



TRUE POINT

Centre Ignored Adilabad in Union Budget, Says Congress Leader



HOMAGE



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THE MAN WHO STOOD WITH US FROM THE BEGINNING

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Revanth Reddy Recalls Ravi Narayana Reddy's Democratic Legacy

Hyderabad, February 2, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday attended the Ravi Narayana Reddy Memorial National Award presentation programme and called upon people to draw inspiration from the life and ideals of legendary freedom fighter and social reformer Ravi Narayana Reddy. The Chief Minister participated as the chief guest at the event, which was organised to honour individuals who have made outstanding contributions to democracy, justice, and public life.

Addressing the gathering, Revanth Reddy said Ravi Narayana Reddy was a towering personality whose struggles and

sacrifices played a crucial role in shaping democratic consciousness in Telangana. He recalled that Ravi Narayana Reddy fearlessly fought against feudal oppression and authoritarian rule, standing firmly for civil liberties, land rights, and social justice. The Chief Minister stressed that remembering such leaders was not merely a ceremonial exercise but a responsibility to pass on democratic values to future generations.

The Ravi Narayana Reddy Memorial National Award for the year was presented to former Supreme Court judge Justice B. Sudarshan Reddy in recognition of his distinguished service to the



judiciary and his unwavering commitment to constitutional values. Revanth Reddy personally presented the award and congratulated the awardee, describing him as a jurist who upheld the spirit of the Constitution through integrity and courage.

In his speech, the Chief Minister emphasised that the principles upheld by Ravi Narayana Reddy remain relevant even today. He said democracy can survive only when institutions are strong and citizens are vigilant. Revanth Reddy noted that freedom of expression, social equality, and justice for the marginalised were at the core of Ravi Narayana Reddy's ideol-

ogy and should continue to guide governance and public discourse.

Revanth Reddy also spoke about the role of governments in safeguarding democratic values. He said the Telangana government was committed to inclusive development, protection of constitutional rights, and strengthening democratic institutions. He urged intellectuals, youth, and civil society organisations to actively participate in preserving democratic traditions and resisting any forces that undermine them.

Justice B. Sudarshan Reddy, in his address after receiving the award, spoke on the importance of the Constitution and the need to protect free-

dom of expression. He said constitutional values act as the backbone of Indian democracy and warned that weakening these values would pose a serious threat to the nation's unity and progress. He paid rich tributes to Ravi Narayana Reddy, describing him as a beacon of courage and conscience.

The programme was attended by members of the Ravi Narayana Reddy Memorial Trust, senior advocates, academicians, writers, cultural personalities, and citizens. The event concluded with a renewed call to uphold the ideals of justice, equality, and democracy championed by Ravi Narayana Reddy.

Telugu States to Get Major Railway Push, Says Ashwini

New Delhi, February 2, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Union Railway, Electronics and Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnav on Monday outlined ambitious plans for rail connectivity and infrastructure that could transform travel and economic opportunities for both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Speaking to the media after key discussions on the 2026-27 Union Budget allocations, Vaishnav highlighted record budgetary support and strategic projects aimed at strengthening rail services across the Telugu states.

According to the Minister, the Railway Budget has earmarked significant funds for rail projects in Telangana, with more than 5,400 crore allocated to improve rail infrastructure, enhance connectivity, and modernise stations. Vaishnav said these allocations represent an unprecedented focus on strengthening transport links within the region.

A flagship part of the plan is the proposed implementation of high-speed rail corridors that would connect Telangana and Andhra Pradesh with neighbouring states and major urban centres. Vaishnav explained that the corridors are expected to function as "game changers," enabling ultra-fast connectivity that could cut travel times dramatically. For example, high-speed services could reduce travel time between Hyderabad and Bengaluru to just two



hours, opening up new possibilities for business, tourism, and economic integration across the region. These high-speed lines are planned to operate at speeds of up to 350 kmph, which Revanth said would significantly benefit both passenger and freight movement.

Vaishnav emphasised that such high-speed and modern rail infrastructure would catalyse broader economic growth beyond passenger travel. By improving access between key cities and markets in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and neighbouring states like Tamil Nadu, these corri-

dors are expected to support health tourism, commerce and regional development.

The Minister also reflected on the larger role of rail investment in fostering integrated development. He stressed that comprehensive rail improvements not only boost connectivity but also enhance safety, efficiency, and travel convenience for citizens. Vaishnav pointed to the strong budget support for rail modernisation as clear evidence of the Centre's commitment to infrastructure development in the southern states.

Officials noted that

several routes and projects are currently in planning stages, with detailed project reports (DPRs) and surveys underway to finalise timelines and implementation strategies. Rail and state government representatives will continue to coordinate on land acquisition, funding, and execution to ensure these ambitious projects progress smoothly.

The announcements were welcomed by political leaders and stakeholders in both states, who said improved rail connectivity is essential for regional growth, job creation and inclusive development. Vaishnav's

Kavitha Seeks Transparency in Phone-Tapping Probe, Assures Cooperation



Hyderabad, February 2, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Jagruti President Kalvakuntla Kavitha on Monday called for a transparent and time-bound investigation into the alleged phone-tapping case in Telangana, while affirming that she would fully cooperate with the Special Investigation Team (SIT) if summoned. Her remarks come amid renewed political debate over the probe, which has been underway for nearly two years.

Speaking to the media in Hyderabad, Kavitha said the prolonged duration of the investigation without clear conclusions has raised several questions in the minds of the public. She stated that clarity is essential in a matter of such seriousness and emphasised that transparency would help restore public trust. "If the SIT calls me for questioning, I will certainly appear and cooperate," she said, adding that respecting legal pro-

cesses is the responsibility of every citizen, irrespective of political position.

Referring to the recent questioning of former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) by the SIT, Kavitha said she was confident that he would explain the details of his examination. She noted that the public has a right to know what transpired and what progress has been made in the investigation. According to her, openness in sharing facts would prevent speculation and misinformation.

Kavitha also criticised what she described as the lack of urgency shown by the present BJP-led government in concluding the probe. She questioned why the investigation had not reached a logical end despite being in progress for such a long period. Suggesting that political considerations might be influencing the pace of the inquiry, she said delays in sensitive cas-

es only weaken confidence in democratic institutions.

At the same time, Kavitha countered claims from some BRS leaders who have alleged that the investigation is politically motivated. She asserted that cooperating with law-enforcement agencies is a democratic obligation and that no individual or party should place itself above the law. She urged political parties to show restraint in their statements and allow the investigation to proceed fairly.

The phone-tapping case continues to be a major political issue in Telangana, drawing sharp reactions from across the political spectrum. Kavitha's statement, combining criticism with an assurance of cooperation, has added a fresh dimension to the debate, as public attention remains focused on whether the probe will deliver accountability and closure.

KTR Slams Congress Government, Alleges Diversion Politics

Hyderabad, February 2, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) launched a sharp attack on the Congress-led Telangana government during an informal chat with the media on Sunday, accusing it of failing in governance and resorting to diversionary politics to cover up its shortcomings.

Speaking candidly, KTR alleged that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's administration has been unable to deliver on its promises made to the people during the elections. He claimed that instead of focusing on public welfare, employment generation, and development, the Congress government is indulging in political theatrics and vendetta politics against the BRS

leadership. KTR strongly criticized the ongoing phone-tapping case and the role of the Special Investigation Team (SIT), stating that the issue is being deliberately highlighted to divert public attention from the government's failures. He said the repeated targeting of former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) through investigations was politically motivated and aimed at maligning his image. According to KTR, such actions would not weaken the BRS but would instead strengthen public sympathy for the party. The BRS leader questioned the priorities of the state government, asking why issues such as farmers' distress, unemployment among youth, rising prices, and administrative chaos were being sidelined. He alleged that



the Congress government is more focused on settling political scores than addressing the real concerns of citizens. Taking direct aim at Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, KTR accused him of making contradictory statements and failing to provide stable leadership. He alleged that the Chief Minister was attempting to shift blame for governance failures onto the previous BRS government rather than taking responsibility. KTR also claimed that the Congress leadership in Telangana was functioning under confusion and pressure, leading to inconsistent policies and public dissatisfaction. KTR expressed confidence that the people of Telangana are closely watching the government's actions and would respond appropriately in upcoming

local body elections. He asserted that the BRS remains strong at the grassroots level and is prepared to challenge the Congress government on every public issue.

Political observers view KTR's media interaction as part of the BRS's broader strategy to reassert itself as a strong opposition force in the state. By highlighting alleged governance failures and questioning the intent behind ongoing investigations, the party aims to regain political momentum and reconnect with voters.

As political tensions continue to rise in Telangana, KTR's remarks indicate that the war of words between the BRS and the Congress government is set to intensify in the days ahead, with both sides vying to control the public narrative ahead of crucial political battles.

BJP Misleading People with Selective Amnesia: Peddapalli MP Gaddam Vamsi Krishna

New Delhi, February 2, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Peddapalli Member of Parliament Gaddam Vamsi Krishna on Monday launched a scathing attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), accusing it of suffering from “selective amnesia” and deliberately misleading the people of the country for political gain. Speaking to the media outside Parliament, the Congress MP alleged that the ruling party has made it a habit to brand Indian National Congress leaders as anti-national while evading accountability on present-day issues.

Vamsi Krishna expressed strong resentment over what he

termed repeated attempts by the BJP to rake up historical decisions to divert attention from current failures. He said it was unfair for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to repeatedly refer to decisions taken during the tenure of former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and hold him responsible for present-day challenges. “Blaming leaders from decades ago cannot justify the failures of today’s government,” he remarked.

Referring to the recent proceedings in Parliament, Vamsi Krishna alleged that BJP leaders intentionally obstructed Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi when he



attempted to speak on sensitive national issues, including China-India border tensions and decisions taken by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. He described it as an insult to parliamentary democracy that senior ministers such as Amit Shah, Kiren Rijiju, and Rajnath Singh stood up collectively to prevent Rahul Gandhi from expressing his views in the House.

“The BJP is scared of the truth and does not want it to reach the people,” Vamsi Krishna alleged. He further questioned why there was no serious discussion or decisive action taken over the attack on the Red Fort, despite BJP MP

Tejasvi Surya declaring ‘Operation Sindoor’ a success. According to him, such silence exposes the ruling party’s double standards.

Accusing the BJP of conveniently remembering only what suits its political narrative, Vamsi Krishna said the party deliberately ignores issues that expose its failures in governance and national security. He asserted that Rahul Gandhi consistently stands for truth, constitutional values, and the unity of the country, and claimed that the BJP fears confronting these realities.

The remarks came against the backdrop of a stormy session in Parliament, where Rahul

Gandhi himself accused the BJP of being anti-national. Addressing the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi alleged that the BJP was spreading hatred and violence, which he said went against the very idea of India. He also accused the RSS of weakening national unity by promoting division and criticised the government over the alleged occupation of Indian territory by Chinese forces.

Rahul Gandhi’s speech triggered uproar in the House, with BJP members demanding an apology and repeatedly disrupting proceedings, leading to further escalation of tensions in Parliament.

Union Budget 2026 Neglects Telangana Agriculture: Tummala

Hyderabad, February 02, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Union Budget-2026 has dealt a severe blow to Telangana, particularly to its farming community, by completely ignoring the core concerns of the state’s agriculture sector, Telangana Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao alleged on Sunday.

Reacting strongly to the budget proposals, the minister said the Centre had once again meted out injustice to Telangana despite repeated representations. He stated that the budget had shattered the hopes of lakhs of farmers who depend on agriculture for their livelihood, reflecting the Union government’s apathy towards the state.

One of the major disappointments highlighted by the minister was the Centre’s failure to increase import duties on crude palm oil, despite multiple requests from Telangana. He warned that this decision would adversely impact oil palm farmers in the state, who had invested heavily in the crop following government encouragement. “Instead of promoting domestic production, the Centre is favouring imports, which is unfortunate and harmful to farmers,” he said. Tummala also expressed deep concern over the absence of any budgetary allocation for the Turmeric Board. He pointed out that turmeric, a high-value crop for Telangana, was neither recognised as such nor supported with dedicat-



ed funds. “Lakhs of turmeric farmers were expecting a clear announcement on funding for the Turmeric Board, but the budget has remained silent, raising serious questions about the Centre’s commitment,” he remarked.

Similarly, the minister criticised the lack of any announcement regarding the formation of a Coconut Board, calling it another setback for farmers engaged in coconut cultivation. He further cautioned that indications of a possible increase in fertiliser prices would impose an additional financial burden on farmers already struggling with rising input costs.

The agriculture minister said the Union gov-

ernment had once again failed to provide legal backing for Minimum Support Price (MSP), leaving farmers’ income security uncertain. He noted that there was no clear direction on agricultural marketing reforms, price stabilisation mechanisms, or market assurance systems, which he described as major shortcomings of the budget.

Tummala also flagged concerns over the Centre’s inaction on import duties for edible oils, stating that the lack of protective measures for domestic oilseed farmers was alarming. He accused the Union government of reducing funds to Telangana in the name of integrating central schemes, calling it an injustice that would hurt

the state’s development.

“The promise of doubling farmers’ income has remained mere rhetoric. There is no concrete roadmap in the budget to achieve this goal,” he said.

While acknowledging the mention of AI-based initiatives in agriculture, Tummala said technology alone could not resolve farmers’ problems without assured prices and stable markets. He concluded that the Union Budget-2026 had completely failed to inspire confidence among Telangana’s farmers and offered no special benefits to the state, expressing strong dissatisfaction over what he termed a missed opportunity to support agriculture.

Congress Governance Delivers Visible Change in Two Years: Ponguleti



Hyderabad, February 02, 2026 Stating that the people of Telangana reposed their faith in the Praja Government seeking meaningful change, State Revenue, Housing and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said the Congress government has clearly demonstrated that transformation within just two years and upheld public trust.

Launching the modernised Information and Public Relations (I&PR) Department website at the Secretariat on Monday, the minister said the government assumed office at a time when the state was facing a severe crisis, particularly on the financial front. Under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, the government adopted a step-by-step approach to steer Telangana out of distress and place it firmly on the path of development and welfare, he said.

Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy asserted that every decision taken by the Praja Government has translated into visible improvements in people’s lives. Reforms initiated across sectors such as agriculture, education, health-care, housing, distribution of

fine rice, ration cards and employment generation have collectively positioned Telangana as a model state for the country, he observed.

Highlighting the critical role of the Information and Public Relations Department, the minister said effectively communicating these changes to the public is as important as implementing them. He instructed I&PR officials to extensively leverage modern technology and ensure that information on development and welfare programmes reaches citizens swiftly and efficiently, in tune with changing times.

Addressing the gathering, the minister said the government has completed two years in office and entered its third year. While two years may be a short period in governance terms, the achievements of the Praja Government during this time have been remarkable, he noted. Soon after the formation of the Indiramma government, the implementation of the six guarantees was taken up on priority. In addition, several welfare schemes were rolled out for public benefit, even beyond electoral promises, he said.

Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said Telangana has recorded notable progress in both the agricultural and industrial sectors, contributing to robust economic growth. He claimed that the state has emerged among the frontrunners in economic development. With the “Telangana Rising – Vision 2047,” the government is moving ahead with a clear roadmap to elevate the state to national and global prominence under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy’s leadership. He explained that the government is pursuing a dual strategy — setting ambitious goals to compete with global cities while simultaneously ensuring welfare benefits reach the poorest sections. Through transparency in governance, modernity in development and innovative welfare initiatives, Telangana has been transformed into a role model for the nation within just two years, the minister asserted.

