



BUZZ POINTS

Hyderabad Observes Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti with Tributes at Babu Ghat



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TRUE POINT

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SIT Issues Fresh Notice to KCR in Phone-Tapping Probe

Hyderabad, January 30, 2026 (TPN Bureau)

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) has issued a fresh notice to K. Chandrashekhar Rao (KCR), president of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) and former Chief Minister of Telangana, in connection with the ongoing phone-tapping investigation. The notice directs KCR to appear at his residence in Nandi Nagar, Hyderabad, for questioning, marking a significant development in one of the state's most high-profile probes.

The SIT has indicated that the examination is necessary to review critical electronic records and physical evidence linked to the alleged illegal surveillance carried out during the previous BRS government. Earlier, several senior BRS leaders, including K.T. Rama Rao and T. Harish Rao, as well as former MP Joginapally Santosh Kumar, were summoned and questioned. The scope of the investigation has steadily expanded, encompassing top political figures, bureaucrats, and others believed to have been affected by or associated with the alleged phone-tapping activities.

The case alleges that private phone communications of various individuals, including politicians and bureau-



crats, were tapped without lawful authorization during KCR's tenure. Investigators have reportedly relied on forensic analyses of intercepted communications, electronic devices, and testimonial evidence from multiple sources. SIT officials maintain that all procedures are being carried out under strict legal protocols, emphasizing the need for compliance from all summoned parties.

BRS leaders have strongly criticized the latest notice to KCR, claiming that it is politically motivated and aimed at destabilizing the party ahead of the 2026 municipal elections. Party representatives argue that the current government is misusing investigative agencies to target sen-

ior leaders and create a climate of intimidation. Public statements and protests condemning the SIT's actions have emerged in several districts, reflecting the heightened political sensitivity of the matter.

On the other hand, the ruling party defends the investigation as transparent, lawful, and impartial. They insist that summoning individuals with relevant knowledge is a routine aspect of due process and necessary to establish the facts of the case. Officials have also reassured the public that the investigation is focused on accountability and that political considerations will not influence its course. Legal experts and political observers note that KCR's

forthcoming examination could significantly impact both the progress of the SIT investigation and the political environment in Telangana. As the state gears up for municipal elections, the probe is closely watched by political parties, media, and civil society, underscoring the high stakes involved. The SIT's persistent scrutiny signals the seriousness with which authorities are pursuing allegations of unlawful surveillance, even as it intensifies the political discourse across the state.

This summons reiterates the ongoing tension between law enforcement and political leadership, highlighting the intersection of legal accountability and electoral politics in Telangana.



CM Revanth Reddy Completes Executive Program at Harvard Kennedy School

HYDERABAD January 30 (TPN Bureau):

Chief Minister of Telangana, Sri A. Revanth Reddy, along with a cohort of 62 students, successfully completed the executive education program at the prestigious Harvard Kennedy School. The program, titled "Leadership in the 21st Century," focused on modern governance, strategic decision-making, and public leadership in complex environments.

The intensive course ran daily from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM, exposing participants to rigorous academic discussions, case studies, and interactive workshops. Despite the harsh sub-zero temperatures ranging from -15°C to -24°C, the students engaged actively with global leaders, policymakers, and Harvard faculty, gaining insights into innovative governance practices and leadership challenges of the modern era.

Upon successful completion, the faculty presented certificates to all participants, marking the culmination of the program. Chief Minister Re-



vanth Reddy expressed his gratitude to the faculty and organizers, highlighting the value of global perspectives in shaping effective state governance.

The training is expected to strengthen administrative leadership in Telangana and contribute to evidence-based, forward-looking policies in the state. This international exposure is also aimed at equipping leaders with tools to address emerging challenges in areas such as urban development, public welfare, and sustainable governance.

The Chief Minister's participation in such high-level leadership programs underscores Telangana's commitment to global best practices in governance and the development of a cadre of well-informed, strate-

gically-minded policymakers for the state's future. The program also provided opportunities for networking with international leaders, sharing best practices, and gaining insights into innovative solutions for pressing social and economic issues. By integrating these lessons into state administration, Telangana aims to further enhance its governance models and public service delivery mechanisms. With the completion of this program, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and the participants return to Telangana equipped with advanced knowledge and leadership strategies, ready to implement initiatives that could significantly impact the state's development trajectory.

British Deputy High Commissioner Visits Medaram Sammakka-Sarakka Temple



TPN Bureau | Medaram, January 30, 2026:

The British Deputy High Commissioner, Mr. Gareth Van Oven, visited the iconic Medaram Sammakka-Sarakka Temple during the ongoing Maha Jataru, observing the grandeur of one of India's largest tribal festivals. His visit included participation in the Tulabharam ceremony, where he offered prayers and contributed moku (offerings) to the deities, following the traditional rituals performed by devotees.

Dressed in traditional handloom attire, the Deputy High Commissioner impressed the local com-

munity with his respect for indigenous customs and culture. He expressed admiration for the vibrant tribal heritage and the religious significance of the festival. During his tour, Minister S. Seethakka and District Collector T.S. Divakar briefed him on the newly constructed temple gaddes (platforms) and the extensive arrangements made for the comfort and safety of the millions of devotees attending the festival. They highlighted the importance of preserving tribal traditions while providing modern amenities, ensuring a seamless and spiritually enriching experience for all visitors.

Mr. Van Oven closely observed the festival's scale and organization, taking a

keen interest in the historical and cultural significance of the tribal customs celebrated at Medaram. He was particularly fascinated by the integration of traditional practices with modern facilities designed to manage the massive inflow of devotees. The British diplomat appreciated the efforts of the Telangana government in maintaining the sanctity and grandeur of the Maha Jataru while implementing measures for crowd management, sanitation, and safety. He commended the coordination between local authorities, temple management, and volunteers in ensuring that the festival could be celebrated efficiently and peacefully. His visit re-

inforced the global recognition of Medaram as a site of cultural and religious importance, highlighting the rich tribal heritage of Telangana. The dignitary's engagement with the rituals and interactions with officials underscored the festival's unique blend of devotion, tradition, and community participation. The Medaram Maha Jataru continues to draw attention from national and international dignitaries, emphasizing its significance as both a spiritual and cultural landmark, while showcasing Telangana's commitment to preserving indigenous traditions and facilitating a safe and organized pilgrimage for millions of devotees.

Telangana to Develop Youth as Globally Competitive Workforce: Minister Sridhar Babu

TPN Bureau | January 30:

Telangana is steadily positioning itself as a hub for globally competitive talent, with a strong focus on preparing its youth to meet international standards of employability, innovation, and adaptability, said Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Minister for IT and Industries. He made these remarks at the Future of Intelligent and Evolved Strategies in Talent Acquisition (Fiesta) 2026 conference held at HITEC City on Friday, which brought together industry leaders, policymakers, and education experts.

Speaking at the event, Minister Sridhar Babu emphasized the government's commitment to skilling, reskilling, and upskilling young people to enhance their productivity and equip them to adapt to rapidly evolving job markets. He noted that in the coming years, skills rather than capital will determine the trajectory of economic growth, under-

scoring the need for both students and professionals to continuously upgrade their abilities. "Sustained excellence and long-term growth are achievable only when institutions and individuals embrace lifelong learning," he said.

Referring to the latest Union Economic Survey, the Minister highlighted India's projected growth rate of 7% as encouraging. However, he cautioned that financial allocations alone are not sufficient to sustain momentum. Strengthening institutional capacity, governance systems, and organisational efficiency is equally critical for the state to maintain a competitive edge.

Minister Sridhar Babu also underlined the strategic importance of artificial intelligence and digital innovation in Telangana's growth. He said organisations must integrate AI not as an auxiliary tool but as a core element of structural transformation. Failure to do so, he warned, could lead to significant setbacks in productivity and



competitiveness.

Telangana is being developed as both a job-creating state and a strategic partner for global industries. Key institutions like the AI University, Skill University, AIKAM, School of Life Sciences, and Young India International Schools are central to this vision, providing high-quality education and skill development programs that prepare youth to compete at a global level. These initiatives aim to create a workforce capable of meeting the demands of advanced industries and driving long-term economic growth.

The conference saw participation from HR leaders and experts from national

and international technology companies, including Social Talent founder Johnny Campbell, Carolan Global Solutions MD Pawan Sachdeva, CrowdStrike VP Rajesh Menon, and actor-author Mandira Bedi, alongside members of the Fiesta 2026 organising committee.

Minister Sridhar Babu concluded by calling on all stakeholders—government, industry, and academia—to collaborate in building adaptable, skilled, and forward-looking talent, emphasizing that Telangana's youth must be equipped to contribute meaningfully to India's economic growth while thriving in a globalised workforce.

Telangana TET 2026 Answer Key Released

TPN Bureau | January 30:

The Department of School Education, Telangana, has released the provisional answer key and response sheets for the Telangana Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) 2026, providing a key milestone for thousands of candidates who appeared for the

exam earlier this month. The provisional key allows candidates to check their answers and estimate their potential scores ahead of the final results.

The TET 2026 was conducted from January 3 to January 20, with Paper I for aspirants aiming to teach Classes 1 to 5 and Paper II for candidates targeting Classes 6 to 8. A

large number of candidates appeared in both papers, reflecting continued interest in teaching careers across government and aided schools in the state. Candidates can now download the provisional answer key along with their individual response sheets from the official TET portal using their login credentials, includ-

ing hall ticket number and date of birth. These documents provide transparency in the evaluation process and help aspirants identify how they performed in each section of the exam. The Department has also opened an objection window for candidates who wish to challenge any discrepancies in the provisional key.

Uttam Kumar Reddy Blasts BRS for Historic Water Betrayal

Hyderabad, January 30, 2026 | TPN Bureau
 Telangana Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy launched a scathing attack on the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) on Friday, accusing the party of historically betraying Telangana's water rights and undermining farmers' interests. Speaking at a virtual press conference from his Huzurnagar constituency, Reddy strongly rejected BRS claims that the current Congress government had compromised the state's entitlements in inter-state Krishna and Godavari river water discussions. Reddy described the

BRS allegations as baseless propaganda, accusing the previous BRS regime under former Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Rao and ex-Irrigation Minister T. Harish Rao of a "historic betrayal" of Telangana farmers. He highlighted that the BRS had accepted an inequitable 299 TMC ft share of Krishna waters under a 66:34 split of 811 TMC ft after state bifurcation, calling the agreement a shameful legacy orchestrated in Union Jal Shakti Ministry meetings. Reddy also cited wastage of nearly Rs 1.8 lakh crore on incomplete irrigation projects, including the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift



Irrigation Scheme and Sitarama projects, which delivered negligible new ayacut.

Turning to the Godavari, Reddy criticised the catastrophic failure of the Medigadda barrage under the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme,

which the National Dam Safety Authority's 2025 report termed the worst man-made disaster in India's history. Over five

years, only 165 TMC ft of water was effectively used, with massive volumes lost to release and evaporation, leaving just 65-70 TMC ft available for irrigation.

Reddy assured that the Congress government, in office since December 7, 2023, would not yield even a single drop of Telangana's rightful water share. He stressed that the state is vigorously pursuing its entitlements through tribunals, courts, and official negotiations, demanding approximately 70 per cent of Krishna waters, proportional to Telangana's 68 per cent catchment area. Addressing Andhra Pradesh's Polavaram-

Nallamala Sagar project, Reddy reiterated strong opposition, noting that diverting 200 TMC ft of Godavari floodwaters to Krishna basin areas violates the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 and tribunal awards. Telangana officials secured confirmation from the Central Water Commission (CWC) that no approvals exist, and the Ministry of Environment and Forests has already rejected Andhra's diversion proposals.

Reddy contrasted BRS's failures with the Congress government's achievements, highlighting that in just the past two years, Telangana has utilised more Krishna

and Godavari water than in the previous decade, achieving record irrigation and becoming India's top rice-producing state, surpassing the undivided Andhra Pradesh and 29 other states.

He also defended the appointment of government advisor Adityanath Das, citing his expertise from the undivided Andhra era, while dismissing BRS criticism as political posturing.

The Minister concluded that Telangana's water rights will be defended resolutely, warning that the Congress government will leave no room for exploitation by Andhra Pradesh or political adversaries.

Deadline for Filing Nominations for Telangana Municipal Elections Ends

Hyderabad, January 31, 2026 | TPN Bureau
 The deadline for filing nominations for the upcoming Telangana Municipal Elections 2026 came to a close on Saturday, marking the end of the formal nomination process for candidates contesting in municipal corporations and municipalities across the state. With the final day's rush now over, election authorities have begun scrutinising the nomination papers to ensure compliance with all statutory requirements.

across Telangana. With nominations now complete, officials will proceed with the scrutiny of papers, scheduled to ensure that all candidates meet eligibility criteria under the State Municipal Election rules. Any discrepancies or omissions in documentation may lead to objections or rejection, and candidates will have an opportunity to address such issues within the prescribed timeframe.

Following scrutiny, a withdrawal period will be available for candidates who may choose to step back from the contest. This process is an ordinary part of election procedures and allows aspirants to reconsider their participation before finalising the list of contestants for the ballot. The forthcoming municipal elections are scheduled in a single phase later this month. As part of election preparations, the Model Code of Conduct came into force with the announce-

ment of the election schedule, regulating political activity, government communication, and administrative decisions throughout the election period. Political parties, independent candidates, and campaigning teams are now expected to focus on voter outreach, manifesto communication, and constituency engagement as they prepare for the polling date. Urban



local body polls in Telangana are seen as a crucial democratic exercise, determining leadership and development priorities in municipalities and municipal corporations responsible for essential civic services like sanitation, water supply, urban planning, and local infrastructure. Election authorities have appealed to all candidates and political entities to comply with

electoral laws and guidelines, ensuring peaceful and fair contests. Voters across the state are expected to engage actively in the democratic process, exercising their franchise when polling takes place. With nomination filings concluded, attention now firmly shifts to campaigning, voter education, and finalising electoral preparations ahead of the municipal polls.

RTC Top Official Inspects Bus Facilities for Medaram Jatara

Hyderabad, January 30, 2026 | TPN Bureau
 With the Medaram Sammakka-Sarakka Maha Jatara underway, the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) has stepped up efforts to ensure smooth and safe travel for devotees.

On Thursday, TSRTC Vice-Chairman and Managing Director Y. Nagi Reddy personally inspected bus facilities along key routes from Uppal to Medaram, reviewing arrangements and interacting with pilgrims using the services. During the inspection, Nagi Reddy focused on safety measures for children travelling to the jatara. He reviewed procedures for attaching identification tags to children at specially set-up security centres at the Uppal bus stop and the Hanamkonda bus stand. In a hands-on gesture, he personally helped tag some children, emphasising the importance of these precautions to prevent kids from getting separated from their families during

the busy festival.

He also assessed queues and passenger facilities at the Hanamkonda bus stand and spoke directly with commuters to gather feedback on the transport services provided by TSRTC. Many pilgrims expressed satisfaction with the arrangements, praising the comfort and organisation of bus travel to the festival site. TSRTC officials were instructed to ensure devotees experience no difficulties during their journey, given the large influx of visitors expected. Officials accompanying Nagi Reddy included Karimnagar Zone Executive Director Sri Solomon and Warangal Regional Manager Vijaya Bhanu, along with other senior TSRTC personnel overseeing transport operations for the event. Their presence highlighted the coordinated effort between management and ground staff to maintain smooth transport logistics throughout the jatara period.

The Medaram Jatara, a major tribal festival, draws devotees from across Telangana and neighbouring states, making efficient transport planning a critical component of the event. In anticipation of high demand, TSRTC has deployed extensive bus services from multiple locations, ensuring connectivity and convenience for pilgrims travelling to the remote festival site. The inspection and engagement with passengers reflect TSRTC's commitment to service quality and safety, particularly during large-scale religious events like the Medaram Jatara, where efficient transport is crucial for facilitating a peaceful and fulfilling experience for devotees.

This proactive approach by TSRTC aims to minimise inconveniences, safeguard children, and provide comfortable travel, reinforcing the government's focus on efficient public transport during significant cultural gatherings.

Central Water Ministry Holds Meeting on River Water Disputes Between Telangana and Andhra



Hyderabad, January 30, 2026 | TPN Bureau
 A high-level meeting was held on Thursday in New Delhi by the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti to address ongoing river water disputes between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, focusing on the Krishna and Godavari rivers. The meeting marked the first session of a central committee formed specifically to examine technical and policy issues related to inter-state water sharing and management. The committee comprises senior officials and technical experts from both states, as well as representatives from the Krishna River Management Board, Godavari River Management

Board, and the National Water Development Agency. Its primary objective is to evaluate water allocation issues and propose equitable solutions to ensure fair utilisation of shared river resources while complying with existing tribunal and legal frameworks.

