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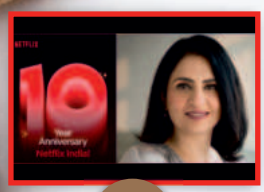
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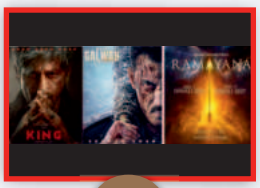
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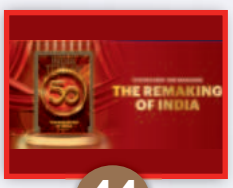
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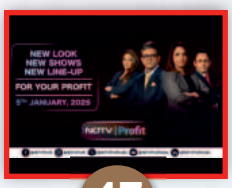
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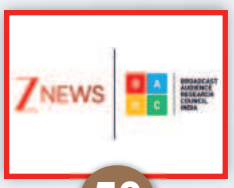
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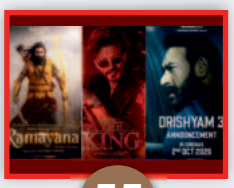
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अधिकार ही नहीं कर्तव्यों को भी समझें

विदेशों में जाकर तो तीर की तरह सीधे हो जाते हैं कहीं इधर उधर नहीं थूकते ना ही सिगरेट फूंक कहीं फेंकते, वहाँ सब कहीं पूरी सफाई का ध्यान रहता है लेकिन अपने देश में कोई परवाह नहीं, जो भी जी में आए कहीं भी कुछ भी...

लेकिन बुराई सरकार की मुंह भर भर कर करते रहेंगे ,उनकी सुरक्षा स्वास्थ्य शिक्षा ही नहीं खाने पिने की जिम्मेदारी भी सरकार की है ,उन्होंने सरकार बनाने में अपना वोट उनको दे तो दिया और क्या करें ,नागरिक के रूप में ही वोट दिया था तभी तो इनकी सरकार बनी ,अगर सब कुछ नागरिकों ने ही करना है तो फिर सरकार की जरूरत ही क्या है ...--कहतेनहीं थकते ।

बैठे ठाली सरकारी रोटियां भर भर के तोड़ने वाले , ऐसे लोग नकारात्मक विचारों से भरे होते हैं , उन्हें चहुंओर नाकामयाबी गंदगी अपराध बेरोजगारी भ्रष्टाचार ही दिखाई देता है देश के विकास के रूप में ,उन्हें सदैव दूसरों के मुकाबले अपना देश बिल्कुल पिछले पायदान पर दयनीय हालत में खड़ा दिखता है ! बेचारे नहीं ये कौवों जैसे बहुत सियाने होते हैं ,इन्हें सच देखने की नजर ही नहीं मिली और जो है उसमे बुरा ही बुरा दिखता है ,चस्मा ये बदलना नहीं चाहते लेकिन चाहिए सब कुछ जो सरकार से मिल रहा होता है ।

इनके बिल्कुल उलट सकारात्मक सोच वाले भी लोग होते हैं ,आज हम रोहिणी दिल्ली के एक शाफ्टवेयर इंजीनियर शंकर सिंह और उनकी पत्नी गरिमा सिंह जो टीचर हैं अर्थात् दोनों पढ़े लिखे और अच्छे समृद्ध परिवार से हैं ,हनीमून में मारिसस ने उन्हें स्वच्छता के लिए प्रेरणा दी,वहीं से वापिस आकर उन्होंने अपने शहर को स्वच्छ साफ रखने की ठान ली ! दिल्ली को कूड़े से आजादी अभियान के अंतर्गत इन्होंने 50 दिन में 50 स्थानों की सफाई का लक्ष्य तय कर बिना किसी सहारे के स्वयं जुट गए ! सफाई के प्रति इनका जुनून देख लोग भी इनके साथ जुड़ने लगे लेकिन लोगों की प्रतीक्षा किए बिना इन्होंने अपना स्वच्छता अभियान जारी रखा ।

50 दिन में क्पससप के 50 टूरिस्ट स्थलों में इंडिया गेट,मजनू का टीला , लाल किला,चाँदनी चौक जैसी जगह जाकर स्वच्छ अभियान चलाते देख लोगों को अजीब लगा क्योंकि वो स्वयं तो गंदगी फैलाने तक ही सीमित होते हैं, सफाई तो सरकार की जिम्मेदारी है , कूड़ा फेंकना से आगे लोग सोचते ही नहीं हैं अत: सिंह जोड़ी का प्रयास उनके गले कैसे उतरेगा ।

एक बार शुरुआत तो कर के देखें ख़ुद मजा आने लगेगा, आपको महसूस होगा कि इसका निर्णय लेने में इतनी देर क्यो की आपने ! अपना ही तो शहर है गंदगी से तो गंदा ही लगेगा और साफ सुथरा होगा तो सबको सुंदर लगेगा फिर सुंदर को कोई गंदा क्यो करेगा , एक बार इसे साफ सुथरा सुंदर तो बना दो फिर गंदगी डालने वाले गंदगी डालने पर शर्माने लगेंगे ! यही तो विदेशों में होता है कि वहाँ जाकर बिल्कुल तीर की तरह सीधे हो जाते हैं हम ! फिर यहाँ क्यों नहीं हम स्वयं को सुधार सकते ?

बात सिर्फ कूड़े या गंदगी तक की नहीं यहाँ तो लोगों को चलने के लिए भी मुश्किल कर रखी है लोगों ने ,फुटपाथ तो कवर कर ही रखें हैं उसके आगे डिस्प्ले फिर अपने बोर्ड और उसके बाद अपने वाहन फिर रेहड़ियाँ,सोचते ही नहीं कि ग्राहक कैसे आएगा कहाँ वाहन खड़ा करेगा और जरा सा कोई इन्हें टोक दे तो बस लड़ने को तैयार ,जैसे उन्ही की जगह है और सिर्फ उन्ही का एकमात्र अधिकार है ह्वह्व.अधिकार का अर्थ समझ गए ना ह्व..अर्थात् पुलिस-निगम सबको देते हैं तो फिर किसका अधिकार ह्व..!!

ज़रा सोचिए



BROADCASTING

Netflix India marks 10 years; Shergill reflects on storytelling journey

Netflix has completed a decade of its presence in India, marking a significant milestone in the evolution of the country's streaming and storytelling landscape. To commemorate the occasion, Monika Shergill, Vice President – Content, Netflix India, reflected on the platform's journey and its commitment to Indian stories, creators and audiences.

In a LinkedIn post, Shergill shared that when she joined Netflix nearly seven years ago, the ambition was "simple but bold" — to tell Indian stories with honesty and conviction, with the belief that staying rooted would allow them to find love both at home and globally. She noted that over the years, this belief has only grown stronger as Indian narratives have resonated widely and sparked conversations beyond borders.

Calling it a privilege, Shergill highlighted her experience of working closely with creators, talent, technicians and colleagues who consistently push boundaries and shape stories that reflect the India of today — complex, diverse and ever-evolving. She said the journey has been driven by creativity, curiosity and courage, from compelling narratives to shows and films that have travelled globally while remaining deeply Indian in spirit.

She also spoke about the responsibility that comes with storytelling, adding that every day brings a sense of joy and pride in showing up for audiences who are both Netflix's biggest fans and its toughest critics. According to Shergill, this constant engagement with viewers has been central to shaping Netflix India's creative direction over the years.

Marking the milestone, Shergill said she was honoured to share the Fortune India



cover with Bela Bajaria, describing her as a visionary leader, and expressed gratitude for Netflix co-CEO Ted Sarandos's continued support and passion for Indian stories. Together, she said, the leadership has worked towards making Netflix a home for stories that entertain, include and inspire.

As Netflix India enters its next decade, Shergill summed up the platform's vision succinctly: Indian storytelling that remains rooted at home while resonating everywhere, signalling a continued focus on local authenticity with global reach.

India sees rapid 5G expansion, telecom sector posts strong growth in 2024–25: TRAI

India's telecommunications and broadcasting sectors witnessed broad-based growth in 2024–25, driven by rapid technological advancements, regulatory reforms and deeper digital penetration across the country. The year marked a significant phase of consolidation and expansion, reinforcing India's position as one of the world's largest and fastest-evolving telecom markets.



According to an ANI report citing the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (TRAI) Annual Report for 2024–25, India remained the world's second-largest telecom market, with the total subscriber base rising to 1,200.80 million by the end of March 2025. Internet subscribers touched 969.10 million, while broadband users increased to 944.12 million, reflecting sustained demand for high-speed connectivity across both urban and rural regions. Overall tele-density stood at 85.04 per cent, underlining the near-universal reach of telecom services nationwide.

