



BUZZ POINTS

GHMC Mayor G. Vijayalakshmi Reviews Development Initiatives in Banjara Hills Division



PAGE 04

HYDERABAD | VOL-1 | ISSUE-75 | 21ST JANUARY 2026 | WEDNESDAY | PAGES 12 | PRICE: ₹ 5 PUBLISHED FROM: VIJAYAWADA • HYDERABAD • DELHI • BANGALURU

BUZZ POINTS

EESL to Showcase India's Energy Efficiency Leadership at Indian Energy Week 2026

PAGE 02

Centre Lauds Telangana's Urea App; Minister Tummalala Pushes for Statewide Rollout by Kharif

PAGE 02

Harish Rao Reaches Jubilee Hills ACP Office; BRS Alleges Political Vendetta by Congress Government

PAGE 03

Hyderabad Narcotics Enforcement Wing Conducts Counselling Session for Drug Users and Parents

PAGE 04

Sports Minister Vakiti Srihari Inspects Proposed Jurala Bridge, Calls It a Historic Decision

PAGE 05



Google Keen to Partner with Telangana on Agriculture, Climate Change, and Smart Urban Solutions

Davos TPN Bureau | January 20

Telangana's Rising delegation, led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, secured substantial global interest in sustainable development, climate action, agriculture, AI, and urban innovation during the World Economic Forum (WEF) 2026 in Davos, Switzerland.

In a high-level discussion with Google's APAC President Sanjay Gupta, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy outlined Telangana's innovative CURE, PURE, RARE framework for regional economic growth. He explained that the framework aims to transform Hyderabad into a pollution-free, sustainable, and technologically advanced urban hub while also addressing climate change impacts on agriculture. The Chief Minister emphasized the state's focus on preventive measures for soil and water conservation, sustainable farming, and the re-

sponsible use of fertilizers.

Highlighting Telangana's tech-forward approach, the Chief Minister identified potential areas for collaboration with Google, including AI-led traffic management, cybersecurity initiatives, smart urban planning, and support for startup innovation. He also thanked Google for establishing the first-ever Google for Startups hub in Hyderabad, underscoring the state's growing reputation as an innovation-friendly ecosystem. Sanjay Gupta, APAC President of Google, expressed the company's willingness to provide full support to Telangana across multiple domains. "Google is ready to collaborate with Telangana to address urban challenges, promote sustainable agriculture, leverage AI for climate solutions, and strengthen the startup ecosystem," he stated.

Minister for IT & Industries D. Sridhar Babu highlighted the Telangana govern-

ment's comprehensive skilling and capacity-building initiatives, such as the Young India Skills University (YISU), BFSI skilling programs, and partnerships with platforms like Khan Academy and Physicswallah. He also detailed efforts to provide free electricity to government schools and high-speed internet through T-Fiber, enabling a robust foundation for future-ready talent.

Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy and senior officials from IT, agriculture, and industry departments participated in the meeting, discussing actionable steps for joint initiatives between Google and Telangana. The discussions emphasized integrating technology, data analytics, and AI to strengthen agriculture productivity, improve soil health, and ensure environmentally sustainable urban planning. These engagements complement Telangana's ongoing global partnerships in skill de-

velopment, AI, and life sciences. Earlier during WEF 2026, the delegation secured collaborations with Saudi industrial conglomerate Expertise to recruit 5,000 skilled professionals annually through YISU, and with Royal Philips for AI-driven healthcare solutions and a potential knowledge hub in Hyderabad. Through these strategic partnerships, Telangana is positioning itself as a global hub for innovation, skill development, climate-resilient agriculture, and technology-led sustainable urban growth, aligned with the state's Telangana Rising 2047 vision of a \$3 trillion economy and a future-ready society.

These discussions reflect Telangana's commitment to building a resilient, knowledge-driven, and environmentally sustainable economic model while fostering international collaboration for technology, innovation, and sustainable development.

UAE to Partner with Telangana on Bharat Future City Development

Davos, TPN Bureau | January 20

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has expressed its readiness to collaborate with Telangana in developing the Bharat Future City into a world-class urban hub, officials said. The announcement came during a meeting between Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and H.E. Abdullah Bin Tauk Al Marri, UAE Minister of Economy and Tourism, on Tuesday at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos.

The discussions focused on large-scale infrastructure projects in Telangana, with particular emphasis on Bharat Future City, a flagship initiative under the Telangana Rising 2047 vision. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy outlined the State's ambitious goal of transforming Telanga-

na into a \$3 trillion economy by 2047, positioning it as a leading economic and technological hub in India.

Highlighting the city's development plans, the CM said Bharat Future City will be India's first net-zero greenfield smart city, spanning approximately 30,000 acres. The project will feature dedicated zones for artificial intelligence, education, healthcare, industries, residential and entertainment purposes. Several international companies, including Marubeni and SEM Corp, are already participating as strategic partners, and a recent Memorandum of Understanding with Reliance Group aims to establish a new zoo within the city. H.E. Abdullah Bin Tauk Al Marri expressed the UAE government's keen interest in forging a strategic partnership with Telangana. He suggested the creation of a joint task force be-

tween the two governments to accelerate project execution. The UAE also indicated interest in collaborating on a food cluster initiative to strengthen rural and agriculture-based economic ecosystems in Telangana. The meeting was attended by Telangana Ministers Duddilla Sridhar Babu (IT & Industries) and Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy (Revenue), along with senior officials from the State's Telangana Rising delegation. Both sides affirmed their commitment to leveraging global expertise and investment to realize the transformative potential of Bharat Future City and the broader vision of Telangana Rising 2047. This strategic partnership underscores Telangana's emergence as a preferred investment destination and highlights its efforts to develop sustainable, technology-driven urban infrastructure.

Corporate, Fascist Forces Threatening Parliamentary Democracy: Bhatti Vikramarka

TPN Bureau | Khammam January 20:

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu has warned that corporate and fascist forces are posing a serious challenge to India's parliamentary democracy by diverting public attention from key economic and social issues in the name of religious sentiment. He called for united struggles by Left parties and democratic forces to counter these trends and safeguard constitutional values.

Addressing a national seminar organised in Khammam on Tuesday as part of the CPI's centenary celebrations, Bhatti Vikramarka said the country was witnessing a deliberate attempt to weaken democratic institutions and undermine people's rights. He asserted that corporate interests, working in tandem with fascist forces, were distorting public discourse and threatening the very foundations of parliamentary democracy.

The Deputy Chief Minister urged Left parties to move forward with unity and adapt their political strategies to the changing national situation. He said resistance should not be limited only to the traditional divide between exploiting and exploited classes, but must also respond effectively to the evolving political realities of the country. "Only united struggles can put a check on forces that are misleading the nation on economic and social issues," he said.

Referring to Marxist ideology, Bhatti Vikra-

marka recalled Karl Marx's view that socialism could be achieved through class struggle. However, he noted that Indian society evolved differently, being structured more around caste than class, as explained by German philosopher Max Weber. In a situation where class struggle is being diluted and the parliamentary system itself is being questioned, the role of communists and Left forces has become even more significant, he observed.

Praising Khammam's historical and cultural legacy, the Deputy Chief Minister said the district has always been a welcoming ground for diverse ideologies and movements. He expressed happiness over Left leaders from across the country gathering in Khammam for the national seminar and congratulated the CPI on completing 100 years of its journey marked by sacrifices and struggles.

Bhatti Vikramarka highlighted the crucial role played by the CPI in India's freedom movement. He pointed out that while India attained Independence in 1947, the Telangana region achieved freedom a year later following the historic armed struggle against the autocratic Nizam rule. He said the Telangana Armed Struggle led by communists sent a powerful message to the world and became a symbol of resistance against oppression.