During the deliberations, both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh presented their positions on key disputes. Telangana officials emphasised unresolved water allocations, historical entitlements, and proper implementation of tribunal awards. Andhra Pradesh, however, raised objections regarding certain agenda items, particularly proposals related to the Polavaram and

Nallamala Sagar projects, seeking to include broader project-related discussions in the meeting. These differing perspectives highlighted the complexities involved in balancing historical entitlements with ongoing irrigation and flood management needs.

The meeting, which lasted for nearly two hours, concluded without a consensus on all issues. Telangana reiterated that discussions should prioritise historical allocations, legal entitlements, and verified technical data, while Andhra Pradesh urged consideration of contemporary irrigation projects and water infrastructure plans. Both sides agreed, however, that further technical analysis and evidence-based dialogue would be required to reach a practical resolution.

Officials stressed that the central committee is expected to hold follow-up sessions to continue its technical review and ensure cooperative, fact-based discussions. The committee's work is designed to address disputes systematically, reduce political friction, and focus on fair and transparent water shar-

ing, monitoring, and utilisation.

This initiative reflects the central government's commitment to resolving inter-state water disputes through structured dialogue and expert consultation. By creating a neutral platform for both states, the Ministry of Jal Shakti aims to facilitate long-term solutions that protect the interests of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, while promoting sustainable management of shared river resources.

The formation of this committee follows consultations involving the Chief Ministers of both states and underscores the importance of cooperative federalism in addressing inter-state water issues. Officials highlighted that successful outcomes from the committee could set a precedent for managing other river disputes across the country, balancing technical precision with equitable resource distribution.

This structured approach seeks to ensure that both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh can utilise their rightful shares of river water efficiently, supporting agricultural, industrial, and domestic

Wings India 2026 Show Draws Crowds on Third Day at Begumpet

Hyderabad, January 30, 2026 | TPN Bureau
 The Wings India 2026 civil aviation exhibition continued to captivate visitors on its third day at Begumpet Airport in Hyderabad, drawing large crowds eager to witness one of Asia's premier aviation events. The exhibition, part of a four-day program, has transformed the historic Begumpet venue into a vibrant showcase of aircraft displays, aerobatic performances, and industry exhibits. The event has attracted aviation enthusiasts, families, and professionals alike, all keen to explore the latest in civil and military aviation technology. Visitors on Friday enjoyed a variety of attractions, including static aircraft displays and aerial demonstrations. Spectators were

treated to precision flying performances that showcased both the technical skill of pilots and the advanced capabilities of modern aircraft. The interactive exhibits allowed attendees to engage with exhibitors and gain insights into innovations driving the global aerospace sector.

The event highlights Hyderabad's growing role in the aviation industry while providing an opportunity for the public to experience firsthand the cutting-edge technologies shaping air travel and defense. Aerobatic teams performed breathtaking maneuvers above the airport grounds, drawing applause and admiration from the crowds and adding an exciting visual element to the exhibition.

Organized as part of a biennial showcase,



Wings India 2026 features a mix of aircraft manufacturers, airline representatives, defense teams, and aviation professionals. This blend of participants creates a dynamic environment where both industry delegates and the public can explore emerging trends, share knowledge, and celebrate innovation in aviation.

In addition to displays and performances, the exhibition includes educational sessions and interactive experiences designed to inspire young people to pursue careers

in aerospace and related fields. The program emphasizes not only the spectacle of flight but also the importance of skills, technology, and innovation in the industry.

With one day remaining, anticipation is high for additional displays, workshops, and aerial shows. Wings India 2026 continues to be a major highlight on Hyderabad's event calendar, combining industry engagement with public participation and reinforcing the city's status as a key hub for civil and defense aviation in the region.



Harish Rao Accuses Congress Government of Betraying Telangana's Water Rights

Hyderabad, January 30, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister and senior BRS leader T. Harish Rao launched a sharp attack on the Congress-led Telangana government during an emergency media conference held at Telangana Bhavan on Thursday, alleging a "grave betrayal" of the state's water interests. He said the press meet was necessitated by what he described as an alarming and deliberate attempt to compromise Telangana's rightful share of Godavari river waters.

Harish Rao asserted that for the BRS, Telangana's interests are paramount, above political considerations. Quoting poet Kaloji, he remarked that history was once again witnessing injustice against Telangana, this time through water-related decisions being taken in New Delhi. He warned that if the alleged agreements went through, the day would be remembered as a "black day" in Telangana's water history.

The former minister accused the Revanth



Reddy government of systematically facilitating Andhra Pradesh's projects, particularly the Nallamala Sagar and Banakacherla link projects, which he claimed would divert nearly 200 TMC of Telangana's Godavari waters. He alleged that while publicly claiming opposition, the state government was covertly cooperating with Andhra Pradesh by signing agreements, forming committees, and participating in meetings without secur-

ing firm assurances.

Harish Rao questioned why Telangana officials were attending a crucial irrigation meeting in Delhi without guarantees that the DPR process for Nallamala Sagar would be halted. He also criticized the decision to depote officials who, in the past, had opposed key Telangana projects like Kaleshwaram and Mission Bhagiratha, calling it a "water betrayal."

Highlighting the contrast with the previous

BRS regime, Harish Rao said former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao had secured approvals for 400 TMC of Godavari waters and obtained clearances for seven major projects by submitting multiple DPRs. In contrast, he alleged that the present government had failed to submit even a single DPR in two years and had instead withdrawn pending proposals.

He reiterated that under BRS rule, Telangana achieved unprecedented irrigation expansion,

converting over 2.2 crore acres into irrigated land through projects like Kaleshwaram and Mission Kakatiya, benefiting nearly 32 lakh acres in total. He said these achievements were acknowledged even in official economic surveys.

Harish Rao demanded that the Telangana government immediately boycott the Delhi meeting, make public the conditions it had placed before the Centre, and clarify whether Andhra Pradesh had given any binding assurances. He warned that the BRS would not remain silent and would take the issue to the people, launching a fresh movement to protect Telangana's water rights.

Accusing Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of prioritising political alliances over state interests, Harish Rao concluded that Telangana society would never forgive such actions and reaffirmed that the BRS would continue its fight to safeguard the state's natural resources.

SingireddyNiranjanReddyWarnsCongressGovernment Against 'Betrayal' of Telangana Interests

Hyderabad, January 30, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister and senior BRS leader Singireddy Niranjan Reddy on Friday issued a stern warning to the Congress-led Telangana government, alleging that it was compromising the state's irrigation rights and regional interests to serve political and personal agendas. He cautioned that any attempt to betray Telangana, particularly the Palamuru region, would invite strong resistance from the people.

Speaking to the media, Niranjan Reddy said the patience of Telangana's citizens was being severely tested by the present Congress government. He alleged that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, driven by narrow interests, was mortgaging Telangana's hard-earned rights. "If Telangana is betrayed, we will bury those responsible politically. If Palamuru is deceived, we will see their end," he warned.

The former minister accused the Congress government of effectively issuing a "death warrant" to

Palamuru and Telangana in the name of projects such as Banakacherla and Nallamala Sagar. He alleged that these initiatives were structured to benefit Andhra Pradesh at the cost of Telangana's irrigation security and water entitlements. "Do not cheat Telangana for the sake of Andhra Pradesh's interests," he asserted.

Niranjan Reddy further alleged that the Congress government was deliberately cooperating with Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's administration as part of a planned strategy. He questioned the credibility of entrusting Telangana's interests to officials who, according to him, had spent nearly a decade working to advance Andhra Pradesh's priorities. "Claiming that such officers will now protect Telangana's interests is nothing but farcical," he said.

He made it clear that even the slightest negligence by the Congress government on issues related to Palamuru or Telangana's irrigation rights would not be tolerat-

ed. Recalling the struggles that led to the formation of Telangana and the securing of water allocations, he said the people were fully aware of any attempt to dilute those achievements.

Issuing a strong warning, Niranjan Reddy said that continued apathy or complicity by the Congress government on irrigation and river water sharing issues would inevitably trigger public resistance. "If the Congress government shows any laxity on Telangana's irrigation interests, a revolt is inevitable," he cautioned.

Reiterating the BRS party's stand, Niranjan Reddy said it would stand firmly with the people of Telangana and Palamuru and would not allow any government to trade away the state's rights for political convenience. He urged the Congress leadership to immediately correct its course, act responsibly, and safeguard Telangana's interests, warning that failure to do so would result in a decisive response from the people.

Telangana Police and IAS Associations Condemn BRS MLA's Remarks



Hyderabad, January 30, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana Police Officers' Association and the IAS Officers' Association have strongly

condemned controversial remarks made by BRS MLA P. Kaushik Reddy against the Karimnagar Police Commissioner, expressing

serious concern over the tone and content of his comments. The associations demanded that the MLA publicly retract his statements and apologise to the Commissioner and all police personnel affected by his remarks.

The controversy erupted when the MLA, while travelling to the Sammakka-Saralamma Jatara in Veenavanka mandal, Karimnagar district, was stopped by police to prevent overcrowding and ensure law and order at the festival site. A heated confrontation ensued, leading to verbal exchanges between Kaushik Reddy, his supporters, and police officers. During the altercation, the MLA made remarks that were interpreted as disparaging and referencing the religion of the Police Commissioner, who was not present at the scene, according to the

associations.

In their statements, both the Police Officers' Association and the IAS Officers' Association criticised the remarks as inappropriate and damaging to the professional autonomy and dignity of civil servants. They emphasised that bringing religion into discussions about law enforcement actions undermines the secular ethos and morale of officers who are carrying out their duties impartially under court directions and established protocols.

The associations urged responsible conduct from elected representatives, underscoring that public officials must respect institutions and uphold the rule of law, especially during politically sensitive periods such as the current election season. They stressed that criticism must be grounded

in facts and communicated respectfully, without targeting individuals or institutions on personal or communal grounds.

In response to the backlash, MLA Kaushik Reddy issued a statement acknowledging that his words were made in frustration and stress, asserting that they were not intended to offend. He expressed respect for police and administrative officials and offered an apology if his comments had hurt anyone's sentiments.

The incident has sparked wider discussions across political and institutional circles in Telangana about the appropriate boundaries of criticism by lawmakers and the importance of maintaining mutual respect between elected representatives and public servants.



Eatala Rajender Rallies Support for BJP Ahead of Municipal Polls

Hyderabad, January 30, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Malkajgiri Member of Parliament Eatala Rajender appealed for strong voter support for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the upcoming municipal elections during a nomination rally in Aliyabad on Thursday, sharply criticising both the Congress and the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) for what he described as failures in governance and development. Addressing a large crowd, Eatala Rajender accused the state government of leaving Telangana financially strained and unable to fulfil essential welfare commitments such as pension payments and unemployment benefits. He claimed that neither the Congress nor the BRS had honoured their promises to the people and argued that only the BJP could deliver effective governance and genuine development across urban local bodies.

Eatala highlighted

Aliyabad as a long standing BJP stronghold with a history of electing party representatives. He reminded voters of his personal connection to the area, noting that the constituency had delivered a record majority for the BJP in earlier elections, signalling deep-rooted local support for the party. He praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, crediting it with enhancing India's global stature and enabling the delivery of key welfare schemes, including free rice distribution, to millions nationwide. The MP also criticised the state government's inability to secure development resources independently. He pointed out that major infrastructure projects in Hyderabad, such as new flyovers and modernised railway stations, were realised only through central government funding rather than state initiatives. According to Eatala, this highlighted the inad-

equacy of state leadership in attracting investment and driving urban growth without central support.

In addition to broader governance issues, Eatala took aim at the state's land policy, alleging that it facilitated land grabs by mafias at the expense of poor farmers. He claimed BJP leaders had stood up for marginalised groups to prevent illegal demolitions and urged voters to reject the influence of money and liquor in the electoral process. He called for a decisive mandate in favour of the BJP's lotus symbol, promising development that the people of Aliyabad could take pride in. Eatala's rally reflects the BJP's strategy to assert itself as a credible alternative to both the ruling Congress and the BRS in the municipal elections, seeking to capitalise on local dissatisfaction and emphasise central support for urban development.

Telangana Speaker Begins Inquiry into Disqualification Petitions Against MLA Danam Nagender



Hyderabad, January 30, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana Assembly Speaker, Gaddam Prasad Kumar, on Friday commenced formal proceedings into disqualification petitions filed against Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender, who is facing allegations of political defection. The petitions, submitted by BRS leader Padi Kaushik Reddy and BJP floor leader Alleti Maheshwar Reddy, claim

that Nagender, elected as a BRS candidate in 2023, has shifted allegiance by participating in Congress events, which they argue violates the anti defection provisions under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution.

During the initial proceedings, the Speaker began recording evidence and heard preliminary arguments from both sides. The petitioners highlighted Nagender's electoral history,

stressing that his public association with Congress, including attending party meetings and engaging in political activities, amounts to a de facto change in party membership. They argued that allowing such actions without consequences would undermine the anti defection framework designed to maintain legislative stability and party discipline.

Nagender's legal team, however, contended that no formal resignation from the BRS has been submitted and that merely attending Congress events does not legally constitute defection. The counsel stressed that the MLA continues to uphold his responsibilities in the Assembly and that political engagement does not automatically equate to a change in party affiliation.

The inquiry has drawn attention due to its broader political implications. Khairatabad is a high-profile constituency, and the Speaker's decision could influence party dynamics and morale ahead of forthcoming municipal and Assembly elections. Political analysts note that previous disqualification petitions in Telangana have often been dismissed due to insufficient or inconclusive evidence, but the current case is being treated with particular seriousness given the visibility of the allegations and the involvement of multiple parties.

The Speaker has announced that both petitioners and the MLA will be allowed to present detailed submissions and evidence over the next few hearings before a decision is taken. The process empha-

sizes the importance of anti-defection laws in preserving the integrity of legislative proceedings and maintaining trust in democratic institutions.

As proceedings continue, the case remains under close observation by political parties, media, and constituents, highlighting ongoing scrutiny of MLA loyalties in Telangana. Observers believe that the outcome will set a significant precedent regarding how public participation in rival party activities is treated under existing laws and could have long-term implications for political alignments in the state.

This inquiry underscores the delicate balance between individual political freedom and institutional accountability, reflecting the evolving dynamics of Telangana politics.



Hyderabad Observes Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti with Tributes at Bapu Ghat

Hyderabad, January 30, 2026 | TPN Bureau

In a solemn ceremony marking the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, several political and civic leaders paid their respects at Bapu Ghat's Langer House in Hyderabad. The event drew prominent dignitaries including Governor Jishnu Dev Varma, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, PCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud, Minister Ponnampallabharathi, senior Congress leader V.H., MLA Eerlapalli Shankar, MLC Addanki Dayakar, and BC Commission Chairman Niranjan, among other key political figures.

The ceremony began with leaders participating in multi-faith

prayers, reflecting Gandhi's vision of communal harmony and unity. The leaders collectively offered prayers for peace, social justice, and the continued development of the nation, emphasizing the enduring relevance of Gandhi's principles in today's society.

Following the prayers, the dignitaries approached the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Bapu Ghat, where they garlanded the statue and paid floral tributes. This gesture symbolized respect for Gandhi's lifelong dedication to truth, non-violence, and selfless service to the nation. The leaders also used the occasion to highlight the importance of upholding democratic values and

ethical governance, ideals that Gandhi championed throughout his life.

Governor Jishnu Dev Varma emphasized that Gandhi's teachings of non-violence and tolerance remain a guiding force for leaders and citizens alike. Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka echoed these sentiments, stressing that the principles of truth, equality, and social justice are crucial for fostering harmony in modern India. PCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud remarked that observing Gandhi Jayanti serves as a reminder of the responsibilities that every citizen bears towards building an inclusive and progressive society.

Minister Ponnampallabharathi and senior leaders underlined Gandhi's enduring influence on India's freedom struggle and contemporary governance. They urged the public, especially young citizens, to draw inspiration from Gandhi's simplicity, commitment to social welfare, and vision of a self-reliant nation.

The event concluded with the leaders observing a moment of silence in honor of the Father of the Nation, reaffirming their pledge to continue working towards the welfare of all communities. Citizens visiting Bapu Ghat joined in the solemn observance, making the ceremony a demonstration of collective respect for Gandhi's legacy.



The Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti commemoration at Bapu Ghat not

only celebrated the iconic leader's life but also reinforced his time-

less message of peace, tolerance, and service to humanity, resonating

with leaders and citizens across Hyderabad.

TPCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud Pays Tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on His Death Anniversary



Hyderabad, January 30, 2026 | TPN Bureau

On the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary, TPCC President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud paid solemn tribute to the Father of the Nation at Gandhi Bhavan by garlanding his portrait. The ceremony was attended by senior leaders including Harker Venugopal and Hanumanth Rao, among others, who collectively remembered and honored Gandhi's lifelong service to the nation.

Speaking at the event, the leaders reflected on Gandhi's enduring values of non-violence, truth, and equality, emphasizing that these principles remain deeply relevant in contemporary society. They highlighted Gandhi's vision of a just and har-

monious nation, noting that his ideals provide guidance not only for political leaders but also for every citizen striving to build a fair and inclusive society.

Mahesh Kumar Goud underlined that translating Gandhi's teachings into action is a responsibility for all political activists. He stressed that the true tribute to Gandhi is not only in commemorating his life but also in actively promoting his values in social, political, and community spheres. The leaders urged the public to embody Gandhi's principles in their daily lives, fostering unity, justice, and ethical conduct in every facet of society.

The event at Gandhi Bhavan served as a reminder of the Mahatma's immense contri-

butions to India's freedom struggle and the moral foundations he laid for the nation. By emphasizing the importance of non-violence and equality, the speakers called upon citizens to uphold the ideals of truth and social harmony, ensuring that Gandhi's legacy continues to inspire generations to come.

This tribute reinforced the ongoing relevance of Gandhi's teachings, encouraging leaders and citizens alike to reflect on their responsibilities toward society. Honoring Gandhi's vision, the attendees noted, requires commitment to ethical action, public service, and fostering equality, thus keeping alive the spirit of the Father of the Nation.

BKR Trust Takes Initiative to Address Government School Infrastructure Issues

The BKR Trust has proactively addressed critical infrastructure issues faced by students in Bahadurpalli Government Schools, taking immediate steps to improve learning conditions. On the occasion of Republic Day, the Trust's leadership, along with Congress youth leader Bongunuri Kishore Reddy, visited the 294 Division Bahadurpalli District Parishad Government School under the Duddigul Circle to assess the challenges firsthand.

During the visit, the school's principal highlighted pressing problems, particularly the school playground, which had become full

of potholes and stagnant water, making it unsafe and unusable for students. Responding promptly, Kishore Reddy arranged for 40 truckloads of soil and coordinated with JCB operators to level the playground, making it ready for student use. This quick action reflected the Trust's commitment to providing a safe and conducive learning environment. Speaking at the event, Kishore Reddy emphasized that ensuring essential infrastructure for students in government schools is a responsibility that must be taken seriously. He assured teachers and students that the Trust

would continue to support improvements in toilets, drinking water, and other essential facilities, ensuring that government schools provide an environment conducive to learning and holistic development. The initiative also highlighted the importance of local engagement in addressing school challenges. Teachers were encouraged to communicate infrastructure needs, while students were made aware of the collective efforts to improve their school facilities. The hands-on approach not only provided immediate solutions but also reinforced.

US Consulate and World Trade Center Host Major US India TRUST Conference in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, January 30, 2026 | TPN Bureau

A high level conference aimed at advancing US-India strategic technology cooperation was held in Hyderabad on Thursday, bringing together senior officials, industry leaders, academics, and policymakers to deepen collaboration under the US India TRUST initiative. The event was jointly organized by the US Consulate General in Hyderabad and the World Trade Center, Shamshabad, and focused on strengthening partnerships in artificial intelligence (AI) and cybersecurity, two areas central to future technological leadership and economic competitiveness.

The conference, titled "Leveraging US-India TRUST: Industry-Academia Partnerships in AI & Cybersecurity," highlighted the strategic framework launched in February 2025 by US and Indian leadership to promote cooperation in

critical and emerging technologies. Participants discussed ways to build resilient supply chains, enhance AI infrastructure, and foster innovation ecosystems that support secure technology development and shared economic growth.

Addressing the gathering, US Consul General Laura Williams emphasized that the TRUST initiative represents a results oriented partnership designed to protect innovation, strengthen technological ecosystems, and create new opportunities for joint research and commercial collaboration. She noted that secure, outcome driven cooperation in AI and cybersecurity is vital to national security and long term competitiveness for both countries.

The event featured thematic sessions on key dimensions of technology collaboration, including linking policy initiatives to practical



applications in AI and cyber threat response, exploring models for academic research partnerships, and outlining roadmaps for workforce development and shared standards for safe technology deployment. Experts stressed that building a pipeline of skilled talent and aligning industry and academic efforts are crucial for harnessing the full potential of advanced

technologies. Officials also highlighted opportunities for deeper India-US university and industry collaborations, noting that such partnerships can help students and researchers gain global exposure while accelerating innovation. The focus on skills development and joint research was seen as an important step toward realizing the TRUST initia-

tive's goals of growth, security, and mutual benefit.

The Hyderabad conference underscored the strength of US-India bilateral relations in science and technology cooperation and demonstrated concrete progress in translating high level commitments into actionable partnerships that benefit both nations' innovation landscapes.

Two-Minute Silence on Busy Roads Pays Tribute to Mahatma Gandhi

Quthbullapur, January 30, 2026 | TPN Bureau

In a remarkable display of respect, residents and authorities in the Suraram area observed a two-minute silence on Thursday morning to commemorate the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. From 11:00 AM to 11:02 AM, traffic at Suraram Junction and Gajularam Junction came to a standstill as drivers and pedestrians voluntarily paused to pay homage to the Father of the Nation.

The event was coordinated by Gudemetla and Suraram police, with the traffic police team ensuring order during the short but symbolic observance. Despite the usual congestion at these busy junctions, the silence was maintained in an orderly manner, highlighting the cooperation of both authorities and the public.

Police officials explained that the two-minute pause was intended to honor Gandhi's sacrifices and his unwavering commitment to peace, non-violence, and freedom



for India. They also reminded citizens of the continuing relevance of Gandhi's principles in today's society, emphasizing that small acts of respect can convey powerful messages of unity and civic responsibility. Participants, including police personnel, local residents, and commuters, joined in the tribute with solemnity. Vehicles were stopped safely, and drivers voluntarily stepped out or remained in their cars as the brief

silence was observed. Officials praised the public for actively participating and maintaining decorum, making the program a successful demonstration of collective civic awareness.

The event also served as a reminder of the importance of Gandhi's values—truth, non-violence, and social harmony—in contemporary life. The police highlighted that such initiatives not only commem-

orate historical leaders but also inspire citizens to uphold ethical standards and contribute positively to society.

Suraram CI, Gudemetla Traffic CI, and SI officers, along with supporting police staff, coordinated the program meticulously, ensuring that the two-minute tribute passed without incident. The collaboration between authorities and the public showcased a community united in respect

and remembrance, demonstrating how civic participation can honor the legacy of national icons while maintaining public order.

The two-minute silence, brief yet impactful, reinforced the timeless message of peaceful observance and reflection, reminding everyone that even amidst daily hustle and traffic chaos, citizens can pause to honor the values that shaped the nation.

Maktal Pays Tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on His Death Anniversary

30-01-2026, Maktal | TPN Bureau

On the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary, State Minister for Sports, Industrial Development, and Animal Husbandry, Vakiti Srihari, paid a heartfelt tribute at the Maktal Camp Office, where he garlanded a portrait of the Father of the Nation and offered his respects. The ceremony drew attention to Gandhi's enduring legacy and his principles of truth, non-violence, and social justice, which continue to inspire millions across India.

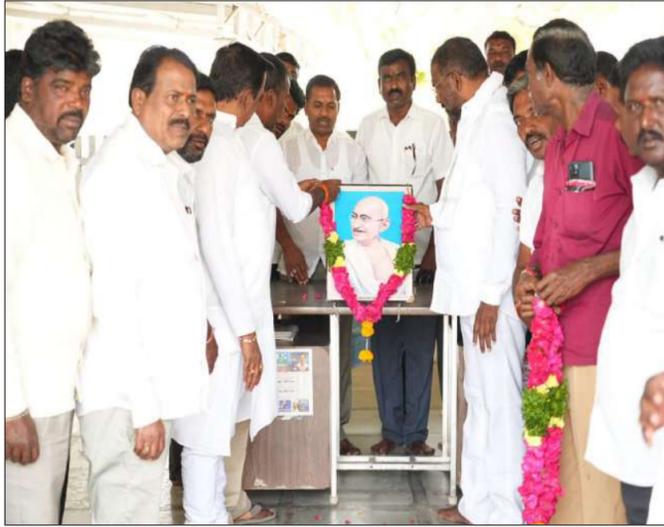
Minister Srihari highlighted Gandhi's unparalleled role in India's freedom struggle, praising

his use of ahimsa (non-violence) and satyam (truth) as weapons to challenge the oppressive British colonial regime. He emphasized that Gandhi's approach was revolutionary not only because it achieved independence without armed conflict but also because it aimed to transform society morally and spiritually. The minister remarked that Gandhi's steadfast commitment to justice, equality, and social harmony set the foundation for a modern India rooted in ethical governance and compassion.

Speaking at the ceremony, Srihari elaborated on Gandhi's vision of an India free from caste

and religious discrimination. He underscored that the Mahatma's dream was a nation where citizens coexist with mutual respect, inclusivity, and equal opportunity. He stated that Gandhi's teachings are especially relevant for today's generation, as they encourage moral courage, community service, and active participation in nation-building. The minister expressed that the true tribute to Gandhi lies in following the path of peace and non-violence in both personal and public life.

The ceremony also highlighted the significance of imparting Gandhi's ideals to the youth.



Minister Srihari urged young citizens to imbibe the values of truthfulness, selflessness, and integrity, emphasizing that these principles are essential for cultivating responsible and conscientious citizens. He called on people to translate Gandhi's ethical vision into practical action by promoting harmony, addressing social inequalities, and contributing positively to their communities.

Minister Srihari reflected on Gandhi's efforts in fostering unity and moral leadership, stating that his life remains a beacon of inspiration for political leaders, social activists, and ordinary citizens alike.

He reminded attendees that honoring Gandhi's legacy requires more than commemorative events; it demands active adherence to the principles he championed—justice, equality, peace, and selfless service.

The tribute at Maktal reinforced the enduring relevance of Gandhi's philosophy, urging citizens to walk the path of righteousness and continue his mission of creating a just and equitable society. By observing his ideals in everyday life, individuals contribute not only to personal growth but also to the progress and moral upliftment of the nation as a whole.

Free Breakfast for Government School Students and Education Reforms in Telangana

Mogilgidda, January 30, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka highlighted the state government's plans to introduce free breakfast for students in government schools during a public meeting held to mark the 150th anniversary of Mogilgidda Government High School in Ranga Reddy district. He explained that the breakfast initiative has already been piloted in Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's constituency, and if financial resources allow, it will be implemented across all government schools. The scheme aims to ensure that children in their formative years receive proper nutrition, supporting their physical and mental development.

The Deputy CM emphasized that a Common School System is vital for fostering social unity. Studying together from an early age promotes equality, builds

camaraderie, and instills values that transcend caste, religion, or economic background. In alignment with this vision, the government is constructing Young India Integrated Residential Schools, each on 25 acres with an investment of 200 crore, across 100 constituencies, totaling 20,000 crore, to nurture world-class human resources.

He underlined the importance of quality education and healthcare for state development, noting that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy recently sanctioned 10 crore for Mogilgidda School's development, which is now progressing rapidly. The Deputy CM also spoke about upgrading ITIs with modern machinery, industry-relevant curricula, and partnerships with industrialists, transforming them into Advanced Technology Centres to enhance employability.

Highlighting women



empowerment initiatives, he said the government had successfully distributed 26,000 crore in interest-free loans to women's self-help groups, surpassing the initial promise of 20,000 crore, enabling entrepreneurship and economic independence.

Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka paid tribute to Burgula Ramakrishna Rao, Hy-



derabad State's first Chief Minister, recognizing him as a pioneer of land reforms in India. Burgula's efforts in the anti-Nizam struggle, library movements, and democratic resolution of conflicts laid the groundwork for social justice and equality. The Deputy CM recalled that the Mogilgidda Government School has produced leaders such as

former Chief Ministers Burgula Ramakrishna Rao and Marri Chenna Reddy, former UP Governor Satyanarayana Reddy, and scholars like Professor H. Raghopal.

He also praised late Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy for introducing English medium education in government schools, emphasizing its necessity in the era of globalization to secure future employment opportunities. He reminded students and parents that education remains the key to social mobility and that the government is committed to providing resources and reforms that ensure equal opportunity for all children, enabling them to succeed in a competitive world. This event celebrated both the historical legacy of Mogilgidda School and the government's ongoing efforts to empower students through nutrition, education, and holistic development.

Phone Tapping SIT Notices Are Mere Election Stunt: MP DK Aruna

Mahabubnagar, January 30, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and Mahabubnagar Member of Parliament DK Aruna strongly criticized the Congress government in Telangana, alleging that the recent SIT notices issued to former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) in the phone tapping case were nothing but an election stunt aimed at misleading the public ahead of polls.

Speaking to the media in Mahabubnagar district, DK Aruna said that it has become a habit for ruling parties to bring up sensational issues whenever elections approach, only to abandon them later. "Every time elections come, the people are deceived with some new drama. Now, phone tapping has been brought to the forefront. After elections, nothing will remain," she remarked.

She alleged that there was a tacit understanding between Congress and BRS, claiming that the SIT notices were part of this political arrangement to help Congress gain electoral mileage. Questioning the government's sincer-

ity, she asked why no concrete action was taken despite reports on Kaleshwaram and the Formula E car race issues being available for nearly two years. "If the government is serious, why did SIT notices suddenly become important only during election time?" she asked.

DK Aruna accused the Congress of lacking the will to take real action and said the announcements were merely an act to create an impression of accountability. She appealed to the public not to fall prey to such election stunts, asserting that people would no longer believe the political theatrics of either Congress or BRS.

Raising the issue of defections, she referred to statements made earlier by Rahul Gandhi and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on political ethics. She alleged that Congress was now following the same path it once criticized BRS for. "What is the difference between BRS and Congress today?" she questioned, adding that such practices were eroding values in politics.

The BJP MP also criticized the role of the Speaker in allow-

ing defectors to continue without resignations, calling it a serious mockery of democratic institutions. She challenged defecting MLAs to resign their posts and seek a fresh mandate if they truly believed in Congress ideology.

Highlighting development issues, DK Aruna said that funds for education, healthcare, roads, and basic infrastructure were coming primarily from the Central government. She stated that bypass road works around Mahabubnagar were progressing due to central support, while both Congress and BRS had failed to contribute meaningfully to the town's development.

Asserting that Mahabubnagar's growth was possible only with the Centre's cooperation, she urged citizens to give the BJP an opportunity by electing a BJP mayor and ensuring the BJP flag flies over the Mahabubnagar Municipal Corporation. She concluded by accusing Congress of betraying its promises and trying to mislead people with foundation stone ceremonies only during election season.

Senior Congress Leader Suprabhat Rao Joins BRS Ahead of Medak Municipal Elections

Medak, January 30, 2026 | TPN Bureau

In a major political development in Medak district, senior Congress leader C. Suprabhat Rao officially left the Congress party and joined the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), dealing a significant blow to the Congress ahead of the upcoming municipal elections. The joining ceremony was held at the residence of former Minister and Deputy Floor Leader Harish Rao in Hyderabad on Friday.

Suprabhat Rao, who has served the Congress party for over 25 years—from his early days in NSUI to the position of PCC Secretary—was welcomed into the BRS fold with a traditional rose

garland by Harish Rao. The event was attended by former Medak MLA Padma Devender Reddy, senior leaders Kantham Reddy and Tirupati Reddy, along with several other prominent local figures. Speaking at the occasion, Harish Rao noted that the Congress government in Telangana was facing widespread dissatisfaction, not only among the public but even within its own party ranks. He criticized Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's two-year tenure, claiming that the administration failed to deliver on its promises, leaving the public disappointed. Harish Rao highlighted that senior leaders like Suprabhat Rao were joining the

BRS because they wished to work in a party genuinely committed to development and the welfare of Telangana. He expressed confidence that Suprabhat Rao's entry would strengthen the BRS significantly in Ramayampet and predicted that the "pink flag" would fly high in all municipalities of united Medak during the forthcoming elections. The former minister assured that all new entrants would be given due recognition, respect, and positions within the party. He called upon party workers to actively communicate Congress failures and BRS achievements to the public. Harish Rao also emphasized that under the leadership of Chief

Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, urban development in Telangana municipalities has set a benchmark for the rest of the country, whereas Congress mismanagement had led to stagnation, poor sanitation, and unresolved drinking water issues.



