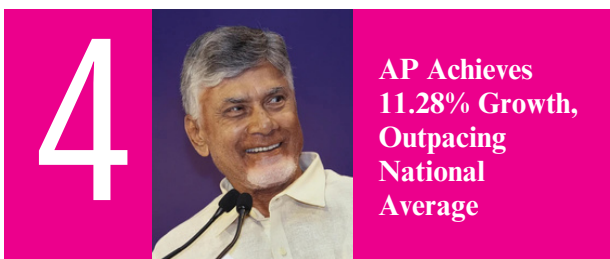




## The Campus Chronicle

From the Department of Social Sciences



## Former Bangladesh PM Khaleda Zia Dies at 80; Nation Observes Mourning

Following the Namaz-e-Janaza, she will be laid to rest with full state honors

LBC News Network  
Visakhapatnam

Bangladesh is observing a three-day period of national mourning following the death of former Prime Minister and Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia.



Bangladesh Nationalist Party chief and former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia

The 80-year-old leader, who served as the country's first female premier, passed away on Tuesday, December 30, 2025, at approximately 6:00 a.m. at Evercare Hospital in Dhaka after a prolonged battle with liver

cirrhosis, kidney ailments, and heart complications. Her funeral, scheduled for Wednesday afternoon at Manik Mia Avenue, is expected to

be one of the largest gatherings in the nation's history. International dignitaries, including Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and

Pakistan's Deputy PM Ishaq Dar, have arrived in Dhaka to pay their final respects. Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus declared a general holiday for the funeral, describing Zia

as a "great guardian" of the nation.

Beyond her immediate political impact, Zia's passing marks a significant turning point for the BNP as it prepares for the upcoming 2026 general elections without its iconic figurehead.

Following the Namaz-e-Janaza, she will be laid to rest with full state honors beside her husband, former President Ziaur Rahman.

## MoD Seals ₹4,666-Crore Deals for Indigenous Carbines and Advanced Torpedoes

The largest portion of the deal, valued at ₹2,770 crore, was awarded to Bharat Forge Ltd and PLR Systems Pvt Ltd

LBC News Network  
Visakhapatnam

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) on December 30, 2025, finalized two major capital acquisition contracts worth a combined ₹4,666 crore, providing a significant boost to the "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" initiative.

The agreements, signed in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh at South Block, focus on modernizing the close-combat and underwater warfare capabilities of the Indian



The contracts were inked in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh (second from right)

Armed Forces. The largest portion of the deal, valued at ₹2,770 crore, was awarded to Bharat Forge Ltd and PLR Systems Pvt Ltd (an Adani Defence joint venture) for the procurement of over

4.25 lakh Close Quarter Battle (CQB) Carbines. These 5.56×45 mm weapons, designed for high-lethality in confined urban environments, will replace the Army's aging 9mm Sterling systems. Bharat Forge's share

includes 255,128 units to be delivered within five years, while PLR Systems will supply 1.7 lakh carbines based on the GALIL ACE design. Additionally, a ₹1,896 crore contract was inked with Italy's WASS

Submarine Systems S.R.L. for 48 "Black Shark" Heavy Weight Torpedoes.

These advanced weapons are destined for the Navy's six Kalvari-class submarines under Project-75. Deliveries for the torpedoes are scheduled to begin in April 2028 and conclude by 2030, ensuring a potent edge in underwater strike capability. These deals bring the total capital contracts signed in FY 2025-26 to a staggering ₹1.82 lakh crore, further empowering the domestic defense ecosystem and MSME supply chains.

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Film Review: Dhurandhar

LBC News Network  
Visakhapatnam

Aditya Dhar’s Dhurandhar represents a considered reworking of the Hindi spy-thriller genre, moving away from formula-driven spectacle towards a narrative that prioritises character, atmosphere, and continuity.

Rather than functioning as a standalone action film, it is conceived as part of a broader cinematic universe, where meaning unfolds gradually through layered storytelling and interconnected perspectives.

The film draws inspiration from real-world security challenges and intelligence operations without positioning itself as a literal historical account.

Dhar deliberately frames the narrative as “based on true incidents,” allowing creative interpretation to take precedence over factual reconstruction.

This approach enables an exploration of themes such as surveillance, political pressure, institutional conflict, and personal sacrifice, free from the constraints of strict historical accuracy.

Multiple timelines and incidents are interwoven, sustaining narrative momentum while gradually intensifying emotional and dramatic stakes.

