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AP Eyes Major Aerospace Boost with Embraer-Adani Aircraft Manufacturing Hub in Anantapur



TPN Bureau | January 29

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh government is aggressively pursuing a game-changing aircraft manufacturing center to propel the state's industrial landscape. Officials are eyeing undivided Anantapur district as the prime location, competing head-to-head with Gujarat to secure this landmark project. Brazilian aerospace giant Embraer has inked a deal with Adani Aerospace to establish India's first dedicated aircraft production facility, focusing on commercial, business, military planes, and key components. Sources indicate Embraer could set up a unit for small and medium-sized passenger aircraft, injecting thousands of crores in investments.

The state has already signaled readiness to allocate vast tracts of land, with clarity expected within the next month. "This could be a flagship or ancillary project for AP, creating thousands of jobs and positioning the region as an aerospace hub," a senior official noted. Strategic Advantages of Anantapur Anantapur's appeal lies in its abundant land availability thousands of acres lying vacant and proximity to Bengaluru, just a short drive away. The government has greenlit Bengaluru-based Sarla Aviation's electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) facility here, with a 1,300 crore investment across 500 acres. Dubbed a "Sky Factory," it aims to produce 6-seater aircraft and roll out air taxis by 2029, underscoring the area's aviation potential. Building on this momentum, authorities

propose clustering 8,844 acres originally earmarked for a Knowledge Hub near Kodikonda Checkpost in Sri Sathya Sai district, near Lepakshi, with additional lands from the Enforcement Directorate. This could expand into a massive 20,000-acre industrial park. Land acquisition is underway in surrounding mandals, prioritizing sites close to national highways and Bengaluru's Devanahalli International Airport for seamless logistics. Infrastructure and Connectivity Edge "The lands' strategic location near NH-44 and the international airport makes it ideal for aerospace operations," officials emphasized. Embraer's team is slated to visit soon, with allocations based on their priorities. The state is reclaiming enforcement directorate lands

to fast-track the process, blending existing initiatives like Sarla's eVTOL project with Embraer's scale. This push aligns with Chief Minister's vision for industrial revival in Rayalaseema, transforming arid regions into high-tech corridors. If secured, the facility promises ripple effects: direct employment for thousands, ancillary industries in components and maintenance, and boosted exports. Gujarat's Vadodara is a frontrunner, but AP's proactive land offers and ecosystem give it a strong shot. Stakeholders hail the move as a "win-win," with Embraer's global expertise in regional jets complementing Adani's infrastructure prowess. As negotiations heat up, Andhra Pradesh braces for a potential aerospace revolution that could redefine its economic destiny.

AP Assembly Budget Session Scheduled from February 11 to March 12

TPN Bureau | January 29

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh government has finalized the schedule for the Assembly's Budget Session, set to commence on February 11, 2026. This announcement comes amid anticipation for key policy discussions, budget presentations, and legislative debates as the state gears up for the 2026-27 fiscal year. Official communication was sent to Assembly Secretariat officials on Wednesday, confirming the timeline. The session kicks off formally at 10 AM on February 11 with an address by Governor S. Abdul Nazeer to both Houses of the Legislature. His speech will outline the government's agenda, priorities, and vision for the coming year, marking the official start of proceedings. On February 12, the Assembly will introduce a motion of thanks to the Governor's address, followed by extensive debates from members across parties. This day promises lively exchanges on state governance, development projects, and emerging challenges. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is slated to re-

ply to the motion on February 13. Political circles expect a pivotal speech from the TDP leader, detailing government policies, future roadmaps, and responses to opposition critiques. Naidu's address could spotlight initiatives like infrastructure boosts in Amaravati, Visakhapatnam development, and welfare schemes under the NDA alliance. The highlight arrives on February 14, when Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav will present the main state Budget for 2026-27. Concurrently, Agriculture Minister B. M. Achchenna will table the Agriculture Budget, focusing on farmer support, irrigation projects, and crop incentives critical amid ongoing rural concerns. The session is projected to run for about four weeks, concluding around March 12. Expect robust discussions on vital bills, policy decisions, and development issues, including capital outlay for three capitals, industrial corridors, and skill development. Opposition parties, led by YSRCP, may grill the government on fiscal deficits, unemployment, and unfulfilled promises. This Budget Session holds extra weight post the TDP-led coalition's 2024 victory, with eyes on funding for flagship programs like Deepam, Pasupu Kumkuma, and Amaravati revival. Stakeholders await allocations that balance fiscal prudence with populist measures. Live proceedings will stream via Assembly TV and official channels.



Guntur Medical Alumni Transform Alma Mater with Over Rs.150 Crore in Donations

TPN Bureau | January 29: Amaravati: What began as a modest gathering of a handful of graduates from Guntur Medical College (GMC) in 1981 has evolved into a powerhouse of philanthropy. The Medical College Alumni Association of North America (JINKANA) now boasts over 2,000 members doctors who studied at GMC and its affiliated Government General Hospital (GGH) before settling in the US. For 45 years, they've poured resources into upgrading these institutions, donating modern facilities, constructing permanent buildings, and providing cognitive training for medical

students. Their cumulative contribution exceeds 150 crore, illuminating lives for the underprivileged. JINKANA's journey started small. Early on, members donated a photocopier (Xerox machine) to the medical college. In 2005, they invested 5 crore to build a state-of-the-art auditorium equipped with all modern amenities, ideal for conferences and

meetings. Addressing GGH's needs for the poor, they established the Podili Prasad JINKANA Super Speciality and Trauma Centre in 2014 at a cost of 35 crore including 5 crore from Podili Prasad himself. Today, this facility serves as the "heart" of GGH. During the COVID-19 crisis, JINKANA supplied equipment worth crores, playing a pivotal role in the hospi-



to share a single bed. Moved by this plight, JINKANA members stepped up. They committed 100 crore for a grand cellar + G+5 structure with 597 beds and advanced amenities: the

Kanuri JINKANA Mata Shishu Sanrakshana Bhavan. Dr. Gavini Umadevi alone donated 22 crore in memory of her husband, Dr. Kanuri Ramachandra Rao. The state government contributed equipment worth 27 crore, bringing the total project cost to 132 crore. The facility is now operational. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu will inaugurate the building on January 30, marking a milestone in public-private partnership for healthcare. JINKANA's efforts exemplify how global alumni networks can drive local development, blending nostalgia with tangible impact.



AP Cabinet Approves 35 Key Proposals in Amaravati Meeting

TPN Bureau | January 29: Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet meeting, chaired by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, concluded today after greenlighting 35 agenda items focused on development, welfare, and governance. Held amid ongoing political debates, the session addressed critical issues, including a controversy over adulterated ghee used in Tirupati laddus. A major discussion centered on the Special Investigation Team (SIT) report into the ghee adulteration scandal at Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD). The Cabinet condemned

what it called "malicious propaganda" by the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) against the findings. Officials noted that the CBI-led SIT has already filed a chargesheet. The government urged the SIT to release its full official report publicly, with Naidu directing ministers to respond only after its formal disclosure, avoiding premature reactions. Among the key approvals: Healthcare Boost: Green signal for developing Piduguralla Medical College under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model to enhance medical infrastructure. Land Allotments: Transfer of 33 acres in SV University vicinity to



the Agricultural Market Committee; land allocation for a Livestock Research Station in Palamaneru; and plots for tourism projects like a Factor Resort, Convention Center, and Theme Park in Alluri district's Narsipatnam. Sports and Welfare: Arjuna Award winner Jyoti to receive 500 sq yards of land in Visakhapatnam, plus a Group-1 job post-graduation. Alternative plots

approved for Amaravati farmers who surrendered land under the land-pooling scheme. Pensions sanctioned for landless poor and orphaned children in Amaravati periphery. Financial and Infra Approvals: Rs 4,451 crore government loan guarantee to APEPDCL from HUDCO. Upgrades for several posts in Tirupati, multi-agency land allotments, and financial

nods for irrigation projects and fuel department administrative permissions. Industrial and Urban Projects: Cancellation of Letters of Intent (LOIs) issued to M/s Garden City Realty Pvt Ltd for Tirupati and Visakhapatnam Industrial Parks; new Expression of Interest (EOI) to be invited. PPP-mode development of a cultural center and entertainment zone in Guntur Industrial Park. Other decisions included land transfers in TTD areas and support for regional growth. The approvals underscore Naidu's push for Amaravati's revival, infrastructure, and countering opposition narratives on temple affairs.

Pawan Kalyan Meets Railway Minister, Pushes for Key Pitapuram Projects Amid Party Controversy



TPN Bureau | Jan 29:

New Delhi: Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Pitapuram MLA Pawan Kalyan, currently on a Delhi visit, met Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday to advocate for critical railway development initiatives in his constituency. Handing over a detailed memorandum, Kalyan emphasized transforming Pitapuram into a model rail hub to boost pilgrimage tourism and connectivity. Kalyan's primary request was to include Pitapuram Railway Station under the "Amrit Bharat Station Scheme," upgrading it to a modern facility. He highlighted Pitapuram's significance as one of the Ashtadasa Shakti Peethas and the birthplace of Sri Sri Sri Vallabh Swamy, drawing massive devotee footfall from across India. "Enhanced amenities are essential for these pilgrims," Kalyan urged, stressing the need for world-class infrastructure to handle the influx. He also sought to integrate the already-approved Road Over Bridge (ROB) project under the Setu Bandhan scheme into the "PM Gati Shakti" framework. With the Centre having sanctioned Rs 59.70 crore, the ROB would eliminate level crossing issues and ease traffic congestion in Pitapuram. Additionally, Kalyan pressed for improved rail connectivity between Kakinada and Pitapuram to benefit locals and commuters. Minister Vaishnaw responded positively to these proposals, sources confirmed. The meeting also covered pending railway projects across Andhra Pradesh, signaling broader state-level momentum. However, the post-meeting media interaction took a dramatic turn. When reporters questioned Kalyan

about allegations against Jana Sena MLA Arava Sridhar in the Railway Koduru case, he abruptly walked out midway. Jana Sena party insiders revealed that an internal inquiry committee has been formed to probe the matter. Until the report is submitted, Sridhar has been instructed to stay away from party activities, underscoring the leadership's commitment to transparency. This development comes amid growing scrutiny on party discipline within Jana Sena, allied with the TDP-BJP government in Andhra Pradesh. Kalyan's focus remains on constituency development, but the episode highlights internal challenges as the party navigates political pressures. Pitapuram's upgrades align with the NDA government's push for eastern India infrastructure, potentially positioning the temple town as a key rail and spiritual hub.

Visakhapatnam Gears Up for Prestigious International Fleet Review 2026

TPN Bureau | January 28, 2026

Visakhapatnam: The scenic coastline of Visakhapatnam is set to host another grand spectacle with the International Fleet Review (IFR)-2026, a decade after making history in 2016. Scheduled from February 15 to 20, this prestigious event will showcase India's naval prowess and foster global maritime cooperation. For the first time in Indian history, the 2016 IFR brought together warships from 51 nations; this edition invites over 100 countries (excluding China and Pakistan), with 61 confirming participation,

as announced by Eastern Naval Command (ENC) Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla last Navy Day. President Droupadi Murmu has received a formal invitation from ENC Chief Vice Admiral, underscoring the event's national significance. The review will feature India's indigenous assets, including aircraft carrier INS Vikrant, destroyers like Delhi and Rajput, Visakhapatnam-class warships, INS Nilgiri, Ar-nalla, Shivalik, Brahmaputra, Talwar-class vessels built with homegrown technology, and nuclear submarines. Additionally, 23 warships from partner



nations will join, with comprehensive preparations underway to ensure seamless execution. What is a Fleet Review? A Fleet Review is a

ceremonial parade where naval forces demonstrate their strength and capabilities. Traditionally held annually under the President's auspices for India's tri-services, it has evolved

into an international platform to strengthen ties with foreign navies and highlight maritime defense advancements. During the event at Visakhapatnam's sea-front, warships will sa-

lute the President's yacht as it passes, followed by displays of cutting-edge technology and maneuvers. A special beach road parade featuring international naval person-

nel will honor Prime Minister Narendra Modi, incorporating cultural performances from participating nations to reflect their traditions. Theme: United Through Oceans With the theme "United Through Oceans," IFR-2026 aims to unite global navies for maritime security, stability, cooperation, and coordination. Discussions will cover coastal security, emerging technologies, and the blue economy. The Navy recently released a promotional video to hype the event. Post-review, Multilateral Naval Exercises (MILAN) will com-

mence on February 19 at RK Beach, featuring complex ship maneuvers. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is likely to attend, boosting regional pride. This biennial milestone reinforces India's strategic maritime ambitions, drawing global attention to Visakhapatnam as a naval hub. Expect enhanced security, tourism influx, and displays of synchronized drills, aerial shows, and cultural exchanges. As preparations peak, the ENC promises a spectacle blending tradition, technology, and international camaraderie.

Andhra Pradesh Achieves Record Tax Revenue in First Nine Months of FY 2025-26, CAG Report Reveals

TPN Bureau | January 28, 2026

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh has scripted history by crossing the 1 lakh crore mark in tax revenue within the first three quarters of the current financial year (FY 2025-26). According to the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report released on Tuesday, the state collected 1,05,331.07 crore through taxes in the first nine months up to December 2025 a first in its history for any such period.

This includes GST, stamp duty registration fees, land revenue, sales tax, excise duties, the state's share in central taxes, and other levies. The achievement marks a steady upward trajectory. Tax collections have grown from 69,943.71 crore in 2021 to 1,05,331.07 crore in 2025 (up to December), reflecting robust economic activity and efficient collection mechanisms. The full-year target stands at 1,66,573.09 crore, with 63.23% al-

ready achieved. If the remaining three months, including January, yield another 36%, the state will meet its goal comfortably. While revenue inflows shine, capital expenditure tells a mixed story. In the first nine months, the government spent 19,224.34 crore on infrastructure projects, roads, and other key facilities the highest in the past five years. However, this is only half of the 40,000 crore annual target. Historical data shows fluctuations:



11,581.42 crore in 2021, dipping to 6,953.25 crore in 2022, peaking at 19,202.54 crore in 2023, and rebounding to 19,224.34 crore in 2025 so far. Higher capital outlay is crucial for accelerating development, as it fuels projects vital for growth. Fiscal challenges persist. Up to December, the state raised 85,312 crore in loans to bridge gaps. Revenue deficit has ballooned to 60,480 crore, far exceeding projections. The estimated full-year deficit is 33,185.97 crore 182%

above initial forecasts. Revenue receipts totaled 1,18,244.98 crore against 2,03,557.29 crore in expenditure, highlighting spending pressures amid ambitious welfare and development goals. Experts view the tax surge as a positive sign of economic resilience post-bifurcation, driven by sectors like real estate (boosting stamp duties) and trade (GST). Yet, sustained capital spending and deficit control remain priorities for long-term stability.

Amaravati Bank Employees Demand 5-Day Workweek Amid Strike Action

TPN Bureau | Jan 28, 2026

Amaravati: Government sector bank employees across Andhra Pradesh rallied for a five-day workweek in banking, highlighting years of unfulfilled promises. Responding to a call from the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU), bank staff, officers, and rural bank employees observed a statewide strike on Tuesday, pressing for reduced working days to ease mounting work pressure. In Vijayawada, leaders from various unions gathered to voice their demands. Representatives included Kashi Vishwanath, Vijayasekhara, Basha, Rajasekhara from the SBI Officers' Association; VSR Sekhar, Narayana, Suren Reddy from NCBE; and Ajay Kumar, Raman, Raghuram from BEFEA, alongside other bank employees. They pointed out that institutions like the RBI, SIC, GIC, central and state government offices, and stock exchanges al-

ready operate on a five-day schedule, questioning why banks lag behind. At Eluru, the Amaravati Circle SBI Staff Union led another key event under President R. Narendra Kumar, with DGS N. Srinivasacharyulu, Srinivas, and Sridhar Sharma from ELAHCI Officers' Association addressing the crowd. Speakers emphasized that employees toil under excessive stress, often extending into weekends and holidays. "The five-day week demand is just and overdue pending for over a decade despite repeated assurances from authorities," Narendra Kumar stated. They criticized bank managements and the central government for delays, noting that high-level committees have repeatedly recommended the change without implementation. Protesters argued that the current six-day system leads to burnout, errors, and poor work-life balance, especially with digital banking demands ris-

ing post-pandemic. "Other financial sectors have adapted; banks must follow to retain talent and boost efficiency," said one union leader. The strike saw near-total participation in districts like Krishna, Guntur, and West Godavari, disrupting services but not halting essential transactions. UFBU has warned of escalated actions, including an all-India strike, if demands aren't met soon. They urged the central government and Indian Banks' Association (IBA) to resolve the issue urgently, citing precedents from private sector reforms. Bank employees seek not just fewer days but better compensation for overtime and improved welfare measures. As Andhra Pradesh's banking sector plays a vital role in schemes like PMJDY and rural credit, unions hope for swift dialogue. Officials from participating banks were unavailable for comment amid the protests.