Suprabhat Rao, speaking after his induction, expressed dissatisfaction with the Congress, citing lack of recognition for workers and

internal factionalism. He said his decision to join the BRS was driven by faith in the leadership of KCR and Harish Rao and their commitment to Medak's development. Suprabhat Rao pledged to work tirelessly to ensure the BRS achieves a resounding victory in the Ramayampet municipal elections, with the pink flag triumphantly raised across the constituency.



Minister Konda Surekha Visits Medaram Sammakka-Saralamma Jatara

Mulugu (Medaram), January 30, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Endowments Minister Konda Surekha visited the famed Medaram Sammakka-Saralamma Maha Jatara in Mulugu district on Friday, participating in one of Telangana's largest and most significant tribal congregations. The biennial festival, celebrated with immense devotion, draws millions of pilgrims from across Telangana and neighbouring states, highlighting the deep-rooted

faith and cultural traditions of the region.

During her visit, Minister Surekha participated in various rituals at the gaddelu, where devotees offer prayers, jaggery, coconuts, and other offerings to the revered tribal deities Sammakka and Saralamma. The festival represents not only religious devotion but also Telangana's tribal identity and collective heritage, with families and communities gathering to fulfil vows, seek blessings, and celebrate cultural continuity.



The Minister took time to interact with devotees, officials, and local tribal representatives, ensuring that arrangements for smooth

conduct of the festival were in place. She inspected facilities including sanitation, drinking water, health services, and security

measures, underscoring the government's commitment to the welfare of pilgrims and the preservation of tribal cultural practices.

The Medaram Jatara is widely recognised as Asia's largest tribal festival, and Minister Surekha highlighted its significance as a platform for tribal unity and cultural expression. She emphasised the need to preserve Telangana's indigenous traditions while promoting responsible management of large gatherings, balancing

faith with public safety and convenience.

Minister Surekha also urged authorities to maintain cleanliness and safety across the festival site, appreciating the efforts of local officials and volunteers who facilitate smooth movement and accommodation for pilgrims. She encouraged the community to continue practicing their rituals with devotion while fostering awareness about hygiene, environment, and crowd management. Her visit was met with enthusiasm from

devotees, who expressed their gratitude for the government's support and the Minister's personal attention to the festival. By participating in this historic celebration, Minister Surekha reinforced the importance of government involvement in promoting tribal heritage and ensuring that cultural events continue to thrive in Telangana.

As the Medaram Sammakka-Saralamma Maha Jatara continues over several days, the presence of Minister

Konda Surekha symbolises respect for Telangana's tribal legacy, commitment to public service, and dedication to supporting the state's spiritual and cultural fabric. The festival remains a testament to the enduring faith, unity, and traditions of Telangana's tribal communities.

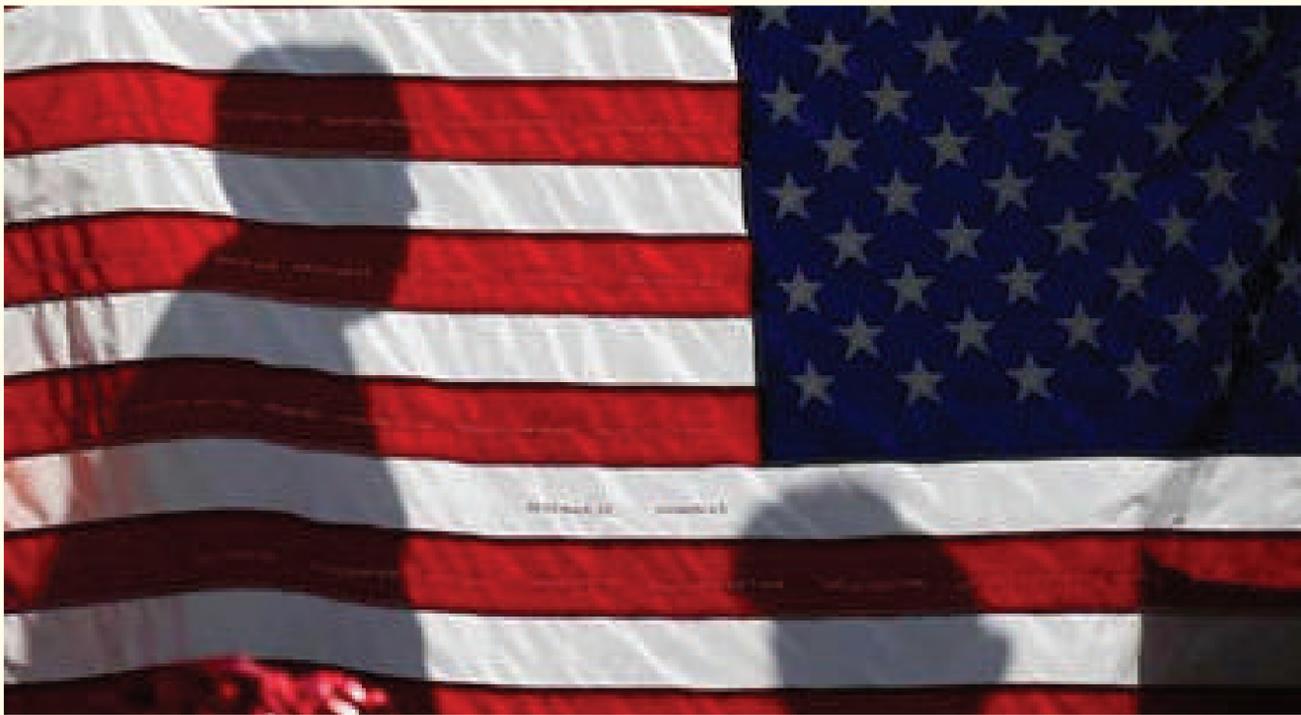
This report captures the Minister's active engagement and the government's efforts to ensure a safe, organised, and culturally enriching experience for millions of pilgrims.

Global Power in the Era of Strongmen: The Strategic Dilemma for Middle Powers

In today's world, the architecture of international relations is undergoing a profound transformation. Once anchored by a liberal, rules-based global order shaped in the aftermath of the Second World War, the international system now finds itself buffeted by the ambitions of powerful leaders who prize strength, unilateral action, and transactional politics over collective norms and institutions. This shift poses a profound challenge for middle powers — countries that are not global superpowers but whose economic and diplomatic weight makes them consequential in regional and global affairs. The choices these nations make today will shape the trajectory of international cooperation, security, and prosperity for decades to come.

At the center of this transformation is the United States under its most recent leadership. The tone and substance of U.S. foreign policy have changed dramatically, moving away from sustained engagement with multilateral institutions and towards a more idiosyncratic and personality-driven approach. Gone, largely, are the days when senior diplomats and institutional frameworks guided America's global strategy. Instead, decisive power rests with the president and a close circle of advisors whose perspectives reflect transactional interests rather than enduring commitments. Traditional allies have been caught off guard by abrupt policy shifts and a willingness to cast aside long-standing alliances if they are seen as insufficiently beneficial to U.S. interests.

This new posture was evident in a series of striking policy decisions, including the United States' withdrawal from a large number of international organisations, some of which it had helped found and sustain. The reduction in U.S. participation and funding for global initiatives, particularly in areas of health, climate and human rights, has weakened institutions designed to foster cooperation and address common challenges. This retreat has raised questions about the future viability of multilateralism as



a framework for managing issues that no single country can tackle alone.

Perhaps the most contentious of these moves was the abrupt action taken in Venezuela, where the removal of that country's leader by U.S. forces marked a stark departure from diplomatic norms. The operation was not consulted with Congress nor explained within the context of established legal frameworks. Instead, it was justified through an assertive reinterpretation of a long-standing doctrine, recast to legitimise intervention in the name of countering foreign influence. This approach, critics argue, reflects a broader shift toward prioritising showmanship and demonstration of strength rather than careful diplomacy and coalition building.

The ideological underpinning of this foreign policy shift places "strength" at the center of global relations. In public statements and speeches, proponents emphasise a world governed by power rather than rules — a return to a pre-World War II mindset

in which might determines outcomes and norms are secondary. In forums such as the World Economic Forum in Davos, commentators have described the current moment as one of rupture, not transition, signifying that the old order is not merely evolving but dissolving. In this context, the maxim that "the strong do what they can and the weak suffer what they must" has reappeared as a chilling motto for great-power politics.

This recalibration of U.S. foreign policy does not occur in isolation. Other major powers — most notably China and Russia — have also consolidated power domestically and asserted more ambitious foreign agendas. The leader of China has accumulated unprecedented authority within that country, dismantling limits on tenure and centralising decision-making. These changes have allowed Beijing to wield its economic and diplomatic clout with fewer internal constraints, using trade ties and control of key resources as leverage over neighbours and trading

partners.

Similarly, Russia under its president has pursued territorial ambitions with a determination that has strained its own resources and inflicted heavy costs on its society, yet has persisted in its objective. Both Beijing and Moscow project an image of assertive, disciplined leadership, often presenting their strategies as alternatives to what they characterise as Western hypocrisy or decline. Their collaboration with one another, and at times with other like-minded governments, underscores a more fragmented global order in which spheres of influence matter again.

These trends have unnerved traditional U.S. allies in Europe and Asia. Institutions such as NATO, which for decades provided a cornerstone of collective defence and stability, now confront questions about their future role and reliability. European nations, in particular, are increasingly exploring strategic autonomy, seeking to reduce their dependence on the United States while addressing shared security concerns.

Asian democracies face their own dilemmas, balancing the need for economic engagement with China against concerns about coercion and regional ambitions.

For middle powers — including countries in Asia, Europe, Latin America, and Africa — this evolving landscape presents both risks and opportunities. On the one hand, the retreat of multilateral frameworks and the rise of unilateralism erode the predictability and stability that these nations have relied on to navigate complex global issues. Without a robust rules-based order, smaller and medium-sized countries risk being sidelined or pressured by larger states pursuing narrow interests.

On the other hand, the fragmentation of global power may incentivise nimble coalitions and partnerships among middle powers themselves. Recognising that traditional alliances may no longer guarantee security or influence, these countries have begun to explore new forms of cooperation. Whether through economic partnerships, re-

gional security arrangements, or collective diplomatic initiatives, there is growing emphasis on forging common positions that reflect shared values and interests.

One notable development has been increased dialogue among democracies seeking to uphold principles of pluralism, human rights, and economic openness. These nations see value in coordinating policies to counterbalance the unilateral tendencies of larger states and to protect the institutional frameworks that facilitate trade, environmental protection, and conflict resolution. While such efforts are nascent and often uneven, they represent a concerted attempt to assert agency in a world where power politics are resurging.

Still, the viability of these coalitions depends on overcoming significant obstacles. Middle powers do not always share identical priorities, and reconciling diverse domestic concerns with collective strategies can be difficult. Moreover, the allure of bilateral deals with major powers

— often backed by economic incentives — can undermine efforts to build cohesive alternatives. The challenge for these nations is to demonstrate that cooperation based on shared principles and mutual support can yield tangible benefits that exceed those offered by transactional engagements with larger states.

The current moment has also sparked debate within societies about the nature of effective leadership. The concentration of power in the hands of a few assertive figures raises questions about accountability, transparency, and the long-term health of democratic institutions. Critics of the emerging global order argue that short-term demonstrations of strength may come at the expense of sustained prosperity and security. They emphasise the need for governance systems that balance decisive action with respect for law, rights, and multilateral engagement.

Despite the erosion of the old order, there is broad recognition that the world still needs mechanisms for cooperation on issues that transcend borders — from climate change and global health to disarmament and economic stability. The task for middle powers, and indeed for all nations committed to cooperation, is to reinvent and strengthen the multilateral architecture rather than allow it to be supplanted by ad hoc arrangements dominated by the whims of the powerful.

In sum, we are living through a period of significant upheaval in global governance. The era of strongmen has ushered in a period in which might and personal leadership styles shape international relations in ways that challenge long-standing norms. For middle powers, the path forward requires both strategic clarity and collaborative resolve. By building new alliances rooted in shared values, these nations can help stabilise an uncertain international system and ensure that global affairs are shaped not only by the powerful, but by a broader coalition committed to a balanced and equitable world order.

A Quiet Rebuttal to Noisy Politics: The Ideology of Kambala Srinivasa Rao

Indian politics is often criticized for being heavy on noise and light on service. Slogans overpower substance, and publicity frequently eclipses purpose. Yet, from time to time, certain individuals emerge as silent counterpoints to this narrative. Kambala Srinivasa Rao—spiritual thinker, founder-president of the Vishwa Hindu Dharma Parirakshana Rama Sena, and a BJP leader—is one such figure whose life itself becomes an answer to criticism.

Kambala Srinivasa Rao has given politics a different meaning altogether. In conversations, his words are measured, but his life story speaks louder than any speech. Rooted in spirituality yet active in public life, he represents a rare blend where faith is not wielded as a weapon but lived as an ideal.

Born and raised in Gokavaram of East Godavari district, Kambala's upbringing was modest, but deeply value-driven. Temples, festivals, and traditions were not rituals for display, but integral parts of daily life. From a young age, he imbibed the belief that devotion is personal, while protecting dharma is a collective responsibility. This distinction shaped his worldview and later, his public engagement.

What sets him apart is his commitment to service without publicity. There are no banners announcing his charity, no selfies documenting generosity.



Yet, students who continued their education, families supported during medical crises,

and the underprivileged who found quiet assistance bear testimony to his work. For him,

charity ceases to belong to the giver the moment it is offered—it becomes an offering to dharma.

Kambala's philosophy is simple yet profound: dharma is not propaganda, it is responsibility. Standing against injustice, supporting those in need, and practicing cultural values in daily conduct—these, he believes, define true dharma. This ethos underpins the Vishwa Hindu Dharma Parirakshana Rama Sena, which he insists is not about aggression or political agendas, but about preserving culture, nurturing values among youth, and serving society.

Even after formally entering politics through the BJP, his approach remained unchanged. Rising grassroots membership and volunteer participation reflected not charisma alone, but trust in his conduct. As observers often remark, he did not merely join a party—he carried his ideas into villages.

Despite criticism and misinformation, Kambala Srinivasa Rao has largely responded with silence, letting sustained service be his rebuttal. His future vision is not centered on personal political ambition, but on building a value-driven social movement. In essence, he is not a man who politicized spirituality, but one who used politics as a platform for service—quietly redefining leadership in an era obsessed with noise.

2026: A Year of Big Transitions in India's Bureaucracy

The year 2026 will not be a routine year for India's bureaucracy. It will be a turning point. Nearly 300 IAS officers are set to retire during this year, many of them holding the highest and most powerful positions in government. These officers have spent decades shaping policies, taking difficult decisions, and running the administration at both the Centre and in the states. When such a large group steps aside together, the impact on governance is bound to be deep. At the national level, several key posts will see change. The Cabinet Secretary, senior secretaries in Delhi, and top-level officers across ministries will either retire or complete their tenures. These are not just ceremonial roles. These offices quietly guide how the government works every day. When so many experienced officers leave at the same time, the system is forced to reset itself. The Cabinet Secretary, T. V. Somanathan, is also due to complete his term this year. There is talk of a possible extension, as has happened earlier with some senior officers. But extensions are never guaranteed. Even if a few officers stay on, most will retire once they reach the age limit. This means a new generation of officers will soon be expected to

take charge of the system. The impact will be felt even more strongly in the states. Uttar Pradesh is expected to see the highest number of IAS retirements. States such as Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and the AGMUT cadre will also lose many senior officers. In several cases, Chief Secretaries and Additional Chief Secretaries will retire, creating major gaps at the top of state administrations.

Telangana is also part of this larger transition. Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao, a 1991-batch IAS officer, was originally due to retire on August 31, 2025. The Union Government later approved a seven-month extension, allowing him to continue until March 31, 2026. He too will retire this year. His role has been significant, especially as one of the key officials involved in framing ten state budgets after the formation of Telangana. What makes this phase serious is the depth of experience that is leaving the system. These officers have spent nearly thirty years in governance. They understand procedures, political balance, and crisis management. Replacing them is not just about filling vacancies. It is about protecting continuity and institutional memory. At the same

time, this change also brings opportunity. Vacancies at the top will open doors for promotions and new leadership. Younger officers will get a chance to step forward, introduce fresh thinking, and shape the future of administration. In my view, 2026 will truly test the strength of India's administrative system. A careful and well-planned reshuffle can keep governance stable. A hurried or poorly managed transition can create uncertainty. The coming months will show whether governments are prepared to handle this moment of change with clarity, balance, and foresight.