One of the most notable developments during the year was the accelerated rollout of 5G services. India recorded one of the fastest 5G deployments globally, with services available in almost all districts by February 2025. The rollout was supported by over 4.69 lakh Base Transceiver Stations and catered to nearly 25 crore users. Since its launch on October 1, 2022, 5G coverage has expanded to 99.6 per cent of districts, enabling advanced applications across healthcare, education, manufacturing and logistics, while also laying the foundation for future technologies such as artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things and Industry 4.0.

MIB sets up Live Events Development Cell to power concert economy

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has established the Live Events Development Cell (LEDC) to accelerate the growth of India's concert and live entertainment economy, with the aim of creating a more structured, globally competitive ecosystem for large-scale events.Entertainment center As per an ANI report, the LEDC will function as a single-window facilitation mechanism to streamline processes for the live events industry and support India's ambition to emerge as one of the world's leading entertainment destinations by 2030. The move comes at a time when the organised live events market has gained significant momentum, recording a valuation of Rs 20,861 crore in 2024 and growing at 15 per cent, outpacing several traditional media segments. The sector is projected to maintain a robust compound annual growth rate of 18 per cent.



The cell was constituted in July 2025 under the directions of Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw. It brings together representatives from Central and State governments, industry associations and major event companies to ensure coordinated and sustained expansion of the sector.

The decision follows Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address at the WAVES Summit in May 2025, where he underlined the untapped potential of the live entertainment industry as a catalyst for investment, tourism and cultural influence. The sector already supports over 10 million jobs across the value chain, with a single large-format event capable of generating more than 15,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities.

The Ministry also highlighted the growing importance of Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities in shaping India's live entertainment landscape. Citing a BookMyShow report for 2025, it noted that Visakhapatnam saw a sharp 490 per cent rise in live entertainment footfalls, while cities in the north-east such as Shillong and Guwahati recorded growth of 213 per cent and 188 per cent, respectively. Overall consumption across musical concerts, sports and theatre increased by 17 per cent, with more than five lakh people travelling to other cities to attend live events.

Industry players see these trends as signs of a maturing market. Deepak Choudhary, Co-Founder and Managing Director of Eva Live, pointed to global artistes like Enrique Iglesias performing in India, alongside extensive multi-city tours by Indian performers such as Arijit Singh and A R Rahman, as evidence of rising scale and audience appetite.

To further support the sector, the Ministry has formed a Joint Working Group with private stakeholders, including District by Zomato, to address infrastructure gaps and improve ease of doing business. Recent successes such as Rolling Loud India 2025, which drew around 65,000 attendees over a single weekend, underline the impact of improved infrastructure and coordinated planning.

With the LEDC in place, the government aims to double the size of the live events sector, generate 15–20 million jobs and position India among the top five global hubs for live entertainment in the coming years.

50 TV channels give up licences in three years

As many as 50 television channels have surrendered their licences over the past three years, highlighting the growing pressure on India's linear television business as audiences and advertisers steadily shift towards digital platforms. Rising consumption on connected TVs and mobile devices, coupled with weakening advertising revenues, has made it increasingly difficult for several channels to sustain operations.



According to an Economic Times report, broadcasters including JioStar, Zee Entertainment Enterprises, Eenadu Television, TV Today Network, NDTV and ABP Network are among those that have handed back licences, as per data from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB). The report points to a mix of strategic restructuring, financial unviability and changing market dynamics as key reasons behind the exits.

In a related development, Culver Max Entertainment, which operates Sony Pictures Networks India, surrendered 26 downlinking permissions after securing MIB approval to uplink and downlink the same set of channels. Industry executives cited internal rationalisation and operational streamlining as factors behind these decisions.

MIB denies directing removal of 'Baloch' reference in 'Dhurandhar'

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) on Thursday refuted media reports claiming that it had ordered the removal of the word 'Baloch' from the film 'Dhurandhar', clarifying that no such directive was issued by the government and that the changes were initiated by the film's producers themselves.Online movie streaming services

According to a UNI report, the statement was made yesterday after reports suggested that the Ministry had intervened in the film's content. The MIB clarified that the makers of 'Dhurandhar' had independently approached the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), seeking certain modifications in the revised version of the film, which are currently being examined under the routine certification process prescribed in the Cinematograph Act and Rules. Directed by Aditya Dhar, 'Dhurandhar' stars Ranveer Singh and Akshaye Khanna in pivotal roles and is built around a tense narrative involving four of Pakistan's most notorious militants. The film explores the region's complex social and ethnic landscape through a blend of real incidents and fictionalised storytelling, examining the collision between extremist networks and state structures.

Akshaye Khanna essays the role of Rehman Dakait, a character depicted as being of Baloch heritage and referred to as 'Sher-e-Baloch' in the film. The storyline also shows members of the Baloch community supplying weapons to Dakait, which are later sold to the ISI and linked to terror attacks against India, including references connecting the weapons to the 26/11 Mumbai attacks.

A source in the Ministry told UNI that the revisions proposed in the new version were submitted by the applicants or producers and are being assessed by the CBFC as part of the standard certification procedure. "The revisions were permitted in accordance with CBFC guidelines, which mandate that visuals or words that may be contemptuous of racial, religious or other groups should not be presented. The process was carried out as per Rule 31," the source said.



The source further indicated that objections had reportedly been raised by members of the Baloch community over their portrayal in the initial version of the film. Anticipating backlash, the producers are said to have voluntarily approached the CBFC with a revised cut containing changes.

The revised version of 'Dhurandhar' was screened across theatres nationwide on Thursday. Reports had earlier claimed that cinemas received emails from distributors stating that a new Digital Cinema Package was being issued after muting two words and altering a dialogue, allegedly citing directions from the MIB. The Ministry, however, has categorically denied issuing any such instructions.

Jio adds 1.2 million subscribers in November, extends lead over Airtel for ninth month

Reliance Jio continued to strengthen its leadership position in India's telecom market in November 2025, emerging as the top performer in both overall wireless subscriber additions and active user gains, according to the latest data released by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

As per an ANI report, Jio added 1.2 million subscribers during the month, extending its lead over Bharti Airtel for the ninth consecutive month. The strong showing came at a time when the industry as a whole witnessed a contraction in active users, with total Visitor Location Register (VLR) subscribers declining by 3.4 million to 1,091 million.

While other major operators struggled, Jio stood out as the only telco to post net gains in active subscribers. Vodafone Idea reported a sharp decline of 2.2 million active users, while Bharti Airtel saw a reduction of 1.7 million during the same period, underlining the divergence in performance across the sector. Jio's momentum was also reflected in its expanding market presence across regions. The operator gained VLR market share in 17 out of 22 telecom circles, with the strongest gains recorded in Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab. According to Morgan Stanley, Reliance Jio's overall market share rose to 43.7 per cent, up 25 basis points month-on-month, while rival operators lost share. This shift narrowed the active subscriber gap between Jio and Airtel to an all-time low. In the broadband segment, Jio maintained its dominance by accounting for nearly 68 per cent of total additions across mobile broadband, fixed wireless access (FWA) and unlicensed band radio (UBR). The company's leadership over Airtel in broadband rollouts was largely driven by its UBR expansion, which added 0.35 million users during the month. Jio also outperformed in the fixed wireless space. Morgan Stanley noted that Jio added almost 2.5 times more FWA subscribers, including 5G FWA and FWA UBR, compared to Airtel. While both operators added 0.25 million 5G FWA users each, Jio's incremental UBR additions helped it consolidate its lead in the home broadband category.

India's broadband subscribers cross 1 billion milestone in November



India's broadband subscriber base crossed the landmark 1 billion (100 crore) mark in November, reflecting the country's rapid digital expansion over the past decade, the government said on Wednesday.

The growth highlights the deepening reach of internet connectivity across urban and rural India, driven by increased smartphone usage, affordable data plans and network expansion.

According to an IANS report, the broadband subscriber base has grown more than six times in the last 10 years. Official data from the Ministry of Communications shows that India had 131.49 million (13.15 crore) broadband subscribers at the end of November 2015. This number rose sharply to 1 billion (100.37 crore) by the end of November 2025, underscoring the scale and pace of digital adoption in the country.