I&PR Commissioner C.H. Priyanka, Chief Minister’s CPR Officer G. Malsur, Additional Director D.S. Jagan, Joint Director Ramana and other senior officials were present at the programme.

SIT Probe Is as per Law, Not Vendetta: V. Hanumantha Rao

Gandhi Bhavan, February 02, 2026

Senior Congress leader V. Hanumantha Rao has strongly defended the ongoing Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe into the alleged phone-tapping case, asserting that the investigation is being conducted strictly in accordance with the law and not driven by political vendetta, as claimed by BRS leaders.

Speaking to the media at Gandhi Bhavan on Monday, Hanumantha Rao said several individuals have already been questioned as part of the SIT inquiry and that former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao was summoned in the same legal process. “The law applies equally to everyone. There is nothing extraordinary or targeted about questioning KCR as part of the investi-

gation,” he said. Taking sharp aim at the BRS leadership, Hanumantha Rao questioned their sudden invocation of “self-respect” (atma gouravam). “Where was this self-respect when the Telangana Rashtra Samithi was renamed as Bharat Rashtra Samithi? Did self-respect not come to mind then?” he asked.

Recalling his own experiences, the Congress leader alleged that injustice and suppression were common during the previous regime. “When I installed an Ambedkar statue at Panjagutta, it was vandalised. When a new statue was erected, it was hidden away. I had to fight a legal battle and file a case to reclaim my own statue,” he said, accusing BRS leaders of hypocrisy for now speaking about justice, self-respect and ven-



detta politics. Hanumantha Rao further questioned the actions taken against Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy in the

past. “Why was Revanth Reddy booked in cases and sent to jail? Was that not political vendetta? Was it not driven by personal hostility?” he asked, adding that selective outrage exposed the double standards of the BRS.

Emphasising that the law

is uniform for all citizens, Hanumantha Rao said public representatives must be prepared to face scrutiny when they enter public life.

“People have a right to know the ethics and integrity of BRS leaders. When you are in public life, you cannot escape accountability,” he said.

Referring to cases earlier labelled by BRS leaders themselves, he remarked, “You were the ones who spoke about cases like the ‘lotta peesu’ matter. Then why are you now crying vendetta and self-respect when the law takes its course?”

Concluding his remarks, Hanumantha Rao challenged BRS leaders to cooperate with the investigation. “If you are truly innocent, prove it before the SIT. Instead of politicising the issue and misleading the public, allow the investigation to proceed transparently,” he asserted.

Harish Rao Slams SIT Chief Sajjanar Over 'Illegal' Phone Tapping Remark

Hyderabad, February 02, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Senior BRS leader and former minister T. Harish Rao strongly criticised SIT chief Sajjanar for describing the alleged phone tapping case as "illegal" even before the court delivered its final verdict, terming the statement irresponsible and against constitutional principles.

Reacting sharply, Harish Rao questioned how an issue under judicial scrutiny could be branded illegal without a conclusive court ruling. "As per the Constitution, the role of the police is limited to conducting an inquiry. Are you a judge to pronounce verdicts?" he asked, expressing serious concern over the SIT chief's public remarks.

Harish Rao said that in a democratic system, no allegation can be treated as a crime until a competent court establishes it. He pointed out that this basic principle of justice is clearly enshrined under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution, which



guarantees the right to life and personal liberty. Ignoring such a fundamental principle, he said, was highly condemnable.

The BRS leader asserted that the legality or illegality of phone tapping depends on whether it was carried out in accordance with provisions of the Indian Telegraph Act, particularly Section 5(2), the Information Technology Act, and the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court. "If there is any violation,

it must be determined only through a judicial process, not through official statements by police officers," he said.

Harish Rao alleged that by repeatedly using the term "illegal phone tapping" in official statements and social media posts, the SIT chief appeared to have already reached a conclusion even as the investigation was still underway. He said such conduct violated the impartiality expected of senior officers under the All India Services

Rules, 1968.

Raising concerns of bias, Harish Rao said that issuing such premature statements in a matter involving a former Chief Minister and the present Leader of the Opposition gives rise to strong doubts about the neutrality of the investigation. "The Supreme Court has repeatedly held that an investigation must not only be fair but must also appear to be fair," he reminded.

He further questioned the intent be-

hind the SIT chief's failure to even address K. Chandrashekar Rao as the Leader of the Opposition in official communications. "Is this the culture of respect you follow? What is the message you are trying to convey by denying even the minimum courtesy due to a former Chief Minister and constitutional opposition leader?" he asked.

Harish Rao warned that implementing political agendas while wearing the khaki uniform was against the spirit of the All India Services Rules and undermined public confidence in institutions. "Judgments are meant to be delivered by courts, not by police officers," he reiterated, demanding restraint and adherence to constitutional limits.

He concluded by stating that if investigators themselves decide guilt even before completing the probe, it raises a fundamental question about the relevance of laws, courts, and due process in a democracy.

Union Budget 2026 Disappoints Telangana Once Again: Koppula Eshwar

Hyderabad, February 02, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Former Telangana minister Koppula Eshwar on Sunday criticised the Union Budget 2026-27, stating that it had once again disappointed the people of Telangana and reflected the Centre's discriminatory attitude towards the state.

Reacting to the ninth Union Budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Koppula Eshwar said that despite a massive outlay of 54.1 lakh crore, Telangana was shown a "cold shoulder." He alleged that the budget offered nothing substantial to address the state's long-pending demands and development needs.



ing parties at the Centre and in the state, the 2026-27 budget has failed Telangana miserably," he added.

The former minister expressed concern that none of the assurances mentioned in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act had been fulfilled even after more than 12 years since the formation of Telangana. "The Centre has completely ignored its statutory obligations towards the state," he alleged.

He said repeated requests by the state government for approvals and funding for 47 projects across 12 departments, including the Regional Ring Road (RRR), radial roads, and other highway projects, had gone unanswered. He also criticised the Centre for denying a semiconductor project to Hyderabad despite the city emerging as a leading hub for IT and electronics.

Koppula Eshwar pointed out that there was no mention in the budget about setting up institutions such as an Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Navodaya schools, or additional Kendriya Vidyalayas in Telangana.

He concluded by stating that the absence of concrete assurances on farmers' welfare and job creation made the Union Budget 2026-27 deeply disappointing for the people of Telangana

The former minister attributed the situation to what he described as the inefficiency of the Congress government in the state and the biased approach of the BJP-led government at the Centre. "Even though Telangana is represented by eight Congress MPs and eight BJP MPs, the state has been left with virtually nothing in the budget," he remarked.

Questioning the role of Union ministers from Telangana, Koppula Eshwar asked whether they had any explanation to offer to the people. "Did the Union Finance Minister fail to notice Telangana altogether?" he asked, expressing displeasure over the lack of allocations.

He further alleged that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had failed to secure funds for the state despite making as many as 62 visits to New Delhi. "This budget stands as proof of that failure. Telangana has once again suffered irreparable injustice," he said.

Drawing a comparison with the past, Koppula Eshwar noted that when the BRS had 16 MPs in Parliament, Telangana succeeded in securing thousands of crores in central funds. "Today, even with equal representation from the rul-

Dr Shravan Dasoju Warns CM Revanth Reddy in Open Letter, Defends KCR's Legacy



Hyderabad, February 02, 2026 | TPN Bureau

In a strongly worded open letter that has triggered intense political debate, noted academic and public intellectual Dr Shravan Kumar Dasoju issued a sharp warning to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, accusing him of indulging in political vendetta and arrogance against former

Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR).

The open letter, excerpts of which are widely circulating on social media, cautions the Chief Minister against what Dr Shravan described as vindictive politics driven by personal animosity rather than governance. "Revanth Reddy... be warned," Dr Shravan wrote, assert-

ing that KCR is not merely a three-letter name but a "Telangana lion's roar" and a symbol of the state's collective self-respect.

Dr Shravan strongly criticised what he termed the Chief Minister's "authoritarian mindset," alleging that attacks on KCR stem from an attempt to cover up administrative failures. He described KCR as more than an individual, calling him an indomitable force and the embodiment of Telangana's identity and pride. "KCR is the flame of Telangana's existence. If you try to extinguish it, your own arrogance will turn to ashes," the letter stated.

Using sharp metaphors, Dr Shravan reminded the Chief Minister that power is temporary. "Authority is only a five-year rented house, not a permanent private estate," he remarked, warning

that using power as a weapon to silence political opponents would eventually recoil on those in power. "If authority is used like a knife to cut opponents' throats, the same knife will one day wrap around your own neck," he cautioned.

The letter accused the Revanth Reddy-led government of resorting to abusive language against KCR as a diversion tactic to deflect public attention from governance lapses. Dr Shravan challenged the Chief Minister to prove his political strength through performance. "If you have the ability, surpass KCR in achievements across all sectors and show it to the people," he wrote. Drawing from history, Dr Shravan warned that attempts to suppress political opponents only amplify public sympathy for them. He likened attacks on KCR to "spit-

ting at the sun," stating that such actions only expose the attacker's folly. "In every battle between the arrogance of rulers and the self-respect of the people, it is always self-respect that wins," he observed. The letter further cautioned that persecuting political rivals would brand leaders as "political villains" in history. Dr Shravan concluded with a pointed remark, stating that the true measure of success in politics is whether people can look at a leader without contempt after power is lost. The open letter has drawn sharp reactions across political circles, with BRS leaders hailing it as a powerful ideological defence of KCR, while Congress supporters dismissed it as exaggerated rhetoric. The exchange has further intensified the already heated political atmosphere in Telangana.

MLC Balmoor Venkat Counters KTR's Remarks on CM Revanth Reddy



Hyderabad, February 02, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Legislative Council member Dr Balmoor Venkat on Sunday strongly countered comments made by BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) against Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, accusing him of deliberately mocking initiatives aimed at inspiring students, youth, and sports persons in the state.

Dr Balmoor Venkat said Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has consistently given priority to education and sports, emerging as a role model for students and young people. He stated that the Chief Minister's efforts to encourage life-long learning should be appreciated rather than ridiculed. "When the Chief Minister conveys the message that learning and education should continue at any age, even from a global platform like Harvard University, mocking strong exception to KTR's comments on the SIT summoning former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, Dr Balmoor Venkat said portraying a lawful in-

Chief Minister effectively presented the "Rising Telangana Vision" and impressed Telugu students studying there. He alleged that unlike certain leaders, Revanth Reddy did not misuse foreign university programmes to promote a drug culture. "Everyone in Telangana knows what KTR achieved during his decade-long foreign tours," he remarked, taking a dig at the former minister.

Dr Balmoor Venkat also condemned KTR for making disparaging remarks about initiatives taken to promote sports in the state. He said that efforts to encourage sports and motivate athletes, including engaging with global football icon Lionel Messi, were aimed at boosting the morale of young sports persons. "Even such positive steps were mocked by KTR, exposing his regressive mindset," he alleged.

Referring to Revanth Reddy's address at Harvard University, the MLC said the

investigation as an attack on Telangana's identity was misleading. "After being in power for ten years, it was the BRS leadership that weakened Telangana financially and pushed the state towards distress," he charged.

The MLC said that while the Chief Minister is actively launching programmes to inspire students and youth across Telangana, KTR should have welcomed such initiatives instead of making baseless allegations. "It is shameful to criticise efforts that are meant to motivate the younger generation," he said.

Dr Balmoor Venkat warned that if KTR failed to change his attitude and continued with what he described as irresponsible rhetoric, the people of Telangana would once again teach him a fitting political lesson. He asserted that public patience was wearing thin and that leaders who indulged in negativity would face consequences in the future.

Ponnam Prabhakar Condemns Phone Tapping, Rejects Claims of Political Vendetta

Husnabad, February 02, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Sunday strongly condemned the alleged phone tapping episode, terming it a "heinous crime" that strikes at the very roots of Telangana's self-respect and democratic ethos. Speaking in Husnabad, the minister said that the Telangana state was achieved after a collective struggle by people from all sections, and any attempt to illegally spy on citizens, officials, political leaders, and their family members amounts to a grave betrayal of that struggle.

Referring to the Telangana movement, Ponnam Prabhakar said self-respect formed the core of the fight for statehood. "After achieving Telangana through the sacrifices of the masses, indulging in phone tapping of Telangana people, officials, political leaders, and even their families

is an extremely despicable act," he asserted.

The minister criticised those who, according to him, are trying to create chaos by portraying the ongoing investigation as political vendetta. He said that whenever individuals connected to the case are summoned as part of the inquiry, attempts are being made to turn it into a public controversy by calling for aggressive and even violent protests to gain political mileage.

Ponnam Prabhakar alleged that the same people now crying foul had, in the past, intruded into the private lives of many individuals by tapping phones and secretly collecting sensitive information. "You interfered in people's financial affairs, businesses, political activities, jobs, and even family matters by illegally peeping into their personal communications," he said, adding that the anguish now being displayed was



misplaced. Dismissing allegations of conspiracy or political witch-hunt, the minister categorically stated that the law was taking its own course. "There is no vendetta or hidden agenda in this investigation. It is a legal process, and the truth will come out through due procedure," he said.

Ponnam Prabhakar advised those facing allegations to cooperate with the investigation instead of resorting to

diversionary politics. "If you believe you have not committed any wrongdoing, prove your innocence during the inquiry. Creating false narratives of political revenge will not help," he remarked. He further cautioned against misleading the public by branding the probe as an act of political hostility. According to the minister, such narratives were being deliberately pushed to divert attention from the

seriousness of the allegations and to gain sympathy. Reiterating faith in the judicial and investigative processes, Ponnam Prabhakar said that accountability was essential in a democracy and no one was above the law. He concluded by urging political parties and leaders to respect the investigation and allow institutions to function independently, rather than inciting unrest for narrow political gains.

Telangana Sahithi Decade Celebrations on Feb 21-22 at AV

Hyderabad, February 2, 2026 | TPN Bureau
 Telangana Sahithi will organise its Decade Celebrations on February 21 and 22 at AV College, Hyderabad, marking ten years of its literary journey in the state. The announcement was made by Telangana Sahithi State General Secretary K. Anandachari during the unveiling of the event poster on Monday. The poster was jointly released at AV College by College Principal Dr C. H. Rajalingam, Telangana Sahithi State General Secretary K. Anandachari, and journalist-editor R. Ramesh. Speaking on the occasion, Anandachari said Telangana Sahithi has been active-

ly promoting literature across the state for the past decade by conducting various literary programmes. He noted that five literary festivals have already been organised so far, and the sixth edition is being held as a special Decade Literary Festival in association with the Telugu Department of AV College. As part of the celebrations, poetry and essay writing competitions on the theme of "Anti-Drugs" are being organised for degree and postgraduate students. Anandachari urged students to make full use of the opportunity to showcase their literary talent while also spreading awareness on socially relevant issues. He added that



eminent literary figures from across Telangana, along with noted personalities from other states, would be participating in the two-day festival. AV College Principal Dr C. H. Rajalingam said the college was pleased to collaborate with Telangana Sahithi for the Literary Festival. He remarked that such programmes

play an important role in bringing literature closer to students and nurturing creative thinking among the youth. He assured that the Telugu Department of the college would extend full cooperation for the successful conduct of the festival. Several dignitaries and faculty members attended the programme, including

Telangana Sahithi State Treasurer Anantoju Mohan Krishna, Assistant Secretary S. K. Saleem, AV College Telugu Department Head Dr G. Bhaskar Yadav, Physics Department Head Manjula Devi, Chemistry Department Head Dr Jagannmohan Reddy, Assistant Professors Sudharani and Haripriya, along with other

teaching staff, college management representatives, and students. The organisers expressed confidence that the Telangana Sahithi Decade Celebrations would serve as a vibrant platform for literary exchange, encourage young writers, and further strengthen the literary movement in the state.



