



Union Budget 2026: What gets cheaper and costlier

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday announced in Union Budget 2026-27 that select outward remittances will get cheaper with Tax Collected at Source (TCS) on overseas tour packages and education and medical remittances cut to 2 per cent. Earlier, overseas tour packages used to attract TCS at 5-20 per cent while overseas education and medical remittances (LRS) were taxed 5 per cent at source. The Budget 2026-27 cuts or exempts basic customs duties (BCD) and transaction charges on several items including energy-transition equipment, solar glass inputs, capital goods for critical minerals and lithium-ion cells, civilian aircraft MRO components, rare and cancer drugs,

and certain textile and leather inputs. Fish caught by Indian fishermen, nuclear power goods have also been exempted from BCD. On microwave ovens and personal-use imports, BCD has been reduced from 20 per cent to 10 per cent. Further, the Budget reduced import duties on graphite, quartz, coal, sand, silicon, rare-earth metals and metal oxide. It extended export realisation periods for some textile and leather shipments to one year.

The basic customs duty on makhana and roasted nuts was cut to 30 percent from 150 per cent, while duties on almonds and walnuts were trimmed. The basic customs duty on seeds

and spores for sowing was halved to 15 percent from 30 percent. Wet blue leather will enjoy zero import duty.

On petroleum crude, a 5 per cent ad valorem levy was changed to a flat Rs 1 per tonne charge.

Penalties for income tax misreporting were hiked to 100 per cent of the tax amount plus tax and interest. Futures and options trading (F&O) will become more expensive as securities transaction tax on stock options was raised to 0.15 per cent, and STT on futures trading was increased to 0.05 per cent from 0.02 per cent. Tax collection at source (TCS) rates were increased from 1 per cent to 2 per cent on alcoholic

liquor, minerals, scrap sales. Chewing tobacco products including jarda and gutkha saw the National Calamity Contingent Duty (NCCD) rise to 60 per cent from 25 per cent. Budget rests on three pillars -- faster growth, inclusive development and structural reform, the finance minister said, adding that its broader "sankalp" remains centred on the poor and disadvantaged.



Nara Lokesh welcomes union budget boost for Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh has welcomed the Union Budget, thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for presenting what he described as a forward-looking financial plan aligned with India's rapid development goals and long-term aspirations.



In a statement, Lokesh said the budget would significantly benefit Andhra Pradesh, highlighting key provisions such as the proposed Critical Minerals Corridor, high-

speed rail connectivity, tax incentives for data centres, and enhanced support for the electronics manufacturing sector. He also expressed satisfaction with the renewed focus on tourism.

The minister said the state government would work to effectively leverage the opportunities created by the budget to attract investments, generate employment, and drive Andhra Pradesh's next phase of economic development.

Union Budget shows lack of policy vision, political will: Mallikarjun Kharge

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, on Sunday, criticised the Union Budget 2026-27 for reflecting the government's lack of policy vision and failure to offer solutions to key socio-economic challenges, including jobs, manufacturing, private investment, infrastructure and social security. Pointing to "tariff risks and slow-down" in exports and trade, Kharge said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman offered "no response to export slump, tariff risks, trade deficit, shrinking global share". "The Narendra Modi-led Union government has run out of ideas. #Budget2026 does not provide a single solution to India's many economic, social, and political challenges," the Congress President said while hitting out at the absence of structural reforms in the Union Budget. "This Budget offers no solutions, not even slogans to hide the absence of policy!" he noted, in a message on social media platform X, accusing the Union government of lacking the political will to take on challenges like inflation, sagging consumer demand and rise in debt. Alleging disappointment for farmers, middle class and the marginalised sections in the Union Budget, Kharge said, "Mission Mode is now 'Challenge Route'. 'Reform Express' rarely stops at any 'Reform

Junction. Net result: No policy vision, No political will." "Any plan for the plunging Rupee?" he asked, pointing to a stagnation in FDI and signals of lack of confidence among investors. "FDI and wage stagnation ignored. Why only minor adjustments, no structural reforms?" Kharge asked. The Congress President also launched a scathing attack on the Union government for ignoring marginalised and minority sections and overlooking their interests. "Inequality has surpassed the levels seen under the British Raj, but the Union Budget does not even mention it or provide any support to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Economically Weaker Sections, and minority communities," he wrote. Accusing the Centre of ignoring the true spirit of federalism, the Congress President highlighted the absence of any package for the financially strained states. "The Finance Commission's recommendations will have to be studied more, but they do not appear to provide any relief to State governments which are under severe financial stress. Federalism has become a casualty," Kharge said. Training his guns on "Make in India"



initiative of the Narendra Modi government, he added that the Union Budget has failed to offer any revival strategy for manufacturing which is stuck at 13 per cent. He also questioned the Union Budget's silence on job creation and skilling. "No serious plan for employability for our youth or increasing participation of women in workforce. What is the outcome of earlier internship and skill development schemes?" Kharge asked. The Congress President also criticised the Union Budget for skirting concerns of the poor and the middle class. "Poor & Middle class: no inflation relief, savings falling, debt rising, wages stagnating. Why no idea to reboot consumer demand?" he wrote. Talking about social security, the Congress President said, "There was not a single substantial announcement on social security and welfare. There is not one word on the allocation for the new law that has replaced MGNREGA. Why?"

Central Government Prioritises Amaravati Reconstruction in 2026 Budget



The central government has given top priority to the reconstruction of Andhra Pradesh's capital, Amaravati, in the 2026 budget, with clear fund allocations for infrastructure, rural development, and education. Funds have been sanctioned across various departments to develop Amaravati into a world-class city.

The Amaravati Integrated Urban Development project has received Rs. 432.09 crore through IBRD funds. Overall, approximately Rs. 1128.91 crore has been allocated for capital development. Urban drinking water and sewerage improvements are set to receive Rs. 800 crore, while Rs. 350 crore has been earmarked for roads and bridges reconstruction. Additionally, Rs. 500.99 crore has been allocated for rural roads projects in the state.

In the agriculture sector, Rs. 155.32 crore has been designated to promote natural farming practices, and Rs. 67.50 crore has been sanctioned for the Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD) in Hyderabad to support biotechnology research.

The central government has also announced research grants for prominent private and government educational institutions in Andhra Pradesh. Under the Department of Atomic Energy, SRM Amaravati and GITAM University (Andhra Pradesh) have received support, while for space research and technology development under the Department of Space, institutions including VR Siddhartha Engineering College (Vijayawada), IIIT Sri City, and GITAM Bengaluru have been selected for funding.

SURPRISE INSPECTION OF KOTTAVALASA AND S. KOTA STATIONS

In order to review the progress of ongoing developmental works, including Amrit Bharat Station Scheme works, infrastructure development, and passenger amenities, the Divisional Railway Manager, Waltair Division, Shri Lalit Bohra conducted a surprise inspection of Kottavalasa and Shrungavarapu Kota railway stations and the section.

DRM was accompanied by Senior Divisional Engineer (Coordination) Shri A.K. Moharana, Senior Divisional Engineer (South) Shri B. Sairaj, along with officials from various departments. During the inspection at Kottavalasa, Shri Lalit Bohra inspected of Railway Colony, where he inaugurated a newly developed Shuttle Badminton court in the colony park area for the recreation of colony residents. He interacted with the colony residents to know their grievances and requirements, if any, and appreciated both the residents and the engineering team for the good upkeep and maintenance of the colony.



Further, DRM inaugurated a newly constructed Rest Room for women employees of the Civil Engineering Department at Kottavalasa railway station. He interacted with the women staff, enquired about their working environment and requirements. The women employees expressed their happiness and satisfaction over the commissioning of the rest room facility.

DRM participated in a Safety Seminar held at Kottavalasa sta-

tion, focusing on welding techniques, safety precautions, and the importance of adhering to safety protocols during welding operations. The seminar was attended by Civil Engineers, Permanent Way Inspectors (PWIs), Gangmen, and Gangwomen.

Later, Shri Lalit Bohra also inspected various activities of the ongoing Amrit Bharat Station works and reviewed the progress of the projects. He



inspected the station yards at both Kottavalasa and Shrungavarapu Kota stations and observed the safety inspection of railway tracks using the Ultra Sonic Flaw Detector (USFD). He interacted with the concerned officials to assess their working knowledge and safety practices.