Recalling Telangana's rich legacy of people's movements, he said struggles for land, food, and the liberation of the poor shaped the region's identity. Move-



ments such as "land to the tiller" and the library movement played a transformative role in social awakening. He noted that districts like Khammam, Nalgonda, and Warangal echo with stories of struggle in almost every household. The Deputy Chief Minister also spoke about progressive legislation introduced with the support of Left parties. He recalled that the tenancy law was introduced in 1950 under Burgula Ramakrishna Rao, followed by land reforms in 1970, the 20-point programme for poverty alleviation, nationalisation of banks, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, and the Right to Information Act, all made possible with Left support to Congress governments. Emphasising the need to protect the Constitution, Bhatti Vikramarka warned that failure to do so would deprive ordinary citizens of their fundamental rights. He alleged that the BJP-led central government was weakening voting rights and attempting changes to the Constitution. In this context, he stressed the need for Congress and Left parties to work together and undertake a long-term political journey to defend democracy and constitutional values in the country.

Harish Rao Condemns SIT Notice, Demands Judicial Probe into Alleged Scams

Hyderabad TPN Bureau | January 20

Former Telangana minister and BRS Legislature Party Deputy Leader T. Harish Rao on Tuesday strongly condemned the Special Investigation Team (SIT) notice issued to him, terming it politically motivated, baseless, and an attempt to intimidate him while diverting public attention from alleged corruption by the ruling Congress government. Speaking to the media at Telangana Bhavan after appearing before the SIT, Harish Rao criticized Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and his administration for what he called a misuse of power and procedural irregularities.

Harish Rao began by expressing gratitude to BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao, Opposition Leader in the Legislative Council Madhusudhanachary, party leaders, and cadre for offering moral and political support during the ongoing proceedings. He claimed that the SIT inquiry was merely a "repetition of allegations" with no fresh basis, describing it as "trash" built on unsupported claims. The former minister alleged that during



the questioning, SIT officials appeared to act under external pressure, leaving the room repeatedly and receiving phone calls that influenced the proceedings. He suggested that these actions indicated the Chief Minister or senior police officers might be orchestrating the inquiry.

Harish Rao specifically called out the timing of the notice, which he said came shortly after he highlighted alleged wrongdoing involving the Chief Minister's family. He challenged Revanth Reddy directly, stating that if the government had any integrity, it should allow a fair judicial investigation under the supervision of a sitting High Court judge

rather than conducting a politically tainted SIT probe. "If there is courage and honesty, let the inquiry happen in a proper judicial forum. Otherwise, this notice only exposes the corruption and vindictive politics at the top," he said.

Highlighting his political and administrative track record, Harish Rao reminded the media that the BRS had always engaged in public service and activism under the leadership of former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao. He asserted that protests, arrests, and political cases were familiar territory for the party's cadre, emphasizing that such notices would not deter him or his colleagues. "Every

notice is a badge of honor for my public fight," he said, reinforcing his commitment to Telangana's people.

He accused the Revanth Reddy government of attempting to use the SIT as a tool to distract from governance failures, including unfulfilled promises of farm loan waivers, flood relief, employment generation, and pension increases. Harish Rao cited previous court rulings that had struck down politically motivated cases against him and alleged that the current SIT notice was merely a continuation of a similar strategy.

Demanding transparency, he urged the government to release the

full SIT inquiry record publicly and to focus on issues that matter to citizens instead of indulging in "cheap political tactics" and leaks to the media. He called for a proper investigation into alleged irregularities at Singareni Collieries and warned that if no judicial inquiry was undertaken, BRS would hold those responsible accountable when it returned to power.

Concluding his address, Harish Rao emphasized that while he respects the judiciary and would cooperate with any lawful investigation, he would not tolerate politically motivated harassment. He reiterated that his commitment remains to Telangana's people, and he would continue to fight for transparency, accountability, and justice against corruption and administrative malpractices.

This statement underlines the ongoing political tension in Telangana, as opposition leaders continue to challenge the state government on allegations of corruption and misuse of power, while the ruling Congress faces scrutiny over its administrative decisions and public accountability.

EESL to Showcase India's Energy Efficiency Leadership at Indian Energy Week 2026



Hyderabad, January 11, 2026 (TPN Bureau): Former minister and senior Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader T. Harish Rao on Saturday launched a blistering attack on the Telangana government, alleging complete administrative confusion and lack of transparency over the recent hike in cinema ticket prices. He remarked that a "suspense thriller" is currently unfolding not in movie theatres, but within the Secretariat itself. "People are beginning to

question whether there is a government in the state at all, and if there is one, who is actually controlling it," Harish Rao said in a strongly worded statement. He pointed to the contradictory developments surrounding the issuance of Government Orders (GOs) permitting higher ticket price hikes. According to Harish Rao, while GOs approving higher ticket prices are being issued, the Cinematography Minister has publicly claimed ignorance, stating that he was neither

involved nor informed and that no file had reached him. "When a Cabinet minister is unaware of such a major decision taken in his own department, it raises a serious question—who is running this government?" he asked. Targeting Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy directly, Harish Rao questioned whether the state was being run as a government or a "circus company." He said it was unfortunate that despite the High Court expressing displeasure over ticket price hikes earlier, the government's approach remained unchanged. Harish Rao recalled the Chief Minister's assurances on the floor of the Assembly, where Revanth Reddy had categorically stated that there would be no increase in ticket prices,

no benefit shows, and no special privileges during his tenure. "Then how did overnight GOs approving increased ticket rates for at least three films come into force? Preparations are reportedly underway to issue another GO soon," he alleged, accusing the government of misleading the Assembly and the public. He also expressed sympathy for Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, stating that it was pitiable to see a minister distancing himself from decisions taken by his own department. Harish Rao said the minister's statements indirectly suggest that ticket price hikes are being decided at the Chief Minister's level, rendering the concerned ministry irrelevant. The BRS leader further alleged

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

discrimination and political vendetta in granting permissions to films. "Some films are denied permissions until midnight, while others receive approvals days in advance with royal treatment," he said. He accused the government of using the film industry as a tool for settling political scores rather than treating it as an industry. Comparing the situation with the previous BRS regime, Harish Rao said

that during former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao's decade-

long tenure, the film industry was protected without discrimination,

enabling Telugu cinema to reach global standards. Demanding accountability, Harish Rao said the BRS would urge the Governor to order a comprehensive inquiry into alleged commission rackets and the role of what he termed a "non-constitutional force" influencing ticket price decisions. "This is not people's governance; it is the peak of irresponsible rule," he asserted.

SLNP (Street Light National Programme)					
National Savings	Total Lights Installed	Energy Saved Per Year	Monetary Savings	Avoided Peak Demand	CO2 Emission Reduction
	1.34 Crore	9001 Mn kWh	5400 Cr	1500 MW	6.2 mn t CO ₂ e
Telangana Total Street Lights					
Telangana GHMC					
GHMC	Total Lights Installed	Energy Saved Per Year	Monetary Savings	Avoided Peak Demand	CO2 Emission Reduction
	5.5 Lac	369 Mn kWh	221 Cr	61 MW	0.25 Mn t CO ₂ e
Telangana ULBs					
Telangana ULBs	Total Lights Installed	Energy Saved Per Year	Monetary Savings	Avoided Peak Demand	CO2 Emission Reduction
	10.3 Lac	692 Mn kWh	415 Cr	115 MW	0.5 Mn t CO ₂ e
Telangana GP (lights installed as on June 2025)					
Gram Panchayats Telangana	Total Lights Installed	Energy Saved Per Year	Monetary Savings	Avoided Peak Demand	CO2 Emission Reduction
	1.5 Lac	100 Mn kWh	60 Cr	16 MW	0.07 Mn t CO ₂ e
Telangana Total Savings	Total Lights Installed	Energy Saved Per Year	Monetary Savings	Avoided Peak Demand	CO2 Emission Reduction
	17.33 Lac	1160 Mn kWh	696 Cr	193 MW	0.80 Mn t CO ₂ e

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Reviews RTC Operations at Secretariat

