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# KCR Writes to Jubilee Hills ACP Over Notice Service in Phone-Tapping Probe



Hyderabad, January 31 2026 (TPN Bureau)

Former Chief Minister and BRS President K. Chandrababu Naidu (KCR) has written a detailed letter to the Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) of Jubilee Hills, raising objections to the manner in which notices were served on him in connection with the ongoing phone-tapping investigation. In the letter, KCR expressed his willingness to cooperate with the inquiry but challenged the legal validity of the procedure followed by the police. KCR stated that past notices on the com-

plaintiff wall of his Nandi Nagar residence did not comply with legal standards and violated provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure. He emphasized that such a mode of service is contrary to established legal norms and Supreme Court guidelines. The former Chief Minister insisted that any examination should ideally take place at his primary residence in Erravalli village, Siddipet district, in line with the legal provisions and procedures. Despite raising procedural concerns, KCR assured authorities that he would be available for questioning and would fully cooperate with the Special Investigation Team (SIT) on February 1 at his

Hyderabad residence. In his letter, he criticized the manner in which the notice was delivered, describing it as inappropriate and a breach of his personal dignity and legal rights. He suggested that future notices should be sent directly to his permanent address to ensure compliance with proper legal procedures. The letter comes amid heightened political attention, as the SIT continues its investigation into alleged illegal phone surveillance during the tenure of the previous BRS government. The inquiry has already included questioning of several party officials, and KCR's testimony is now expected to provide further clarity on the

scope of the allegations. KCR's communication highlights the balance between cooperating with law enforcement and asserting the legal and constitutional rights of citizens, particularly senior political leaders. While objecting to the notice service method, he reaffirmed his commitment to the investigation, underscoring that his cooperation is guided by adherence to proper procedure rather than evasion. The letter is likely to set the tone for KCR's engagement with the SIT in the coming days, reflecting the careful navigation of legal, procedural, and political considerations surrounding the ongoing probe.



## Revanth Reddy Engages with Students and Delegations at Harvard University

Cambridge-Boston, USA | January 31 | TPN Bureau:

On the final day of his engagements at Harvard University, Hon'ble Chief Minister Revanth Reddy met with several delegations, student groups, and alumni from Harvard, as well as students and alumni from other prestigious institutions including MIT and Columbia University.

During the interactions, students and alumni discussed a wide range of topics with the CM, including leadership and personal success, economic growth strategies, development models, sustainability and environmental concerns, and targeted welfare initiatives for farmers, women, and youth. CM Revanth shared his perspectives on the challenges and key fo-

cus areas of his developmental vision, #TelanganaRising 2047, highlighting the opportunities it creates for stakeholders and how it fosters empowerment and inclusive growth across sectors. When a group of students requested him to teach leadership and vision, the CM responded with humility, stating that it would be best to leave formal teaching to the distinguished Harvard faculty. He emphasized the importance of engaging in two-way conversations, where both parties could share experiences and learn from one another, rather than a one-sided lecture. CM Reddy also expressed his optimism about India's future, underscoring Telangana and Hyderabad as examples of progressive development and innovation. He encouraged students to stay connected with

India and serve as brand ambassadors for Telangana Rising, contributing their knowledge and skills to the state's growth story. The students and alumni actively engaged with the CM, asking questions and exchanging ideas, and many pledged to contribute their expertise and efforts to enhance Telangana's developmental initiatives. Through these interactions, CM Revanth Reddy reinforced the importance of collaboration between global talent and local initiatives, fostering a vision where education, innovation, and governance come together to shape a resilient and forward-looking Telangana. This visit concluded on a high note, leaving students inspired and reaffirming Telangana's global engagement and forward-looking development agenda.

## Bhatti Vikramarka Assures Inclusive Growth for Persons with Disabilities



Hyderabad | January 31 | TPN Bureau: Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu on Saturday reaffirmed the Congress party's commitment to the welfare and empowerment of persons with disabilities, stating that both the party and its governments have been working with sincerity and determination for their holistic development. Interacting with members of the Kerala-based Divyang Child Women Welfare Society at Praja Bhavan, the Deputy Chief Minister emphasised that persons with disabilities are an integral part of society and that it is the responsibility of governments to ensure their dignity, equal opportunities, and social inclusion. Bhatti Vikramarka said disability, though an unfortunate circumstance, should never become a barrier to growth and par-

ticipation in society. "Our collective responsibility is to create an environment where persons with disabilities can progress on par with others and lead lives of self-respect and independence," he said. Highlighting the Congress-led government's approach, the Deputy Chief Minister stated that the party has always placed inclusive development at the centre of its governance model. He pointed out that Congress-led governments, both at the national and state levels, have introduced several welfare measures aimed at improving access to education, healthcare, employment, and social security for persons with disabilities. He stressed the need for a compassionate and proactive administrative framework to address the challenges faced by the differently abled. "Policies should not remain on paper alone. They must

translate into real benefits on the ground, enabling divyang citizens to become active contributors to the nation's progress," he said. Referring to Kerala's political scenario, Bhatti Vikramarka expressed confidence that a Congress government would come to power in the state in the future. He assured that under such a government, persons with disabilities would be provided equal opportunities across sectors, in line with the party's inclusive vision. "A Congress government in Kerala will ensure that all sections of society, including the divyang community, are treated with fairness and equality," he asserted. The Deputy Chief Minister also called for greater societal sensitivity towards persons with disabilities, urging citizens, institutions, and civil society organisations to work together to re-

move physical, social, and attitudinal barriers. He noted that true progress can only be achieved when development reaches the most vulnerable sections of society. Members of the Divyang Child Women Welfare Society shared their experiences and concerns during the interaction, seeking continued support and policy attention. Bhatti Vikramarka assured them that the Telangana government would remain responsive to such initiatives and would extend cooperation wherever possible. Concluding his address, the Deputy Chief Minister reiterated that the Congress party's vision of development is rooted in social justice, equality, and empowerment, and that the welfare of persons with disabilities will continue to be a key priority in its governance agenda.

## Medaram Maha Jatara Concludes with Sacred Vanapravesham



Mulugu/Hyderabad | January 31, 2026 | TPN Bureau: The Medaram Samakka Saralamma Maha Jatara, one of India's largest tribal festivals, concluded on Saturday with the sacred vanapravesham (return to forest) of the deities Samakka, Saralamma, Pagiddaraju, and Govindaraju. The four day festival, which began on January 28, drew millions of devotees from across Telangana and neighbouring states. Devotees thronged the sacred grounds at Medaram in Mulugu district to offer prayers, take holy dips, and present jaggery and other offerings to the deities on the gaddelu (sacred

platforms). Thousands of devotees participated in the concluding rituals after days of intense spiritual activity. On Friday alone, an estimated 50 lakh devotees offered their respects to the forest goddesses. The atmosphere at the sacred gaddelu was one of deep faith as pilgrims from diverse backgrounds gathered to perform religious rites and seek blessings. The final day saw devotees engaging in the traditional practice of offering jaggery at the gaddelu before the idols were ceremonially escorted back into the forest area as part of the vanapravesham tradition. This symbolic ritual marks the end of the festival and the return of the deities to their divine

abodes in the wilderness. As the festival concluded, a massive traffic surge was observed on the Tadvai-Medaram road, with vehicles forming long queues and devotees beginning their return journeys. Officials worked to manage the heavy traffic, though many pilgrims experienced delays due to the overwhelming volume of vehicles. Despite logistical challenges, the festival was widely celebrated, with devotees expressing satisfaction at being part of the sacred celebrations. Medaram Jatara holds immense cultural and spiritual significance, particularly among Adivasi and tribal communities, and is revered as a powerful expression of de-

votion to Samakka and Saralamma, who are believed to have stood against oppression and protected their people. Local authorities and tribal leaders expressed gratitude for the smooth conduct of the event, even as discussions continue on improving facilities and traffic management for future editions. With the vanapravesham now complete, devotees return home until the next biennial gathering, carrying memories of a deeply spiritual and historic festival. The successful conclusion of the Medaram Jatara reaffirms its status as a major cultural festival in Telangana, drawing faith, tradition, and community participation in large numbers.

# Samakka Saralamma Jatara Organized with Grandeur Under CM Revanth Reddy

Hyderabad | January 31 | TPN Bureau  
 TPCC General Secretary Chanagani Dayakar praised the organization and execution of the Samakka Saralamma Jatara under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, calling it a milestone in Telangana's cultural and administrative achievements.

He highlighted that the Jatara, one of Telangana's most prominent religious festivals, received unprecedented attention and support, with a budget allocation of 250 crore dedicated to ensuring its smooth execution and infrastructure development. "This demonstrates the state's commitment to preserving and enhancing its

cultural heritage while providing dignity and respect to the deities Samakka and Saralamma," Dayakar said.

Six senior ministers actively participated in the festival, overseeing arrangements at the ground level. With 4,000 buses deployed, 13,000 police personnel on duty, and 382 CCTV cameras monitoring the entire event, devotees were able to attend the festival without inconvenience. Dayakar emphasized that this level of organization reflects the self-respect and pride Telangana now provides to its traditional festivals.

He further added that the meticulous planning and execution of the Jatara set a new bench-



mark in the state. "Since Telangana's formation, no government has in-

vested such care and resources in organizing the Samakka Saralamma festival. The credit for this grandeur and devotees' convenience goes directly to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy," he said.

Dayakar also stated that the Congress government has ensured that Telangana's cultural events—from the Jatara to Bonalu and Bathukamma—receive the attention and support necessary to reflect the state's heritage and vibrancy.

He cautioned that BRS leaders attempting to politicize the festival or highlight minor issues were undermining the cultural significance of the event. Instead, he



urged recognition of the Jatara as a symbol of Telangana's unity, culture, and development.

Concluding his remarks, Dayakar expressed confidence that the blessings of Samakka Saralamma would help the Congress party achieve victory in the upcoming municipal elections, emphasizing the

link between cultural respect and public goodwill in governance.

This year's Samakka Saralamma Jatara has been widely acknowledged as a successful blend of tradition, security, and administrative efficiency, setting a precedent for future festivals in the state.

## Telangana Sports Minister Pays Tribute to Gaddar on His Birth Anniversary

Hyderabad | January 31 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Sports Minister Vakiti Srihari on Friday paid rich tributes to revolutionary balladeer and people's icon Gaddar on the occasion of his birth anniversary, describing him as far more than a singer and calling him the "heartbeat of crores of the poor and oppressed."

Speaking at a commemorative programme, the minister said Gaddar's life and work symbolised resistance, courage and an unwavering commitment to social justice. "Gaddar was not merely a revolutionary singer. He was a people's warrior who transformed his voice into a powerful weapon against injustice and oppression," Srihari said.

The minister recalled that through his soul-stirring songs, Gaddar gave voice to the pain, aspirations and struggles of marginalised communities and took their stories to the world. His lyrics, rooted in the lived realities of the poor, ignited movements and instilled courage among people who were pushed into de-



spair, he noted.

"Standing firmly on the side of the people, Gaddar dedicated his entire life to the ideals of equality and social justice. His inspiration will continue to guide generations to come," Srihari said, adding that the revolutionary poet's legacy remains deeply relevant even today.

Highlighting Gaddar's role in the Telangana movement, the minister said the contribution of the iconic balladeer to the

statehood struggle would never be forgotten by the people of Telangana. "His songs became the lifeblood of movements and played a crucial role in awakening public consciousness during the Telangana struggle," he said.

Srihari also noted that the state government has been honouring Gaddar's legacy by instituting Gaddar Awards, which recognise individuals who have rendered exceptional service

in various fields. These awards, he said, are meant to carry forward the revolutionary spirit and social commitment that Gaddar stood for throughout his life.

Calling upon citizens, artists and youth to uphold Gaddar's ideals, the minister said it was everyone's collective responsibility to take forward his vision. "Preserving and promoting Gaddar's ideology is not just a tribute to his memory but a duty towards

building a just and equitable society," he remarked.

Reiterating the government's resolve, Vakiti Srihari asserted that the "people's government" is committed to building the society that Gaddar dreamt of — one founded on dignity, equality and social justice. He concluded by urging people to draw inspiration from Gaddar's life and continue the fight against injustice in all its forms.

## BRS Calls for Statewide Protests Against 'Political Harassment' of KCR

Hyderabad | January 31 | TPN Bureau

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has called for massive statewide protests on Sunday against what it termed as "undemocratic and politically motivated harassment" of party president and former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) by the present state government. Party leaders announced that peaceful protest programmes would be held across Telangana to oppose the issuance of SIT notices to KCR.

Senior BRS leaders and former ministers, including S. Madhusudhana Chari, T. Srinivas Yadav, Sabitha Indra Reddy, Padma Rao Goud, Prashanth Reddy, Satyavathi Rathod, Balamalla, Karne Prabhakar, MLA Vivek, and Krishna Rao, jointly appealed to party cadres and supporters to participate in the agitation in large numbers. They alleged that the government was deliberately targeting KCR as part of a political vendetta.

The leaders accused the ruling dispensation of indulging in inhuman and insulting actions against the first Chief Minister of Telangana. They said that after creating what they described as "fabricated narratives" in the name of phone tapping, the government has now resorted to issuing notices under the guise of an SIT inquiry. "This is a disgraceful and deplorable approach,



aimed at humiliating a leader who dedicated his life to the Telangana movement and the

programmes were intended to convey the intensity of public anger against the govern-

ment's actions. The BRS leaders directed party functionaries, elected representatives, and activists to remain in their respective districts and ensure the successful conduct of the protests. They emphasised that the demonstrations should be democratic and peaceful in nature. At the same time, cadres were urged to expose what they termed as the government's conspiracies and anti-democratic policies before the pub-



lic. Reiterating their faith in democratic methods, the leaders appealed to protesters to avoid any confrontation with the police and maintain discipline during the agitation. They said the objective of the protests was not disorder but to highlight the alleged misuse of investigative agencies for political purposes. The BRS leadership maintained that KCR enjoys the support and affection of crores of Telangana people and warned that continued harassment of their leader would only intensify public resistance. They asserted that no amount of pressure or intimidation would weaken the party and vowed to continue their struggle against what they called authoritarian governance. The party expressed confidence that the statewide protests would send a strong message to the government and compel it to end what the BRS described as politics of revenge and vendetta.

## Telangana Seeks Fair Share in Upcoming Union Budget, Says Minister Ponnam

Hyderabad | January 31 | TPN Bureau

Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar expressed concern over the repeated neglect of Telangana in past Union Budgets, urging the central government to allocate adequate funds to the state in the upcoming budget.

Addressing the media, the Minister said that despite Telangana sending eight MPs to the Lok Sabha, the state has consistently faced inequitable treatment in the allocation of central funds. He emphasized that the BJP MPs representing Telangana must also ensure fair treatment of the state by the Union government.

"We have shared the state government's ur-

gent requirements and priority projects with the Centre," Ponnam Prabhakar noted, highlighting critical sectors such as the dry port, temple tourism, airports, and infrastructure development, which require immediate funding.

Recalling the challenges since the formation of Telangana, the Minister stated that even with regular meetings and reports submitted to senior central officials, the state has often been overlooked in fund allocations. He further pointed out that Telangana's very creation was opposed by former Prime Minister Modi, which has historically impacted resource distribution.

The Minister urged the central government



to ensure that the forthcoming budget, which is scheduled for Purnima (full moon day), brings developmental opportunities and financial support for Telangana rather than further setbacks. "We hope this time the budget will be promising for Telangana. If there is any injustice, the eight MPs elected from the state must be held accountable," he added.

Ponnam Prabhakar's remarks underscore

Telangana's continued demand for equitable central assistance, emphasizing that critical projects and regional development initiatives depend on timely and sufficient budgetary support.

The Minister concluded by appealing to both central authorities and Telangana's MPs to prioritize the state's growth and welfare, ensuring that the upcoming Union Budget reflects justice and

## Heavy Traffic Jam Reported Between Pasra and Tadvai During Medaram Jatara

Hyderabad | January 31, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Massive traffic congestion was reported on the Pasra-Tadvai stretch as thousands of devotees returning from the Medaram Sannakka Saralamma Jatara faced severe delays. The festival, known as the "Telangana Kumbh Mela," drew huge crowds, leading to unprecedented traffic snarls on key routes to the Jatara site in Mulugu district.