Further, Shri Lalit Bohra inspected the functioning of the Rail Borne Maintenance Vehicle (RBMV), Shrungavarapu Kota,

which is designed for rapid on-track infrastructure maintenance including track, bridge, and signalling works. The RBMV is equipped with a hydraulically operated crane for lifting heavy materials and a working platform for inspection and maintenance of bridges and overhead equipment. DRM interacted with the technical staff to gain insights into its working and operational efficiency.

Congress party transparent in allotment of seats in Jangaon

Jangaon, February 1, MetroUdayam:

Today in the Janagama Constituency Incharge office, Bhuvanagiri Members of Parliament Shri Chamala Kiran Kumar, Janagama Constituency Incharge Shri Kommuri Pratap Reddy, Janagama District Congress President Mrs. Lakawat Dhanwanti, and the Congress Party leaders announced the official announcement of the candidates contesting on behalf of the Congress Party in the upcoming Janagama Municipality Elections in the presence of the media. They said that the selection process of the candidates was completely transparent, in accordance with the party policies, and the final decision was taken after extensive discussions with the ward presidents, town presidents, town chief leaders and workers and taking into consideration the opinions of the people. It has been made clear that the candidates of the Congress party will contest the municipal elections with the basic principles of city development, public service and equality, in accordance with the trust of the people.

Inappropriate comments on Chandrababu are inappropriate.. Flag of TDP leaders..

Kodada February 01 Metro morning.....

Telugu Desam Party leaders from Kodada constituency strongly condemned Ambati Rambabu's inappropriate comments on Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and TDP chief Nara Chandrababu Naidu. Speaking at a meeting of key workers organized in Kodada on Sunday, they said that it is not a culture for inexperienced people to forget their level and speak. Abusing a person at the level of the Chief Minister with vulgar language is against democracy. He said that only those who have lost their grip in the public sphere are resorting to such criticism. He warned that if the comments are not taken back, a suit-



able lesson will be taught. Leaders Oruganti Prabhakar, Muthineni Saideswara Rao, Bhaiya Narayana, Kollu Narasaiah, Sathuluri Guravaiah, Janapaneni Krishna, Kollu Venkateswara Rao, Gundu Nageswara Rao, Vanaparthi Nageswara Rao, Maiku Nagulu, Challa Guravaiah, Dr. Shankar and others participated in this meeting.....

2.2 Crore Merit Awards Announced for Government School Students

Hyderabad, metro udayam February 1:

In a major initiative to recognise and encourage academic excellence among government school students, Shriram Life Insurance Company Limited has launched a mega merit awards programme titled "Chaduvuko Telangana - Shriram Life Mission 10th Class." The programme is regarded as one of the largest incentive schemes in the country for government school students. The poster of the programme was unveiled by noted social activist and MLC Professor Kodandaram on January 31, 2026. Under the scheme, cash incentives worth ₹2.2 crore will be dis-



tributed to meritorious Class 10 students across Telangana. As per the announcement, the state-level topper will receive ₹5 lakh, the second topper ₹3 lakh, district toppers ₹2 lakh each, constituency toppers

₹1 lakh each, and mandal toppers ₹10,000 each as cash awards. Officials stated that around 3.30 lakh Class 10 students studying in over 6,000 government schools, run by Zilla Parishads, Mandal

Parishads and other government departments across the state, will be eligible to participate in the programme. Speaking on the occasion, Professor Kodandaram said the initiative would significantly help in improving academic standards among students and motivated them to utilise the next two months effectively by focusing on their studies. The programme was attended by J. Bhaskar, Chief Executive of Shriram Chits Hyderabad, DGMs N. Murali, K. Rajashekhar and L. Venkata Krishna, Divisional Manager P. Satish, Senior Development Officer S. Jaswanth Kumar, and others.

National Conference on Student Skill Development

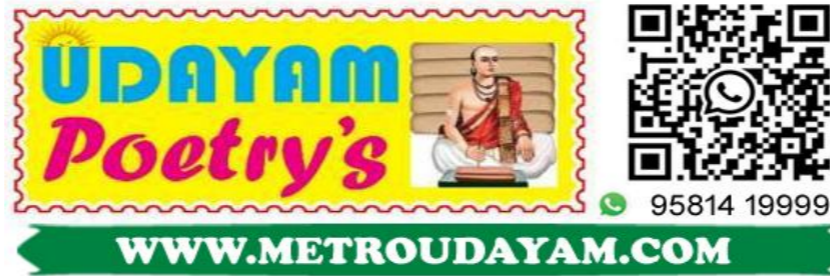
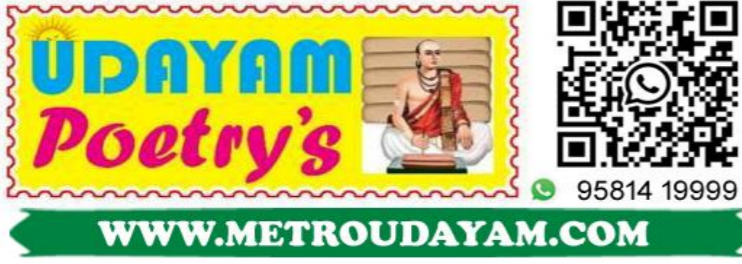


Hyderabad, January :31, MetroUdayam

A one-day national conference on the topic of "Synergy of Skills" was grandly organized on January 31st, 2026, by the English Department of Shrimati A. Shyamala Devi Women's Degree College, Barkatpura, Hyderabad.

The conference emphasized that students can secure better employment opportunities only by developing professional skills along with their academic studies. Experts spoke on topics such as skill development, leadership qualities, and innovation at the conference. Faculty members, researchers,

and students from various colleges attended and presented research papers. The conference was a success with the participation of the Chief Guest, Dr. Naresh Reddy, Registrar of Osmania University; the keynote speaker, Dr. Damodar Gurrupu; the chairperson, Smt. K. Geetha Rani; Smt. Padmaja Mallikarjun, President of Vanitha Maha Vidyalaya and Telangana Yuva Mandali; Smt. Nivedita Kumar, General Secretary; Dr. D. Vasundhara, College Coordinator B. Lavanya Kumari, College Principal; along with the college management, faculty, and students.



समझने के लिये पूछो, उलझने के लिये न पूछो। क्यों के वह अज्ञानी, मूर्ख जो सीखना चाहता है विद्वान के समान है, और वह विद्वान जो उलझना चाहता है अज्ञानी के समान है।... (शकील उवाव -६०४)

अहंकारी व्यक्ति का सबसे बड़ा दुर्गुण यही होता है के वह हर एक कर्म अहंकार से पूर्ण होकर कर्ताभाव से करते रहता है। इस बारे में श्रीमद्भगवद्गीता में भी सविस्तर से पढ़ सकते हैं। श्रीमद्भगवद्गीता में कहा गया है के, "प्रकृतेः क्रियमाणानि गुणैः कर्माणि सर्वशः यः अहंकार विमूढात्मा कर्ताहं इति मन्थते यद्यश्रीमद्भगवद्गीता, अध्याय ०३, श्लोक २७) याने वास्तव में सभी कर्म (भौतिक) प्रकृति के गुणों द्वारा किये जाते हैं। लेकिन जिसका मन अहंकार से मोहित हो गया हो वह "मैं ही कर्ता हूँ" ऐसा मानता है।



इस दुनिया में सबसे बड़ा अहंकार त्याग का अहंकार, ज्ञान का अहंकार और भक्ती का अहंकार होता है। यह सूक्ष्माति सूक्ष्म अहंकार रहने के कारण जल्दी हमारे ध्यान में नहीं आता। भक्ती, ज्ञान और त्याग का अहंकार से बढकर कोई और अहंकार नहीं होता। और भक्ती, ज्ञान और त्याग का अहंकार पालन वाला व्यक्ति कभी भी अपने आपको नष्ट करने से बच नहीं सकता। हमारे समाज में ऐसे अहंकारियों को हमने भूल से धार्मिक समझकर गौरव देते हैं। जबकि धर्म किसी भी तरह के अहंकार को कभी भी पसंद नहीं किया है।