The broader internet user base has also continued to expand steadily. Data released by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) shows that the total number of internet subscribers increased from 1002.85 million at the end of the April–June quarter (Q1 FY26) to 1017.81 million by the end of the July–September quarter (Q2 FY26), registering a quarterly growth of 1.49 per cent.

As per TRAI data, out of a total 1,070.81 million internet subscribers, wired internet users accounted for 44.42 million, while wireless internet subscribers stood at 973.39 million, reflecting India's continued reliance on mobile-based connectivity. The broadband internet subscriber base grew by 1.63 per cent, rising from 979.71 million at the end of June to 995.63 million by the end of September. In contrast, the narrowband internet subscriber base declined marginally from 23.14 million in the June quarter to 22.18 million at the end of September.

The wireline segment showed mixed trends during the same period. Wireline subscribers fell from 47.49 million at the end of the April–June quarter to 46.61 million by the end of the September quarter, marking a quarterly decline of 1.84 per cent. However, on a year-on-year basis, wireline subscriptions recorded a growth of 26.21 per cent by the end of the July–September quarter, indicating renewed interest in fixed-line connections, particularly for high-speed broadband.

Financial indicators also showed improvement, with the monthly average revenue per user (ARPU) for wireless services increasing by 10.67 per cent on a year-on-year basis during the quarter. The government said the sustained rise in subscriber numbers and revenues reflects the growing role of digital connectivity in India's economy and everyday life.

Singapore Court blocks 53 piracy domains in fresh blow to illegal streaming

Singapore has stepped up its fight against digital piracy after the High Court granted a new site-blocking order targeting 53 illegal streaming domains operating under 22 major piracy website brands. The move marks another decisive intervention aimed at curbing the widespread unauthorised streaming and downloading of video content in the country.



The order has been secured by BBC Studios, the Premier League and DFL Deutsche Fußball Liga, and focuses on piracy platforms that were among the most heavily accessed by users in Singapore. According to an official press release issued by the Asia Video Industry Association (AVIA), the action reinforces Singapore's position as one of the most proactive markets in the region when it comes to copyright enforcement and protection of legitimate content ecosystems.

AVIA's Coalition Against Piracy (CAP), which announced the development, highlighted that while site-blocking remains an effective tool, piracy services are becoming increasingly sophisticated. These platforms are no longer limited to copyright violations alone but are now linked to broader cyber risks, including malware infections, data theft, financial fraud and identity scams. CAP also noted that illicit streaming devices and websites can contribute to more serious threats such as botnet activity and vulnerabilities affecting wider digital infrastructure.

The coalition has urged the Singapore government to periodically review and strengthen its legislative and enforcement frameworks to ensure they remain responsive to rapidly evolving piracy models. CAP believes that adaptive and technologically robust mechanisms are essential to deal with pirate services that actively attempt to bypass conventional domain-blocking measures.

Commenting on the development, Matt Cheetham, General Manager of CAP, said that site-blocking continues to be one of the most effective anti-piracy measures globally. He added that the latest order reflects the Singapore courts'

BSNL rolls out Voice over WiFi service nationwide

State-owned telecom operator Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has launched Voice over WiFi (VoWiFi), also known as Wi-Fi Calling, across India, marking a major step towards improving connectivity in areas with weak or limited mobile network coverage.Best smartphone

The nationwide rollout came into effect on New Year and is now available to BSNL customers across all telecom circles. According to an IANS report, the service allows users to make and receive voice calls and messages over a Wi-Fi network, ensuring clear and reliable communication even in challenging locations such as homes, offices, basements and remote regions. BSNL said the initiative is aimed at delivering seamless and high-quality connectivity, particularly in rural and underserved areas where conventional mobile signals often struggle.



VoWiFi is especially beneficial in regions where a stable Wi-Fi connection is available, including BSNL Bharat Fiber or other broadband services. By routing calls over Wi-Fi, the service also helps reduce congestion on mobile networks. Importantly, BSNL has clarified that Wi-Fi calls will be offered free of cost, with no additional charges for customers.

In a statement, the Ministry of Communications said VoWiFi enables uninterrupted calling by supporting seamless handovers between Wi-Fi and mobile networks. The service is based on IP Multimedia Subsystem (IMS) technology and allows users to make calls using their existing mobile number and phone dialer, without the need to download or rely on third-party applications.

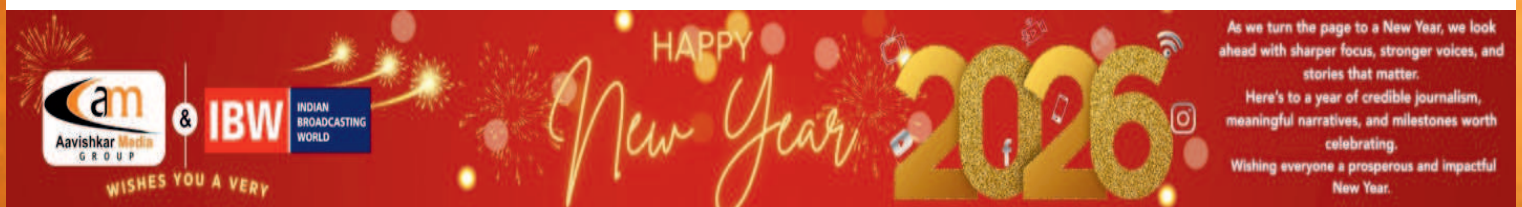
The ministry further noted that VoWiFi is supported on most modern smartphones. Customers only need to enable the Wi-Fi Calling option in their handset settings to start using the service. For information on device compatibility or assistance, BSNL users can visit the nearest customer service centre or contact the BSNL helpline at 1800-1503.

The launch of VoWiFi forms a key part of BSNL's ongoing network modernisation programme. The government said the initiative reflects BSNL's commitment to strengthening digital connectivity across the country and ensuring reliable communication services reach even the most remote and underserved regions.

MIB clears Arugn Tech's acquisition of AION Capital stake in Planetcast Media

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) has granted approval to Arugn Technologies to acquire Apollo Global-backed AION Capital's stake in teleport operator Planetcast Media, paving the way for a significant ownership shift at one of India's key broadcast services companies, according to sources familiar with the development, The Economic Times reported. Arugn Technologies is a special purpose vehicle formed by Planetcast promoters Lallit Jain and Mahendra Nath Vyas. The approval marks a return of promoter-led control at Planetcast, which operates under an MIB licence and is among the country's leading providers of uplinking and playout services to major broadcasters.

Planetcast Media, incorporated in 1996, plays a critical role in India's broadcasting ecosystem, servicing a wide range of television networks with satellite and playout solutions. AION Capital had taken control of the company in 2017, acquiring it from Essel Group, Shyam Telecom and Kubera Partners as part of a broader restructuring of media assets at the time.



Cabinet extends Vodafone Idea lifeline to protect sector stability

The Union Cabinet has approved the rescheduling of Vodafone Idea Limited's Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) dues amounting to Rs 87,695 crore, citing public interest, the need to avoid excessive concentration in the telecom sector, and the interests of nearly 20 crore subscribers, according to government sources.

As per an ANI report, the decision comes in the backdrop of the Supreme Court's observation that any reconsideration of AGR-related matters falls within the policy domain of the Union Government, provided it is guided by larger public interest. The Cabinet took note of the strategic importance of the telecom sector, describing it as critical national infrastructure that requires long-term financial stability. Under the approved framework, Vodafone Idea's AGR dues frozen as of December 31, 2025, will be rescheduled for repayment over a ten-year period, from FY 2031–32 to FY 2040–41. Officials said the move is aimed at providing the operator with financial breathing space while ensuring an orderly recovery of government revenues.

Sources indicated that the Cabinet was particularly mindful of the highly concentrated structure of the telecom industry. It underlined that the continued presence of multiple private players is essential to sustain competition, safeguard consumer choice, and prevent adverse consequences such as steep tariff hikes or deterioration in service quality. In this context, Vodafone Idea's survival as a viable operator was seen as crucial for the overall health of the sector.

The decision also factors in the interests of around 20 crore Vodafone Idea subscribers across the country. By easing the immediate financial burden on the company, the government aims to ensure uninterrupted telecom services and maintain network continuity, especially in regions where Vodafone Idea continues to have a significant footprint.

In addition, the AGR dues frozen as of December 31, 2025, will be reassessed by the Department of Telecommunications in line with the Deduction Verification Guidelines dated February 3, 2020. This reassessment will be based on audit reports, with the final determination to be made by a government-appointed committee. Officials said the committee's decision will be binding on both the government and the company.