Hyderabad, January 20, 2026 (TPN Bureau) Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Tuesday chaired a high-level review meeting at the Secretariat to assess the functioning of the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (RTC) and discuss key operational issues. The meeting focused on pending works within the RTC and preparations for large-scale bus operations during the upcoming Medaram Jatara, with an emphasis on ensuring commuter convenience. The review meeting was attended by Special Chief Secretary Vikas Raj, RTC Managing Director Nagi Reddy, along with RTC Executive Directors, Regional Managers and other senior officials. The officials presented detailed updates on the current status of RTC operations and ongoing administrative and infrastructure-related works. During the meeting, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar reviewed pending projects and instructed officials to expedite works that directly impact passenger services. He stressed the need for improved coordination among departments to ensure smooth functioning of the RTC, particularly during peak travel periods. A major portion of the discussion revolved around the arrangements for Medaram Jatara, one of the largest tribal festivals in the country, which witnesses massive footfall from across Telangana and



neighbouring states. The minister directed RTC officials to plan bus operations meticulously so that devotees and general passengers do not face inconvenience. He emphasised the deployment of adequate buses, proper scheduling, and efficient crowd management at key transit points. The minister also underlined the importance of safety, punctuality and cleanliness in RTC services. He asked officials to ensure that buses are well-maintained and that staff are sensi-

tised to handle increased passenger volumes during the festival period. Special attention, he said, should be given to providing timely information to passengers regarding routes, schedules and availability of services. Senior officials assured the minister that all necessary steps were being taken to strengthen operations and that contingency plans were in place to handle rush situations. They informed him that additional buses and staff would be deployed as re-

quired during the Medaram Jatara. Concluding the meeting, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar reiterated the government's commitment to providing reliable and efficient public transport services. He said the RTC plays a crucial role in connecting people across the state and directed officials to work with a sense of responsibility to ensure that public transport remains accessible, safe and passenger-friendly, especially during major events like the Medaram Jatara.

Harish Rao Writes to Union Coal Minister Seeking CBI Probe into Alleged Singareni Coal Scam

Hyderabad, January 20, 2026 (TPN Bureau) Former minister and BRS Legislature Party deputy leader T. Harish Rao on Monday demanded a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the alleged Singareni coal scam, accusing Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and his brother-in-law Srujan Reddy of large-scale irregularities. Harish Rao addressed a letter to Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy and released it to the media before leaving for the Special Investigation Team (SIT) inquiry. In his letter, Harish Rao alleged that after the change of government in Telangana in 2024, sweeping changes were introduced in Singareni Collieries Company Limited's tendering process with the sole intention of favouring select contractors. He pointed out that a new mandatory condition — the "Site Visit Certificate" — was imposed on bidders, a practice that had never existed in Singareni's history. He further stated that even national coal giants such as Coal India and Western Coalfields Limited do not follow such a procedure, raising serious doubts over the intent behind the rule change. The BRS leader alleged that tenders finalised during the pre-



vious BRS regime at rates lower than estimates, ranging from 7 per cent to 20 per cent below cost, were cancelled. In their place, fresh contracts were allegedly awarded at inflated rates of 7 per cent to 10 per cent above estimates, causing massive financial losses to Singareni. He claimed these decisions directly benefited private parties at the expense of public resources. Harish Rao also highlighted changes in the diesel procurement policy. He stated that Singareni had earlier purchased bulk diesel directly from Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), which ensured lower costs. However, this system

was scrapped and the responsibility was shifted to contractors, leading to increased project costs and an additional Goods and Services Tax burden. He alleged that this move was detrimental to the financial interests of the company. Raising concerns over leadership vacuum, Harish Rao noted that Singareni had been functioning without a permanent Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) for the last two years and was being run under an in-charge arrangement. He warned that the absence of a full-time CMD had weakened monitoring mechanisms and allowed arbitrary decision-making. The former minister also questioned the silence of Central government-nominated directors on the Singareni board, despite what he described as blatant violations of rules. He stressed that safeguarding public money was their responsibility. Asserting that internal or state-level probes would not be sufficient, Harish Rao demanded a comprehensive CBI investigation into all tenders and policy decisions taken in Singareni after 2024. "Only a CBI inquiry can uncover the truth behind these irregularities," he stated, calling upon the Union Coal Minister to intervene immediately.

Centre Lauds Telangana's Urea App; Minister Tummala Pushes for Statewide Rollout by Kharif

Hyderabad, January 20 (TPN Bureau): Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao on Tuesday said the Centre's Fertiliser Department has appreciated the Telangana government's Urea (Fertiliser) App, describing it as a significant step towards transparent and efficient fertiliser distribution. He directed officials to ensure that the app is implemented across all districts of the State by the coming Kharif season. The Minister chaired a high-level review meeting at the Secretariat to assess the progress of the Agriculture, Marketing, Cooperation and Horticulture departments. Agriculture Secretary Surendra Mohan, departmental directors and senior officials attended the meeting. During the review, Mr. Tummala stressed the need for more effective implementation of farm mechanisation, natural farming initiatives and the Telangana Vision 2047 action plan. He instructed officials to intensify outreach so that all government schemes reach farmers fully and on time. Raising concerns over the misuse of "organic" labels in markets, the Minister said genuine organic farmers were suffering due to the circulation of fake organic products. To ad-



dress this, he announced that the Agriculture Department would soon launch a dedicated certification app for organic produce. Through the app, consumers would be able to trace the origin of products, including details of the farmer and cultivation practices. He also suggested promoting organic cultivation in vacant lands of agricultural universities and setting up on-site stalls to encourage farmers towards organic farming. The Minister said 50 crore has already been spent under the revived farm mechanisation scheme and another 50 crore is ready for allocation. He directed officials to frame rules ensuring farm machinery is made available at market prices, with subsidies directly credited to farmers' accounts. He added that after assuming

office, the present government revived several Centrally-sponsored schemes neglected earlier, spending nearly 500 crore this year alone. Officials were instructed to ensure that every rupee received from the Centre is fully utilised. To avoid fertiliser shortages, Mr. Tummala asked officials to maintain large buffer stocks of urea before the next Kharif season and coordinate with railway authorities to create additional rake points for smoother fertiliser movement. He also emphasised promoting high-quality fine rice varieties in view of the State's bonus scheme for fine paddy, so that farmers secure better returns. On crop assessment, the Minister ordered completion of satellite-based crop mapping with high accuracy by the

end of the month and sought three-year crop data, followed by field verification before finalisation. The Minister instructed officials to ensure that deposits of all State government departments are placed in cooperative and urban cooperative banks instead of private commercial banks, and to write to the Chief Secretary in this regard. On oil palm cultivation, he asked officials to exceed the Centre's plantation targets, warning that contracts of underperforming companies could be cancelled and reassigned. He also directed officials to urge the Centre to increase import duty on palm oil to 44 per cent, stating that this would improve prices and incentivise farmers. To reduce dependence on other States for vegetables, Mr. Tummala called for encouraging vegetable cultivation, including terrace and urban farming. He further directed that farmers be included as members in all committees formed by departments, universities and corporations. The Minister also proposed installing solar panels at Rythu Vedikas and on vacant departmental lands, citing pilot projects that are already generating surplus power.