Missing Children Traced Within Hours Using CCTV by Jeedimetla Police



Quthbullapur, February 2, 2026 | TPN Bureau
 A tense situation prevailed in the Jeedimetla police station limits late on Sunday night after two minor children went missing from their home following a reprimand from their parents. Swift action by the Jeedimetla police, aided by CCTV footage, led to the children being traced safely within hours. According to police, Naresh, a resident of Jeedimetla, lodged a complaint stating that his son and daughter had stepped out of the house around 12.30 am and did not return. Alarmed by their absence, the parents immediately approached

the police seeking help. Acting promptly on the complaint, Jeedimetla police registered a case under the supervision of Sub-Inspector Naidu. Along with Constable Naresh, the police team began an extensive search operation, closely examining CCTV cameras installed in and around the locality to track the children's movements. The police continued their search throughout the night, carefully following the trail captured by surveillance cameras. Their efforts paid off in the early hours of Monday, when both the children — a boy and a girl — were located safely. The minors were subsequently handed over to their



relieved parents. During preliminary inquiry, the police found that the children had left home after being scolded by their parents for neglecting their studies. Officials said the children, acting impulsively, walked out without informing anyone, leading to panic in the family. Jeedimetla Circle Inspector Gaddam Malleham advised parents to handle children sensitively and communicate with them in a patient and understanding manner. He noted that young children are often prone to taking hasty decisions under emotional stress and

stressed the importance of parental empathy and dialogue in resolving such situations. The timely and efficient action of SI Naidu and Constable Naresh was widely appreciated by senior police officials and local residents. Tracing the missing children during late-night hours was hailed as a clear example of police alertness, coordination, and effective use of technology. The incident once again highlighted the crucial role of CCTV surveillance and quick police response in ensuring public safety, especially in cases involving minors.

Mallanna Jathara Fills Bowrampet with Devotion; MLC Shambipur Raju Takes Part in Special Pujas

Quthbullapur, February 2, 2026 | TPN Bureau
 Bowrampet village in the Dundigal Circle came alive with devotion and spiritual fervour on Monday as the annual Mallanna Jathara was celebrated with grandeur. The village reverberated with chants and prayers as devotees from surrounding areas gathered in large numbers to seek the blessings of the presiding village deity, Mallanna Swamy. As part of the festivities, Medchal district BRS party president and Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) Shambipur Raju attended the jathara as the chief guest. He offered special prayers to Mallanna Swamy and participated in the rituals with devotion. Speaking on the occasion, Shambipur Raju prayed for the good health, peace, and prosperity of all people, expressing hope that the deity's blessings would bring happiness and harmony to every



household. The MLC noted that traditional village festivals like the Mallanna Jathara play a vital role in preserving rural culture and strengthening social unity. He said such celebrations bring people together beyond social and political differences and reinforce collective faith and cultural values. Later, an annadanam (community feast) organised at the temple premises was inaugu-

rated by former Bowrampet councillor Shambipur Krishna. Devotees participated peacefully in the annadanam and received the blessings of Mallanna Swamy, adding to the spiritual atmosphere of the event. Several prominent leaders and local representatives attended the programme, including Bowrampet PACS Chairman Middela Bal Reddy, former councillor Narasreddy Srinivas Reddy,

senior BRS leaders S. V. Surender Reddy, Police Govind Reddy, Dharma Reddy, Murali Yadav, Vishnuvardhan Reddy, along with local public representatives, temple committee members, and village elders. The smooth conduct of the jathara and the large turnout of devotees reflected the deep-rooted faith of the people and the cultural significance of the Mallanna festival in the region.

Workers' Lives Shattered After Factory Closure, Protest Erupts at Super Max Gate

Quthbullapur, February 2, 2026 | TPN Bureau
 Emotional scenes unfolded outside the Super Max company gate in Jeedimetla on Monday as workers and their families staged a protest, alleging that the closure of the company and non-payment of salaries for the past three years had pushed them into extreme distress. Many workers claimed the situation had become so unbearable that several colleagues lost their lives due to stress-related heart attacks. The dharna was organised under the banner of the Super Max Company Joint Action Committee (JAC) along with various trade unions. Leaders from CITU, AITUC, INTUC and BRS-affiliated trade unions, including Keelukani Laxman, Umamahesh, Gunja Srinivas and Ravi Singh, participated in the protest and highlighted what they described as the "tragic reality" of workers' lives. Addressing the gathering, union leaders said the prolonged non-payment of wages had

completely disrupted the lives of workers. They alleged that many workers were unable to pay their children's school fees, clear house rents, or repay mounting debts. As a result, several workers reportedly suffered severe mental stress, leading to heart attacks and untimely deaths. Protesters said even funeral expenses of deceased workers were borne by fellow workers through collections, underscoring the depth of their suffering. The workers alleged that despite repeatedly approaching courts, labour offices and political leaders for justice, they received no relief. "Our footwear has worn out running from one office to another, but no one has listened to us," one worker lamented during the protest. Adding to their anguish, JAC leaders accused the management of secretly shifting valuable machinery from the Jeedimetla unit to Himachal Pradesh over several weeks. They questioned who arranged the transport vehicles and under which



company's bills the machinery was moved. The protesters alleged that even the police failed to provide clear answers on the issue, raising suspicions of collusion. Workers also expressed anger towards political leaders who, according to them, promised support during elections but failed to stand by them over the past three years. They demanded immediate intervention by labour department officials and public representatives to ensure payment of pending wages and settlement of dues. Warning of intensified agitation, the JAC announced that if justice was not delivered, they would form a larger joint platform with all trade unions in Med-

chal district and launch a massive padayatra from Jeedimetla to the Anjaiah Bhavan Labour Office with thousands of workers. The protesters further demanded that an IRP decision be taken in favour of workers and alleged that the role of the former management, particularly Malhotra, in the machinery transfer should be investigated. They demanded his immediate removal from the Committee of Creditors. The protest saw participation from Super Max JAC leaders Eshwar Rao, Lakshma Reddy, Suresh, Ravinder and Srinivas, along with a large number of women workers, who raised their voices demanding dignity, justice and survival.

CPM Submits Memorandum to Deputy Commissioner Over Pragathi Nagar Civic Issues

Quthbullapur, February 2, 2026 | TPN Bureau
 The Communist Party of India (Marxist) has raised serious concerns over long-pending civic problems in Pragathi Nagar under the Nizampet Circle, submitting a detailed memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner demanding immediate remedial measures. Leaders of the CPM Bachupally Mandal Committee said residents have been facing severe hardships due to poor drainage systems and deteriorating road conditions, with authorities repeatedly ignoring their representations. According to CPM leaders, several localities in Pragathi Nagar are witnessing frequent drainage overflows, causing wastewater to spill onto roads. This has resulted in stagnant water, foul smell, and unhygienic conditions, making it extremely difficult for pedestrians and commuters to move safely. They warned that the situation could worsen during the upcoming summer and monsoon seasons, posing serious health risks to residents, including the spread of



mosquito-borne and water-borne diseases. The memorandum highlighted that the condition of internal roads in Pragathi Nagar has become highly irregular and unsafe. Potholes, broken stretches, and incomplete patchwork have turned daily travel into an ordeal for residents, schoolchildren, and senior citizens. The CPM demanded immediate patchwork on damaged roads and the complete reconstruction of severely affected stretches instead of temporary repairs. In addition to drainage and road issues, the party also urged the authorities to install bus shelters at key locations in Pragathi Nagar. CPM leaders pointed out that commuters, especially women, elderly people, and students, are forced to wait in the open under harsh sunlight and

heavy rains due to the absence of proper shelters. They stressed that providing basic commuter facilities is a fundamental responsibility of civic authorities. Addressing the media, CPM Bachupally Mandal Secretary Venkata Ramaiah said that residents have submitted multiple petitions in the past, but no concrete action has been taken so far. "People are suffering every day, yet officials continue to ignore these issues. If the problems are not resolved at the earliest, we will intensify our struggle," he warned. He added that the CPM would continue its agitation until lasting solutions are implemented on the ground. District Committee member Santosh said the negligence of civic authorities reflects a lack of accountability towards taxpayers. He

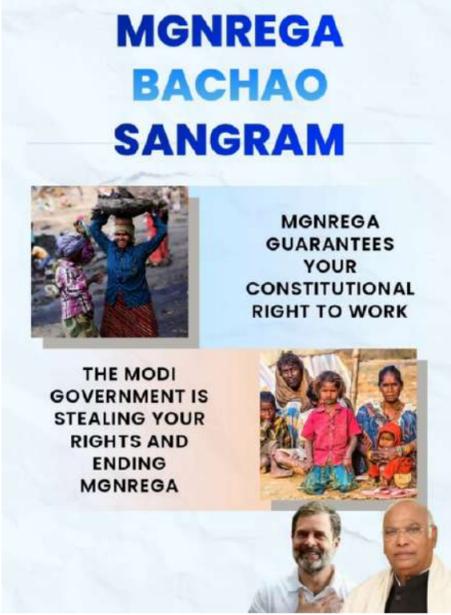
demanded a time-bound action plan from the administration to address drainage, roads, and public infrastructure issues in Pragathi Nagar. Several CPM leaders participated in the submission of the memorandum, including Mandal Committee members Bala Venkateshwar Rao, Venkata Raju, Koteswara Rao, PVN Raju, Laxmudu, Kumaraswamy, Venkata Rao, and Swamy. They expressed solidarity with the residents and assured them of continued support. The CPM stated that if the administration fails to respond positively, the party would consider launching protests and public demonstrations to compel the authorities to act and ensure basic civic amenities for the people of Pragathi Nagar.

Congress Launches 'MGNREGA Bachao' Campaign, Warns Against Diluting Employment Guarantee Act

Nagarkurnool, February 2, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Congress party has intensified its fight to protect the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), warning that proposed changes to the law threaten the livelihoods of rural poor. As part of the "MGNREGA Bachao - VB - Gram G Hatao" programme, senior Congress leaders on Sunday visited Budda Thanda in Achampet mandal and Chenchugudem village in Balmur mandal, where they interacted directly with MGNREGA workers and held village-level meetings.

During the gram sabhas held in Budda Thanda and Chenchugudem, resolutions were passed opposing amendments to the MGNREGA Act and condemning what the party described as the misuse and dilution of the legislation. Workers raised concerns over reduced workdays, delayed payments, and policy changes that they



fear will weaken the scheme. Addressing a media conference, AICC General Secretary and Telangana Congress affairs in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan expressed serious concern over attempts to amend the

Employment Guarantee Act. She said MGNREGA has acted as a protective shield for rural poor by providing assured employment and income security, and any move to weaken the scheme would amount

to grave injustice.

"At a time when employment opportunities in rural areas are shrinking, the MGNREGA should be strengthened, not diluted," Meenakshi Natarajan said. She demanded that all efforts to curtail the scope of the Act or reduce its funding be stopped immediately. Emphasising the Congress party's stand, she asserted that the party would always be at the forefront in protecting the rights of the poor and working classes.

DCC president and MLA Dr Chikkudu Vamsi Krishna said changes to the Act would directly hit the survival of lakhs of rural families. He alleged that the Centre's policies were undermining a landmark welfare programme that guarantees dignity of labour and financial stability to the poorest sections.

Adivasi Congress chairman and MLC Shankar Naik highlighted the importance of MGNREGA for tribal and remote areas, stat-

ing that it remains the backbone of livelihood support for Adivasi communities. He warned that weakening the scheme would disproportionately affect marginalised groups.

Several senior leaders participated in the programme, including District Library Organisation Chairman Rajender, Municipal Chairman Garlapati Srinivasulu, Market Committee Chairman Antati Rajita Mallesh, Block Congress President Gopal Reddy, former MPP Ram-anatham, mandal party presidents Katta Anantha Reddy and Narasaiyah Yadav, along with leaders Venkata Reddy, Hari Narayana Goud, Anand, Balaram Goud, youth and women Congress leaders.

Large numbers of MGNREGA workers and villagers attended the meetings, voicing their support for the campaign and demanding the protection and expansion of the employment guarantee scheme.

Ponnamp Prabhakar Campaigns for Congress Candidates in Husnabad Municipal Polls



Husnabad, February 02, 2026 | TPN Bureau

State Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar intensified the election campaign in support of Congress party candidates in the Husnabad Municipal elections, appealing to voters to ensure a decisive victory for the party in the polls scheduled on February 11.

The minister conducted an extensive door-to-door campaign in Ward No. 12 for Congress candidate Kesaveni Ramesh and in Ward No. 13 for Pachimatla Srikanth. Interacting directly with residents, Ponnamp Prabhakar urged voters to cast their ballots in favour of the Congress candidates by voting for the party's hand symbol, asserting that a Congress-led municipal council would accelerate development in the town.

During his interactions, the minister highlighted the development works already undertaken in Husnabad and assured residents that pending issues in various wards were being systematically addressed. He stated that several infrastructure

projects were progressing simultaneously across the town, including the completion of CC roads and drainage systems in all wards.

Ponnamp Prabhakar detailed major ongoing and proposed projects, such as the construction of a 250-bed government hospital, an engineering college, and the comprehensive development of Ellamma Cheruvu and Kotha Cheruvu. He also referred to junction beautification works aimed at improving urban aesthetics and traffic flow.

Emphasising employment generation, the minister announced that an industrial corridor was being planned for Husnabad to create job opportunities for local youth. In addition, an Urban Forest Park is being developed to enhance green cover and provide recreational space for residents.

The minister also underscored the welfare initiatives being implemented by the Congress government, including Indiramma housing schemes, issuance of new ration cards, supply of fine rice

through the public distribution system, 200 units of free electricity, and free bus travel for women in RTC services. He added that interest-free loans were being provided to women, along with skill training through SETWIN, enabling them to pursue self-employment opportunities.

Ponnamp Prabhakar said that greater progress would be possible if Congress councillors were elected, working in coordination with the state government and his efforts as the local legislator. He announced plans to establish a fisheries market and cold storage facility near Ellamma Cheruvu, construct a Mudiraj Bhavan, and set up a Shadikhaana. Addressing the needs of the Veeramusti community, he said funds of 25 lakh each would be sanctioned in two phases for land-related works.

Concluding his campaign, the minister appealed to voters to support Congress candidates to ensure the successful continuation of development and welfare programmes in Husnabad.

Centre Ignored Adilabad in Union Budget, Says Congress Leader



Adilabad, February 2, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Congress Party has strongly criticized the Union government for allegedly neglecting Adilabad district in the recently presented Union Budget, accusing local BJP representatives of failing to secure key development projects for the region. Congress district spokesperson Pasula Chanti said the budget reflected "clear discrimination" against Adilabad and Telangana as a whole.