Government sources added that the Cabinet's move also protects the Centre's 49 per cent equity stake in Vodafone Idea, striking a balance between fiscal prudence and broader public and consumer interest.

DD Free Dish announces winners of 93rd MPEG-4 slot auction

rasar Bharati has announced the successful channels under the 93rd allotment of MPEG-4 slots on the DD Free Dish platform, marking a significant expansion of regional language offerings on India's largest free-to-air direct-to-home service.

The newly allotted slots have been granted on a pilot basis and will remain valid till March 31, 2026.

The latest allocation further strengthens DD Free Dish's regional bouquet, with prominent additions spanning Kannada, Malayalam, Bengali, Odia, Marathi, Gujarati and Punjabi languages. In the Kannada segment, popular news channels TV9 Kannada and Public TV have secured slots, enhancing news and regional programming options for viewers in the state. Malayalam audiences will see the addition of Mazhavil Manorama, a well-known general entertainment channel with a strong following.

Bengali language channels have emerged as the biggest beneficiaries in this auction cycle. A robust mix of news and entertainment channels including ABP Ananda, R Bangla, TV9 Bangla, R Plus Gold, Kolkata TV, R Plus, Enterr 10 Bangla and Khushboo Bangla have been allotted MPEG-4 slots, significantly expanding choice for Bengali-speaking audiences across eastern India and beyond.In the eastern region, Odia news presence on DD Free Dish has been strengthened with the inclusion of Kanak News. Marathi viewers will now have access to ABP Majha and 9X Jhakaas, adding to both news and entertainment offerings in the language.

Gujarat's regional line-up has also been expanded with the addition of ABP Asmita and Gujarat First, catering to the state's strong demand for local news and programming. For Punjabi-speaking audiences in the northern belt, News State Punjab-Haryana-Himachal has secured a slot under the new allotment.

DD Free Dish continues to play a crucial role as a mass distribution platform for broadcasters seeking wide reach without subscription barriers.

Data Protection Board appointment modalities being readied: IT Secy

The government has begun the groundwork for putting in place the procedure and modalities for appointing members to the new Data Protection Board, while the requisite software for a fully online office of the body has already been developed, IT Secretary S Krishnan has said.

Asked about the potential shortening of compliance timelines for big tech under the data protection regime, Krishnan said the government is consulting industry stakeholders to assess their preparedness, a PTI report stated.

He added that since the issue is complex and affects several layers of the digital ecosystem, the government's priority is to avoid any disruption.

"On data protection board, we've started the process of putting in place the way to identify members and call for their nomination to put them in the positions and posts which the board would need...we are working on that right now, because we have to get it approved," Krishnan told PTI in an interview.

Government is ready with the software required for a completely online office for the Data Protection Board. "So work is going on," the IT secretary said.

On whether the large companies have opposed shortening of compliance timelines, during their discussions with the IT Ministry, Krishnan said they hadn't indicated their discomfort with any particular aspect.

"We've asked them to tell us when they will be ready and look at specific aspects....because please understand it's complex," he said.

The DPDP Act — that defines how entities should collect and process users' data — envisages establishment of Data Protection Board of India, tasked with monitoring compliance, inquiring into breaches, and imposing penalties, and directing remedial or mitigation measures in case of data breach. The board functions as an independent body and is set to play a key role in enforcing the rights granted under the Act and maintaining trust in the system.

According to the recently-notified DPDP Rules, the central government will set up a search-cum-selection committee, headed by the Cabinet Secretary, with the Law Secretary, the IT Secretary and two domain experts as members, to recommend names for appointment as chairperson of the data protection Board.

Another search-cum-selection panel will be set up, chaired by the IT secretary, and comprising the Law Secretary and two domain experts, to recommend names for appointment as board members.

"The central government shall, after considering the suitability of individuals recommended by the search-cum-



selection committee, appoint the Chairperson or other Member, as the case may be," the DPDP rules say.

Data Protection Board to be up and running "in the coming months", Krishnan said but declined to mention a specific timeline.

The Digital Personal Data Protection Act aims to provide a framework for the processing of digital personal data in a manner that recognises both the rights of the individuals to protect their personal data and the need to process such personal data for lawful purposes.

It seeks to protect digital personal data by outlining the obligations of Data Fiduciaries (persons, companies and government entities who process data) for data processing (collection, storage or any other operation on personal data); the rights and duties of Data Principals (person to whom the data relates to); and penalties for breach of rights, duties and obligations.

India maps out spectrum strategy for next-gen connectivity

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has released the National Frequency Allocation Plan 2025 (NFAP-2025), a key policy document that governs the management and allocation of radio-frequency spectrum in India.

NFAP-2025 will took effect from yesterday (dec. 30), according to a statement from the Ministry of Communications, ANI has reported. The Ministry said that the NFAP-2025 will allocate radio-frequency spectrum to various radio-communication services in the frequency range 8.3 kHz to 3000 GHz. "It serves as an essential reference for spectrum managers, wireless operators, and telecom equipment manufacturers," the ministry said.

NFAP-2025 introduces several strategic and future-ready revisions to meet the growing spectrum demand for next-generation technologies. They include identification of the 6425-7125 MHz band for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT), significantly enhancing mid-band spectrum availability for 5G, 5G Advanced, and future 6G networks.

PM Modi to inaugurate AI Impact Summit in Delhi



India is set to host the AI Impact Summit from February 15 to 20 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi scheduled to inaugurate the event, according to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

The summit is expected to see participation from over 100 countries, marking one of the largest global gatherings focused on artificial intelligence.

Speaking at a press conference on Monday, MeitY Secretary S. Krishnan said the Prime Minister will not only inaugurate the expo but is also likely to host a dinner and address a CEO Round Table during the summit. The event is expected to draw Heads of Government from nearly 15 to 20 countries, including France. The details were shared in an ANI report.

Krishnan said several prominent global leaders have confirmed their participation, including Bill Gates. Other confirmed attendees include Dennis Hassabis, CEO of DeepMind Technologies; Dario Amodei, CEO of Anthropic; Shantanu Narayen, CEO of Adobe; Mark Benioff, CEO of Salesforce; Cristiano Amon, CEO of Qualcomm; and Raj Subramaniam, CEO of FedEx. Their presence underscores the summit's growing importance in shaping the global AI discourse.

According to the MeitY Secretary, invitations were sent to nearly 140 countries, with around 15,500 registrations received so far from 136 nations. Of these, 76 countries are from the Global South, reflecting India's focus on inclusive and equitable participation in emerging technologies. Krishnan added that more than 100 global AI leaders, including CXOs, CSOs, leading academics and thinkers, are expected to attend.

Outlining the vision behind the summit, Krishnan said the focus would be on developing AI solutions for key productive sectors such as healthcare, agriculture, governance, education and manufacturing. He explained that the summit is anchored around three guiding principles—People, Planet and Progress—which aim to ensure that AI serves humanity, protects the environment and drives inclusive growth.

These principles, he said, are being operationalised through seven thematic "Chakras" or working groups, each addressing a critical dimension of AI's global impact. Together, they are intended to move discussions beyond broad commitments towards measurable and actionable outcomes, ensuring the benefits of AI are shared globally.

Krishnan also highlighted the scale of engagement leading up to the summit, noting that over 310 events have already been held across the world in the past 140 days. With parallel and allied programmes planned during the summit week, the total number of events is expected to touch nearly 800, reinforcing India's ambition to position itself at the centre of global AI conversations.

Satcom services only after security demands met: Scindia

Satellite communication services will be rolled out in the country after players in the segment, including Elon Musk-owned Starlink, comply with the demands of security agencies, Union Telecom Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said.

The minister, in an interview to PTI, said the government will soon be in a position to allocate spectrum to satcom players — Starlink, Eutelsat One, and Jio SGS — once the Department of Telecom (DoT) finalises spectrum pricing.

"There are two issues that need to be addressed. One by the licence holders OneWeb, Reliance Jio, and Starlink, which is to comply with security clearances regarding international gateways, ensuring data remains in India, and so on," Scindia said.

The minister added that the government has already allocated provisional spectrum to satcom companies to demonstrate compliance capability with security agencies. "They are in the process of doing that, so they need to comply," Scindia said.

He noted that the government is in the process of finalising spectrum pricing, which is being dealt with by DoT and the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai). "Hopefully that should be resolved soon," Scindia said.