Sagar Vanaparthi, Policy Analyst.

Bihar Tightens Social Media Rules for Government Employees

The Bihar government has introduced stricter rules governing how state employees use social media, aiming to prevent misuse and ensure professional conduct online. Under the newly amended Bihar Government Servants Conduct Rules, government servants and officers must now obtain prior approval from competent authorities before creating or operating any social media account.

Key Provisions of the New Rules

- **Prior Approval Required:** Employees must secure permission before setting up or using any personal social media account, including platforms like Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, WhatsApp, Telegram, and others. Using official email IDs or government mobile numbers for personal accounts is prohibited.
- **No Anonymous or Pseudonymous Accounts:** Employees cannot operate accounts under fake names or pseudonyms, ensuring accountability for all online activity.
- **Restrictions on Opinions:** Staff are barred from expressing personal views on government policies, schemes, or sensitive topics that could conflict with their official responsibilities.
- **Content Creation Restrictions:** Creating or sharing reels, live videos, or workplace-related



content, particularly from official premises, is prohibited. Violations are considered breaches of service rules.

- **Protection of Sensitive Information:** Sharing confidential documents, internal communications, or any information that could compromise privacy or official business is forbidden.
- **Respectful Conduct Required:** Employees must avoid objectionable, provocative, or inflammatory remarks online. Criticizing colleagues or using social media to

settle personal disputes is strictly prohibited.

Purpose and Rationale

Officials stated that the rules are intended to prevent misuse of digital platforms by public servants, maintain the dignity of government positions, and protect the state's reputation. The rise of social media misuse, including controversial posts and misinformation, prompted the government to implement these measures as part of a broader effort to instill "digital discipline."

By mandating prior approval and tightening the code of

conduct, Bihar aims to ensure that civil servants use social media responsibly, balancing personal expression with their official duties. The new rules also serve as a reminder that employees must exercise caution when posting online, especially when their digital presence could be linked to their professional roles.

These regulations mark a significant step toward formalising online behaviour standards for government staff, reflecting an increasing focus on accountability, transparency, and ethical digital engagement in the public sector.

India's Aviation, Ports, and Shipping Sectors on Growth Trajectory Amid Capacity Challenges

India's aviation, ports, and shipping sectors are poised for significant growth over the next decade, driven by rising demand, policy support, and infrastructure development. However, the country still faces capacity gaps that could limit the full potential of these industries unless addressed through sustained investment and strategic planning.

The aviation sector has experienced rapid expansion, with air passenger traffic projected to rise from around 412 million in 2024-25 to approximately 665 million by 2030-31. India has already emerged as one of the top three global aviation markets, fueled by increasing incomes, expanding regional connectivity, and government initiatives such as greenfield airports and regional connectivity schemes. These efforts have made air travel more accessible and affordable, linking remote and non-metro areas with major urban centers. Despite these gains, India



currently operates only 0.11 airports per million people, far below international standards. While several new airports have been approved and existing facilities are being modernized, the infrastructure gap highlights the need for continued expansion to accommodate rising passenger and cargo demand. Air cargo volumes have also grown steadily, sup-

porting trade and regional economic development.

The ports and shipping sectors are undergoing a transformation as well. Cargo handling capacity at major ports has increased through modernization and private sector participation. Public-private partnerships are expected to handle a significant share of cargo throughput in the com-

ing years, supported by a pipeline of projects designed to enhance efficiency and competitiveness.

However, the rapid growth in all three sectors underscores the importance of bridging capacity gaps. Adequate infrastructure, including additional airports, deeper port drafts, improved logistics networks, and faster turnaround times, will be crucial to avoid bottlenecks that could hinder economic growth. Strategic investment in technology, operational efficiency, and connectivity will also play a key role in ensuring sustainable expansion.

Overall, India's aviation, ports, and shipping industries are well-positioned for long-term growth, offering critical support to trade, mobility, and the broader economy. Addressing existing capacity challenges will be essential to fully realize this potential and maintain India's competitive edge in global transport and logistics.

BJP's 'Scam Lord' Post Sparks Complaint Against Party Over Defamation Claims

A major political row has erupted in Karnataka after the state unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) posted a social media message labeling Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and other state ministers as "scam lords." The inflammatory post on the BJP's official X handle triggered a formal complaint from the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC), which accused the BJP of defamatory conduct and misleading the public.

The controversial post featured edited images of Siddaramaiah, Shivakumar and senior ministers under the caption "scam lords," along with text alleging that the Congress government in Karnataka was running a "scam empire" and looting the state. This prompted the KPCC to approach the Cyber Crime Police Station in Bengaluru, where they filed a complaint seeking legal action against those responsible for the posting.

In its complaint, the Congress party described the content as "malicious and unsubstantiated," arguing that it



amounts to character assassination and is intended to confuse and provoke the public. The KPCC has urged authorities to investigate whether the post violated laws governing defamation, digital content and public order, and to take action against the BJP's social media administrators.

Police officials have acknowledged receipt of the complaint and registered a case, signalling that an investigation will follow to determine potential legal violations. The

matter adds to a backdrop of intensifying political conflict in Karnataka, where the BJP has been sharply critical of the ruling Congress on issues ranging from alleged irregularities in the excise department to broader governance and corruption narratives.

The BJP's use of strong language and terms like "scam lord" reflects a growing trend in political communication where social media campaigns are deployed aggressively during high stakes contests. Oppo-

sition parties argue that such tactics cross the line into defamation, while supporters of the BJP frame them as legitimate criticism of perceived corruption and governance issues.

The controversy coincides with other disputes in Karnataka politics, including allegations made by the BJP about alleged irregularities in government contracts and calls for investigations by central agencies. In response to the BJP's accusations, Congress leaders have dismissed the claims as politically motivated and lacking evidence.

As the legal process unfolds, this episode highlights how digital platforms are increasingly becoming battlegrounds for political messaging — and how parties are turning to law enforcement when they believe that rhetoric has crossed legal and ethical boundaries. Whether the case will lead to charges, penalties or further political escalation remains to be seen, but it underscores the heightened tensions between the BJP and Congress in Karnataka's current political climate.

NCP Set for Reunion in Mid-February; Leadership Battle Emerges After Ajit Pawar's Death



The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) is preparing to announce a long-awaited reunion of its two factions in mid-February, marking a significant moment in Maharashtra's political landscape following the sudden death of Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar. Party insiders say the focus has now shifted to selecting the leader of the reunited party and charting its future direction.

Before his tragic death in a plane crash, Ajit Pawar had been actively pursuing a merger of his faction with the group loyal to his uncle, veteran politician Sharad Pawar. He and Sharad Pawar had held several discussions to iron out the details of the unification, with plans to make a formal announcement following local body elections in February.

With the reunification on the horizon, four names have emerged as frontrunners for the party's top leadership position. Alongside

Sharad Pawar himself, the contenders include Sunetra Pawar, Ajit Pawar's wife and a Rajya Sabha MP; Supriya Sule, Sharad Pawar's daughter and a nationally prominent figure; and senior party veteran Praful Patel, who brings extensive organizational experience.

Within party circles, there is strong sentiment that Sunetra Pawar could assume a leadership role to carry forward her late husband's legacy. Colleagues have suggested she take on significant party responsibilities to maintain continuity and stability for the NCP base.

Supriya Sule is also considered a strong contender, given her political acumen, visibility, and appeal among the party's traditional supporters. Her leadership could help bridge the two factions and ensure a smooth transition. Praful Patel remains a viable option should procedural or political hurdles affect other candidates.

The leadership decision comes amid internal and external pressures. Party leaders are discussing how to honour Ajit Pawar's contributions, safeguard the NCP's position in the Maharashtra government coalition, and prepare for upcoming elections such as the Baramati bypoll.

Beyond leadership, the reunification talks are shaping up as a test of the Pawar family's enduring influence in Maharashtra politics. The decision on who will lead the party could determine not only the direction of the newly united NCP but also how effectively it can compete in future elections and negotiate its role in broader state and national alliances.

As mid-February approaches, attention is firmly on the formal announcement, which is expected to mark a new chapter in the NCP's history and potentially reshape political alignments in India's most politically dynamic state.

Amit Shah Criticises Rahul Gandhi Over Gamosa Row Ahead of Assam Elections



A political controversy has erupted between Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over a cultural incident during the Republic Day celebrations, drawing attention in the run-up to this year's Assam assembly elections. Shah accused Gandhi of disrespecting the traditions of Assam and the Northeast, using the episode to question his attitude toward regional culture.

The row centres on the Assamese gamosa, a handwoven cloth that holds deep cultural and symbolic significance. During the Republic Day "At Home" reception hosted by the President, dignitaries were offered the gamosa as a gesture of respect. Shah claimed that Gandhi was the only prominent figure who refused to wear it, while other leaders, including foreign guests, accepted it. He argued that this act insulted the cultural identity of the Northeast and criti-

cised Gandhi for showing disregard for local traditions.

Addressing a rally in Assam's Dibrugarh, Shah said Gandhi could "do whatever he wants," but asserted that as long as his party is in power, there would be no tolerance for disrespect toward the culture of the northeastern states. He also attacked the Congress party's record in the region, claiming it had failed to deliver development and highlighting sensitive issues like illegal immigration. Shah promised that the government would continue to take action against those without valid status, tying cultural respect to governance and security.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma echoed Shah's remarks, urging Gandhi to respect the culture of Assam and the broader Northeast. His comments emphasised the political stakes of the dispute, with cultural symbolism

playing a key role in shaping voter sentiment ahead of the elections.

The Congress party denied the allegations, stating that the narrative was politically motivated to harm Gandhi's image. Party leaders noted that Gandhi was not the only attendee photographed without wearing the gamosa and stressed his engagement with artists and representatives from the Northeast during the event as evidence of respect.

The incident has become a flashpoint in national politics, illustrating how cultural symbols can be mobilised in political narratives, particularly in regions with sensitive social dynamics. With elections approaching, both parties are likely to intensify messaging around cultural respect, leadership values, and political priorities, making the gamosa row a focal point in Assam's electoral discourse.

India Could Serve as Bridge to Peace Between Israel and Palestine, Says Palestinian Foreign Minister



India's unique diplomatic position, maintaining strong ties with both Israel and Palestine, has been highlighted as a potential avenue for fostering peace in one of the world's longest-running conflicts. Palestinian Foreign Minister Varsen Aghabekian emphasized this during her visit to New Delhi, where she attended the India-Arab Foreign Ministers' Meeting and met with Indian officials to discuss peace initiatives in the region.

Aghabekian described the humanitarian situation in Gaza as dire, despite a partial ceasefire. She noted that violence and deprivation continue, with essential services and basic needs still unmet for many civilians. According to her, immediate attention must focus on sustained humanitarian aid, reconstruction efforts, and adherence to agreements designed to protect civilian lives and dignity.

Against this backdrop, the minister highlighted India's balanced international stance. She pointed out that India's longstanding support for humanitarian prin-

ciples, combined with its diplomatic engagement with both Israel and Palestine, gives it a unique capacity to act as a bridge between the two sides. India's cordial relations with both parties and consistent advocacy for dialogue and respect for international law make it particularly well-positioned to contribute to constructive peace efforts.

Aghabekian praised India's humanitarian assistance to Gaza and developmental support in Palestinian territories, including projects aimed at improving education, healthcare, and social infrastructure. She welcomed international initiatives for peace, stressing that such efforts should complement existing multilateral frameworks rather than replace them.

When asked about India's potential role in facilitating negotiations, Aghabekian was clear: India's relationships with both Israel and Palestine position it to contribute meaningfully to dialogue and de-escalation. She emphasized that conflict only perpetuates suffering and that diplomacy and negotiation remain the only vi-

able paths to lasting peace.

The minister also expressed concern over developments in the West Bank, highlighting the gradual erosion of Palestinian rights in the territory. She stressed that any resolution must respect international law and the legitimate aspirations of both Israelis and Palestinians.

Looking ahead, Aghabekian urged Indian leadership to continue supporting a just and durable peace based on human rights, self-determination, and equitable solutions for both peoples. She underscored India's historical commitment to peaceful co-existence and its growing role as a trusted interlocutor in regional diplomacy.

India's evolving engagement in West Asia, reinforced by this appeal, positions it not only as a humanitarian partner but also as a potential mediator capable of reviving dialogue and fostering stability in a region long marked by conflict. Its efforts could prove pivotal in advancing peace between Israel and Palestine while promoting broader regional security.

Elon Musk and Vinod Khosla Exchange Sharp Words in Public Feud



A heated online exchange between tech billionaire Elon Musk and Indian

origin investor Vinod Khosla has drawn widespread attention, with both sides trading sharp words over issues of race, personal criticism, and public discourse.

The dispute reignited after Musk's past comments about the global demographic shift, which Khosla interpreted as racially insensitive. Khosla publicly criticised Musk, suggesting that the remarks reflected a racially exclusionary viewpoint. He also coined the phrase "WAGA" — or "White America Great Again" — to underline his perception of bias in Musk's messaging.

Musk responded with personal insults, calling Khosla a "pompous a**hole" and using dismissive language in the public exchange. In his defence, Musk highlighted his personal connections, including his partner's Indian heritage and the name of one

of his children, to counter claims of racial bias. He also referenced Khosla's previous legal disputes as a way to mock his critic, keeping the confrontation pointed and personal.

In his reply, Khosla acknowledged Musk's insult, noting he had "no proof to refute" being called a "pompous a**hole," while emphasising that he admired Musk's entrepreneurial achievements. He also cautioned Musk against using family or personal relationships as a shield in public disputes and urged him to avoid racially charged comments. Khosla stressed that discussions should remain focused on substantive issues rather than personal attacks.

The feud highlights broader tensions within the tech community over sensitive topics such as race, inclusion, and public responsibility. Both Musk and Khosla are influential figures whose opinions frequently shape public

debate, and this confrontation underscores how social media platforms have become arenas for airing grievances, defending reputations, and influencing public perception. This back-and-forth serves as a reminder of how personal commentary and public discourse increasingly intersect in the digital age. High-profile personalities engaging directly with critics can amplify conflicts and spark widespread discussion, making every tweet and remark a potential news event.

The exchange between Musk and Khosla reflects not only their personal differences but also the challenges faced by public figures in navigating complex social issues while maintaining credibility and influence. It also underscores the importance of measured dialogue in a world where digital platforms magnify every statement, personal insult, or perceived slight.

U.S. Holds Major India-Focused Strategic Meeting to Counter China in Indo-Pacific

The United States is set to host a high-profile strategic meeting early in 2026, with a sharp focus on India's role in the Indo-Pacific region, highlighting Washington's efforts to counter China's expanding influence. This development reflects the growing importance of India in U.S. strategy as competition with Beijing intensifies across security, economic, and technological domains.

The meeting will examine the evolving geopolitical and military dynamics in the region, including tensions along the India-China border, the security of maritime routes in the Indian Ocean, and India's emergence as a regional power. Washington views India as a crucial counterbalance to China's assertive diplomacy and growing naval capabilities, making the nation central to discussions about regional stability and strategic alignment.

Beyond security considerations, the dialogue will explore economic and technological issues. Trade, investment flows, and India's push for self-reliance in critical sec-



tors—such as semiconductors, artificial intelligence, and pharmaceuticals—are expected to be key points of discussion. These areas are seen as pivotal in the broader strategic competition with China and in strengthening the resilience of U.S.-aligned partners.

The meeting also seeks to assess how the U.S. can deepen its strategic partnership with India, espe-

cially given India's careful approach to balancing relations with both major powers. After years of border tensions following the 2020 Galwan Valley clash, India has cautiously reopened avenues for dialogue with China while maintaining a robust defence posture, highlighting its independent foreign policy. This dual approach makes it an important partner in Washington's Indo-Pacific

calculations.

Timing is a critical factor. The discussions precede a planned U.S. presidential visit to China in April 2026, underscoring the diplomatic balancing act between engaging Beijing and solidifying ties with India. It also signals the U.S.'s intent to strengthen relationships with reliable regional partners in anticipation of shifting geopolitical pressures.

The focus on India in such high-level strategic deliberations underscores the country's growing global influence. Analysts note that India's economic potential, military capability, and strategic positioning make it indispensable in efforts to maintain a stable, rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific.