Eyewitnesses and officials reported that vehicles on the Tadvai-Medaram road were stranded for several kilometres, with some travellers spending up to three to eight hours stuck in traffic. Areas near Pasra and Govindaraopet experienced particularly heavy congestion as RTC buses,

VIP convoys, and private vehicles converged on the same route.

Despite extensive preparations and significant expenditure by the government to manage the annual tribal festival, devotees faced hardships due to long waits, slow-moving queues, and bottlenecks. Many pilgrims, including elderly people and children, struggled with the delays and discomfort caused by the gridlock. Traffic authorities attempted to ease the situation by diverting private vehicles via Pasra and directing RTC and VIP vehicles through alternate routes via Tadvai. However, the volume of returning devotees far exceeded manageable limits, resulting in hours-long delays for commuters. The festival, one of the larg-



est tribal gatherings in Asia, attracted millions of devotees offering prayers and performing traditional rituals at the gaddas of Sannakka and Saralamma. As the event neared its conclusion, the heavy influx of returning pilgrims further strained road networks and overwhelmed traffic management efforts. Several pilgrims, exhausted by the prolonged wait, abandoned their vehicles or returned without completing their pilgrimage due to the overwhelming congestion. Police and traffic officials continued to work on restoring

smoother movement and clearing major bottlenecks along the route. The situation underscores the logistical challenges faced during large religious gatherings and highlights the importance of enhanced traffic planning and crowd management for future editions of the Medaram Jatara. This report emphasizes the need for coordinated action between government authorities, traffic management teams, and local communities to ensure that devotees can travel safely and efficiently during large-scale events.

# Ponnam Prabhakar Demands Justice to Telangana in Union Budget

Hyderabad | January 31 | TPN Bureau

Transport and Backward Classes Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Saturday demanded that the Union government do justice to Telangana in the forthcoming Union Budget, alleging that the state has been consistently neglected over the past decade. Addressing a media conference at Gandhi Bhavan, the minister said the Centre's discriminatory approach towards Telangana must end with the upcoming budget.

Pointing out that the Union Budget is scheduled to be presented on February 1, Ponnam Prabhakar said that in the last 11 budgets, the BJP-led central government failed to allocate adequate funds to Telangana. He criticised the Centre despite the BJP having eight Members

of Parliament and Rajya Sabha members representing Telangana, accusing it of repeatedly ignoring the state's development needs.

"The Telangana people have been protesting against this injustice for the last two years. After the formation of the new state government, the Chief Minister and all ministers have met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union ministers several times, seeking rightful funds and approvals for development projects," he said. He added that the Telangana government is once again urging the Centre to respond positively in the upcoming budget.

The minister listed several key infrastructure projects for which central funding is essential, including the Regional Ring Road (RRR), radial roads connecting



the Outer Ring Road to RRR, Musi River rejuvenation, Hyderabad Metro Rail expansion, Hyderabad Airport Greenfield Highway, airport development works, railway projects,

and other new proposals. He also demanded special funds for Telangana's development under the Vision 2047 framework.

Ponnam Prabhakar called for the establishment of Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas in the newly formed districts. He questioned the BJP's contribution to Telangana's tourism and urban development, asking whether former Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy had brought even a single major project to develop Hyderabad as a "Lakes and Rocks City."

Alleging step-motherly treatment since the formation of Telangana, the minister said the Centre was not even returning the state's rightful share of taxes in a federal spirit. While clarifying that Telangana does not oppose

funds being allocated to other states, he insisted that denying Telangana its due share was unacceptable.

Referring to the budget being presented on a Sunday coinciding with Pournami, he remarked that people were keen to see whether it would bring "light or darkness" to Telangana. He warned that if the Centre once again betrayed Telangana, BJP MPs from the state must raise their voices.

Drawing a comparison with Tamil Nadu, where leaders unite beyond party lines for state interests, Ponnam Prabhakar called for similar unity in Telangana. He concluded by saying that if Telangana-related development works are ignored again, the responsibility would rest squarely on the BJP MPs representing the state.

## Huzurabad MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy Refutes Allegations by Telangana IPS Association

Karimnagar | January 31, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Huzurabad MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy on Tuesday strongly refuted allegations that he was involved in religious conversion activities in Karimnagar. Addressing the media, the legislator clarified that he never made any statements or took any action regarding religious conversion, contrary to claims circulated by the Telangana IPS Officers' Association.

MLA Kaushik Reddy stated, "I have not made such remarks, nor have I participated in any activity related to religious conversions in Karimnagar. The allegations made by the IPS Association are baseless and without merit." He emphasized that these claims are completely unfounded and appear to be an attempt to politicize his public image. Further, he issued a conditional challenge to the Telangana IPS Association. "If anyone can provide proof that I ever said what is being alleged, I am ready to resign from my MLA post immediately and withdraw permanently from poli-



tics," he declared. Kaushik Reddy also turned the responsibility back to the IPS leadership, urging them to issue an unconditional apology for circulating false allegations. "If the IPS Association leaders acknowledge their mistake and apologise publicly, I will proceed to move a privilege motion against them in the Assembly," he said. The MLA's firm response comes amid heightened political sensitivity in the region, where misinfor-

mation and allegations of misconduct can quickly escalate. By taking a defensive yet assertive stance, Kaushik Reddy is attempting to both clear his name and hold public officials accountable for the propagation of false information.

Observers note that such disputes between elected representatives and administrative associations are rare but carry significant implications for public perception and trust in governance. Kaushik

Reddy's statement underscores the importance of verified facts over rumors in public discourse and signals a potential assembly-level confrontation if the IPS Association does not retract their claims.

The MLA concluded by reiterating his commitment to his constituency and governance, stating that he will continue serving the public while ensuring that baseless accusations do not undermine his work or reputation.

## Municipal Elections Seen as Referendum on Congress Governance, Extensive Campaigns Underway

Hyderabad, January 28, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Senior Congress leader Jagga Reddy on Tuesday strongly criticized the BJP-led Union government, alleging a departure from long-established democratic traditions during the Republic Day celebrations. He said the manner in which senior opposition leaders, particularly Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, were seated reflected a lack of respect for constitutional values and political decorum.

Addressing the media, Jagga Reddy recalled that after Independence, leaders such as Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, and Sonia Gandhi consistently followed democratic traditions that upheld the dignity of the opposition. "When the Prime Minister hoisted the national flag, opposition leaders were seated in the front rows. That was not charity—it was constitutional respect and the people's mandate," he said.

He alleged that during the January 26 celebrations, Rahul Gandhi was seated in the third row, which he described as a deliberate attempt to humiliate the Leader of



the Opposition. "The people of this country must observe BJP's behavior closely. The Modi government has abandoned political traditions that once defined India's democracy," he said.

Jagga Reddy remarked that such actions would not personally affect Rahul Gandhi. "Rahul Gandhi comes from a family where the Prime Minister's post was born. He does not measure dignity by seating arrangements," he said, adding that the Gandhi family had provided decades of governance focused on justice and welfare for the poor.

Using strong meta-

phors, Jagga Reddy said, "A lion does not need a throne. Wherever a lion sits becomes the throne. Rahul Gandhi's words, thoughts, and conduct reflect that strength. But today, one is called Prime Minister only when seated on a throne."

He also praised Priyanka Gandhi, stating that she had firmly questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Parliament, demonstrating the importance of a strong opposition. Jagga Reddy reminded that leaders like Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi respected opposition stalwarts such as Atal Bihari Vajpayee and L.K. Advani, seating them in the front rows and valuing their presence in Parliament.

"The BJP was given power to provide good governance, not to harass the Gandhi family or erase democratic traditions," he said. He accused the ruling party of indulging in politics of division and manipulation, rather than constructive governance.

Concluding his remarks, Jagga Reddy warned that Prime Ministers may come and go, but history cannot be erased. He urged the current generation to reflect on the values being set today, stressing that democracy survives only when tradition, respect, and dissent are protected.

## BRSSlamsSITNoticestoKCRasPoliticalVendetta

Hyderabad | February 1 | TPN Bureau

Leader of the Opposition in the Telangana Legislative Council, S. Madhusudhana Chari, on Saturday strongly criticised the Congress-led state government for issuing Special Investigation Team (SIT) notices to BRS president and former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), terming the move "heinous, undemocratic and driven purely by political vendetta." Addressing a press meet at Telangana Bhavan, Chari alleged that the government was indulging in vindictive politics instead of focusing on governance.

Chari asserted that KCR is not merely a leader of the BRS but a mass leader revered across Telangana society. "KCR is the leader who transformed Telangana into a heroic people's movement and later steered the state on a path of remarkable development. Targeting

such a leader amounts to insulting the entire Telangana community," he said. He accused the present government of indulging in "destructive politics" after inheriting a well-developed state.

Calling KCR a "Telangana Jathi Ratnam," Chari announced a call for statewide protests on Sunday, urging people to stage demonstrations at their respective localities against the SIT notices. He alleged that the notices were issued out of fear of an impending defeat in the upcoming municipal elections and were aimed at diverting the attention of BRS cadres from the polls.

Questioning the credibility of the SIT, Chari asked whether it was functioning as an independent investigative body or as a "private army of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy." He described the notices as a petty attempt to undermine KCR's stature and reminded that even a

child in Telangana knows that statehood was achieved due to KCR's leadership.

He further questioned the manner in which notices were served, stating that Revanth Reddy himself had repeatedly mentioned in the Assembly that KCR resides at his farmhouse. "Did the SIT officials not know the correct address? This clearly exposes the malice and personal vendetta behind the action," he alleged.

Echoing similar views, former Telangana Employees' Associations Chairman Devi Prasad condemned the SIT notices as part of political revenge. He said harassing KCR through cases and notices was equivalent to insulting Telangana itself. "The government should focus on governance, welfare and development instead of wasting time on vendetta politics," he said. Devi Prasad alleged

that refusing to postpone the inquiry process even in view of municipal elections reflected political hostility. He questioned the purpose of pasting notices at Nandinagar when KCR's residence at Erravalli was well known. He termed the action as "mental sadism" on the part of the Chief Minister.

Reiterating that BRS respects the law and would cooperate with investigations, Devi Prasad warned that despite cases and notices, the party would intensify its fight on people's issues, unfulfilled promises and alleged corruption. "KCR has the backing of crores of people, and no conspiracy can weaken the BRS," he asserted.

The press meet was attended by senior BRS leaders Devra Mallappa, Sumitra Anand, Manne Govardhan Reddy, Allipuram Venkateshwar Reddy, Prem Kumar Dutt and Kommu Narendra.

## Telangana Economic Survey Highlights State's Robust Growth and Development Initiatives

Hyderabad | January 31, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Hon'ble Minister Sri D. Sridhar Babu has underscored Telangana's remarkable progress under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, citing the Economic Survey 2025-26 as proof of the State's all-round development, transparency in governance, and effective welfare initiatives. Speaking at the Secretariat, the Minister emphasised that while constructive criticism is vital in a democracy, opposition narratives must be fact-based rather than politically motivated misinformation.

Addressing false claims of economic collapse and stagnation, the Minister highlighted key findings from the Survey. Telangana has achieved substantial inflation control, with headline inflation dropping from 8.61% in 2022-23 to 0.20% in 2025-26, outperforming national

averages. The State also demonstrates strong fiscal discipline, generating significant revenue through its own tax resources, reducing dependency on Central grants or borrowings.

The Survey further showcases Telangana's strength in IT, industry, and women's welfare. Hyderabad has evolved from a hub for Global Capability Centres to a Global Innovation Hub, ranking fourth nationally in the Gen-AI start-up ecosystem with a 7% share. Telangana accounts for 5% of total employment in India's organised manufacturing sector, reflecting its pivotal role in industrial growth. Progressive reforms, including lifting restrictions on women's working hours, have enabled safe employment across industries, with the Survey recognizing Telangana as one of only five States to adopt such measures.

Urban development is



another highlight. Hyderabad ranks among the Top 10 cities in the Ease of Living - 2025 Index and is projected by Oxford Economics to become the fourth fastest-growing city globally between 2019 and 2035, with GDP rising from \$50.6 billion in 2018 to \$201.4 billion by 2035. The GHMC also leads nationally in municipal bond issuance, demonstrating investor confidence in the State government.

The Survey commended Telangana's technology-driven governance, including the 'Bhu Bharati' portal for land records and GPS-

based tracking of the Public Distribution System, ensuring transparency and efficiency. Initiatives such as Smart Tribal Farming have empowered marginalized farmers, promoting inclusive growth.

Minister Sridhar Babu concluded that Telangana's achievements under CM Revanth Reddy reflect a government committed to improving quality of life, investor confidence, and inclusive development, reinforcing the narrative of "Telangana Rising" while dispelling misinformation propagated by vested interests.

# Children Traffic Awareness Park Inaugurated at Historic Aliya School in Hyderabad

Hyderabad | January 31 | TPN Bureau

As part of the concluding celebrations of the National Road Safety Month, Transport Minister Ponnamb Prabhakar on Friday inaugurated a Children Traffic Awareness Park at the historic Aliya Government Model School in Hyderabad. Built at a cost of 14 lakh with the support of UNICEF, the park aims to inculcate road safety awareness among school children through practical demonstrations.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said the Traffic Awareness Park has been developed to educate students on essential road safety rules in an engaging and practical manner.

The park includes model traffic signals, zebra crossings, hospital zones, forest areas, junctions, road dividers, and school crossing areas, where students demonstrated appropriate behavior while using roads. Minister Ponnamb Prabhakar keenly observed the demonstrations and interacted with students, appreciating their understanding of traffic norms.

He stated that under the slogan "Sadak Suraksha Abhiyan," the Road Safety Month celebrations this year focused on creating awareness among nearly 10 lakh people directly across the state. A comprehensive approach covering the four Es — Education,



Enforcement, Engineering, and Emergency response — was adopted to reduce road accidents. As part of this initiative, accident-prone black spots were identified and rectified to enhance road safety. In Hyderabad district

alone, awareness programs were conducted in 183 schools, benefiting around 25,000 students. Various activities were organized during the month, including 50 helmet bike rallies, 10 walkathons, 10 rangoli competitions, 50 quiz

contests, 50 essay writing competitions, 100 road safety programs, and 100 health camps focused on traffic awareness. The Minister also revealed that in 2025, around 11,000 driving licenses were suspended for violating traffic

rules, reflecting the government's strict enforcement policy.

Addressing students and parents, Ponnamb Prabhakar emphasized that road safety is a collective social responsibility. "By following traffic rules, we not only protect our own lives but also save the lives of others," he said. He announced that soon students would be encouraged to bring affidavits from their parents pledging adherence to traffic rules.

Recalling the legacy of the Aliya School, established in 1872, the Minister said it was a matter of pride to launch the Traffic Awareness Park in such a historic institution. He added that similar



parks would be set up in other schools wherever space is available, utilizing SDF funds. Drawing parallels with youth parliaments, he suggested training select students from each school to spread awareness among their peers.

The event was attended by Transport Commissioner Ilambarthi, Hyderabad District Col-

lector Dasari Harichandana, Traffic Joint Commissioner Joel Davis, UNICEF representative Dr. J.L. LLM, local corporator Surekha, Regional Joint Director Somireddy, DEO Rohini, JTC Ramesh, Chandrashekar Goud, Shivalingayya, State RTA Member Naveen, Hyderabad RTA Member Suresh Lal, and other officials.

## Telangana BRS Leaders Condemn "Political Persecution" of KCR, Call for Statewide

Hyderabad | January 31 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister and BRS LP Deputy Leader Talasani Srinivas Yadav held a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, strongly condemning the ongoing political targeting of Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) by the Congress-led state government.

Addressing the media, Talasani said, "It is unclear whether the government is running the state or a circus. KCR is the great leader who achieved the formation of Telangana, united all sections of society, and delivered welfare benefits to the people. Yet, senior political leaders like him are being subjected to unprecedented political harassment."

He criticized the Congress government for sending SIT notices to KCR at his Nandini Nagar residence, despite ministers visiting him directly. "Everyone knows where KCR is. Even when he has expressed willing-

ness to cooperate with the investigation and respect the law, these vindictive actions continue. The public is watching and outraged," Talasani added.