अहंकारी जब किसीसे कोई प्रश्न भी पूछता है तो जानने के लिये नहीं पूछता बल्के उस के मन में केवल उस प्रश्न के माध्यम से अपनी विद्वानता को दर्शाने का भाव होता है। अहंकारी व्यक्ति के सभी हस्कोत अज्ञान से भरे होते हैं वह इसलिये के अहंकार खुद अज्ञान का ही एक रूप है। अहंकारी जब किसीसे कोई प्रश्न पूछता है तो वह प्रश्न जानने के लिये नहीं बल्के उलझाने के लिये होता है। और दूसरे को जो उलझाना चाहता है वह खुद भी उलझ जाता है।

पैगंबर साहब मोहम्मद (स्व.) के पहिले उत्तराधिकारी इमाम अली इब्न अबू तालिब अलैहिससलाम से एक शख्स (व्यक्ति) ने एक मुश्किल मसअला (कठिन प्रश्न) आप से पूछा तो आपने फरमाया "समझने के लिये पूछो, उलझने के लिये न पूछो। क्यों के वह जाहिल (मूर्ख) जो सीखना चाहता है भिस्ल आलिम (विद्वान के समान) है, और वह आलिम (विद्वान) जो उलझना चाहता है भिस्ल जाहिल (मूर्ख, अज्ञानी, निरक्षर के समान) है।" (अल्बास बुक एजेन्सी, लखनऊ द्वारा प्रकाशित हिंदी पुस्तक नहजुल बलागह, उपदेश क्रमांक ३२०, पुष्ट क्रमांक ७७७)।

याने सीखने की इच्छा रखने वाला अज्ञानी भी ज्ञानी विद्वान से बेहतर है अपने ज्ञान से उलझने और उलझाने का प्रयास करने वाला ज्ञानी मूर्ख ही होता है। ऐसे ही अज्ञानी और अहंकारी व्यक्ति यह सोचता है सत्य केवल उसके पास ही है। ऐसा व्यक्ति यह भूलजाता है के सम्पूर्ण जग उसी परमात्मा की रचना है। और उसे खुद को जितना परमात्मा चाहता है उतना ही हर एक प्राणी को परमात्मा चाहता है। और अच्के कर्म करने वाले परमात्मा के खास लोग होते हैं, चाहे वह किसी भी धर्म, पंथ, जात, नस्ल, प्रांत और भाषा से संबंधित क्यों ना हो।

हम केवल धार्मिक है कहने से लाभ कुछ नहीं होता बल्के धर्म हमारे आचरण में होना चाहिए। ज्ञान किसी एक विशेष व्यक्ति या जाती की बंपोती नहीं है, बल्के सब की है। परमात्मा के द्वारा अवतरित किया गये ज्ञान को हम अगर उपयोग में न लाए और उस परमात्मा को न जाने तो निश्चित रूप से हमारी ही क्षति होगी। जैसे पवित्र कुरआन के पहिले आए हुए धर्मग्रंथ सत्य है वैसे ही पवित्र कुरआन भी सत्य प्रमाणित है। अगर उनका अध्ययन हम निष्पक्ष भूमिका से करते हैं तो इस बात का पता हमें पवित्र कुरआन से पहिले के धर्मग्रंथ भी देते है।

पवित्र कुरआन में भी इस बात की पुष्टि करते हुए कहा गया है के, "और (ए पैगंबर साहब (स्व.) जिन लोगों को (हमारे तरफ से) इल्म आता किया (ज्ञान दिया गया) है, वह जानते हैं कि जो (कुरआन) तुम्हारे पालनहार की तरफ से अवतरित किया हुआ है वह बिल्कुल सत्य (ठीक) प्रशंसित तथा प्रशुत्वशाली सुपथ दर्शाता है।" (पवित्र कुरआन, अध्याय क्रमांक ३४, सुराह सबा, आयत क्रमांक ०६)।

-डॉ. मोहम्मदशकील ताजमोहम्मद जाफरी (शकील मंवी), मंवर, पुणे (महाराष्ट्र) भारत

WAR AND PEACE!

"WAR" the word itself harsh and rough!
See "PEACE" how nice and smooth it looks!
War separate people!
Where as peace combine!

Domination, selfishness are cause for War situation!
Specially amonging countries!
Border issues, river water share!
Also play vital role to create War!

Is there no remedy for it?
Certainly there is solution!
Mutual understanding, Bilateral talks,
Are way to amicable solution!
Give and take policy restore Peace!

The situation of war severely effect the common man life in both the countries!
The impact of recession badly hit essential articles availability!
Internal peace is de stabilised!

Contrary to this restoration of Peace should be implemented!
Except loss of life and financial crisis,
Nothing will be gained with war effect!
That's why all peace mongers advise,
To adapt Hate War, Love Peace policy.



Composed by:
B. Satyanarayana Rao,
(Ba. Sa. Raa)
Vijayawada.

BJP has strong prospects in Karimnagar municipal polls: Bandi Sanjay Kumar



Karimnagar: Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Saturday said internal surveys indicate that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has strong prospects of winning the Karimnagar Municipal Corporation Mayor's post and chairperson positions in three municipalities under the Karimnagar Parliamentary constituency. Addressing a meeting of Karimnagar Corporation division in-charges, conveners and co-conveners, the Union Minister called upon party workers to focus on securing the maximum number of seats in the forthcoming municipal elections. He stated that priority would be given to committed BJP workers in the allocation of tickets. Bandi Sanjay announced that over 80 per cent of the tickets in the Karimnagar Corporation would be allotted to grassroots workers who have remained loyal to the party. For the remaining seats, where winning chances are limited, alternative arrangements are being made. He assured party members who may not receive tickets that they would be accommodated through party responsibilities and nominated posts, and urged them not to take impulsive decisions. He further claimed that all major development works in Karimnagar were carried out with funds provided by the Central Government. Seeking public support, he said voters should back the BJP to ensure the continuation of development projects. The Union Minister added that if the BJP secures the Mayor's seat, he would bring additional funds from the Centre for Karimnagar's development. He emphasised that the responsibility of ensuring the party's victory in every division lies with the workers and called for unity to hoist the saffron flag at the Municipal Corporation. The meeting was attended by former BJP Mahila Morcha state president Geethamurthy and senior party leaders Saini Mallesham, Gujja Srinu, Inugonda Nageswara Reddy, among others.

Protests Erupt Over SIT Notices Issued to Former Chief Minister KCR

Hyderabad, February:1, MetroUdayam

On Sunday, BRS party leaders and activists held a protest in the Chaitanyapuri division of the LB Nagar constituency, strongly condemning the SIT notices issued to former Chief Minister and BRS party chief KCR. Senior BRS leaders Shiva Prakash, Vittal Reddy, Thota Mahesh Yadav, Chandu, Nagalakshmi, Narsi Reddy, Rapolu Sudhakar, Trivedi, Ajay Kumar, and Ravi Yadav participated in the protest. Speaking on the occasion, Telangana BRS leader Shiva Prakash stated that Chief Minister Revanath Reddy's ineffective administration is neglecting development and



instead engaging in diversionary politics by filing cases against BRS leaders to distract the public. He added that they strongly condemn the SIT notices issued to former Chief Minister KCR. He warned Revanath Reddy, saying, "Be aware, Revanath Reddy, if you mess with KCR, the people of Telangana will bury you."

Grand Finale of iVision Youth Parliament-2025 Held in Hyderabad

Governor and Minister laud youth participation as vital for democracy. A student-driven White Paper reflects aspirations for Vision 2047.

80 per cent of active participants were female students.

Hyderabad: The Grand Finale of iVision Youth Parliament-2025, a pioneering civic education initiative for school students, was held at BJR Bhavan, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad. Organised under the guidance of the District Administration and Education Department, the event brought together over 183 shortlisted students from government and private schools across the district. State Governor Jishnu Dev Varma was the Chief Guest, and Ponnam Prabhakar,



Minister for Transport and BC Welfare, attended as the Guest of Honour. The Governor described the participants as "young changemakers, future leaders, and diplomats," and highlighted that experiential learning, aligned with the

National Education Policy, is key to shaping India's democratic future. He praised the student-prepared White Paper as an aspirational document addressing governance and development themes. He commended the strong participation of female students, calling it a silent yet transformative democratic revolution. Awards and certificates were presented to outstanding performers. The Minister stated that active youth engagement is essential for strengthening democracy and improving politics. Drawing on his own journey from student politics to public life, he urged students to participate in initiatives such as Youth Parliament, mock Assemblies, and Model United Nations to gain practical insights

into governance and policymaking. He emphasised the need to replicate such programmes across all districts of Telangana.