Harish Rao Reaches Jubilee Hills ACP Office; BRS Alleges Political Vendetta by Congress Government

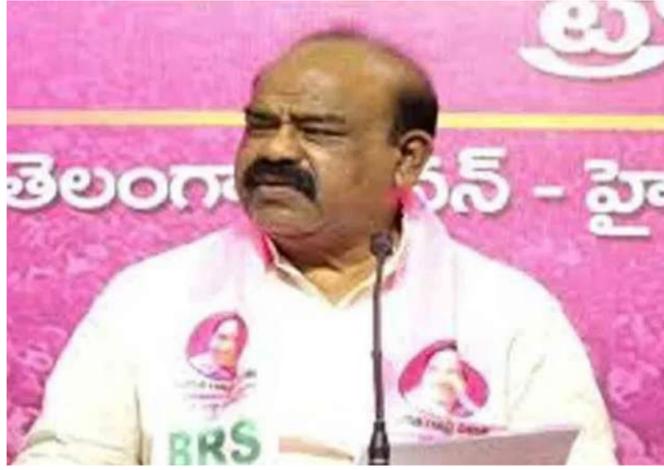
Hyderabad, January 20 (TPN Bureau)

Former minister and senior BRS leader T. Harish Rao reached the Jubilee Hills Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) office on Monday as part of the ongoing inquiry, amid tense scenes and sharp political reactions from the Bharat Rashtra Samithi. Police reportedly denied permission for advocates accompanying Harish Rao to enter the ACP office, leading to heated arguments between police personnel, lawyers, and party leaders present at the venue.

The developments triggered strong condemnation from BRS

leaders, who described the police action as undemocratic and politically motivated. Several party functionaries gathered outside the office, raising slogans and alleging misuse of the police machinery to target opposition leaders.

Speaking at Telangana Bhavan, BRS Legislative Council Opposition Leader Madhusudhana Chary alleged that the notices issued to Harish Rao were part of a deliberate campaign of political vendetta. "This is nothing but an act of revenge politics. Harish Rao is being targeted because the BRS is persistently questioning the Congress government on its failures and un-



fulfilled promises," he said. Chary accused Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy of failing to implement even a single major assurance giv-

en to the people during the elections. "Revanth Reddy came to power riding high expectations, but he has failed to deliver on his promises. BRS represents a governance model based on welfare schemes, while the Congress government has become synonymous with scams," he remarked.

He further stated that whenever BRS leaders raise questions in the Assembly, the ruling party avoids giving answers and instead resorts to diversionary politics. "Unable to face questions on governance failures and corruption allegations, the Congress is resorting to

filing cases and issuing notices to distract public attention," Chary alleged.

Recalling the Telangana statehood movement, the BRS leader said the party and its leaders were no strangers to repression. He alleged that during the united Andhra Pradesh era, many Telangana activists were jailed, and noted that Revanth Reddy was part of the Telugu Desam Party at that time. "The same leader who once stood against the Telangana movement is now trying to silence those who fought for the state," he said.

Chary described Harish Rao as a committed

Telangana activist who had made sacrifices for the cause of statehood and asserted that such leaders would not be cowed down by conspiracies or intimidation. "We strongly condemn the ongoing conspiracies and political manoeuvres. The people of Telangana have reacted strongly to the notices issued to Harish Rao," he added. Maintaining that the BRS would continue to question the Congress government, Madhusudhana Chary said, "No matter how many cases are filed, Harish Rao will continue to expose corruption and question Revanth Reddy on behalf of the people of Telangana."

Satyavathi Rathod Alleges Police Misuse, Slams SIT Notices to Harish Rao as Conspiracy

Hyderabad, January 20, 2026 (TPN Bureau)

Former minister and senior BRS leader Satyavathi Rathod on Monday launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, alleging that the state was being run through the police system rather than in accordance with constitutional principles. Addressing the media at Telangana Bhavan, she accused the Congress government of misusing law enforcement agencies to suppress opposition voices.

Rathod said the people of Telangana were closely watching the unfolding political developments. Referring to the recent media interaction of BRS Legislature Party deputy leader T. Harish Rao, she said he had exposed the alleged Singareni coal scam in detail. "Unable to answer the questions raised by Harish Rao, the government has resorted to issuing SIT notices with malicious intent," she alleged.

She accused ministers, who were expected to protect the interests of the state, of being involved in large-scale corruption. According to her, Harish Rao had explained how public resources were being looted, prompting the government to act against him in a conspiratorial manner. "This is nothing but political vendetta," she said.

Maintaining that the BRS was not afraid of what she described as false and illegal cases, Rathod said the party had complete faith in the judiciary. She recalled that the Supreme Court had quashed the phone-tapping case and expressed confidence that Harish Rao would also emerge unscathed from the current controversy, "like a polished pearl," as she put it.

The former minister accused Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of being adept at diverting public attention from governance failures. She cited the results of re-



cent gram panchayat elections, in which the BRS secured around 37 per cent of the seats, and claimed that former chief minister K. Chandrashekar Rao continued to enjoy strong support in rural Telangana.

Rathod alleged that the phone-tapping case had been dragged on for over two years like a television serial, during which even a senior IPS officer was harassed. She also referred to the Formula E car race

case, in which notices were issued to BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao, but later found to have no substance.

She warned that with the strength of public support, the BRS was certain to return to power and that the Congress and Revanth Reddy would have to "pay a heavy political price" for their actions. Alleging that corruption had become rampant over the past two years, Rathod challenged the

BJP to prove its sincerity by ordering an investigation into the Singareni coal tender irregularities.

The BRS leader claimed there were internal disputes among ministers over coal mine contracts and alleged that cases were being filed against KCR, KTR and Harish Rao whenever these issues were questioned. She also criticised the Chief Minister's recent remarks in Khammam, accusing him of using derogatory language against the BRS.

Concluding her remarks, Rathod said cases were nothing new for the BRS and asserted that its leaders would cooperate with any inquiry. She accused the Chief Minister of indulging in diversionary politics instead of implementing election promises and questioned government spending priorities, including the construction of a football stadium, while people's welfare issues remained

Sabitha Indra Reddy Slams 'Diversion Politics', Demands Probe into Alleged Coal Scam

Hyderabad, January 20, 2026 (TPN Bureau)

Former minister and senior BRS leader Sabitha Indra Reddy on Monday expressed shock over the recent political developments in Telangana, alleging that the Congress government was filing cases in the name of "people's governance" while failing to implement its election promises. Addressing the media at Telangana Bhavan, she said the people of the state were keenly observing the government's actions and would respond at the appropriate time.

Sabitha Indra Reddy accused the government of indulging in diversionary politics to deflect attention from unfulfilled assurances. She said that immediately after BRS Legislature Party deputy leader T. Harish Rao exposed the alleged Singareni coal scam, notices were issued to him. "Instead of answering serious allegations, the government chose to issue notices overnight," she alleged.

Referring to the coal tender issue, Sabitha said Harish Rao had demanded the cancellation of not only the Naini coal block tender but also the tender allegedly linked to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's brother-in-law. "If the coal scam allega-

tions are false, a responsible government should clarify them transparently. Silence followed by notices only raises more suspicion," she remarked.

She alleged that whenever corruption charges surfaced or elections approached, the government resorted to diversion politics. Drawing parallels with previous instances, she recalled how former chief minister K. Chandrashekar Rao and BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao were summoned and subjected to what she described as harassment. "The same pattern is being repeated now with Harish Rao," she said.

Sabitha Indra Reddy accused the government of being unable to answer the questions raised by Harish Rao on the coal scam. "Like a player who cannot face the ball, the government is avoiding accountability," she said, using a metaphor to describe the ruling party's approach.

She also raised concerns over the alleged neglect of the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Project over the last two years, claiming injustice was being done to the region. "Instead of addressing developmental issues, the government is staging dramas to hide corrup-



tion," she alleged.

The former minister said the BRS had only one demand — that the truth behind the alleged coal scam be brought before the public. She called upon Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy to order a CBI investigation into the matter. "If the BJP is sincere, it should ensure a fair probe," she said.

Asserting that the BRS would not be deterred by notices or cases, Sabitha Indra Reddy said the party would continue to expose corruption. She pointed to the BRS performance in the recent gram panchayat elections and expressed confidence that the party would demonstrate its strength again in the upcoming municipal polls.

Concluding her remarks, she challenged BJP leaders to facilitate an inquiry by a sitting judge into the alleged coal scam if they truly believed in transparency and accountability.