AP Cabinet Greenlights Key Projects: Polavaram Boost, AIG Hospital in Vizag, Industrial Land Allocations

TPN Bureau | January 28, 2026 Amaravati: In a marathon session chaired by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet approved a slew of decisions aimed at accelerating Polavaram Project completion, boosting industrial growth, housing for the poor, and healthcare infrastructure. Information and Housing Minister Kolu-su Parthasarathy briefed the media post-meeting, highlighting the government's focus on development and welfare.

A major push for Polavaram came with additional funding of 247 crore for sourcing 71.63 lakh cubic meters of sand needed for the dam and 4.49 crore for the left-side connectivity navigation tunnel. Minister Parthasarathy noted that

only 50% of previously quarried material was usable, prompting fresh extraction from Hill No. 902 by Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Ltd (MEIL). The government targets project completion by March-April next year. Industrial expansion took center stage with land allocations. Visakhapatnam's Enda-da received 9.04 acres at 5 crore per acre for AIG Hospital, promising world-class gastroenterology services. Reliance Industries secured land in Prakasam and Annamayya districts 1,544 acres at 15,000 annual lease per acre for Napier grass cultivation to fuel 500 compressed biogas (CBG) plants. Further approvals included transferring land to AP Maritime Board for Krishna Patnam and Ramayapatnam in-



dustrial hubs, 77.33 acres in Kurnool's Emmiganur for a mega textile park at 7.5 lakh per acre, and thousands of acres in Anantapur, Annamayya, and Nandyal for mega solar plants. Housing initiatives advanced with ratification of a 4,450 crore HUDCO loan guarantee for TIDCO houses under PMAY-Urban, targeting pending units by June and processing 10 lakh new applications for delivery by 2029. In Amaravati, 112 original allottee

farmers facing Veedhi Pota or vastu issues can opt for alternative plots via CRDA Commissioner. Landless poor in the capital region will see their 5,000 pensions transferable to minor children upon parental demise. Athlete recognition shone through with Group-1 job and 500 sq yards in Visakhapatnam for Arjuna awardee Kumari Yarragiri Jyothi, who has already received 76.25 lakh in cash incentives. Discussions also touched on Tirupati laddu controversy, with the minister confirming adulteration but awaiting a full lab report for official response. Other nods included extra beds and 837 posts for Piduguralla government medical college, land swaps for Palamaneru AMC, and 50 cents for political party offices.

CM Chandrababu Naidu Reviews Railway Projects, Pushes for Enhanced Connectivity in Andhra Pradesh

TPN Bureau | January 28, 2026

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday held a high-level review meeting at the secretariat with General Managers of South Central, East Coast, and South Coast Railway divisions, along with other senior officials. The focus was on accelerating ongoing railway projects and establishing new routes to boost rail connectivity across the state, aiming to drive economic growth through improved infrastructure. Naidu emphasized enhancing freight transport from the state's key ports to hinterlands in neighboring states like Telangana, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Ma-

harashtra, and Madhya Pradesh. Discussions centered on critical rail linkages to facilitate this surge in cargo movement, underscoring the role of railways in unlocking industrial potential and trade opportunities. The meeting also reviewed plans to strengthen connectivity between Rayalaseema and coastal Andhra regions, addressing long-standing gaps in passenger and goods transport. Officials briefed the CM on strategies to reduce congestion at major junctions including Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Guntakal, Guntur, and Renigunta. Proposals for new lines, such as the Vijayawada bypass and Bhadrachalam

Road-Kovvur, were highlighted, with progress updates shared. Special attention was given to extending rail services to tribal areas, promoting inclusive development in remote regions. Naidu stressed the need for swift action to bring these underserved communities into the rail network, enhancing access to markets, healthcare, and education. High-speed rail corridors emerged as a key topic, with plans to develop Hyderabad-Chennai, Chennai-Bengaluru, and Hyderabad-Bengaluru routes into modern high-speed networks. These initiatives align with national ambitions while prioritizing Andhra Pradesh's growth. The CM reiterated that expanding the railway network is pivotal for the

state's holistic development, linking ports, industrial hubs, and rural interiors. He directed officials to expedite land acquisition, funding, and coordination with the Railway Ministry to meet timelines. Naidu called for regular monitoring to ensure projects deliver on promises of faster travel, reduced logistics costs, and job creation. This review signals the state government's renewed push for rail infrastructure amid competing priorities like irrigation and urban development. Stakeholders expect accelerated approvals for pending projects, potentially transforming Andhra Pradesh's economic landscape.

Chandrababu Naidu Warns TDP Leaders: Shape Up or Step Aside in 3 Months

TPN Bureau | Jan 27, 2026

Amaravati: TDP supremo and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu issued a stern warning to party leaders on Tuesday, giving them three months to improve performance or face removal. Speaking at a training session for Lok Sabha constituency committees at the TDP central office in Mangalagiri, Naidu emphasized discipline, hard work, and unity, declaring that only dedicated workers deserve positions and promotions.

“Those who took up posts will be monitored for three months. If your performance doesn’t improve, you’ll be sidelined. I’ll give opportunities to fresh talent. Positions and encouragement go only to those who toil hard,” Naidu said. He slammed internal rivalries and power struggles, urging leaders to stick to their

assigned booths, units, and clusters without meddling in others’ affairs.

“Strict action is inevitable for interference,” he added. Naidu made it clear he won’t tolerate party members bringing a bad name to TDP or covertly criticizing it online. Leaders must align their work with party decisions, he stressed. Naidu equated the role of Lok Sabha constituency presidents with district in-charges to that of ministers, directing district ministers, MPs, and MLAs to collaborate closely with them.

“Only then will political governance become a reality,” he noted. He advised field-level coordination with Jana Sena and BJP leaders. Naidu expressed displeasure over absenteeism at the session, particularly from Anantapur district, questioning how district leadership could



function if committee members themselves skip training.

He read out attendance details district-wise. Continuous Performance Reviews Promised Naidu announced regular reports on committee performance. Highlighting TDP’s equitable distribution of posts 37.2% for BCs, 31.9% for OCs, 19.6% for SCs, 7.4% for minorities, and 3.9% for STs based on population he urged leaders to strengthen the party through better results. “TDP has stood by you like Sri Ram for 44 years.

Our average leadership age is 46. We consult cadres before any appointment. Nothing is above the party negligent personnel will be sidelined,” he asserted. Declaring cadres as the true leaders, Naidu said justice to workers ensures party longevity and their rise to leadership. Recalling hardships under the previous YSRCP regime, he insisted all work should credit grassroots activists.

“From now, ensure TDP gets 10 more votes than in 2024 in every election. Take government achievements door-to-door and proudly say we’ve fulfilled promises,” he directed. Naidu assured no power tariff hikes ahead; rates could even be re-

Nara Lokesh Slams Jagan Over Tirumala Laddu Scandal, Accuses YSRCP of Cover-Up



TPN Bureau | January 28, 2026

Amaravati: TDP leader Nara Lokesh launched a scathing attack on former Chief Minister and YSRCP chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing him of committing a “grave sin” in the Tirumala laddu adulteration controversy and shamelessly attempting to evade responsibility. Lokesh alleged that even after investigations confirmed the use of sub-standard ingredients, Jagan and his party are distorting reports to shift blame.

Speaking to the media here on Wednesday, Lokesh condemned the adulteration as an unforgivable offense against divine prasadam. “They created adulterated ghee without a trace of pure milk fat and defiled Lord Venkateswara’s sacred offering. This is not just a sin; it’s a crime that cannot be forgiven,” he thundered.

He further claimed the scandal involves a massive multi-crore scam, with YSRCP leaders spreading falsehoods to mislead

devotees. The controversy erupted last year when lab tests revealed that the world-renowned Tirumala laddus distributed as prasadam at the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) contained animal fat instead of pure ghee.

The findings sparked nationwide outrage, especially among Hindu devotees who revere the sweet as a symbol of purity. The TTD board, under the current NDA government, initiated a high-level probe, leading to the suspension of several officials and suppliers linked to the previous YSRCP regime.

Lokesh accused Jagan of masterminding a deliberate conspiracy during his tenure as CM from 2019 to 2024. “Instead of owning up, they are twisting the inquiry report and playing the victim. They’ve been caught in a web of lies, from denying the adulteration to fabricating counter-narratives,” he said.

He vowed that the TDP-led government would expose every layer of the “YSRCP conspiracy” and en-

sure accountability.” This isn’t just about laddus; it’s about betraying the faith of millions who visit Tirumala annually. The YSRCP’s corrupt practices turned a holy institution into a money-making machine,” Lokesh added.

He promised swift action, including blacklisting tainted suppliers and implementing stricter quality controls at TTD to restore devotees’ trust. Lokesh’s remarks come amid ongoing political sparring in Andhra Pradesh, where the NDA alliance has prioritized governance reforms following their 2024 victory.

YSRCP has dismissed the charges as politically motivated, urging an independent probe. Devotees and opposition voices continue to demand justice, keeping the laddu issue alive in public discourse.

As the state gears up for key assembly sessions, Lokesh emphasized that the TDP would “foil YSRCP tricks decisively and expose their misdeeds to the people.”

Nara Lokesh Advocates Party Reforms, Term Limits in TDP Workshop

Amaravati: TDP national general secretary and Minister Nara Lokesh emphasized treating seniors and juniors equally in the party, promising to encourage dedicated workers. Speaking at a Parliament Committee workshop in Mangalagiri, he called for reforms adapting to changing times, including term limits for party positions no one should hold the same role more than twice.

“This applies to me too,” he asserted, proposing time-bound tenures to inject fresh energy. Lokesh inaugurated the training session alongside TDP State President Palla Srinivasa Rao at the Mangalagiri TDP office. Recently appointed Parliament constituency presidents, general secretaries, and members attended. He first



paid homage to NTR’s statue and lit the lamp to kick off proceedings.

Highlighting internal reforms, Lokesh said he’s pushing for changes from grassroots to politburo levels. “Why not elevate a gram party president to the politburo? This is our party, our family.” It took 18 months of effort to replace district committees with Parliament committees, he noted, urging persistence for core ideals. Stressing cadre strength, Lokesh declared, “TDP’s power lies in its workers.”

He hailed Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu as the brand ambassador for development and welfare. Recalling TDP’s resilience in opposition, he cited NTR’s legacy of unmatched cadres. Sharing inspirations from YSRCP rule, he mentioned enduring attacks like papers being torn in Punganur; Manjula’s determination in Macharla despite injuries; Chenupati Gandhi’s defiance in Vijayawada after losing eyesight, and Tota Chandrayya’s sacrifice under the knife.

On party infrastructure, Lokesh likened it to “our own home, not a government rental.” He praised Naidu’s weekly office visits despite pressures, and the alliance of PM Modi, Naidu, and Pawan Kalyan driving progress. Soon, a High Court bench for Kurnool, he promised, crediting central support.

Referencing last Maha Nada’s resolutions, he prioritized workers’ respect, youth opportunities, social justice in posts, women’s dignity, farmer support, and global Telugu leadership. Urging leaders to stay engaged, Lokesh said, “Fight issues within the party. Aim for a 15-year coalition government.”

Dismissing YSRCP wedge tactics, he stressed institutional loyalty over individuals, upcoming trainings, tech-savvy recognition, and treating posts as duties. “Flipping words isn’t in our blood,” he quipped, contrasting TDP’s welfare legacy with YSRCP’s alleged vices. Lokesh warmly greeted attendees, posed for photos, and celebrated the third anniversary of his Yuva Galam padayatra at the party headquarters.

Amaravati Minister Slams Jagan for Rushing Veligonda Inauguration Amid Incomplete Works



TPN Bureau | January 28, 2026

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu sharply criticized former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for inaugurating the Veligonda project prematurely, even as construction remained unfinished. Speaking at a review meeting, the minister accused Jagan of pushing through the event under heavy police protection while sidelining displaced families.

“Veligonda works were far from complete when Jagan inaugurated it for the nation,” Ramanaidu said. He pointed out that protesters, including those displaced by the project, were forcibly restrained to allow the ceremony to proceed. “Anyone who saw the situation back then would know the project wasn’t finished,” he added, emphasizing the rushed nature of the 2021 inauguration.

The minister outlined the current status, revealing thousands of crores worth of pending works. He presented a detailed PowerPoint presenta-

tion showcasing ongoing construction activities, including photos and videos as evidence. Key highlights included incomplete reservoirs, canal networks, and irrigation infrastructure critical to the project’s goal of supplying water to Rayalaseema districts from the Krishna River. Ramanaidu dismissed recent claims by YSRCP leaders that Veligonda was fully completed and dedicated to the nation long ago.

“They’re misleading the public. Billions in works are still pending, and the NDA coalition government is committed to finishing them,” he asserted. The government has set an ambitious target to complete the project by the end of this year, prioritizing quality and transparency.

The Veligonda project, one of Andhra Pradesh’s flagship irrigation initiatives, aims to irrigate over 1.2 lakh acres and provide drinking water to millions. Launched years ago, it faced delays under the previous YSRCP regime due to funding issues, land acquisition hur-

dles, and protests from affected villagers. The current administration has accelerated progress, allocating fresh funds and addressing bottlenecks.

Photos displayed during the presentation showed half-built structures and stalled machinery from Jagan’s era, contrasting with recent advancements like tunnel boring and canal lining. Videos captured the chaotic 2021 event, where security forces managed crowds amid incomplete site preparations.

This development reignites political debates over legacy projects in Andhra Pradesh, with TDP-led NDA accusing YSRCP of propaganda. Minister Ramanaidu urged the opposition to support completion efforts rather than false narratives. Officials confirmed tenders for remaining works are out, with monitoring committees in place.

As the state eyes agricultural growth ahead of the Kharif season, Veligonda’s timely finish could boost farmer incomes in drought-prone areas.

Jana Sena Party Forms Probe Panel into Railway Koduru MLA Arava Sreedhar Allegations



TPN Bureau | January 28, 2026

Amaravati: In a significant move amid mounting controversy, the Jana Sena Party (JSP) has constituted a three-member committee to investigate serious allegations leveled against Railway Koduru MLA Arava Sreedhar by a woman. The decision, announced on Wednesday, underscores the party’s commitment to internal accountability and swift action on media-reported claims. The allegations, which surfaced

prominently in regional media outlets, involve misconduct claims by the woman against the MLA. JSP leadership, prioritizing transparency, has directed the panel to thoroughly probe these reports. The committee comprises senior party figures: T. Shivashankar, Tamballapalli Ramadevi, and T.C. Varun. Their mandate is clear to scrutinize the broadcast news stories and gather facts within a tight timeline.

MLA Arava Sreedhar has been instructed

to appear before the committee within seven days to furnish a detailed explanation. Until the panel submits its report, he stands suspended from all party activities, including public programs and official engagements. This interim measure aims to prevent any influence on the inquiry and maintain the party’s image amid political scrutiny in Andhra Pradesh. JSP sources revealed that the party chief personally reviewed the complaints before greenlighting the

probe. “We will not tolerate any wrongdoing. Justice will be served based on evidence,” a senior spokesperson stated, emphasizing the internal disciplinary process. The development comes at a sensitive time for JSP, which has been positioning itself as a clean alternative in state politics, especially with ongoing alliances and upcoming electoral strategies. Railway Koduru, a key constituency in Nellore district, has been a JSP stronghold, with Sreedhar winning the seat in



recent elections. His contributions to local infrastructure and welfare schemes had earned him goodwill, making the allegations a jolt to party cadres. Local activists and supporters have urged a fair investigation, while opposition voices, including from YSRCP, have demanded broader probes. The committee’s report, expected soon, could have implications for JSP’s internal dynamics and its standing in Andhra Pradesh’s volatile political landscape. As the Vizag-based party eyes expansion, such incidents test its governance credentials. JSP has appealed for restraint from media and public speculation until findings are public. This action reflects JSP’s evolving approach to handling controversies, balancing loyalty with propriety in a high-stakes political environment.

TDP MLA Slams YSRCP Regime Over Drugs Menace in Andhra Pradesh Rally

TPN Bureau | January 28, 2026

Vijayawada: TDP MLA Gadde Ram Mohan expressed fierce outrage against YSRCP chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing him of turning Andhra Pradesh into a “ganja hub” during his tenure. Speaking at a rally against drugs organized under the leadership of NTR district police in Vijayawada, the MLA claimed that under YSRCP rule, ganja had even reached school premises, devastating communities.

The event, themed “Padyatra Against Drugs,” saw participants march from Ramalingeshwara Nagar to Benji Circle on Wednesday. Addressing the media amid chants and banners, Gadde Ram Mohan highlighted the initiative's goal: to raise awareness among the public about the growing drug menace. “We’re conducting these programs to educate people and eradicate narcotics from society,” he said.

He praised Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu’s proactive stance, noting that Naidu held a high-level review meeting on drugs immediately after assuming office. “Our government is cracking down hard on



drug trafficking by forming special teams (Eagles). The CM has directed officials to ensure no narcotics exist anywhere in Andhra Pradesh,” the MLA stated.

He added that the coalition government has already rooted out ganja cultivation entirely. Women constables from NTR district police led the rally on bicycles, symbolizing community-driven action. Ram Mohan emphasized societal benefits, saying officials are actively creating awareness. “This is a positive step police themselves are taking to the streets to awaken the public.”