Performance-driven storytelling lies at the core of Dhurandhar. Ranveer Singh delivers a restrained and internalised performance that marks a departure from his typically flamboyant screen persona.

His portrayal effectively conveys psychological strain, moral ambiguity, and vulnerability, grounding high-stakes scenarios in human emotion.



The supporting cast Akshaye Khanna, R. Madhavan, Arjun Rampal, and Sanjay Dutt adds considerable depth, contributing nuanced performances that strengthen the ensemble without overshadowing the central narrative.

The film maintains a measured pace, balancing investigative sequences, action set-pieces, and character-driven moments.



Dhar incorporates documentary-style elements such as audio recordings and realistic visual cues, enhancing authenticity without disrupting narrative immersion.

This fusion of cinematic storytelling and quasi-documentary techniques adds texture and credibility to the film.

Visually, muted colour palettes, controlled

lighting, and tightly framed compositions reinforce the seriousness of the subject matter.

Action sequences prioritise clarity and

realism over excess, while the background score supports the narrative without overpowering it. Songs are used sparingly and function primarily to advance character development rather than as standalone spectacles.

Overall, Dhurandhar emerges as a technically assured and narratively disciplined spy drama that values structure, performance, and visual restraint.

debates about ideology in contemporary Hindi cinema. Despite these criticisms, Dhurandhar remains a reflective and ambitious entry in the spy-thriller genre, setting the groundwork for future expansions of its cinematic universe.

-By P. M Sarath Kumar,  
Asst.Prof, History  
Dept of Social Sciences

“Be yourself; everyone else is  
already taken.”  
– Oscar Wilde

Utility Numbers			
Police	100	Reservation Enquiry	1345
Fire	101	Disha	112
Ambulance	108		
Rail General Enquiry	131		

## GVMC to Operate under New 10-Zone Administrative System

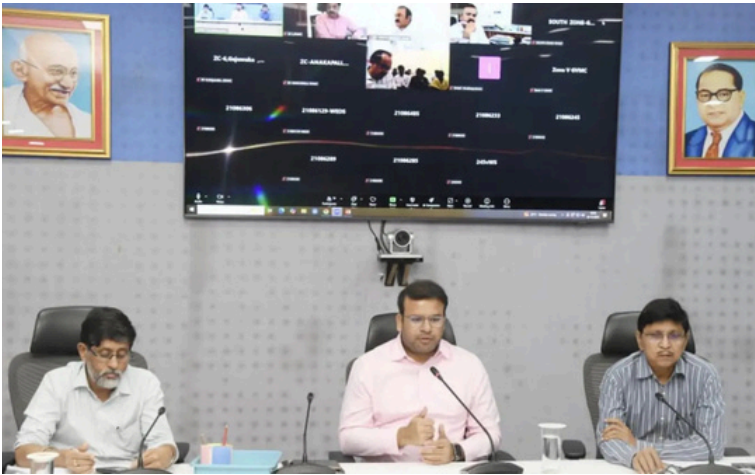
The reorganization follows a "one-zone, one-constituency" model

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

The Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) is set to undergo a major administrative overhaul, transitioning from an eight-zone structure to a 10-zone system effective January 1, 2026.

During a video conference held on Monday, GVMC Commissioner Ketan



Garg instructed all zonal commissioners to ensure a seamless transition of files and staff to the newly

established offices. The reorganization follows a "one-zone, one-constituency" model aimed at improving

governance and bringing civic services closer to citizens. Under the new plan, large areas like Bheemunipatnam and Pendurthi have been bifurcated into two zones each to manage their vast geographical spread.

The 10 official zones are now identified as Bheemunipatnam, Madhurawada, East, North, South, West, Pendurthi, Gajuwaka, Aganampudi, and Anakapalli.

## Visakhapatnam Records 12% Decline in Annual Crime Rate for 2025

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

Visakhapatnam city witnessed a significant improvement in public safety this year, recording a 11.78% decline in overall crime.

During the annual crime review meeting held on Tuesday, Police Commissioner Dr. Shankhabrata Bagchi revealed that total registered cases fell from 5,921 in 2024 to 5,168 in 2025.

The report highlighted major successes in specialized categories:



crimes against women dropped by 21%, while crimes against children saw a sharp 42% decrease. Cybercrime also trended downward by 30%, with police successfully refunding a record ₹14.64 crore to victims—the highest in the state. Additionally, stolen property worth ₹10.59 crore was

recovered and returned to owners. However, the Commissioner noted a concerning 45% spike in murder cases, which rose from 24 to 35. Despite this, the city's proactive policing earned it a spot as one of India's safest cities for women according to the 2025 NARI rankings.