TPCC Leader Chanagani Dayakar Urges Harish Rao to Cooperate with SIT Probe



Hyderabad, January 20, 2026 (TPN Bureau)

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) General Secretary Chanagani Dayakar on Monday called upon former minister and BRS leader T. Harish Rao to fully cooperate with the ongoing Special Investigation Team (SIT) inquiry, asserting that the probe was being conducted in a lawful and transparent manner.

Addressing the media, Dayakar said Harish Rao should extend

cooperation to the SIT and place the facts before the investigating agency instead of politicising the issue. He alleged that Harish Rao had a role in the phone-tapping case and said the SIT had followed due process before issuing notices. "Only after questioning MLC Naveen Rao and Sravan Rao did the SIT issue a notice to Harish Rao," he stated.

The TPCC leader further claimed that BRS leader K. Kavitha and her husband were also

involved in the phone-tapping episode, alleging that Kavitha herself had admitted to such acts in the past. He accused the BRS government, during its tenure, of indulging in large-scale violations of public rights, human rights and democratic freedoms. Dayakar alleged that during the BRS rule, attempts were made to weaken the very existence of political opposition in the state. "When the BRS was in power, it resorted to systematic misuse of

authority. In almost every by-election held in Telangana, there were allegations of misuse of official machinery," he claimed. Advising Harish Rao to act responsibly, Dayakar said that as a former minister, he should conduct himself with dignity and respect democratic institutions. "Instead of creating confusion, Harish Rao should attend the SIT inquiry and explain his stand with sincerity," he said. Rejecting allegations of political vendetta, the TPCC leader as-

serted that after the Congress formed the government, there was no scope for revenge politics. "This is a people's government. There is no question of targeting anyone out of political hostility," he said.

Dayakar said the Congress government believed in strengthening democracy by allowing protests, dharnas and public movements, as these help the government understand people's issues. "Ours is a government that gives priority to freedom and democratic values. We welcome criticism and public struggles," he added. He reiterated that the SIT probe was meant to uncover the truth and urged Harish Rao to attend the inquiry and present facts honestly. "If he has nothing to hide, he should come forward and cooperate with the investigation," Dayakar said. Concluding his remarks, the TPCC leader alleged that during the BRS regime, there was a deliberate conspiracy to suppress opposition parties and dissenting voices. He maintained that the ongoing investigations were aimed at restoring accountability and ensuring that democratic institutions function without fear or favour.

Harish Rao Served Notices to Divert Attention from Coal Scam, Alleges Former Minister Koppula Eshwar

Hyderabad, January 20, 2026 (TPN Bureau)

Former Telangana Minister Koppula Eshwar has strongly condemned the Revanth Reddy government's move to issue notices to senior Congress leader Harish Rao in the phone-tapping case, calling it a political diversion aimed at shifting public focus away from the ongoing coal allocation scandal.

Speaking to the media, Eshwar alleged that since the Congress government took office, ministers have been embroiled in multiple corruption controversies, and the recent exposure of the coal scam linked to Revanth Reddy's relative, Sujana Reddy, has unnerved the Chief Minister. Despite the Supreme Court giving a clean chit to Harish Rao, the state government is reportedly targeting him with arbitrary notices, he said.

Eshwar criticized the selective application of law, noting that while Congress ministers face scrutiny for corruption, the government is filing cases against opposition leaders. "The Chief Minister is not new to

such practices; under the previous BRS regime, large-scale irregularities occurred in the civil supplies department. From disputes over Sammakka Saralamma tenders to allocation of industrial lands, multiple controversies have emerged under his watch," he said.

He highlighted that the Rs 1,600-crore coal mine contracts triggered conflicts among ministers and the Chief Minister himself, and that the government is now trying to divert attention from these internal disputes by targeting Harish Rao in unrelated matters such as the phone-tapping case. Eshwar termed this move as a deliberate "attention diversion" tactic to shield those involved in the coal scam.

"The highest judicial authorities have already dismissed the case against Harish Rao. The government's insistence on pursuing it further is nothing short of a defiance of the court's verdict," he added.

Eshwar also accused Revanth Reddy of abus-

ing the Chief Ministerial office to protect personal allies implicated in the coal allocation irregularities. He stressed that the state administration is resorting to political vendetta because the government's corrupt practices are being publicly exposed, and reaffirmed the party's full confidence in judicial processes.

He warned that no matter how many baseless cases are filed, the Congress leadership will continue to question the government and bring state-level scams to public attention. Eshwar also demanded that a Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe the ongoing corruption in the government, including coal allocations, tender irregularities, and other high-profile scandals.

"The people of Telangana must know the truth behind these scams, and we will continue to fight for transparency and accountability," Eshwar asserted, emphasizing that the government's attempts to suppress opposition voices will not deter the party from exposing corruption.

Hyderabad Narcotics Enforcement Wing Conducts Counselling Session for Drug Users and Parents

Hyderabad, 20-01-2026, TPN Bureau
The Hyderabad Narcotics Enforcement Wing (H-NEW) organised a counselling session today for drug users identified in Cr. No. 262/2025 under various sections of the NDPS Act, 1985, along with their parents and relatives. The session was held at the Conference Hall, Old CP Office, Basheerbagh, Hyderabad. Out of more than 100 identified consumers, 40 consumers and their parents attended the programme. The session aimed to educate parents about

the harmful effects of drug abuse, recognise early signs of substance dependency, and emphasise the crucial role of family support in rehabilitation and recovery. Deputy Commissioner of Police, Task Force / H-NEW, Sri Gaikwad Vaibhav Raghunath, addressed the gathering and highlighted that drug abuse is not merely a law-and-order problem but a serious social and public health issue. He urged parents to maintain vigilance, keep open communication with their children, and cooperate with law enforcement agencies to



prevent drug-related activities. The DCP also outlined the legal consequences of drug abuse and trafficking, reinforcing the importance of early intervention. Parents actively participated, raising concerns and clarifying doubts with H-NEW officials. The DCP advised them to monitor behavioural changes in their children and seek professional counselling if any unusual patterns are observed. He emphasised that parental involvement and collective responsibility are vital to creating a drug-free society. "The goal of

Hyderabad City Police is not to punish drug consumers but to guide them towards positive behavioural changes and a healthier lifestyle," the DCP stated. He appreciated the efforts of the H-NEW team in prevention, counselling, and rehabilitation initiatives. The session also saw active participation from Sri G. S. Daniel, Inspector, and Sri C. Venkata Ramulu, Sub-Inspector of Police, Hyderabad Narcotics Enforcement Wing (H-NEW), along with their team. The H-NEW reaffirmed its commitment

to continue awareness and counselling programmes aimed at protecting the youth, strengthening community involvement, combating drug abuse effectively, and making Hyderabad a drug-free city. This initiative underscores the Hyderabad Police's proactive approach towards public health and social well-being, highlighting the importance of community collaboration in tackling substance abuse challenges. Deputy Commissioner of Police, Task Force / H-NEW, Hyderabad City

BRS Leader Dasoju Sravan Condemns Political Vendetta Against Harish Rao

Hyderabad, January 20, 2026 (TPN Bureau)
BRS leader and MLC Dasoju Sravan has strongly condemned the ongoing political targeting of former Minister and Siddipet MLA Sri Harish Rao, terming it a blatant misuse of power and an attack on democratic principles. Speaking to the media, Mr. Sravan invoked the ancient military strategist Sun Tzu, stating, "An evil man will burn his own nation to the ground just to rule over the ashes," and said it aptly reflects the current political climate in Telangana. He emphasized that what is unfolding in the state today is not genuine "People's Governance" (Praja Palana), but a distorted political game designed to intimidate opposition leaders. According to Mr. Sravan, the harassment of Sri Harish Rao in the so-called phone-tapping case is both inhumane and undemocratic. He noted that the former minister endured over seven and a half hours of interrogation in a case that is inconsistent and lacks credible evidence. "This is not a legitimate investigation but a politically orchestrated vendetta," he said.