Call for Public Cooperation
Urging every citizen to join the fight for a drug-free state, the

MLA appealed: “If you know any information about drugs, be it cultivation, trafficking, or users report it immediately to the police.” He stressed that such awareness drives would bring real change. For those trapped in addiction, counseling and rehabilitation programs are available upon reporting. “Drugs are destroying lives and families, pushing them to the streets,” Ram Mohan warned, painting a grim picture of ruined futures. He commended the police's hands-on approach, including rallies and cycles yatras, as exemplary for fostering vigilance. The rally underscores the NDA government's commitment to public health and safety, contrasting sharply with what TDP leaders call the YSRCP era's laxity on narcotics.

With Naidu's directives in place, Andhra Pradesh aims to set a national example in drug eradication. Local residents and activists joined in large numbers, carrying placards with slogans like “Say No to Drugs” and “Build a Drug-Free AP.” Police officials reiterated helpline numbers for anonymous tips, promising swift action. This initiative aligns with broader state efforts, including surveillance teams and community outreach, signaling zero tolerance. As Vijayawada buzzes with anti-drug fervor, leaders hope it sparks a statewide movement.

Guntur: Ex-YSRCP MP Nandigam Suresh Accused of Threatening Local Man's Life Over Poll Loan Dispute



TPN Bureau | January 28, 2026

Guntur | Vijayawada: Tension gripped Uddandarayunipalem in Guntur district after Prathoori Jagadeesh, a local resident, released a chilling selfie video alleging life threats from former YSRCP MP Nandigam Suresh and his wife. Claiming imminent danger to himself and his family, Jagadeesh urged authorities to treat the video as his dying declaration if harm befalls him. In the widely circulated one-minute video, Jagadeesh, visibly distressed, recounted a dispute stemming from the 2019 elections.

“I lent money to Nandigam Suresh during the polls, but he's refusing to repay it. Now, he's harassing me relentlessly,” he stated. He accused Suresh's followers of tailing him in cars and attempting physical attacks. “If I die, hold Nandigam Suresh responsible,” Jagadeesh warned, before ending the clip with a plea for police protection. The allegations have sparked outrage among locals, reviving memories of political strong-arming in Andhra Pradesh's volatile election landscape.

Jagadeesh, a small-time businessman from Prathoori village under Uddandarayunipalem mandal, reportedly extended financial aid to Suresh's campaign in Guntur Lok Sabha constituency. YSRCP's Rayapati Sambasiva Rao won that seat, but Suresh, a party loyalist and former Narasaraopet MP, remains influential in regional politics. Police have registered a case under relevant sections of the IPC for criminal intimidation and are investigating.

Guntur SP A. Ravi Sankar confirmed, “We've received the complaint and video. Teams are probing the claims, and Jagadeesh's safety is our priority. No arrests yet, pending evidence.” Jagadeesh approached the local police station post-video, seeking FIR and security. Nandigam Suresh dismissed the accusations as “baseless political vendetta.” In a statement, he said, “This is a smear campaign by rivals ahead of local polls.

I've never borrowed money fraudulently, and such threats won't deter me from public service.” YSRCP leaders echoed this, calling Jagadeesh a “disgruntled opportunist.” Political analysts link the episode to lingering 2019 election debts amid AP's cash-strapped economy. “Poll funding often leads to such fallout when repayments falter,” noted Guntur-based commentator K. Venkatesh.

Locals demand swift justice, fearing escalation in this TDP-YSRCP hotspot. As the video goes viral on social media, it underscores rising concerns over post-election accountability in Andhra Pradesh. Authorities assure thorough inquiry, but Jagadeesh remains in hiding.

APSRTC Driver's Heroic Act: Succumbs to Heart Attack After Safely Stopping Bus, Saving 19 Passengers

TPN Bureau | January 28, 2026

Choutuppal, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District: In a heart-wrenching display of duty and selflessness, an APSRTC bus driver from Vijayawada-1 depot breathed his last while ensuring the safety of 19 passengers on board. Despite battling severe chest pain, the driver steered the vehicle off the main road and parked it safely on the service lane, preventing a potential tragedy on a busy highway in Choutuppal, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district.

The incident occurred earlier today around 4 PM on the Vijayawada-Hyderabad national highway near Choutuppal. Eyewitnesses and passengers recounted how the driver, identified as 52-year-old K. Venkateswarlu, suddenly clutched his

chest while navigating the route. Ignoring his agony, he signaled to passengers, maneuvered the bus away from traffic, and brought it to a halt on the roadside.

Moments later, he collapsed due to a massive heart attack. Fellow passengers rushed to his aid, alerting locals and calling for an ambulance, but Venkateswarlu was declared dead on arrival at a nearby hospital. “We were terrified when he started gasping for breath,” said passenger Lakshmi Devi, a homemaker from Vijayawada traveling to Hyderabad.

“But he didn't panic. He kept saying 'Don't worry, I'll stop safely.' He saved our lives. We're indebted to him forever.” Another passenger, IT professional Ravi Kumar, added,



“His last words were to stay calm. It's heart-breaking. Heroes like him are rare.” APSRTC officials rushed to the scene and lauded Venkateswarlu's dedication. “He joined APSRTC in 2005 and was known for his punctuality and passenger care,” said Depot Manager G. Srinivasa Rao. “Even in his final moments, he prioritized safety. The corporation will honor him with full state honors and support his family.” Venkateswarlu, a resident of Vijayawada, leaves behind his wife, two children, and

aging parents. Local police at Choutuppal station registered a case under relevant sections for unnatural death and initiated a probe. Initial investigations point to cardiac arrest, with postmortem reports awaited. “We've secured CCTV footage from nearby toll plazas and recorded passenger statements,” said Station House Officer M. Narasimha Reddy.

“No foul play suspected so far.” This tragedy underscores the grueling demands on public transport drivers, often working long

hours amid rising health issues. Passenger unions and APSRTC employees' associations demanded better medical check-ups and insurance for staff. Tributes poured in on social media, with #HeroDriverVenkateswarlu trending locally. APSRTC Chairman V. Sunitha expressed condolences: “His sacrifice inspires us all. We stand by his family.” The driver's funeral is scheduled tomorrow in Vijayawada, with expected dignitaries from transport and political circles.

80-Km 'Death Trap' on NH-65: Urgent Call for Trauma Care Centers in Krishna District

TPN Bureau | Jan 28, 2026

Vijayawada: Major national highways NH-65 and NH-16 in unified Krishna district are turning into deadly corridors due to the glaring absence of emergency trauma care centers, forcing accident victims to endure agonizing 80-km journeys to Vijayawada for treatment. With frequent crashes on these high-traffic routes, lives hang in the balance during the crucial “golden hour,” as ambulances race to the nearest major hospital.

On NH-65, the stretch from Jaggaiahpet to Bandaru spans 149 km, with no dedicated trauma facilities en route. A serious accident any-

where in between means a mandatory dash to Vijayawada 82 km from Jaggaiahpet, 70 km from Penuganchiprolu, and 50 km from Nandigama. Local Community Health Centers (CHCs) handle minor injuries, but severe cases take at least an hour to reach advanced care, often proving fatal.

A tragic reminder came years ago near Mullanapadu in Penuganchiprolu mandal, where a towel bus collided with a divider, plunged from a flyover into a canal, killing 11 and injuring 30 gravely. The nighttime crash left victims stranded without nearby trauma support, with bodies and injured ferried 72 km to

Vijayawada.

The Vijayawada-Bandaru route (68 km) fares no better—no emergency medical centers along NH-65. From Pamarru, it's 44 km to Vijayawada or 26 km to Bandaru, yet a major mishap demands 30-60 minutes of travel amid frequent black spots. Gannavaram, Nandigama, Pamarru, and Uyooru have long-proposed trauma centers gathering dust for years. Even Gudivada's area hospital lacks proper access, referring serious cases to Vijayawada.

Pamarru's CHC needs upgrading to a 100-bed center, while Uyooru's 30-bed facility could become a trauma hub.



Nandigama's roadside CHC, serving 400+ OPD patients daily including 10-15 accident cases, is expanding to 100 beds with Rs 33 crore but adding trauma capabilities would cover Jaggaiahpet to Kanchikacherla effectively.

A site survey near Gauravaram yielded no progress. On NH-16 (Chennai-Kolkata), the 55-km Vijayawada-Bommuluru toll gate stretch has zero emergency centers despite heavy

traffic between Vijayawada-Hanumaan Junction. Proposals for trauma centers in these high-risk zones remain unimplemented, risking more deaths.

Local health officials and residents urge immediate action: four to five trauma centers along these routes. “Every minute counts,” said a senior doctor. Without swift intervention, these highways will continue claiming lives unnecessarily.

APS RTC Chairman Lauds Mandali Venkata Krishna Rao's Tireless Service to Diviseema at Centenary Celebrations

TPN Bureau | January 28, 2026

Ghantasala, Andhra Pradesh: In a heartfelt tribute to a towering figure in regional development, APS RTC Chairman Konakalla Narayana hailed Mandali Venkata Krishna Rao as a “great personality” who worked day and night for Diviseema's progress. The occasion was the grand centenary celebrations (Shata Jayanti Mahotsavam) of the late leader, organized by the TDP Cultural Wing under the leadership of State General Secretary

Dirisham Balu Kotayya at Ghantasala.

The event drew prominent leaders, locals, and TDP supporters, who gathered to honor Rao's enduring legacy. Attendees paid floral tributes to Venkata Krishna Rao's portrait, marking the culmination of a series of programs celebrating his 100th birth anniversary. Konakalla Narayana, speaking at the function, praised Rao's invaluable social services to the people.

“Mandali Venkata Krishna Rao dedicated



his life to uplifting Diviseema, a region battered by cyclones and floods, through relentless grassroots efforts,” he said. Narayana highlighted Rao's role in infrastructure projects, welfare schemes, and community mobilization during challenging times, crediting him with laying the foundation for modern development in Krishna district's coastal belt. MLA Mandali Buddha Prasad, son of the late leader, vowed to carry forward his father's footsteps.

“Walking in my father

Venkata Krishna Rao's path, I will strive even harder for Diviseema's growth,” he affirmed. Buddha Prasad recounted personal anecdotes of his father's tireless campaigns for irrigation canals, roads, and education, which transformed the cyclone-prone area into a hub of progress.

He urged the youth to emulate Rao's commitment to public service over personal gain. The celebrations featured cultural performances, speeches by local TDP leaders, and exhibitions showcasing Rao's con-

tributions from advocating for Diviseema's rehabilitation post-1971 and 1996 cyclones to his political journey as a dedicated TDP stalwart. Rao, a former MLA and key figure in Andhra Pradesh politics, championed farmer welfare, women's empowerment, and rural electrification, earning him the title of “Diviseema Kesari.” Diviseema, spanning parts of Krishna and Guntur districts, has long battled natural calamities, but Rao's vision helped build resilience through coopera-

tives and self-help groups. TDP leaders emphasized that such events keep his ideals alive amid ongoing development pushes like the AP Capital Region projects.

The function underscored the TDP's commitment to honoring unsung heroes, with calls for official recognition of Rao's birthplace and contributions. As the evening wound down with patriotic songs, attendees left inspired to support regional advancement.



CM Chandrababu Naidu Prioritizes Irrigation Projects and Horticulture in High-Level Review

TPN Bureau | January 28, 2026
Ongole : Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu emphasized completing key irrigation projects and expanding horticulture cultivation in the combined districts during a high-level review meeting. Held on Tuesday at his camp office in Amaravati, the meeting focused on leveraging the central government's Purvodaya scheme, under which the combined Prakasam district has been included. This move could bring around 10,000

crore in funding to the state. The review aimed to ensure water reaches agricultural lands by finishing pending critical projects, particularly boosting orchard crops in Rayalaseema and the combined Prakasam district. Attendees included Chief Secretary V. Vijayanand, relevant ministers, and key state-level officials. The government proposed identifying 20 priority projects across 10 districts under the scheme, ensuring no funding shortages to complete them swiftly. Among these are the Veli-

gonda Project, Paleru Reservoir, and Korishapadu Lift Irrigation Scheme. Special Focus on Veligonda Project
CM Naidu has already accelerated work on the Veligonda Project, and he reviewed its progress again in Tuesday's meeting. He directed officials to complete it within a year under any circumstances. The Paleru Reservoir and Korishapadu Lift Scheme, neglected by the previous government, have now been included in the list of 20 priority projects. In parallel, the state government is tar-



getting horticulture development aligned with global market demands. The goal is to produce 500 metric tonnes annually. Proposals include creating the world's

largest horticulture cluster by merging Rayalaseema with the current Prakasam and Markapuram districts. These 10 districts will be divided into 201 clusters, with 16 in the com-

bined districts alone. Over three years, the scheme could involve 90 crore in expenditure. Plans encompass promoting orchards, incentives for farmers, rural road development, food

processing units, go-downs, and improved transportation infrastructure. CM Naidu instructed officials to prepare detailed action plans for these initiatives. This strategic push under Purvodaya reflects the government's commitment to agricultural transformation. By completing irrigation projects like Veligonda, which will irrigate vast areas in Prakasam, Nellore, and Kadapa districts, the state aims to enhance productivity and farmer incomes. Horticulture clusters will focus on

high-demand fruits, integrating modern processing and logistics to boost exports. Officials confirmed that funding from the center, combined with state resources, will expedite progress. The CM stressed monitoring mechanisms to avoid delays, drawing from past experiences of project stagnation. This development is a boon for Prakasam district, long awaiting reliable irrigation. Farmers in Ongole and surrounding areas expressed optimism, hoping it signals a new era of prosperity.

ACB Traps Two Treasury Officials in Srikakulam for Demanding Bribe from Colleague

TPN Bureau | January 28, 2026
Srikakulam: In a shocking expose of corruption within government offices, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) arrested two officials from the Srikakulam Sub-Treasury Office on Tuesday for demanding a bribe to process legitimate salary arrears for a fellow employee. The incident highlights how treasury departments, meant to support government workers and their families through timely payments, have become dens of graft. Sub-Treasury Officer (STO) Nalla Raviprasad and Senior Accountant Ambakandi Srinivasarao were caught red-handed accepting

15,000 in a trap laid by ACB officials. The case revolves around Digital Assistant Lopinti Hemaragini, working at the Killipalem-1 Secretariat in Srikakulam Mandal. Hemaragini had been on extraordinary leave (loss of pay) from January 3, 2022, to May 3, 2023, due to health issues. Upon resuming duties, the Collector declared her probation up to May 5, 2023. However, she received no salary arrears for the period from May 5, 2023, to December 31, 2025, surviving only on a 15,000 honorarium. Her pending bill of 4,34,697 reached the Sub-Treasury Office on January 10 this year. Desperate for her dues, Hemaragini ap-



proached Senior Accountant Srinivasarao on January 22, who demanded 20,000 for bill approval. She then met STO Raviprasad on January 23, who insisted on a "bribe" but settled for 15,000. She promptly lodged a complaint with ACB, leading to the sting operation. ACB DSP Ramana-murthy and CI Bhaskar Rao's team raided the office as Hemaragini

handed over the cash. The officials seized the money, searched their homes and office rooms, and arrested both. They will be produced before the ACB special court in Visakhapatnam. DSP Ramana-murthy confirmed. Background on Accused: Nalla Raviprasad (STO): Joined as Senior Accountant in 2010, served in Ichchapuram and Srikaku-

lam treasury offices, promoted to STO in September 2025. Ambakandi Srinivasarao (Senior Accountant): Appointed Junior Accountant in 2010 under compassionate grounds, promoted in 2013, posted at Srikakulam Sub-Treasury since June 2023. ACB urged citizens to report bribe demands in government offices via the toll-free number 14400 or 9440440057.

Villagers Rejoice as Borubhadra Native DSP Karajad Ramarao Selected for Prestigious Indian Police Medal



TPN Bureau | January 28
Santabommali: In a moment of immense pride for Santabommali mandal's Borubhadra village in Andhra Pradesh, Karajad Ramarao, a dedicated police officer from the village, has been selected for the Indian Police Medal (IPM) one of the highest honors in the police force. The Central Government released the list of awardees on the occasion of the 77th Republic Day, and DSP Ramarao's name shone brightly among them. Currently serving as Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) in Visakhapatnam, his achievement has sparked celebrations across the village. Born into a poor family in Borubhadra, Ramarao received his entire education in government institutions. He completed his 10th standard at the local Zilla Parishad High School in Borubhadra, followed

by intermediate and degree at government colleges. Joining the Andhra Pradesh Police as a constable in Vijayanagaram in 2000, he rose swiftly through the ranks due to his unwavering dedication. Promoted to Sub-Inspector (SI) in 2005, he earned accelerated promotions twice, taking on Circle Inspector (CI) duties before becoming DSP. Ramarao's career is studied with accolades for exemplary service. In 2009, he received the Chief Minister's Shaurya Patakam. He was honored with the Andhra Security Service Patakam in 2013 and 2019, an accelerated promotion in 2017, the Utkrishta Seva Patakam in 2022, and the Seva Patakam in 2023. This year's IPM caps his illustrious journey, and he is set to receive it from Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Independence Day. Beyond his professional excellence, Ramarao has been a pil-

lar of community service. Even as a student, he actively participated in village development programs, contributing to the construction of a dilapidated Shiva temple. After joining the force, he motivated local youth to pursue careers in the armed forces and police, providing training at his home to underprivileged unemployed individuals to help them secure jobs. He donated to the construction of the village deity Palapolamma Amma temple and supports every development initiative in Borubhadra. Villagers erupted in joy over Ramarao's IPM selection, hailing him as a role model. Speaking to Andhra Jyothi, the DSP expressed profound happiness, urging the youth to join the police force with the same spirit. His story from humble beginnings to national recognition inspires many in rural Andhra Pradesh.