Addressing a press conference in Both town, Pasula Chanti expressed disappointment

that long-pending demands such as an airport for Adilabad, a university, the Armur-Adilabad railway line, revival of the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), and funds for the Hyderabad-Nagpur Industrial Corridor were completely ignored. He alleged that despite Adilabad electing four MLAs, the district has not even been able to secure a single university, highlighting what he termed the failure of elected representatives.

Chanti directly targeted Adilabad MP Gadam Nagesh, alleging that he

lacked sincerity in pursuing the Armur-Adilabad railway line project. He said repeated assurances were given, but no concrete steps were visible on the ground. "This budget itself stands as proof that local MPs and MLAs have failed to translate words into action," he remarked.

The Congress leader further alleged that not only Adilabad but the entire state of Telangana suffered injustice in the Union Budget. He claimed that proposals submitted by the Telangana government were ignored and accused the

Centre of using southern states merely for vote-bank politics while denying them their rightful share of development funds.

Criticising budgetary allocations, Pasula Chanti said funds for agriculture, employment generation, and rural development were reduced. He pointed out that there were no special packages for backward districts and no dedicated road projects for people living in hilly and remote areas. He also alleged that increasing prices of raw materials used in fertilizers would burden farmers further and deepen agrarian distress.

On housing, he said the Centre failed to enhance assistance for poor families, noting that rural beneficiaries were allocated only 72,000, which he described as inadequate and reflective of the BJP's "narrow mindset." He also termed it ironic that the Centre did not increase Kisan

Samman Nidhi assistance from 6,000 to 10,000 despite repeated promises.

Demanding accountability, Pasula Chanti urged Telangana MPs and MLAs to speak up and fight for the state's rights. He said people of Adilabad were closely watching and would respond politically if their aspirations continued to be ignored.

The press meet was attended by Both Agricultural Market Committee Chairman Bhoddu Gangareddy, ATMA Chairman Gorla Raju Yadav, former MP TC Chatla Umesh, market director Mohammed Abrar, ATMA director Raheemuddin, Dhannur deputy sarpanch Karam Ravi, Chamender Reddy, Mohammed, Atram Sushila, ATMA director Gaddala Narayana, Anil Appa, former sarpanch Merugu Narasimha Das, Ittedi Raju Reddy, youth leader Achyutanand Reddy, and several party leaders and workers.

Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy Slams BRS, Calls for United Congress Push in Municipal Polls

Jangaon / Siddipet, February 10, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Bhongir Member of Parliament Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy launched a sharp attack on the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) during a media interaction held in Jangaon district, accusing the party of indulging in "covert politics" and anti-democratic practices to cling to power.

The press meet followed the announcement of Congress party candidates for municipal elections in Jangaon and Cheriala. Out of 30 wards in Jangaon Municipality, Congress announced candidates for 25 wards. Candidates were also declared for 12 wards in Cheriala Municipality. The announcements were made jointly by Jangaon Dis-

trict DCC president Lakavath Dhanvanti, Jangaon Assembly constituency in-charge Kommuri Pratap Reddy, and MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy.

Addressing the media, the MP cautioned Congress leaders and cadre to remain vigilant against what he termed "samaaveda dandopayalu" and covert tactics allegedly employed by certain leaders to win elections through unfair means. He alleged that some MLAs were indulging in deceptive politics while remaining within the party framework, and asserted that those betraying the Congress from within were free to leave.

Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy strongly criticised BRS leaders for staging protests across the state over SIT notic-



es, calling it hypocrisy. He alleged that during the BRS regime, phone tapping was carried out using sophisticated equipment brought from Israel. He claimed that prominent leaders were targeted, naming Palla Rajeshwar Reddy as one among five key individuals allegedly involved in the phone tapping episode. He further said that even BRS leader Kavitha had acknowledged that phones of couples were tapped during that period.

The MP accused the

BRS leadership of amassing thousands of crores in illegal wealth during its decade-long rule, despite repeatedly claiming to seek no positions of power. "Talking about self-respect after looting public resources is shameful," he remarked, questioning whether the same self-respect was remembered when activists were arrested during the Telangana movement or when figures like Professor Kodandaram and revolutionary singer Gaddar were allegedly

harassed.

He alleged that sensing defeat in the December 4 elections, phone tapping data was destroyed at the intelligence office. According to him, the KCR family is now in disarray after losing power due to its "unbridled hunger for authority."

Calling for unity within the Congress, Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy urged leaders to set aside internal differences and ensure the Congress flag is hoisted in Cheriala Municipality. He challenged Cheriala MLA Palla Rajeshwar Reddy to win elections honestly, without resorting to bogus votes or backdoor methods, warning that any repeat of "fraudulent politics" would be answered decisively by voters.

Errolla Srinivas Slams Congress Over Two Lakh Jobs Promise

Hyderabad, February 02, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Former SC and ST Commission Chairman Errolla Srinivas on Sunday came down heavily on the Congress party and TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud for allegedly diluting and denying the party's election promise of providing two lakh jobs within one year of coming to power. He termed the recent remarks made by the PCC chief as "deceitful" and accused the Congress of betraying unemployed youth across Telangana.

Reacting sharply to Mahesh Kumar Goud's statement that the Congress never promised two lakh jobs in the first year, Errolla Srinivas said the comments were an insult to the intelligence of job aspirants. "Are you trying to mislead the unemployed by planting flowers in their ears?" he questioned, adding that such statements amount to political dishonesty.

Errolla Srinivas reminded the Congress leadership that the

promise was clearly documented in the Hyderabad Youth Declaration released during the election campaign in the presence of Priyanka Gandhi and Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. He pointed out that the assurance of filling two lakh jobs was written as the very first point on the first page of the declaration. "Will you now trample upon a written promise given to youth just to suit your convenience after gaining power?" he asked.

He alleged that before the elections, Congress leaders aggressively campaigned through newspaper advertisements and public meetings, repeatedly declaring that two lakh jobs would be provided within one year. "At that time, they shouted from rooftops to attract votes. Now, after assuming office, they are conveniently saying the promise was meant for the full five-year term. This is nothing but cheating Telangana's unemployed youth," he said.

Errolla Srinivas said that in nearly two years of Congress rule, the government had independently filled fewer than 5,000 jobs by issuing fresh notifications and conducting examinations. "The remaining jobs were all processed and finalised during the tenure of former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao," he alleged.

Criticising the Congress government's claim of providing 60,000 jobs, Errolla Srinivas asserted that the credit did not belong to the present regime. He said the recruitment notifications were issued during the BRS government's tenure, examinations were conducted by the previous government, and the entire recruitment process, including certificate verification, was completed before the change in power. "After everything was ready, the Congress government merely handed over appointment letters like postmen and claimed credit. This is shameful," he remarked.

He further claimed that in nearly two years of Congress rule, the government had independently filled fewer than 5,000 jobs by issuing fresh notifications and conducting examinations. "The remaining jobs were all processed and finalised during the tenure of former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao," he alleged.



Budget 2026: Why Kerala Feels Overlooked



The announcement of India's Union Budget for 2026-27 was met with a mixture of anticipation and apprehension in Kerala. This southern state, known for its high literacy, dynamic workforce, flourishing tourism, and significant contributions to foreign exchange through remittances, had high hopes that the nation's financial blueprint would reflect its developmental priorities. When the Budget was finally presented, however, those hopes quickly turned into disappointment. The glaring omissions in key allocations left many Malayalis wondering whether Kerala had been rendered invisible in the national fiscal imagination.

For a state that regularly punches above its weight in education, healthcare, and human capital, the Budget's silence was loud. There was no announcement of a new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), no inclusion of Kerala in the upcoming high-speed rail corridors, no dedicated last-mile connectivity support for the strategically important Vizhinjam Port, and no special

financial packages to bolster critical infrastructure. This was especially surprising given that 2026 is an election year in Kerala — a context in which inclusive fiscal decisions are often expected.

The sting of these omissions was felt even more keenly because Kerala's own state budget had depended on an assumption of central support that the Union Budget did not fulfil. What was presented instead was a stark reminder of the political and economic realities that shape intergovernmental relations: without alignment with the central government's priorities, a state can find itself sidelined in national planning.

The Political Calculus Behind the Numbers

Part of the explanation for this perceived neglect lies in electoral mathematics. With political forecasts suggesting limited electoral prospects for the ruling national party in Kerala, the Budget's content appeared to reflect a calculated decision: if significant votes are unlikely to come from a state, why craft the

Budget to specifically serve it? This line of thinking, whether explicit or implicit, underscores the uncomfortable intersection of politics and policy.

Simultaneously, critics within Kerala argue that the state government has not been effective in putting forward credible, bankable proposals that could attract central investment. Instead of presenting well-funded, thoroughly planned projects, Kerala's leadership has sometimes offered abstract proposals or ideas that lack clear financial backing. In the absence of compelling proposals, even well-meaning intentions can appear weak in negotiations with the Centre.

Caught in the crossfire of these political and administrative tussles is the everyday citizen — the worker, the student, the entrepreneur, and the farmer. For many in Kerala, the budget feels less like a document of national progress and more like a distant list of priorities that have little relevance to their daily lives.

Infrastructure Misses That Hurt

Several specific omissions in the budget highlight how Kerala's development concerns were underplayed. Vizhinjam Port, envisioned as a gateway to global maritime trade with the depth and capacity to host the world's largest container vessels, was largely ignored when it came to supporting road and rail connectivity. This oversight could undermine the port's

potential, negating its economic value not only for Kerala but also for India's broader trade ambitions.

Similarly, while the central government announced the activation of numerous national waterways, it was unclear how many would tangibly benefit Kerala. The state, endowed with a unique inland waterway network and 44 rivers, could have been a natural candidate for projects that expand the utility of these waterways. Yet investment in Kerala's water transport infrastructure barely featured in the national plan.

Beyond transport, environmental and coastal concerns also went largely unaddressed. Kerala's coastline is increasingly threatened by erosion, with communities losing land and livelihoods to the encroaching sea. Concrete investments in seawalls, groynes, and other protective measures — critical for safeguarding coastal districts and fisherfolk — were absent from the Union Budget. In contrast to how the country reacts to external security threats, responses to internal environmental threats seemed muted.

Agricultural and allied sectors, where Kerala has significant strengths, also received limited targeted interventions. The state produces a majority of the country's rubber yet lacks substantial central support to rejuvenate aging plantations, support labour shortages, or improve tapping technologies. Such gaps in fiscal support undermine Kerala's comparative advantages and leave produc-

ers vulnerable.

The cultural heritage sector, another area where Kerala shines, was also sidelined. Despite the Budget's focus on developing archaeological sites into cultural destinations, major sites in Kerala — such as the remnants of Muziris and Pattanam — were overlooked. Likewise, tourism initiatives celebrated the Himalayas and mountain landscapes, while neglecting Kerala's backwaters — a world-famous ecosystem deeply woven into the state's tourism economy.

Education and Research: A Missed Opportunity

The absence of a new National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPEER) for Kerala was another notable omission. With strong public health institutions and a thriving medical education ecosystem, Kerala appeared a natural choice for such an institute. Instead, the National Institutes were proposed for other parts of the country, leaving a glaring gap in research infrastructure for southern India. Expanding advanced research capacity in pharmaceutical sciences could have strengthened both health outcomes and economic competitiveness — not just for Kerala, but for the country as a whole.

Small Mentions, Big Symbolism

There was, however, one mention of Kerala — albeit in an unexpectedly minor context. The Budget included the state in a proposed "Turtle

Trail" initiative, aimed at highlighting key turtle nesting sites. While eco-tourism and conservation are important, many critics felt that this gesture paled in comparison to the absence of strategic investments in infrastructure, industry, and human development.

On a more positive note, the long-awaited Rare Earths Mission — an initiative to harness Kerala's mineral sands and build value chains in mining, refining, and processing — was finally announced. But the upside came with a caveat: the full implementation would take over a decade, illustrating once again how slow and uncertain fiscal attention can be when it comes to Kerala's developmental needs.

The Broader Implications

This Budget has prompted a broader debate about federalism, political representation, and economic inclusiveness. Kerala sees itself as an integral part of India's social and economic fabric — contributing disproportionately to the nation's skilled workforce, tourism brand, and foreign exchange stock. Yet the sense that it was almost invisible in the nation's fiscal blueprint has struck many as a profound disconnect.

For Kerala to thrive, critics argue, it needs more than sympathy or token mentions. What is required is sustained advocacy, coherent proposals, and political influence that can translate aspirations into tangible funding commitments. This challenge extends to political actors at the

state level, who must build coalitions, negotiate effectively with central authorities, and demonstrate readiness to implement ambitious projects.

Moreover, the broader political parties — particularly Congress and other opposition forces — see in this context an opportunity to reframe Kerala's relationship with the Centre. Rather than resorting to rhetoric, they argue, there needs to be a focused strategy that bridges regional identity with national purpose, aligning Kerala's development needs with India's growth trajectory.

Conclusion: Visibility, Voice, and Value

The Union Budget 2026 has certainly generated vigorous debate in Kerala. For many, it has brought into sharp relief the question of "visibility": whether Kerala's contributions and needs are genuinely acknowledged in national policy; whether its citizens feel represented in the allocation of resources; and whether fiscal federalism truly translates into equitable development.

Kerala may feel invisible in this Budget, but its economic and cultural engines remain powerful. Its diaspora, its workforce, and its unique social model continue to add value across India and beyond. The challenge now is to ensure that this value is matched with voice and vision — in budgets, in policy decisions, and in the future economic architecture of the country.

India's Tax Burden Is Falling on the Wrong Shoulders

India's middle class entered the Union Budget season with cautious optimism. After years of rising inflation, stagnant wages, growing household expenses, and increasing job insecurity, especially in white-collar sectors like IT and services, salaried taxpayers hoped for meaningful tax relief. The expectation was simple: if the government wants consumption to drive economic growth, it must leave more money in the hands of those who spend the most. However, the latest budget failed to meet these expectations, reinforcing the growing belief that India's tax burden is increasingly falling on the wrong shoulders — the middle class.

At the core of this issue is a structural imbalance in India's taxation system. While the economy relies heavily on domestic consumption, the very group responsible for sustaining that consumption is under mounting financial pressure. Instead of broad-based relief, the government has chosen fiscal restraint, arguing that significant tax benefits were already extended in previous budgets. For middle-income households struggling to manage rising costs, this explanation offers little comfort.

What the Budget Delivered — and What It Missed

In the previous financial year, the government introduced a major tax reform by raising the tax-free income threshold under the new tax regime. This step provided immediate relief to a large segment of salaried individuals and was widely welcomed. As a result, expectations were high that the current budget would build on this momentum.

One of the most anticipated changes was an increase in the standard deduction for salaried employees. With living costs climbing steadily, raising this deduction could have provided meaningful relief to millions of taxpayers. Instead, the government chose to keep it unchanged, citing global economic uncertainty, trade pressures, and the need to adhere to fiscal deficit targets.

The market reaction reflected broader concerns. Stock indices declined sharply after

the budget announcement, signalling investor unease about demand prospects and consumer sentiment. When disposable incomes remain under pressure, consumption weakens, and that inevitably affects business confidence and investment outlook.