## MP Sribharat Unveils Vision to Transform Kailasagiri into Global Tourism Hub

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

In a major push to elevate the city's tourism profile, Visakhapatnam MP M. Sribharat announced a comprehensive master plan to transform Kailasagiri into a world-class destination.

Speaking during a field-level inspection by the newly formed Kailasagiri Development Committee on Tuesday, the MP emphasized a 30-year vision centered on safety, sustainability, and cultural identity.

Key highlights of the proposal include the construction of a 55-foot-tall Trishul at an estimated cost of ₹1.5 crore to enhance the site's spiritual appeal. To address congestion, the VMRDA is deliberating a new 1.5 km state-of-the-art ropeway, eco-friendly e-bus shuttles, and expanded parking at the foothills.

These developments follow the successful launch of India's longest cantilever glass skywalk, a ₹7-crore project offering 360-degree views from 862 feet.



## Minister Narayana Pledges Permanent Housing for Vizag Slum Dwellers

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister P. Narayana announced a major housing initiative during his high-profile visit to the Velampeta Lakshmi Nagar slum on December 29, 2025.

Addressing a long-standing crisis, the Minister confirmed that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has directed the immediate preparation of special action plans to provide permanent housing for approximately 177 displaced families in the area.



During his inspection, Minister Narayana interacted with residents who have lived in the colony for over 50 years, often in spaces as small as six square feet.

He expressed concern over the severe inundation and lack of basic amenities the community faces during monsoons. To resolve this, the Velampeta slum

will be developed as a "special project" to serve as a model for urban rehabilitation. Visakhapatnam currently hosts the highest number of informal settlements in the state, and this initiative is part of a broader vision to transform the city into a slum-free economic region by constructing over 1.3 lakh housing units for vulnerable households.

STATES AFFAIRS

## AP Achieves 11.28% Growth, Outpacing National Average

*This economic surge was driven by a dramatic turnaround in the industrial sector, which saw a 12.20% expansion*

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

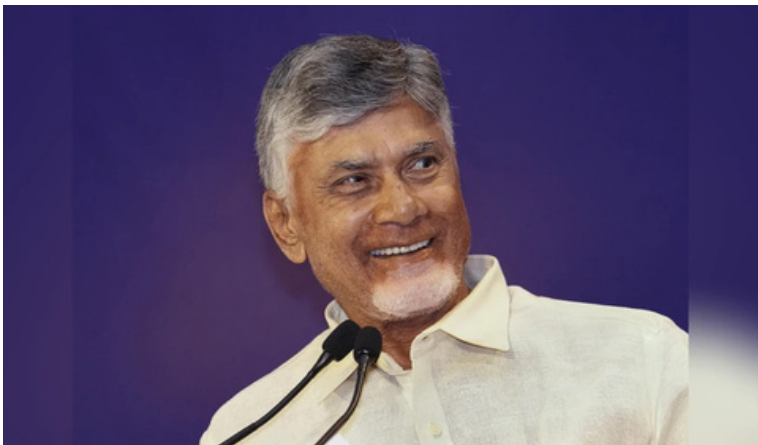
The Andhra Pradesh State Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, officially declared 2025 a "breakthrough year" for the state's economy on December 29, 2025.

Reviewing the year-end performance, the Cabinet highlighted that the state recorded a robust double-digit GDP growth of 11.28% in the second quarter of the 2025–26 fiscal year, significantly outperforming the

national average of 8.7%. This economic surge was driven by a dramatic turnaround in the industrial sector, which saw a 12.20% expansion powered by a nearly 19% rise in

electricity generation and mining.

The agriculture and allied sectors also contributed heavily, growing by 10.70% due to record-breaking paddy and



banana production. During the meeting, Revenue Minister Anagani Satya Prasad noted that the state's investor-friendly policies led to 610 MoUs worth over ₹13.25 lakh crore, with the potential to create 16 lakh jobs.

The Cabinet expressed satisfaction that this growth has laid a solid foundation for the "Swarna Andhra 2047" vision, balancing rapid industrialization with massive welfare spending.

## Andhra Pradesh Police Freeze ₹98 Crore in Major Cybercrime Crackdown

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

In a landmark year for digital safety, Andhra Pradesh Director General of Police (DGP) Harish Kumar Gupta announced significant successes in combating cyber fraud during the 2025 annual review on Monday.