Trai and DoT have differences on several points over spectrum for satcom services. Earlier this month, Trai rejected several suggestions made by the DoT on spectrum allocation for satcom services, including levying a 5 per cent annual spectrum fee on satellite communication players instead of 4 per cent, and scrapping a Rs 500 fee per connection in urban areas, among other points. DoT is expected to give its presentation before the apex decision-making body in

the telecom sector, the Digital Communication Commission (DCC). The DCC will decide on the future course of action on spectrum pricing, which may include seeking Cabinet approval on the final decision.

Talking about relief sought by Vodafone Idea (VIL), the minister said the DoT is still working on it. "We are today applying our minds on that. It is work in progress within the Department of Telecommunications," Scindia said.

VIL, in a letter to the DoT earlier this year, said its liabilities to the government are to the tune of around Rs 2 lakh crore, which includes Rs 1.19 lakh crore towards spectrum dues. The company said that in case of no support, the Centre will face significant direct monetary loss with no recovery of spectrum dues, equity value of Rs 53,083 crore becoming nil, and no recovery of AGR dues.

The Supreme Court has given the government an option to resolve the issue within the ambit of its policy-making powers. When asked about the sustainability of repeated relief to VIL, the minister said no relief has been given to the company so far.



"We have not given any relief as such. We have converted our dues into equity. Therefore, we hold a 49 per cent equity stake in Vodafone against dues of close to, if I recall correctly, Rs 37,000 crore. That is now the Government of India's equity stake in that company," Scindia said.

In the absence of any relief, VIL needs to pay around Rs 18,000 crore by March 2026, and a similar amount every year for the next six years. The annual liabilities on VIL are more than double its annual operational cash generation, which has been in the range of Rs 8,400-9,200 crore for the last three years.

VIL has said the market will slip into a duopoly and there will be a significant hike in telecom service prices if its operations come under threat.

Scindia said the Indian market continues to be robust with four operators and the government would like to maintain that.

'Rajani's maker Razdan says original episodes of DD's cult show lost

Actor-director Karan Razdan, who is back with a new version of the popular 1985 show 'Rajani', says the episodes of the original serial, starring former wife Priya Tendulkar, are lost. The serial, which Razdan wrote and Basu Chatterjee directed, featured late star Tendulkar as a middle class housewife who takes on issues related to the common public.

It was quite popular at the time and even featured cameos from Shah Rukh Khan (as seen in the image) and Subhash Ghai, a PTI report from Mumbai stated yesterday.



"The original episodes have been lost forever because those days preserving the tape and that also a low band tape was I think next to impossible. Here at least we have recreated Rajini and on Waves OTT (pubcaster Prasar Bharati's streaming platform), it's going to last a lifetime or for long," Razdan told PTI.

The new version, currently streaming on Doordarshan, features Aradhana Sharma as Rajani's daughter, who is carrying forward her mother's legacy by tackling different issues in each of the serial's episodes.

The filmmaker, also known for the popular serial 'Tehkikaat' and writing screenplays for movies such as 'Diljale' and 'Trimurti', is happy that they got a chance to recreate the series and on Waves OTT.

Razdan said it was a conscious decision to not bring a replacement to the character played by Tendulkar and instead feature the new protagonist as her daughter. "If I had replaced Priya as Rajani then it would be a completely idiotic thought. But here it's the daughter... So, I feel that this was a chance worth taking," he explained.

According to Razdan, the series at the time couldn't continue as they were tackling issues that were not comfortable for those in power, but it was revived briefly for a second season in 1995.

"So I have lived with the idea (of bringing a new show) for about eight years till Gaurav Dwivedi ji (CEO, Prasar Bharti) contacted me. We came up with the idea to make 'Rajani 2.0'and launch it on Waves," he said. Asked how Shah Rukh came to do a cameo in the series, Razdan said Tendulkar was doing a role in 'Trimurti' where she became friends with SRK.

"One day she told me, 'Shall I ask Shah Rukh (for the cameo). That is when Anand Mahendroo was trying to do (the show). So I said 'Yeah, I mean you can ask him. He's from television' Shah Rukh said yes immediately," he said.

Razdan, who now hopes he gets megastar Amitabh Bachchan to do a cameo in 'Rajani 2.0', said the new version of the show speaks about topical problems plaguing the common man like safety of women in the workplace, digital arrests, fraud in flat delivery etc.

Sharma, who stars as Rajani's daughter in the series, said it was a huge responsibility to step into the shoes of the actor, who passed away in 2002 at the age of 47.

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THE CONTENT ENGINE



New M&E affluence measurement Ormax Media Affluence unveiled

Ormax Media has introduced Ormax Media Affluence (OMA), a new audience classification system designed specifically to measure affluence for the media and entertainment sector in India, the company has said.

OMA is a scoring system built on 21 carefully-selected parameters spanning three broad consumption domains: family consumption at home, individual digital consumption and out-of-home entertainment. Audiences are classified into one of the four OMA segments (OMA A, B, C & D), creating a media-relevant hierarchy of consumption and spending affinity, rather than generic socio-economic labels, the Ormax media statement said.

Explaining the rationale behind the new classifications, Ormax Media said traditional affluence frameworks such as SEC or NCCS treat affluence as a household attribute, whereas media consumption is shaped as much by social and psychographic factors as by household economics



Affluence is one of the most powerful, yet poorly measured, influencers of media and entertainment (M&E) consumption in India. While the country's economic diversity is widely acknowledged, most industry frameworks rely on household-based income proxies, which do not reflect how individuals actually discover, consume, and pay for content.

For the media industry, OMA enables more precise audience-led decision-making. Platforms can more accurately size and prioritize user cohorts, content owners can assess the revenue potential of content and formats, and marketers can align media planning and targeting with actual spending propensity rather than broad socio-economic proxies.

By anchoring affluence in observed media behaviour and spend, OMA improves the reliability of audience segmentation across content strategy, monetization, and distribution decisions.

"OMA was introduced in The Ormax OTT Audience Report: 2025. Starting this year, we will integrate OMA across our research and analytics products, enabling sharper, more actionable insights by embedding media-led affluence as a core lens in audience understanding and decision-making," Ormax stated.

Universal Music acquires 30% stake in Excel Entertainment in Rs.2,400 crore deal

In one of the biggest transactions in India's film and entertainment sector, Universal Music Group's India arm has acquired a 30 per cent stake in Bollywood production house Excel Entertainment. The deal values the Farhan Akhtar and Ritesh Sidhwani-led company at an enterprise valuation of Rs.2,400 crore, the two companies said in a joint announcement, The Economic Times reported.



Excel Entertainment, which is unlisted, has built a strong reputation in the Indian film industry for backing commercially successful and culturally impactful cinema and series. The strategic investment by Universal Music Group (UMG), the world's largest music label, marks a significant convergence of filmed entertainment and music businesses in the Indian market.

The partnership is expected to strengthen Excel Entertainment's content ecosystem, particularly in music-led films, soundtracks and digital storytelling, while allowing UMG to deepen its presence in India's rapidly expanding film and audio-visual entertainment space. The investment also reflects growing global interest in India's creative economy, driven by its scale, diverse audiences and increasing consumption of premium content across platforms.

Hindi film industry banks on superstars' big ticket films in 2026

After a mixed year at cinemas, the Hindi film industry hopes the year 2026 brings better luck at the box office with the release of big ticket movies like Salman Khan-starrer 'Battle of Galwan', Shah Rukh Khan's 'King' and the second part of 'Dhurandhar', which has turned out to be blockbuster.

Ranbir Kapoor, whose last box office triumph was the controversial 'Animal' in 2023, is expected to make a big return to theatres with 'Ramayana', which is touted to be one of the most expensive films ever made in India. Then he is also there in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's drama 'Love and War' with wife Alia Bhatt and actor Vicky Kaushal.

According to a PTI report from Mumbai yesterday, the year 2026 has begun on a good note for the Hindi film industry with Sriram Raghavan's war biopic 'Ikkis' garnering warm reviews from critics, though the movie's earnings at the ticket window are yet to come out.

'Ikkis' will be followed by another war drama in Sunny Deol-led 'Border 2', which like Raghavan's film, revolves around the events of 1971 India-Pakistan war. But the film, directed by Anurag Singh, and also starring Varun Dhawan, Diljit Dosanjh and Ahaan Shetty, will be different in treatment and story.

Aditya Dhar's 'Dhurandhar' has continued to perform well at the box office in the fourth week of its release. It has become one of the highest grossing Hindi films ever by earning over Rs. 700 crore in India and over 1,000 crore globally. Its second part, which has already been shot, will be released on March 19.