Villagers Protest Ex-Servicemen's Cultivation on Allotted Hill Land in Sadanandapuram

TPN Bureau | January 28, 2026
Gurla Mandal: Tension erupted in Sadanandapuram village, Gurla Mandal, when local villagers confronted former soldiers attempting to cultivate government-allotted land in the hilly area on Tuesday. The ex-servicemen, who received the plots as recognition for their service, faced stiff resistance as villagers pitched tents on-site and launched a sit-in protest. The conflict arose when the former soldiers began tilling the land, prompting villagers to intervene. They argued that the area is essential for grazing their cattle and goats, questioning where they would pasture their livestock otherwise. "This land is our lifeline," the villagers asserted, demanding that the ex-servicemen seek alternative



plots elsewhere. The ex-servicemen expressed dismay, highlighting that both central and state governments had granted them land in hilly regions to honor their contributions. "Blocking us like this is unfair," they lamented, pointing out that the allocations were made 20 years ago. They questioned why fresh disputes were surfacing now, insist-

ing they were not encroaching beyond assigned boundaries. The standoff underscores ongoing friction over land use in rural Andhra Pradesh, where government schemes for ex-servicemen often clash with local communities' traditional reliance on common grazing grounds. Sadanandapuram, located in a hilly terrain ideal for

limited agriculture but vital for pastoral activities, has become a flashpoint. In response to the incident, Gurla Tahsildar Adilakshmi has sought a detailed report. Speaking to mediapersons, she warned that any unauthorized encroachment on government land would invite strict action. "We will collect records of the land allotted to the ex-

servicemen, verify them, and ensure compliance," she stated. "If they attempt additional occupation, measures will be unavoidable." Local authorities are now investigating the allocations to confirm boundaries and resolve the dispute. The tahsildar emphasized that while ex-servicemen's rights are protected, they must adhere strictly to designated plots. Villagers, meanwhile, vow to continue their protest until their grazing needs are addressed. This episode highlights broader challenges in implementing land distribution programs amid competing local interests. Officials urge both parties to maintain peace as verification proceeds. No arrests have been made, but police remain on alert to prevent escalation.

Chandrababu Naidu Stresses Party Over Individuals at TDP Parliament Committees Workshop

TPN Bureau | January 28, 2026
Mangalagiri: Telugu Desam Party (TDP) national president and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu emphasized that "individuals are not important; the party and its systems are paramount." He urged every party member to internalize this principle and work accordingly to strengthen the organization. The workshop comes on the heels of TDP recently appointing parliament constituency commit-

tees across the state. On Tuesday, these committees' members gathered at the party's central office in Mangalagiri for a comprehensive training session. From Ongole Parliament constituency, committee president and MLA Dr. Mukkuguru Narasimha Reddy led a strong contingent. Accompanied by parliamentary principal secretary Kothari Nageswara Rao, 40 members participated actively. The event kicked off with a joint session for all attendees, followed



by separate workshops tailored for committee presidents, secretaries, and vice-presidents.

Naidu, along with national general secretary Nara Lokesh, state president Palla Srinivasa

Rao, and other senior leaders, provided clear directives on executing party responsibilities.

Naidu reiterated the need for unwavering dedication from every member to run the party robustly. "Workers are the real leaders," he declared, instructing leaders to recognize and respect grassroots cadres accordingly. The sessions focused on organizational discipline, role clarity, and strategies to bolster TDP's presence at the constituency level ahead of future elections. Dr. Narasimha Reddy highlighted the workshop's value, noting it equipped Ongole mem-

bers with actionable insights. "Under Chandrababu garu's guidance, we're committed to prioritizing party systems over personal agendas," he said. The Ongole team, representing Prakasam district's key segments, pledged full support for state government initiatives and party expansion. Lokesh stressed digital tools and youth engagement, while Srinivasa Rao outlined membership drives and local issue resolution. Leaders also discussed

aligning party efforts with ongoing welfare schemes like Amma Vodi and YSR Cheyutha, ensuring TDP's role in governance remains visible. This workshop underscores TDP's renewed organizational push post-2024 assembly polls victory. With Naidu at the helm, the party aims to consolidate its base in all 25 parliament constituencies, countering opposition narratives on development projects like Amaravati capital and Polavaram irrigation.

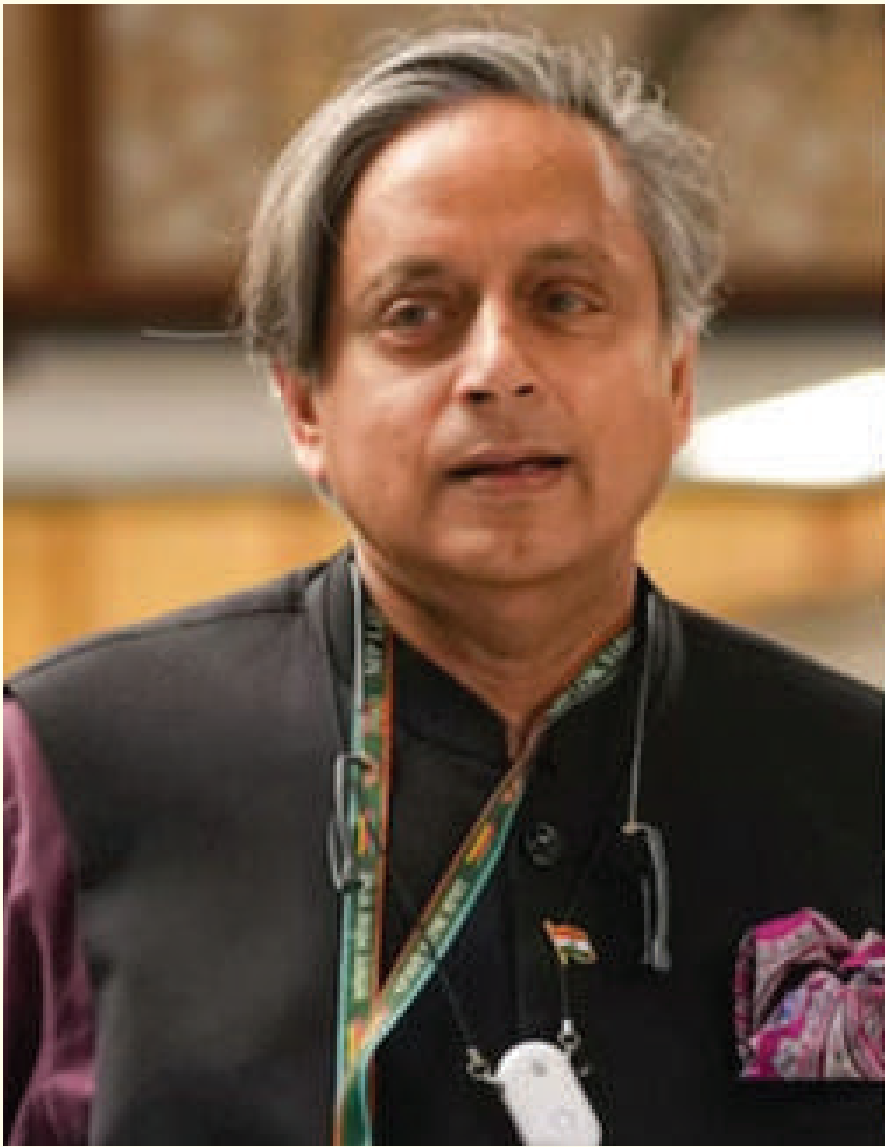
The Shashi Tharoor the Congress and Rahul Gandhi Struggle to Understand

Shashi Tharoor occupies a curious and often uncomfortable space within the Indian National Congress. He is admired by a wide audience outside the party, respected for his intellect, articulation, and global stature, yet viewed with a mix of suspicion and ambivalence by the organisation he has served for decades. The Congress, particularly under the leadership style that has evolved around Rahul Gandhi, has never quite known how to place Tharoor — or what to do with him.

At first glance, Tharoor appears to be an ideal Congress leader. He is urbane, multilingual, internationally recognised, and capable of communicating complex ideas with clarity and elegance. He represents a modern, liberal, constitutional vision of India that aligns closely with the Congress's declared ideological foundations. Yet despite these credentials, he remains peripheral to the party's real power structure.

This disconnect stems from a fundamental mismatch between Tharoor's political instincts and the Congress's internal culture. Tharoor is comfortable with debate, dissent, and intellectual disagreement. He believes political parties should accommodate multiple viewpoints and allow leaders the freedom to express nuanced positions. The contemporary Congress, however, has grown increasingly uncomfortable with ambiguity and internal divergence, preferring uniform messaging and centralised control.

Rahul Gandhi's leadership style, shaped by years of political attacks and electoral setbacks, has leaned toward moral clarity and ideological rigidity. He frames politics as a battle between right and wrong, truth and falsehood. While this approach energises a core support base, it leaves little room for leaders like Tharoor, who operate in shades of grey and believe persuasion often works better than confrontation.



This tension became particularly visible when Tharoor chose to contest the Congress presidential election. His decision was framed by supporters as a healthy assertion of internal democracy. Within the party, however, it was widely perceived as disruptive — an act that challenged an already fragile equilibrium. Though Tharoor lost decisively, his candidacy exposed the Congress's discomfort with genuine contestation.

Tharoor's appeal lies not in mass mobilisation but in credibility. He speaks to professionals, urban voters, and politically engaged citizens

who may not attend rallies but shape public opinion. In a party struggling to remain relevant in a rapidly changing political environment, such voices should be assets. Instead, they are often treated as liabilities.

One reason is that Tharoor does not fit the traditional mould of Congress leadership. He did not rise through the party's youth wings, nor is he rooted in dynastic politics. His authority comes from personal achievement rather than organisational loyalty. This independence, while admirable, makes party managers uneasy. Loyalty, in the Congress ecosystem,

often matters more than competence.

Another issue is Tharoor's willingness to acknowledge complexity — even when it involves political rivals. His occasional praise for effective governance by opponents is seen as ideological softness. In an era of sharp political polarisation, nuance is frequently mistaken for weakness, and balance is viewed as betrayal. Tharoor's refusal to reduce politics to slogans places him at odds with a party increasingly dependent on emotive narratives.

Rahul Gandhi, for his part, seems unsure how to engage



with such a figure. He recognises Tharoor's value but does not fully trust his instincts. Their political languages are different. Gandhi speaks in moral absolutes, drawing strength from personal conviction and lived experience. Tharoor relies on reasoned argument, historical context, and institutional faith. These approaches do not naturally converge.

The result is a pattern where Tharoor is used selectively — invited to speak when articulation is needed, sidelined when decisions are made. He is visible but not influential, prominent but not powerful. This marginalisa-

tion reflects a broader problem within the Congress: an inability to integrate talent that does not conform neatly to its internal hierarchies.

Ironically, Tharoor embodies precisely the kind of leadership many Congress supporters claim to want — confident, articulate, and globally credible. Yet the party struggles to trust leaders who do not derive legitimacy from proximity to the central family or unquestioned obedience to the leadership line. The fear of fragmentation has led to an intolerance of individuality.

Tharoor's predicament also highlights the Con-

gress's unresolved identity crisis. Is it a party that values diversity of thought, or one that prioritises discipline above all else? Can it accommodate leaders who think aloud, or must every voice echo the central narrative? Until these questions are answered, figures like Tharoor will remain awkward fits.

What makes this situation particularly striking is that Tharoor has shown remarkable restraint. He has not rebelled, formed factions, or publicly undermined leadership. He continues to campaign, speak for the party, and defend its values. Yet his loyalty has not translated into trust, suggesting that the issue lies less with his actions and more with what he represents.

In a political climate where opposition unity and credibility are crucial, sidelining voices like Tharoor is a strategic mistake. The Congress does not suffer from an excess of leaders who can command respect beyond partisan boundaries. By failing to fully integrate him, the party limits its own intellectual and electoral reach.

Ultimately, the Tharoor question is not about one individual but about the Congress's future. A party that cannot accommodate internal diversity risks stagnation. A leadership that fears independent thinking weakens its own authority. If the Congress wishes to revive itself as a national alternative, it must learn to embrace leaders who challenge it — not just those who reassure it.

Shashi Tharoor remains a mirror the Congress is uncomfortable looking into. He reflects what the party could be — confident, plural, intellectually agile — and also what it fears becoming: decentralised, unpredictable, and harder to control. Until the Congress resolves this contradiction, it will continue to misunderstand Tharoor, and in doing so, misunderstand itself.

The Many Dreams of Ajit Pawar: Ambition, Power and the Politics of Maharashtra

Ajit Pawar has never been a politician who hid his ambition. From early in his political career, he made it clear that he aspired to become the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. While many leaders cloak their personal goals in the language of sacrifice and public duty, Pawar chose blunt honesty. He spoke openly about power, leadership, and his desire to occupy the highest office in the state. That candour became one of his most defining traits — admired by some, criticised by others.

An early encounter with Ajit Pawar reveals much about the man. He was energetic, impatient, and visibly restless, constantly in motion. Unlike senior politicians who project calm detachment, Pawar appeared eager to act, to move faster than those around him. This impatience would later become both a strength and a liability — driving his political rise while also creating friction within alliances.

Ajit Pawar's political journey is inseparable from his lineage. As the nephew of Sharad Pawar, one of Maharashtra's most influential and experienced leaders, he grew up in the shadow of a towering political figure. Yet he was never content to remain a supporting act. He absorbed his uncle's mastery of political strategy but combined it with a far more aggressive and direct style. Where Sharad Pawar was subtle and patient, Ajit Pa-

war was outspoken and urgent.

Unlike politicians who carefully craft narratives about destiny or service, Ajit Pawar spoke of leadership as something he deserved through effort and experience. He believed that years of managing the state's finances, overseeing key departments, and delivering results at the grassroots level entitled him to the top job. His confidence often bordered on certainty — he spoke not of if he would become Chief Minister, but when.

Throughout his career, Ajit Pawar proved himself an effective administrator. As Deputy Chief Minister on multiple occasions, he handled critical portfolios, particularly finance and planning. He developed a reputation as a tough manager who understood numbers, budgets, and execution. In his home turf of Baramati, visible development — from agriculture-linked industries to infrastructure — strengthened his image as a leader who delivered tangible results.

Yet ambition alone does not guarantee success in Indian politics. Maharashtra's political landscape is complex, shaped by coalitions, caste equations, and shifting alliances. Despite holding power repeatedly as Deputy Chief Minister, Pawar found himself blocked from the top post time and again. Each time the possibility arose, political arithmetic intervened — senior



leaders, coalition partners, or internal party dynamics stood in the way.

What set Ajit Pawar apart was that he never pretended to be content with second place. At public meetings and private conversations alike, he acknowledged his frustration. He joked about his unfulfilled dream, sometimes laughing it off, sometimes expressing clear disappointment. His honesty made him relatable to sup-

porters, but it also unsettled allies who preferred carefully controlled messaging.

His relationship with Sharad Pawar reflected this tension between loyalty and rivalry. Deep familial bonds coexisted with political disagreements. While Ajit remained respectful of his uncle's stature, he was also impatient with what he saw as delayed succession and missed opportunities. Over time, this tension culminated

in a dramatic political split, reshaping the Nationalist Congress Party and altering Maharashtra's political balance.

The split was widely seen as Ajit Pawar's boldest gamble — a decisive break driven by ambition and the belief that aligning with new allies would finally bring him closer to the Chief Minister's chair. The move secured him continued relevance and power, but even then, the ultimate prize re-

mained elusive. Once again, he found himself holding high office, but not the highest.

Ajit Pawar's interactions with allies reveal a leader who expects recognition for his experience and contribution. He does not shy away from asserting himself, even when it risks discomfort. At the same time, he is pragmatic enough to accept compromise when necessary. This combination of assertiveness and adaptability has allowed him to survive political storms that might have ended lesser careers.

Behind the public image lies a man of contradictions. Ajit Pawar can be warm and engaging in personal conversations, quick with humour and informal charm. Yet he is also known for sudden flashes of anger and blunt remarks that spark controversy. These moments, while damaging in the short term, reinforce the perception of authenticity — a leader who does not script every word.

His story is ultimately one of persistence. Few politicians return repeatedly from setbacks with the same intensity of ambition intact. Each time circumstances denied him the Chief Minister's post, Pawar recalibrated rather than retreated. He remained firmly in the power structure, ensuring that his influence endured even when his dream did not materialise.

The phrase he often repeated — "I will be Chief Minister,

you'll see" — came to symbolise both his confidence and his struggle. For supporters, it represented belief and determination. For critics, it became a reminder of unfulfilled ambition. Over time, it evolved into a defining motif of his career, capturing the tension between aspiration and reality.