The government's defence has been that last year's tax relief was substantial and that repeating such measures annually is not fiscally sustainable. It also pointed to reductions in indirect taxes and improvements in compliance. While these arguments may be valid from a fiscal standpoint, they overlook the everyday realities faced by middle-class households.

Why Consumption Is Critical for India's Growth

India's economic model is fundamentally different from export-driven economies. Domestic consumption accounts for a dominant share of GDP, making household spending the single most important growth engine. Private investment, on the other hand, has remained relatively stagnant for years, limiting its role in driving economic expansion.

In such a scenario, sustaining consumption is not optional — it is essential. For consumption to grow, households need disposable income. Yet, rising taxes, stagnant wages, and increasing costs of essentials leave little room for discretionary spending. When families are forced to prioritise necessities over consumption, economic growth inevitably slows.

The budget's failure to significantly boost disposable income therefore raises a crucial question: how does the government plan to stimulate consumption without easing the tax burden on its primary contributors?

Wages Lag Behind Inflation

Compounding the problem is the widening gap between wage growth and inflation. Over the past several years, salary increases in many sectors have failed to keep pace with rising prices. This means that even when nominal incomes rise slightly, real purchasing power continues to decline.

Expenses related to housing, education, healthcare,



transportation, and food have increased sharply, leaving middle-class households squeezed from all sides. In this context, the absence of meaningful tax relief further reduces spending capacity. Any marginal gains from tax reforms are quickly eroded by inflation, making it harder for families to save or invest.

This erosion of real income does not just affect individual households; it has broader economic consequences. Lower spending reduces demand, weakens business growth, and discourages private investment — creating a vicious cycle.

GST Reforms and the Illusion of Relief

The government has repeatedly highlighted the next phase of Goods and Services Tax reforms as a major step toward simplifying taxation and lowering prices. While some sectors have benefited from lower rates, the impact on everyday household expenses has been limited.

For many consumers, prices of essential goods such as food items and medicines have not declined noticeably. In several cases, the benefits of tax reductions have been absorbed within supply chains rather than passed on to end consumers. Retail prices often remain unchanged, despite lower tax rates, leading to widespread scepticism about the effectiveness of these reforms.

While durable goods and big-ticket items may have become cheaper, these do little to ease the daily financial stress faced by middle-class families, whose largest expenses are recurring and unavoidable.

An Unequal Tax Burden

Perhaps the most striking aspect of India's current tax structure is the growing reliance on personal income tax. Despite the fact that only a

small fraction of the population pays income tax, individual taxpayers contribute a disproportionately large share of total government revenue.

In contrast, corporate tax collections remain lower, even though businesses benefit from various incentives and concessions. This has led to a situation where salaried employees — whose taxes are deducted at source and difficult to evade — bear a heavier burden than other sections of the economy.

This imbalance raises serious questions about fairness. Middle-class taxpayers often have limited avenues for tax planning and few buffers against economic shocks. Yet they continue to be the most reliable source of revenue for the state.

The Way Forward

The government undoubtedly faces complex challenges. Maintaining fiscal discipline, managing global uncertainties, and funding infrastructure and welfare programs are not easy tasks. However, over-reliance on the middle class as a revenue source is neither sustainable nor equitable.

If India wants consumption-led growth to remain strong, it must ensure that households have sufficient disposable income. This could be achieved through targeted tax relief, periodic adjustments to deductions, or policies that ensure wage growth keeps pace with inflation. Equally important is ensuring that indirect tax reductions translate into real price relief for consumers.

The middle class has consistently supported India's growth story — as taxpayers, consumers, and contributors to economic stability. Recognising their role and easing their financial burden is not just a matter of fairness; it is essential for the country's long-term economic health.

Union Budget 2026-27: Big Promises for Growth, Small Steps for India's Children

When Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented her ninth consecutive Union Budget, the message was loud and confident: India is marching towards Viksit Bharat. With ₹12.2 lakh crore capital expenditure, new railway corridors, rare earth hubs, chemical parks, and a girls' hostel in every district, Budget 2026-27 makes a strong case for infrastructure-led growth.

Chapter 11 of Economic Survey 2025-26, "Education and Health: What Works and What's Next," notes that children and adolescents remain a significant portion of India's population.

"In 2024, nearly 27 per cent of India's population was in the school-going age group (3-18 years), even by 2047, this age group will account for over 20 per cent."

This demographic outlook positions children as central to India's sustained development trajectory, rendering the scope and quality of public investments in them a priority of lasting significance.

But as the nation marked its 77th Republic Day just days earlier, a fundamental question demands attention: where do India's children fit into this vision of growth?

At first glance, the numbers seem reassuring. The Budget for Children (BfC) has increased by 13.92 per cent in absolute terms, rising from ₹1.16 lakh crore in 2025-26 to ₹1.32 lakh crore in 2026-27. The share of children in the Union Budget has inched up from 2.29 per cent to 2.47 per cent. Yet, beneath this incremental rise lies a sobering truth: children's share in the national budget remains below pre-COVID levels, and far below what a country with 27 per cent of its population under 18 should be committing.

As per the HAQ: Centre for Child Rights Analysis. The sectoral composition of this allocation reveals long-standing imbalances. Education continues to dominate the Budget for Children, absorbing nearly three-quarters of total allocations. While education is undeniably critical, this concentration masks serious under-investment in other equally vital areas. Child health, though seeing a noticeable rise in its share of the Un-

ion Budget—from around 0.09 per cent in earlier years to 0.22 per cent in 2026-27—still remains modest given India's nutrition and health crisis. Child development has marginally declined, while child protection stagnates at a worrying 0.04 per cent of the Union Budget, once again the least prioritised sector.

This pattern becomes even clearer when examine Statement 12, the government's principal accounting of child-related schemes. Since its introduction in 2008-09, the number of ministries and programmes tagged to children has steadily increased, but the share of financial resources allocated to children has not kept pace. In 2012-13, children received 4.76 per cent of the Union Budget—the highest in recent history. In 2026-27, despite 83 programmes across multiple ministries, the share stands at just 2.47 per cent. Fewer programmes, slightly more money—but still a shrinking fiscal imagination for children.

A striking feature of this year's Statement 12 is the near-doubling of allocations under Part C—schemes where less than 30 per cent of spending is child-specific. This jump is largely due to the inclusion of the Jal Jeevan Mission. While access to safe drinking water is essential for children's health, the lack of clarity on the actual child-specific component raises concerns about inflated figures without corresponding accountability.

Flagship schemes tell a similar story of cautious continuity rather than bold correction. Samagra Shiksha, the backbone of school education and the Right to Education Act, sees only a 2.06 per cent increase, despite large unspent balances in previous years and persistent learning gaps highlighted by ASER surveys. PM POSHAN, critical in the fight against malnutrition, receives a mere 2 per cent increase—lower than allocations seen five years ago—at a time when India ranks 102 out of 123 countries in the Global Hunger Index and faces alarming levels of stunting, wasting and anaemia among children.

Child protection is perhaps the most telling indicator of government priorities. Mis-

sion Vatsalya, the flagship programme addressing children in need of care and protection, receives just ₹50 crore more than last year—a 3.33 per cent increase. Adjusted for inflation and rising caseloads of abuse, trafficking and exploitation, this is effectively a freeze. The discontinuation of the National Child Labour Project, without visible budgetary integration elsewhere, further deepens policy gaps for the most vulnerable children.

There are, undeniably, some bright spots. Eklavya Model Residential Schools see a robust 20 per cent increase, signalling a stronger focus on tribal education. A fresh allocation of ₹3,200 crore for Atal Tinkering Labs reflects renewed emphasis on STEM education and innovation. These are welcome moves—but they remain islands of progress in a sea of incrementalism.

Overall, Union Budget 2026-27 reflects a familiar pattern: ambitious rhetoric, steady infrastructure expansion, and cautious social spending. For children, the budget offers acknowledgement without centrality. The modest rise in allocations neither compensates for pandemic-era losses nor responds adequately to widening deficits in learning, nutrition, health and protection.

If Viksit Bharat is to be more than a slogan, children must move from the margins of fiscal planning to its core. Growth measured only in kilometres of roads and megawatts of power risks becoming hollow, unless matched by sustained investment in the country's youngest citizens. In Budget 2026-27, India has taken a small step forward—but for its children, the leap is still missing.



By. Rammohan Nimmaraju, HELP organisation

Parliament Erupts as Rahul Gandhi Quotes Ex Army Chief's Unpublished Memoir; Rajnath Singh Objects



A sharp political confrontation rocked the Lok Sabha after Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi attempted to cite excerpts from an unpublished memoir of former Indian Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane during his speech, leading to strong objections from senior government leaders and repeated disruptions in Parliament.

Rahul Gandhi rose to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address when he produced a printed magazine article that carried what he said were excerpts from Naravane's memoir, Four Stars of Destiny, which deals with strategic issues like the 2020 eastern Ladakh border standoff with China. Gandhi cited a line alleging that Chi-

nese tanks had come close to Indian positions during the crisis, aiming to highlight concerns about national security.

However, the choice to quote from an unpublished book immediately triggered objections. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh interrupted Gandhi, questioning the validity of using material that had not been officially published and therefore could not be verified in Parliament. He asked Gandhi to confirm whether the memoir had been released, stressing that quoting unpublished content was against established parliamentary norms.

Home Minister Amit Shah and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju joined

in, arguing that since the book had not been published or authenticated, it could not be accepted as an official source and should not be read out. The government benches challenged Gandhi's approach, saying that quoting unverifiable material set a bad precedent and could lead to misinformation being placed on the parliamentary record.

The Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Om Birla, sided with the ministers and ruled that quotations from unpublished material could not be accepted, urging Gandhi to proceed without referring to the book. The exchanges became heated at several points, with Gandhi insisting that the excerpts were "100 percent authentic" and urging that the

matter of national security be discussed.

Support for Gandhi came from some opposition members who argued that issues relating to national security should be debated fully in the House, even if they involved sensitive sources. However, the government maintained that parliamentary procedure must be respected, especially when dealing with books or documents not yet in the public domain.

The episode sparked loud reactions from both sides and ultimately led to the adjournment of the Lok Sabha for the day, underscoring the deep political divide over how sensitive strategic issues should be raised and debated within Parliament.

Punjab Dera Chief Gurinder Singh Dhillon Visits Jailed Akali Dal Leader Bikram Majithia, Calls Allegations 'Baseless'



The head of Radha Soami Satsang Beas, Baba Gurinder Singh Dhillon, recently visited Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Bikram Singh Majithia at Nabha Jail in Punjab, drawing attention from political observers and media alike.

Majithia is currently lodged in prison in connection with a disproportionate assets case. After the visit, Dhillon described the charges against Majithia as "false and baseless," asserting that the allegations lack merit. The meeting also highlighted the personal connection between the two, as Dhillon is related to Majithia's wife, Ganieve Kaur.

The jail visit took place just hours before Majithia was granted bail by the Supreme Court. He had been arrested in June 2025 by the Punjab Vigilance Bureau on alleged accumulation of disproportionate assets linked

to financial irregularities. The investigation has been high profile, with detailed charges presented in court.

During his briefing outside the jail, Dhillon emphasised that Majithia is in "high spirits" and reiterated his personal support, referring to him as a friend and family member. Dhillon stressed that meeting a relative under such circumstances was a personal matter and did not make any political statements or direct criticisms of authorities.

This was Dhillon's second meeting with Majithia in jail within a few months. Their previous encounter also attracted attention from both religious and political circles. The Radha Soami sect, with a large following in Punjab, is often closely watched for its socio-political influence, even though the institution publicly

maintains a stance of political neutrality.

News of the meeting quickly spread, prompting commentary from various quarters. Critics argued that a religious leader publicly supporting an accused political figure could blur the lines between spiritual authority and political influence. Supporters viewed the visit as a personal gesture of solidarity. The timing, shortly after the Supreme Court's bail order, further intensified public interest.

The encounter underscores the complex interplay of religion, politics, and legal matters in Punjab, particularly with elections approaching. While Dhillon's remarks focused on personal support rather than politics, the visit continues to generate discussion about the role of prominent religious figures in politically sensitive contexts.

Mamata Banerjee Alleges 'Torture of Bengalis' by Delhi Police Ahead of Meeting with Election Chief

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has accused the Delhi Police of subjecting Bengalis to "torture" and "atrocities" in the national capital as she headed to meet the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) over disputes related to the revision of electoral rolls in her state.

Banerjee arrived in New Delhi as part of a Trinamool Congress (TMC) delegation preparing to discuss what her party calls unfair practices in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter lists ahead of elections in West Bengal. The SIR has been a major flashpoint between the state government and the Election Commission of India, with the TMC alleging that the process is discriminatory and harmful to genuine voters.

Hours before the meeting with the CEC, Banerjee visited Banga Bhawan, the West Bengal government guest house in Delhi, to meet families from her state who have come to the capital in connection with the SIR issue. Speaking to the me-



dia, she claimed that Bengalis had faced harassment and intimidation by Delhi Police personnel deployed around the guest house and elsewhere.

Banerjee said she was in the city to assess the situation of those affected and to bring their concerns directly to the Election Commission. She criticised the deployment of police forces, suggesting it was meant to intimidate and create fear among those seeking justice. She contrasted the treat-

ment received in Delhi with the respect shown to visiting central leaders in West Bengal, saying that her delegation was not given the same courtesy.

Addressing officers near Banga Bhawan, she questioned why Bengali families should face restrictions when they had legitimate appointments and the right to speak out. Banerjee urged authorities to show sensitivity toward families who, according to her, have suffered losses and hardship

related to the SIR process.

Her remarks were delivered against a backdrop of rising political tensions in West Bengal, where electoral roll revision has become a central campaign issue. Banerjee and her party have strongly objected to the methods and timing of the SIR exercise, arguing that it has led to unnecessary stress, exclusions from the voter list, and hardship for vulnerable communities.

The Chief Minister's allegations add to an already contentious debate over electoral preparations in Bengal. Her delegation, which includes senior TMC leaders, planned to present a detailed list of grievances to the CEC and seek intervention on behalf of affected voters.

The mood remains tense as political parties continue to clash over the SIR process and associated administrative actions, with Banerjee urging continued resistance to what she characterises as unfair treatment of her state's people.

Who Is Shubham Lonkar, Accused in Firing Outside Rohit Shetty's Home and Baba Siddique Murder Case?

Shubham Lonkar, a name that has come under intense media and police scrutiny in recent days, is the main accused in a high profile case involving a shooting outside Bollywood director Rohit Shetty's residence in Mumbai and a murder investigation connected to businessman Baba Siddique's family.

Lonkar, in his early 20s and originally from Maharashtra, rose to public notice after he was arrested in connection with the firing incident that took place outside Shetty's home in Juhu, a high end suburb of Mumbai. According to law enforcement sources, the incident occurred when shots were fired near the filmmaker's bungalow late at night, sparking alarm among residents and prompting an immediate police response.

Investigators have described Lonkar as someone already known to authorities for his alleged involvement in criminal activities. He is believed to have links with local underworld figures and has been suspected in past violent incidents, though previous



cases did not lead to high profile charges. Law enforcement agencies say Lonkar's profile fits the pattern of young criminals who engage in extortion, intimidation and property disputes, often acting on behalf of more established criminal networks.