The state successfully froze ₹98 crore in various bank accounts linked to fraudulent activities, marking one of the most effective financial-disruption operations in the department's history.



The report highlighted that cybercrime cases under the IT Act fell by 18.94%, dropping from 2,877 in 2024 to 2,332 this year. Law enforcement addressed over 62,414 complaints generated through the 1930 helpline and the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal.

While the total loss to citizens reached approximately ₹815 crore, the proactive "early freezing" model prevented nearly ₹100 crore from being transferred to international accounts.

## AP Reports 6.17% Decline in Annual Crime Rate for 2025

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

Director General of Police (DGP) Dwaraka Tirumala Rao released the state's annual crime report on Monday, revealing a notable 6.17% decrease in overall registered crimes across Andhra Pradesh.

Total cases fell from 2,31,000 in 2024 to 2,16,750 in 2025, a trend the police attribute to enhanced visible policing and the implementation of advanced technology.

The report highlighted significant successes in public safety, with crimes against women dropping by 14% and bodily offenses decreasing by



10%. Under "Operation Trace," law enforcement successfully tracked and rescued 1,177 missing girls and 2,483 women during the final quarter of the year.

Cybercrime remains a critical challenge, though the department made strides by freezing ₹89 crore in fraudulent accounts and returning over ₹2.21 crore to victims. Despite the

overall downward trend, the DGP noted that road accidents and white-collar crimes showed a marginal increase.

The department plans to deploy AI-driven surveillance and increase highway patrolling to address these specific concerns in 2026.

## Spiritual Fervor Grips Tirumala as Vaikuntha Dwara Darshanam Commences

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

The sacred hill shrine of Tirumala witnessed a massive influx of devotees on December 30, 2025, as the auspicious Vaikuntha Dwara Darshanam officially commenced.

The gateway to the inner sanctum of Lord Venkateswara, known as the Vaikuntha Dwaram, was opened at 12:05 a.m., allowing thousands of pilgrims to pass through the northern entrance—a ritual believed to grant spiritual liberation.

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) implemented a strictly regulated darshan plan for the first three days, restricting entry to approximately 1.76 lakh devotees who secured tickets through a competitive electronic-dip (e-dip) system. On the opening day, over 57,000 pilgrims were expected to have darshan. The temple premises were adorned with 10 tonnes of traditional flowers and intricate motifs.



## Department of Social Sciences celebrates Constitution Day

LBC News Network

College



Department of Social Sciences celebrated Constitution Day on 26th November, 2025. Vice Principal Dr. P. Surekha, staff and students participated in the program.

## College Sports Teams

LBC News Network

College



Football Team for 2025-26

Men's Badminton Team for 2025-2026

Athletics Team for 2025-26

## BA student wins silver medal in Khelo India Weightlifting Championship

LBC News Network

College



In the Khelo India Weightlifting Championship held at Purnima University in Bikaner town of Rajasthan, M. Tarun, a second-year student of BA at Dr. Lankapalli Bullayya College, won a silver medal in the 88 kg category.

On this occasion, Secretary and Correspondent Dr. G. Madhu Kumar congratulated the student. UG & PG Principal Dr. GSK Chakravarty, Physical Education Department Head Dr. Y Srinivasa Rao, and Physical Director Dr. B.R.S. Lakshmana Reddy participated in this program.

## Students secure second place in AU inter-collegiate Hockey tournament

LBC News Network

College



On December 16th, 2025, the Andhra University Inter-Collegiate Hockey Tournament was held at the University grounds. Dr. Lankapalli Bullayya College secured second place in this competition. On this occasion, the college Secretary and Correspondent, Dr. G. Madhu Kumar, congratulated the students. UG & PG Principal Dr. G.S.K. Chakravarty, UG Vice Principal Dr. P. Surekha, Physical Education Department Head Dr. Y Srinivasa Rao, and Physical Director Dr. B.R.S. Lakshman Reddy participated in this program.

College hosts 13th foundation day of Sivananda Supatha Foundation

LBC News Network  
College



The speakers at a seminar held at the Dr Lankapalli Bullaya College stressed the need to instil a spirit of nationalism and patriotism among the youth. They urged students to become active seekers of truth in the best tradition of Indian culture, saying that understanding the spirit of Indianness and striving for active and responsible citizenship were the needs of the hour.

The seminar, titled “Guiding Indian Youth towards Truth: Nurturing awareness and cultural understanding”, was organised under the aegis of Sri Sivananda Supatha Foundation on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2025. Speaking on the occasion, senior journalist and author K. Raka Sudhakar Rao, called on the youth to understand lessons from Indian history. He said that youth have a seminal role in nation building and need to take up service activities. Several such small but concerted and consistent efforts will go a long way in strengthening the country.