Highlighting the motive behind this action, Mr. Sravan alleged that the harassment stems from Mr. Harish Rao's efforts to question and expose corruption in Singareni Collieries. He accused Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of manipulating state institutions to serve personal political interests, turning law enforcement into instruments of partisan advantage. Mr. Sravan criticized the government for converting the khaki uniform into a political tool and for allowing legal mechanisms to operate according to scripts written by the ruling party, calling it an unforgivable perversion of governance. Warning of the consequences of such actions, Mr. Sravan stated that efforts to stifle dissent and criminalize democratic questioning would ultimately backfire. "The police weapons being deployed today against leaders like Sri Harish Rao will become the foundation for the political downfall of those in power," he said. He emphasized that using legal provisions to intimidate critics is a dangerous strategy that undermines public faith in governance and the rule of law.

Despite the pressure, Mr. Sravan assured that BRS would continue to resist such tactics with courage and resolve. He said, "As attempts to suppress us increase, our struggle will grow stronger. Dark days are never permanent. Truth is like fire, and justice will ultimately prevail." He further affirmed that the party cadre stands firmly behind Sri Harish Rao, providing full support during these challenging times. Mr. Sravan concluded by reiterating the party's commitment to democratic principles and to defending leaders who raise questions against corruption and maladministration. He called on the public and party workers to remain vigilant and united in ensuring that political vendettas do not undermine the state's governance and democratic institutions. The statement reflects a rising tension in Telangana politics as the BRS leadership confronts what it terms targeted action against its prominent leaders, signaling a continued battle between governance, accountability, and political rivalry.

GHMC Mayor G. Vijayalakshmi Reviews Development Initiatives in Banjara Hills Division

Hyderabad, January 20, 2026 (TPN Bureau)
GHMC Mayor G. Vijayalakshmi held a comprehensive review meeting with residents and officials of the Banjara Hills Division at the Mayor's camp office to discuss ongoing development initiatives and the inauguration of a new multi-purpose function hall. During the session, the Mayor emphasized that the newly inaugurated function hall will provide a platform for local communities to conduct social, cultural, and civic activities. She highlighted that such initiatives would strengthen community engagement and accelerate overall regional development in the division. Mayor Vijayalakshmi personally interacted with residents, listening to their concerns and grievances. She instructed GHMC officials to take prompt action to resolve issues raised by the residents and ensure continuous monitoring until completion of the develop-



ment works. The meeting covered key infrastructural projects in Banjara Hills, including road construction, drainage improvements, street lighting, park maintenance, and sanitation programs. The Mayor stressed that officials must maintain regular oversight and ensure these projects meet quality standards and deadlines, benefiting local residents. In addition, the Mayor encouraged the participation of local representatives in planning and

executing civic initiatives, ensuring that development projects address the real needs of the community. She underlined the importance of public feedback in improving service delivery and urban management. The review session was attended by GHMC Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent Engineer, division officers, and representatives from the Water Works and Electricity departments. Local community leaders and Basti representatives also participated,

providing input on area-specific issues and projects. Through such review meetings, the GHMC aims to strengthen coordination between officials and residents, ensuring that urban development initiatives are inclusive and responsive to citizen needs. Mayor Vijayalakshmi reiterated her commitment to making Banjara Hills Division a model of sustainable urban development, where civic amenities, infrastructure, and public spaces meet the highest

standards for the benefit of all residents. The Mayor concluded the session by affirming that GHMC will continue proactive engagement with communities to facilitate the smooth implementation of development projects, promote transparency, and encourage active participation in governance. This initiative reflects GHMC's ongoing efforts to modernize urban infrastructure while fostering citizen-centric governance in Hyderabad.

Telangana High Court Issues Key Directives to Traffic Police on Pending Challans



Hyderabad, January 20, 2026 (TPN Bureau)
The Telangana High Court on Tuesday issued crucial directives to traffic police regarding the collection of pending traffic challans, emphasizing that citizens cannot be coerced into paying fines on the spot or have their vehicles immobilized for pending dues. The Court clarified that locking bikes, stopping vehicles, or forcing immediate payment violates legal provisions and public rights. Hearing a petition challenging the traffic enforcement practices in Hyderabad and across Telangana, Jus-

tice N.V. Shruvan Kumar of the Single Bench highlighted that traffic authorities do not have the power to harass motorists solely to collect pending fines. The Court noted that if authorities wish to collect pending challans, it must be done strictly in accordance with the law. Payment must be voluntary, and coercive measures such as physically stopping vehicles or applying locks should not be employed. The petitioner contended that under Section 208 of the Motor Vehicles Act and relevant Central Motor Vehicle Rules, the authority to impose fines or

sentence a defaulter to imprisonment rests solely with the judicial system, not traffic officials. The Court echoed this, emphasizing that traffic rules enforcement cannot infringe upon motorists' legal rights. The petition also challenged the use of unauthorized mobile devices by traffic officials to enforce pending fines and criticized Government Order Ms. No. 108, which directed citizens to pay pending challans. The petitioner argued that this order was inconsistent with the provisions of the Central Motor Vehicles Act and sought legal clarity on

the matter. The High Court, while delivering its orders, underscored that traffic police must refrain from pressuring citizens to pay pending fines immediately or using on-the-spot coercion as a tool of enforcement. Citizens have the right to pay pending fines voluntarily, and any enforcement measures must comply strictly with the law. This judgment sets a clear precedent for traffic authorities in Telangana, restricting the use of force or undue pressure in challan collection and reinforcing the principle that law enforcement must adhere

to legal frameworks. The ruling also ensures that citizens' rights are protected while maintaining the integrity of traffic regulation enforcement. Traffic police across Hyderabad and Telangana are expected to align their procedures with these directives, ensuring that challan collection is conducted transparently, lawfully, and without harassment. This landmark decision strengthens citizens' rights and clarifies the limits of authority for traffic personnel, ensuring a balance between road safety enforcement and legal accountability.



Sports Minister Vakiti Srihari Inspects Proposed Jurala Bridge, Calls It a Historic Decision

Atmakur (Makthal Constituency), January 20, 2026 (TPN Bureau)
 Telangana Sports Minister Vakiti Srihari on Tuesday toured Atmakur town in the Makthal constituency and inspected the site of the proposed bridge to be constructed across the Krishna River at Jurala. The inspection was carried out along with Gadwal MLA Bandla Krishna Mohan Reddy, as part of preparations for the major infrastructure project estimated at a cost of 123 crore.



Speaking to the media during the visit, Minister Vakiti Srihari described the decision taken by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to construct the bridge as a "historic and visionary step" that would significantly improve regional connectivity. He said the proposed bridge over the Krishna River would bring major relief to commuters and boost economic activity across multiple constituencies. The minister explained that once the bridge is completed, the travel distance for passengers commuting from Wanaparthy to Mantralayam and Emmiganur would be reduced by

nearly 40 kilometres. He noted that commuters would be able to travel from Wanaparthy via Kothakota, Madanapuram, Atmakur and Gadwal to reach Mantralayam, making journeys faster and more convenient. Highlighting the broader impact of the project, Vakiti Srihari said the bridge would dramatically cut travel time between Atmakur and Gadwal. At present, commuters spend a considerable amount of time travelling between the two towns, but once the bridge is operational,

the distance could be covered in just about 15 minutes. He added that the development of a four-lane road in the region would lead to increased traffic flow in Atmakur, further enhancing connectivity. The minister stated that the bridge would benefit at least four Assembly constituencies, including Makthal, Gadwal, Wanaparthy and Devarakadra. "This project will not only ease transportation but also provide a major boost to education, trade and commercial activities in the region," he said. Im-

proved road connectivity would encourage investment, enhance access to institutions, and strengthen inter-district movement, he added. Vakiti Srihari announced that construction work on the bridge would begin within the next one and a half months. He remarked that very few people had imagined a bridge at this location earlier, and credited the Chief Minister's leadership for turning the long-pending demand into a reality. On behalf of the MLAs of Makthal, Gadwal, De-

varakadra and Wanaparthy constituencies, the minister expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for approving the project. He reiterated that the government was committed to strengthening infrastructure in backward and semi-urban regions to ensure balanced development across Telangana. The inspection was attended by local leaders, officials from the roads and buildings department, and party workers, who welcomed the project as a landmark development for the area.