District Collector highlighted that iVision Youth Parliament was designed to move beyond rote learning, transforming classrooms into "living laboratories of democracy." Covering 183 government schools and 50 private institutions, the initiative engaged over 2,000 students, with nearly 80% of committee participants being girls. The White Paper findings reflected the aspirations of youth for Vision 2047, while simulations of parliamentary and UN procedures instilled discipline, decorum, and respect for democratic processes.

United struggle on teacher issues

STU State President Sadananda Goud...

Kodada February 01 Metro morning.....

Sadananda Goud, the state president of the State Teachers' Union, has called upon all unions to unite and fight with joint action to solve the problems of teachers. He was the chief guest in the first working group meeting of Suryapet district held at ZPHS school in Kodada on Sunday. Speaking on the occasion, he demanded that the government declare a clear policy regarding service rules



and grant increments in the apprenticeship period of 398 teachers up to the time of retirement. He demanded immediate release of PRC, health cards and DA arrears. Demanding that in-service teachers be exempt-

ed from Tet, the dharna held at Jantar Mantar in the national capital on February 5 was requested to participate in large numbers and make it successful. In this meeting, district president Bandham Venkateshwarlu, general secretary Paluri Anjaiah, state vice president K.V. Satyanarayana, former vice-presidents Bommagani Nagabhushanam, district vice-presidents Nandipati Saidulu, and president secretaries of various mandals Narasimha Rao, Bhiksam, Pade Suresh, Qasim, Srinivas, Sathyaprasad and others were present.

10th class students should study with the aim of...

District SC Development Officer Dayanandrani



Kodada February 01 Metro morning.....

Dayanandrani, District Scheduled Castes Development Officer of Suryapet District wished that the students of class 10 should study hard and climb higher peaks. On Sunday, motivational and training classes were conducted for the tenth class students of SC welfare hostels in the taluk at Kodada Boys High School. Speaking on this occasion, she suggested to overcome the pressure during the exams, study in a planned way and get good results. She called on the students studying in the hostels to get the best results and bring good reputation. MEO Sheikh Salim said that class 10 is like a foundation for the future of students and they should make good use of it. In charge Principal Markandeyu, Teachers Badugula Saidu, Headmaster, Wardens Padma, Rukmini, Varaprasad, Harikrishna, Balakrishna, Prabhakar, Nagaraju, Ramesh Saidu and students participated in this programme.

Budget 2026-27 unveils Customs reforms for ease of business

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, presenting the Budget 2026-27 in the Parliament on Sunday, announced that the government will roll out a Customs Integrated System (CIS) in two years as a single, integrated and scalable platform for all customs processes. The Finance Minister also said that the utilisation of non-intrusive scanning with advanced imaging and AI technology for risk assessment will be expanded in a phased manner, with the objective of scanning every container across all the major ports. She further said that approvals required for cargo clearance from various government agencies will be seamlessly processed through a single and interconnected digital window by the end of the financial year. She said that processes involved in the clearance of food, drugs, plant, animal



and wildlife products, accounting for around 70 per cent of interdicted cargo, will be operationalised on this system by April 2026. The Union Minister further said that for goods not having any compliance requirement, clearance will be done by Customs immediately after online registration is completed by the importer, subject to the payment of duty. She also announced various

measures to support Indian fishermen to fully harness the economic value of marine resources beyond the territorial waters. These measures include making free of duty, the fish caught by an Indian fishing vessel in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) or on the High Seas, while the landing of such fish on foreign ports will be treated as an export of goods. She also said that safe-

guards will be put in place to prevent misuse during fish catch, transit, and transshipment. The Finance Minister further announced a complete removal of the current value cap of Rs 10 lakh per consignment on courier exports to support the aspirations of India's small businesses, artisans, and start-ups to access global markets through e-commerce. In addition, handling of rejected and returned consignments will be improved with the effective use of technology for identifying such consignments, she added. The Finance Minister further said that there are honest taxpayers who are willing to settle disputes by paying all their dues, but they get deterred due to the negative connotation associated with the penalty. They will now be able to close cases by paying an additional amount in lieu of penalty, she added.

On the occasion of the conclusion of Road Safety Month 2026, a women's two-wheeler rally was flagged off and inaugurated by the Visakhapatnam Police Commissioner at the Police Commissioner's Office.

Women employees from various software companies, company staff, members of Femi Riders Voluntary Organization, Visakha Safety Council, Young India Road Safety Voluntary Organization, office bearers of voluntary organizations, and government employees participated in this rally. The main objective of this program was to create public awareness about road safety rules and regulations, and it was appreciated that women came forward to take the lead in spreading this message. On this occasion, it was emphasized that the vehicle condition should be proper, and the rider must compulsorily wear an ISI or BIS standard helmet. It was also stated that the pillion rider must mandatorily wear a helmet. The Police Commissioner pointed out that the number of deaths due to two-wheeler accidents is increasing, and to protect valuable lives, this two-wheeler rally was organized. The rally started from the Visakhapatnam Police Commissioner's Office, passed through Suryabagh, Jagadamba Junction, and other important junctions, and finally returned to the Police Commissioner's Office. On this occasion, certificates were distributed to the volunteers by the Police Commissioner. He stated that only by strictly following traffic rules and regulations can accidents be prevented, and this is the way forward to make Visakhapatnam a truly accident-free city



in the future. Those who participated in the rally included Visakhapatnam City Police Commissioner Dr. Shankhabrata Bagchi, Traffic Additional DCP Praveen, and from the Transport Department, DTC RCS Srinivas, RTO GSLM Devi, and Motor Vehicle Inspectors. Separately, at Andhra University Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Law College, an awareness program was conducted this morning on the occasion of the conclusion of Road Safety Month at the Andhra University

campus. During this program, Motor Vehicle Inspectors Bucchiraju, Madhavi, and Govind explained road safety rules and regulations in detail through a PowerPoint presentation and short films. They highlighted key messages such as wearing helmets, using seat belts, and not using mobile phones while driving. Students were urged to strictly follow road safety rules to prevent accidents. A total of 200 law college students participated in this awareness program.

As per the instructions of the Hon'ble Commissioner of Police,



extensive measures were taken by IV Town Police to create awareness against drug abuse and substance misuse. Awareness banners were erected at ladies' hostels and at Lal Bahadur Park within the limits of IV Town Police Station, highlighting the ill effects of drug consumption and promoting a drug-free society. In addition, following the same instructions of the Hon'ble CP, special surveillance was conducted at open places, public parks, and identified hotspots to prevent public nuisance and unlawful activities. During the course of this special drive today, we caught five persons who were consuming alcohol openly in public places. And have stated that such awareness programmes and special drives will continue to ensure public safety, discipline, and the maintenance of law and order in the area.



Kishan's ton, Arshdeep's five-for help India beat NZ by 46 runs, win series 4-1

Thiruvananthapuram: Ishan Kishan's blistering maiden T20I century and Arshdeep Singh's second five-wicket haul in the format powered India to a 46-run victory over New Zealand in the fifth T20I at the Greenfield International Stadium on Saturday and seal the series 4-1.

India, returning to full strength after their setback in Visakhapatnam, posted 271/5 – their third-highest total in the format. Kishan smashed 103 off 43 balls, laced with six fours and ten sixes, while captain Suryakumar Yadav added 63 in a 137-run stand that dismantled New Zealand's attack.

Hardik Pandya chipped in with a late cameo of 42 off 17 balls as India struck 23 sixes, equalling their record for most maximums hit in a T20I innings. New Zealand's chase was given early impetus by Finn Allen, who hammered 80 off 38 balls in his return to the side. But his dismissal stalled their momentum as New Zealand were eventually bowled out for 225 in 19.4 overs.

Arshdeep, who had conceded 40 runs in his first two overs, bounced back to claim 5-1. Spinners Axar Patel (3-33) and Varun Chakravarthy (1-36) provided crucial support in the middle overs. The win capped a dominant series for India, who made several changes in the final game but maintained control throughout. Kishan's role behind the stumps in place of Sanju Samson also gave a hint into playing eleven plans for the upcoming T20 World Cup.