Sivananda Supatha Foundation’s chairperson, NVDS Raju, directors Radha Kumari, Prof. Raghavendran, UG & PG Principal Dr. GSK Chakravarty and others also spoke. The programme was organised to mark the 13th foundation day of the Bheemili-based Sivananda Supatha Foundation.

Department of Microbiology and Research Centre Organises Seminar

LBC News Network  
College



The Department of Microbiology and Research Centre successfully conducted a Seminar focused on the 'Emerging Threat of Scrub Typhus'. Poster-making competition was held on this occasion. The event, which took place on Thursday, December 11, 2025, featured a talk by Dr. N. S. Kartheek, Medical Officer at Golden Jubilee Hospital, Visakhapatnam Port Authority.

Held in the Block-6 Seminar Hall of Dr. Lankapalli Bullayya College, the seminar ran from 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM and was attended by numerous undergraduate and postgraduate Life Science students who were invited to be enlightened on the subject.

Students secure second place in the AU Inter-Collegiate Badminton men's tournament

LBC News Network  
College



On December 11, 2025, the Andhra University Inter-Collegiate Badminton men's tournament took place, in which Dr. Lankapalli Bullayya College's team was the runner-up.

## Department of Biotechnology (PG) conducts a two-day workshop in collaboration with HiGenoMB Laboratories

LBC News Network

College



A two-day workshop, "Genotech revolution: DNA fingerprinting to CRISPR", Hands-on training for UG and PG Life sciences students was conducted by the Department of Biotechnology (PG) in collaboration with HiGenoMB Laboratories, Mumbai.

The program was inaugurated by Dr. G. Madhu Kumar, with the launch of the workshop manual designed by the Department faculty members. The resource person, Dr. Rajesh Goud Gajula, provided clear insights into the technical component of Insta DNA amplification and RAPD. While Dr. S Sharmila Begum extended the academic expertise with CRISPR technology and future applications.

Dr. G.S.K. Chakravarty presided over the function. Dr. R.V.H. Srikanth, Vice Principal (PG) and life science faculty, attended the program. Students from UG and PG Life Sciences in and around Visakhapatnam participated and benefited.

## Students win several medals in AU inter-college competitions

LBC News Network

College



In the inter-college competitions held at Andhra University from December 10 to 12, 2025, students of Dr. Lankapalli Bullayya College won various medals.

They secured third place in the women's basketball tournament, second place in the men's badminton competition, and also won medals in athletics.

On this occasion, Secretary and Correspondent, Dr. G. Madhu Kumar, congratulated the students. UG & PG Principal Dr. GSK Chakravarty, Physical Education Department Head Dr. Y Srinivasa Rao, and Physical Director Dr. B.R.S. Lakshman Reddy participated in this program.

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Department of Biotechnology (PG) went on an industrial visit

LBC News Network  
College



On December 19, 2025, the Department of Biotechnology (PG) went on an industrial visit to ICAR-CIFT VSKP. Dr. Madhusudhan Rao and his team of scientists provided guidance and explanations regarding the technical and research aspects of the institute.

Topics covered included biotechnology, antimicrobial resistance, the development of value-added and bioproducts, as well as fishing technologies related to harvesting and post-harvesting techniques.

Infosys Foundation, in collaboration with ICT Academy, launched its flagship CSR initiative at Dr. Lankapalli Bullayya College

LBC News Network  
College



Infosys Foundation, in collaboration with ICT Academy, launched its flagship corporate social responsibility initiative, “Finishing School for Employability” at Dr. Lankapalli Bullayya College today, marking a major step toward strengthening youth employability and industry-aligned skill development in Andhra Pradesh. The program, designed exclusively for 130 shortlisted students, comprises two intensive career tracks: Python Web Developer for 65 engineering students and Premier Banker for 65 undergraduate students, featuring 80 hours of technical coursework and 20 hours of soft skills training to enhance competency, confidence, and workplace readiness.

The inaugural ceremony was hosted at Block 7 of Dr. Lankapalli Bullayya College of Engineering in the presence of leading academic and institutional representatives. The event commenced with a welcome address, followed by the formal invitation of dignitaries to the dais and the traditional lamp-lighting ceremony.