In the recent incident at Rohit Shetty's residence, the motive is still under investigation, with police exploring whether the firing was intended as a message or retaliation over unrelated disputes. No casualties were reported

from the shots near the actor director's home, but the gravity of the act — involving gunfire near a prominent personality's residence — has kept the case in the spotlight.

Separately, Lonkar's name has emerged in the ongoing Baba Siddique murder case, one of Mumbai's most talked about criminal cases in recent months. Baba Siddique, a well known businessman and social figure, was killed in what police initially described as a possible organised crime hit. Lonkar has been named in po-

lice records as an accused connected to the incident, though investigators are still determining the exact role he played and whether he was a direct participant or acted on someone else's behalf.

Police have not yet publicly disclosed all the evidence against Lonkar, but his connection to multiple violent cases has prompted a broader investigation into his associates and possible criminal networks he may be linked with.

As the police continue to probe both the shooting outside Rohit Shetty's residence and the Baba Siddique murder, Lonkar's custody and questioning are central to advancing these investigations. Law enforcement officials have indicated that additional charges may be filed as more information comes to light.

The unfolding cases have stirred public interest, partly due to the involvement of high profile figures and the glimpse they offer into organised crime links operating in and around Mumbai.

Actor Vijay Marks TVK's Third Anniversary With Strong Election Push, Evokes Annadurai-MGR Legacy Ahead of Tamil Nadu Polls



Tamil film star turned politician Vijay struck a confident and combative tone as he marked the third anniversary of his political party Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) — a milestone that comes just months before the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections in April 2026.

In his message to party workers and supporters, Vijay reiterated that TVK's emergence has reshaped the state's political landscape and insisted that his party is ready to compete fiercely against the established Dravidian parties. As TVK celebrates its founding, he described the 2026 election season as an "unprecedented scenario" that is shaped by his party's entry into politics and its rapid rise in public support.

Vijay used historical references to underline his vision. He compared TVK's launch to landmark moments in Tamil Nadu's political history, such as the 1967 and 1977 elections, when new parties led by C N Annadurai and M G Ra-

machandran (MGR) respectively uprooted long-standing political powers. By evoking these parallels, Vijay sought to position his party as a genuine alternative to the current political order, suggesting that the people's disappointment with existing governments had given rise to a new political force.

In remarks released in a letter ahead of his speech, Vijay called on TVK cadres to pursue "focus, unity and political action," and expressed strong confidence that with widespread public support, TVK will achieve its democratic goals. He described the party as a "vast sea" that cannot be moved from its course, signalling his belief that TVK's journey has only just begun.

Vijay also criticised the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) for what he called failures in governance, while taking a less aggressive stance toward the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) — a tactical ap-

proach observers see as an effort to not alienate voters who may swing between parties. He referenced legacy leaders, stating that TVK, like earlier movements, aims to "wipe away the tears" of people disappointed by past leadership.

The anniversary address comes amid broad political activity in the state. While TVK has made overtures to other parties, including calls for alliances, no formal coalition has been announced yet. TVK's march into electoral politics has energised its base, helped by the Election Commission's allotment of the party's whistle symbol, which has been seen as a morale booster.

Vijay's confident rhetoric signals that his party plans to play a central role in the upcoming polls, betting that his popularity and organisational build up could translate into tangible electoral success, harking back to Tamil Nadu's tradition of actor politicians rising to power.

Baloch Rebels Claim Deadly Attacks on Pakistani Forces, Highlight Use of Women 'Fidayeens'



A separatist insurgent group in Pakistan's southwestern province of Balochistan has claimed responsibility for a wave of coordinated attacks against Pakistani security forces, asserting that more than 200 personnel from the army, police and paramilitary Frontier Corps were killed during the offensive. These figures have not been independently verified, and official casualty reports remain significantly lower.

The militant organisation, known as the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), said its operation — dubbed Operation Herof Phase II — spanned over 40 hours across multiple districts, including Khاران, Mastung, Tump and Panni. In statements issued during and after the clashes, the group also claimed to have temporarily pushed back government forces in parts of Quetta

and Noshki.

In an unusual development, the BLA acknowledged the involvement of female fighters, known as "fidayeen" (suicide operatives), in some of the assaults. Among those named by the group was Asifa Mengal, who reportedly carried out a vehicle borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) attack targeting a major intelligence agency facility in Noshki. Another woman identified by the BLA was Hawa Baloch, who was featured in a message released by the group shortly before she was killed in combat.

Pakistan's Defence Minister confirmed that at least two of the attacks involved female attackers, a step that analysts say signals a tactical shift in the long running insurgency. The participation of women fighters in frontline roles has been highlighted by the BLA

as evidence of deepening commitment to their cause and has added to the psychological impact of the offensive.

While the BLA claims high casualties among security forces, the chief minister of Balochistan reported lower figures, stating that at least 17 law enforcement officers and 31 civilians were killed in the clashes. Pakistani military sources have said several separatist fighters were also killed during counter operations, with differing numbers reported in various districts as security forces pushed back insurgents.

In addition to battlefield clashes, the BLA said it detained senior local administrative officials but released them later, describing the gesture as humanitarian and asserting that the group does not see civil administrators

as enemies unless they directly support military actions.

The violence underscores the ongoing instability in Balochistan, a region that has witnessed decades of separatist insurgency over political marginalisation, control of natural resources and demands for greater autonomy or independence. The BLA is among the most prominent militant groups operating in the province, and its attacks have repeatedly targeted security installations, infrastructure and government facilities.

The situation remains fluid, with contrasting narratives emerging from militant claims and official accounts. Independent verification of the full scale of the clashes is difficult due to restricted access and ongoing military operations in the area.

India Rejects Pakistan's 'Baseless' Claims Linking It to Balochistan Violence



India has firmly rejected accusations from Pakistan that it was involved in the recent wave of violence in the southwestern province of Balochistan, describing the allegations as "baseless" and a bid to divert attention from internal issues in Islamabad.

The response from New Delhi came after Pakistani military and government officials publicly claimed that the coordinated attacks across several districts in Balochistan were supported by India. Pakistan's Interior Minister asserted that India was behind the violence, repeating long standing assertions of foreign involvement in internal security incidents.

An official spokesperson for India's Ministry of External Affairs responded to these comments by stating that the accusations were unfounded and amounted to a familiar pattern of shifting blame. "We categorically reject the baseless allegations made by Pakistan," the spokesperson said, emphasising that such claims were nothing but a tactic to deflect attention from Islam-

abad's own internal failings.

India's statement urged Pakistan to focus on addressing the long standing political and social grievances of the people of Balochistan rather than making unsubstantiated claims after every violent incident. The ministry highlighted that Pakistan's track record of dealing with dissent and human rights issues in the region was well known, suggesting that Islamabad should prioritise constructive measures to improve conditions for its citizens instead of resorting to external blame.

The recent attacks in Balochistan, which included coordinated strikes on security installations and public places in cities such as Quetta, Gwadar, Mastung and Noshki, resulted in dozens of fatalities, including civilians and security personnel. While separatist groups have claimed responsibility for the violence, Pakistan's military has reported heavy losses among militants during counter operations.

Pakistan's allegations against India follow a pat-

tern of attribution often seen between the two neighbouring countries, particularly when incidents of insurgency or terrorism occur within Pakistan's borders. New Delhi's rejection of these claims underscores its consistent position that there is no credible evidence linking India to the violence.

By challenging the accusations, India reiterated its position that internal political issues and regional grievances, including calls for greater autonomy and rights in provinces like Balochistan, should be addressed through political dialogue and reforms rather than externalising blame.

The diplomatic exchange reflects the broader tensions between the two countries, where events such as insurgent attacks or security incidents are frequently accompanied by competing narratives and accusations. India's rebuttal reaffirms its stance that it seeks peaceful engagement and stable relations while dismissing claims of involvement in Pakistan's internal conflicts.

Trump Shrugs Off Khamenei's 'Regional War' Warning, Says He Still Hopes for a Deal

U.S. President Donald Trump responded calmly to a stark warning from Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei about the potential for a wider regional conflict if the United States were to launch military action against Tehran. Despite the heightened rhetoric, Trump struck a measured tone, saying he was "hopeful" that negotiations with Iran could still succeed and downplaying the more dramatic elements of Khamenei's statements.

The exchange comes amid rising tensions between Washington and Tehran, which have escalated in recent weeks. Khamenei warned that any attack by the U.S. would not be limited to Iran but could escalate into a broader "regional war," highlighting the risk of wider conflict in the Middle East. In his remarks, the Iranian leader also suggested that domestic protests in his country were being influenced by foreign powers, portraying unrest as a



threat akin to a coup.

When asked about the supreme leader's warning, Trump appeared unperturbed. "Of course he is going to say that," the president remarked, suggesting that such a response was expected. He reiterated his hope that a diplomatic agreement could be reached with Tehran to prevent further escalation. "Hopefully we'll make a deal. If we don't make a deal, then

we'll find out whether or not he was right," Trump added, indicating that both negotiation and the risk of conflict remain possibilities.

The comments came as the United States increased its military presence in the Persian Gulf. A U.S. carrier strike group and accompanying warships were deployed to the region, signaling readiness while also maintaining a preference for a negotiated settle-

ment. U.S. officials have emphasized that they would like to resolve tensions through diplomacy and avoid military confrontation, focusing on Iran's nuclear program and regional activities.

The situation is compounded by significant unrest inside Iran, where protests over economic hardship and political grievances have drawn international attention. Iranian authorities have blamed foreign interference, while the U.S. has publicly supported the rights of protesters and condemned the government's crackdown.

Despite Khamenei's warnings, Trump's remarks suggest that the U.S. intends to balance deterrence with diplomacy, keeping open the possibility of negotiation while preparing for contingencies. The international community continues to watch closely to see whether dialogue can prevent escalation or whether tensions in the region will intensify.

Ex UK Ambassador Peter Mandelson Resigns After Epstein Files Link Him to \$75,000 Payments

Former British diplomat Lord Peter Mandelson has stepped down from the UK's Labour Party after new details emerged from a massive release of documents connected to disgraced financier Jeffrey Epstein. The files suggest that Mandelson may have received financial transfers totalling about \$75,000 (roughly ₹68 lakh) from accounts linked to Epstein more than two decades ago, triggering fresh controversy and public scrutiny.

The payments apparently occurred between 2003 and 2004, with records indicating three separate transfers of about \$25,000 each to accounts connected either to Mandelson or his long time partner. These revelations come as part of a large tranche of documents released by the US Department of Justice related to Epstein's financial dealings and associations. The exact nature of the payments — whether they were ever actually received or how they were used — remains unclear.

In response to the new disclosures, Mandelson wrote a letter to the Labour Party's



general secretary announcing his resignation from the party's membership. He described himself as "regretful and sorry" about the uproar over his links to Epstein, even as he insisted he had no record or recollection of receiving the payments mentioned in the files. Mandelson has also raised questions about the authenticity of the documents and said he intends to investigate the matter further to clear up uncertainties.

Mandelson, 72, has a long history in British politics,

having served in senior roles including as a cabinet minister and twice resigning from government posts in the past over unrelated controversies. In recent years, he was appointed as Britain's ambassador to the United States, but was dismissed from that role last year amid earlier revelations about his association with Epstein.

Among the newly uncovered material are undated photographs that appear to show Mandelson in informal attire alongside an unidenti-

fied woman, though the context and timing of those images are also not known. Mandelson has said he cannot identify the location or circumstances of the picture.

In addition to the financial records, other parts of the files show Epstein sending money to Mandelson's husband in later years for personal expenses, further raising questions about the nature of their ongoing contact.

Political reaction in the UK has been intense. Critics from across the political spectrum have demanded transparency and called for investigations, including possible testimony before committees in the United States examining Epstein's network. Supporters of Mandelson acknowledge his long public service but say the unfolding revelations warrant scrutiny and accountability.

As questions grow about Epstein's global connections and the true extent of his ties to influential figures, Mandelson's resignation reflects the mounting pressure on public figures implicated in the latest document release.

Bangladesh Court Sentences Ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to 10 Years in Corruption Cases



Bangladesh's former prime minister Sheikh Hasina has been sentenced to 10 years in prison by a Dhaka court in two separate corruption cases, delivering a major setback to the veteran political leader's prospects ahead of national elections. The verdict was handed down by a special court in the capital, which found Hasina guilty of abusing her official position in connection with irregularities in the allocation of government land.

The cases relate to allegations that Hasina and others improperly benefited from the allocation of residential plots under the Purbachal New Town government project, a high profile housing scheme near Dhaka. The court sentenced Hasina to five years' imprisonment in each case, to be served consecutively, resulting in a total 10 year term.

The rulings also included fines, with additional

jail time if they are not paid. Several of her family members and associates were also convicted. Tulip Rizwana Siddiq, a British Member of Parliament and niece of Hasina, received a four year prison term, while Radwan Mujib Siddiq and Azmina Siddiq, other close relatives, were each sentenced to seven years. Another former official of the housing authority involved in the project also received a prison sentence and a fine.

Hasina has been living in India since August 2024, after widespread student-led protests forced her resignation and departure from Bangladesh. Following her exit, an interim government assumed power and launched a broader anti corruption drive that saw multiple legal cases filed against Hasina and several senior members of her party and family.

This latest verdict adds to a series of legal setbacks

for Hasina, who has faced numerous charges ranging from corruption to alleged abuses of power. Combined with previous rulings, her accumulated sentences now total significantly more than this 10-year term.

The convictions come ahead of parliamentary elections, with Hasina's party, the Awami League, sidelined in recent developments. Supporters of Hasina have criticised the proceedings as politically motivated, while the interim administration has maintained that the actions are part of efforts to hold leaders accountable for alleged misconduct.

The sentencing marks a critical moment in Bangladesh's political narrative, with potential implications for political alliances, voter sentiment, and the future direction of the country's governance as it heads toward national polls.

Markets Rebound After Budget-Day Sell-Off; Sensex Jumps Over 900 Points, Nifty Nears 25,100



Indian equity markets staged a strong recovery on Monday, bouncing back sharply after the heavy sell-off witnessed on Budget day. Investor sentiment improved as bargain hunting emerged at lower levels, helping benchmark indices erase a large part of their previous losses.

The BSE Sensex surged nearly 944 points during the session, while the NSE Nifty 50 reclaimed the 25,000 mark and closed close to 25,100. The rebound came after a steep decline in the previous session, when markets had reacted negatively to certain Budget proposals.

Market participants said the recovery was driven primarily by value buying, as investors viewed the sharp correction as an opportunity to enter fundamentally strong stocks. After the initial shock of the Budget announcements wore off, traders reassessed the broader economic

outlook and found comfort in stable macroeconomic indicators.

Heavyweight stocks played a key role in lifting the indices. Buying interest was seen across banking, IT, metals, and select auto stocks, helping markets recover from early-session lows. The broader market also showed improvement, with advances outnumbering declines on the exchanges.

Another factor supporting the rally was the easing of concerns around Budget-related measures that had triggered selling pressure earlier. Investors appeared to digest the impact of policy changes more calmly, shifting focus back to corporate earnings, domestic demand, and long-term growth prospects.

Currency and global cues also lent support. A relatively stable rupee and softer crude oil prices helped improve sentiment, particularly in sectors sensitive to in-

put costs. Asian markets showed mixed trends, but domestic equities managed to outperform as local buying picked up.