Electing to bat first, India got off to a brisk start with Abhishek Sharma timing the ball sweetly in the opening overs and striking boundaries off Jacob Duffy and Kyle Jamieson to race to 24 off just nine balls. But Samson's lean run continued as he fell for just six, edging Lockie Ferguson to deep third man, leaving the home crowd stunned in silence.

Abhishek looked dangerous but was undone by Ferguson's pace and was castled for 30 off 16 deliveries. At 48/2 in the

fifth over, India needed a push, and Kishan provided just that with a counter-attacking approach. He and Suryakumar then took charge, before going for the kill. The duo dismantled Santner in the 10th over with a flurry of boundaries and sixes yielding 20 runs.

Kishan, who relentlessly peppered the leg-side with his boundaries, reached his fifty off 28 balls by punishing Ish Sodhi with a sequence of three fours and two sixes in a 29-run over. Suryakumar brought up his third fifty of the series in 27 balls while striking three sixes off Jacob Duffy in the 14th over.

Santner eventually broke the stand by having Suryakumar stumped for 63 off 30 balls. Kishan, however, continued his assault, smashing Santner for successive sixes off different lengths to reach his maiden T20I hundred in just 42 balls and was greeted by a leaping Hardik, before being finally dismissed for 103 off 43 deliveries, caught at square leg off Duffy. Hardik applied the finishing touches with a fiery 42 off 17 balls, laced with a four and three sixes, while Shivam Dube struck the final six of the innings off the last ball, as 21 runs came off the final over in a relentless batting display for India, where Kishan may have sealed his spot in the playing eleven for next week's opening game against USA at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai.

New Zealand were off to an eventful start as Arshdeep's opening over produced three boundaries from Allen, even as the pacer had Tim Seifert chipping straight to midwicket. Allen, returning to the side for the first time since March 2025, continued his aggressive approach. He raced to 37 off just 14 balls, punishing Arshdeep with stand-and-deliver strokes in a 23-run third over featuring four boundaries and a six.

With Rachin Ravindra hanging around, Aleen then showcased his range against Jasprit Bumrah and Chakravarthy, flat-



batting a length ball over long-on and pulling with authority to bring up his half-century in just 22 balls. Allen dispatched Chakravarthy and Axar for a six each as New Zealand ended the powerplay at 79 for one – their best-ever score in this phase against India in T20Is – silencing the home crowd.

Allen and Ravindra further capitalised on India's spinners by striking sixes off Chakravarthy in the eighth over to push the score past 100. The dew factor continued to influence India's bowlers, who largely avoided bowling fuller lengths. India finally struck back in the ninth over when Axar dismissed Allen for a blazing 80 off 38 balls.

Attempting to muscle one over the leg-side, Allen holed out to long-on, and Axar followed it up by having Glenn Phillips hole out to long-off. Arshdeep returned strongly in his second spell - removing Ravindra for 30 with a cleverly disguised knuckle-ball bouncer that took a top-edge on the hook to deep backward square leg, while Mitchell Santner could ballon a

sharp short delivery to cover and fell for a duck.

Daryl Mitchell added some fireworks by driving and pulling Bumrah for a four and two sixes, as 22 runs came off the 15th over. But India continued to make breakthroughs - Bevon Jacobs was castled by a googly from Chakravarthy, while Kyle Jamieson and Mitchell fell in quick succession to give Arshdeep his five-for.

After Axar completed his three-fer, Ish Sodhi unfurled lofty hits via a four and three sixes before being dismissed by Rinku Singh to complete an emphatic win for India exactly a week before their title defence in the mega event begins on home soil.

Brief Scores: India 271/5 in 20 overs (Ishan Kishan 103, Suryakumar Yadav 63; Lockie Ferguson 2-41, Jacob Duffy 1-53) beat New Zealand 225 in 19.4 overs (Finn Allen 80, Rachin Ravindra 30; Arshdeep Singh 5-51, Axar Patel 3-33) by 46 runs

Ponting tips Abhishek Sharma as leading run-scorer in T20 World Cup 2026

New Delhi: Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting has predicted that India opener Abhishek Sharma will be one of the top players at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026.

He thinks the left-hander could end the tournament as the leading run-scorer and even win Player of the Tournament.

The ICC Hall of Famer believes Abhishek's inexperience at ICC events might actually help him. The 25-year-old is expected to make his T20 World Cup debut when the tournament starts on February 7.

"He's a star," Ponting said in the latest edition of The ICC Review. "I think it's (lack of experience) a real positive to be honest. He can be the leading run-scorer and potentially the Player of the Tournament."

"That's how good I think he is. And if he does, that makes India even harder to beat. If he doesn't, then they're as vulnerable as anybody else. So that's how important I think he is to this (T20) World Cup for India." Ponting believes that being on a global stage will not faze Abhishek due to his experience working with him



when he started out in the Indian Premier League. something extra special."

"I was his first IPL coach," Ponting recalled from his time at Delhi Capitals. "He debuted with me, I think as a 17-year-old at Delhi and made an immediate impact."

"I think he hit his first ball for four or six straight back over the bowler's head with that classical sort of straight bat and held the pose. And you could just see then as a 17-year-old that there was

Ponting also revealed he had strongly opposed Delhi Capitals' decision to trade Abhishek, convinced even then that the youngster was destined for greatness.

"We ended up trading him away from Delhi, but I pleaded and pleaded and pleaded and said, please don't do this. We've got to (keep him), there's an absolute superstar in the making here."

"And that's what it's turned out to be. I've got really high hopes for him in this time."

Abhishek was a part of India's Under-19 Cricket World Cup-winning team in 2018 and now will be playing in his first international T20 World Cup.

Prior to the T20 World Cup, Abhishek has been in great form hitting 152 runs in 4 games against New Zealand in the T20I series. In the third game, he scored a half-century off of just 14 balls which is the second-fastest half-century by an Indian in T20Is.

The only Indian to have scored a half-century quicker than that was Yuvraj Singh who scored his half-century in only 12 balls vs England in 2007.

Abhishek is expected to be a key player in India's quest to become the first team to win back-to-back Men's T20 World Cups.

India has been placed in Group A with Pakistan, USA, Namibia and the Netherlands. They will begin their title defence at the T20 World Cup vs the USA on February 7.

Traditional Giri Pradakshina at Srisailam today



Srisailam: The Srisailam Devasthanam will organise the sacred Giri Pradakshina on Sunday in connection with the auspicious Magha Purnima festival, said the Executive Officer M Srinivasa Rao on Saturday. He said the devotional procession will commence tomorrow evening following the Maha Mangala Harathi of Sri Swamy and Ammavarlu, adhering to long-standing temple traditions. The Giri Pradakshina will begin from the main entrance of the Srisailam temple and pass through prominent spiritual landmarks including Gangadhara Mandapam, Ankalaamma Temple, Nandi Mandapam, Bailu Veerabhadra Swamy Temple and Alankar Eswara Temple.

The route will then extend along the circular road via Sarangadhara Matham to Hemareddy Mallamma Mandiram, further proceeding through Mahishasuramardhini, Rudraksha Matham and Vibhuti Matham, before entering Rudranamam and concluding at the Nandi Mandapam, stated the EO.

He further stated that the objective of conducting the Giri Pradakshina is to provide devotees an opportunity to witness the ancient temples and mathas of the Srisailam Kshetram, thereby fostering deeper spiritual awareness and devotion.

The circumambulation of Srisailam, revered as 'Ila Kailasam', is considered highly sacred and spiritually rewarding.

Budget focuses on growth, manufacturing and opportunities for TN: CII leaders

Industry leaders in Tamil Nadu have welcomed the Union Budget 2026, describing it as growth-oriented, forward-looking and supportive of manufacturing, MSMEs and long-term industrial development.

Senior office-bearers of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) shared their assessment while addressing the media at a post-Budget press conference held at ITC Grand Chola, Chennai, on Sunday. Speaking after the Budget presentation, Deputy Chairman of CII Southern Region Ravichandran said the government had placed a clear emphasis on economic expansion driven by capital investment.

He noted that enhanced public spending on infrastructure would have a strong multiplier effect across sectors.