The opening remarks were delivered by Dr. G. S. K. Chakravarthy, Principal, Dr. Lankapalli Bullayya College, setting the tone for the significance of industry partnerships in higher education. This was followed by an address by Prof. D. Deepak Chowdary, Principal, Dr. Lankapalli Bullayya College of Engineering, stressing the urgent need for students to keep pace with evolving technology landscapes and corporate expectations.

Dr. S. Dinakar Reddy, Andhra Pradesh State Head, ICT Academy, delivered the guest speech underlining the commitment of ICT Academy to bridging the industry–academia gap across the nation. The keynote address was offered by Chief Guest Dr. G. Madhu Kumar, Secretary & Correspondent, Dr. Lankapalli Bullayya Colleges, who encouraged students to stay disciplined and utilise the rare opportunity provided to them through this selection-based program.

The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks and the National Anthem. The 15-day training officially begins today, and both institutions have expressed strong confidence that the initiative will significantly enhance the employability prospects of students and contribute meaningfully to the region’s talent pipeline. The initiative is coordinated by the SDC Department, Dr. Lankapalli Bullayya Colleges, with Mr. D. Bhujanga Rao serving as Program Coordinator.

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Vizag in 2025: City writing its own destiny

LBC News Network  
Visakhapatnam

Visakhapatnam entered 2025 at a decisive moment in its urban journey, balancing its identity as a port city with growing aspirations of becoming a technology, industrial and tourism hub on India’s east coast.

Over the year, a series of initiatives, inaugurations and policy-driven projects signalled a renewed push towards planned development and economic diversification.

From infrastructure upgrades and industrial expansion to healthcare advancements and tourism-oriented landmarks, these developments together reflect a city positioning itself for long-term growth and regional leadership.

The year began on a powerful growth trajectory as Prime Minister-led inaugurations of development initiatives worth over ₹2 lakh crore anchored Visakhapatnam’s expansion into sustainable energy and industrial corridors.

Early January saw international cargo operations resume at Vizag Airport, reviving air logistics for local exporters and manufacturers.

Hotels and resorts reported near-full occupancy in late December into January, with RK Beach, Rushikonda, Araku Valley and other scenic circuits drawing leisure travellers across states, reinforcing Vizag as a multifaceted destination for festivity, business and holidays.

Urban mobility became a major talking point by May 2025, when the state government formally accelerated plans for the Vizag Metro Rail Project. Detailed project reports

and administrative clearances moved forward, with officials announcing that civil construction would begin in October 2025.



The metro, designed to connect key residential, commercial and industrial zones, was projected as a transformative step to ease traffic congestion, reduce pollution and support future urban expansion.

In May and June 2025, attention also turned to skill development aligned with Vizag’s maritime identity. Programmes such as “Vizag Skill Sail 2025” brought renewed focus on training youth for



employment in shipping, port operations, logistics, ship building and allied coastal industries.

These initiatives aimed not only at employment generation but also at strengthening Vizag’s standing as a skilled maritime hub on India’s eastern seaboard.

A defining moment came in June 2025, when Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu unveiled the blueprint for the Visakhapatnam Economic Region (VER). Envisioned as a growth engine spanning eight districts, the VER aimed to transform the region into a USD 120-billion economy by 2032.

The plan emphasised large-scale employment generation, industrial clustering, logistics expansion and urban

infrastructure, positioning Vizag as Andhra Pradesh’s primary economic gateway to global markets.

Infrastructure moves shaped the city’s future. The Bhogapuram International Airport project accelerated road upgrades and sparked real estate interest along the expressway corridor, attracting residential and hotel investments.

In September, the city unveiled India’s longest cantilever glass bridge at Kailasagiri, a 55-metre panoramic attraction expected to significantly boost footfalls and

extend tourist stays. September also marked a high point in cultural tourism with the Vizag Food Festival from September 5–7 at the MGM Grounds on Beach Road, showcasing local, regional, and international cuisine.

With an expected daily footfall of 15,000–20,000 visitors, the festival fused culinary art with entertainment, cooking competitions, and live cultural performances, significantly enhancing Vizag’s leisure tourism profile.

Vizag’s IT and innovation ecosystem took centre stage. Global tech giants including Google, Cognizant and others committed to new campuses and

knowledge-hub developments, as the state government articulated a vision of Vizag as a world-class tech and economic nucleus.

The CII Partnership Summit in November catalysed strategic investments across tourism, infrastructure and smart city planning, with world-class projects unveiled that will shape the region’s future footprint. Business confidence was further bolstered by the Vizag International SME Business Expo, a major platform for trade, innovation and export linkages.

