviteja - Cockery
- Excellence in Musical Storytelling - Anil - Priya Priya Song

Vijay’s Jana Nayagan Release Delayed as Madras High Court Reserves Verdict



The highly anticipated Tamil action film Jana Nayagan, starring Thalapathy Vijay, has faced a major setback just days before its planned

release, as the Madras High Court has reserved its verdict on a key censorship dispute, leaving the film’s release date uncertain.

Originally scheduled for a Pongal 2026 release, the film has been caught in a legal battle with the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC).

The issue revolves around the granting of a U/A certificate, following complaints regarding certain scenes allegedly affecting religious sentiments and portrayals of the armed forces. While the regional CBFC examining committee had initially cleared the film, the CBFC chairperson referred it to a revising committee, triggering legal action from the producers.

In response, the Jana Nayagan team approached the Madras High Court, which earlier directed the CBFC to issue the certificate. However, the division bench has now stayed that order and reserved its judgment, effectively putting the film’s release on hold until a final decision is made. During the

hearing, arguments were presented by both sides, with the CBFC citing procedural limitations and the producers asserting undue delays that affected the release schedule.

The delay has disappointed fans across Tamil Nadu and beyond, prompting social media campaigns in support of the film and its lead actor. Industry observers have noted that the case has highlighted broader concerns about censorship processes and creative freedom in Indian cinema.

At present, no new release date has been announced. Audiences and industry insiders alike are eagerly awaiting the High Court’s verdict, which will determine when the film can finally reach theaters.

Ritesh Rana’s Jetlee Begins Final Shooting Schedule

The team of the highly anticipated Telugu action-comedy Jetlee has commenced the film’s final shooting schedule, bringing the project closer to completion. Directed by Ritesh Rana and starring Satya in the lead role, the film has been generating excitement for its unique mix of action and humour.

Jetlee also marks the Telugu debut of Rhea Singha, a Miss Universe India titleholder, who joins an ensemble cast including popular comedians and character actors such as Vennela Kishore, Harsha Chemudu, and Kabir Duhani Singh. Their performances are expected to add depth and comic relief to the high-energy narrative.

Clap Entertainment and Hemalatha Peddamallu, and presented by Mythri Movie Makers, the film promises a distinctive action-comedy experience with a blend of thrills, laughs, and emotional moments. Director Ritesh Rana, known for his previous hit Mathu Vadalara, brings his signature storytelling style to the project, combining chaotic sequences with humour and clever narrative beats.

A recent teaser highlighted Satya’s quirky character amidst chaotic scenarios, hinting at a fun and fast-paced storyline that keeps viewers engaged. The technical team includes several collaborators from Rana’s earlier works, including composer Kaala Bhairava, cinematogra-



pher Suresh Sarangam, editor Karthika Srinivas, and production designer Narni Srinivas, ensuring strong technical backing for the film.

With the final schedule underway, anticipation among fans continues to build. Jetlee is shaping up to be one of the most awaited Telugu releases,

promising an entertaining blend of action, comedy, and fresh talent that is expected to resonate with audiences across genres.