This seems to be the year of war movies as Salman Khan's 'Battle of Galwan' is also lined up for its release and just recently released the movie's first trailer. Inspired by real incidents, the movie is slated to release on April 17.

Distributor-exhibitor Akshay Rathi, who owns theatres in Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh, is hoping that there will be a blockbuster hit every month in 2026.

"It's an exciting line-up. We've big-ticket money spinners and 2026 could turn out to be one of the most historic years in the history of Indian cinema. There's a great chance that 'Dhurandhar 2' might become the highest opening Hindi film of all time given the euphoria for part one.

"Films like 'Love and War' seem quite exciting and 'Ramayana' with a great cast in the form of Ranbir Kapoor and Yash, and others will light up the box office in Diwali. We are hoping Salman's 'Battle of Galwan' will also create magic at the box office," Rathi told PTI.

Fans are also awaiting Shah Rukh Khan's return to the big screen after his spectacular run at the box office in 2023 with 'Pathaan', 'Jawan' and 'Dunki'. 'King', his next that reunites him with 'Pathaan' director Siddharth Anand, does not have an official release date yet but it is expected to arrive in theatres this year.

Rathi is also looking forward to Sidharth Malhotra-starrer 'Vvan – Force of the Forrest' and David Dhawan-directed 'Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai' among potential hits.

Trade analyst Girish Wankhede said 2026 will see franchise films "dominate" the box office alongside standalone movies like 'King', and 'Battle of Galwan'.

"In 2025, we've had 31 films crossing Rs. 100 crores at the box office across different languages, and this year the number of such films will be more due to franchise movies, standalone films and some surprise hits.

"The magic of 'Dhurandhar' will continue in 2026 as it has set a tone with its storytelling and characters. After 'Dhurandhar 2', another big release is 'Ramayana', it's coming out in Diwali, it has a great star cast and director, Nitesh Tiwari. 'King' and 'Battle of Galwan' both are much-anticipated films, both are expected to do big numbers," Wankhede told PTI.

Deol has another major release after 'Border 2' in 'Lahore 1947', and then there is 'Alpha', the Alia Bhatt-Sharvari starrer spy film from YRF. Ajay Devgn has already announced that he is returning with the third part of 'Drishyam 3' on October 2, Akshay Kumar will be back with 'Welcome to the Jungle' in December. Rani Mukerji's 'Mardaani 3' is releasing on February 27 and Rajinikanth's 'Jailer 2' is expected to build on the success of its predecessor with its June release.

Vishek Chauhan, a Bihar-based exhibitor, said 2026 will definitely be "bigger" and "better" as films of top stars like Salman, Shah Rukh, and Ranbir are lined up for release.

Sharing similar views, Kamal Gianchandani, CEO, PVR INOX Pictures said 2026 will be "bigger" than the previous year. "Films like 'King', 'Ramyana', 'Love and War', 'Avengers: Doomsday', and a few others. I think next year will be bigger than this year," Gianchandani told PTI.

From the South film industry, there are quite a few pan-India films like Prabhas's 'The Raja Saab' and 'Jana Nayakudu', which will be Tmil star Vijay's final appearance on the big screen. Both films are scheduled for release on January 9.

Big B remembers 'idol' Dharam fondly on 'KBC's 'Ikkis' special

Amitabh Bachchan remembered his 'Sholay' co-star Dharmendra fondly on the sets of 'KBC' during a special episode with team 'Ikkis', which features the late star in his last role before his death in November at the age of 89.

In the movie, Dharmendra played the father to Nanda's Arun Khetarpal, the youngest Param Vir Chakra recipient in history. Khetarpal, played in the movie by Bachchan's grandson Agastya Nanda, was killed during the 1971 India-Pakistan war when he was just 21, a PTI report stated.

Bachchan said 'Ikkis' is one last precious memory that Dharmendra left for his countless fans.



During the 'KBC' episode, Bachchan said, "The film 'Ikkis' is the last precious memento for us, which was left behind for millions of people. An artist wants to practise art till the last breath of his life, and this is exactly what my friend, my family and my idol, Mr Dharmendra Deol, did.

"Mr Dharam was not just a person. He was feeling, and a feeling never lets you go. It becomes a memory, a blessing that keeps you going."

Reminiscing about 'Sholay' shoot, Bachchan brought up one particular scene to highlight Dharam's multi-faceted character and said, "We were shooting in Bangalore. He had what I call a physical quality; he was a wrestler, a hero. In the death scene, the agony you saw on screen was real because of the way he held me so tightly that the pain became natural acting."

Sriram Raghavan, the director of 'Ikkis', who appeared on 'KBC' to promote the movie, said, "I am very blessed that he is working in my last film and that his last film is something he is extraordinarily good at."

Actor Jaideep Ahlawat, also a part of 'Ikkis', echoed the sentiment, sharing, "I was lucky to have most of my scenes with him. On set, it never felt like a superstar was sitting with us; he felt like family."

Meanwhile, an earlier PTI report had said that Mukesh Khetarpal, Arun Khetarpal's brother, could not stop crying after seeing his brother's life unfold on the big screen in 'Ikkis' and he praised Nanda for perfectly embodying his late brother.

In a video shared by PVR Cinemas on Instagram, Mukesh can be seen watching the film in a theatre and crying inconsolably later.

'Border 2' aims to revive legacy of 1997 classic: producer Dutta



Producer Nidhi Dutta says the overwhelming response to 'Border 2' has reaffirmed the deep emotional bond audiences continue to share with the iconic war drama, as anticipation builds ahead of the launch of the film's much-awaited song 'ghar kab aaoge'.

Expressing gratitude for the love pouring in, Dutta said the team is hopeful that the upcoming film will allow viewers to relive the nostalgia associated with the 1997 blockbuster 'Border'.

According to a PTI report from Mumbai, Dutta shared that the excitement around the song has been especially heartening, as it carries forward the legacy of one of the most memorable tracks from the original film. 'Ghar kab aaoge' brings together an exceptional lineup of singers — Sonu Nigam, Arijit Singh, Vishal Mishra and Diljit Dosanjh — making it one of the most notable musical collaborations in recent years.

The song features music originally composed by Anu Malik, now reimagined by Mithoon, with additional lyrics penned by Manoj Muntashir Shukla, building on the timeless words written by Javed Akhtar. Staying true to the soul of the original, the new version seeks to evoke the same sense of longing, sacrifice and patriotism that made the song resonate with generations.

The teaser of 'ghar kab aaoge' has already crossed over seven million views across platforms, reflecting the strong emotional connect audiences continue to feel with the Border franchise. The response, Dutta said, has reinforced the belief that stories rooted in emotion and national pride still hold immense power.

Released in 1997 and directed by J.P. Dutta, 'Border' went on to become a massive box-office success and remains one of Indian cinema's most celebrated war films. With 'Border 2', the makers are looking to honour that legacy while introducing a new chapter that speaks to today's audiences, without losing the essence that made the original a landmark film.

Court allows Netflix to air 'Bad Boy Billionaires' Satyam episode

After a five-year legal battle, a court in Hyderabad on Tuesday (Dec. 30, 2025) vacated an ad-interim injunction that had restrained Netflix from streaming an episode of 'Bad Boy Billionaires: India', which had been conceptualised around Byrraju Ramalinga Raju, the founder of Satyam Computer Services, barandbench.com reported.

After the order was received, Netflix released the episode as part of its investigative docuseries 'Bad Boy Billionaires: India', a documentary series, which also focuses on other businessmen such as Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi and Subrata Roy, was released in 2020, the legal news website said.

The court-cleared episode focuses on the rise and collapse of Satyam Computer Services and the allegations of accounting fraud against its founder and former chairman, Byrraju Ramalinga Raju, in 2009.

In its order, the Telengana High Court on being approached by the streamer and the producers of the docuseries, according to the barandbench.com report, had noted that the ex-parte injunction had been repeatedly extended without final disposal of the interim application under Order XXXIX Rules 1 and 2 Code of Civil Procedure and directed lower court to continue operation of the ex parte restraint without adjudication on merits. In compliance with the High Court direction, the Chief Judge of City Civil Court in Hyderabad heard the matter and lifted the stay on the Ramalinga Raju episode. However, Raju's suit against the episode is still pending before the civil court for final decision, the barandbench report added.