Despite the strong rebound, analysts cautioned that volatility may continue in the near term, as markets remain sensitive to policy signals, global developments, and upcoming economic data. They advised investors to focus on quality stocks and avoid knee-jerk reactions to short-term market movements.

The sharp recovery highlights the resilience of Indian markets and suggests that while Budget announcements can trigger immediate reactions, investor confidence can return quickly once uncertainties are absorbed. With fundamentals still intact, many participants believe the broader market trend remains positive, though intermittent fluctuations are likely.

Data Centre and AI Stocks Rally After Budget; E2E Networks and Anant Raj Lead Gains



Shares of several data centre and artificial intelligence-linked companies saw a strong rise in the stock market after the announcement of the Union Budget 2026, with some stocks extending gains for a second trading session.

Among the most notable movers was E2E Networks, whose shares jumped by nearly 10% during trading, reflecting investor optimism. Anant Raj also posted significant gains, with its stock rising more than 7%. Other related companies, including Netweb Technologies, initially advanced in early trade before trimming their gains later in the session.

The positive momentum in these stocks came on the back of a major policy announcement in the budget aimed at positioning India as a significant player in global cloud infrastructure and digital services. The finance minister introduced a long-term tax incentive

for foreign cloud service providers that operate using data centre infrastructure located in India. Under this proposal, companies that meet certain conditions will be eligible for a tax holiday extending until 2047, provided they serve Indian customers through domestic resellers.

This move is being seen as a strategic push to attract long-term investment from global cloud and hyperscale players. By offering extended tax benefits, the government hopes to encourage the setting up and expansion of data centres within the country, boosting investment in digital infrastructure and enhancing India's role in the global cloud ecosystem.

Analysts say the tax holiday could prove to be a significant positive for the sector, signalling confidence in India's potential as a digital hub and encouraging sustained capital commitment. The proposal is expected to accelerate

large-scale infrastructure build-out, which may benefit not only companies directly involved in data centre operations but also those in related technology and services segments.

Market participants noted that the rally in data centre and AI-linked stocks followed broader market volatility triggered by initial reactions to the budget's other measures, including changes to securities transaction taxes. While some sectors faced selling pressure due to these announcements, investors found renewed interest in stocks perceived as long-term beneficiaries of government policy.

The gains in data centre names reflect growing investor confidence in the long-term outlook for digital infrastructure in India, as well as expectations that supportive policies will drive future growth in cloud services, AI, and related technology investments.

Goyal Holds Budget Discussion With NSE CEO Ashish Chauhan Amid Market Focus on STT Changes

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal met with Ashish Kumar Chauhan, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the National Stock Exchange (NSE), in Mumbai to discuss the broader benefits and implications of the Union Budget 2026-27 for India's financial markets.

The meeting, described by Goyal as "excellent and engaging," was held as a breakfast discussion at the NSE headquarters. It brought together senior figures from the mutual fund and asset management industry, including investors and market participants, who shared their perspectives on the recently presented budget and its opportunities.

In a post on social media, Goyal said he was encouraged by the optimism among market stakeholders following the Budget announcement. He highlighted the enthusiasm for growth possibilities backed by the policy measures and welcomed new ideas and suggestions shared during the dialogue.

A key focus of the Budget has been the proposed increase in the Securities Transaction Tax (STT) on derivatives. Under the new proposals, STT on futures contracts is set to rise to 0.05% from 0.02%, and higher rates have been suggested for op-



tions premiums and the exercising of options. The government has said the move is aimed at discouraging excessive speculation and protecting smaller investors who may experience heavy losses in futures and options trading. The expected STT collection for the fiscal year 2026-27 is projected to be significantly higher under the revised structure.

The market reaction to the Budget's derivative tax proposals was initial-

ly negative, with benchmark indices falling sharply during a special trading session. However, markets later stabilised, and broader investor sentiment appeared to absorb the implications of the changes.

At the meeting, discussions centred on how the Budget's measures support India's long-term economic goals, including fiscal prudence, fostering growth, and strengthening the financial ecosystem. Goyal noted that var-

ious reforms, including those encouraging technology adoption, infrastructure development, and global competitiveness, are designed to boost investor confidence and position India for sustainable expansion.

Stakeholders attending the session shared feedback with both the minister and Chauhan, exploring how policy shifts might impact market dynamics and capital flows. The interaction underscored the importance of

dialogue between policymakers, market infrastructure institutions like the NSE, and private sector investors, especially in times of significant regulatory change.

Overall, the meeting served as a platform for assessing the holistic benefits of Budget 2026-27, aligning government objectives with market expectations, and reinforcing India's commitment to a resilient and forward-looking financial ecosystem.

FMCG Index Tumbles to 52 Week Low as Major Consumer Stocks Drop



The BSE FMCG index, which tracks the performance of fast moving consumer goods stocks, fell sharply on Monday to reach its lowest level in over a year. The slide reflects intense selling pressure across some of India's biggest consumer brands, with several major counters slipping between 2% and 3% during trading.

The downturn in the FMCG space was significant enough to drag the sector index to levels not seen since May 2023, underscoring a notable loss of momentum in what is traditionally considered a defensive segment of the market. This underperformance comes amid broader equity market fluctuations, but the FMCG index has fared

worse than the overall market so far this year.

Leading consumer stocks such as Hindustan Unilever, Godrej Consumer Products, ITC, Radico Khaitan, Varun Beverages, Dabur India and Marico all saw declines during the session, with losses in the range of 2% to 3%. Meanwhile, names including ITC, Emami, Patanjali, VST Industries,

and Jyothy Labs hit their own 52 week lows as sentiment soured. Traders pointed to subdued demand and sector rotation away from consumer staples as contributing factors.

Among these, ITC, a diversified conglomerate with strong exposure to cigarettes, food products, agri business and paper-board segments, was a notable weak spot. Its stock slid to multi year lows, as rising taxes on cigarettes and expectations of higher prices weighed on investor confidence. This regulatory change has raised concerns over future volume growth in its tobacco business and is seen as a drag on valuations.

The FMCG sector's relative weakness was also visible in broader year to date performance. While the overall market has seen moderate declines, the FMCG index's drop has been steeper, indicating that investors may be reallocating capital to

other sectors perceived as offering better near term opportunities.

Despite the steep fall, some analysts believe the long term outlook for the FMCG space remains supported by India's large domestic consumption base. However, in the short term, rising input costs, slower demand growth, and regulatory headwinds in specific categories have contributed to volatility. Investors tracking the segment will be watching closely to see whether these trends persist or if fresh catalysts emerge to stabilise prices.

The sharp moves in the consumer goods stocks highlight how even traditionally defensive sectors can experience pressure when broader market conditions shift and sector specific challenges intensify. Many market participants are now reassessing sector allocations in light of recent performance and changing demand patterns.

NBFC Stocks Slip Up to 5% After Budget as Higher Gross Borrowing Raises Asset Quality Concerns

Shares of several non banking financial companies (NBFCs) fell sharply in trading following reactions to the Union Budget for 2026 27, with some stocks dropping as much as 5%. The decline came amid concerns that higher gross government borrowing could push up yields and pressure asset quality for lenders outside the banking system.

Among the most affected names were Shriram Finance, Poonawalla Financorp, IIFL Finance, Bajaj Finance, and Cholamandalam Investment & Finance Company, which all saw noticeable declines in their stock prices. The selling reflected investor unease over the prospect of tighter liquidity and rising interest rates in debt markets, which could make funding more expensive for NBFCs.

Market participants pointed to the Budget's

indication of increased government borrowing to meet fiscal needs as a key negative driver. When the government borrows more from the markets, it can lead to higher yields on government securities. In turn, this can push up borrowing costs for NBFCs, which depend heavily on the bond market and wholesale funds for their lending operations.

Higher yields also reduce the attractiveness of existing debt instruments, creating market losses for firms holding government securities and other fixed income assets. For NBFCs, which often hold significant investment portfolios to manage liquidity, this can strain capital and earnings if the higher yield environment persists.

Additionally, analysts noted that rising interest rates generally increase

the cost of funds for all lenders. While banks have more diverse deposit bases to absorb rate increases, NBFCs often rely on bond issuances and commercial papers, which are more sensitive to changes in market yields. This puts pressure on net interest margins (NIMs) and profitability.

Some investors also pointed to concerns about loan quality in a higher rate regime. If borrowing costs rise significantly, borrowers may find it harder to service loans, potentially leading to elevated delinquencies in NBFC loan books. This is especially relevant for retail and small ticket portfolios, which form a significant part of many NBFCs' assets.

Despite the sell off, not all NBFC stocks fell uniformly. A few names managed to hold ground or trim losses as the session progressed, supported by



long term investor interest and strong underlying business fundamentals. However, the overall trend in the sector was negative on the day.

Analysts advising long term investors suggested focusing on companies with robust capitalization, strong risk management, and diversified funding sources. These firms are generally better positioned to navigate periods of higher yields and

tighter liquidity.

The market reaction underscores how sensitive financial stocks — especially NBFCs — are to macroeconomic developments such as fiscal policy, borrowing patterns, and interest rate expectations. Going forward, continued monitoring of government borrowing plans and central bank policy will be crucial for understanding sector performance.

Pilot's Surprise In-Flight Tribute to His Father Leaves Passengers Moved



A routine flight turned into an unforgettable moment for passengers aboard an IndiGo aircraft when the captain made a heartfelt announcement that surprised and delighted everyone on board. What began as a normal journey became a touching tribute to family, service, and shared history — a moment that quickly went viral on social media.

The video circulating online shows Captain Ranveer taking the microphone to address his passengers with a warm smile. He began by introducing himself and acknowledging those aboard, but there was a deeper story he wanted to share. Ranveer revealed that the flight was departing from Dabolim Airport — a place of special significance for him personally. It was from this very airfield that he began his naval flying career nearly four decades ago.

As he spoke to the travelers, he explained that among the passengers were two very important people to him. One was his father, Admiral V.S. Shekhawat, a respected former Chief of Naval Staff. Also on board was Vice Admiral I.C. Rao, a longtime colleague and classmate of his father's from more than 70 years earlier. The coincidence of their being on the same flight touched the captain deeply, and he felt compelled to share it with everyone present.

What made the announcement so re-

markable was not just the revelation of family ties but the story woven between generations of naval service. Ranveer recounted how, when he began flying in the Indian Navy 39 years ago, his father was already a squadron commander stationed at Dabolim. Over the years, his father's career had taken him to the very top of the naval hierarchy, and now, decades later, father and son were sharing this moment in the skies together.

The heartfelt address was unplanned. Ranveer learned only the day before that his father and his father's old friend would be on the same flight. In a simple gesture of love, he brought a small meal for his father and took a moment to honor him publicly during the flight. As he signed off from his announcement, he revealed to the passengers, "The gentleman you see here is Admiral Shekhawat — my father — and I am the captain of this aircraft."

Passengers reacted with smiles, applause, and emotional appreciation. Clips of the announcement spread rapidly across social platforms, with viewers praising the captain's sincerity and the beautiful convergence of personal history and professional life. Many called it a "fortunate and touching moment" that resonated far beyond just a regular flight, turning an ordinary journey into a memorable story of family pride and service.

Volleyball Star Yuji Nishida's Sincere Apology Leaves Fans Touched



Japanese volleyball star Yuji Nishida recently won hearts across the internet after a heartfelt on-court apology during an all-star match turned into a viral moment. What started as a minor accident during a light-hearted event quickly became a powerful display of humility, sportsmanship, and respect.

The incident took place at an SV League All-Star Game in Kobe, where Nishida, captain of the Osaka Bluteon and one of Japan's most recognisable volleyball players, was participating in a half-time serving challenge. Known for his powerful left-handed serves, Nishida attempted a strong shot, but the ball went off target and accidentally struck a female courtside official on the back. Although the official was unharmed, the unexpected mishap immediately caught everyone's attention.

Rather than brushing off the moment or offering a brief verbal apology, Nishida reacted in an extraordinary way. Visibly embarrassed, he dramatically slid across the court on his stomach toward the official, his head lowered in a clear sign of remorse. The crowd burst into laughter and applause, recognising both the sincerity and humour in his gesture.

Once he reached the official, Nishida went a step further. He dropped to his knees and bowed repeatedly, press-

ing his palms together as if pleading for forgiveness. His exaggerated yet genuine apology transformed an awkward moment into one filled with warmth and mutual respect. The official, clearly amused and touched, responded with a smile and a polite bow, signalling that the apology had been graciously accepted.

Videos of the incident quickly spread across social media platforms, attracting millions of views and reactions. Fans from around the world praised Nishida for his humility, calling the moment wholesome, refreshing, and deeply respectful. Many viewers noted that his actions reflected the cultural importance of sincere apologies in Japan, where gestures of respect often carry as much meaning as words.

Despite the brief interruption, Nishida's performance on the court remained impressive. He went on to play a key role in his team's dominant victory and was later named the Most Valuable Player of the event. The combination of athletic excellence and genuine character only added to the admiration he received online.

In a sport often defined by intensity and competition, Yuji Nishida's heartfelt apology stood out as a reminder that grace, humility, and respect can leave an impact far greater than any winning point.

US Woman's Bond With 90-Year-Old Neighbour Goes Viral After She Helps Raise Her Baby



A heartwarming friendship between a woman in the United States and her elderly neighbour has captured the attention of millions online, reminding people of the powerful impact of community support.

When Colleen Bordeaux and her husband moved into a new home in Los Angeles, they did not have any close family nearby. The young couple soon met their senior neighbours, 90-year-old Shirley Dionzon and her husband

Ken, who had lived across the street for decades. What began as a friendly greeting gradually grew into a deep bond between Colleen and Shirley, a connection that would later prove invaluable.

As Colleen's life changed with the birth of her first child, Ryder, the support from Shirley became a source of comfort and practical help. During her pregnancy and after the baby's arrival, Shirley checked in on Colleen regularly, offering encourage-

ment, sharing parenting tips and simply being present. When Colleen experienced discomfort in the later months of her pregnancy, Shirley even offered her walking stick to help her get around.

After Ryder was born, Colleen's own mother was able to stay and help for just two weeks. When she had to return home, the challenge of juggling newborn care and work responsibilities intensified for Colleen. That's when Shirley stepped in even

more. She frequently brought food to the new parents and lovingly took care of Ryder, allowing Colleen to attend work calls or run errands without worry.

A short video shared by Colleen on Instagram showing Shirley holding baby Ryder quickly struck a chord with viewers around the world. The post, which amassed well over a million views, carried a simple yet powerful message about the importance of community. In

her caption, Colleen urged people to reconnect with those around them, saying that if someone needs the support of a "village," it can begin with talking to and caring about neighbours.

For many viewers, the relationship between Colleen and Shirley exemplified a modern interpretation of age-old wisdom: that raising a child and navigating early parenthood doesn't have to be done alone. Their story highlighted how intergenerational friendships can enrich lives on both sides — a younger parent receives support and wisdom, while an older neighbour gets a renewed sense of purpose and connection.

Colleen shared that Shirley helped her trust her own instincts as a new mother, and the two often joked about how children are easy to manage compared with husbands. Meanwhile, Shirley said re-learning how to care for a baby brought her joy and fulfillment.

The online reaction to their story has been overwhelmingly positive, with many praising the pair for reminding the world that deep, meaningful relationships can be found just next door.

Viral 'Four Moons' Moon Video Sparks Debate — Rare Paraselene or Fake?