Ajit Pawar's political life mirrors Maharashtra itself — dynamic, competitive, and rarely straightforward. It is a landscape where power is negotiated constantly, where alliances shift, and where ambition must contend with tradition and timing. His journey shows that even the most capable and determined leaders are constrained by forces larger than themselves.

Whether or not Ajit Pawar ever achieves his ultimate dream, his legacy is already secure. He is remembered as a politician who spoke plainly about power, who governed with competence, and who refused to surrender ambition to convention. In a political culture that often values ambiguity, his directness stands out.

In the end, Ajit Pawar's story is not merely about a post he never attained, but about a mindset — the refusal to stop dreaming, even when the odds remain uncertain. It is a reminder that in politics, ambition is both a driving force and a burden, and that the journey toward power can define a leader as much as the destination itself.

Ajit Pawar's Death in Plane Crash Joins Long List of Indian Leaders Lost in Aviation Accidents



The tragic death of Ajit Pawar, Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, in a plane crash near Baramati on January 28, 2026, has drawn national shock and reflections on a sombre pattern in Indian political history — prominent leaders dying in aviation accidents. Pawar, 66, was killed along with four others aboard a chartered Learjet 45XR that crashed while attempting to land at Baramati Airport. All five on board lost their lives when the aircraft burst into flames after impact.

Pawar had departed Mumbai early that morning and was en route to Baramati for a series of political engagements ahead of local elections. The crash occurred as the aircraft made a second approach, and poor visibility in the early morning hours may have contributed to the accident, though an official investigation is underway.

A Legacy of Aviation

Tragedies Involving Indian Leaders

Ajit Pawar's death adds to a long, tragic list of Indian political figures whose lives were cut short by air accidents over the decades:

- Sanjay Gandhi (1980): The son of then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, Sanjay Gandhi died at 33 when the small aircraft he was piloting crashed during a test flight in Delhi.
- Madhavrao Scindia (2001): A senior Congress leader, Scindia was killed along with others when his plane went down in Uttar Pradesh while he was travelling to a public meeting.
- GMC Balayogi (2002): The Lok Sabha Speaker died in a helicopter crash in Andhra Pradesh.
- YS Rajasekhara Reddy (2009): Then Chief

- Minister of Andhra Pradesh, popularly known as YSR, died when the helicopter he was travelling in crashed in hilly terrain.
- Dorjee Khandu (2011): The Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh was killed in a helicopter crash in remote terrain.
- OP Jindal and Surender Singh (2005): Both were killed in a helicopter crash in Uttar Pradesh.
- Gurnam Singh (1973): The former Punjab Chief Minister died in an aircraft accident.

More recently, Vijay Rupani, the former Chief Minister of Gujarat, died in a high-profile aviation accident in 2025, where all passengers and crew perished shortly after take-off.

These incidents reflect the risks associated with political air travel in India, where lead-

ers often use private and charter flights for official duties across vast distances. While aviation safety has improved over the years, unpredictable weather, challenging terrain, and operational challenges have all contributed to past tragedies involving public figures.

National Reaction and Investigation

The news of Ajit Pawar's death has triggered widespread mourning and calls for accountability. Leaders from across the spectrum have expressed condolences, and there are demands for a thorough investigation into the Baramati crash to understand the causes and prevent similar future accidents.

As India reflects on Pawar's legacy and the legacy of other leaders lost in the skies, the event underscores the enduring impact of aviation tragedies on the political landscape and national psyche.

Ajit Pawar Dies in Plane Crash Near Baramati



Ajit Pawar, the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra and a prominent political leader, was killed in a plane crash early on January 28, 2026, when a private aircraft carrying him crashed during an attempted landing at Baramati Airport in Pune district. He was 66 years old and a key figure in state and national politics. The aircraft, a Learjet 45, burst into flames after the crash, and all on board were killed.

Pawar had been flying from Mumbai to Baramati to attend a series of political meetings ahead of local elections when the incident occurred. The plane crashed as it was trying to land — reportedly during a second approach — and rescue efforts were hindered by the intensity of the fire.

The crash took the lives of five people in total: Ajit Pawar himself, two pilots, and two of his security personnel. Among the crew

was pilot Shambhavi Pathak, along with the pilot-in-command and security staff.

Witnesses described hearing a loud explosion as the plane hit the ground and erupted into flames just before the runway. Emergency services and local officials rushed to the scene amid fire and smoke, but there were no survivors.

Political and Public Reaction

The news shocked Maharashtra and the country. Leaders from across the political spectrum expressed grief and condolences, and the state government declared three days of mourning. Baramati, Pawar's home turf and political stronghold — the place that had long witnessed his rise in Maharashtra politics — also saw an outpouring of grief and reflection as residents grappled with the irony of his tragic death in the

same town.

Ajit Pawar's Legacy and Career

Ajit Pawar was a towering figure in Maharashtra politics, known for his long tenure as Deputy Chief Minister and his influence in the cooperative sector and regional governance. He led a significant faction of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and had played a major role in state politics for decades. His sudden death leaves a vacuum in leadership both in his party and in Maharashtra's coalition government.

Investigation Underway

Officials have indicated that a transparent, accountable investigation into the crash will be conducted to determine the exact cause. Preliminary information suggests poor visibility at the time may have contributed to the emergency landing challenges.

Parliament Erupts in Protest Over 'G RAM G' Law Mention in President's Address

The Budget Session of Parliament 2026 opened on January 28 with President Droupadi Murmu's address to a joint sitting of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. Her speech set out the government's agenda for the year ahead, including economic and social priorities for the fiscal session. However, a major political flashpoint occurred when the President referenced the recently enacted VB G RAM G Act — a new rural employment law meant to replace the earlier MGNREGA framework.

The mention of the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin), widely referred to as G RAM G, immediately triggered sloganeering and protests by Opposition MPs within the Parliament chambers. Members of opposition parties stood up and chanted slogans demanding that the law be withdrawn and that the older MGNREGA rights based scheme be restored. This



forced the President to briefly pause her address while the uproar unfolded.

Opposition lawmakers objected to the new law on multiple grounds, arguing that it dilutes the guarantees of employment and oversight that MGNREGA provided and that the change was pushed through without sufficient consultation. The issue has become a focal point of political

tension at the start of the Budget Session, overshadowing other parts of the President's remarks.

By contrast, members of the ruling NDA and BJP benches responded enthusiastically to the President's remarks, thumping desks in approval when the G RAM G law was hailed as a reform that would provide 125 days of guaranteed rural employment and

curb corruption and leakages in implementation. Proponents argue it will give new momentum to rural development and social security in villages.

The clash in Parliament underscores deep political divisions over welfare policy and the direction of rural employment guarantees in India's evolving economic framework. While the government frames the new law as a step forward, the Opposition views it as a rollback of citizens' employment rights and a matter significant enough to disrupt the parliamentary proceedings on the very first day of the session.

As the Budget Session progresses toward the presentation of the Union Budget on February 1, the debate over the G RAM G law is expected to remain a central theme in discussions, reflecting broader political fault lines over development, social policy, and rural livelihoods.

Mamata Banerjee Demands Probe After Ajit Pawar's Tragic Death

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee expressed deep shock and grief over the plane crash in Baramati that claimed the life of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar along with four others. In a post on social media, she referred to his death as a "deep sense of loss" and extended her condolences to Pawar's family, supporters, and followers, highlighting the emotional impact of the sudden tragedy.

Banerjee called for a thorough investigation into the circumstances of the crash, emphasising that the incident "needs proper investigation." She said she was "deeply shocked and stunned" by the news and underlined the importance of understanding exactly what happened as the aircraft crashed while attempting to land near Baramati, taking off from Mumbai earlier that morning.

In addition to expressing



grief, Banerjee has publicly demanded a probe into the crash to bring clarity and accountability. Her comments reflect broader unease in political circles about the sudden loss of a senior leader and the need for transparency in the investigation process. Other leaders have also echoed calls



for a detailed inquiry into the accident.

Opposition figures, including Congress MPs and other party leaders, have supported the call for a comprehensive investigation, stressing the need for answers beyond initial reports. Some have suggested that independent over-

sight, potentially monitored by the Supreme Court of India, may be necessary to ensure credibility and public trust in the findings.

The crash has triggered strong reactions across the political spectrum. Leaders including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and others have voiced their condolences and acknowledged Pawar's long service in public life. Meanwhile, Banerjee's insistence on a probe reflects both concern over aviation safety and anxiety within political ranks about the implications of such a high profile death.

As the nation mourns, the focus on investigation underscores the scale of the event and the demand from various quarters for clarity on causes, whether technical, procedural, or otherwise, as authorities work to piece together the factors that led to this tragic accident.

NCP Plunges into Mourning as Party Members Break Down After Ajit Pawar's Death



The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) has been overcome with grief following the sudden death of its chief and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar in a tragic plane crash near Baramati on the morning of January 28, 2026. The shock of losing a towering political figure has visibly shaken party members, with many breaking down in emotional scenes as news of the accident spread.

Pawar was flying from Mumbai to Baramati when the private chartered aircraft he was aboard crashed while attempting to land at Baramati Airport. All five people on board — including Pawar, the two pilots, and his security personnel — died in the crash. Visuals from the site showed fire and smoke rising from the wreckage as emergency services rushed in, though no survivors were found.

As word of the tragedy

reached the NCP's party offices, party workers, leaders, and staff were seen struggling to come to terms with the news. Many were visibly distraught, trying to control their emotions while comforting one another. The atmosphere was one of deep shock and sorrow, reflecting both personal and political loss.

Senior party figures, including key MPs, spoke of being in shock and struggling to find words to express their grief. Members of Sharad Pawar's extended political family and loyalists were also seen gathering to mourn, many consoling one another as the enormity of the loss set in.

Condolences poured in from across the political spectrum as leaders expressed their sorrow and paid tribute to Pawar's long career. Several political figures travelled to Baramati or to Sharad Pawar's residence to offer support to the

grieving family and party members.

Ajit Pawar's death has sent shockwaves through Maharashtra's political landscape. Known for his decades-long influence and leadership — particularly after assuming control of NCP following a split with the party founder — Pawar was a central figure in state politics. His sudden passing not only leaves a leadership vacuum within his party but also has a profound emotional impact on those who worked closely with him.

The scenes of party members in mourning highlight the personal bonds and loyalty Pawar inspired among his colleagues and supporters. For many within the NCP, the loss of their leader is as much a personal heart-break as it is a political upheaval, underscoring his stature and the deep respect he commanded within the party.

India Emerges Strong in EU Trade Deal, Says U.S. Official



India has emerged as a key beneficiary in its recently finalized free trade agreement (FTA) with the European Union, marking a significant milestone after nearly two decades of negotiations. The pact, one of the largest trade deals in recent times, is designed to reduce tariffs, expand market access, and strengthen economic ties between India and Europe. It covers a broad range of goods, including textiles, pharmaceuticals, automobiles, and beverages, signalling potential growth opportunities for several Indian industries. Experts see this as a strategic win for New Delhi, especially given the current global trade landscape marked by shifting alliances and tensions with the United States.

The deal is expected to provide India with substantial advantages in the European market. According to trade analysts, Indian exporters could gain a competitive edge through reduced tariffs, simplified regulations, and smoother access to the EU, which is one of the largest consumer markets globally.

Sectors such as textiles, which form a substantial portion of India's export basket, are likely to benefit immediately. Similarly, pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, and automotive components may see improved demand and better pricing, enhancing overall export revenues. In comments reflecting U.S. perspectives on the agreement, U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer stated that India "comes out on top" in the deal, noting that New Delhi could experience a significant economic boost from the enhanced market access. He highlighted that the European Union's pursuit of alternative trading partners—partly due to U.S. tariffs and trade policies—made India an attractive partner for a comprehensive agreement. The deal's potential to increase economic flows and create employment opportunities, including possible mobility benefits for skilled workers, underscores its strategic significance for India. The agreement also comes against the backdrop of strained trade relations with the United States, including tariffs previously imposed on Indian goods. While some progress has been made to reduce trade frictions with the U.S., the EU deal offers India an opportunity to diversify its export markets and reduce dependence on any single partner. By strengthening ties with the European bloc, India can mitigate external risks and enhance its global trade resilience.

Overall, the India EU FTA represents both an economic and strategic milestone. It not only promises to boost exports and enhance competitiveness across key sectors but also positions India as a pivotal player in global trade. By securing favorable terms with the European Union, India is set to capitalize on new opportunities, strengthen its international trade footprint, and reduce reliance on markets where geopolitical or policy risks may constrain growth. The deal underscores India's growing influence in global commerce and its ability to negotiate terms that favor its long-term economic interests.

New Terror Nexus Emerging Between Lashkar e Taiba and Hamas



A senior commander linked to the Pakistan based militant group Lashkar e Taiba (LeT) has publicly acknowledged ties with Hamas, signalling a possible emerging terror alliance. The commander, Faisal Nadeem, stated that he met with top Hamas leaders in Doha, Qatar, in 2024, confirming direct contact between the two groups. Security analysts are closely monitoring this development due to its regional and global implications. According to Nadeem, the meeting involved discussions with Khaled Mashal, a senior Hamas leader, alongside Saifullah Kasuri, a Lashkar linked operative. Both Hamas and Lashkar are designated terrorist organisations by the United States and several other countries. Analysts view this admission as significant, highlighting the potential for deepening collaboration between extremist networks in South Asia and the Middle East. This revelation follows earlier reports of interaction between the groups. In January, a video surfaced showing

senior Hamas commander Naji Zaheer alongside a Lashkar leader at a public event in Gujranwala, Pakistan, hosted by the Pakistan Markazi Muslim League (PMML), widely seen as Lashkar's political front. Analysts interpret such public appearances as a sign of growing confidence and closer ties between the groups. **Concerns Over Tactical Collaboration** Security specialists warn that if these ties move beyond symbolic meetings, they could evolve into operational cooperation, potentially involving training, logistical support, propaganda exchange, mobilisation, and fundraising across regions. Such collaboration could make extremist networks more resilient and capable of coordinated activities across different theatres, including conflicts in the Middle East and South Asia. India and other regional actors view such coordination with alarm because it expands the threat landscape. Intelligence agencies are as-

sessing whether these contacts could translate into practical support mechanisms, which would impact national security and counter terrorism strategies. **Wider Security Implications** The potential nexus emerges at a time when global counter terrorism efforts are already stretched. Analysts warn that shared ideology and tactical cooperation between established terror groups can complicate tracking and disruption operations by international security agencies. The situation also raises concerns about terror financing and cross border cooperation, prompting debate on the need for stronger monitoring and international action. In summary, confirmation of links between a Lashkar associated commander and Hamas leadership, along with publicised joint appearances by senior figures, has intensified fears of a broader terror alliance, one that could pose heightened challenges for regional and global security.

North Korea to Reveal “Next Stage” Nuclear Plans, Kim Jong Un Announces

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has announced that his government will soon unveil a new phase of its nuclear weapons strategy at an upcoming Workers' Party congress, a key political event expected to outline Pyongyang's strategic priorities and military direction. This announcement follows a recent weapons test that the regime says demonstrates enhanced deterrent capabilities. Kim made the comments while observing a test firing of a large caliber multiple rocket launcher system, describing it as significant to strengthening the country's strategic deterrent. Photographs released by state media showed Kim, accompanied by senior officials and his daughter, watching the launch. The test involved four missiles, which North Korea claims hit targets over 350 kilometres away. The upcoming party congress — the first in about five years — is expected to clarify "next stage plans" for further bolstering North Korea's nuclear war deterrent, indicating a push to expand and modernise its nuclear and missile capabilities. The emphasis on nuclear force development is being positioned as a core policy of the ruling Workers' Party.



The regime portrays these moves as defensive, intended to deter perceived threats and military provocations. Kim stated the recent test results would cause "excruciating mental agony" to adversaries and serve as a serious strategic challenge to any force attempting confrontation with North Korea. State media did not provide detailed specifics of the planned nuclear expansion, but analysts believe Pyongyang may use the congress to announce ambitious upgrades — potentially including efforts to enhance missile accuracy, production, survivability of nuclear warheads, and possibly steps toward multiple warhead capabilities on strategic delivery systems.

The announcement comes amid a broader pattern of weapons tests, including ballistic missiles and other advanced delivery systems, signalling Pyongyang's intent to strengthen its defensive posture. Regional neighbours such as South Korea and Japan have condemned recent missile launches as violations of United Nations resolutions and a threat to stability.

These developments highlight North Korea's continued prioritisation of its nuclear and missile programs at a time when diplomatic engagement remains largely stalled. By focusing attention on its deterrent capabilities at a major political gathering, the regime aims to solidify internal support and reinforce its strategic position amid ongoing geopolitical tensions.

Taliban's New Criminal Code Legalises Slavery and Grants Immunity to Clerics



Afghanistan's Taliban authorities have introduced a controversial new Criminal Procedure Code that embeds class-based discrimination, legalises slavery-like concepts, and provides near-total immunity to religious leaders. The code, issued in early January, has been circulated to courts across the country, fundamentally altering the justice system under Taliban rule.