Netflix was represented by a team from SaiKrishna & Associates, while Minnow Films, the producer, was represented by a team from Bharucha & Partners led by its partner Kaushik Moitra

All episodes of the series had been challenged by the persons featured in the series, including Mallaya and Sahara founder Subroto Roy, who passed away in 2023.

Meanwhile, a Reuters report filed on October 5, 2020 stated that Netflix released three episodes of its four-part series about four Indian tycoons facing fraud allegations after a State court lifted an injunction, a lawyer for the world's largest streaming service said on Monday.

The 'Bad Boy Billionaires: India' documentary series about liquor tycoon Mallya, Roy of the Sahara group, IT executive Ramalinga Raju and jeweller Nirav Modi had been set for release in September 2020. But Netflix suspended it after an order from the Araria district court in the eastern Bihar state, where the Sahara group argued it would damage Roy's reputation.

2025 a year of course correction for Indian OTT industry: ChanaJor founder Pratap Jain

After years of rapid expansion and aggressive experimentation, the Indian OTT industry paused in 2025 to reassess its direction, with platforms increasingly focusing on sustainability, sharper positioning and audience retention.

Reflecting on this shift and outlining his outlook for the year ahead, Pratap Jain, Founder and CEO of ChanaJor, said the past year marked a clear turning point for the digital streaming ecosystem.





According to the OTT Platform, Jain observed that 2025 brought a decisive move away from blind scale and volume-driven growth. He noted that platforms became more conscious of costs, content performance and loyal viewership, signalling a maturing market where discipline began to outweigh hype. According to him, the conversation shifted from who launched the most shows to who truly understood their audience, with growth, retention and relevance emerging as the key priorities.

This broader industry correction also influenced ChanaJor's internal strategy during the year. Jain said the platform chose to invest more thoughtfully rather than expand aggressively. From a content perspective, the focus remained on stories that genuinely connect with Hindi-speaking audiences, while business decisions followed viewer behaviour and completion patterns. He added that 2025 marked a shift from experimentation to conviction-driven storytelling for the platform.

Language and regional focus continued to be central to ChanaJor's growth strategy. Jain said the platform's positioning as a Hindi-only service emerged as a major strength in 2025, enabling it to connect deeply with audiences across Tier 2, Tier 3 and emerging markets. He emphasised that depth within Hindi storytelling, rather than language diversity, remains ChanaJor's long-term advantage and will continue to guide its content strategy in 2026.

Marketing approaches across the OTT space also reflected the industry's growing emphasis on efficiency. Jain pointed out that spends in 2025 were largely performance-driven, focused on digital discovery, platform integrations and content-led promotions with measurable outcomes. Looking ahead, he expects a gradual move towards stronger brand-building efforts in 2026, while maintaining performance discipline as trust and recall become increasingly important for sustained growth.

Sharing his vision for the coming year, Jain said ChanaJor's key resolution is to communicate its identity more clearly. Instead of aggressively marketing every release, the platform aims to reinforce what it stands for—authentic, rooted Hindi stories that audiences can relate to. He believes consistency in messaging will matter more than frequency as the platform matures.

On the industry outlook, Jain said 2026 is likely to be shaped by a stronger focus on viewer retention and engagement, the rise of short and micro-format storytelling with high relatability, and platforms building clear cultural and language identities rather than trying to cater to everyone. According to him, OTT platforms that remain focused, understand their audiences deeply and tell honest stories will be best placed to succeed in the year ahead.

Jio tops in 5G speed availability, utilisation by subs: Open Signal



Jio leads the 5G segment in terms of speed, availability of signals and its utilisation by subscribers, broadband network research firm Open Signal said on Monday.

The report based on data collected between September 1 – November 30, 2025 said that moving from 4G to 5G delivers multi-fold gains in download speeds and a more consistent, "good enough" experience, PTI reported from New Delhi. According to the report, 5G download speed during the study period was 199.7 megabit per second (mbps) which is 11 times more than 4G download speed on its network. 5G speed on Bharti Airtel network was 7 times more than that of 4G at 187.2 mbps while Vodafone Idea (Vi) 5G network showed download speed of 138.1 mbps which was six times faster.

"Across all operators, 5G users experience fewer interruptions and less performance volatility than on 4G. This reinforces that the value of 5G lies not only in peak speeds, but in delivering a more reliable day-to-day experience," the report said.

Open Signal measures availability of 5G signal during day and time users with 5G device and subscription spent on utilising those signals.

The report found that Jio had the highest availability of 5G signals during 68.1 per cent of time during the research period and its subscriber could utilise it for 67.3 per cent of time.

"Jio converts availability into usage almost one-to-one, with 67.3 per cent Time on 5G versus 68.1 per cent 5G Availability. Its Standalone (SA) architecture, combined with 700 MHz spectrum for deep indoor penetration, enables devices to remain on 5G throughout active data sessions – translating coverage directly into experience," the report said.

Opensignal said that its 5G Availability metric measured the proportion of time users were actively connected to a 5G network bearer.

"This remains a critical indicator of real-world 5G utilisation, showing how often users benefit from 5G performance in practice. To better reflect what this metric captures, Opensignal has renamed it Time on 5G – the percentage of time users with a 5G device are actually connected to 5G," the report said.

Airtel network showed 66.6 per cent availability, but users spend only 28 per cent of their time on 5G.

"This reflects characteristics of its (Airtel) Non-Standalone (NSA) deployment, where 5G relies on a 4G anchor for control signalling," the report said.

Open Signal study found Vi network had 32.5 per cent availability and 9.7 per cent time on 5G, consistent with a network still in the early phases of deployment rather than indicating inherent performance limitations.

"With sub-Rs 10,000 5G smartphones accelerating adoption, network stress will only increase.

The next phase of India's digital journey will be won by operators that can balance scale with consistency, and deliver a 5G experience that remains reliably "good enough" for everyday life," the report said.

Ultra Media OTT Insights Report '25 shines light on year's viewing trend

Indian audiences in 2025 displayed a striking blend of nostalgia and contemporary taste on OTT platforms, with classic and post-2000 Hindi films emerging as clear favourites, according to Ultra Media & Entertainment Group's latest digital consumption study.

From Amitabh Bachchan's iconic Don and Raj Kapoor's epic 'Mera Naam Joker' to Sanjay Dutt's much-loved 'Munna Bhai M.B.B.S' and Aamir Khan's 'Sarfarosh', viewers showed a strong appetite for stories that have stood the test of time.



According to a PTI report, Ultra Media & Entertainment Group has released 'The Ultra Media OTT Insights Report 2025', offering a comprehensive, data-driven snapshot of how Indian audiences consumed content on its Hindi-language OTT platform, Ultra Play, over the year. The findings underline a clear tilt towards post-2000 Hindi blockbusters, which delivered the highest audience share, watch time and completion rates.

The report noted that films from the 1990s followed closely, registering strong retention and repeat viewership, while classics from the 1950s to the 1970s continued to command loyal audiences. Within the pre-1980 segment, 'Don', 'Amar Prem', 'Bobby', 'Aradhana' and 'Mera Naam Joker' emerged as the five most-watched titles on Ultra Play, consistently outperforming other catalogue films.

Titles from the 1990s and early 2000s such as 'Munna Bhai M.B.B.S', 'Andaz Apna Apna', 'Tezaab', 'Sarfarosh', 'Koi... Mil Gaya', 'Khalnayak', 'Karan Arjun' and 'Ghayal' recorded the highest watch time and repeat viewing, highlighting the enduring popularity of films from this era.

The report also pointed out that restored titles like 'Rangeela' and 'Sarfarosh' exceeded expectations, delivering strong engagement and completion rates compared to comparable mainstream catalogue films. Other restored classics, including 'Half Ticket', 'Pyaasa' and 'Pardes', also contributed significantly to overall consumption. Interestingly, the study observed that classic cinema is no longer the preserve of older viewers. Younger audiences, particularly Gen Z, are increasingly discovering legacy films, turning nostalgia into first-time viewing rather than simple revisits. This shift signals a widening audience base for classic Indian cinema in the digital space.

Geographically, engagement was led by metro markets such as Delhi and Mumbai, followed by Pune, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Jaipur and Patna. Across regions, viewers showed a clear preference for post-2000 blockbusters, action thrillers, South Indian dubbed films and legacy Hindi cinema. Demographically, the audience skewed young and male, with an 80:20 male-to-female ratio, and nearly 70 per cent of total viewership coming from users below the age of 44, led by the 18–24 age group.