He accused Congress of using municipal elections as a pretext to target KCR, warning that such biased actions would be recognized as deliberate political vendetta. "The BRS calls upon citizens across all communities to participate peacefully and voluntarily in statewide protests tomorrow to oppose these injustices," he stated.

Talasani also highlighted that BRS MLAs, who switched parties, are now working for Congress candidates in municipal elections, but the Speaker has ruled that they are still considered BRS legislators. He questioned the government's actions in interfering with religious practices of MLAs in their constituencies and said the situation has created unnecessary tension.

"Never in my political career have I seen such levels of vendetta. KCR has fought tirelessly for Telangana, even risking his life, yet he faces constant harassment. Power is never permanent; Congress leaders must realize this," he said.

The press conference was attended by MLC Shambhipur Raju, former MLA Bolam Mallayya Yadav, and BRS leaders including Bommer Ramamurthy, Kadari Swami Yadav, along with local corporators Jagan, Suresh Reddy, Satyanarayana, and Nagaraju Yadav.

Talasani concluded by urging the Congress government to reconsider its administrative approach, warning that if vindictive politics continue, the party itself will face the consequences. He reaffirmed that after two years, the next government will again be KCR's, urging Congress to work constructively rather than engage in politically motivated harassment.



## Hyderabad Inaugurates Advanced Multi-Level Parking Facility at Nampally

Hyderabad | January 31, 2026 | TPN Bureau

In a major step toward easing urban traffic, Hyderabad Minister Ponnamb Prabhakar inaugurated a state-of-the-art multi-level parking facility at the Nampally junction, developed under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model by Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited (HMRL) in collaboration with Novum Technologies.

The event was attended by Minister Azaruddin, Mayor Gadwala Vijayalakshmi, Deputy Mayor Mothe Shrilatha Shobhan Reddy, HMRL Advisor N.V.S. Reddy, and other senior officials. During the inauguration, Minister Prabhakar personally inspected the parking facility, highlighting its advanced technological features and its capacity to streamline traffic in



the congested Nampally area.

The newly constructed facility spans 15 floors, with 10 floors dedicated to vehicle parking and the remaining floors allocated for commercial purposes. A dedicated viewing floor at the top offers panoramic views of the city. The facility can accommodate 200 cars and 200 two-wheelers, providing ample parking space for commuters in one of Hyderabad's busiest traffic junctions.

This multi-level parking system is the first of

its kind in India to employ fully automated German technology, eliminating the need for manual intervention. Vehicles can be parked by simply positioning them on a terminal table, switching off the engine, and leaving. Once the parking card is swiped, the system automatically retrieves the vehicle, allowing the driver to collect it without delays.

Constructed on a 2,000-square-yard area, the project was completed at a cost of 102 crore. HMRL has signed a 50-

year agreement with Novum Technologies to manage and operate the facility. Minister Prabhakar emphasized that the facility would significantly ease parking woes in Nampally, a key commercial and traffic hub, while also contributing to smoother vehicular flow in the surrounding areas.

The project is designed to address Hyderabad's growing traffic congestion while promoting modern urban planning and technology integration. By providing a reliable and

efficient parking solution, it is expected to benefit thousands of commuters daily and reduce the time and stress associated with urban parking challenges.

Minister Prabhakar noted that the initiative reflects the government's commitment to smart infrastructure development, combining technology, urban management, and commuter convenience. With growing traffic across the city, such innovative solutions are essential to ensuring safe, orderly, and efficient mobility in Hyderabad. The inauguration marks a key milestone in Hyderabad's urban infrastructure development, setting an example for other cities in India to adopt automated, high-capacity parking solutions to manage urban congestion effectively.

## Hyderabad Officials Urge Special Efforts for Improved Intermediate Exam Results

Hyderabad | January 31, 2026 | TPN Bureau

In a bid to achieve better academic outcomes in the upcoming board examinations, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and State Transport & BC Welfare Minister Ponnamb Prabhakar urged teachers to put in special efforts to help students excel in the Class 10 and Intermediate annual examinations.

The ministers conducted a virtual meeting with principals and heads of all government and welfare management schools and colleges in the district, emphasizing the need to focus on quality teaching and provision of essential infrastructure to support student learning.

Addressing the participants, Deputy CM Vikramarka highlighted

the state government's commitment to giving highest priority to education. He said that Telangana is striving to provide corporate-level standards in teaching, ensuring that students receive comprehensive and high-quality education. He lauded schools and colleges that had achieved outstanding results in the past and encouraged them to maintain and improve their performance in the current academic year.

For institutions that had shown lower performance previously, the ministers provided guidance and suggestions to enhance results. Minister Ponnamb Prabhakar stressed that teachers must focus on both academic excellence and the provision of adequate facilities, including classrooms, learning re-



sources, and student support services, to create an enabling environment for learning.

The virtual session also reaffirmed the government's commitment to the integrity and transparency of public examinations, including the SSC and Intermedi-

ate board exams for the 2025-26 academic year. Officials urged educational institutions to implement strategies that promote student engagement, consistent evaluation, and remedial support for weaker learners.

The meeting was at-

tended by Hyderabad District Collector Dasari Harichandana, District Intermediate Education Officer Oddenna, District Education Officer Rohini, and officers from all welfare societies, along with school and college administrators. The ministers emphasized the importance of collaboration between teachers, administrators, and education authorities to ensure a smooth and successful examination process.

Both ministers concluded that focused efforts at the school and college level, combined with government support and monitoring, will not only improve results but also strengthen the overall quality of education in Telangana, setting a benchmark for excellence in public education across the state.

## Millers' Association Workers Submit Memorandum to Minister Vakeeti Srihari

Hyderabad | January 31, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Workers from the Telangana Concrete Millers Labor Welfare Association met Minister Vakeeti Srihari at his office to submit a memorandum highlighting several pressing issues affecting their welfare and operations. The workers appealed for the minister's intervention on matters ranging from protection against fines to the provision of infrastructure support for the association. The memorandum specifically requested safeguards against fines

and penalties imposed by traffic and transport authorities, emphasizing that such measures often disrupt their daily work and impact livelihoods. The millers stressed the importance of fair and transparent enforcement while urging the government to consider the practical difficulties faced by laborers in transport-intensive industries. In addition to regulatory concerns, the workers requested the allocation of 1,000 square yards of land for the construction of a dedicated building for the

Millers' Association. The association members highlighted that having a proper facility would not only provide a centralized space for administrative work and meetings but also strengthen welfare initiatives for laborers across Telangana. Responding to the memorandum, Minister Srihari assured the workers that he would personally examine each of their concerns and ensure that appropriate solutions are implemented. He confirmed that he had already consulted

with Hyderabad Commissioner Sajjanar and Transport Commissioner Ilambarthi over the phone to address pressing issues related to traffic fines and compliance matters, emphasizing the government's proactive approach in supporting labor welfare. Minister Srihari further reiterated the government's commitment to labor welfare and protection, stating that the administration recognizes the crucial role played by millers and other labor groups in Telangana's economic growth. He assured



that measures would be taken not only to safeguard workers from undue harassment but also to provide them with the infrastructure and resources necessary for professional and

personal development. The workers expressed optimism following the meeting, hopeful that their longstanding concerns regarding infrastructure support, safety, and fair treat-

ment would soon be addressed. They acknowledged the minister's assurance and proactive steps as a positive indication of the government's commitment to transparent and inclu-

sive governance. The meeting underscored the Telangana government's broader focus on worker welfare and industrial support, reflecting ongoing efforts to balance regulatory compliance with the well-being of labor communities. The minister concluded by reaffirming that the administration would continue to monitor labor concerns and ensure timely action, demonstrating the government's dedication to creating a secure and supportive environment for all workers.

# Adilabad Hosts 'Road Safety 2K Run' to Promote Awareness

Adilabad | January 31 | TPN Bureau

Adilabad district witnessed a grand 'Road Safety 2K Run' on Saturday as part of the closing ceremony of the National Road Safety Month, organized under the supervision of the Transport Department. The event highlighted the importance of road safety and public awareness in preventing accidents.

District Collector Rajarshi Risha, the chief guest, inaugurated the run at the local RTO office, with participants proceeding to Priyadarshini Stadium, carrying out the demonstration run with road safety slogans. Addressing the participants, the Collector emphasized that road safety is everyone's responsibility, urging citizens to strictly follow traffic rules, wear helmets, and control speed to avoid fatalities.



He noted that every year, hundreds of thousands of lives are lost nationwide due to road accidents, highlighting the urgent need for awareness among students, youth, and the general public. He urged students to educate their parents, siblings, and friends about road safety and lead by example.

Commenting on the Transport Department for its month-long awareness campaign, the Collector said these initiatives play a crucial role in saving lives and building a culture of responsible driving.

The 2K Run concluded at Priyadarshini Stadium, where winners, participants, and special guests were felicitated with awards and mementos. The event saw enthusiastic participation from students, youth, and local residents, creating a vibrant and educational atmosphere.

Key officials present included Additional Collector Rajeshwar, Deputy Transport Commissioner Ravinder Kumar, DYSO Srinivas, District Medical & Health Officer Narender Rathod, District Transport Officer S.

Srinivas, along with numerous other district officials, staff, and students. The successful conduct of the event underlines Adilabad's commitment to promoting road safety awareness and encouraging responsible behavior on the roads among the younger generation and the community at large.

# Adilabad Police Conduct Awareness Session on Cybercrime



Adilabad | January 31, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Adilabad Police organized a Cybercrime Awareness Program at Pipri village in Bazar Hathanur Mandal to educate residents about the growing threats posed by cybercrimes. The initiative aims to empower citizens with knowledge to protect themselves in the digital space.



During the program, Both Circle Inspector Guruswami and SI Sanjay of Bazar Hathanur addressed the participants, highlighting the rise of fake websites and suspicious links on social media. They cautioned residents not to share personal or banking information with strangers and emphasized vigilance while using online platforms.

The officers advised that in case anyone falls victim to cybercrime, they should immediately dial the toll-free number 1930 to report the incident. They also stressed the importance of using strong passwords, changing them regularly, and exercising caution while clicking on links in emails or messages from un-

known sources. Speaking at the event, the officers said, "Cybercrime can affect anyone, and awareness is the first step in prevention. Residents must remain alert, avoid sharing sensitive information, and promptly report any suspicious activity to law enforcement authorities."

The program also emphasized that police services are available to citizens at all times and encouraged residents to consider them as partners in maintaining a safe digital environment. Several local dignitaries and community leaders participated in the program, including Sarpanch Krishnakant Reddy, former MPTC member Murali Mohan, former Sarpanch Kavitha Raghun Reddy, Enugu Lakshma Reddy, and other villagers. Their presence reinforced community cooperation in combating cybercrime and spreading awareness among residents.

The initiative reflects the Adilabad Police Department's proactive approach toward cyber safety and its commitment to safeguarding citizens against the increasing threats in today's technology-driven world. With growing reliance on digital platforms, such awareness programs are seen as critical for educating the public, preventing cyber fraud, and promoting responsible online behaviour.

By combining law enforcement vigilance with community participation, the Adilabad Police aim to create a secure digital environment, reduce incidents of cybercrime, and ensure that citizens are well-prepared to tackle online threats effectively.

# BRS Leader RS Praveen Kumar Alleges Political Vendetta Over Phone Tapping Case

Siddipet | February 1 | TPN Bureau

Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) State Party General Secretary RS Praveen Kumar on Saturday launched a sharp attack on the Congress-led Telangana government, alleging that the ongoing phone tapping controversy is being used as a tool to harass opposition leaders and divert public attention from alleged scams under the present regime.

like 'Alibaba and the 40 thieves' or a dacoit gang, while attempting to hide its failures by creating political drama," Praveen Kumar alleged. He cited what he termed as a coal scam and a massive land scam involving nearly 9,000 acres, among other alleged irregularities, and claimed that the phone tapping narrative is being amplified to divert public focus from these issues.

The BRS leader further alleged that a Special Investigation Team (SIT) was constituted not to uncover the truth, but to suppress the voices of opposition leaders who are questioning the government. He maintained that political leaders have no direct role in phone tapping and clarified that laws related to surveillance have existed since 1875 under the Telegraph Act, under which intelligence gathering is carried out by the police department as per procedure.

"No Chief Minister personally orders phone tapping. This entire exercise is being misused



to intimidate opposition leaders," he said. Praveen Kumar also accused the government of leaking information to the media during the course of the investigation with the intention of causing personal defamation.

Condemning the issuance of notices to BRS supremo and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), Praveen Kumar termed it an undemocratic act driven by personal ven-

detta. "Is KCR's only crime that he fought relentlessly for 14 years to achieve Telangana statehood?" he questioned.

He also alleged discrimination in the manner notices were served, pointing out that while state ministers personally invited leaders for public events, police officials went to KCR's Nandinagar residence to issue notices. He cited inconsistencies in serving notices to lead-

ers such as Harish Rao and drew parallels with how notices were earlier served to Revanth Reddy at Hyderabad despite his address being in Kodangal.

Accusing the Chief Minister of functioning with a mindset of political revenge, Praveen Kumar asserted that the people of Telangana would ultimately punish Revanth Reddy for what he termed as authoritarian and vindictive governance.

# Farmer Registration Programme Held at Pipri Village



Adilabad | January 31 | TPN Bureau

A Farmer Registration Programme was conducted for the benefit of farmers at the Rythu Vedika in Pipri village, located in Bazarhathnour mandal of Adilabad district, on Friday. Officials urged all farmers possessing pattadar passbooks to mandatorily complete the farmer registration process to avail benefits under various agricultural welfare schemes.

Addressing the farmers, officials explained that similar to an Aadhaar card, each registered farmer would be issued a unique 11-digit Farmer ID number. This Farmer ID will serve as a standard and mandatory identification for accessing several central government agriculture-related schemes, including PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi, crop insurance schemes, and other future welfare initiatives. The officials emphasized that the Farmer ID would help streamline the deliv-

ery of benefits, eliminate duplication, and ensure transparency in the implementation of government schemes. They advised farmers to complete the registration at the earliest to avoid any inconvenience or exclusion from welfare programmes.

For farmer registration, officials informed that farmers must carry essential documents, including the Pattadar Passbook, Aadhaar card, and a mobile number linked with Aadhaar. The registration process is being facilitated free of cost at Rythu Vedikas through the local Agricultural Extension Officer (AEO). Alternatively, farmers can also complete the registration at nearby MeeSeva centres by paying a nominal fee of 15. The programme witnessed active participation from local farmers, who expressed satisfaction over the initiative and sought clarifications regarding the usage and benefits of the Farmer ID. Officials addressed their queries and assured them of continued support during the registration process.

Agricultural Extension Officer Krishnapal was present at the programme and supervised the registration process. Several farmers, including Kiran, Madavi Laxman Chandrashekar, Sonabai, Kosubai, and others, took part in the event and completed their registrations. Officials reiterated that the Farmer Registration initiative is a crucial step towards creating a comprehensive database of farmers, which will enable better planning, policy formulation, and targeted support for the farming community. They encouraged farmers to spread awareness about the programme among fellow farmers to ensure maximum coverage across the mandal. The programme is expected to continue in other villages of the mandal in the coming days as part of the government's efforts to strengthen agricultural governance and ensure timely benefits to farmers.

# NHRC, Social Leaders Demand University in Adilabad

Adilabad | January 31 | TPN Bureau

Representatives of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and local social organizations have urged the government to establish the proposed university in the heart of Adilabad district instead of Nirmal, citing the district's large student population and geographic importance. The request was submitted during a "Prajavani" public hearing held at Neredigonda mandal on Monday.



NHRC Adilabad Vice-Chairman Sandeep Rathod highlighted that Adilabad has a significant tribal, Girijan, and Lambada population, with thousands of students pursuing higher education. He pointed out that students currently have to travel to other districts for higher studies, which imposes both financial and transportation burdens. He expressed strong opposition to the recent announcement allocating the university to Nirmal during a public meeting there.