At the heart of the new legal framework is a stratified system that divides Afghan society into four hierarchical classes: religious scholars (mullahs), the elite, the middle class, and the lower class. Under this system, punishments for the same crime vary dramatically depending on a person's social category, rather than the severity of the offence. Clerics and religious figures at the top tier face only informal reprimand for wrongdoing, while individuals in lower strata risk imprisonment and corporal punishment for

identical actions. Critics argue this effectively places religious elites above the law. One of the most alarming aspects of the code is its repeated reference to individuals as "free" or "slave." By distinguishing between these categories in legal provisions, the code is seen as normalising slavery-like status, a practice prohibited under modern international law. Observers note that such classification contradicts basic principles of justice and equality before the law. The code also dismantles fundamental legal safeguards. It removes the right to legal defence, the right to remain silent, and the right to compensation for wrongful punishment, relying instead on confession and testimony for proving guilt. Judges are given broad discretion to impose corporal punishment, including flogging, and vaguely defined of-

fences could criminalise ordinary cultural or social behaviour. Human rights organisations describe the code as a legally sanctioned system of privilege that entrenches inequality and exposes marginalised groups to harsher treatment. Critics warn that it dramatically increases the risk of torture, forced confessions, and arbitrary punishment in a judicial environment already lacking oversight and accountability. The introduction of this code signals a deepening of the Taliban's approach to law and governance, reflecting a move away from universal legal norms toward a system that privileges clerical and social elites. It has sparked calls from international bodies and rights groups for suspension of the code's implementation and for diplomatic and legal interventions to address its human rights implications.

Russian Strikes in Ukraine Kill at Least 12, Target Passenger Train

Russian military forces carried out a series of overnight attacks across Ukraine, killing at least 12 civilians and hitting a passenger train in the north-eastern Kharkiv region. The strikes come as diplomatic efforts continue to end nearly four years of war, but fighting has intensified despite ongoing negotiations. In Kharkiv Oblast, a drone strike hit a carriage of a passenger train transporting nearly 200 people. At least five civilians were killed when the drone struck the train, igniting a fire in the carriage. Emergency services later extinguished the blaze. Ukrainian leaders condemned the attack as an unjustified assault on civilians. Alongside the train attack, Russian drone barages hit other parts of Ukraine. In the southern port city of Odesa, more than 50 drones struck overnight, killing three people and injuring many others while damaging

residential buildings and energy infrastructure. Among the injured were women and children, and several buildings—including homes, a church, a kindergarten, and schools—were left damaged. Ukrainian authorities have decried the attacks, saying they undermine peace efforts and strain diplomatic talks meant to end the conflict. Ukraine's president stressed that such strikes weaken international attempts to push for a ceasefire and urged stronger global pressure on Moscow. The strikes also damaged critical infrastructure. Energy facilities in the Odesa region were hit, leaving many residents without power amid harsh winter conditions. Russian forces continued to launch a high number of drones and missiles across the country, contributing to widespread disruptions in power, heat, and transportation services.



Additional casualties were reported in other regions: a married couple died in the Donetsk area, while individuals were killed in Zaporizhzhia and Kherson as a result of separate drone and shelling attacks. These continued assaults have compounded the human toll and infrastructure damage across Ukraine.

Despite ongoing U.S.-brokered peace talks that concluded with negotiators meeting recently in the United Arab Emirates, violence has persisted. Ukraine's leaders have announced that the next round of talks is expected soon, but critics warn that continued hostilities

may derail diplomatic momentum. The unfolding situation highlights the intense challenges Ukraine faces as it balances diplomatic engagement with persistent military pressure from Russian forces, particularly against civilian infrastructure and transport networks.

Gold & Silver ETF Surge: What Analysts Say About Shifting Money from Equities to Precious Metals

Gold and silver exchange traded funds (ETFs) have seen a sharp rally recently, with many hitting fresh highs and recording strong inflows as investors seek safe haven assets amid global uncertainty and market volatility. Both metals have attracted renewed interest, reflecting broader shifts in investor behavior and portfolio strategy.

The surge in precious metals prices — driven by geopolitical tensions, inflation concerns, and expectations around interest rates — has pushed many gold and silver ETFs higher, and total assets under management in these funds have crossed significant milestones, highlighting growing investor participation.

Why Precious Metals Are Gaining Attention

- Safe haven demand: Continued geopolitical tensions and currency volatility have made gold and silver attractive as defensive assets compared with riskier equities, especially during periods of uncertainty.
- Industrial demand (for silver): Silver benefits not only from safe haven appeal but also from industrial uses in sectors such as electronics, solar energy and electric vehicles, adding structural support for long term demand.
- ETFs ease access: These funds let investors gain exposure to precious metals without the hassles of physical storage, making them appealing for portfolio diversification.
- Analyst Views on Shifting from Equities to Metals
 - Diversification, not wholesale shifting: Many experts caution against completely selling equities to buy only gold and silver. Precious metals are often



recommended as hedges or portfolio diversifiers rather than primary drivers of long term growth.

- Timing risks: Buying heavily after a sharp rally can expose investors to short term volatility or price corrections. Rather than moving all money out of equities, analysts suggest strategic rebalancing and gradual allocation increases.
- Portfolio balance: A modest allocation (e.g., 5-10% in precious metals ETFs) within a diversified portfolio can provide downside protection during turbulent times while maintaining exposure to equities for growth.

Equities vs. Precious Metals Performance

Recent returns in gold and silver ETFs have outpaced many equity segments over certain pe-

riods, leading some investors to re-evaluate traditional asset mixes. However, this performance is tied closely to specific macroeconomic conditions and sentiment, and may not be sustained indefinitely.

Risk and Volatility Considerations

- Metals can be volatile: Silver, in particular, tends to have wider price swings than gold due to its smaller market and heavier industrial component.
- Short term drawdowns: ETFs can show exaggerated price moves when markets swing, which means that reactive selling or buying based on short term price action can backfire.

Investment Strategy Guidance

Rather than making large, tac-

tical shifts from equities to precious metals, many analysts recommend a disciplined approach focused on long term goals. Using precious metals as part of a broader diversification strategy — with measured allocations instead of replacement of equity exposure — helps manage risk while potentially benefiting from metals’ role as portfolio stabilisers.

In essence, while gold and silver ETFs are attracting interest and can serve as effective hedges, a complete exit from equities is generally not advised; balanced allocation and phased investing remain key principles for most long term investors.

If you want, I can summarize recommended allocation strategies or provide example ETF tickers and risk profiles.

Budget 2026 Could Influence Speed of RBI Rate Cuts

The upcoming Union Budget 2026 is being closely watched by economists and markets because it may impact the Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) future interest rate decisions. With inflation relatively under control and the central bank having already eased policy significantly over the past year, the fiscal stance adopted in the Budget could either support or slow the pace of further rate cuts.

Over the last year, the RBI has reduced the repo rate—the rate at which it lends to banks—by around 125 basis points. This shift from a restrictive to a more accommodative stance reflects easing price pressures and a desire to stimulate growth. However, monetary policy now depends on broader economic conditions, and a key factor in how quickly the RBI moves next will be the fiscal discipline signaled by the Budget.

Analysts argue that if the Budget maintains a credible fiscal-deficit path and keeps government borrowing manageable, it would reinforce the RBI’s ability to support growth with-



out triggering inflation or stress in bond markets. A balanced Budget that avoids large deficits and lays out a sustainable borrowing programme would give the central bank greater comfort to consider further rate reductions. Conversely, if fiscal slippage occurs or borrowing needs rise significantly, the RBI might adopt a more cautious approach, potentially delaying cuts to ensure price stability and market confidence.

Experts note that the RBI’s current stance, which is neutral with a dovish bias, suggests the central bank is keeping the door open for future cuts but will remain data-dependent, closely monitoring inflation and growth indicators. The Budget, therefore, acts as a fiscal anchor that could complement monetary easing by reinforcing confidence in macroeconomic stability.

Globally, major central banks,

such as the U.S. Federal Reserve, have also shifted toward easing in recent months, influencing market expectations about future policy direction. India, however, retains more room for rate cuts due to resilient growth and lower inflation. A disciplined fiscal framework in Budget 2026 could help translate that room into faster action.

Financial markets and banking stocks are highly sensitive to interest rate expectations. Faster rate cuts can reduce borrowing costs for consumers and businesses, stimulating credit growth and investment. Yet, any rapid easing must be balanced against the risks of inflationary pressure and capital market volatility.

In summary, while the RBI retains flexibility to adjust rates based on evolving conditions, the Union Budget 2026’s fiscal stance may play a pivotal role in determining the speed at which the central bank can cut rates further, making it a critical factor for markets and policymakers alike.

India EU Trade Deal Boosts Stocks Previously Hurt by U.S. Tariffs

Indian markets have rebounded, particularly in export-oriented stocks, following the finalization of the India-European Union free trade agreement (FTA). This move has revived investor optimism for companies that had faced pressure from U.S. tariffs over the past year.

Sectors such as textiles and export-focused manufacturing have been the biggest beneficiaries. These companies had struggled due to steep U.S. tariffs that affected competitiveness and weighed on profits. With the EU trade pact now in place, investors expect improved market access and tariff relief to drive higher demand and profitability.

The textile segment has seen particularly strong gains, as the EU is a key destination for Indian textile exports. Companies like KPR Mills and Welspun Living have benefited from expectations of tariff-free access, with stock prices rising significantly in response to the anticipated boost in exports.

Analysts highlight that the European market is more critical for certain Indian goods than the U.S., especially textiles and apparel. The U.S. tariffs had prompted buyers to shift orders to other countries, but the new



EU arrangement is expected to help India regain market share and expand exports.

Beyond textiles, the broader FTA offers tariff relief and market access for a wide range of Indian goods. Duties on most traded items are either eliminated or reduced, providing structural support for export sectors and helping offset the impact of previous U.S. tariffs.

The deal also reflects a strate-

gic shift in India’s trade policy, aimed at diversifying export destinations and reducing dependence on any single market. Strengthened ties with the European bloc are expected to create a more predictable trading environment, encourage investment, and support long-term growth opportunities.

However, some caution remains. While export-oriented companies have rallied, sectors

that could face increased competition from European imports, such as certain automotive segments, may experience pressure due to tariff reductions on EU-made goods.

Overall, the India EU trade deal has acted as a catalyst for renewed investor confidence, particularly in export-focused stocks, and provides a clearer path for growth in India’s export markets in the coming years.

Sensex Rallies Nearly 500 Points as Metal, Oil & Gas Stocks Power Market Higher



Indian equity markets closed firmly in the green, with benchmark indices posting strong gains as buying interest intensified across cyclical sectors. The BSE Sensex jumped nearly 487 points, while the NSE Nifty50 moved decisively above the 25,300 level, supported by strength in metal, oil & gas, and energy stocks.

The Sensex ended the session at around 82,345, marking a gain of about 0.6 percent, while the Nifty settled near 25,343, up roughly 0.66 percent. Market breadth remained positive throughout the day, with advancing stocks significantly outnumbering decliners, indicating broad-based participation in the rally.

A major driver of the market’s upward move was strong performance in commodity-linked sectors. Metal stocks gained traction amid optimism over global demand and stable commodity prices. Oil & gas counters also saw notable buying, aided by firm crude prices and expectations of improved earnings visibility. Heavyweight stocks such as ONGC, Coal India, Hindalco Industries and Bharat Electronics emerged as key contributors to the benchmark gains.

risk, higher-reward opportunities.

The rally was not limited to large-cap stocks alone. Broader markets outperformed, with midcap and smallcap indices ending the day with stronger percentage gains than frontline indices. This trend suggests growing confidence among investors and increased participation from retail and domestic institutional players.

Positive global cues further supported sentiment. Asian markets traded with a mixed to positive bias, while stability in global equities helped reassure investors. Domestically, expectations of steady macroeconomic conditions, resilient corporate earnings and supportive policy measures added to the upbeat mood.

Market participants also appeared to be positioning themselves ahead of upcoming economic data releases and policy-related developments, which could influence market direction in the near term. Analysts noted that the continued strength in cyclical stocks reflects confidence in India’s growth outlook, despite intermittent global uncertainties.

Looking ahead, experts cautioned that short-term volatility cannot be ruled out, especially after recent gains. However, sustained buying in metals, energy and banking stocks points to underlying strength in the market. As long as earnings momentum and macro indicators remain supportive, the overall market trend is expected to stay positive, with sector rotation continuing to shape near-term movements.

Investors Bet on Strong U.S. Economy Ahead of Mid Term Elections



Global investors are increasingly positioning themselves for a robust U.S. economic environment as the 2026 mid term elections approach. Strong growth data, fiscal stimulus measures, and expectations of supportive monetary policy have fueled optimism across financial markets, even as concerns linger about inflation, interest rates, and political influence on economic policy.

A key driver of this positive sentiment is the solid pace of economic expansion recorded in late 2025. The U.S. economy grew at an annualized rate well above trend in the third quarter, with forecasts suggesting even stronger performance in subsequent quarters. This has encouraged investors to bet on continued growth, particularly in sectors tied to technological innovation and productivity gains. The expansive economic momentum has pushed major U.S. stock indices to elevated levels, with broad participation across industries.

Fiscal policy has played a central role in shaping expectations. Tax cuts, deregulation efforts, and increased government spending are seen as stimulative forces that can sustain demand and corporate profitability, bolstering investor confidence. Many market participants also anticipate further stimulus measures ahead of the elections, aimed at reinforcing the perception of a “hot” economy and supporting incumbents politically.

Expectations regarding interest rate policy have also supported the bullish outlook. Investors foresee the Federal Reserve potentially easing monetary conditions later in the year to encour-

age growth. Lower interest rates could support equity valuations, encourage borrowing and investment, and reinforce the expansion narrative.

At the same time, rising inflation expectations are evident, and some strategists warn that maintaining the economy at high output levels could generate price pressures. Concerns about inflation, political influence on monetary policy, and large fiscal deficits have led some investors to approach long term government bonds and the dollar with caution.

Technological innovation, particularly in artificial intelligence and related sectors, has emerged as a structural catalyst for expansion. Increased investment in AI and productivity-enhancing technologies has contributed to stronger corporate earnings and elevated market valuations, reinforcing confidence that the U.S. economy can sustain above-trend growth into 2026.

Nevertheless, uncertainties remain. Political dynamics surrounding the mid term elections could affect policy direction, and questions about the sustainability of fiscal stimulus and monetary policy complicate the outlook. While many investors are embracing the current bullish economic sentiment, others caution that risks, including inflationary pressures and potential policy missteps, could temper future gains.

In summary, the combination of strong growth data, fiscal support, and expectations of monetary easing has fueled belief in a “hot” U.S. economy ahead of the mid term elections, influencing market behavior and strategic positioning globally.

“Discomfort Class”: Passenger’s Headrest Feet Spark Mid-Air Uproar



A mid-air conflict unfolded on a Qatar Airways flight from Doha to Moscow after a woman sparked chaos by resting her feet on the seat in front of her, creating an uncomfortable situation for fellow travellers and cabin crew.

The disturbance began shortly after take-off when a female passenger, believed to be Russian, placed her feet on the back of the economy-class seat ahead. What might have seemed like a minor breach of etiquette quickly escalated into a tense scene. The passenger in front — trying to work on her laptop — reclined her seat, which triggered a sharp reaction from the woman behind. Instead of lowering her feet, the woman began shaking the headrest with her feet and even clapped her shoes together right above the head of the annoyed passenger. This forced the person in front to lean forward uncomfortably just to continue using her laptop.

Other passengers and flight attendants repeatedly asked the woman to remove her feet from the seat-back, but she refused to comply. Those around her grew increasingly frustrated as the situation dragged on. In a video that later went viral, the woman at the centre of the incident is heard saying defiantly that it

was “freedom” and that others simply did not understand it. A nearby traveller joked sarcastically that they were now in “business class,” highlighting the clear breach of in-flight social norms. Another passenger remarked that such an incident “could only happen in Russia,” reflecting the disbelief of those witnessing the scene.

Some fellow Russian passengers reportedly complained about being in what they called “Discomfort Class,” mocking the experience they were forced to endure. One passenger observed that despite repeated persuasion, the woman remained stubborn and showed no willingness to move her feet. There was speculation that she might have been upset after being denied an upgrade and was protesting by acting as if she were in a more spacious class.

After several tense minutes and intervention by cabin crew — including a crew member crouching down to speak with her — the woman eventually lowered her legs, allowing normalcy to return on the flight. The bizarre episode adds to a growing list of unusual in-flight behaviour captured on video, highlighting how quickly tensions can flare when passengers disregard basic courtesy in confined spaces.

Udaipur Tailor’s Claim: Judi Dench Came Home for a Custom Jacket



An unusual claim by a tailor from Udaipur, Rajasthan, has drawn widespread attention online after he said that celebrated British actress Judi Dench once visited his home to have a custom jacket made during a film shoot in the city.

The tailor, who runs a fashion and tailoring business in Udaipur, shared his story while speaking to a foreign travel vlogger. According to him, Dench was in the city during the filming of The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel and was looking for a tailor who could replicate a jacket design she liked. After failing to find the right fit elsewhere, she was allegedly directed to him.