Highlighting the industrial roadmap outlined in the Budget, he said there was a strategic focus on seven priority sectors,



including electronics and advanced manufacturing. "The Semiconductor 2.0 Mission is a major highlight, covering a wide spectrum from consumer electronics to defence electronics," Ravichandran said. He also pointed to the announcement of rare earth mineral corridors, calling it a crucial step towards strengthening supply chains and reducing import dependence -- an area of particular relevance for Tamil Nadu, which is emerging as a hub for electronics, EVs and advanced materials. He added that MSMEs had received a significant boost through a Rs 10,000-crore growth fund,

while urban development, manufacturing, legacy industries, tourism and data centres were also given focused attention.

"Overall, this Budget clearly paves the way for sustained development," he said.

Former Chairman of CII Southern Region C.K. Ranganathan described the Budget as a "manufacturing reviver," with special emphasis on technical textiles.

He said dedicated fund allocation and value addition measures would directly benefit textile-dominated regions such as Tamil Nadu, strengthening employment and exports.

Chairman of CII Tamil

Nadu State Council Unni Krishnan termed the Budget "foundational and long-term in nature." He pointed out that nearly 200 legacy industrial clusters identified across the country would gain from targeted interventions over time.

"The real benefits will be visible progressively, but the direction is clearly positive for the economy," he said.

CII leaders said Tamil Nadu stands to gain substantially from the Budget's focus on semi-conductors, textiles, MSMEs, tourism and infrastructure, reinforcing the state's role as a key engine of India's industrial growth.

KCR Interrogated in Phone Tapping Case at Nandini Nagar



The questioning of BRS chief and former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) has commenced in connection with the phone tapping case. Special Investigation Team (SIT) officials are interrogating him at his residence in Nandini Nagar, Hyderabad. The proceedings are taking place on the residence's second floor, with video recordings being made of the interrogation.

KCR is being questioned by SB Joint CP Vijay Kumar, Maheshwaram DCP Narayana Reddy, Additional DCP KS Rao, ACP Venkatagiri, Greyhounds SP Ravinder Reddy, and ACP Sridhar. His lawyer, Ramchander Rao, has requested that his client's legal representative, Santosh Rao, be present during the interrogation.

BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) is also present at the residence during the questioning. A four-tier security cordon has been established around the property, with five DCPs deployed for security. Authorities have taken control of the area surrounding Nandini Nagar, restricting access from the Basavatakkam Cancer Hospital side. This development has become a major talking point in Telangana politics, with widespread discussions over the ongoing investigation.

Adulteration in Tirumala laddu is a fact: Anam

Nellore: Endowment Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy on Saturday asserted that adulteration in famous Tirumala laddus making cent percent truth.

Ramanarayana Reddy along with TDP Nellore district president and MLC Beeda Ravichandra and Kandukur MLA Inturi Nageswara Rao Addressed the media persons in Kandukur.

Anam stated that the laddu preparation involved the use of adulterated ghee made from chemicals, and not a single percent of good quality ghee was used. This was revealed through investigations by the CBI and SIT, he added.

He said that the committee appointed by the Supreme Court has thoroughly investigated and uncovered the adulteration in ghee.

The SIT report has already been submitted to the Supreme Court, and in a few days, the masterminds and the scale of the scam will be exposed, he said.

However, he criticized the YSRCP for continuously spreading lies while hiding the facts.



He urged people to remember that no matter how many times a lie is repeated, it will never become the truth.

He also pointed out the YSRCP's involvement in incidents like the removal of the statue of Lord Rama at Ramateertham in Vizianagaram, the burning of chariots at Antarvedi and Kondavittara, and the disappearance of silver lion idols at the Durga temple.

He blamed the YSRCP for these acts and accused the party of having ties with deities, which led to them being restricted to 11 seats in the last elections.

He said that despite the devastating impact of the Ram Baan (the arrow) on the YSRCP during the previous elections, YS Jagan

Mohan Reddy had not learned his lesson. Minister Anam criticized the YSRCP leaders for making baseless allegations against Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and others, questioning whether they had any shame in doing so.

The Minister alleged that Jagan resorting to dirty politics for his party existence but people of the state not prepared to hear his false statements. While disclosing there were 27,000 temples under the Department of Endowments in the State, he added that priority was being given to the renovation of ancient temples.

In Prakasam district, Rs. 1.85 crore was allocated for the renovation of 150 temples, and Rs. 33 crore was allotted for 32 temples in Kandukur constituency.

Additionally, Rs. 10,000 per month would be released for the incense and offerings in 5,800 temples.

'Anam' emphasized that Kandukur, once one of the most backward constituencies in the Prakasam district, would soon transform into a rapidly developing area due to the various state government initiatives.

Shooting concludes for 'Mirzapur: The Movie', cast and crew celebrate wrap



Mumbai: The shooting for the much-awaited film adaptation of the blockbuster web series Mirzapur has officially wrapped up, sending fans of the gritty crime drama into a frenzy of excitement.

Marking the occasion, actress Shweta Tripathi took to social media to announce the completion of the shoot. She shared a picture of the clapperboard that read, "Mirzapur: The Movie Wrapped," confirming that filming for the cinematic version of the popular franchise has come to an end.

Shweta, who reprises her much-loved role of Golu Gupta, also posted a group photograph featuring the entire cast and crew. Captioning the picture, she wrote, "It's a wrap Mirzapur: The Movie," as the team came together to celebrate the milestone.

Over the past few weeks, several members of the film's core team have been sharing behind-the-scenes updates from the sets, further fuelling anticipation around the project, which already enjoys a massive fan following due to the success of the original series.

Speaking earlier about her character, Shweta reflected on the impact Golu Gupta has had on her journey as an actor. She said the character has given her a voice, strength and an identity for which she will always remain grateful. According to her, the role has significantly influenced how audiences perceive her and has also shaped the kind of stories and roles that have come her way. Expressing her excitement about bringing the Mirzapur universe to the big screen, Shweta said that the overwhelming love for the world and its characters makes the experience both exciting and fulfilling. She added that reuniting with the cast, especially Ali Fazal, whom she described as family, and stepping back into Golu's shoes felt like coming home — albeit with a new energy and a much larger scale. She concluded by saying she cannot wait for audiences to experience this new chapter of Mirzapur in cinemas.

Directed by Gurmeet Singh and produced by Excel Entertainment, Mirzapur: The Movie reunites the original cast of the series, including Ali Fazal, Pankaj Tripathi, Divyendu Sharma, Abhishek Banerjee, Shweta Tripathi and Shriya Pilgaonkar.

In addition to the familiar faces, the film will also introduce new characters to the Mirzapur universe, with actors such as Sonal Chauhan, Jitendra Kumar and Ravi Kishan joining the ensemble.

PRESTO 2K26, 10th national technical symposium held

Anantapur: The 10th National Level Technical and Cultural Symposium "PRESTO 2K26" was grandly organised over two days by the Computer Science and Engineering Department and allied departments of Anantha Lakshmi Engineering College (Autonomous), according to the college Principal, Dr Kutala Srinivasulu.

Professor A Suresh Babu, Director Admissions, Foreign & Alumni Affairs, JNTUA, Anantapur, attended the inaugural



ceremony as the chief guest and inaugurated the symposium.

A large number of students from Andhra

Pradesh and other states participated in PRESTO 2K26, which was conducted as a national-level symposium. As part of this symposium, several

technical competitions such as paper presentation, poster presentation, hackathon, technical quiz, Code Tantra, and blind coding were conducted.

Students enthusiastically showcased their technical talent, creativity, and innovative abilities. The programme was attended by the college Vice Chairman M Ramesh Naidu, as well as other faculty members from the department and a large number of students.

Kiccha Sudeep marks 30 glorious years in cinema with a heartfelt note of gratitude



Sandalwood star Kiccha Sudeep has completed three remarkable decades in the film industry, marking the milestone with gratitude, reflection, and a renewed promise to work even harder. The celebrated actor took to social media to thank everyone who has been part of his long and inspiring cinematic journey, from fans to filmmakers and the larger Kannada film fraternity.

Sharing an emotional note, the Eega actor expressed how overwhelming the journey has been, stating that what began as a boy's dream grew into something far beyond his imagination because of the unwavering support he received. Sudeep credited his fans as his greatest strength and motivation, while also acknowledging directors and writers for trusting him with challenging roles and pushing him to evolve as an actor.