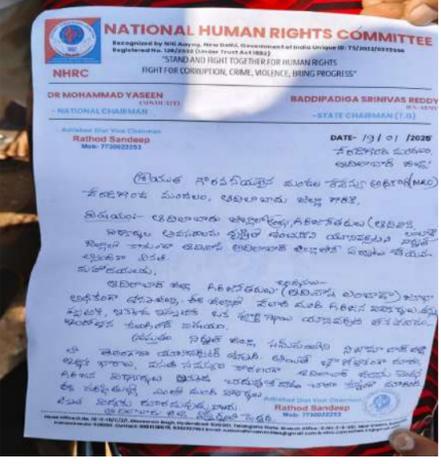
The representatives argued that Adilabad, being geographically large and relatively underdeveloped, would benefit from the university, accelerating educational and regional development. They noted that while a Telangana university exists near Nirmal in nearby Nizamabad, it remains distant for Adilabad students, increasing travel expenses and making higher education less accessible.

They emphasized that establishing the university in Adilabad would help reduce dropout rates among tribal students and ensure equitable access to higher education. The group stressed that the decision was essential to providing quality educational opportunities and addressing socio-economic disparities within the district.

The public hearing was attended by social activist Sable Santosh, Girijan Live District President Jadav Mahender, NHRC Mandal Chairman Nursing Das, and local leaders Krishna and Srikant, as well as Congress worker Solanki Prashanth. Former sarpanches and sarpanch candidates Rajender, Gangadhar, Jitender, and Sushil,

Srinivas, Vignesh, and Rathod Srinivas, also participated in large numbers to express their support.

The participants collectively urged the government to consider their plea favorably and take swift action to establish the university in Adilabad, ensuring the district receives its due share of educational infrastructure and development.



# India's Next Growth Challenge: Why Strong Numbers Are No Longer Enough

India enters the new fiscal year with enviable economic momentum. Growth remains among the fastest in the world, inflation is under control, public investment is robust, and the financial system looks far healthier than it did a decade ago. These achievements mark a significant turnaround from the disruptions of the pandemic years and the balance-sheet stress that once constrained both banks and corporates.

Yet the latest Economic Survey makes an important and somewhat sobering argument: India's future growth constraints are no longer macroeconomic in nature. The challenge ahead is not about stabilisation or stimulus, but about institutional depth, execution capability, and the state's ability to navigate an increasingly complex global environment.

This shift in diagnosis marks a turning point in how India's growth story is being framed.

## From Outcomes to Capabilities

For much of the past decade, economic debates focused on correcting imbalances — reducing inflation, narrowing fiscal deficits, cleaning up bank balance sheets, and restoring investor confidence. The Survey acknowledges that meaningful progress has been made on all these fronts. Fiscal consolidation has resumed without derailing growth, inflation has moderated, and the banking sector is well capitalised and willing to lend.

But these successes now form the baseline rather than the ambition. The Survey's central insight is that state capacity has emerged as the binding constraint on India's long-term growth. In other words, the key limitation is no longer the absence of sound policies, but the ability of institutions to design, coordinate, and implement them effectively in a volatile and uncertain world.

As India grows larger and more globally integrated, policymaking becomes harder. Trade-offs multiply, coordina-



tion across ministries and levels of government becomes more complex, and small missteps can have outsized consequences. Strong fundamentals, while essential, are no longer sufficient on their own.

## Navigating a Riskier Global Economy

The global economic environment today is far less benign than it was during earlier phases of India's growth. Geopolitical tensions, fragmented supply chains, frequent financial shocks, and rising protectionism have altered the rules of engagement. Capital flows are increasingly driven by global risk sentiment rather than domestic fundamentals alone.

This reality places India in a delicate position. Despite strong growth and stable macro indicators, the economy remains dependent on external capital to finance its current account gap. That means policy credibility, regulatory predictability, and in-

stitutional clarity matter more than ever.

The Survey implicitly warns that in a world where investors reassess risk rapidly, the margin for policy error has narrowed. Growth in such an environment depends as much on confidence in governance as on economic potential.

## Rethinking Industrial Strategy

One of the Survey's most notable contributions is its nuanced approach to industry, policy and trade strategy. Rather than framing the debate as a binary choice between protectionism and free trade, it outlines a strategic progression:

1. Reducing excessive dependence on critical imports
2. Building resilience to external shocks
3. Achieving strategic indispensability within global value chains

This framework recognises that some degree of domestic

capacity building is necessary, especially in strategically sensitive sectors. However, it also stresses that protection cannot become permanent insulation from competition.

Support to industry, according to the Survey's logic, must be targeted, time-bound, and conditional on performance, with exposure to export markets serving as a discipline mechanism. The goal is not isolation, but deeper and more meaningful integration — where India becomes too important to global supply chains to be bypassed.

## The Cost Problem No One Sector Can Fix

Another key reframing in the Survey is its treatment of competitiveness. Instead of viewing high costs as sector-specific issues, it identifies them as horizontal constraints affecting the entire economy.

High logistics costs, regulatory compliance burdens, tariff distortions, and inefficient

input markets collectively reduce India's manufacturing competitiveness. These costs are not always visible in headline indicators, but they quietly erode margins, discourage scale, and weaken export performance.

The Survey's proposal for a coordinated input cost reduction strategy reflects a recognition that competitiveness is a public good. No single firm or sector can fix these constraints on its own. They require cross-ministerial coordination, regulatory simplification, and sustained institutional effort — precisely where state capacity becomes critical.

## Manufacturing as the Stress Test

Manufacturing occupies a special place in the Survey's analysis. Unlike services, which can grow even in imperfect institutional environments, manufacturing is far more sensitive to infrastructure quality, regulatory clarity, and governance efficiency.

As a result, manufacturing acts as a stress test for institutional effectiveness. Delays in approvals, uncertainty in compliance, and fragmentation in policy execution show up quickly in factories, supply chains, and export outcomes.

The Survey suggests that India's manufacturing ambitions will depend less on new incentive schemes and more on the quiet, difficult work of improving coordination, reducing friction, and ensuring predictable enforcement.

## Labour, Human Capital, and Inclusion

While the Survey's primary focus is institutional, it also acknowledges demographic and labour market challenges. Low female labour force participation remains a significant drag on the potential growth, particularly as India seeks to sustain high expansion rates over the long term.

Skill mismatches, informal employment, and uneven ac-

cess to quality education and healthcare continue to limit productivity gains. Addressing these issues requires not just spending, but effective delivery — once again bringing the conversation back to governance capacity.

The Survey implies that human capital outcomes are inseparable from institutional quality, as policies matter only to the extent that they translate into real-world results.

## Fiscal Discipline Without Complacency

On the fiscal front, the Survey strikes a careful balance. It recognises the achievement of reducing deficits while maintaining growth-supportive capital expenditure. At the same time, it cautions against complacency.

As global interest rates remain volatile and borrowing costs rise, fiscal credibility will remain a key anchor of macroeconomic stability. The Survey suggests that future budgets will need to prioritise quality of spending over quantity, with a sharper focus on outcomes and multiplier effects.

## Growth's Next Phase

The underlying message of the Economic Survey is both optimistic and demanding. India's growth story is not exhausted — but it has entered a more complex phase. The easy gains from stabilisation and pent-up demand have largely been realised. What lies ahead requires patience, coordination, and institutional maturity.

Future growth will depend less on announcing new programmes and more on improving how the state functions: how decisions are made, how conflicts are resolved, and how policies adapt to uncertainty.

In redefining India's growth constraints, the Survey reframes the national economic challenge. The question is no longer whether India can grow fast, but whether its institutions can evolve quickly enough to sustain that growth in a turbulent world.

# Inside Xi Jinping's Military Shake-Up: What China's Purge of Top Generals Means for Its Defence and Regional Security

In late January 2026, China's leadership sent shockwaves through its military establishment and the wider world by announcing the investigation of two of the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) most senior officers on accusations of serious violations of party discipline and the law. The move — swift, dramatic and shrouded in official rhetoric — signals more than a routine anti-corruption campaign. It points to a fundamental reshaping of the PLA's top command and offers crucial insights into China's defence policy, internal politics, and strategic calculations, especially regarding border tensions with India and Taiwan.

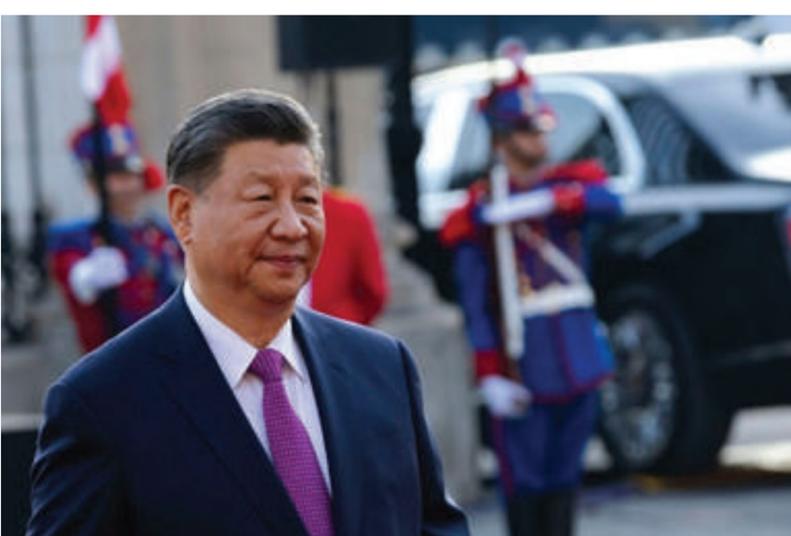
At the centre of this unfolding drama are Generals Zhang Youxia and Liu Zhenli, both long-time military leaders with extensive service records. Zhang, the vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC) — the body that controls China's armed forces — was one of the highest-ranking military officers in the Communist Party structure. Liu, a senior CMC member, directed operational planning and readiness. The announcement that both men were under investigation sent a clear message: even the most senior figures in the PLA are not immune from scrutiny. The official justification cited "serious violations of discipline and law" and alleged that they had undermined the Party's absolute authority over the military, a grave charge in China's political lexicon.

To understand the signifi-

cance of this purge, it helps to view it against the backdrop of China's political and military evolution over the past decade. Since taking power in 2012, President Xi Jinping has spearheaded one of the most extensive anti-corruption campaigns in the country's recent history. What began as a crackdown on graft among civilian and lower-level officials gradually extended deep into military ranks. This effort, framed publicly as necessary to clean up corruption and strengthen the PLA's effectiveness, has led to the removal of thousands of officials and dozens of high-ranking officers. In many cases, these purges appear to serve a dual purpose: combating corrupt practices while also reinforcing loyalty to Xi's leadership.

The removal of Zhang and Liu, however, represents an escalation. Zhang, in particular, was widely regarded as part of the PLA's "old guard" — seasoned professionals with significant battlefield experience and close ties to senior Party leadership. His dismantling from the CMC underscores a shift in China's military hierarchy: seasoned command figures are being replaced or sidelined in favour of officers perceived to be more politically reliable and aligned with Xi's strategic priorities. But this alignment comes at a cost.

One immediate consequence of removing such experienced figures is the erosion of institutional continuity and expertise. Critics argue that this could weaken China's military decision-making at a time



when strategic demands are high. Replacing top commanders with newer, less experienced leaders requires time — not just to vet, promote and familiarise them with their roles, but also to foster the command cohesion that comes with shared battlefield experience and long service. For an organisation as vast and complex as the PLA, this is no small task.

The impact of this purge on China's defence policy and regional security dynamics is likely to unfold over years rather than months. In the short term, the PLA's combat capability — rooted in theatre commands and operational units below the CMC level — is

unlikely to collapse. Thousands of generals and officers remain active, and the force's overall structure continues to function. However, the leadership vacuum at the very top raises concerns about clarity in strategic direction and the ability to coordinate complex operations effectively.

One of the most immediate areas of interest for global observers is Taiwan. For years, Beijing has signalled its intent to bring Taiwan under mainland control, whether through diplomatic pressure, economic leverage or — in the extreme — military force. The PLA has been central to this strategy, modernising its capabilities and conducting drills aimed at

detering Taipei and its international supporters. Yet, with the purges affecting top operational planners and commanders, there is speculation that China's appetite for a high-risk military operation across the Taiwan Strait could be tempered, at least in the near term. Analysts argue that Xi may prefer to consolidate loyalty and rebuild command structures before embarking on any action with such profound consequences.

This recalibration could also influence China's posture along its land borders, particularly with India. India and China have faced persistent tensions along their contested boundary, the Line of Actual

Control (LAC), where large deployments and periodic stand-offs have strained relations. In recent months, both sides have sought cautious engagement — including diplomatic conversations and efforts to clarify the status quo — even as strategic competition continues. The unfolding turmoil within the PLA's senior ranks might reinforce Beijing's preference for managing the border situation through relative calm rather than escalation. A PLA focused inward, recalibrating its leadership and loyalty structures, is less likely to pursue risky confrontations that could undermine internal unity or external credibility.

At the same time, Beijing's broader strategic priorities remain unchanged. The purge is not a sign of weakness so much as a signal of intensified centralisation of power under Xi Jinping. By tightening political control over the military, Xi ensures that the PLA remains firmly subordinate to the Communist Party's leadership — a core tenet of Chinese governance. This consolidation can bolster Xi's ability to pursue long-term goals without internal dissent, but it also raises questions about the balance between political loyalty and military professionalism.

China's approach to its military leadership reflects a deep-seated belief that unquestioned loyalty to the Party outweighs individual competence or strategic insight. In Xi's framing, any lack of absolute loyalty is tantamount to

disloyalty — a threat not just to his leadership but to the Party's hold on power. This zero-tolerance stance reinforces a culture where senior officers may prioritise political conformity over frank assessments of operational realities, potentially stifling critical debate and informed decision-making.

For India and other regional actors, the message is clear: China is restructuring its military leadership not because it is uncertain about its strategic environment, but because it is determined to ensure political control and loyalty at all costs. While this may moderate the likelihood of sudden, large-scale military confrontations in the short term, it also suggests a long-term competitor that is reorganising itself around a centralised, party-loyal command structure — one that will continue to invest in military capabilities, deterrence and influence projection.

In sum, the purge of China's top generals marks a defining moment in the PLA's evolution. It highlights the intersection of politics and military affairs in a system where loyalty to the leader is paramount. The repercussions — from command effectiveness to border dynamics and cross-Taiwan Strait calculations — will resonate across Asia's strategic landscape. Navigating this new reality requires not just diplomatic acumen but a sober understanding of how political imperatives shape military posture in contemporary China.

## From Morarji Desai to Nirmala Sitharaman: A Look at India's Record Union Budget Presenters

As the Union Budget 2026 approaches, all eyes are on Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who is set to present the budget on February 1, 2026 in Parliament. Her upcoming presentation will mark a significant milestone in the history of India's fiscal reporting, placing her among the most frequent and influential budget presenters since independence.

India's Union Budget, the government's annual financial statement on revenues, expenditures and economic strategy, has traditionally been tabled by the finance minister. Over the decades, a handful of leaders have stood out for the number of times they have delivered this key policy document as well as for records they have set.

### Morarji Desai: The Record Holder

The record for presenting the most Union Budgets is held by Morarji Desai, who delivered ten Budgets during his long tenure as finance minister in two separate stints between 1959 and 1969. His first budget presentation came in 1959, and across the 1960s, he continued to present both full and interim budgets, with a total tally that remains unmatched in Indian history.

### P.Chidambaram: Close Behind

Former finance minister P. Chidambaram is next on the list, having presented the Un-



ion Budget nine times. His journey began in 1996 and continued over several terms, including an extended period during the 2000s. Chidambaram's total includes budgets presented under different governments, reflecting his long association with economic policymaking.

### Nirmala Sitharaman: A Record in the Making

Nirmala Sitharaman currently ranks just behind these veteran finance chiefs. First appointed finance minister in 2019, she presented her maiden Union Budget that same year and has delivered successive budgets each year since, including an interim budget. By 2026, she is poised to present her ninth consecutive Budget, a record for consecutive presentations. This

feat makes her the longest serving finance minister in terms of uninterrupted budget presentations, highlighting stability and continuity in India's economic leadership.

In terms of overall count, she was previously tied with Pranab Mukherjee — another iconic figure who presented eight budgets — but the 2026 Budget will see her move past him in total presentations.

### Historical Context and Legacy

The tradition of presenting the Union Budget dates back to the earliest years of India's independence, with the first Budget delivered in 1947 and subsequently evolving into a key annual event that shapes economic planning and public finance. Over time, the podium has been shared by a

select group of finance ministers, each leaving their mark on India's fiscal direction.