He claimed that instead of visiting his shop, the actress came to his home to get the jacket stitched. To support his account, he displayed an old, faded photograph which he said shows Dench inside his house. The image, though unclear, quickly became a point of discussion among viewers after the video was shared on social media.

In the video, the tailor appeared visibly proud and excited as he narrated the incident, recalling how surprised he was by the visit. He also mentioned that he met other cast members from the same film during that period, though he did not provide detailed accounts of those interactions. The vlogger listening to the story seemed intrigued by the claim, adding to the curiosity surrounding the video.

The story soon began circulating online, prompting mixed reactions from users. While some expressed amazement at the possibility of an international film star seeking local craftsmanship, others questioned the authenticity of the claim and the photograph. Many viewers, however, appreciated the charm of the story, calling it a reminder of the unexpected connections that can emerge when global film productions arrive in smaller cities.

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel was filmed in several parts of India and featured an ensemble cast of well-known British actors. Over the years, locals from filming locations have occasionally shared personal anecdotes about encounters with cast and crew, some of which later resurface online as viral stories.

Judi Dench is one of Britain’s most respected actors, known for her long career across theatre, television, and cinema. She gained worldwide recognition for her role as “M” in the James Bond films and has won multiple awards for her performances.

While there is no independent confirmation of the tailor’s claim, the photograph and his animated recollection have captured the imagination of social media users. Whether entirely accurate or simply a cherished memory, the story has added an off-beat touch to discussions about celebrity encounters and local craftsmanship in India.

Kindergarten Kids Adorn Police Dog With Star Stickers and Tiara, Photo Goes Viral



An adorable photo of a police dog covered in star stickers and wearing a tiny tiara has recently melted hearts online, capturing widespread attention for its cuteness and charm. The picture shows K9 Sergeant Blitz after a visit to a kindergarten, where children enthusiastically decorated him with stickers on his vest, legs, and even his ears, along with the glittery tiara on his head.

Blitz isn’t just any dog

— he is a trained police dog used to performing serious and demanding tasks such as tracking down suspects and detecting explosives. But during a special school visit, he faced a different kind of challenge: winning over a room full of excited young children.

According to the account shared online by a page dedicated to K-9 duty dogs, the moment Blitz stepped into the classroom, he was surrounded by tiny hands reaching out to him. Instead of standing tall and intimidating like a typical working dog might, Blitz calmly lowered himself to the floor, showing patience and ease as the children clustered around him.

What followed was an impromptu “makeover,” in which dozens of star stickers were carefully placed on different parts of Blitz’s uniform and body. One particularly en-

thusiastic child crowned him with a sparkly pink tiara, turning the usually battle-ready dog into a picture of gentle charm.

As the kindergarten visit came to a close, Blitz reportedly left the room looking every bit the proud recipient of his new decorations. With his head held high and tail wagging, he carried the stickers and tiara like badges of honour as he walked out — a moment that delighted many who

later saw the photo online.

The image, shared widely on social media by supporters of police dog units, quickly drew thousands of likes and hundreds of comments. Viewers reacted with humour and affection, with some imagining how amusing it would be to see Blitz return to duty with his tiara and stickers still on. Others simply praised the dog for his calm temperament and ability to connect with children so comfortably.

Many commenters said the photo offered a heartwarming contrast to Blitz’s usual role in law enforcement, showing a softer side of the disciplined training these working dogs undergo. Some joked about the unlikely combination of a trained police dog and kindergarten decorations, while others expressed admiration for both the children’s enthusiasm and Blitz’s composure.

The viral photo serves as a reminder of how animals — even those trained for serious work — can bring joy and laughter in unexpected ways when they interact with people, especially children.

Mumbai Taxi Driver Overcharges Passenger, Then Offers Advice on Avoiding It

A brief but unusual exchange between a taxi driver and a passenger in Mumbai has gone viral after the driver openly admitted to overcharging the fare — and then went on to offer advice on how the passenger could avoid such situations in the future.

The incident took place when a woman hired a taxi for a short journey from Crawford Market to Churchgate, a distance that typically takes only a few minutes. Instead of using the meter, the driver quoted a flat fare. After a short discussion, the passenger agreed to the amount and completed the ride without incident.

However, after reaching the destination and accepting payment, the driver surprised the passenger by pointing to the taxi meter. The displayed fare was significantly lower than the amount he had charged. He then candidly acknowledged that he had taken extra money and

explained that the passenger could have avoided the overcharge by insisting on travelling strictly by the meter.

The passenger later shared the experience on social media, describing it as both amusing and unexpected. While being overcharged is a concern many commuters face, the driver’s honesty after the fact — and his willingness to offer guidance — struck her as unusual. She described the encounter as a uniquely “Mumbai” moment, blending hustle with straightforwardness.

The post quickly gained traction online, prompting a flood of reactions. Many users found humour in the driver’s frankness, noting that while overcharging does occur, it is rare for someone to admit it so openly. Others pointed out that the incident served as a reminder for commuters to remain vigilant and insist on transparent pricing, especially when trav-



elling short distances.

Some commenters praised the driver for at least being upfront, while others argued that honesty after overcharging does not excuse the act itself. Still, most agreed that the interaction captured the everyday quirks of urban travel and the unexpected conversations

that often arise in city taxis.

The driver’s advice was simple: always ask for the meter to be used rather than agreeing to a fixed fare. He suggested that relying on the meter helps ensure fairness and avoids misunderstandings over pricing.

What began as a rou-

time taxi ride ultimately became a viral moment, resonating with many city commuters who have experienced similar situations. The incident has since sparked light-hearted discussion about honesty, street smarts, and the small but memorable encounters that make up daily life in Mumbai.

Late Starts and FIFA Breaks: Zepto Intern’s Video Divides the Internet

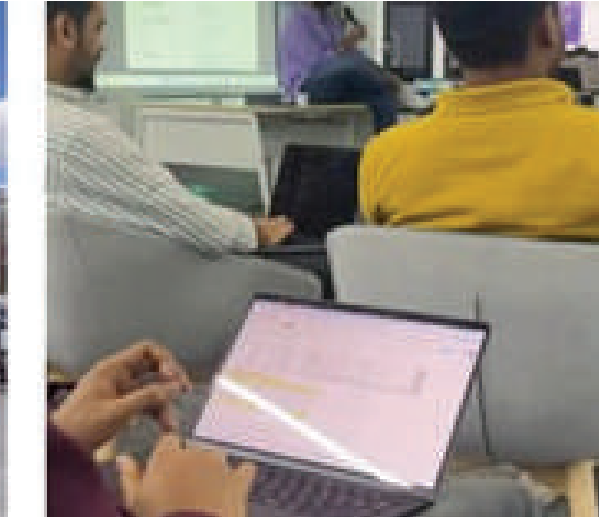


A short video showing a day in the life of an intern at quick-commerce company Zepto has taken social media by storm, sparking a wide-ranging discussion about startup culture and what work life looks like for young employees.

Shared by an intern on Instagram, the video presents a seemingly relaxed and glamorous version of working at Zepto. It begins with the intern logging in for work around midday, underscoring a delayed

start compared with traditional office hours. The clip opens with footage of a luxury car parked outside the office, helping set a polished and aspirational tone for what follows.

Throughout the video, the intern captures snippets of his day. Around midday he attends a meeting with a co-founder, suggesting that even as an intern he is part of conversations with senior leadership. Shortly after, he is shown visiting a Zepto store to “check a few



things,” implying some on-ground involvement beyond desk work.

As the day progresses, the video veers into more laid-back territory. At about 5 pm, the intern is shown playing FIFA with colleagues, illustrating a casual break during work hours. Later in the evening, the video highlights what is described humorously as an “international break,” again reinforcing a relaxed vibe. The intern wraps up his work around 8 pm and logs out, a sched-

ule that viewers saw as light compared to the long hours typically associated with startup jobs.

At the end of the clip, the intern mentions that Zepto is hiring, suggesting the video may also have served as a recruitment-style post. The casual nature of the day, combined with clips of meetings and perks, drew a range of reactions from people online.

Some social media users praised the video as an attractive sneak peek into

modern startup life, where flexibility, informal culture, and enjoyable breaks appear to balance work demands. Others criticised it as an overly idealised portrayal, questioning whether such a day accurately represents typical intern expectations or if it glosses over challenges and pressures that young professionals might face in fast-paced companies.

The clip has also added fuel to ongoing conversations about work culture in startups, especially around hours, expectations, and the balance between fun and responsibility. It comes amid broader discussions on how emerging companies define workplace norms and how young workers navigate roles that may differ significantly from traditional corporate structures.

Overall, the viral video has sparked curiosity and debate, offering a snapshot that many find intriguing — whether as a genuine depiction of startup life or a polished highlight reel created for social media.

Pakistan Cricket Legends Push Back Against Mohsin Naqvi’s T20 World Cup Pull Out Threat

A growing chorus of former Pakistani cricket greats and senior officials has voiced strong opposition to Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Mohsin Naqvi’s suggestion that Pakistan might withdraw from the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup 2026 — a stance that has stirred controversy at home and abroad as the tournament approaches. The global event is scheduled to begin on February 7, co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka, and Pakistan’s participation has been thrown into uncertainty amid a dispute over the exclusion of Bangladesh.

The controversy began after the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) refused to play its scheduled World Cup matches in India, citing security concerns. The International Cricket Council (ICC) subsequently replaced Bangladesh with Scotland in the tournament lineup. Naqvi, who also serves as Pakistan’s Interior Minister, framed Pakistan’s continued involvement as contingent on government advice and hinted that the team might pull out in solidarity with Bangladesh, labelling the ICC’s decision unfair and indicative of double standards.

However, several respected former players and administrators have publicly urged the PCB to rethink this extreme



course. Muhammad Hafeez, a former Test captain, stressed that the board should prioritise Pakistani cricket’s interests by sending the national team to the World Cup rather than sacrificing participation for a political stance. Former PCB Chairman Khalid Mahmood and former board secretary Arif Ali Abbasi echoed this sentiment, arguing that a boycott would damage relations with the ICC and member boards while offering little tan-

gible benefit. They also highlighted that Pakistan’s matches will largely be played in Sri Lanka, where there are no direct security concerns, making withdrawal appear strategically unsound.

Veteran batsmen Inzamam ul Haq and Muhammad Yousuf have urged careful consideration before any final decision, pointing out that the T20 World Cup presents a crucial platform for Pakistan’s players to compete at the highest level and build momentum. Another former



player, Haroon Rasheed, said that while Pakistan’s support for Bangladesh was commendable, the board must also safeguard the future of the nation’s cricket by ensuring its team competes.

Critics of Naqvi’s stance argue that a withdrawal could lead to damaging consequences for Pakistan cricket, including potential sanctions, loss of revenue, and long term isolation from elite competition. They also note that no other cricket board supported Bangladesh’s demand to move matches out of In-

dia, leaving Pakistan isolated in its position.

The final decision on Pakistan’s participation is expected to be taken later this week after Naqvi met with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to discuss the issue and was instructed to keep all options on the table. The outcome will be closely watched, as Pakistan’s participation — or withdrawal — would have major ramifications for the tournament’s commercial appeal, diplomatic sporting relations, and the future of cricket administration in the region.

Suryakumar Yadav Climbs to Seventh in Latest ICC T20I Rankings After Strong Run



India captain Suryakumar Yadav has jumped five places to seventh in the latest ICC Men’s T20I batting rankings, a major confidence boost for the right-handed batter and the Indian team as they prepare for the upcoming ICC Men’s T20 World Cup 2026.

His rise reflects a rich vein of form during India’s ongoing five-match T20I series against New Zealand, which India currently leads 3-0.

This ranking surge comes on the back of a productive run with the bat in the first three matches of

the series. Suryakumar’s scores of 32, 82 not out, and 57 not out have been key to India’s dominance, underlining his ability to anchor the innings while maintaining an aggressive strike rate in crucial phases of play. These performances have been instru-

mental in India’s victories and have boosted his rating points significantly.

His unbeaten 82 in the second T20I was particularly impactful, coming in a strong chase where India reached their target with more than 28 deliveries to spare. In the third T20I, his fluent 57 not out helped India complete an eight-wicket win and cement their unassailable 3-0 lead in the series. These innings not only contributed to team success but also dramatically improved Suryakumar’s individual standing in international rankings just days before the World Cup.

India’s top order has been in excellent form, with Abhishek Sharma continuing to hold the No. 1 position in the T20I batting rankings and Tilak Varma placed third, signalling depth and consistency in India’s batting lineup. Other Indian players have also seen movement in the rankings: Is-

han Kishan re-entered the batting rankings after an explosive 76 in the second T20I, while teammates like Shivam Dubey and Rinku Singh have also climbed higher slots.

The latest rankings provide a clear snapshot of India’s dominance in the shortest format ahead of the T20 World Cup. Not only has Suryakumar’s rise been a personal milestone after a lean patch, but it also highlights India’s current strength across multiple positions — valuable momentum with the global tournament just around the corner.

With the fourth T20I still to come and the World Cup looming, Suryakumar’s surge into the top 10 underscores his resurgence as a key contributor and leader in India’s lineup, offering both form and confidence as the team builds toward what promises to be a fiercely contested event.

Arijit Singh’s Retirement Announcement Sends MS Dhoni Trending on Social Media

The music and social media worlds collided this week as acclaimed Indian singer Arijit Singh’s sudden announcement of retirement from playback singing sparked a surprising trend online — former India and Chennai Super Kings (CSK) captain MS Dhoni began trending on X (formerly Twitter), albeit for an unexpected reason. Fans and netizens drew playful and emotional parallels between Singh’s departure from Bollywood music and Dhoni’s ongoing cricketing legacy, turning the cricket legend into a focal point of online chatter.

Arijit Singh, widely regarded as one of the most popular playback vocalists of his generation, shared that he will no longer take on new assignments as a playback singer. Posting a heartfelt message to his fans, he described his journey in film music as “wonderful” and expressed gratitude for the support he has enjoyed over the years. While he clarified that he isn’t quitting mu-

sic entirely, his decision to step back from Bollywood work — at the height of his career — left fans stunned and reflective.

Almost immediately after the announcement went public, social media users began reacting with a mix of nostalgia, humour, and admiration. One notable aspect of the reaction was how MS Dhoni’s name began trending alongside Arijit’s retirement news. Users joked that they hadn’t expected Arijit to “retire before Dhoni,” poking fun at the legendary cricketer’s famously long career in the Indian Premier League. Dhoni, 44, continues to play in the IPL, defying expectations about retirement for many seasons now, and this longevity became a playful benchmark against which fans measured Arijit’s exit from playback singing.

The trend was further fuelled by nostalgic moments shared online, including viral clips and photos capturing Arijit Singh’s affection for Dho-



ni. One such moment recalled from the IPL 2023 opening ceremony showed Arijit touching Dhoni’s feet in respect on stage — a gesture that became iconic and widely shared again in light of the singer’s retirement announcement. Fans used that shared memory to underscore the cultural connection between the worlds of cricket and music, celebrating

both icons in their respective fields.

While the initial shock around Arijit’s retirement dominated headlines, the reaction underscored how deeply both figures resonate with the public — in sports and entertainment alike. The online celebration, filled with humour and respect, highlighted how personalities from different domains can be-

come intertwined in the collective imagination, especially in moments of change or transition.

In short, what began as a major announcement in the music industry quickly became a social media phenomenon, with MS Dhoni trending as fans reflected on careers, legacies, and the unexpected intersections between cricket and cultural icons.

Novak Djokovic Reaches Australian Open 2026 Semis After Musetti Retires While Leading



Novak Djokovic advanced to the semi-finals of the Australian Open 2026 in dramatic fashion after his quarter-final opponent, Lorenzo Musetti, was forced to retire due to injury despite holding a two-set lead in their match at Melbourne Park. Djokovic’s progression keeps alive his bid for a record-breaking 25th Grand Slam title, but the manner of his victory — through an opponent’s withdrawal — has generated widespread attention across the tennis world.

Musetti, the fifth seed, began the match with an excellent display of aggressive yet composed tennis, taking the opening sets 6-4 and 6-3 while Djokovic struggled with errors and difficulty finding rhythm. The 23-year-old Italian appeared poised for a breakthrough performance — potentially his first hard-court Grand Slam semi-final — as he established clear control over the contest early on.

However, in the third set, Musetti began showing signs of physical distress, prompting a medical timeout for what was later identified as a thigh injury. Although he returned to the court and continued play, Musetti’s movement was visibly hampered. With Djokovic trailing 1-3 in the third set, Musetti ultimately concluded that he could not continue and opted to retire, end-

ing his remarkable run and unexpectedly handing Djokovic the victory.

Djokovic, 38, acknowledged the unusual and bittersweet nature of his advancement in his on-court interview. He expressed sympathy for Musetti, describing the young Italian as the better player on the day and saying he felt “extremely lucky” to have progressed into the last four. This marks Djokovic’s 13th semi-final appearance at the Australian Open, extending his own record for Grand Slam appearances in the penultimate round.

Until this match, Djokovic had not faced extended time on court in the week, having received a walkover in the fourth round when Jakub Menšík withdrew from their scheduled encounter. This fortunate sequence — back-to-back retirements — has sparked conversations among fans, pundits, and fellow players about the role of luck and fitness in deep tournament runs.