A strange video showing what looked like multiple moons in the night sky has taken social media by storm, leaving people around the world both amazed and confused.

The video, widely shared and viewed thousands of times, appears to show what looks like four moons hovering above the sky. Many who saw it were stunned by the sight and shared it across platforms, with some users celebrating it as a rare celestial spectacle and others questioning whether it was real or manipulated.

Some of the earliest posts about the footage came from users claiming the scene was filmed over St Petersburg, Russia. In these posts, people suggested that a rare natural occurrence — sometimes described as "four moons" — was visible that night. The striking visual, with bright orb-like shapes alongside the real Moon, certainly looked unusual and dreamlike to onlookers.

Experts and sky watchers explained that the surreal sight is likely the result of an atmospheric optical effect known as a paraselene, also called "moon dogs." This phenomenon happens when moonlight passes through flat ice crystals high in the atmosphere. As the light bends or refracts through these tiny crystals, it creates bright spots beside the real Moon, giving the impression of extra lunar discs in the sky.

Paraselenes are similar to the more familiar "sun dogs" — bright spots that sometimes appear beside the sun — but are caused by moonlight instead. Such phenomena are rare and usually occur under very specific weather conditions, especially in cold regions where ice crystals are abundant high above the Earth.

Despite this scientific explanation, not everyone was convinced. Some viewers suggested that the video could be showing something else entire-

ly, such as a train of satellites passing in sequence, giving the illusion of multiple bright lights. Others dismissed the footage outright, calling it fake or digitally altered and pointing to the unusual alignment of the "moons" as suspicious.

The internet debate became even more confusing when different artificial intelligence tools offered conflicting interpretations — one stating that the video matched the expected characteristics of a paraselene, and another suggesting satellite lights might be a better fit.

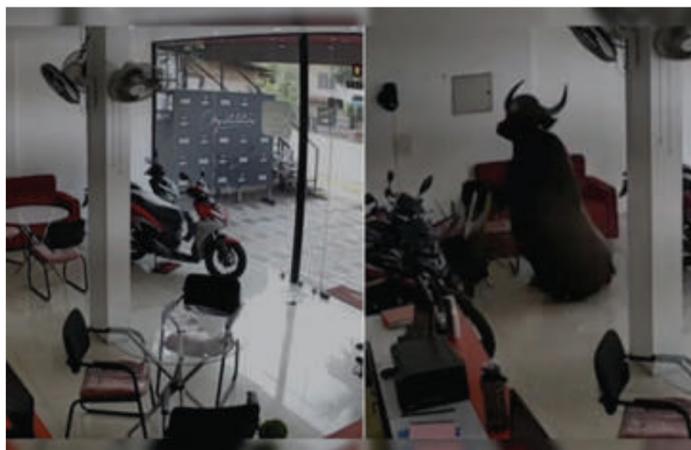
Regardless of its cause, the video sparked widespread curiosity and discussion about celestial phenomena and how natural conditions can create astonishing visual effects in the sky. For many online viewers, it served as



a reminder of how much there still is to learn about the atmosphere and the ways light can interact with it.

In the end, while the beautiful display might look like something from another world, scientists say it is likely a natural optical illusion caused by ice crystals refracting moonlight — a rare but real atmospheric event.

Wild Buffalo Crashes Through Bike Showroom in Kerala; CCTV Captures Dramatic Moment



A dramatic and unexpected incident unfolded in Kerala when a wild buffalo sprinted into a bike showroom, smashing its glass front and wreaking havoc inside, with the entire episode captured on CCTV.

The startling event took place on the morning of February 1 in Kuthupar-

amba, Kannur district. Footage from the surveillance cameras shows a large buffalo charging directly at the showroom's glass façade. With considerable force, it broke through the glass panels and stumbled into the display area, sending shards of glass flying and damaging furniture and vehicles arranged inside.

As the animal forged ahead, it seemed unsteady. At one point, it slipped and collided with a concrete wall, yet regained its balance and continued moving before eventually finding its way out of the building. The sudden intrusion caused shock and panic among nearby staff

and locals, who quickly fled the scene to ensure their safety.

When employees and passersby realised what was happening, there was no one inside the showroom at the moment of impact. This fortunate circumstance meant that nobody was physically hurt, despite the buffalo's reckless entry and the broken glass and dented bikes left behind.

After causing the disruption, the buffalo exited the showroom, but the direction in which it fled was unclear. Concerned about the presence of the wild animal in a populated area, the Kerala Forest Department launched a search operation. Officials said they would attempt to tranquillise and capture the buffalo if necessary, to prevent potential danger to people and property.

According to wildlife experts and local authorities, the buffalo is believed to have strayed from the nearby Kannavam Forest

area, venturing into the commercial locality in search of food or while moving with its herd. Incidents of wild animals wandering into human settlements have been increasing in parts of Kerala, often attributed to shrinking habitats and expanding human activity along forest fringes.

Scenes like this emphasise the ongoing challenges faced in balancing wildlife conservation with growing urbanisation. While the buffalo's unexpected detour caused property damage and a commotion, it also served as a reminder of the complex interactions between humans and wildlife in regions where natural and built environments intersect.

As the search continues, authorities are urging residents to stay alert and report sightings of the animal to ensure it can be safely guided back to its natural habitat without harm.

Suryakumar Yadav Gives Positive Fitness Update on Tilak Varma and Washington Sundar Ahead of T20 World Cup

Indian captain Suryakumar Yadav has shared a positive update on the fitness of key players Tilak Varma and Washington Sundar as the T20 World Cup 2026 approaches, giving a much needed boost to India's preparations.

Speaking after India's victory over New Zealand in the final match of the T20I series, Suryakumar revealed that both Tilak and Sundar are progressing well in their recoveries and could soon rejoin the squad ahead of the tournament, which begins on February 7.

Tilak Varma, who has been out of action for several weeks following surgery earlier this season, has resumed training and is expected to join the team in Mumbai next week. The left handed batter, known for his aggressive stroke play and ability to stabilize the middle order, will also feature in warm up games before the World Cup, giving him valuable match practice before India's campaign begins.

Suryakumar said that Tilak has started batting, bowling, and fielding during his rehabilitation and is shaping up well. He confirmed that Tilak is scheduled to play practice matches on February



2 and 4 in Mumbai, which Suryakumar believes will be enough to assess his readiness for the main event. If fit, Tilak's return would strengthen India's batting options and create healthy selection dilemmas for the team management.

Regarding all rounder Washington Sundar, Suryakumar offered a similarly encouraging

update. Sundar, who had been recovering from a rib injury sustained while bowling earlier in the year, has also started both bowling and batting practice. The captain said Sundar "is looking good" and is expected to rejoin full training soon. This is positive news for India, as Sundar's off spin and middle order batting provide valuable balance to

the side.

Suryakumar emphasised that the fitness of both players is being closely monitored, and the team hopes to have them fully ready before the World Cup gets under way. India will play two warm up matches in Mumbai before their first group game, giving the management a chance to fine tune their combinations and see how

the returning players perform in match conditions.

The encouraging updates on Tilak and Sundar come at an important time, as India aims to defend its T20 World Cup title on home soil. Their potential availability adds depth to a strong squad and could be crucial in high pressure matchups as the tournament unfolds.

ICC Mulls Sanctions on Pakistan Over Decision Not to Play India in T20 World Cup



The International Cricket Council (ICC) is considering imposing sanctions on Pakistan after the country's decision not to take the field against India in their scheduled T20 World Cup 2026 match. The move has triggered widespread discussion in the cricketing world and could lead to disciplinary action under ICC rules if Pakistan goes ahead with its boycott.

Pakistan had an-

nounced that its team will compete in the tournament but will refuse to play its group stage match against India, creating an unprecedented situation in international cricket. The ICC has since begun assessing what actions it can take under its constitution and code of conduct to address the matter, with sanctions being one of the options under review.

Officials within the ICC

see Pakistan's decision as a potential violation of the spirit of the game and its commitments as a full member of the global governing body. If a team fails to show up for a scheduled match without adequate justification, the ICC has the authority to impose penalties ranging from fines and point deductions to more serious measures such as suspensions or cancellation of future participation

rights. The specific sanctions being discussed have not been disclosed, but they could include financial penalties or other disciplinary measures. Sources familiar with the discussions say that the ICC is also keen to protect the credibility and commercial integrity of the World Cup. The India Pakistan fixture is traditionally one of the most watched matches in world sports, attracting massive global viewership and significant revenue from broadcasting and sponsorship. Its absence from the tournament schedule would deal a blow not just to fans, but to the financial ecosystem underpinning the event.

In response to the ICC's deliberations, representatives from Pakistan cricket have defended their position, saying the decision not to play India was taken on grounds of national policy and sovereign choice. They argue that the sport's governing bodies must understand the larger context in which the decision was made. However, critics inside Pa-

kistan and abroad have questioned whether the national board should separate sporting commitments from political considerations. Legal experts in sports governance say that the ICC's disciplinary framework gives it broad powers to act when member boards breach contractual obligations tied to tournaments. This includes ensuring that scheduled matches are played unless exceptional circumstances, such as force majeure, are proven. The ICC could also face pressure from broadcasters, sponsors and other member boards to take a firm stance if the boycott proceeds, as stakeholders seek assurances that tournament commitments are honoured and future contracts remain secure. As deliberations continue, the cricket world remains alert to how the ICC will balance regulatory authority with diplomatic sensitivity — and whether Pakistan will ultimately face formal sanctions for its controversial decision.

Shahid Afridi Calls Pakistan's T20 World Cup Boycott 'Regrettable' but Urges Cricket to Build Bridges

Former Pakistan cricket star Shahid Afridi expressed disappointment over his country's decision to boycott its T20 World Cup 2026 match against India, calling the move "regrettable" while emphasising his belief that cricket should be a force for connection rather than division.

The high profile clash between India and Pakistan, scheduled for February 15 in Colombo, has become a contentious issue after the Pakistan government announced that its team would participate in the tournament but refuse to take the field against India. The decision has sparked debate among fans, officials, former players and cricket administrators, shaking one of the sport's most anticipated fixtures.

Afridi, who retired from international cricket years ago but remains one of Pakistan's most recognisable cricketing figures, voiced mixed



emotions about the boycott. While he acknowledged the authorities' right to make decisions he described as "regrettable," he also highlighted his long held belief that the sport has the power to bridge divides when other avenues fail.

In a public statement, Afridi underlined that he

has always seen cricket as a platform that can bring people together even amid political tensions. He suggested that sports — and especially iconic rivalries like India versus Pakistan — can open doors for dialogue and understanding when diplomatic channels stall. He lamented the fact that

fans on both sides of the border would miss out on a fixture that traditionally draws huge global audiences and intense passion. Despite his regret over the boycott decision, Afridi also indicated that he respects the stance taken by Pakistan's leadership and urged cricket's gov-

erning bodies to respond in a way that preserves the integrity and spirit of the game. He called on the International Cricket Council (ICC) and member boards to work toward solutions that uphold fairness and give fans the chance to witness compelling contests without letting external disputes overshadow the sport.

Afridi's remarks came amid broader discussions around the impact of politics on international sport and questions about how cricket authorities can balance national interests with the expectations of fans worldwide.

His call for cricket to act as a unifying force — even as national decisions lead to missed matchups — reflects a hope shared by many former players and observers: that the sport's global appeal and emotional resonance can sometimes transcend geopolitical tensions and bring people together, rather than push them further apart.

After Australian Open Final Loss, Novak Djokovic Drops Hint About Future: "God Knows What Happens Tomorrow"



Novak Djokovic left fans and the tennis world talking about his future after a heart felt and somewhat cryptic message following his defeat in the Australian Open 2026 final. The Serbian great, one of the sport's all time legends, was beaten in four sets by Spain's Carlos Alcaraz, ending his bid for a record breaking 25th Grand Slam title.

Djokovic's loss marked his first ever defeat in an Australian Open final, a remarkable milestone in itself given his long history of dominance at Melbourne Park. After the match, Djokovic stood before the crowd in Rod Laver Arena and delivered remarks that many interpreted as a possible hint about retirement, though he stopped short of making any concrete announcement.

Addressing the crowd, the 38 year old said the championship run had been "a great ride" and expressed gratitude to the fans for their unwavering support throughout his career. Djokovic acknowledged that he hadn't expected to find himself once again in a Grand Slam final at this stage of his career, noting how much the support from fans had meant to him.

Then came the line that has sparked speculation about his future: "God knows what happens tomorrow, let alone in six months or

12 months." With those words, Djokovic left the door open to uncertainty, suggesting that he hasn't ruled anything in or out but making it clear that he won't make decisions hastily. Many observers heard the remark as a sign that Djokovic may soon consider what comes next, even if retirement isn't imminent.

Throughout his post match comments, Djokovic spoke with an emotional tone — acknowledging the shifting dynamics of men's tennis as younger stars like Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner rise. His loss has underscored how competitive the landscape has become and how hard it is to maintain dominance amid fierce, emerging talent.

Despite the defeat, Djokovic also praised Alcaraz's performance and the young Spaniard's exceptional level of play. His gracious comments reflect Djokovic's deep respect for the sport and its next generation.

While fans and pundits will be watching closely for any official word on his career plans, Djokovic's hint has certainly fuelled debate about whether this could be one of his final chapters at the top level of tennis. For now, he remains grateful, reflective and respectfully non committal about what the future holds.

What Pakistan Pulling Out of Its T20 World Cup Match vs India Could Really Cost



Pakistan's decision to potentially pull out of its T20 World Cup 2026 group match against India could have massive financial, sporting, and reputational consequences. The India Pakistan clash is considered the most commercially valuable single game in world cricket, generating revenue from broadcast rights, sponsorships, advertising, and ticket sales. The financial impact of canceling the match could reach around USD 500 million (₹4,500 crore) for the global cricket ecosystem.

Broadcasters would lose substantial advertising revenue, with premium ad slots during this marquee fixture commanding some of the highest rates in sports. The International Cricket Council (ICC) would also see reduced earnings, as broadcast deals are often priced with marquee matches in mind. Sponsors and activation partners would lose exposure, which could affect future deals and partnerships.

For the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), the consequences go beyond finances. If Pakistan fails to appear, India would be awarded a walkover, gaining two points in the group stage and significantly reducing Pakistan's chances of advancing in the tournament. The ICC could also impose financial penalties, withhold Pakistan's revenue share, or seek compensation

from the board to cover losses incurred by broadcasters. Legal and contractual disputes could further expose Pakistan to financial liability.

The long-term commercial impact could be significant. Broadcasters and sponsors may view Pakistan matches as high-risk, potentially lowering the value of future media rights and corporate sponsorships. This uncertainty could also affect the Pakistan Super League (PSL) and other domestic cricket initiatives, as investors may reconsider commitments.

Fans worldwide would also be affected, with potential ticket and travel cancellations, reduced viewership, and disappointment among audiences who anticipate the historic rivalry. The absence of the India Pakistan match could diminish overall tournament momentum and global attention, reducing fan engagement and tournament visibility.

In short, pulling out of the match is more than a political or symbolic move. It carries huge economic losses, ICC sanctions, competitive disadvantages, and long-term reputational damage for Pakistan cricket. The ripple effects could impact broadcasters, sponsors, fans, and the future commercial value of Pakistan's participation in global cricket tournaments.