He extended heartfelt thanks to producers for their faith, co-actors and technicians for their teamwork, and the media for supporting, questioning, and celebrating his journey. Calling cinema a collective effort, Sudeep highlighted the contributions of every technician working behind the scenes. He also expressed deep pride in the Kannada film industry, crediting it for giving him identity, belonging, and a home.

The Maanikya actor revealed that his three decades in cinema have taught him humility, reminding him that every success is borrowed. Promising to continue honoring the craft and giving back to cinema, Sudeep concluded his note with folded hands and gratitude. Sudeep began his acting career with a supporting role in *Thayavva*, a journey that has since made him one of Kannada cinema's most respected stars.

Aishwarya Rajesh dedicates TN state film award to fans, calls it a shared honour



National Award-winning actress Aishwarya Rajesh has expressed heartfelt gratitude after receiving the Tamil Nadu State Film Award for Best Actress (Special Mention) for 2018, honouring her acclaimed performances in *Vada Chennai* and *Kanaa*. The actress took to social media to share an emotional statement, saying the recognition belongs as much to her fans as it does to her.

Accepting the award with humility and joy, Aishwarya said being recognised for two films that are close to her heart made the honour even more special. She thanked the Tamil Nadu government and the jury for acknowledging her work and recalled the immense learning experience she gained from both projects.

The actress extended special thanks to director Vetrimaran, actor Dhanush, and the entire team of *Vada Chennai* for their support and collaboration during the film's making. She also expressed deep gratitude to *Kanaa* director Arunraja Kamaraj for casting her in a film that went on to inspire countless young girls. Aishwarya credited producer Sivakarthykeyan for backing the project and helping bring its powerful message to the big screen.

Calling *Kanaa* a truly inspiring film, she acknowledged the collective effort of its entire team. Concluding her note, Aishwarya thanked her fans for their unwavering love and constant encouragement, stating that their support has shaped her journey as an actor. She dedicated the award to them and congratulated all fellow winners, calling it a moment of shared celebration.

I knew I wasn't out of form, just out of runs, says Suryakumar after series win

Thiruvananthapuram: India captain Suryakumar Yadav said he was relieved to rediscover his form ahead of the Men's T20 World Cup after being named Player of the Series in India's 4-1 victory over New Zealand.

After a horrid 2025, where he failed to hit a fifty, Suryakumar struck three fifties, including a fine 63 in a 46-run win over New Zealand at the Greenfield International Stadium on Saturday.

"It feels really good. It's been a long year and a long wait for moments like this. I've always dreamed about when this time would come. You actually said it before the last series in Ahmedabad - when SKY is there, don't fear."

"I just kept doing the same things I'd been doing over the last year, stuck to my routines. I knew I wasn't out of form, just out of runs. It's been a very good series, and going into the World Cup feeling like this is really special," said Suryakumar in the post-match presentation ceremony. Reflecting on his struggles, he added, "I think the sky wasn't blue for a year, (smiles). But that's life. It's part of the journey. I took it in my stride, went back to the drawing board, tried to understand what was going wrong."

"After the last series, I got two or three weeks where I spent time with close friends - they told me a few important things I needed to follow. That's a sportsperson's life. I've seen so many careers - not just in cricket - where people go through these phases."

"I knew my time would come if I kept doing the small things right. I'm really happy with how things have turned out," he said.

Looking ahead to preparations for the T20 World Cup, Suryakumar said, "Definitely, whether you win or



lose, you always take something from the game. When we go back to Mumbai and play a warm-up game against South Africa, we'll sit down and analyse the last five games and the year as a whole - what we've done well and what we can improve. Then we start our campaign."

He also praised New Zealand's fight in the final game, where they fell 46 runs short of chasing India's 271/5. "This format is really hard on bowlers - I completely understand that. When you score big runs, you have to expect the opposition to come hard at you."

"As a captain and as a bowling unit, you're always under pressure. The key is having good plans. It's all part of the learning process. We'll sit down, talk it through, and move forward."

New Zealand skipper Mitchell Santner said his side had taken positives despite losing the series. "I think when you look at the series as a whole, we've taken a lot of positives. India are a very good team - I said that right at the start - and in

their own conditions they're extremely tough to beat. Maybe we push the ropes back a little for the bowlers (laughs), but overall, it's entertaining cricket at the end of the day," he said.

He added that the series against India would help New Zealand prepare for the World Cup. "I think when you're challenged throughout a series, that's always a good thing. You put both your bowlers and batters under pressure, and you can only learn from that. From that point of view, it's been a really good series for us. Obviously, the results haven't gone our way, but there are learnings from every single game."

On the lessons for the bowling unit, Santner said, "It's not easy. As a bowling unit, we've got to find ways against very good batters - guys who deal in boundaries and sixes. Maybe it's about turning those big overs into 15 or 16, especially on flat pitches, knowing that even 230 can be chaseable."

Jackie Shroff rings in birthday with love pouring in from family and friends

Mumbai: Veteran actor Jackie Shroff received an outpouring of love and warm wishes from his family and close friends as he celebrated his birthday, with heartfelt messages taking over social media.

Leading the celebrations was his wife, Aayesha Shroff, who penned an emotional and affectionate birthday note for the actor, hailing him as "the best of the best". In her post, Aayesha praised Jackie for the many roles he plays in real life, describing him as a devoted friend, a loving father and an inspiring actor.

Sharing her message on Instagram, Aayesha wrote that while she usually refrains from bragging, her husband deserved every word of praise. She lauded him for his kind heart, patriotism, environmental consciousness and commitment to his craft, while wish-



ing him a truly amazing year ahead and showering him with blessings.

Joining her mother in celebrating Jackie's special day, daughter Krishna Shroff also shared a touching tribute. Posting a set of unseen photographs with her father, she referred to him as her "protector forever" and expressed her deep love and admiration for him, calling the bond timeless and unconditional.

The birthday cheer was not limited to the family alone. Jackie's long-time friend and actor Anil Kapoor also took to social media to extend his wishes. Sharing a collage of throwback pictures with his Ram Laxman co-star, Anil described their friendship as a bond that transcends lifetimes, expressing gratitude for Jackie's presence in every "janam".

Jackie Shroff and Aayesha Shroff's love story dates back to the early 1980s, when they first met under unusual circumstances. Despite coming from very different backgrounds and facing several challenges along the way, the two stood by each other and eventually tied the knot in 1987.

The couple is blessed with two children — daughter Krishna Shroff and son Tiger Shroff, both of whom share a close bond with their parents.

Fondly known as 'Jaggu Dada' among fans and colleagues, Jackie Shroff continues to command immense respect and affection in the film industry, not just for his iconic screen presence but also for his grounded personality and enduring relationships.

KCR leaves Erravalli to Nandi nagar for SIT questioning

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) will question Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader and former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) today in connection with the phone tapping case. KCR departed from Erravalli in Siddipet district for Hyderabad, where he was greeted by party workers who showered his vehicle with flowers. He waved to the crowd as he left, accompanied by a large convoy of leaders and activists.



The SIT is scheduled to question KCR at his residence in Nandinagar at 3 pm this afternoon. On Sunday morning, a significant number of BRS supporters gathered at the

Erravalli farmhouse. They performed a ritual with pumpkins at the entrance, praying for the removal of the allegations against KCR, while chanting slogans against the state government.

In response to KCR's questioning, security measures have been heightened in and around Nandinagar. Barricades have been set up, and only family members are permitted entry into his residence.

Important to carry this form forward and continuing to contribute in WC, says Kishan



Thiruvananthapuram: Wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan said his focus remains firmly on carrying his good form into the upcoming T20 World Cup after scoring a blistering 42-ball century in India's 46-run win over New Zealand to complete a 4-1 series win at the Greenfield International Stadium on Saturday.

"Honestly, not much. I felt the ball was doing a bit early on, but batting alongside Abhishek Sharma really helps. You see his intent, you understand the momentum the team needs, and then you just try to watch the ball and play accordingly. That approach worked well for me today."

"I still feel I'm not there yet. Yes, I've done well and I'm getting these awards, but my focus is firmly on the World Cup. That's where the extra effort is needed. What's important is carrying this form forward and continuing to contribute there," said Kishan in the post-match presentation ceremony.

He added that personal milestones were secondary to the team's goals. "I think that's the mindset of everyone in our team now. Even if you're close to a milestone, it doesn't really matter. If you start taking singles at that stage, you might feel later that you missed an opportunity to go big. So if the ball is there to hit, you have to go for it. The focus is on winning matches, not personal milestones."