Indira Gandhi Statue Unveiled at Kamareddy, Congress Leaders Hail Her Legacy

Kamareddy, January 21 (TPN Bureau):
 TPCC President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud on Tuesday unveiled the statue of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi at Indiramma Chowk in Kamareddy, describing the occasion as a historic and auspicious moment. Several senior Congress leaders, including Minister Seethakka, Government Adviser Mohammed Shabbir Ali, MP Suresh Shetkar, and party functionaries, participated in the programme.



Speaking on the occasion, Mahesh Kumar Goud said it was symbolic and historic that a steel statue was installed in honour of "the Iron Lady" Indira Gandhi. He recalled that Indira Gandhi was a visionary leader who gave direction and purpose to the nation through her bold, courageous, and far-sighted decisions taken purely in the interest of the country. He said Indira Gandhi stood as a symbol of decisive and daring leadership, leaving an indelible mark on India's political and social landscape. By nationalising banks, she empowered ordinary citizens economically and ensured that financial institutions served the poor and marginalised sections, he noted. "She was a great leader who strengthened true democratic governance in the country," he said. Mahesh Kumar Goud further described Indira Gandhi

as a leader with extraordinary charisma and mass appeal, whose personality and leadership inspired generations. He reminded that the protection of democracy in India came at great personal sacrifice for leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, who endured imprisonment for the sake of the nation's freedom and democratic values. Criticising the BJP, the TPCC president alleged that the party was indulging in unethical politics and attempting to erase the historical contributions of the Gandhi-Nehru family. He accused the BJP of conspiring to replace the Constitution with "Manuvad" ideology and of trying to divide the country on the basis of caste and religion for political gains. He said such efforts posed a serious threat to India's unity, democracy, and constitutional framework, and called upon people to remain vigilant

against forces that undermine democratic values. Minister Seethakka, addressing the gathering, said the present Congress-led government in Telangana was committed to people-centric governance with a special focus on women's empowerment. She said Telangana was emerging as a model state where development and welfare schemes were being implemented on a scale unmatched elsewhere in the country. Other speakers highlighted Indira Gandhi's contributions to national unity, social justice, and economic self-reliance, stating that her legacy continues to inspire Congress workers and democratic forces across the country. The programme concluded with leaders reiterating their commitment to uphold constitutional values and carry forward Indira Gandhi's vision of inclusive development and strong democracy.

Telangana Farmer Commission Studies Successful FPO Models in Nasik

Nasik, January 20, 2025 (TPN Bureau)
 A delegation from the Telangana Farmer Commission visited Nasik's Sahyadri Farms and Sam Farms today to study successful Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) models and high-value agricultural practices. The tour aimed to explore best practices in cultivation, processing, and marketing that could be adapted to Telangana's agricultural ecosystem.

to various states and countries, demonstrating the potential of organized farming for income generation. Additionally, the commission visited a small-scale dryer unit operated by a tribal farmer named Sachin, established under the Prime Minister's Micro Food Processing Scheme. The farmer highlighted how the unit benefits his produce and shared details of central government subsidies supporting such initiatives. The delegation also toured surrounding vineyards and learned how rain-water harvesting and efficient irrigation techniques are being implemented to maximize yield while conserving resources.



The commission inspected the 120-acre Sahyadri Farms campus and the 20-acre Sam Farms campus, observing processing units for a wide range of crops including pomegranate, lemon, guava, grapes, tomatoes, banana, mango, maize, French beans, and pineapple. All stages of production—from harvesting to processing, packaging, labeling, and export—were examined during the visit. The farms currently export products

which started in 2011 with 204 farmers, has now grown to over 24,000 members and reported crossing a turnover of approximately 2,000 crore, illustrating the potential of organized agriculture. Speaking on the occasion, Commission Chairman Kodandar Reddy said the visit is part of the commission's state-wide initiative, following previous tours to Kerala and Haryana. He noted that the objective is to study methods of achieving

higher yields and profits with limited land, minimal investment, and efficient water usage. Observing the Sahyadri and Sam Farms operations provided valuable insights that could guide Telangana farmers to adopt similar FPO-based approaches. The chairman emphasized that Telangana's agriculture policy should shift towards collective farming, reduce chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and promote organic and sustainable

practices. He urged Telangana farmers to organize under FPOs, improve marketing linkages, and adopt value-added processing to increase profitability. The commission team included members Ramulu Naik, K.V.N. Reddy, Gopal Reddy, Bhavani Reddy, Member Secretary Gopal, and officials Sandhya Rani, Hari, Sravanthi, Ranjith, along with FPO representatives Upendre Reddy and Srinivas. The delegation will continue its study tour across various regions of Nasik tomorrow to gain further insights into efficient agricultural and processing practices. This visit underscores Telangana's commitment to learning from successful farming models to strengthen farmer incomes, promote sustainable agriculture, and expand the FPO ecosystem within the state.

Harish Rao Hugs KTR After SIT Questioning in Phone-Tapping Case

Hyderabad, January 20, 2026 (TPN Bureau)
 Senior Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader and former minister T. Harish Rao received a warm reception from party colleagues after appearing for questioning by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) in connection with the controversial phone-tapping case. The incident culminated in a highly symbolic moment when Harish Rao embraced BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) at the party office following hours of interrogation. On Tuesday, Harish Rao was summoned by the SIT to appear at Jubilee Hills Police Station, where he was questioned for nearly seven hours, from 11 a.m. to 6:25 p.m., in the alleged phone-tapping case linked to events during the previous BRS government. Despite rigid procedures, he was allowed a brief lunch break during the interrogation. A large contingent of BRS leaders, cadres, and supporters gathered outside the police

station to demonstrate solidarity with him throughout the day. After the SIT proceedings concluded in the evening, Harish Rao proceeded directly to the BRS headquarters in Banjara Hills. Waiting for him at the party office were top BRS leaders, including KTR and other senior functionaries. As soon as he arrived, Harish Rao walked up to KTR and hugged him in an emotional display of unity. The gesture was met with applause and visible enthusiasm from party workers and supporters present at the scene. The phone-tapping case, which surfaced in March 2024, involves allegations that phones of various individuals, including political opponents, journalists, and others, were illegally monitored during the prior BRS administration. Although Harish Rao has been questioned under this case, the BRS leadership maintains that the investigation is politically motivated, especially after the Supreme Court had

previously dismissed aspects of the case. Throughout the day, the atmosphere in and around Jubilee Hills Police Station was tense, with supporters expressing unwavering support for Harish Rao. BRS leaders publicly criticised the state government's actions, describing the SIT notice as part of political vendetta rather than a genuine law enforcement exercise. They argued that targeting a senior opposition figure while ignoring alleged irregularities in state affairs amounted to an abuse of investigative powers. The embrace between Harish Rao and KTR after the questioning was widely interpreted by party members as a reaffirmation of unity and resilience within the BRS, reinforcing their stance against what they term politically driven inquiries. Party cadres shared the sentiment that the show of solidarity highlights internal strength and collective resolve in the face of ongoing legal and political battles.