Experts suggest that this initiative could pave the way for expanded U.S.-India cooperation beyond defence, potentially covering trade, technology, and coordinated responses to shared regional challenges. The meeting highlights a broader trend in international relations: as China's global role expands, countries like India are increasingly pivotal in shaping the balance of power in Asia.

Overall, the upcoming U.S.-led strategic meeting signals a heightened focus on India's centrality in Indo-Pacific affairs, reflecting Washington's strategy to strengthen partnerships with like-minded nations and counterbalance China's influence through coordinated regional engagement.

US Museum to Return Ancient Stolen Bronze Sculptures to India



In a major step for cultural restitution, the Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art in Washington, DC, has announced that it will return three ancient bronze sculptures to India after confirming that they were illegally removed from temples in Tamil Nadu decades ago. The decision reflects growing global efforts to address the legacy of looted artefacts and re-

store cultural heritage to its rightful home.

The sculptures include the Shiva Nataraja, a Chola-period depiction of Lord Shiva as the cosmic dancer dating back to around 990 CE; Somaskanda, a 12th-century Chola bronze showing Shiva with his consort and child; and Saint Sundarar with Paravai, a 16th-century Vijayanagar-era representation of the famous Ta-

mil Shaivite saint with his devoted wife. These bronzes were originally sacred objects used in temple rituals and processions, highlighting their deep spiritual and cultural significance.

Researchers traced the sculptures using archival photographs taken in Tamil Nadu between the mid-1950s and 1959. By matching these historical images with the items in

the museum's collection, they confirmed that the bronzes had been removed from their original contexts in violation of Indian law. This provenance investigation paved the way for the repatriation, ensuring that the artworks will finally return to their homeland.

Under the repatriation agreement, the Shiva Nataraja will be placed on long-term loan back to the museum. This arrangement allows the sculpture to remain on public view as part of exhibitions highlighting South Asian art, while also educating visitors about its history, unlawful removal, and ethical restitution. The display aims to raise awareness about the importance of provenance research and responsible museum practices.

Museum officials emphasized that the return of these sculptures demonstrates a commitment to ethical stewardship and transparency in cultural collections. By acknowledging the wrongful re-

moval of these artefacts and restoring them to India, the museum sets a precedent for other institutions holding looted or illicitly acquired objects.

The repatriation also underscores a broader international movement to return cultural artefacts to their countries of origin. Governments, researchers, and heritage organizations worldwide are increasingly collaborating to address historical injustices and preserve fragile cultural legacies.

For India, the return of these sculptures is a symbolic reclaiming of artistic and spiritual heritage. Beyond their historical and religious significance, the bronzes represent a vital connection to centuries-old traditions of South Indian craftsmanship and devotion. Their restoration reinforces the importance of protecting cultural treasures for future generations and strengthens India's ongoing efforts to recover lost heritage from around the world.

US East Coast Braces for Powerful 'Bomb Cyclone' Winter Storm

The US East Coast is preparing for a major winter storm expected to intensify into a bomb cyclone this weekend, bringing heavy snow, strong winds, freezing temperatures, and coastal flooding from the Southeast up to New England. Residents and authorities are being urged to take precautions as the storm threatens widespread disruption.

A bomb cyclone is a rapidly strengthening storm in which the central atmospheric pressure drops by at least 24 millibars within 24 hours, a process known as bombogenesis. This rapid intensification can generate hurricane-force winds, heavy snowfall, and dangerous conditions over a wide area, making such storms particularly hazardous.

The storm is forecast to begin forming late Friday, intensifying through Saturday, and moving northeastward. It is expected to first impact the Carolinas and Virginia, where heavy snow and blizzard-like conditions could produce

totals of 6-12 inches in some areas, along with coastal wind gusts reaching 70-80 mph.

As it moves north, the storm will affect cities along the mid-Atlantic and New England, including New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. Residents in these regions should prepare for several inches of snow, dangerously low wind chills, and potential coastal flooding as strong onshore winds coincide with high tides.

Several factors make this storm particularly dangerous:

- **Heavy Snowfall:** Significant accumulations are expected from the Carolinas through the Northeast, creating hazardous travel conditions.
- **Strong Winds:** Coastal areas could experience hurricane-force gusts, leading to downed trees, power outages, and blowing snow.
- **Coastal Flooding:**



Low-lying coastal zones are at risk as storm surges combine with high tides.

- **Travel Disruptions:** Snow, ice, and high winds are likely to impact road travel and airports, delaying flights and making commuting unsafe.

The term "bomb cyclone" refers to the storm's rapid intensifica-

tion, not an actual explosion. It typically forms when cold Arctic air meets warmer ocean air, forcing pressure to drop quickly and fueling extreme winds and heavy precipitation. Officials are urging people along the East Coast to take precautions, including stocking up on essentials, avoiding unnecessary travel, securing outdoor property, and closely following updated weather advisories. Resi-

dents are also advised to prepare for potential power outages and disruptions to daily life.

With its combination of heavy snow, strong winds, freezing temperatures, and flooding potential, this storm could have significant impacts on millions of people along the Eastern Seaboard over the coming days. Authorities are emphasizing vigilance and preparedness as the storm approaches.

Who Is Kevin Warsh? All You Need to Know About Donald Trump's Potential Pick for US Fed Chair

Kevin Warsh has emerged as a leading contender to replace Jerome Powell as the next Chair of the US Federal Reserve, with former President Donald Trump reportedly considering him for the influential role. If appointed, Warsh would take charge of the world's most powerful central bank at a time of economic uncertainty, shifting monetary expectations, and heightened political scrutiny.

Kevin Maxwell Warsh was born in 1970 and has built a career that bridges finance, policy, and academia. He holds degrees from Stanford University, Harvard Law School, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, giving him a rare mix of legal, economic, and policy expertise. Early in his career, Warsh served in senior roles at the White House, including as Special Assistant to the President for Economic Policy and Executive Secretary of the National Economic Council. These positions placed him at the centre of US economic decision-making at a relatively young age.

Warsh rose to prominence when he was appointed to the Federal Reserve Board of Governors in 2006, becoming the youngest member in the institution's history. His tenure coincided with the global financial crisis of 2008, one of the most turbulent periods in modern economic history. During this time, Warsh played a key role in coordinating between the Federal Reserve, financial institu-



tions, and international policymakers. He was closely involved in crisis-management discussions and represented the Fed at global financial forums.

After leaving the Federal Reserve in 2011, Warsh shifted his focus to academia and policy research. He has remained an influential voice in debates on monetary policy, financial stability, and central bank governance. As a scholar and commentator, he has frequently argued for reforms in how central banks operate, emphasising accountability, long-term price stability, and clarity in policy communication.

Warsh is often described as an inflation hawk, known for his

scepticism toward prolonged easy-money policies and large central bank balance sheets. He has warned that excessive monetary accommodation can distort markets and fuel long-term risks. At the same time, he has spoken about the need for a broader rethink of monetary frameworks to better align inflation control with sustainable economic growth.

His relationship with Donald Trump dates back to Trump's earlier presidency, during which Warsh was considered for senior economic roles and reportedly advised the administration on policy matters. Recent interactions with Trump have renewed speculation that Warsh could be

the preferred choice to lead the Federal Reserve once Jerome Powell's term ends.

If confirmed, Warsh's appointment could signal a shift in the Fed's approach to interest rates, inflation management, and balance-sheet policy. Markets would closely watch how his leadership balances political pressures with the central bank's long-standing commitment to independence.

As expectations build around the nomination, Kevin Warsh stands out as a figure whose experience during crisis, strong policy views, and close ties to political leadership could shape the future direction of US monetary policy.

Emerging Markets Surge at the Start of 2026 as Dollar Weakens



Emerging markets have begun 2026 on a strong footing, delivering robust gains across equities, bonds, and currencies as the U.S. dollar continues to weaken. A combination of improving domestic fundamentals, attractive valuations, and shifting global capital flows has fuelled renewed investor interest in developing economies after years of uneven performance.

The decline of the dollar has been a central driver of this rally. As the greenback loses strength, assets in emerging economies become more appealing to global investors seeking higher returns and diversification. A softer dollar also eases pressure on emerging market currencies and debt, encouraging inflows into both equity and fixed-income markets.

Stock markets across Latin America, Asia, and parts of Africa have posted notable gains in the opening weeks of the year. Several countries have seen double-digit returns, supported by resilient corporate earnings, strong domestic demand, and renewed confidence in policy stability. Investors appear to be rotating away from heavily crowded developed-market trades and toward sectors such as manufacturing, banking, infrastructure, and consumer services in emerging economies.

Currencies in many emerging markets have also strengthened, amplifying returns for foreign investors. Higher interest rates in several countries have made local assets more attractive, particularly as expectations grow that monetary tightening in advanced economies may ease. Stronger currencies have helped lower inflationary pressures and improved external balances, further reinforcing investor confidence.

Bond markets are witnessing a reviv-

al as well. Local-currency debt in emerging economies is drawing increased attention from global funds searching for yield in a world where returns in developed markets remain comparatively subdued. Improved fiscal discipline and more credible monetary frameworks in several countries have helped reduce perceived risks, making emerging market debt a more compelling proposition.

Commodity prices have provided an additional tailwind. Many emerging economies are major exporters of oil, metals, and agricultural goods, and firmer prices have boosted export revenues and government finances. This has strengthened growth outlooks and supported corporate profitability, particularly in resource-rich regions.

The broader global environment has also played a role. Expectations of a more accommodative stance from major central banks, combined with concerns over fiscal sustainability in advanced economies, have encouraged investors to diversify away from traditional safe-haven assets. In this context, emerging markets are increasingly viewed as beneficiaries of shifting capital allocation patterns.

Despite the strong start, risks remain. Emerging markets remain sensitive to global shocks, geopolitical tensions, and sudden shifts in investor sentiment. Any sharp reversal in the dollar or renewed volatility in global interest rates could temper the rally.

Nevertheless, the early months of 2026 suggest a meaningful shift in momentum. With a weaker dollar, improving fundamentals, and renewed global appetite for risk, emerging markets are positioning themselves as a key destination for investors seeking growth and diversification in the year ahead.

Budget 2026: Metals Sector Seeks Policy Support to Stabilise Margins

As the Union Budget 2026 approaches, India's metals sector is urging the government to introduce targeted policy measures to help stabilise margins and address growing structural pressures. While domestic demand for metals remains strong, companies are facing challenges from rising supply, volatile input costs, and weak pricing power, prompting calls for budgetary support focused on cost competitiveness rather than demand stimulus.

Demand for steel, aluminium, and other non-ferrous metals continues to be supported by infrastructure spending, manufacturing growth, and energy transition initiatives. However, aggressive capacity expansion over recent years has led to oversupply in certain segments, limiting producers' ability to raise prices. As a result, operating margins have remained under pressure despite healthy volumes and improved balance sheets.

One of the key concerns for the sector is the impact of global oversupply, which has resulted in cheaper imports entering the Indian market. These imports, often priced lower due to weak demand in exporting countries,



have constrained domestic producers' pricing flexibility and intensified competition. Industry players argue that without adequate safeguards, sustained import pressure could undermine profitability and discourage fresh investment.

Rather than seeking direct demand incentives, the metals sector is focusing on structural policy interventions in Budget 2026. Trade protection measures such as safeguard duties or tariff adjustments are among the top priorities, aimed at shielding domestic manufacturers from low-priced imports. The sector is

also seeking steps to manage volatility in raw material and energy costs, which account for a significant portion of production expenses.

Another major area of focus is support for green and sustainable manufacturing. Companies are looking for fiscal incentives, concessional financing, and policy clarity to accelerate investments in decarbonisation technologies, including low-carbon steelmaking and recycling-based production. With global markets increasingly prioritising sustainability, such measures are seen as essential for maintain-

ing export competitiveness.

The industry is also pushing for reforms in domestic mining and recycling ecosystems. Greater private participation in mining of key metals, improved availability of quality scrap, and rationalisation of duties on critical inputs are being highlighted as steps that could strengthen supply security and reduce cost pressures. Sector-specific requests include royalty rationalisation for iron ore, incentives for beneficiation, and clearer regulations for scrap usage.

Overall, the metals sector believes that Budget 2026 presents an opportunity to address longstanding cost and competitiveness issues. Policy support aimed at stabilising margins would help sustain investment, protect jobs, and ensure the sector continues to play a vital role in India's industrial and infrastructure growth.

While near-term profitability challenges persist, industry leaders remain optimistic that well-calibrated budget measures can support long-term resilience and align the metals sector with national goals of self-reliance, sustainability, and global manufacturing leadership.

Defence Stocks Log Biggest Weekly Rally in Months Ahead of Union Budget

India's defence sector enjoyed a strong run on the stock market this week, with the key defence index posting its biggest weekly gain since May 2025 as investors positioned ahead of the upcoming Union Budget. The rally was broad based, lifting nearly all defence shares and reflecting growing optimism that the government could boost capital spending on defence in the 2026-27 budget.

The Nifty India Defence Index climbed sharply over the week, significantly outperforming the broader market. While the overall benchmark indices saw mixed movement, the defence index rallied close to double-digit gains for the week, marking its strongest weekly performance in about eight months. The move underscores how investor sentiment has shifted toward defence stocks amid expectations of policy support and higher budgetary allocation for the sector.

Several individual defence stocks led the advance. Dynamic Technologies topped the gainers list, with its share price jumping in double digits. Other notable performers included Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers and MTAR Technolo-



gies, both registering solid gains. Shares of Paras Defence & Space Technologies, Cochin Shipyard, Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders, Bharat Electronics and Hindustan Aeronautics also traded higher, contributing to the sector's overall rise.

Part of the bullishness stems from strong quarterly results posted by some companies. In particular, MTAR Technologies reported robust earnings growth in the December quarter, with net profit more than doubling compared to the same

period a year ago and revenue rising sharply. Such earnings momentum has helped reinforce confidence in the sector's prospects.

Analysts attribute the recent uptrend to expectations that the government will increase defence capital expenditure in the Union Budget. With geopolitical considerations and a focus on modernisation and indigenisation gaining prominence, defence spending has become a key area of interest for policymakers. Brokerages have high-

lighted that a higher outlay could support long term growth for domestic defence manufacturers, making them attractive to both institutional and retail investors.

Beyond immediate budget expectations, the defence sector has been on investors' radar for its strategic importance and strong order books. Many firms have significant contracts in hand for aircraft, naval vessels, missiles and other defence platforms, which provide revenue visibility over the coming years.

Despite a slight pullback in the final trading session of the week, the overall trend remained positive, with most constituents closing comfortably in the green. The week's performance illustrates how macro economic factors, policy anticipation and company specific catalysts can converge to drive sentiment sharply higher in a focused segment like defence.

With the Union Budget announcement just around the corner, market watchers will be looking to see whether continued fiscal support for defence spending can sustain the recent rally and extend the sector's out-performance in the weeks ahead.

Markets End Lower as Investors Turn Cautious Ahead of Union Budget



Indian equity markets snapped their three-day winning streak and closed lower as investors booked profits and adopted a cautious stance ahead of the Union Budget. Benchmark indices witnessed selling pressure across several heavyweight stocks, reflecting uncertainty over near-term policy cues and global signals.

The Sensex ended the session nearly 300 points lower, while the Nifty 50 slipped below the 25,350 mark, indicating a pause in the recent upward momentum. Market sentiment remained subdued throughout the day, with traders preferring to stay on the sidelines before key announcements.

Sector-wise, metal stocks were among the worst performers, dragging the broader market down. Shares from the banking, oil and gas, IT, and energy sectors also faced moderate declines, contributing to the overall weakness. On the other hand, selective buying was seen in pharma, FMCG, media, and consumer durables, offering limited support but failing to offset broader losses.

Among individual stocks, metal majors and energy companies emerged as notable laggards, while a few defensive and consumption-driven names managed to post modest gains. The mixed stock-specific movement highlighted ongoing sector rotation as investors re-

position portfolios ahead of potential policy-driven volatility.

Market participants pointed out that recent gains had pushed indices to elevated levels, prompting profit-taking. The upcoming Budget has become the central focus, with expectations around fiscal discipline, growth measures, infrastructure spending, and sector-specific incentives shaping investor behaviour.

Global factors also played a role in dampening sentiment. Fluctuations in commodity prices, currency movements, and mixed international market cues added to uncertainty, reinforcing a risk-averse approach in domestic equities.

Foreign investor activity remained a key variable, with intermittent selling pressure influencing intraday trends. Combined with Budget-related caution, this kept markets range-bound for most of the session before slipping lower toward the close.