Sitharaman's run reflects not just longevity but also the increased importance of the Budget as a platform for signalling policy priorities, structural reforms and economic vision. Her consecutive presentations stand out in a period marked by rapid global change, domestic economic challenges, and a growing emphasis on investment, jobs and inclusive growth.

As she prepares to present Budget 2026, Sitharaman's place in the historical roster of India's budget presenters is firmly established — a testament to her role in steering economic policy through nearly a decade of fiscal cycles.

## Sunetra Pawar Sworn in as Maharashtra's First Woman Deputy Chief Minister

In a historic development for Maharashtra, Sunetra Pawar was sworn in as the state's Deputy Chief Minister on January 31, 2026, becoming the first woman to hold the post. The ceremony, held at Lok Bhavan in Mumbai, marked a significant political and personal transition for Pawar, coming just days after the tragic death of her husband, Ajit Pawar, in a plane crash that claimed several lives.

The oath was administered by the Governor, with key political leaders, including the Chief Minister, in attendance. Party colleagues and supporters gathered to honour Ajit Pawar's legacy while celebrating Sunetra Pawar's historic elevation. Her appointment reflects both continuity in governance and recognition of her own leadership within the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP).

Sunetra Pawar's political journey gained momentum when she was unanimously elected as the leader of the NCP Legislature Party, paving the way for her appointment as Deputy Chief Minister. Her acceptance of the role demonstrates the party's intent to maintain stability and unity following Ajit Pawar's untimely demise.

Although relatively new to executive office, Sunetra Pawar brings a rich background of public service and social engagement. She has been active in grassroots development, environmental initiatives, and women-centric projects, particularly in the Baramati region. Her tenure as a Rajya Sabha MP provided her with legislative



experience and an understanding of governance at the national level, equipping her to take on the responsibilities of state leadership.

Her elevation also marks a milestone for women's representation in Maharashtra politics. As the first female Deputy Chief Minister, Sunetra Pawar embodies the growing role of women in leadership positions and is expected to inspire greater gender inclusivity within political structures. Her appointment comes at a time when calls for broader representation and inclusive governance are gaining momentum across India.

The political context surrounding her appointment reflects ongoing strategic decisions within the NCP, as leaders work to preserve party unity, honour Ajit Pawar's legacy, and maintain influence in Maharashtra's complex political environment. Sunetra Pawar's lead-

ership is expected to shape party dynamics and provide stability amid evolving challenges in state governance.

Her journey from social activist and Rajya Sabha Representative to Deputy Chief Minister demonstrates a remarkable transition, blending symbolic significance with practical political authority. Citizens and political observers are closely watching her tenure, which promises to have lasting implications for Maharashtra's governance and for the broader movement toward gender equality in Indian politics.

Sunetra Pawar's historic oath-taking ceremony not only honours her personal achievements but also marks a new chapter in Maharashtra's political history, underscoring the potential for women to rise to the highest levels of state leadership while continuing a legacy of public service.

## BJP MP Manoj Tiwari Files Police Complaint Over Fake Facebook Account

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Lok Sabha MP Manoj Tiwari has lodged a police complaint in New Delhi alleging that a fake Facebook account is being operated in his name to spread misleading content and harm his public image. The complaint was filed at the Mandir Marg police station, and authorities have registered a First Information Report (FIR) as part of the probe.

Tiwari, who also enjoys popularity as a Bhojpuri singer and actor, took to social media to alert his followers about the impersonation. He clarified that his official Facebook account is verified with a blue tick, and criticised those behind the fake profile for using his name, photos and videos without permission. According to Tiwari, the impostor account had been active for some time and continued to operate despite an earlier complaint he



had made on January 22, prompting him to take the matter to the police.

The MP expressed concern that the fake account was being used to circulate misleading and false messages, which he said could damage his reputation and confuse the public. In his post, he described the situation as a conspiracy and

urged law enforcement to identify and arrest the person or persons responsible for creating and running the bogus profile.

The FIR has been registered under relevant sections of law relating to identity misuse and defamation, and Delhi Police's cyber unit is investigating the matter. Officers are working to

trace the origins of the fake profile and take appropriate legal action against those involved.

Tiwari's move highlights growing concerns among public figures about the misuse of their identity on social media platforms. Impersonation accounts can be used to disseminate false information, influence opinions, or harm personal and political reputations, prompting many leaders to seek legal recourse when they surface.

As the investigation progresses, authorities are expected to monitor online activities closely and pursue leads that can help identify the operators of the fake account. Meanwhile, Tiwari has called on the police to act swiftly to ensure accountability and prevent further misuse of his name and image online.

## NIA Takes Over Probe Into Murshidabad Violence After Migrant Worker's Death

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has taken over the investigation into a violent incident in Murshidabad district, West Bengal, following the death of a migrant worker, authorities said. The move comes amid concerns that the crime could have links to organised unlawful activity and broader communal tensions, prompting the central government's premier anti terror agency to step in.

Background of the Incident The trouble began when a migrant worker was killed during a clash between two groups in the Murshidabad area. Initial reports indicated that tensions had been simmering between communities, and the situation escalated into violence that resulted in the worker's death. The circumstances surrounding the fatality raised questions about possible instigation, mobilisation of groups, and whether unlawful associations played a role in aggravating the situation. Local police initially handled the case, conducting preliminary inquiries and registering relevant cases. However, as the investigation progressed, authorities detected elements that suggested the involvement of broader networks or potential links to organised groups. Given the sensitive nature of the incident and the possible implications for law and order in the region, the NIA was asked to take over



the probe.

### Why the NIA Is Involved

The NIA — India's specialised counter terror and national security investigation agency — is empowered to investigate offences related to terrorism, unlawful activities and threats to national security. In cases where there is credible information suggesting links to extremist groups, organised criminal activity, or coordinated mobilisation that could destabilise peace, the central government can transfer the case to the NIA for deeper investigation.

Officials say that the decision to involve the NIA reflects concerns about potential organised unlawful activity and the need for a thorough, impartial inquiry capable of identifying any wider networks or instigators behind the vio-

lence. The agency will also look into whether the clash was incited deliberately to create communal unrest.

### What the Probe Will Cover

Under the NIA's mandate, investigators will:

- Re examine evidence and witness statements gathered by local police
- Identify whether organised groups or outside influences were involved
- Trace possible instigators or organisers behind the violence
- Determine if there were links to unlawful associations or extremist motivations
- Coordinate with state police and other agencies to build a comprehensive case

The agency has powers to arrest, interrogate and file charges under relevant sections of

the law, including those related to unlawful activities, rioting, murder and other grave offences if links to organised crime or threats to national security are substantiated.

### Reactions and Local Impact

The transfer of the case has drawn attention from local leaders, civil society groups and residents. Some have welcomed the NIA's involvement, hoping it will bring clarity and accountability, while others have stressed the need for peace and reassurance to affected communities.

Murshidabad has seen periodic communal tensions in the past, and authorities are keen to prevent any escalation or spread of violence. Local administration and police are reportedly maintaining heightened security in sensitive areas to ensure law and order as the investigation unfolds.

### Moving Forward

By handing the case to the NIA, the government is signalling a commitment to a comprehensive, high level inquiry into the cause of the violence and the death of the migrant worker. As the agency proceeds with its investigation, residents and political leaders alike will be watching closely for developments that could shed light on the roots of the clash and steps needed to restore lasting peace in the region.

## Amit Shah Blames "Corruption" for Deadly Kolkata Warehouse Fire, Slams West Bengal Government



Union Home Minister Amit Shah has sharply criticised the West Bengal government over a devastating warehouse fire in the Anandapur area of Kolkata that has claimed dozens of lives and sparked widespread concern and political controversy.

Shah addressed a large gathering of party workers in North 24 Parganas, asserting that the blaze — which engulfed multiple godowns, including one linked to the popular fast food chain Wow! Momo — was not an accident but a result of systemic corruption and governance failures by the state administration. He said the tragedy raised serious questions about regulatory oversight, safety compliance and administrative response.

In his remarks, Shah paid tribute to the workers who lost their lives and questioned why those responsible for operating the warehouses had not been promptly held to account. He also criticised the delayed response by government officials, saying that a state minister took too long to reach the scene after the fire broke out, and demanded a thorough investigation

to ensure accountability. Shah called for the culprits — both those directly responsible for safety lapses and those allegedly shielding them — to be brought to justice.

The fire, which started in a decorator's warehouse and spread to an adjoining Wow! Momo storage facility, has left dozens dead and others missing as rescue and identification efforts continue. Relatives of victims have been working with authorities to file missing person reports and identify remains, while police have arrested several individuals connected to the warehouses, including managers and the decorator's owner.

Shah's comments come amid heightened political tensions in the state, which is approaching key elections. He framed the fire as symptomatic of deeper issues he attributes to the state government's handling of industrial safety, labour conditions and enforcement of regulations. Opposition leaders have also criticised the state's response, raising concerns about fire safety compliance, the lack of mandatory clearances for such facilities, and broader administrative lapses.

State authorities and independent investigators are looking into the exact cause of the blaze and whether proper fire audits and licences were in place. Preliminary reports suggest that at least one of the warehouses lacked fire safety clearances, and investigators are examining how the fire spread so rapidly through materials stored inside.

Families of those affected continue to grapple with loss and uncertainty as the death toll remains under final verification. The tragedy has led to public debate over workplace safety standards, enforcement of building regulations and the adequacy of government oversight, with calls from various quarters for improved protections for workers and stricter enforcement of safety norms.

As the political stakes rise, the warehouse fire has become a focal point for discussions about governance, accountability and public safety in West Bengal. The demand for a comprehensive inquiry and clear answers from both local and state authorities is likely to continue as investigations proceed and victims' families seek justice.

## U.S. Government Enters Partial Shutdown After Budget Deadline Missed



The United States government has entered a partial shutdown after Congress failed to approve the federal budget before the funding deadline at midnight on January 30-31, 2026. The lapse in appropriations triggered automatic shutdown procedures for many federal agencies and programs that do not have current funding.

### What Happened

Negotiations over the federal budget broke down due to disputes, particularly regarding funding and oversight for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). While the Senate passed a broad spending bill covering most government operations, the House of Representatives had not yet approved it by the deadline, creating a gap in funding.

### Impact of a Partial

### Shutdown

A partial shutdown does not halt all government operations. Essential services, including national security, law enforcement, air traffic control, and certain Social Security and Medicare functions, continue to operate. However:

- Many federal employees in departments without funding are furloughed or required to work without pay.
- Agencies dependent on annual appropriations may close or reduce services, affecting housing programs, research agencies, and some public services.
- Programs funded through previous measures continue to operate, but uncertainty remains until a new funding agreement is reached.

### Why It Happened

The shutdown occurred because Congress was unable to finalise appropriations legislation covering all federal departments before the start of the new fiscal year. Disagreements over DHS funding stalled progress, leaving part of the budget unresolved.

### Next Steps

Lawmakers have indicated they are working to complete final votes early next week to restore full operations. Once the House approves the Senate-passed measure, remaining government departments are expected to resume normal functions. Until then, the partial shutdown remains in effect, with agencies operating under contingency plans to maintain essential services.

## Trump Warns UK Against Deepening Business Ties With China, Calling It "Very Dangerous"



U.S. President Donald Trump has sharply criticised the United Kingdom's growing economic engagement with China, saying it is "very dangerous" for Britain to pursue closer business ties with the Asian superpower. His comments came as UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer was in Beijing for talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping, marking the first visit by a British prime minister to China in several years.

Speaking to reporters at a public event, Trump was asked about the UK's plans to expand trade and economic cooperation with China. He responded that it was "very dangerous" for Britain to be getting into business with Beijing. Trump extended the warning further, saying he believed similar moves by other Western countries — implicitly including Canada

— would be even more risky. Starmer's visit to China has focused on strengthening bilateral ties and exploring opportunities for British firms in one of the world's largest economies. During his meetings in Beijing, he highlighted progress on cooperation, including commitments from Chinese officials to improve market access and reduce barriers in key sectors. He also emphasised the potential for job creation and economic growth linked to enhanced trade links.

In response to Trump's remarks, British officials stressed that London had informed Washington ahead of the visit and that the UK remains committed to managing close relations with both China and the United States. Starmer has reiterated that engaging with China is in Brit-

ain's national interest, pointing to the size of China's economy and its role as a major trading partner.

China's leadership, for its part, has signalled willingness to strengthen cooperation with foreign nations, framing economic engagement as mutually beneficial. Beijing also noted that it had lifted certain travel restrictions on British lawmakers as part of efforts to improve diplomatic ties.

The episode highlights broader geopolitical tensions as Western nations balance economic opportunities in China with security concerns and political pressure from the United States. While Trump continues to push a hard line, British leaders are pursuing a more pragmatic approach, seeking economic gains while maintaining traditional alliances.

## Epstein Files Include Unverified Claims Linking Donald Trump to 'Calendar Girls' Parties at Mar a Lago

A massive new release of documents from the Jeffrey Epstein files contains unverified allegations mentioning former U.S. President Donald Trump in connection with social events at his Mar a Lago estate that are described in sensational terms. These claims have drawn significant attention and controversy, but experts and officials emphasise that they are not proven facts.

### What the Newly Released Files Say

The recently disclosed trove — comprising millions of pages of documents, images and videos — was made public by the U.S. Department of Justice under a transparency law. Among the material are internal summaries of tips made to authorities over the years. These summaries include claims that Trump hosted parties at his Mar a Lago club, described in some entries as "calendar girls" events allegedly attended by Epstein and other guests, with explicit allegations attached. Some of the accounts also include serious accusations of sexual misconduct involving minors from decades ago.

These summaries appear to be complaints or reports submitted to law enforcement, not verified investigative findings. Authorities have stressed that such tips — including those naming high profile individuals — may be unverified, unsub-



stantiated or unreliable, and should not be treated as established evidence of wrongdoing.

### Important Context and Official Response

The Department of Justice and other officials have not confirmed or endorsed the truth of the allegations contained in the files. When large batches of complaints are released in this way, they often include a mix of credible reports, vague tips, draft notes, and outright speculative material. Former and current officials have pointed out that mention in these files does not equate to guilt or indictment.

Trump himself has not made a direct public state-

ment regarding these specific documents yet, and there has been no official validation of the claims. The White House and Justice Department typically refrain from commenting on unverified leaks or document dumps, focusing instead on the fact that the files reflect raw tips rather than adjudicated evidence.

Background on Trump and Epstein's Known History

Donald Trump and Jeffrey Epstein were socially acquainted in the 1990s, attending some of the same events and appearing together in public settings. Reports from earlier years describe at least one social event at Mar a

Lago in the early 1990s involving Trump and Epstein, where a group of "calendar girls" were invited for a party organised by a third party, though there have been different accounts about who attended and what happened. These earlier reports are separate from the newly released unverified allegations and date back decades.

### What This Means

While the newly released Epstein files mention Trump in connection with controversial and detailed allegations, there is no verified or legal finding supporting them. Experts, legal analysts, and the Department of Justice itself have

warned that the files mix uncorroborated claims with other material, and inclusion in the documents is not evidence of criminal behaviour. Such releases can capture raw public tips, hearsay, personal notes, draft correspondence and other content that was never vetted or used in prosecutions.

In summary, the allegations linking Trump to "calendar girls" parties or other misconduct described in the Epstein files remain unverified claims in a large public document dump. They have triggered public debate and scrutiny, but they do not constitute proven facts or legal findings about Trump's conduct.

## Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif Admits Feeling "Ashamed" Over Reliance on Foreign Loans



Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has openly acknowledged the country's heavy depend-

ence on foreign loans to keep its economy afloat, describing the process as humiliating for the na-

tion's leadership. He said that both he and Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir have had to travel

abroad seeking financial assistance, a situation he called a blow to national pride.

Speaking to business leaders in Islamabad, Sharif said that while Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves have improved, much of the increase has come from external loans rather than domestic growth. He described the experience of requesting funds from other countries as a source of shame, stating that taking loans often forces leaders to agree to terms they might not prefer.