Uttam Kumar Reddy Sounds Poll Bugle Ahead of Telangana Urban Local Body Elections

Huzurnagar, January 20, 2026 (TPN Bureau)
 Telangana's Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy has kicked off preparations for the upcoming urban local body (ULB) elections, expressing confidence in a strong performance by the Congress party. Addressing party workers and aspirants at Huzurnagar and Nereducharla municipalities, Reddy emphasized that the party is fully prepared and urged cadres to mobilize aggressively ahead of the expected election schedule in the next two to three days, with polling likely in the second week of February. Setting ambitious targets, the Minister called for a clean sweep of all 28 wards in Huzurnagar and all 15 wards in Nereducharla. He an-



nounced the formation of a 15-member observer team to evaluate candidates, while clarifying that final selections would focus on ward-specific electability and performance. He further stated that any alliances or understandings with other parties would be determined locally to maximize chances of victory. Highlighting developmental achievements, Reddy outlined key pro-

jects in irrigation, infrastructure, education, health, and welfare. He spotlighted the expansion of the Janpadu Lift Irrigation Scheme from 5,000 to 10,000 acres, with Rs 181 crore approved for project works. Stressing that Telangana's river water entitlements would not be compromised, he assured that ongoing and new irrigation projects would be completed to meet the needs of farm-

ers and residents. On civic development, Reddy noted that Rs 15 crore has been sanctioned for ongoing projects in Nereducharla Municipality, including roads, drainage, street lighting, parks, and sanitation, urging officials to ensure timely completion. He also reviewed the construction of the Young India Residential School complex at Gaddipalli, aiming for completion by December 2026. As part of welfare initiatives, the Minister distributed interest-free loans totaling Rs 52.07 lakh to 404 Self-Help Groups, Indiramma sares to 5,498 women under the Indiramma Mahila Shakti scheme, and CMRF cheques worth Rs 1.92 crore to 461 beneficiaries. He also announced that Governor Jishnu Dev Varma would participate in the

Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple visit at Mattapalli on January 23 and lay the foundation stone for a government agriculture college costing Rs 123 crore. Reddy criticized the previous BRS government for neglecting river water entitlements and irrigation development, contrasting it with Congress's record of achieving bumper harvests, prompt MSP payments to farmers, and improvements in the public distribution system. Emphasizing his commitment, Reddy noted that he has not taken a single day of leave for leisure, underscoring his dedication to development and citizen welfare. His remarks clearly signal the Congress party's aggressive and organized approach ahead of the Telangana ULB elections.



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

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

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

The Making of China's Export-Led Model

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

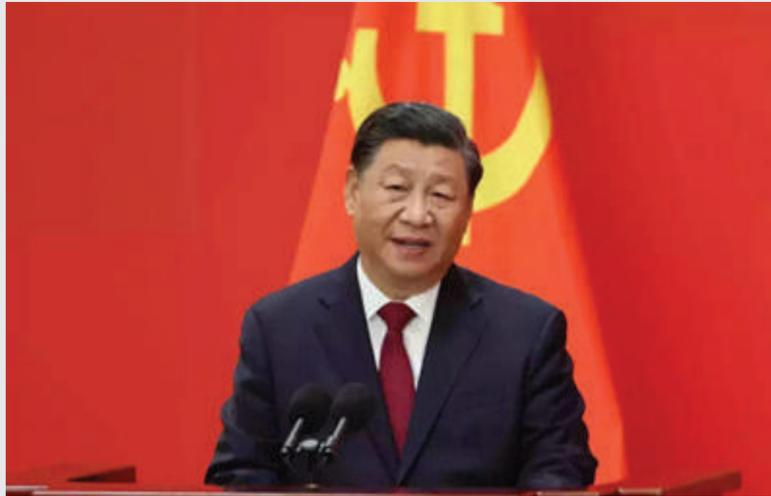
the foundation for decades of economic expansion. Large-scale factories and state-subsidized plants were established across the country to produce inexpensive goods for global markets. This industrial expansion facilitated the outsourcing of millions of manufacturing jobs from Western nations to China,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

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

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

Self-Reliance and Global Influence

Central to China's economic strategy is self-reliance, particularly in areas critical to national security and global leverage. Xi's "Made in China 2025" program, launched to reduce dependence on Western technology, has largely achieved its goals. China now dominates several strategic sectors, including renewables, electric



vehicles, AI, and advanced manufacturing.

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

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

China also dominates the production of essential ingre-

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

Domestic Challenges: Deflation and Weak Consumption

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

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

spend less and save more, reducing internal demand.

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

Demographic Challenges

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

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

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

Currency and Global Economic Strategy

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

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

Opportunity for India

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

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

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

The Road Ahead

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Karnataka DGP Ramachandra Rao Suspended After Controversial Videos Surface



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SC Criticises Maneka Gandhi Over Podcast Comments on Stray Dog Case

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

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

The bench added, "You



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

During the hearing, Ramachandran addressed is-

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

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

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

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

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

Kerala Man Dies by Suicide After Social Media Harassment Allegation

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

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



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

counts were taken down.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

In the wake of the trage-

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Insight UK criticized the school's handling of the situ-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Situation in Iran

The crackdown on demonstrators has been severe, with the US-based Human Rights Activists News Agency reporting at least 4,029 fatalities and more than 26,000 detentions.

Among the dead were 3,786 protesters, 180 security personnel, 28 children, and 35 by-

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

US Military Movements

Tensions between Washington and Tehran have intensified after President Donald

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

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

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

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

Rare Snowfall Hits Shanghai Amid Sudden Cold Wave in Southern China



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



A 28-year-old Indian man tragically died under mysterious circumstances during the Electric Daisy Carnival (EDC) music festival in Phuket, Thailand, leaving festival-goers and local authorities shocked.

According to the Bangkok Post, the incident occurred in the early hours of January 18, and police have confirmed that there were no visible injuries or signs of assault on the man's body. The deceased has been identified as Jain Saksham,

an Indian national. **What Happened at EDC Phuket?**

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

parked vehicles along Bandon-Choeng Thale Road.

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

Investigation Underway

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

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

International Attention

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

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

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

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

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

At the close of trade, the Sensex plunged 1,066.78 points, or 1.28 percent, to settle at 82,180.47, while the Nifty slipped 353 points, or 1.38 percent, to end at 25,232.50.

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

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

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

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



percent.

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

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

Outlook for January 21

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



mains central to the government's growth strategy.

Key expectations from Union Budget 2026-27

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

guidelines.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Geopolitical Tensions Hit Wall Street and Indian Markets

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

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

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



global uncertainties.

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

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

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

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

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

Gold ETFs Hit Record Highs as Prices Surge Amid Geopolitical Tensions



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

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

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

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

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

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

Realty Shares Slide as Oberoi Reports Weak Quarterly Numbers



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

Oberoi Realty Q3 Performance

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

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

Despite the weak quarterly numbers,

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

Sectoral Losses

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

Market Outlook

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

grandfather close in her thoughts.

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

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



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

many described as almost miraculous.

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

that twin sets extended beyond just the couples themselves.

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

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

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

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

sisters.

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

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

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

Scotland Not Approached by ICC Despite Bangladesh T20 World Cup Uncertainty

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

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

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



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

Despite speculation around Scotland's involve-

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

mains unresolved.

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

taken in the current situation.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Kohli.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Tensions reportedly escalated further in late 2025 when Brooklyn was

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

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

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

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



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

ing the loss particularly painful for the hosts.

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

throughout the series. Supported by valuable

contributions from the middle order, New Zealand capitalised on key moments and kept the scoreboard ticking on a batting-friendly surface. In reply, India's chase revolved almost entirely around Virat Kohli. The veteran batter displayed

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

scribed Crazy Kalyanam as a "complete entertainer" that blends humor, emotion, and celebration. The screenplay is crafted by Srinivasa Ravindra (MSR), ensuring a well-paced narrative that keeps audiences engaged.

The poster release on Naresh VK's birthday has created excitement among fans, who are eagerly awaiting the film's theatrical release. With its mix of talented actors, engaging storyline, and authentic rural backdrop, Crazy Kalyanam is shaping up to be a memorable addition to Telugu cinema.

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Winners

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ritesh Rana's Jetlee Begins Final Shooting Schedule

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

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

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

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



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

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

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