Overall, the day's decline reflected consolidation rather than a shift in long-term outlook. Analysts believe markets may continue to remain volatile in the near term, with the Budget outcome expected to provide clearer direction. Until then, investors are likely to remain selective, focusing on fundamentals and policy-sensitive sectors.

Toddler Snooker Prodigy: Two-Year-Old Jude Owens Sets Two World Records



A two-year-old boy from England has amazed the sporting world by achieving something many seasoned players only dream of. Jude Owens, barely old enough to speak in full sentences, has etched his name into history by setting two world records in snooker and pool trick shots, becoming one of the youngest record holders ever in cue sports.

Jude accomplished his first record when he successfully executed a snooker double pot at just over two years of age. The shot, which requires striking the cue ball in a way that sinks two balls into different pockets with a single attempt, demands exceptional accuracy and coordination. Only weeks later, he followed it up with another remarkable feat — completing a pool bank shot, a trick that involves bouncing the cue ball off the table's cushion before potting a target ball. With this, Jude became the youngest person to complete both shots, earning dual recognition for his skill.

His journey into snooker began at home, where his father introduced him to the game using a child-sized table. What initially started as playful experimentation quickly revealed Jude's natural affinity for the sport. As his interest grew, his father helped him practise on larger tables by using simple adjustments so he could reach the playing surface. Despite his small size, Jude displayed confidence and control far beyond his years.

Observers have been struck not only by Jude's technical ability but also by

his calm approach. Trick shots are notoriously difficult, even for adults, requiring patience, focus and precise timing. Jude's repeated success suggests an unusual level of hand-eye coordination and an instinctive understanding of angles and movement.

Videos of Jude's shots have since circulated widely, delighting viewers with the contrast between his age and his composure at the table. His cheerful attitude and evident enjoyment of the game have made him a favourite among fans, many of whom see his achievements as a celebration of curiosity and early learning rather than competition.

Jude's father has shared light-hearted moments from their practice sessions, including his son's confident belief that he would win a match against him. The response reflects not arrogance but the simple, fearless confidence of a child enjoying what he does best.

Beyond the records themselves, Jude's story highlights how talent can emerge at any age when encouragement and opportunity come together. His accomplishments serve as a reminder that passion, play, and supportive guidance can lead to extraordinary outcomes — sometimes long before childhood officially begins.

For now, Jude continues to enjoy the game that brought him early fame, but his achievements have already inspired smiles around the world and added a charming new chapter to the history of cue sports.

“Glad I Took the Decision”: NRI Reflects on Returning to India After 12 Years in the US



After spending more than a decade living in the United States, an Indian expatriate has shared a thoughtful reflection on life after returning to India. Nearly nine months after moving back, the individual says the decision — though difficult — has brought a deep sense of peace and satisfaction.

The choice to return was driven primarily by family responsibilities. As ageing parents began facing serious health issues, the pull to be physically present grew stronger. Despite having built a stable life abroad, the emotional weight of being far from loved ones eventually outweighed professional comfort and familiarity. Returning to India meant stepping into a role of care and support that could not be fulfilled from a distance.

Adjusting to life back home came with its challenges, but financial planning and the flexibility of a remote job helped ease the transition. Over time, the presence of family offered a sense of reassurance that had been missing while living overseas. Being close to loved ones, especially during uncertain times, provided emotional stability that no professional achievement could replace.

The return also brought relief from the constant pressures associated with immigration status. Concerns over visas, renewals and travel restrictions disappeared, allowing for a more settled and predictable life. This newfound security contributed significantly to the feeling that returning

had been the right choice.

Simple aspects of daily life took on greater meaning. Home-cooked meals, familiar routines and cultural comfort became sources of quiet joy. These everyday experiences, often taken for granted, helped rebuild a sense of belonging that had faded during years abroad.

At the same time, the returnee acknowledged a lingering attachment to life in the US. After twelve years, memories, friendships and routines were not easily left behind. There was a sense of nostalgia for what once was, coupled with acceptance that some chapters naturally come to an end. Rather than regret, this mix of emotions reflected growth and perspective.

The story resonated widely with others who have faced similar crossroads. Many related to the struggle of balancing career opportunities overseas with personal responsibilities at home. The overwhelming sentiment was that while life abroad offers comfort and exposure, being close to family often brings a deeper sense of fulfilment.

For this individual, returning to India was not a step backward but a conscious decision to prioritise relationships, emotional well-being and peace of mind. It serves as a reminder that success is not defined solely by location or career milestones, but by the choices that align most closely with one's values and sense of purpose.

Honouring Martyrs' Day 2026: Gandhi's Words of Truth, Duty and Ahimsa



Martyrs' Day in India is observed every year on January 30 to mark the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, one of the most influential leaders of the nation's freedom struggle. On this solemn day, the country remembers not only Gandhi's sacrifice, but also the countless freedom fighters and brave souls — from soldiers defending our borders to ordinary citizens who laid down

their lives for India's independence and unity. It's a day that calls for reflection on courage, selflessness, and patriotic duty.

This Martyrs' Day serves as a reminder of the ideals that Gandhi lived and died for — particularly non-violence (ahimsa), truth (satya), unity, and service. His philosophy was rooted in the belief that true freedom and national strength are not achieved through

force or hatred, but through moral courage, steadfastness, and respect for human dignity. Gandhi's commitment to non-violence was not passive; he saw it as the highest duty of every individual and an active force for transformation.

Across India, people observe Martyrs' Day with prayer meetings, moments of silence, and tributes at memorials such as Raj Ghat in New Delhi,

where Gandhi was cremated. Leaders and citizens alike reflect on his life and teachings, emphasising that remembrance should not be limited to words, but translated into action that furthers peace, harmony, and collective well-being.

Gandhi's own words continue to resonate deeply in the national conscience. He insisted that patriotism must be broad-minded and inclusive, rejecting any form of nationalism that thrives on the suffering or exploitation of others. He believed that truth is enduring — like a tree that bears ever greater fruit the more it is nurtured — and that differences among communities can be a source of strength when met with unity and mutual respect.

On this day, his reflections on death, courage and perseverance also inspire. According to him, death is not an enemy but a deliverer when it comes for those who die for truth. He famously observed that heroes are made in moments of defeat, and that what we call success may merely be a series of noble struggles. Forgiveness, he said, is the quality of the brave —

requiring strength, not weakness.

Perhaps most famously, Gandhi described ahimsa — non-violence — as the highest duty. He urged people to understand its spirit deeply and refrain from violence as far as humanly possible. In his view, true democracy involves engagement and sometimes conflict of ideas, but always within the framework of peaceful dialogue and respect for all.

Martyrs' Day also invites every citizen to renew their commitment to these values in daily life. It is a day to remember that freedom is not just a historical event but a living responsibility — a charge to uphold truth, protect the vulnerable, and nurture peace. By reflecting on Gandhi's teachings and the sacrifices of many others, we are reminded that remembrance without action diminishes the true meaning of martyrdom.

In honouring martyrs with our thoughts and deeds, we keep their legacy alive and ensure that their sacrifices continue to inspire future generations to build a nation rooted in compassion, justice and unity.

After 23 Years in the Skies, Air India Express Pilot Bids an Emotional Farewell

After more than two decades of flying, an Air India Express pilot recently completed his final flight, marking the end of a 23-year career in aviation. What made the moment especially moving was the deeply personal way in which the farewell unfolded — captured in an emotional video that has since touched countless viewers.

The day began at home, where the veteran pilot prepared for what he knew would be his last operational journey. Surrounded by family, he received blessings before heading to the airport. The quiet rituals of departure carried a heavier meaning this time, as years of dedication, discipline and passion came together in a single moment.

At the airport, colleagues welcomed him with flowers and warm wishes. For those who had flown alongside him over the years, this was more than a retirement — it was the closing of a shared chapter marked by teamwork, long hours and

mutual trust. The atmosphere reflected pride as much as nostalgia.

Once onboard, the pilot addressed passengers with an announcement that transformed a routine flight into a memorable experience. He shared that the journey was particularly special because his wife and daughter were travelling with him on an official flight for the first time. Speaking with calm confidence shaped by decades of experience, he reassured passengers while quietly acknowledging the significance of the occasion.

Throughout the flight, the emotions remained understated yet powerful. For the pilot, aviation had never been just a profession — it was a calling. Over 23 years, he had witnessed technological change, navigated countless weather conditions and carried millions of passengers safely to their destinations. Each flight added to a lifetime of stories written across the skies.

Upon landing, the moment of closure arrived.



In a simple yet symbolic gesture, the pilot offered a final farewell to the aircraft he had commanded so many times before. The act resonated deeply, representing gratitude, respect and the bond between a pilot and the machine that had been central to his life's work.

The video documenting the journey quickly spread online, drawing

emotional responses from viewers. Many praised his professionalism and dedication, while others reflected on the bitter-sweet nature of retiring from a career that defines one's identity. The presence of his daughter's narration added an intimate layer, capturing not just a professional milestone but a family's shared pride.

As he steps into retirement, the pilot leaves behind a legacy shaped by commitment, discipline and love for the skies. His final flight was not merely an ending, but a celebration of a life spent guiding others safely home — a reminder that behind every uniform is a story of perseverance, passion and quiet excellence.

Youtuber Surprises Parents With First Helicopter Ride, Wins Hearts Online



A heartfelt gesture by YouTuber Dharmendra Bilotia has captured the attention of millions online after he surprised his parents with their first-ever helicopter ride. The simple yet powerful moment, shared through a short video, has resonated widely for its sincerity, warmth and celebration of family bonds.

The video begins with Dharmendra standing beside his parents in front of a helicopter, gently asking them how they felt about the experience. Their understated response — a calm “felt good” — instantly struck a chord with viewers. In an age dominated by exaggerated reactions, their quiet joy felt refreshingly genuine.

As the video continues, the parents are seen seated inside the helicopter, looking out at the world below. Their expressions reflect a mix of wonder, peace and contentment rather than excitement or disbelief. It is this simplicity that has made the moment so moving. Viewers were drawn not to the luxury of the experience, but

to the shared happiness between a son and his parents.

In a message accompanying the video, Dharmendra reflected on his family's journey. He spoke about how his parents once watched helicopters fly over fields in their village, never imagining they would one day sit inside one together. The helicopter ride thus became more than an adventure — it symbolised progress, gratitude and dreams fulfilled through perseverance.

The video quickly went viral, crossing millions of views and prompting thousands of emotional responses. Many praised Dharmendra for choosing an experience over material gifts, noting that memories created with loved ones often carry deeper meaning than possessions. Others shared how the video reminded them of their own parents and the small dreams that often go unspoken.

What truly set the clip

apart was its absence of drama. There was no loud celebration or theatrical reaction — just genuine emotion captured in a quiet, respectful way. Viewers commented that the parents' calm happiness reflected a lifetime of humility and contentment, making the moment even more powerful.

The response online highlighted a shared sentiment: that expressing love and gratitude toward parents does not need extravagance. Simple gestures, when filled with thought and care, can leave lasting impressions. The helicopter ride was special not because it was rare, but because it was shared.

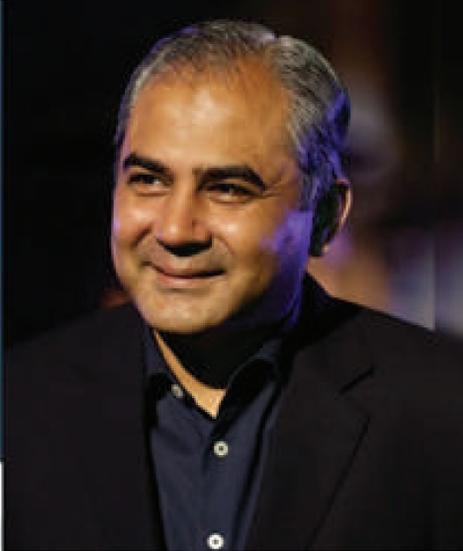
In a digital space often driven by spectacle, this video stood out for its authenticity. It served as a reminder that some of the most meaningful stories are rooted in family, appreciation and the joy of giving back to those who gave us everything.

Suresh Raina Warns Mohsin Naqvi Against T20 World Cup Withdrawal Threat

Former India batting star Suresh Raina has issued a strong message to Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Mohsin Naqvi amid growing controversy over Pakistan's possible exit from the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, amid wider tensions around team participation. The blunt warning comes as cricket officials and players navigate fallout from Bangladesh's removal from the tournament and Pakistan's escalating response.

The row began when Bangladesh pulled out of the T20 World Cup, citing security concerns about playing in India — a decision that led to their replacement by Scotland. Raina expressed clear disappointment with Bangladesh's decision, saying that India had provided adequate security and that their absence would be a loss to the competition. However, he also directed his strongest comments at Pakistan's cricket leadership for suggesting Pakistan might follow suit and boycott the event in "solidarity."

Raina described suggestions of withdrawal as "childish" and noted that the International Cricket Council (ICC) has warned of strict sanctions for



teams that skip the tournament. He emphasised that Pakistan stands to lose far more — both commercially and competitively — by refusing to participate. According to Raina, the global and cultural significance of Indian cricket means that skipping the World Cup would not only deprive fans of quality competition, but also damage Pakistan's own cricket interests.

The former Indian crick-

eter made it clear that the threats of boycott were not being taken lightly. He reiterated that the ICC could take unprecedented action against boards that do not honour their commitments to the tournament. Raina's remarks underline a broader concern within the cricketing community that political considerations are being intertwined with sport at a time when the event is set to begin in early February.

In defending the spirit of the World Cup, Raina argued that India — as defending champions and the top-ranked side — and all competing teams have a responsibility to ensure the tournament reflects the highest standards of competition. Avoiding participation, he suggested, would ultimately harm the sport's global appeal and deny players and supporters the opportunity to compete at the highest

level.

Raina's firm stance adds to a chorus of voices within cricket pushing back against threats to undermine the integrity of international competition. As boards, players and fans await Pakistan's final decision on participation, his warning highlights the potential consequences of withdrawal and reinforces the belief that the game should remain above politics and conflict.

Matt Henry Reveals Game Plan to Stop Red-Hot Abhishek Sharma Ahead of Final T20s



As the India vs New Zealand T20I series heads into its final phase, New Zealand pacer Matt Henry has outlined the team's strategy to curb the threat posed by India's in-form opener Abhishek Sharma, one of the standout performers in recent matches.

Henry acknowledged Abhishek as a dangerous left-hander capable of turning games with his aggressive stroke play. To counter him, Henry emphasized sustained pressure and consistent accuracy, the cornerstone of New Zealand's approach. He noted that by bowling disciplined lines and lengths, the team aims to force the batter into risky shots and induce errors.

The Kiwi pacer stressed that T20 cricket requires not just pace but adaptability and mental resilience. Adjusting strategies, using variations in pace, and staying calm after mixed overs are key to maintaining control over a high-impact batter like Abhishek. Henry also highlighted the importance of experience in Indian conditions, including pitch behavior, dew factors, and climate, which can influence bowling tactics.

Henry pointed out that New Zealand has already seen success with this approach, citing instances where disciplined bowling has curtailed scoring opportunities and created wicket-taking chances. He emphasized that controlling players like Abhishek requires both tactical discipline and psychological composure, ensuring that pressure is applied consistently throughout the innings.

The fast bowler's blueprint reflects the broader challenge in modern T20 cricket: facing aggressive, high-tempo batters requires a blend of strategy, execution, and resilience. By maintaining pressure, New Zealand hopes to limit scoring opportunities and create breakthroughs, particularly against key players capable of shifting momentum quickly.

As the series progresses, Henry's insights underline the tactical depth required at the highest level of T20 cricket. Success depends not only on individual skill but on team strategy, adaptability, and the ability to execute under pressure — lessons that will be vital as both teams gear up for the upcoming T20 World Cup.

Sri Lanka Breaks Silence on T20 World Cup 2026 Controversy, Takes Neutral Stance



Sri Lanka has finally spoken out amid the growing controversy surrounding the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, after Bangladesh's withdrawal from the tournament and uncertainty over participation by other teams. With the World Cup set to begin on February 7, 2026,

and Sri Lanka co-hosting the event with India, there had been considerable attention on the island nation's position in the unfolding dispute.

Sri Lanka's cricket authorities emphasised that they intend to remain neutral in the disagreement involving India, Pakistan

and Bangladesh, all of which are friendly nations with close ties to Colombo. The country's cricket leadership explained that Sri Lanka did not wish to be drawn into regional political tensions or take sides in the dispute. This approach aims to underscore unity and maintain

amicable relations with all cricketing neighbours as the marquee tournament approaches.