Pakistan has been negotiating with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for support to stabilise its economy, which faces chronic balance-of-

payments problems, low reserves, and high debt. The IMF program, along with financial aid from friendly countries, has helped Islamabad meet obligations and maintain liquidity, but it comes with strict conditions that challenge the government's autonomy.

Sharif's remarks underscore the delicate balancing act facing Pakistan: accepting foreign assistance to prevent deeper economic distress, while grappling with domestic pressures like rising poverty and unemployment. His candid admission highlights the severity of the country's fiscal crisis and the reliance on international partners to sustain stability.

## Mira Nair's Name Appears in Newly Released Epstein Files



Documents recently made public from the Jeffrey Epstein files include a reference to acclaimed filmmaker Mira Nair, who is also the mother of New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani. The mention appears in an email from 2009 that forms part of a large batch of previously unreleased material.

According to the email, Mira Nair attended an afterparty for her film following a screening in New York City. The event was described as having taken place at the Manhattan residence of Ghislaine Maxwell, who was a close associate of Epstein and later convicted for her role in his criminal network. The message recounts the gathering shortly after it occurred, listing guests, including Mira Nair, and commenting on how the film was received by attendees.

The newly released documents — spanning millions of pages, images and videos — were disclosed by the U.S. Department of Justice under a transparency law aimed at

providing public access to material related to Epstein's activities and connections. This release has surfaced numerous names and associations, often in the context of social interactions or correspondence, but does not itself imply wrongdoing by those mentioned.

In Mira Nair's case, the reference is strictly tied to the social event surrounding her film, and there are no allegations of illegal conduct associated with her name in the material. The mention has drawn attention because of her prominent career as a filmmaker and her son's role as mayor of one of the world's largest cities.

Experts and news analysts caution that entries in the Epstein files range widely in nature — from personal correspondence and draft communications to event listings — and that inclusion in the documents should not be interpreted as evidence of misconduct. Public figures can appear in such releases simply by virtue of past social or professional interactions that were captured in the broader trove of records.

The story highlights how unrelated historical references can gain renewed attention when large-scale document dumps occur, especially those involving controversial figures like Epstein and his circle.

## Bill Gates Linked to Unverified Claims in Newly Released Epstein Files

The U.S. Department of Justice recently released a massive set of documents, photos, and videos related to the late financier Jeffrey Epstein. Among the materials circulating are sensational and unverified claims involving Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates.

The documents include draft emails and notes attributed to Epstein from 2013, in which Gates is allegedly mentioned in connection with contracting a sexually transmitted disease after encounters with women described as "Russian girls," and allegedly seeking antibiotics in a manner connected to his then-wife, Melinda Gates. Some of the documents also suggest attempts to delete related messages.

It is important to note that these claims come from draft writings by Epstein, not from court filings, verified investigations, or law enforcement findings. Legal experts emphasise that inclusion in these documents does not constitute proof of wrongdoing.

A spokesperson for Bill Gates has firmly denied the allegations, calling them "absolutely absurd and completely false." Gates has previously expressed regret over his limited associa-



tion with Epstein but has consistently denied any improper conduct or personal relationship beyond philanthropic engagement.

The Justice Department's release comprises millions of pages, images, and videos from Epstein's estate, involving a range of public figures. Authorities caution that much of the material consists of unverified communications, tips, and draft writings, and should not be treated as established facts.

In summary, while the Epstein files contain claims linking Bill Gates to controversial incidents, these remain unverified and denied, and there is no evidence to substantiate them. Observers are urged to approach the documents with caution and distinguish between speculation and verified information.

# Top 10 Themes Set to Shape Union Budget 2026

As India prepares for the Union Budget 2026, policymakers, businesses and investors are focusing on a range of priority areas that could drive economic activity and policy outcomes over the coming year. Rather than dramatic new announcements, expectations centre on continuity, execution and targeted support across sectors that matter for growth, jobs and global competitiveness.

Here's a breakdown of the 10 key themes likely to dominate this year's Budget discussions and decisions:

## 1. Defence and Security

Defence spending remains a core focus, with expectations of a moderate increase in allocation to support modernisation, indigenisation of hardware and strategic preparedness. Capital expenditure on equipment, domestic production and technology development — including drones, radar systems and defence electronics — is likely to remain a central theme. The government has been steadily increasing defence outlays in recent years, reflecting both security priorities and efforts to boost domestic defence manufacturing.

## 2. Infrastructure and Capital Expenditure

Infrastructure continues as a cornerstone of government growth strategy. Road networks, railways and power grid upgrades are expected to receive sustained or enhanced funding. Execution of previously announced projects — and improving timelines for delivery — may matter more than fresh allocations, with a clear focus on transforming logistics, mobility and urban infrastructure.



## 3. Export Oriented Industries

Export driven sectors such as textiles, seafood, gems & jewellery and auto components are seeking policy support in the face of global tariff pressures. Incentives, credit schemes and export facilitation measures could be highlighted to help Indian exports remain competitive internationally.

## 4. Automobile Sector and EV Mobility

The automobile industry, including traditional vehicles and electric mobility, is expected to attract support through continued tax rationalisation and incentives that boost affordability and demand. Electric vehicles have crossed significant adoption milestones, but sustained investment in charging infrastructure and supply chains will be crucial.

## 5. Consumption and Retail Demand

Consumption trends — particularly in rural markets — are improving thanks to tax relief measures and easing cost pressures. Budget 2026 may look to further bolster consumer demand by protecting purchasing power, stabilising key input duties and supporting domestic manufacturing that can help keep prices in check.

## 6. Semiconductors and Electronics

Semiconductors remain a critical area where India imports the majority of its needs. The focus is expected to shift from scheme announcements to implementation — faster project execution, improved testing infrastructure and continued incentives for domestic electronics manufacturing and design innovation.

## 7. Energy and Clean Technology

Energy transition sectors like clean energy, critical minerals and rare earth processing are gaining traction as part of budget priorities. Incentives that support renewables, grid expansion and next generation technologies could feature more prominently as India advances its climate and energy goals.

## 8. Rural and Agricultural Support

Rural demand continues to be a key driver of economic resilience. Measures aimed at strengthening agriculture, allied activities and rural consumption may be continued or expanded to support income stability and productivity in non urban economies.

## 9. Fiscal Discipline and Private Investment

With limited fiscal headroom, the Budget is expected to emphasise fiscal prudence and policies that encourage private sector investment. Rather than large new spending programmes, the focus could be on structural reforms, catalysing private capital, and improving ease of doing business.

## 10. Research, Innovation and Technology

R&D, innovation ecosystems and future tech areas — including semiconductors, AI led industries and advanced manufacturing — are likely to feature as longer term priority themes. Budgetary support, incentives and policy clarity for emerging technologies could form part of government efforts to position India as a global industrial and innovation hub.

# MCX Silver Prices Plunge Sharply Amid Global Metals Sell Off



Silver prices on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) witnessed a dramatic fall in late January, with futures contracts tumbling sharply after reaching record highs in recent sessions. The steep decline marked one of the most significant single day corrections in recent memory for the precious metal.

On the MCX, silver futures for near month delivery slid to around ₹3.42 lakh per kilogram, a substantial fall from levels above ₹4 lakh per kilogram seen just days earlier. This drop erased nearly ₹1 lakh per kilogram in value and reflected intense volatility in metals markets.

The sell off in silver mirrored global trends, where spot prices of silver and other metals came under pressure. In international markets, silver prices also dipped sharply, while other precious and industrial metals such as gold, platinum, palladium and copper experienced declines. This broader downturn was driven by profit booking after a strong rally, a surge in the U.S. dollar and other technical market factors that amplified selling pressure.

One key trigger behind the sharp correction was the strengthening of the U.S. dollar. Expectations around changes in global monetary policy, including potential interest rate moves, prompted traders to shift away from dollar priced commodities. A stronger dollar typically makes metals like silver more expensive for holders of other currencies, pushing some investors to

exit positions.

Technical market dynamics also played a role in the decline. Silver had rallied rapidly in the preceding weeks, with some of that rise attributed to a market dynamic where heavy speculative buying forced dealers to add to positions. When prices began to reverse, that same mechanism worked in the opposite direction, intensifying the downward momentum.

The extreme price swings prompted regulators on international markets to increase margin requirements for metals futures. By raising the collateral traders must post to hold positions, exchanges aim to reduce the risks associated with sudden, large price movements. This step can also curb speculative trading, which tends to magnify both upward and downward trends.

Despite the sharp fall, silver and gold still managed to record overall gains for the month. Silver's price was higher over the broader January period compared with levels at the start of the month, underscoring the metal's continued appeal as a hedge against uncertainty even amid short term price turbulence.

Analysts caution that volatility may persist, especially with major global events on the horizon that could influence trading behaviour and demand patterns. For now, the sharp correction serves as a reminder of how quickly markets for precious metals can swing, especially after historic price rallies.

# Defence Stocks in Focus Ahead of Budget 2026 as Markets Expect Higher Allocation

As the Union Budget 2026 approaches, investor attention is firmly on the defence sector amid expectations of an 8-10 per cent increase in defence spending. The anticipated rise reflects the government's continued focus on modernisation, capital expenditure and strengthening domestic defence manufacturing capabilities.

While the headline allocation number will matter, market participants are equally focused on execution clarity — including faster order finalisation, smoother procurement processes and improved visibility on project timelines. For defence companies, these factors often influence earnings and share prices more than incremental budget increases alone.

## Key Defence Stocks to Watch

**Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL)**

HAL remains a core stock in the defence space due to its role in aircraft manufacturing, engine production and long-term defence programmes. With a strong order book and ongoing projects tied to air force modernisation, the company is expected to stay in focus around the Budget.

**Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL)**

BEL is a major beneficiary of defence spending on electronics, communication systems, radars and electronic warfare solutions.



Its diversified portfolio and steady order inflows position it well for sustained growth, particularly as defence technology becomes increasingly sophisticated.

**Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL)**

BDL's presence in missile systems and guided munitions makes it a key stock to track. Rising emphasis on indigenous defence solutions and replenishment of ammunition stocks keeps the company firmly on investors' radar.

**Naval and Shipbuilding Companies**

Defence shipbuilders such as Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders and Garden Reach Shipbuilders &

Engineers are also expected to attract attention. Ongoing naval modernisation programmes and long-term maritime defence requirements support visibility for these companies over the medium to long term.

**Private Sector Defence Plays**

Alongside public sector undertakings, private sector firms are gaining importance in the defence ecosystem. Companies such as Larsen & Toubro, Bharat Forge, Data Patterns, and Astra Microwave are seen as beneficiaries of increased indigenisation, component manufacturing and system integration opportunities.

Execution Will Drive Market

## Performance

Despite positive sentiment around higher defence spending, analysts caution that much of the optimism may already be reflected in current valuations. As a result, stock performance after the Budget is likely to be company-specific, depending on order inflows, cash flow visibility and execution efficiency.

The emphasis on capital expenditure and domestic sourcing remains a structural positive for the sector. Companies with established capabilities, strong balance sheets and proven delivery track records are expected to be better placed to benefit from the government's long-term defence strategy.

## What Investors Are Looking For

Beyond allocation numbers, investors will watch for policy signals related to research and development, export promotion, procurement reforms and incentives for domestic manufacturing. Clear communication on these aspects could further shape market sentiment.

Overall, defence is emerging as a key theme around Budget 2026. While increased spending provides a supportive backdrop, selectivity and execution clarity will determine which defence stocks outperform in the months ahead.

# AI Related Stocks Set to Be in Focus During Union Budget 2026



With the Union Budget 2026 just around the corner, investors are watching sectors expected to benefit from policy support and long term structural trends. One such theme drawing interest is artificial intelligence (AI) and the broader digital infrastructure that underpins it, particularly data centres and AI driven cloud services.

## Why AI and Data Centre Stocks Are in Focus

India's data centre industry is poised for rapid expansion, driven by strong growth in cloud adoption, rising digital consumption and increasing demand for AI linked computing capacity. Revenues for data centre operators are projected to grow robustly over the next few years as enterprises expand their digital platforms and hyperscale cloud providers seek more capacity. Installed data centre capacity in India is expected to nearly double in the near term and could grow several fold by the end of the decade due to rising demand for storage, compute and low latency services. Investors see the momentum as a positive backdrop for related stocks during the Budget announcement.

The industry has flagged key policy priorities ahead of the Budget, including reliable power supply, access to green energy, and easier financing for building and expanding data centres. Because these facilities are highly energy intensive, any budget measures that ease infrastructure bottlenecks or provide incentives for clean power and financing could benefit companies operating in this space.

## Types of Stocks Likely to Attract Attention

The data centre and AI ecosystem involves a mix of platform operators, infrastructure players, engineering firms and ancillary solution providers. Investors are watching a range of stocks that have exposure to the AI infrastructure theme:

- Telecom and platform companies with data centre businesses, which stand to benefit from rising demand for digital and cloud services.

- Engineers and construction firms involved in building data centre facilities and related infrastructure, including electrical and mechanical systems.

- Power and backup solution providers, which enable uninterrupted operations at data centres.

- Cooling and climate control specialists, because effective cooling is critical for high performance computing environments.

Such companies could see renewed investor interest if the Budget includes measures that accelerate investment in data centres, cloud infrastructure and AI related services.

## Broader AI and Tech Implications

Beyond data centres, the technology sector at large is seeking support for AI industrialisation, skilling and R&D, and tax clarity around cloud and digital infrastructure. Industry participants want Budget measures that help scale AI from pilot projects to full scale deployment across industries, along with incentives that make advanced computing more affordable and accessible.

While direct pure play AI companies are limited in India's stock markets, associated infrastructure and service providers act as proxies for the theme. Budget 2026 could help highlight these stocks as part of a broader narrative around digital transformation and AI linked growth.

Overall, the spotlight on AI related infrastructure and data centres reflects investors' broader expectations that fiscal policy will support long term technology adoption, capacity expansion and digital competitiveness as India moves toward a more AI driven economy.

# BSE and NSE to Hold Regular Trading Session on February 1 for Union Budget 2026

India's leading stock exchanges, the BSE and NSE, will remain open for regular trading on Sunday, February 1, to coincide with the presentation of the Union Budget 2026-27. The special session will follow normal market hours, allowing investors to respond immediately to key budget announcements.

Although Indian equity markets are typically closed on weekends, exceptions are made when the Union Budget is presented on a Saturday or Sunday. With February 1 falling on a Sunday this year, the exchanges have opted to conduct a full-fledged trading session to ensure uninterrupted market participation.

The Union Finance Minister is scheduled to present the Budget in Parliament at 11 am, a time that often triggers sharp movements across equity markets. By keeping the exchanges open,



traders and investors will be able to react in real time to policy decisions, tax proposals, fiscal targets and sector-specific announcements.

Market participants view this move as important for maintain-

ing price discovery and market efficiency. Budget-related announcements often have an immediate impact on sectors such as banking, infrastructure, capital goods, defence and consumption, making live trading crucial

on the day of the speech.

All major segments, including equities and equity derivatives, are expected to be available during the session. Clearing and settlement processes will also follow the usual framework applicable to a regular trading day.

Special trading sessions on Budget Day have become more common in recent years as authorities seek to align market operations with major economic events. The decision reflects the growing depth and responsiveness of India's capital markets, as well as the increasing participation of both domestic and global investors.

With expectations running high around fiscal discipline, capital expenditure and growth-oriented reforms, February 1 is set to be a closely watched day for markets, even though it falls on a weekend.

## “Luxury Isn’t Just the Price”: Traveller Praises Indian Hospitality After Expensive UK Beach Villa Stay



A traveller’s candid account of a luxury beach villa stay in the United Kingdom has sparked widespread discussion online, not because of the destination’s beauty, but due to the stark contrast it highlighted in hospitality experiences between the UK and India.

The traveller, a content creator who regularly shares his journeys on social media, revealed that he spent close to 2 lakh on a three-day stay at a beachside villa in Scotland. While the property itself offered privacy, scenic views and a premium setting, what stood out most to him was what he felt was missing — the warmth and attentiveness he associates with Indian hospitality.

In a video shared online, he described how the stay was largely self-service. Unlike hotels or villas in India where housekeeping staff routinely clean rooms, replace towels and check in on guests, the UK villa did not provide daily cleaning. When he requested fresh towels, there was no immediate response. After personally visiting the reception, he was advised to use the washing machine in the villa and reuse the towels instead.