With Djokovic now set to face either Jannik Sinner or Ben Shelton in the semi-finals, attention will turn to whether the Serb can translate his survival into further success. His path to a potential 25th Grand Slam remains challenging — but still very much alive — despite the unusual circumstances of this quarter-final result.

Iga Swiatek Slams Australian Open Broadcasters, Says Players Feel Like “Animals in a Zoo”



Polish tennis star Iga Swiatek has publicly criticised the extensive behind-the-scenes coverage at the Australian Open 2026, suggesting that players are being treated like “animals in a zoo” due to the pervasive presence of cameras throughout the tournament. The comments came after Swiatek’s own quarter-final exit and follow similar remarks made by fellow players about the lack of privacy at the Grand Slam event.

Swiatek’s remarks were prompted in part by an incident involving American Coco Gauff, who was captured on camera smashing her racket in a backstage area following her quarter-final defeat. Gauff had tried to find a private spot to vent her frustrations, believing she was out of sight of cameras, only to have the footage broadcast globally. That incident sparked a broader discussion among players about how and when cameras should be used during tournaments.

After her own loss in the quarter-finals, Swiatek was asked about the constant presence of cameras and the limited off-court privacy for players. She responded with a pointed analogy, asking whether tennis professionals are there to play or to be observed like zoo animals, even in moments when they are off the court and out of the public spotlight. While she acknowledged her wording was an exaggeration, she underscored the need for

personal space where athletes can process emotions or prepare without an audience.

Swiatek also referenced her earlier appearance in a widely shared clip after she momentarily forgot her accreditation and was stopped by security — another example, she suggested, of how off-court moments can go viral, not always to the players’ benefit. She emphasised that while players expect and accept scrutiny during matches and official media interactions, there should be boundaries when it comes to capturing and broadcasting private or emotional moments.

Several other players have echoed these concerns. Amanda Anisimova acknowledged that areas outside main courts offer little privacy and said incidents like the Gauff footage can be tough for athletes because they did not choose to share those moments publicly. Jessica Pegula also supported the call for greater respect for player boundaries at the tournament.

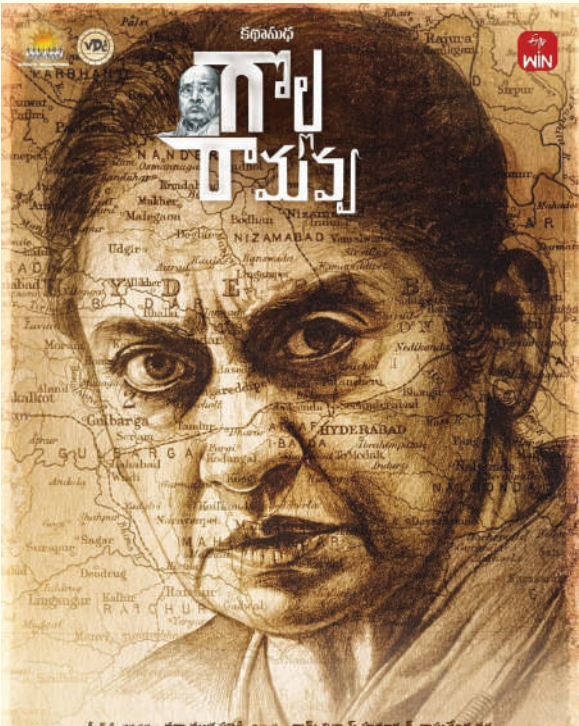
The debate highlights a growing tension in modern sport between fan engagement and player well-being. With behind-the-scenes content becoming increasingly popular, events like the Australian Open are grappling with how to balance broadcasters’ desire for access with athletes’ calls for respect and privacy in vulnerable off-court situations.

“Golla Ramavva” Wins Hearts on ETV Win

“Golla Ramavva,” a powerful and emotional-ly resonant cinematic ad-aptation of the Telanga-na Armed Struggle, is emerging as one of the most talked-about releas-es on the ETV Win plat-form. Directed by ac-claimed filmmaker Mullapudi Vara, the film is based on a literary work penned by former Prime Minister of India, late P. V. Narasimha Rao, and has been streaming on ETV Win since Janu-ary 25. Within days of its digital premiere, the film has received an extraor-dinary response from au-diences, winning praise for its gripping narrative and rooted storytelling.

Produced jointly by Ram Vishwas Hanurkar and Raghavendra Varma (Bujji) under the banners of Sucheta Dream Works Production and Varma Dream Creations, “Golla Ramavva” stands out for its authenticity, emotion-al depth, and strong per-formances. The film’s success marks another mile-stone for the mak-ers, who previously de-livered the well-received “Mouname Nee Bhasha” for ETV Win. However, trade circles and plat-form sources suggest that the response to “Gol-la Ramavva” has nearly doubled, surpassing ex-pectations and reinforc-ing the team’s creative credibility.

Veteran actress Talluri Rameshwari, fondly re-membered by audiences as the “Telugu Sita Malakshmi,” headlines the film in the titular role. Her nuanced and heartfelt performance



has been widely appreci-ated, with viewers ap-plauding her ability to bring dignity, strength, and emotional intensity to the character. The film also features Allu Gee-tha, Anvith, and Mani Manthena in pivotal roles, all of whom con-tribute meaningfully to the narrative.

Expressing his joy over the film’s warm recep-tion, director Mullapudi Vara thanked the produc-ers for their unwavering support and dedication to meaningful cinema. He also conveyed special gratitude to P. V. Prabha-kar Rao and Surabhi Va-nidevi, the son and daughter of late P. V. Nar-asimha Rao, for their en-couragement and blessings.

The technical and crea-

tive team has played a crucial role in elevating the film’s impact. Sai Madhukar’s music adds emotional gravitas, while Gangamoni Shek-har’s cinematography captures the rustic mil-lieu with authenticity. Editing by Raghavendra Varma ensures a tight narrative flow, and Bayyavarapu Ravi’s ad-aptation faithfully trans-lates the original work to screen. Azhar Shaikh, who served as Executive Producer and lyricist, also made a significant contribution to the pro-ject. With strong word-of-mouth and growing view-ership, “Golla Ramavva” is being hailed as a land-mark content success for ETV Win and a triumph for socially relevant storytelling.

“Shabara” Cast and Crew Celebrate Heartbeat of Shabara Event, Promise a Success Meet Soon



Hyderabad, Jan 28: The anticipation for Shabara, directed by Prem Chand Kilaru, is building as the makers hosted the Heartbeat of Shabara event, giving au-diences an immersive glimpse into the world of the film. Headlined by Dheekshithh Shetty and Kritika Singh, the movie is produced by Harshita Chadalavada, Durga Chunchu, and Ramadevi Kilara under the Vis-ramm Film Fraternity banner. Music is com-posed by Mithun Mukundan, while Ajay Abraham George handles cinematography.

Speaking at the event, lead actor Dheekshithh Shetty expressed his grati-tude and excitement. “Thanks to everyone who came for Shabara. The media gave great support to my previous film The Girlfriend, and I hope they extend the same to Shabara. Prem Chand has created an entire world in this film, set in the forest. A success meet for this film will definitely happen. I’ve done eight films so far, but for the first time, I trusted one person completely, and I’m happy I did this for Prem Chand. Mithun’s

music has worked magic. If you liked the Heartbeat of Shabara, please share and support it so it reach-es everyone,” he said.

Director Prem Chand Kilaru thanked the audi-ence for the positive re-sponse to the event and shared his personal jour-ney. “The shooting isn’t yet complete, but we’ll be with the audience soon. My father is more than God to me, and making this film in his memory has been an emotional ex-perience. Mithun’s music is excellent, and Ajay Abraham George’s cine-matography will be re-cognized widely. Doing what you love is life, and this film reflects that,” he added.

Kritika Singh also praised the director, say-ing, “Without Prem Chand, Shabara would not have turned out this great. Heartbeat of Shabara is just the begin-ning, and we’ll bring more content for the au-dience soon.”

Other cast members, including Misha Narang, Rajeev Pillai, and Bhush-an Kalyan, highlighted the uniqueness of the story and the two-year-long dedication of the team. Production design-

er Shiva Kamesh, cos-tume designer Sumaya, and music director Mith-un Mukundan also shared their excitement and confidence that Shabara will resonate strongly with audiences. Set in a forested world with a story revolving around Nidhi, Shabara promises visually stun-ning locations, tight ac-tion sequences, and a compelling narrative. The full cast includes Dheekshithh Shetty, Mi-sha Narang, Mohan Bha-gat, Rajeev Govind Pil-lai, Kritika Singh Yadav, Bhushan Kalyan, Aarush, Pramodini, Shubham Tomar, Sri-kanth, Anirudh Arun, and others.

The technical team fea-tures Prem Chand Kilaru as writer and director, Mithun Mukundan on music, Ajay Abraham George on cinematogra-phy, and Bhuvanesh Manivannan as editor, supported by a talented ensemble handling ac-tion, production design, sound, choreography, and more. Fans can ex-pect a success meet soon, ahead of the film’s re-lease, as the team contin-ues promotional activities.

Gandhi Talks Trailer Unveiled: When Silence Speaks Louder Than Words

Zee Studios, in association with Kyoorius Digital Pvt Ltd, Pinmoon Meta Studios and Movie Mill Entertainment, has unveiled the trailer of Gandhi Talks, a film that boldly rein-forces the makers’ belief in cou-rageous, content-led cinema. Breaking away from conven-tion, the trailer arrives not with loud dialogues or dramatic monologues, but with silence—measured, evocative, and deeply affecting.

In an industry often domi-nated by spectacle and noise, Gan-dhi Talks stands apart with re-straint and confidence. The trailer communicates its intent through striking visuals, charged pauses, and raw emo-tional undercurrents. With no spoken dialogue, it trusts the audience to engage instinctively, allowing imagery and atmos-phere to do the storytelling. The result is a powerful cinematic statement that proves silence can be as compelling as words, if not more.

The film boasts a stellar en-semble cast featuring Vijay Sethupathi, Arvind Swami, Adi-ti Rao Hydari, and Siddharth Jadhav. The trailer offers brief yet impactful glimpses of per-formances built on nuance and internal conflict. Expressions, body language, and screen pres-ence take centre stage, under-scoring the actors’ ability to convey layered emotions with-out uttering a single line.

Sharing his experience, Vijay



Sethupathi said the film chal-lenged him in a unique way. “Gandhi Talks pushed me to ex-press emotion without words. It’s rare to find a film where si-lence becomes the strongest dia-logue,” he remarked. Arvind Swami echoed the sentiment, stating, “In a world drowning in noise, Gandhi Talks reminds us that silence can still shake a conscience. This is a film where words step aside and truth walks in quietly. Rahman’s ge-nius music becomes its language.”

Aditi Rao Hydari highlighted the film’s emotional core, not-

ing that what moved her most was how emotions are felt rather than spoken. “The film al-lows vulnerability and silence to coexist beautifully,” she said. For Siddharth Jadhav, the pro-ject reaffirmed cinema’s univer-sal language. “Being part of a film that communicates so pow-erfully without dialogue was truly special. It reminds you why cinema speaks beyond words,” he shared.

Directed by Kishore Pan-durang Belekhar, Gandhi Talks is further elevated by the evoca-tive music and background score of A R Rahman. His com-

positions breathe life into the silences, becoming the emoti-onal voice of the narrative and adding depth to its unspoken moments.

In a distinctive promotional move, the makers released the trailer three days ahead of its musical culmination—an A R Rahman concert—marking a rare convergence of cinema and live music. With Gandhi Talks, Zee Studios once again reaf-firms its commitment to films that challenge norms and push the boundaries of Indian cine-ma. The film is set to release in theatres on January 30, 2026.

“Sri Chidambaram Garu” Trailer Out Ahead of February 6 Global Release



The trailer of the much-anticipated Telugu film Sri Chidambaram Garu has been officially unveiled by acclaimed di-rector Bucchibabu Sana. Produced under the Sri

Chakras Entertainment banner, the film is sched-uled for a worldwide re-lease on February 6. The trailer release event saw Sana congratulating the film’s cast and crew, add-

ing to the excitement sur-rounding the upcoming romantic drama.

Directed by Vinay Ratnam and presented by Chinta Varalakshmi, the film is produced by Chin-ta Vaneesh Reddy and Chinta Gopal Krishna Reddy, with Chinta Ra-jasekhar Reddy serving as co-producer. The lead roles are essayed by Vam-si Tummala and Sandhya Vasishta, supported by Gopinath, Shivakumar Matta, Kalpalatha Garla-pati, Arun Kumar, Tulasi, Nayudu Moram, and Shankar Rao.

The trailer positions Sri Chidambaram Garu as an emotional, feel-good love story with a deeper, inspirational message. According to the producers, the film is aimed at today’s youth, particularly those facing personal challenges. “Many young people take extreme steps over minor setbacks. This film deliv-ers a message that your flaws can become your strength and inspires viewers to overcome ad-

versity,” they said. The story is described as fresh, matured, and so-cially relevant, making it both entertaining and meaningful.

The music of the film is composed by veteran M.M. Keeravani, with the recently released song Velledaarilo already re-ceiving widespread ap-preciation. The technical team has contributed sig-nificantly to the film’s immersive storytelling. Cinematography by Ak-shay Ram Podishetty cap-tures the narrative’s nat-uralistic tone, while editing by Anwar Ali en-sures a smooth and en-gaging flow. Vishnu Vard-han Pulla’s art direction enhances the visual ap-peal, and the overall pro-duction design, cos-tumes, and choreography complement the emotion-al depth of the story.

Director Vinay Ratnam, who also wrote the script, expressed his ex-citement about the trail-er’s response. “Sri Chid-ambaram Garu is a story that touches hearts. Each

scene is crafted to feel natural and relatable. The trailer gives just a glimpse of the emotion and essence of the film,” he said.

With its blend of ro-mance, emotional depth, and an inspirational nar-rative, Sri Chidambaram Garu aims to resonate strongly with Telugu au-diences. The global re-lease on February 6 is ex-pected to offer a cinematic experience that balances entertainment with a so-cially relevant message, making it a must-watch for viewers of all ages.

Technical Credits:

Director & Writer: Vi-nay Ratnam | Producers: Chinta Vaneesh Reddy, Chinta Gopal Krishna Reddy | Co-Producer: Chinta Rajasekhar Reddy | DOP: Akshay Ram Pod-ishetty | Editor: Anwar Ali | Music: M.M. Keera-vani | Art Director: Vish-nu Vardhan Pulla | Ex-ecutive Producers: Shake Rajak, T. Karthik Reddy | Line Producer: Akhilesh Relangi | PROs: Eluru Sheenu, Maduri Madhu.

“Hey Bhagavan” Teaser Out Ahead of February 20 Global Release

The much-anticipated teaser of Hey Bhagavan, starring hero Suhas, has been officially released, marking the first look at what promises to be a complete entertainer. The film, directed by Gopi Acharya and pro-duced by B. Narendra Reddy under Trishul Vi-sionary Studios, is set for a worldwide theatrical release on February 20.

After delivering hits like Little Hearts, Raju Weds Rambai, and Isha, the successful duo Bun-ny Vaas and Vamsi Nan-dipati return with this full-length entertainer, presented under Nandi-pati Entertainments and Bunny Vaas Works. The teaser launch generated an enthusiastic response from audiences, further elevating the excitement for the film’s release.

Hey Bhagavan fea-tures Suhas in a role that is reportedly different from his previous pro-jects, offering a complete entertainment package.

The film also stars Shi-vani Nagaram, known for Little Hearts, as the heroine, with senior ac-tor Nareesh and anchor-turned-actor Sravanthi Chokkarapu in key roles. Supporting actors in-clude Vennela Kishore, Sudarshan, Annapur-namma, and Ajay Ghosh. Speaking at the teaser launch event, Suhas said, “I received numerous messages after the teaser release. This role is very different from my earlier films. It’s a pure enter-tainer with strong con-tent, and I am confident it will be one of the best films of my career. Working with Vamsi Nandipati and Bunny Vaas gave the project strong momentum, and producer Narendra Reddy ensured there were no compromises.”

Producer B. Narendra Reddy, making his debut, expressed gratitude to the team and said, “This is a significant project for me. The team worked

hard, and I am confident audiences will support this film.” Vamsi Nandi-pati added that the pro-ject had strong potential and praised the quick turnaround from shoot-ing to post-production. He hinted at a business-related element teased in the trailer and praised Suhas and Shi-vani Nagaram for their performances.

Shivani Nagaram de-scribed the film as a “full-power entertainer” and highlighted the fun-filled shooting atmos-phere. Director Gopi Acharya lauded the cast and crew, saying the film would deliver both laughter and strong content. Sravanthi Chokkarapu expressed excitement about her silver screen debut and confidence in the film’s success.

The film’s technical team includes Mahi Reddy as cinematographer and Vivek Sagar as mu-sic director. With its



blend of comedy, emo-tion, and action, Hey Bhagavan is shaping up to be a highly entertain-

ing cinematic experi-ence, promising to draw audiences to theatres on its February 20 release.