At the heart of the controversy is Bangladesh's stance on playing matches in India amid security concerns and diplomatic tensions. Bangladesh had sought to relocate its World Cup fixtures from India to Sri Lanka, citing safety issues following the removal of one of its players from a domestic league. When the International Cricket Council (ICC) rejected the request for relocation, Bangladesh stood firm and opted to pull out of the competition. The ICC then replaced Bangladesh with Scotland in the tournament lineup.

While Sri Lanka itself has taken a cautious approach, officials also indicated a willingness to support the cricketing community if needed in the future. They expressed openness to the idea of hosting matches or tournaments for any member country — including India, Pakistan or Bangla-

desh — should such requests arise in future circumstances. This shows Sri Lanka's desire to contribute positively to global cricket and provide solutions in times of logistical or diplomatic challenges.

The statement reflects Sri Lanka's broader objective of ensuring that the T20 World Cup runs smoothly, focusing on the sport and its competitive spirit rather than the political issues that have overshadowed the build up. By avoiding alignment with any particular side in the dispute, Sri Lanka seeks to protect the integrity and festive atmosphere of what promises to be one of the most watched cricket tournaments in recent history.

As preparations continue and the tournament nears kickoff, Sri Lanka's neutral stance is seen as an attempt to balance diplomatic sensitivities with its commitment to hosting a successful and inclusive global event that celebrates cricket across borders.

Carlos Alcaraz Outlasts Zverev in Five-Hour Thriller to Reach Australian Open Final



In one of the most dramatic matches of the Australian Open 2026, Carlos Alcaraz battled past Alexander Zverev in a grueling five-set semi-final to reach his first-ever final at Melbourne Park. The top-seeded Spaniard showed incredible resilience, winning 6-4, 7-6, 6-7, 6-7, 7-5 in a contest that lasted over five hours, cementing its place as one of the tournament's most memorable matches.

Alcaraz took command early, claiming the first set 6-4 and edging the second in a tight tiebreak to establish a 2-0 lead. However, physical strain soon tested him. Cramping and a leg issue forced a medical timeout, allowing Zverev to seize momentum. The German staged a remarkable comeback, winning the third and fourth sets in equally intense tiebreaks, pushing Alcaraz to the limits of endurance and skill.

In the decisive fifth set, Alcaraz demonstrated remarkable mental strength. Despite being under pressure, he managed to break Zverev's serve at a crucial moment, clinch-

ing the set 7-5 and securing his spot in the final. His determination under physical duress highlighted his growing reputation as a player capable of thriving in high-pressure situations.

The match was a testament to both players' tenacity. Zverev earned praise for his relentless fighting spirit, while Alcaraz's ability to maintain focus and execute key shots in the dying stages proved decisive. The crowd at Rod Laver Arena witnessed a display of endurance, skill, and strategy that will be remembered for years.

Alcaraz now awaits the winner of the other semi-final between Novak Djokovic and Jannik Sinner. A victory in the final would not only secure him the Australian Open trophy but also bring him closer to completing a career Grand Slam at just 22 years of age. The Spaniard's thrilling semi-final performance has sent a clear message to the tennis world: he is a player who can handle pressure, overcome adversity, and shine on the biggest stages.

Ex-India Cricketer Mocks Pakistan PM Over 'Electrifying' Tweet After Win Against Australia

A social media exchange has grabbed attention following Pakistan's victory over Australia in the first Twenty20 international of a bilateral series. Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had posted a congratulatory message praising the team's "electrifying performance" and lauding the Pakistan Cricket Board's leadership. However, the post quickly became the subject of online mockery, including from former Indian cricketer Aakash Chopra, who questioned the context and tone of the message.

Chopra highlighted that the Australian side fielded in the match was not their full-strength squad, with several key players absent. He argued that a 20-run win against a weakened opposition hardly warranted the description "electrifying," suggesting that the Prime Minister's enthusiasm was overblown. The post sparked widespread attention and engagement among crick-

et fans and analysts, who joined in the conversation with playful banter and critiques.

Another former Indian cricketer, Ajay Jadeja, also weighed in, noting the unusual nature of a Prime Minister celebrating a win in a bilateral T20 series. His comments resonated with many fans, reinforcing the perception that political figures often exaggerate sports achievements when sharing them publicly.

Despite the criticism of the post, Pakistan's victory itself was notable. The team posted a competitive total and successfully restricted Australia to a lower score, providing a morale-boosting start to the series. The win, while significant on the field, became magnified online due to the political and nationalistic lens through which cricket in the subcontinent is often viewed. The incident underscores how cricket, particularly in India and Pakistan, extends beyond the



pitch. Social media has become a platform where players, fans, and even political leaders can influence narratives and spark debates. Matches are scrutinized not just for performance but also for how achievements are celebrated, often inviting commen-

tary from a global audience.

As the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 approaches, episodes like these highlight the growing interplay between sports and social media, where statements and posts can create as much buzz as the

matches themselves. While Pakistan's win was a sporting accomplishment, the reaction to the Prime Minister's tweet demonstrates how cricket in the subcontinent continues to be a deeply entwined mix of sport, politics, and public opinion.

Telugu Cinema Finds a Versatile Performer in Sudev Nair



Telugu cinema has steadily been embracing performers from across industries, and Malayalam actor Sudev Nair is emerging as one of the most compelling additions to Tollywood's evolving talent pool. With a screen presence defined by physical intensity, emotional control, and quiet magnetism, Nair is carving out a distinctive space for himself through carefully chosen roles that resonate with both filmmakers and audiences.

Nair's breakthrough in Telugu cinema came with *They Call Him OG*, the much-anticipated Pawan Kalyan starrer. In a narrative structure where the first half leaned heavily on his character, Nair carried significant dramatic responsibility. Industry observers noted that holding audience attention in such a setup is no small feat, especially opposite a major star. The largely positive response to his performance suggested that Nair passed this test with confidence, establishing his credibility in mainstream Telugu cinema.

He further expanded his range in *Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu*, where he shared screen space with megastar Chiranjeevi under the direction of Anil Ravipudi. The role demanded emotional versatility, requiring Nair to move fluidly between vulnerability, restraint, and menace. Critics and audiences alike took note of how naturally he inhabited these shifts, pointing to an actor comfortable with both psychological nuance and physical expressiveness.

A defining aspect of Sudev Nair's screen appeal is his commanding physicality. Trained extensively in gymnastics and martial arts, his athletic build lends authenticity to action sequences—an essential quality in Telugu mass entertainers. His muscular frame, combined with striking hazel-green eyes and sharply chiseled features, allows him to project intensity without losing relatability. This balance between strength and accessibility aligns closely with the visual and performative

traditions Telugu cinema has long celebrated.

Beyond physical preparation, Nair's commitment to dubbing his own Telugu dialogue reflects a deeper engagement with his roles. This insistence on authenticity adds credibility to his performances and signals a seriousness that goes beyond surface-level adaptation to a new industry.

Currently, Nair is shooting for a significant role in *Toxic: A Fairytale for Grown-Ups*, alongside Kannada superstar Yash. His involvement in such high-profile projects indicates growing trust from filmmakers and a rising demand for his skill set across South Indian cinema.

While it remains to be seen how his career trajectory will evolve—whether into more varied narrative positions or lead roles—Sudev Nair's steady presence in major star-driven films suggests an actor on an upward curve. For Telugu cinema, he represents a blend of discipline, versatility, and screen power that continues to leave a strong impression.

SS Rajamouli Confirms Mahesh Babu's 'Varanasi' Release Date

Ace filmmaker S. S. Rajamouli has officially confirmed the release date of his much-anticipated next directorial, *Varanasi*, starring Superstar Mahesh Babu in the lead. The film is set to hit theatres worldwide on April 7, 2027, putting an end to months of speculation surrounding its release timeline and further intensifying excitement among fans and the film fraternity.

The announcement has significantly raised expectations, as *Varanasi* marks the first collaboration between Rajamouli and Mahesh Babu—two towering figures in Indian cinema. Known for redefining scale, storytelling, and global reach with films like *Baahubali* and *RRR*, Rajamouli's next is being positioned as another ambitious cinematic spectacle, designed for pan-Indian and international audiences.

Varanasi is said to be a large-scale action-adventure drama with mythic and philosophical undertones, blending realism with imaginative storytelling—an area where Rajamouli has consistently excelled. While plot details are being closely guarded, the title itself has sparked widespread curiosity, hinting at a narrative rooted in history, spirituality, and timeless human conflict.

Mahesh Babu is reportedly undergoing a striking physical transformation for the role, signaling a departure from his recent urbane and contem-



porary screen image. Industry insiders suggest that the character will demand both intense physicality and emotional depth, offering the actor one of the most challenging roles of his career.

The film also features a high-profile international cast, including Priyanka Chopra Jonas in a pivotal role, adding global appeal to the project. With a massive budget, cutting-edge visual effects, and extensive international shooting schedules, *Varanasi* is shaping up to be one of the biggest Indian productions of the decade.

April 7 has been strategically chosen as a summer release date, allow-

ing the film to capitalize on holiday audiences across domestic and overseas markets. Trade analysts believe the film is being groomed not just as a box-office juggernaut, but as a global event film that could further elevate Indian cinema's standing on the world stage.

As production progresses steadily, anticipation continues to build around *Varanasi*. With Rajamouli's proven storytelling prowess and Mahesh Babu's star power coming together for the first time, the film is already being viewed as a landmark project—one that could redefine scale and ambition in Indian cinema once again.

Komalee Prasad Announces Female-Led Supernatural Crime Thriller "Mandavetti," Marks Tamil Debut

Actress Komalee Prasad has officially announced her Tamil cinema debut with *Mandavetti*, a powerful female-led supernatural crime thriller that signals a bold new phase in her acting career. Sharing the announcement with a heartfelt message seeking the love and blessings of audiences, Komalee described *Mandavetti* as a project the entire team is deeply proud of, while intentionally keeping key details under wraps.

Produced by Tuskers Den Pictures and directed by Saranraj Senthilkumar, *Mandavetti* has gone on floors following a traditional pooja ceremony. Principal photography is currently underway in Usilampatti, located in the Madurai district of Tamil Nadu, where the cast and crew are actively shooting the film. The makers have positioned the project as a performance-driven narrative with a strong emotional and psychological core.

A supernatural crime thriller at heart, *Mandavetti* blends mysticism with human emotion and is firmly anchored in a singular female perspective. The film explores themes of loss, identity, and survival, demanding both emotional depth and physical intensity from its lead. Komalee Prasad is placed at the centre of the narrative, carrying the film's psychological weight and guiding the story through her character's inter-



nal and external conflicts.

Director Saranraj Senthilkumar, who previously made an impression with *Vella Kuthira*, is known for his atmospheric

storytelling and psychological restraint. His vision for *Mandavetti* is said to be mood-driven and unconventional, focusing more on character interiority

than overt spectacle. The supernatural elements are designed to function as extensions of the protagonist's inner world, enhancing the film's emotional resonance rather than serving as standalone visual effects.

The supporting cast includes Thenappan, Gajaraj, and Amritha, who play key roles in shaping the film's layered emotional structure. The technical team features cinematographer Prakash, editor Kuna, music director Deepak Venugopal, and stunt choreographer Gowtham, all contributing to a tightly controlled cinematic vision.

Komalee Prasad's Tamil debut marks a natural progression in a career defined by thoughtful role selection and emotional authenticity. Her Telugu filmography includes *Napoleon*, *Rowdy Boys*, *Sebastian P.C. 524*, *HIT: The Second Case*, *HIT: The Third Case*, and *Sasivadane*. She has also gained critical acclaim in the digital space with *Loser*, *Modern Love Hyderabad*, and *Touch Me Not*.

With *Mandavetti*, Komalee enters Tamil cinema not as a crossover experiment, but as a performer taking on a demanding, central role that reflects her evolving artistic sensibilities. As production continues, the film is shaping up to be a distinctive addition to contemporary Tamil genre cinema, with further updates expected in the coming months.

Sundeep Kishan and Vishwak Sen Launch Teaser of Thiruveer's "Bhagavanthudu,"



The teaser of young and talented actor Thiruveer's upcoming film *Bhagavanthudu* was officially released in Hyderabad by popular heroes Sundeep Kishan and Vishwak Sen, creating strong buzz around the project. The film is being made as a romantic period political action drama and is gearing up for a grand summer release.

Directed by debutant G. G. Vihari, *Bhagavanthudu* stars Thiruveer in the lead role, with Faria

Abdullah playing the female lead. Kannada actor Rishi will be seen in a crucial role, alongside a strong supporting cast including Ravinder Vijay, Shelley Kishore, Kalakeya Prabhakar, and Chiraj Jani. The film is presented by Asian Films Narayan Das Narang and Panasa Shankaraya Goud, and produced by Ravi Kumar Panasa under the Ravi Panasa Film Corporation banner as Production No. 1.

The teaser launch

event witnessed an enthusiastic turnout from the film fraternity. Several actors and technicians associated with the project shared their excitement and confidence in the film's potential. Many speakers described *Bhagavanthudu* as a powerful, rooted story with a strong social and emotional core, comparing its impact to films like *Kantara*, *Asuran*, *Karnan*, and *Jai Bhim*.

Director G. G. Vihari, who began his career as a

film journalist, said *Bhagavanthudu* is a story deeply connected to society and human contradictions. He revealed that the film is set against the backdrop of Palnadu, often referred to as the "Telugu Mahabharata," where traditions, conflict, and history intersect. He thanked director Venu Udugula and producer Ravi Panasa for believing in his vision and supporting the film without compromise.

Producer Ravi Panasa shared that cinema has always been close to his heart, even during his journey as a businessman. He said the story demanded fresh faces rather than established stars, which led to the casting of Thiruveer and Faria Abdullah. Despite the budget exceeding initial plans, he expressed confidence that the final output would justify the scale and effort.

Hero Thiruveer said he was instantly convinced

by the story within minutes of hearing it and trusted the team completely. He added that *Bhagavanthudu* required intense preparation, including training in dance and action, and promised that the film would be a standout in his career.

Sundeep Kishan and Vishwak Sen praised the teaser and the team's conviction, urging audiences to support meaningful cinema. Vishwak Sen, in particular, expressed his fondness for rural, rooted stories and wished the film great commercial success.

With cinematography by Raj Thota, music by KP, editing by Praveen Pudi, and lyrics by Chandrabose, Goreti Venkanna, and Kasarla Shyam, *Bhagavanthudu* is shaping up to be a powerful cinematic experience. The makers have announced plans for an April theatrical release, with further promotional content expected soon.

Soundarya Rajinikanth Shares Her Perspective on Superstar Rajinikanth's Political Decisions

Chennai: Filmmaker and producer Soundarya Rajinikanth has once again addressed the long-standing public curiosity surrounding her father, Superstar Rajinikanth, and his political journey, offering a calm and thoughtful perspective that reflects both respect and reassurance.

Reacting to renewed discussions about Rajinikanth's earlier decision to stay away from active politics, Soundarya emphasized that her father has always been clear and transparent with his intentions. She stated that Rajinikanth is someone who deeply reflects on every major decision in his life, whether personal, professional, or public, and that politics was no exception. According to her, his choice was guided by conscience, health considerations, and a genuine concern for responsibility rather than pressure or hesitation.

Soundarya highlighted that Rajinikanth never views politics as a mere extension of popularity.

For him, public service carries immense responsibility, and unless he is fully convinced he can commit himself entirely, he would not take such a step lightly. She reiterated that her father believes in entering any field only when he feels morally and physically prepared to do justice to it.

Addressing fans who continue to express disappointment over his decision not to pursue a political career, Soundarya appealed for understanding. She said that while the love and expectations of his admirers mean everything to him, he also believes in being honest with himself and the people. Taking up a role of leadership, she noted, is not something he would do halfway, and stepping back was a decision taken with integrity. From a family perspective, Soundarya made it clear that Rajinikanth's children have always stood by his choices. Whether it was his rise as a cinematic icon or his reflections on social re-

sponsibility, the family's role has been to support him unconditionally. She added that Rajinikanth continues to serve society in his own way, through his work, philanthropy, and the values he communicates to millions through cinema.

On the professional front, Rajinikanth remains fully committed to films, with several major projects keeping him firmly in the public eye. Soundarya remarked that cinema has always been his strongest medium of expression, allowing him to connect with people across generations and regions.

Soundarya's comments strike a balanced note, acknowledging public sentiment while reinforcing Rajinikanth's right to make decisions rooted in self-awareness and responsibility. As discussions around his political stance resurface from time to time, her words offer clarity, reminding fans that the Superstar's choices are driven not by uncertainty, but by conviction.



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