The traveller noted that this approach appeared to be rooted in a cultural preference for independence and minimal staff interaction. Guests were expected to manage most aspects of their stay themselves, from laundry to minor maintenance issues. While this model may appeal to some travellers seeking privacy and autonomy, it felt unusual to someone accustomed to the more hands-on service common in India.

He also pointed out instances such as delays in addressing hot water issues, which, in his experience, would typically be handled more proactively in Indian hotels. According to him, Indian hospitality often goes beyond basic service — staff anticipate needs, check in regularly, and make guests feel genuinely cared for.

His observations quickly gained traction online, with many viewers resonating with the comparison. Several users echoed his sentiments, praising Indian hotels and resorts for their personalised service and attention to detail. Others offered a balanced perspective, noting that Western hospitality models often prioritise efficiency, privacy and self-reliance, while Indian hospitality is built around warmth, engagement and constant support.

The viral post has since become a broader reflection on how travellers define luxury. As many commenters pointed out, a high price tag and beautiful location do not automatically guarantee a fulfilling experience. For some, luxury lies in seamless service and personal attention rather than just physical comfort.

Ultimately, the traveller’s experience underscores an important truth about travel: expectations are deeply shaped by culture. What feels like freedom to one guest may feel like neglect to another. And sometimes, it is the warmth of the welcome — not the view from the balcony — that leaves the strongest impression long after the journey ends.

## “MiracleIn” February 2026? The Viral Calendar Claim Explained



A viral message circulating on social media has claimed that February 2026 will be a rare and miraculous calendar phenomenon, often described as a “MiracleIn” month. According to the message, the month will feature four Sundays, four Mondays, four Tuesdays — four of every weekday — and this pattern supposedly occurs only once every 823 years. Some versions of the claim even go a step further, suggesting that February 2026 will include a 25-hour day.

**However, these claims are entirely false.**

**What the Viral Claim Gets Wrong**  
At the heart of the message is the assertion that February 2026 is uniquely special because each weekday appears exactly four times. In reality, this is neither rare nor extraordinary.

February 2026 has 28 days, as 2026 is not a leap year. A 28-day month consists of exactly four full weeks, which naturally means that every weekday appears four times. This is a basic feature of the Gregorian calendar and happens every time February has 28 days — which is most years.

There is nothing unusual, miraculous, or once-in-centuries about this pattern.

### The Myth of “MiracleIn”

The term “MiracleIn” has no recognised meaning in calendar science, astronomy, or any official time-keeping

system. It appears to be a fabricated word designed to make an ordinary calendar occurrence sound mysterious and share-worthy.

Similarly, the claim about a 25-hour day has no factual basis. While some countries observe daylight saving time, which can result in clocks being adjusted by one hour locally, this does not create an extra hour in a day globally — nor does it apply to February 2026 in any special way.

### Why Such Claims Go Viral

Calendar myths like this resurface regularly on social media. They often rely on impressive-sounding numbers, vague scientific language, and emotional prompts encouraging people to share the message for luck or positivity. In reality, the claims are recycled with different years swapped in.

### The Bottom Line

February 2026 is a completely ordinary month. The fact that it has four Sundays, four Mondays, and four of every weekday is simply because it has 28 days — nothing more. There is no miracle, no rare phenomenon, and no special scientific significance attached to it.

If you come across the “MiracleIn February 2026” message online, it’s best treated as just another viral myth — interesting at first glance, but unsupported by facts.

## Young Professional’s Reddit Scroll During Overtime Sparks Workplace Debate



A young corporate employee’s post on social media has triggered widespread discussion about workplace expectations, overtime culture, and what counts as productivity at the office. The incident, shared anonymously online, highlights a familiar tension many young professionals face — being judged not by completed work, but by how busy they appear.

According to the post, the 21-year-old employee had finished all assigned tasks well before the end of the workday. Hoping to earn overtime pay, they chose to remain at the office even though there was no additional work to complete. Assuming their manager had already left, the employee began scrolling through Reddit on their phone while waiting for the overtime hours to

end. The situation took an unexpected turn when the manager appeared at the employee’s desk later in the evening and noticed them using their phone. The manager questioned why the employee was not working and reportedly reacted sharply despite being told that all assigned tasks were already completed. Instead of accepting the

explanation, the manager allegedly told the employee that they should have asked for more work rather than remaining idle. The incident was escalated to senior management, with the employee being cited as an example of inappropriate behaviour during overtime hours. The manager also warned that overtime pay could be reduced or cut if employees were found inactive during extended work hours.

What made the situation more awkward for the employee was the fact that several colleagues were also on their phones at the time, but only the young professional was confronted. The employee described feeling singled out, while co-workers reacted with a mix of sympathy and humour, likening the episode to being reprimanded in a classroom.

The post quickly gained attention online, prompting a broader debate about how overtime should function in modern workplaces. Many argued that if as-

signed work is completed, employees should not be penalised for short periods of downtime. Others felt that overtime implies continued productivity and that employees should proactively request additional tasks if they finish early.

The story has also reignited criticism of rigid office cultures that prioritise visibility over output, especially for junior employees. Commenters pointed out that such environments can discourage efficiency, as workers may stretch tasks unnecessarily just to appear occupied.

Ultimately, the viral post reflects a deeper conversation about work-life balance, fairness, and evolving professional norms. As younger workers enter the workforce with different expectations, incidents like this underline the growing gap between traditional management styles and modern ideas of productivity.

## Caught on Camera: Snow Leopards’ High-Risk Winter Hunt in Spiti Captivates Viewers

In the frozen landscapes of Spiti Valley, a rare and thrilling moment in the wild has captured widespread attention. A group of snow leopards was filmed embarking on a high-risk hunt in the snow-covered terrain, offering a striking look at how these elusive big cats survive in one of the planet’s harshest environments.

The footage, shared widely on social media, shows the majestic predators moving stealthily across icy ridges and deep snow, carefully navigating the rugged terrain as they stalk their prey. Snow leopards are known for their incredible ability to thrive in high-altitude regions, but seeing them in action during winter underscores just how adapted they are to extreme cold and scarce food resources.

What makes this video especially captivating is not just the beauty of the animals, but the tension of the hunt itself. Snow leopards are rarely seen by humans due to their solitary nature and secretive habits. The harsh

winter conditions in Spiti — with freezing temperatures, high winds, and deep snow — make any hunt a significant challenge. Yet, the footage shows the leopards displaying remarkable patience, agility, and strength as they pursue their target.

Observers of the video have been struck by several key behaviours. The big cats crouch low, using the snowy landscape as camouflage, then launch sudden bursts of speed when closing in on their prey. At times they balance precariously on narrow snow-packed ledges, their muscular bodies navigating steep inclines with ease. These moments offer a rare glimpse into the day-to-day survival instincts of a species that thrives where few others can.

The snow leopard, often called the “ghost of the mountains,” is adapted for life in extreme altitudes. Its thick fur insulates against biting cold, while wide, furred paws act like natural snowshoes. Long tails help maintain balance on rocky ground and



can be wrapped around the body for extra warmth. Yet despite these evolutionary advantages, food can be hard to come by in winter, making every hunt a critical event in the animals’ survival.

Footage like this resonates with viewers not only for its dramatic visuals but also for the reminder of the delicate balance of life in the wild. Snow leopards face threats that include habitat fragmentation, climate change and declining prey popula-

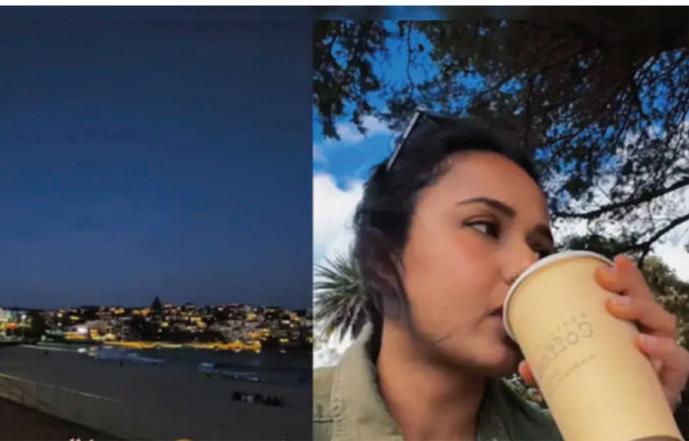
tions, challenges that are compounded by harsh seasonal conditions. Encounters such as this help raise awareness of both the beauty and vulnerability of these magnificent creatures.

Nature lovers and wildlife enthusiasts have praised the video for showcasing a rarely seen side of snow leopard behaviour. Many have commented on the extraordinary adaptability of the species and the raw power demonstrated in the hunt. For

many viewers, the footage serves as both an educational moment and a call to appreciate the hidden dramas that unfold far from human eyes in the high mountains.

In capturing these predators at work in winter’s unforgiving environment, the video offers a powerful reminder of the resilience of wildlife and the ongoing need to protect fragile ecosystems where such extraordinary lives unfold.

## “A Trap I Never Saw Coming”: Indian Woman’s Honest Take on Life in Australia Goes Viral



An Indian woman living in Australia has caught the attention of social media users after posting a humorous yet thoughtful video about how her life changed after relocating abroad. What began as a personal reflection has now sparked lively conversation about expectations, quality of life and what it really means to live in a foreign country.

In her video, the content creator — who goes by the name Akanksha on Insta-

gram — jokingly refers to life in Australia as a “trap.” But it’s not a warning against moving there in the conventional sense. Instead, she uses the term with a smile and sarcastic charm to describe how her reality has shifted in unexpected ways since she moved. She explains that before relocating, she assumed life would involve pursuing a high-paying job and the promise of ultimate relaxation. What she didn’t expect was how

different her daily routine would become in just six months.

The video opens with scenes of her waking up early, heading to the gym at 6 am and joining her partner for long nature hikes of up to 10 kilometres — all “for fun,” she says with playful disbelief. Much of her commentary revolves around how activities that once felt like luxuries now form the backbone of her everyday life. In India, she says,

peace, safety, clean air and quality food were aspirations. In Australia, they’ve become normal parts of her daily routine.

Akanksha highlights several aspects of her new lifestyle that have redefined her sense of comfort and fulfilment. She talks about being able to walk around safely at night, enjoying healthy food, breathing fresh air and having the energy to relish the end of her day. These changes, she suggests, have shifted what she now considers a “good life.” She even says she now looks forward to going to work — a sentiment that surprises her given her earlier expectations.

With tongue-in-cheek humour, she says that the peaceful work-life balance, abundant nature, safe cities and genuine weekends all contribute to what she jokingly labels a “10 out of 10 trap.” It’s a trap not of hardship, but of contentment — a life that’s richer in everyday well-being than she ever imagined.

In the caption accompanying her post, she elaborates on her experience. Before moving, she

thought life abroad would mean hard work and struggle, perhaps followed by occasional respite. Instead, she found a lifestyle where many comforts she once viewed as distant dreams have become routine. She notes that in Australia there’s no guilt about stepping away from work on weekends, no awkward explanations for taking sick days, and less constant concern about financial stability.

Her video struck a chord with many who have relocated or are considering doing so. Responses from viewers suggest that people appreciate her blend of humour and honesty, recognising that while no place is perfect, some lifestyle changes can be profound and worth welcoming — even if they feel like a delightful “trap.”

The viral reaction shows that discussions about migration aren’t just about economics and jobs, but about how life feels on a day-to-day basis — what we expect, what we get, and how our notions of a fulfilling life evolve once we step outside our comfort zones.

# Pakistan Cricket Feels Insulted Ahead of T20 World Cup 2026 – But the Issue Isn't India

Pakistan's cricket community has voiced strong feelings of insult and frustration in the lead up to the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, and the controversy isn't centered on arch rival India. Instead, the concern stems from a broader dispute involving how other teams and boards are treating Pakistan and its neighbours in the build up to the tournament.

The tension began when the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) raised serious security concerns about playing its World Cup matches in India. Bangladesh's decision not to travel to India prompted the International Cricket Council (ICC) to replace them with Scotland, a move that Pakistan's leadership and cricket board described as unfair and discriminatory. Pakistan argued that Bangladesh — as a full member of the global cricket family — deserved equitable treatment and that the decision set a troubling precedent.

Pakistan backed Bangladesh's stance and urged the ICC to reconsider, saying cricket shouldn't be governed by double standards that favour some countries over others. This disagreement has overshadowed Pakistan's



own preparations, with its cricket board and government deliberating on how to respond, including whether to formally back Bangladesh's challenge to the decision.

The situation has also ignited debate within Pakistan's cricket circles. Some former players and commentators have criticised what they see as the ICC's unjust handling of the row and have urged Pakistan to take a firm stand.

A few have even suggested the team might boycott the World Cup or skip certain matches if the issue isn't resolved, although such moves would be dramatic and have significant consequences for the tournament and global cricket.

At the same time, other voices in the sport emphasise that withdrawing from a major event like the T20 World Cup could harm Pakistan's cricketing reputation and opportunities.

Some insiders argue it would be better to compete and use the platform to highlight broader governance concerns, rather than stepping away entirely.

This controversy has distracted from Pakistan's on field preparations and raised concerns among fans about how external disputes might affect team morale and performance. While the India-Pakistan match remains one of the

most anticipated fixtures, the current debate shows that cricket diplomacy, fairness and governance issues now dominate the narrative more than traditional rivalries.

As the World Cup approaches, Pakistan's cricket community continues to watch developments closely, hoping for a resolution that preserves both competitive integrity and respect among all participating nations.

## ICC Faces Fresh Challenges Ahead of T20 World Cup 2026 Amid Bangladesh Dispute and Player Rights Row



As the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 draws closer, the sport's global governing body is confronting a series of new concerns and controversies that go beyond on field competition and threaten to overshadow preparations for the marquee event.

### Bangladesh Standoff and Participation Row

A major point of tension

has arisen from the Bangladesh Cricket Board's refusal to play its scheduled matches in India, citing security and travel concerns. Bangladesh had requested that its group stage games be relocated to neutral venues such as Sri Lanka, but the International Cricket Council declined, resulting in Bangladesh being replaced in the tournament by Scot-

land. This has strained relations between the BCB and the ICC, with accusations of unfair treatment and double standards being levelled by Bangladesh's leadership.

The dispute has wider implications: Pakistan's cricket authorities and government have expressed support for Bangladesh, and raised the possibility of reconsidering

their own participation if the row remains unresolved, highlighting how political and diplomatic tensions are intersecting with cricket administration. reports of internal cricket bodies pausing preparations and reassessing options have emerged in recent weeks.

### Player Rights and Participation Agreements

Alongside the Bangladesh participation controversy, another distinct issue has come to light involving the World Cricketers' Association (WCA). The WCA has publicly disagreed with the ICC over proposed squad participation terms, particularly those covering name, image and likeness (NIL) rights for players. According to the WCA, the version of participation terms sent by the ICC differs from the version previously agreed upon by both organisations, and is seen by some players as more onerous or exploitative.

This dispute over player rights adds a governance dimension to the challenges facing the ICC just weeks before the T20 World Cup begins. With tensions between cricket boards, disagreements over player contracts and questions about event management, the sport's governing body is under pressure to address these concerns quickly to ensure the tournament proceeds smoothly.

### Looking Ahead

The T20 World Cup 2026 — co hosted by India and Sri Lanka — is set to kick off in early February. But the build up to the event has been marked by administrative strife, diplomatic controversy and debate over how cricket's global structures handle security concerns, player representation and fairness among member boards. How the ICC navigates these multiple challenges may have lasting impacts on the sport's credibility, unity and the success of the World Cup itself.

## Elena Rybakina Wins 2026 Australian Open Women's Singles Title

In a thrilling final at the 2026 Australian Open in Melbourne, Elena Rybakina defeated Aryna Sabalenka to claim the women's singles championship. The match was a high-intensity battle full of momentum swings, showcasing powerful serving, strong baseline play, and remarkable resilience from both players. Rybakina, seeded fifth, triumphed over world No. 1 Sabalenka with a score of 64, 46, 64. The match proved to be a test of mental toughness, with Rybakina staying composed during critical points and seizing opportunities in the final set. Down 0-3 early in the decider, she rallied to win five of the next seven games, ultimately clinching the championship.