In December, urban and civic progress was marked by the CREDAI Property Expo, celebrating real estate dynamism. The modernisation of Vizag Railway Station began, featuring 14 platforms and enhanced connectivity infrastructure to complement expanding air, road and metro networks. Additionally, tourism infrastructure advanced with a ₹90 crore experience and virtual reality arena at Rushikonda, enhancing leisure and destination appeal.

Civic discipline and public safety also entered the policy spotlight towards the end of 2025. In December, city authorities announced the implementation of a strict “No Helmet, No Petrol” rule from January 2026, aimed at improving road safety and reducing accident fatalities. The decision reflected a growing emphasis on behavioural change alongside infrastructure development.

-by N. Deepthi,  
Asst.Prof, Journalism,  
Dept. of Social Sciences

## Israel to Suspend Key Aid Groups as Middle East Peace Plan Faces Hurdles

*The move follows a 10-month investigation into alleged links between NGO staff and militant groups*

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

On December 30, 2025, the Israeli Ministry of Diaspora Affairs announced that it will suspend the licenses of several international humanitarian organizations, including Doctors Without Borders (MSF), effective January 1, 2026. The move follows a 10-month investigation into alleged links between NGO staff and militant groups. While Israel maintains these measures



are essential for security, a coalition of ten nations, including the UK, France, and Canada, issued a joint statement warning that the move could cause a "catastrophic" collapse of Gaza's fragile healthcare system. The diplomatic friction comes as the Trump-brokered "Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict" enters a precarious new

phase. The plan introduces a "Yellow Line"—a new defensive border granting Israel operational control over nearly half of Gaza—while proposing an International Stabilization Force (ISF) to manage the remaining territory.

Despite a ceasefire being technically in effect since October, the UN reported continued aerial and artillery strikes this week.

## President Grants Assent to Historic SHANTI Bill, Opening Nuclear Sector to Private Players

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

On December 20, 2025, President Droupadi Murmu granted her assent to the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill, 2025, marking a monumental shift in India's energy policy.



time. The SHANTI Act repeals the Atomic Energy Act of 1962 and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act of 2010. It introduces a modernized regulatory framework, granting statutory status to the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) and capping operator liability to encourage investment. While the private sector can now participate in power generation and equipment manufacturing, the Central Government retains exclusive control over "sensitive" functions, including uranium enrichment and spent fuel management.

The new law effectively ends the decades-old state monopoly by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), allowing private and foreign entities to build, own, and operate nuclear power plants for the first

## 2025 Confirmed as One of Hottest Years on Record, Breaching 1.5°C Multi-Year Average

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

On December 30, 2025, Scientists from the World Weather Attribution (WWA) group and the Copernicus Climate Change Service confirmed that 2025 has officially ranked as one of the three hottest years ever recorded.

Despite the emergence of La Niña, a natural climate pattern typically associated with global cooling, human-induced greenhouse gas emissions pushed temperatures to unprecedented levels throughout the year.

The most significant finding in the year-end report is that, for the first time in history, the three-year global temperature average (2023–2025) has exceeded the 1.5°C threshold established by the 2015 Paris Agreement.

While 2024 remains the absolute warmest single year, 2025 saw 120 monthly temperature records shattered across more than 70 countries.

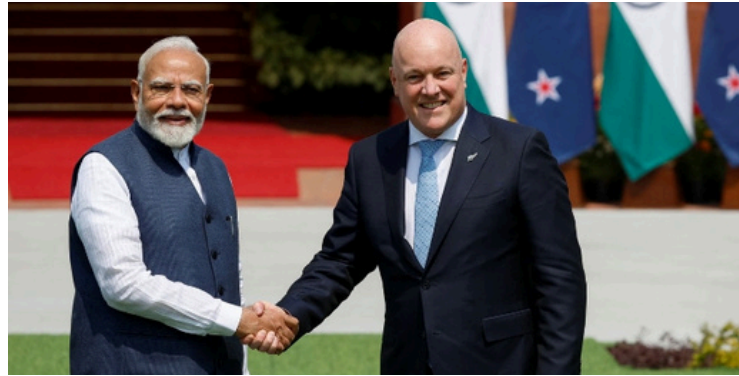


## India and New Zealand Conclude Landmark Free Trade Agreement

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

On December 22, 2025, in a major end-of-year boost to its global trade strategy, India successfully concluded negotiations for a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with New Zealand.



immediate zero-duty access for 100% of Indian exports, benefiting labor-intensive sectors such as textiles, leather, and engineering goods. In exchange, India will reduce tariffs on 95% of New Zealand's exports, including wool, wood, and sheep meat, while strategically excluding sensitive sectors like dairy to protect local farmers. The agreement also introduces a first-of-its-kind \$20 billion investment commitment from New Zealand into India over the next 15 years. Furthermore, a new visa pathway will be established, offering 5,000 temporary employment visas annually for Indian professionals.