Left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh, who claimed his second five-wicket haul in T20Is, said he was pleased to bounce back after a difficult start to his bowling spell, where he conceded 40 runs in the first two overs.

"It was a great learning for me as well - to stay in the game and not think about what happened in the past or in the first spell. That was the message from the coaching staff. I just wanted to stay in the present and do what was right in front of me," he said. He admitted to feeling pressure despite appearing calm on the field. "It's just for the camera that I look calm - I'm definitely feeling the pressure as well. Lately, I've been going for quite a few runs, so I'm just trying to work that out with Morne and give my best for the team."

"I enjoyed some of the shots Finn played. But yes, I guess we could have planned a little better according to the wicket. Chasing 250-plus, they were always going to come hard. We could have executed a bit better, but the plan was to stay in the present and just enjoy it."

Arshdeep also revealed the team's mindset during the huddle after the powerplay. "There's no secret there. The talk was about body language - about giving it our all and giving ourselves the best chance to restrict them to around 180 or 190. They played really well and scored a lot of runs, but we're happy to be on the winning side."

Reflecting on India's preparations for the T20 World Cup, Arshdeep said, "Yes, pretty happy with everyone performing well individually. But a perfect team game hasn't come yet - we haven't clicked in all departments at the same time. That's a good sign too, because hopefully in the World Cup, all three phases of the game can come together and we can have a perfect game."

Delhi Dangal Warriors to face Haryana Thunders in blockbuster PWL 2026 final

Noida: Delhi Dangal Warriors booked their place in a thrilling final of the Pro Wrestling League 2026 after edging past Maharashtra Kesari in a pulsating semi final 2 at the Noida Indoor Stadium on Saturday night.

In a contest that swung dramatically from bout to bout, Delhi showed composure under pressure to claim a 5-4 victory and set up a mouth-watering title clash against Haryana Thunders.

Shubham Kaushik was named player of the match for his extraordinary comeback win in the 57kg men's category that kept Delhi alive at a crucial stage, while Manisha Bhanvala earned fighter of the match honours for her dominant display that anchored Maharashtra's charge in the same weight category for women.

Delhi struck first in the 62kg women's contest through Anjali, who produced a composed and clinical performance against Dudova Bilyana Zhivkova. Mixing takedowns, push-outs, and a decisive four-point move in the Power Minute, Anjali secured a convincing 12-4 win to hand Delhi the early lead. Maharashtra responded immediately in emphatic fashion as Manisha Bhanvala dominated Karla Godinez Gonzalez in the 57kg women's tie, overwhelming her opponent with relentless take-down-turn combinations to claim a 15-0 technical superiority victory and level the tie.

Momentum swung Maharashtra's way in the heavyweight clash, where captain Robert Baran continued his unbeaten run. After conceding an early activity point, Baran took complete control in the second period, unleashing takedowns and exposures, especially



during the Power Minute, to defeat Ronak 11-1 and put Maharashtra ahead. The advantage grew in the 53kg women's contest as Nishu Bhanvala edged a dramatic contest against Saarika. A strong first period gave Nishu a cushion, and despite Saarika's spirited comeback in the second, Maharashtra secured a narrow 7-6 win to move 3-1 ahead.

Facing pressure of loss, Delhi found a lifeline through Shubham Kaushik in the 57kg men's category. Carrying a sore knee, Kaushik produced one of the moments of the tournament, overturning a significant deficit in the Power Minute with a stunning four-point exposure followed by a four-point takedown to snatch an 11-10 victory and keep Delhi in contention.

The tie was levelled in the 76kg women's bout as European champion Anastasiya Alpyeeva showcased her experience against Harshita Mor. After conceding early points, Alpyeeva regrouped with sharp takedowns and push-outs, maintaining control in the second period to close out a 7-5 win and

bring the semi-final to 3-3.

Delhi then surged ahead for the first time since the opening contest as Vafaeipour Hadi Bakhtiar edged Amit 11-9 in a fiercely contested 86kg encounter, making the decisive difference with back-to-back takedowns in the Power Minute.

The defining moment came in the 74kg men's tie between Turan Bayramov and Yash. Bayramov dominated the opening period to race into a 5-0 lead, before Yash mounted a strong comeback in the second period to draw level at 5-5. With the bout tied, Bayramov was declared the winner on a higher technique criterion, giving Delhi their fifth win and confirming their place in the final.

The final bout was decided by forfeit, with Tevanyan Vazgen awarded the win, but the outcome was already sealed as Delhi Dangal Warriors closed the semi-final 5-4.

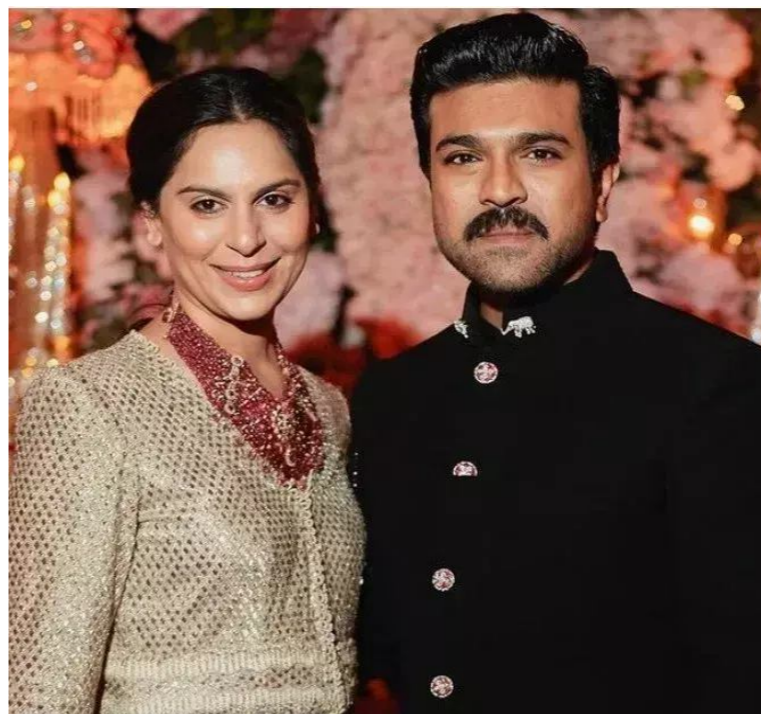
Delhi Dangal Warriors will now face Haryana Thunders in the PWL 2026 final on Sunday.

Ram Charan and Upasana Konidela blessed with twins, Chiranjeevi calls it a moment of 'pure joy'

umbai: Telugu superstar Ram Charan and his wife, philanthropist Upasana Konidela, have been blessed with twins — a baby boy and a baby girl — bringing double joy to the Konidela family.

The happy news was shared by megastar Chiranjeevi, who took to social media to announce the arrival of the newest members of the family. Expressing his delight, the veteran actor wrote that his son Ram Charan and daughter-in-law Upasana have been blessed with twins, calling it a moment of immense happiness and gratitude.

Sharing an update on their health, Chiranjeevi informed fans that both the babies and the mother are healthy and doing well. He further expressed his joy at becoming a grandparent once again, describing the occasion as a moment of "pure joy and



divine blessing" for him and his wife, Surekha. The actor also thanked fans, friends and well-wishers for their prayers, love and blessings. Ram Charan and Upasana Konidela, who tied the knot in June 2012, have long been one of the most admired couples in the Telugu film

industry. The two had been known each other for several years before getting engaged in December 2011. Upasana is the Vice-Chairperson of Apollo Charity and is widely recognised for her work in healthcare and philanthropy.

The couple welcomed their first child, a daughter named Klin Kaara, in June 2023. The announcement of their second pregnancy was made during Diwali 2025, when Upasana shared a video from her Seemantham (traditional baby shower) ceremony on social media. Along with the video, she captioned it, "This Diwali was all about double the celebration, double the love and double the blessings."

On the professional front, Ram Charan is gearing up for the release of his upcoming film Peddi, in which he will be seen sharing screen space with Janhvi Kapoor. Directed by Buchi Babu Sana, the film also features Shiva Rajkumar, Jagapathi Babu and Divyendu Sharma in pivotal roles.