This victory marks Rybakina's first Australian Open title and her second Grand Slam championship, adding to her previous Wimbledon win in 2022. Both finalists had



been in top form throughout the tournament, reaching the final without dropping a set prior to their showdown.

For Sabalenka, who was chasing her third Australian Open crown, the loss was disappointing but did not diminish her status as one of the sport's leading players. Meanwhile, Rybakina's

triumph reinforces her position as a major force in women's tennis and adds an important milestone to her career.

The 2026 Australian Open women's final delivered drama, skill, and unpredictability, providing fans with a fitting conclusion to one of tennis' premier events.

## Lens Reclaim Top Spot in Ligue 1 With Narrow Win Over Le Havre



In a tight Ligue 1 clash, RC Lens reclaimed first place in the French league standings by edging out Le Havre 1-0 at home. A late first-half goal from Ruben Aguilar proved decisive, lifting Lens above Paris Saint Germain (PSG) in the title race.

Aguilar, a veteran right-back, arrived at the far post in stoppage time before halftime to finish off a cross and give Lens the lead. The victory marked a welcome return to winning form for the northern club, which had seen a recent defeat end a long winning streak.

With the win, Lens moved a point clear of PSG after 20 matches, though

Paris Saint Germain still had an opportunity to retake top spot depending on their upcoming results.

Under coach Pierre Sage, Lens have impressed this season, amassing their highest points tally at this stage in club history and stringing together a strong run of home results that have boosted their title hopes.

The narrow victory also keeps pressure on PSG, while other challengers remain in pursuit, making the Ligue 1 title race one of the most exciting of the season. Lens' resurgence proves they can compete among France's elite and adds intrigue to the championship battle.

## IPL 2026: PBKS Recruit Vishal Nishad Vows to Touch Virat Kohli's Feet If He Dismisses Him



Ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026, Punjab Kings (PBKS) new signing Vishal Nishad has grabbed attention with a bold and respectful promise involving batting great Virat Kohli.

In a spirited media interaction during team preparations, Nishad was asked about the possibility of bowling to Kohli — one of the most feared and revered batters in world cricket. With a mix of humour and admiration, he replied that if he ever succeeds in dismissing Kohli in a match, he would touch Kohli's feet as a sign of respect.

Nishad's comment reflects both his admiration for Kohli's achievements and the light hearted camaraderie that often surrounds star players in the IPL. Growing up watching Kohli dominate bowler after bowler, Nishad said he views the veteran as an inspiration and a role model for young cricketers.

Though the promise was made in jest, it highlights the esteem in which Kohli is held across the cricketing world, especially by emerging talents eager to test themselves against the best. Dismissing a bats-

man of Kohli's calibre is seen by many bowlers as a significant personal achievement, one that earns admiration even from opponents.

Punjab Kings have been active in strengthening their squad for the upcoming season, blending experienced names with promising youngsters like Nishad. The franchise hopes that this mix will help them compete strongly throughout the tournament.

Fans and commentators have reacted positively to Nishad's quip, seeing it as a sign of confidence tempered with respect. Social media users have shared the story widely, with many praising Nishad's spirit and expressing eagerness to see such a contest unfold on the field.

As the IPL 2026 season approaches, stories like this add to the anticipation and narrative build up, especially when they involve iconic players like Virat Kohli. Whether Nishad gets his chance to bowl to Kohli — and whether he follows through on his promise — remains something fans will be watching keenly when the action begins.

## Former India Stars Call Selection Decision "Unfair" After Sanju Samson Snub for T20 World Cup 2026



A fierce debate has erupted in Indian cricket circles after Sanju Samson was omitted from India's squad for the T20 World Cup 2026, with some former Indian players publicly criticising the decision as "unfair" and questioning the selection process.

Samson — known for his explosive batting and leadership qualities in the Indian Premier League — was widely expected to be part of India's World Cup plans. His consistent performances in domestic and franchise cricket had made him a strong contender, and many fans also backed his inclusion. Yet when the final squad was announced, Samson's name was missing, leaving supporters and experts surprised.

Several ex India stars reacted strongly to the exclusion. They described the decision as shocking and unjust, especially given Samson's recent form and ability to change games with his dynamic stroke play. Some former players highlighted that Samson's experience and match winning capabilities could have strengthened India's batting depth in the global tournament.

The comments from cricket veterans reflect a broader conversation about team selection, bal-

ance and the criteria used by the national selectors. For many spectators, Samson's omission raised questions about whether the best performers are always rewarded, or whether other considerations — such as team combinations, strategy or balance — influenced the call.

Fans and pundits alike are divided. While some argue that the team management has a specific vision in mind and selection should be respected, others believe that leaving out a player of Samson's calibre sends the wrong message to emerging talent.

Samson himself has yet to publicly respond in detail, choosing instead to focus on training and preparation. His supporters hope that he continues to score runs and make a strong case for future selections, irrespective of the current controversy.

As the T20 World Cup 2026 approaches, India's squad will be under intense scrutiny, and debates like these are likely to intensify. Whether the critics are proven right or team management vindicates its choices will become clearer once the tournament starts and performances speak on the field.

## “Anaganaga Oka Raju” Success Meet Turns Emotional as Naveen Polishetty Celebrates a Historic Sankranthi



Released as a grand Sankranthi festival attraction on January 14, Anaganaga Oka Raju has emerged as one of the biggest blockbusters in recent Telugu cinema history. Starring star entertainer Naveen Polishetty in the lead, the film has crossed an impressive ₹100+ crore gross worldwide, winning unanimous appreciation from audiences across the globe.

Presented by Srikara Studios and produced by Suryadevara Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya under the banners of Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas, the film is directed by debutant Maari, with Meenakshi Chaudhary playing the female lead. Arriving amid stiff competition during the festive season, the film stood tall with its perfect blend of humour, emotion, and relatable storytelling, firmly claiming the Sankranthi winner tag.

To celebrate the massive success, the makers hosted a grand success meet at Ramanaidu Studios in Hyderabad. Renowned producer and TFDC Chairman Dil Raju

and acclaimed director Bobby Kolli attended as chief guests, adding prestige to the event. The entire cast, crew, and distributors were felicitated for their contribution to the film's phenomenal run.

Speaking at the event, Dil Raju praised Naveen Polishetty's dedication and hard work, calling Anaganaga Oka Raju a shining example of how perseverance always pays off. He lauded producer Naga Vamsi's passion for cinema and said Naveen carried the film entirely on his shoulders, working relentlessly from start to finish.

Director Bobby Kolli described Naveen as a hero who has mastered timing itself. He revealed that Megastar Chiranjeevi personally expressed admiration for Naveen's energy and performance in the film, calling him his favourite among the new generation of actors. Bobby said such recognition from a legend is a rare and defining moment in any actor's career.

An emotional Naveen Polishetty thanked Telugu audiences worldwide,

stating that this Sankranthi would be remembered forever, much like a celebrated dialogue from the film. He reflected on his journey from being told that YouTube artists could never become heroes to delivering four consecutive blockbusters. Naveen emphasized that he chooses quality over quantity and believes in respecting producers, distributors, and audiences alike. Hearing that Chiranjeevi spoke highly of him, he said, was a dream moment that brought him to tears.

Meenakshi Chaudhary called the festival extra special for her, while producer Naga Vamsi said the true success of the film lay in seeing distributors and exhibitors happy. Director Maari expressed gratitude to Naveen and the audience, calling the ₹100+ crore milestone unforgettable.

The event concluded on a jubilant note, reaffirming Anaganaga Oka Raju as not just a blockbuster, but a film that turned Sankranthi 2026 into a historic celebration for Telugu cinema.

## “Sampradayini Suppini Suddapooosani” OTT Release Set for February 12



The Telugu film Sampradayini Suppini Suddapooosani is set to premiere on February 12, 2026, exclusively on the ETV Win streaming platform. The announcement has generated significant excitement among fans of the lead actors and audiences following the film's promotional campaign.

The movie features veteran actors Sivaji and Laya in the lead roles, marking a notable reunion on screen after several years. The film blends elements of crime drama and comedy, set against a rural backdrop. Directed by Sudheer Sreeram and produced by Sivaji under his own banner in association with ETV Win,

the project marks Sivaji's strong comeback both as an actor and producer.

The story centers on rural life conflicts, with Sivaji portraying Sriram, a Panchayat Secretary known for his integrity and commitment to justice. The supporting cast adds depth to the narrative, while the title, inspired by a popular web series, has already captured audience interest.

Instead of a theatrical release, the film will debut directly on the OTT platform, allowing viewers to stream it from home. This approach reflects the growing trend of digital premieres in regional cinema and highlights ETV Win's ef-

forts to expand its online content offerings.

With its mix of humor, social commentary, and rural storytelling, Sampradayini Suppini Suddapooosani is expected to attract audiences interested in engaging, locally rooted narratives. The digital release, just days away, has already stirred anticipation among Telugu cinema fans, eager to see the performances of Sivaji, Laya, and the ensemble cast.

The film promises to be a fresh addition to the OTT space, combining strong performances, compelling storytelling, and a focus on rural societal issues, making it a highly anticipated release for the region's digital audience.

## MySouthDiva Launches 9th Edition 2026 Calendar Celebrating Southern Cinema Divas

MySouthDiva, one of South India's leading digital entertainment and lifestyle platforms, unveiled its highly anticipated 9th Edition 2026 Calendar in a grand and star-studded event held at Ramanaidu Studios in Film Nagar, Hyderabad. The prestigious launch was jointly organized by Media9 and Bharathi Cements and marked another milestone in MySouthDiva's journey of celebrating women, talent, and contemporary culture.

The 2026 calendar features twelve prominent actresses from the South Indian film industry, each representing a month with a unique theme. The featured artistes include Shriya Saran, Ananya Nagalla, Riya Sachdeva, Ulka Gupta, Palak Agarwal, Manasvi Mangai, Chandni Kataria, Sakshi Mhadolkar, Simratt Kaur, Gehna Sippy, Riya Suman, and Aishwarya Salvi. Conceptualized around modern aesthetics, confidence, and grace, the calendar blends fashion-forward visuals with powerful expressions of individuality and inner strength.

Designed as more than just a visual showcase, the calendar reflects evolving fashion trends while highlighting the emotional depth and personality of each artiste. Every month carries a distinct concept that symbolizes women's empowerment, self-belief, and creative expression. Through this approach, MySouthDiva continues its tradi-



tion of presenting women not merely as style icons, but as influential voices shaping contemporary culture.

The launch event was attended by several notable personalities from the film and media fraternity, including actresses and models Gehna Sippy, Riya Sachdeva, Aishwarya Salvi, and Ulka Gupta. Also present were Bharathi Cements DM Ravindra Reddy, film producers Ramesh Puppala and Shyam Sunder Nethi, and Media9 Director Manoj Kumar, who together added glamour and significance to the occasion.

Addressing the gathering,

MySouthDiva Director Manoj Kumar stated that the calendar reflects the platform's core philosophy of celebrating beauty with purpose. He emphasized that the initiative aims to inspire young women while promoting a positive and empowering representation of women in media. According to him, each month has been carefully designed to communicate a specific idea, collectively portraying the strength and versatility of women across different walks of life.

Media9, the creative force behind the project, has earned a strong reputation as a lead-

ing celebrity management and digital marketing company in South India. With extensive experience in casting for hundreds of advertisements and involvement in successful film productions, the company continues to bridge cinema, brands, and digital platforms through innovative storytelling.

With the launch of its 9th Edition 2026 Calendar, MySouthDiva once again reinforces its commitment to celebrating talent, confidence, and individuality, setting a benchmark for lifestyle and entertainment platforms across the region.

## “Amaravathiki Aahwanam” Teaser Launched



The teaser of the upcoming Telugu film Amaravathiki Aahwanam was officially unveiled in Hyderabad by veteran actor and producer Murali Mohan Garu, marking an important milestone for the project. The teaser launch event drew encouraging reactions from industry guests and created early buzz around the film, which is gearing up for a grand worldwide theatrical release on Feb-

ruary 13. Produced by K. Shankar Rao and R. Venkateswara Rao under the Light House Cine Magic banner, Amaravathiki Aahwanam is presented by G. Rambabu Yadav, with production supervision by senior producer Muppa Venkaiah Chowdary. The film is directed by GVK and features Siva Kantamneni in the lead role, alongside Dhanya Balakrishna, Es-

ther, Supriya, and Harish. Senior actors Ashok Kumar, Bhadrans, Gemini Suresh, and Nagendra Prasad appear in key supporting roles, strengthening the ensemble cast.

Speaking at the event, actor Ashok Kumar said he agreed to be part of the film at the request of producer Venkateswara Rao and expressed confidence in the final output. He praised director GVK for crafting content that

can connect with audiences across different sections. Actor Gemini Suresh shared that Amaravathiki Aahwanam marks his first time portraying a madman and said that the blend of horror and entertainment would appeal strongly to viewers.

Producer Prasanna Kumar, who attended the teaser launch, said the teaser was impressive and conveyed his best wishes to the team. Murali Mohan Garu, who released the teaser, highlighted the importance of content-driven small films, calling them the backbone of the industry. He noted that the teaser itself created a sense of fear and suspense, reflecting the director's talent, and wished the film great success.

Producer R. Venkateswara Rao said cinema has been his passion for over three decades and that Amaravathiki Aahwanam is their sixth production. He explained

that the film was made in the horror genre with commercial elements to attract all sections of the audience and expressed confidence about the February 13 release.

Lead actress Esther described the shoot as a family-like experience and praised both the director's passion and the producers' dedication. Director GVK stated that the project took shape with the encouragement of producer Shankar Rao and was completed within budget despite minor VFX-related delays. He expressed strong belief in the film's content.

Hero Siva Kantamneni said the film was completed on schedule and appreciated the performances of the female leads, especially Esther, who he said would stand out. With its mix of horror and commercial appeal, Amaravathiki Aahwanam aims to offer audiences a gripping theatrical experience this February.

## High-Energy Track ‘RATTATATAAV’ Powers Up FUNKY’s Musical Buzz

The makers of the upcoming entertainer FUNKY have raised the excitement quotient with the release of the film's second single, ‘RATTATATAAV’, a high-energy number that is already striking a chord with music lovers. Peppy, pulsating, and packed with attitude, the song reinforces the film's promise of full-on entertainment and youthful fun.

Composed by the ever-reliable Bheems Ceciroleo, RATTATATAAV carries his trademark massy flavour with infectious beats and an instantly catchy rhythm. Ram Miriyala's electrifying vocals bring an added punch, while Dev Pawar's playful and relatable lyrics make the song easy to connect with. The track delivers an instant adrenaline rush, making it a perfect addition to party playlists and a likely chart-topper in the days to come.

Visually, the song is equally engaging. Vish-

wak Sen and Kayani Lohar light up the screen with their crackling chemistry and effortless energy. Their lively performances, combined with colourful visuals and energetic choreography, give the song a fresh and contemporary vibe. The youthful appeal of the visuals aligns perfectly with the song's spirited mood, making RATTATATAAV a complete audio-visual treat.

Earlier, the first single from the film, “Dheere Dheere,” emerged as a chart-buster melody, setting strong expectations for the album. With RATTATATAAV maintaining that momentum, the FUNKY soundtrack is shaping up to be a well-balanced mix of melody and mass beats. Adding to the excitement, the film's teaser has already received a positive response, hinting at non-stop comedy and an entertaining narrative.

Director KV Anudeep, known for his unique



brand of humour and quirky storytelling, returns to his comic zone with FUNKY. Promising a louder, crazier, and more entertaining cinematic ride, the director aims to push the boundaries of fun while staying rooted in relatable comedy. Music director Bheems Ceciroleo once again proves his versa-

tility by delivering songs that enhance both the film's energy and narrative flow.

The film is produced by Naga Vamsi S and Sai Soujanya under the banners of Sithara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas, with Srikara Studios presenting it. With peppy music, quirky char-

acters, a refreshing lead pair, and a director celebrated for comic chaos, FUNKY is shaping up to be a complete entertainer.

Scheduled for a theatrical release on February 13, 2026, FUNKY is perfectly timed to offer audiences a fun-filled Valentine's Day weekend at the movies.