The deal, finalized in a record nine months, was jointly announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his New Zealand counterpart, Christopher Luxon, following a high-level telephonic conversation. Under the historic pact, New Zealand will provide

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## India Sweeps Sri Lanka 5-0; Deepti Sharma Sets World Record

*Captain Harmanpreet Kaur led from the front, smashing 68 off 43 balls*

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

On December 30, 2025, the Indian women’s cricket team capped off a historic year by completing a 5-0 T20I series whitewash against Sri Lanka.

In a thrilling series finale at the Greenfield International Stadium, India defended a total of 175 to secure a 15-run victory, ending 2025 on a



perfect note following their maiden World Cup triumph last month. Captain Harmanpreet Kaur led from the front, smashing 68 off 43 balls to rescue India from a

shaky 77/5. Her efforts were bolstered by Arundhati Reddy’s late-inning blitz of 27 runs from just 11 deliveries. Sri Lanka’s chase was kept alive by half-centuries

from Hasini Perera (65) and Imesha Dulani (50), but the visitors were ultimately restricted to 160/7. The match also saw a monumental personal milestone for Deepti Sharma, who became the highest wicket-taker in Women’s T20I history.

By dismissing Nilakshika Silva in the 14th over, she claimed her 152nd wicket, surpassing Australia’s Megan Schutt (151).

## Bibisara Assaubayeva Secures Third World Blitz Title in Doha

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

Kazakhstani Grandmaster Bibisara Assaubayeva cemented her legacy as one of the greatest speed chess players in history by clinching her third FIDE Women’s World Blitz Championship title on Tuesday.

The 21-year-old showcased nerves of steel at the Qatar University Sports Complex, defeating two-time champion Anna Muzychuk of Ukraine in a high-stakes final match.

Following three consecutive draws in the



knockout final, Assaubayeva utilized the advantage of the white pieces in the fourth and final game.

Capitalizing on Muzychuk’s time pressure, she secured a 2.5–1.5 victory to add the 2025 crown to her

previous world titles from 2021 and 2022. The victory was doubly significant as it officially qualified Assaubayeva for the 2026 FIDE Women’s Candidates Tournament.

## Lando Norris Secures Maiden F1 World Title in Abu Dhabi Finale

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

McLaren’s Lando Norris was crowned the 2025 Formula 1 World Drivers' Champion on December 7, 2025, securing his first-ever title in a high-stakes season finale at the Yas Marina Circuit. Entering the race with a 12-point lead, Norris delivered a composed performance, finishing in third place to clinch the championship by just two points over Red Bull’s Max Verstappen.

While Verstappen won the final Grand Prix from pole position and McLaren teammate Oscar Piastri took second, Norris’s podium finish was sufficient to seal the crown. The 26-year-old Briton becomes the 35th driver in F1 history to win the title, successfully ending Verstappen’s four-year reign. The victory also marked a significant milestone for McLaren, which secured its first Drivers' Championship since 2008 and successfully defended its Constructors' Championship title.



## India’s Arjun Erigaisi and Koneru Humpy Secure World Rapid Bronze

LBC News Network

Visakhapatnam

Indian chess grandmasters Arjun Erigaisi and Koneru Humpy secured bronze medals at the 2025 FIDE World Rapid Chess Championship on December 29, 2025, marking a historic achievement for the nation in the international arena.

The tournament, held in Doha, saw Magnus Carlsen clinch his sixth world rapid title in the Open section, while Aleksandra Goryachkina claimed the women’s crown. In the Open category, 22-year-old Arjun Erigaisi finished



with 9.5 points out of 13, becoming only the second Indian male player after five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand to finish on the podium at a World Rapid Championship.

His podium finish followed a highly competitive field where he secured third place based on tie-break scores. In the women's section, defending champion Koneru Humpy displayed

remarkable consistency, finishing in a three-way tie for first place with 8.5 points. However, she was awarded the bronze medal after international tie-break rules placed her third behind Goryachkina and Zhu Jiner. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and AP CM N. Chandrababu Naidu congratulated the duo, hailing their grit and dedication.