From a growth perspective, Ultra Play recorded a robust 250 per cent year-on-year growth in 2025, driven by the addition of more than 700 new titles. Festive-period consumption surged by nearly 300 per cent, underlining the platform's increasing traction during peak viewing windows.

Commenting on the findings, Sushilkumar Agrawal, CEO of Ultra Media & Entertainment Group, said the data reinforces the audience's enduring connection with legacy films and restored classics. He noted that viewers no longer see cinema through the lens of eras but through the strength of storytelling, adding that when presented and curated well, classic films can compete head-to-head with modern blockbusters.

Rajat Agrawal, COO and Director, said Ultra's journey reflects the evolution of Indian content consumption from the VHS era to television, digital syndication and now OTT. He added that the company's focus has remained firmly on owning, preserving and monetising strong stories across generations.

Looking ahead, Ultra expects its subscriber base to continue growing, with projections crossing 5,00,000 by 2026 and one million by 2027. With planned platform upgrades including smoother navigation, offline viewing, multi-device access and improved streaming quality, the company aims to further strengthen audience engagement and retention in the coming years.

In 2025, nationalistic films sizzled, star-driven ones fizzled out

Bookended by two nationalistic hits in 'Chhava' and 'Dhurandhar', the Hindi film industry had a mixed year where star-driven vehicles like 'Sikandar', starring Salman Khan, and Hrithik Roshan-fronted 'War 2' fizzled out at the box office, while romantic drama 'Saiyaara' resonated with viewers.

'Chhaava', based on the life of Maratha ruler Sambhaji, became the first major hit of the year with the Vicky Kaushal-starrer earning over Rs. 600 crore at the box office to emerge as one of the highest grossing movies of the year. The Laxman Utekar-directed movie released on February 14 and featured Akshaye Khanna and Vineet Kumar Singh in pivotal roles.

Khanna, whose performance as Rahman Dakait and his dance in 'Dhurandhar' have become a viral sensation on social media, was not the only common thread between two of the biggest movies. Both, one set in the distant past and another around the Kandahar hijack and the Mumbai terror attacks in 2008, are known for their nationalistic theme, a PTI report, evaluating Indian box office hits and misses, stated. 'Dhurandhar', released on December 5, has amassed over Rs 600 crore at the box office to become one of the top 10 highest earning Indian movies, as per the data by box office tracking website Sacnilk.



The success of these movies has contributed in making 2025 a successful year in terms of box office despite the patchy performance of some major movies and highly anticipated sequels.

Bihar-based exhibitor Vishek Chauhan described the box office situation as "flood and famine".

"It's not been a great year but a decent year. There have been few good takeaways, some negatives and positives. But overall, I would call it a very mixed bag and a surprising year, which also kind of reflected the changing palettes of the consumers. It was like a flood-famine situation, either there used to be a flood or there used to be a famine at the box office," Chauhan told PTI.

He further said films like Chhaava' and 'Dhurandhar' proved that box office success does not depend merely on the Khan trio of Bollywood and top stars like Akshay Kumar and Ajay Devgn.

"Nobody expected the films ('Chhaava' and 'Dhurandhar') to do the kind of numbers they did. They were high-end to mid-budget films led by the younger stars, not the A-pedigree that we have like the Khans, Kumars and the Devgns. So, the surprise package is that there were films headlined by Vicky Kaushal, Ranveer Singh and Ahan Pandey that did well. It's very refreshing from the audience point of view, I think Bollywood has turned a page," he added.

Kamal Gianchandani, CEO, PVR INOX Pictures ,too said the business has witnessed a rise of 10 per cent from 2024 with some high and low points.

"The business this year has risen by 10 per cent from the previous year. A lot of people thought big ticket and spectacle films would work at the box office but romantic films made a comeback. Although, a lot of films with big stars, and in a lot of cases sequels, didn't work except 'Sitaare Zameen Par'," Gianchandani told PTI, giving the example of 'Saiyaara' and the re-release of 'Sanam Teri Kasam'.

Devang Sampat, managing director, Cinépolis India, said 2025 was a good year as 'Dhurandhar' is on course to become the highest-grossing Hindi film of the year, tracking over Rs 600 crore.

"But the real story of 2025 is not any single film. It is the depth and diversity that sustained the box office across the year. Like, Hindi cinema saw uneven results, with some high-profile titles unable to sustain momentum beyond opening weekend, films such as 'Saiyaara', 'Raid 2' and 'Mahavatar Narsimha' proved that strong storytelling builds audiences over time," he said.

Director Mohit Suri's 'Saiyaara' came out in July and, with its soulful music and narrative, captivated the hearts of audiences, especially youngsters. The film featuring newcomers Ahaan Panday and Aneet Padda earned over Rs 329 crore in India.

Some of the films like John Abraham's political thriller 'The Diplomat', Ajay Devgn and Riteish Deshmukh's 'Raid 2', Aamir Khan's 'Sitaare Zameen Par', and Akshay Kumar and Arshad Warsi's 'Jolly LLB 3', did decent business.

Trade expert Taran Adarsh said films like 'Chhaava', 'Saiyaara' and 'Dhurandhar' set new box-office records for the industry. "There were some surprises which caught the industry off guard, like 'Chhaava', 'Saiyaara', and 'Dhurandhar'. Love stories made a comeback with the success of 'Saiyaara', 'Ek Deewane ki Deewaniyat', 'Tere Ishq

Mein', and the re-release of 'Sanam Teri Kasam'. There were some films that misfired like 'War 2' and a few others. One thought it would rewrite the box office record but it was a disaster," Adarsh told PTI.

Some of the most anticipated movies primarily franchise movies such as 'Emergency', which starred Kangana Ranuat as former prime minister Indira Gandhi, Akshay Kumar's war-drama'Sky Force', Shahid Kapoor's action-thriller 'Deva', Salman Khan's 'Sikandar', Sunny Deol-led actioner 'Jaat', Akshay Kumar's 'Kesari Chapter 2', multi starrer 'Housefull 5', Anurag Basu's 'Metro...In Dino', Hrithik Roshan and NTR Jr's 'War 2', Ajay Devgn's 'De De Pyaar De 2' and 'Son of Sardaar 2', and Tiger Shroff's 'Baaghi 4', did poor to average business.



Raj Bansal, a well-known film distributor and director of Entertainment Paradise in Jaipur, believes romantic films were the flavour of the season.

"The beginning of the year was good thanks to 'Chhaava' and ended on a high note with 'Dhurandhar', which could be Hindi cinema's biggest hit. Romantic films have worked well this year including 'Sanam Teri Kasam' re-release, 'Saiyaara', and 'Ek Deewane ki Deewaniyat' did a good business," Bansal told PTI.

According to the distributor, in 2025, top stars like Salman Khan, Shah Rukh Khan, and Ranbir Kapoor did not have any releases. Films such as director Neeraj Ghaywan's Oscar nominated movie, 'Homebound', filmmaker Reema Kagti's 'Superboys of Malegaon', Manoj Bajpayee-led 'Jugnuma' garnered critical acclaim but failed to leave a mark at the box office. Online movie streaming services

Bansal believes ticket pricing could be a factor behind the low turnout of audiences in theatres for independent films.

"During COVID-19, independent films got support from OTT platforms, they garnered appreciation. Today, small films have two options, either take the OTT route, or release it in theatres. These films are not being accepted in theatres and are watched on OTT in the comfort of home.

"I feel pricing is another issue, like there should be different pricing for big and star-studded films, and independent films should be priced a little less. Price plays an important factor," Bansal said.

Amrita Pandey, CEO Junglee Pictures, said they are thrilled with the response their films like Yami Gautam's 'Haq', Malayalam film, 'Ronth' received in theatres.

WAVES 2025 boosts vision of 'Create in India, Create for the World'

The 'Waves 2025' event this year witnessed participation from over 90 countries, with more than 10,000 delegates, 1,000 creators, over 300 companies, over 350 startups and an overall footfall of approximately 1 lakh attendees — spanning diverse sectors including broadcasting, infotainment, AVGC-XR, films and digital media, the government said on Dec 30



This year, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting carried out many important initiatives to support India's media and entertainment sector, IANS reported.

The biggest among them was 'WAVES 2025', the World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi describing WAVES not just as an event, but as a "wave of culture, creativity and universal connectivity".

PM Modi also emphasised India's vision of 'Create in India, Create for the World,' inviting global investors and youth to engage with India's expansive creative ecosystem.

According to the ministry, CreatoSphere is an immersive hub of innovation that places creators at the centre, transforming ideas into experiences across film, VFX, VR, animation, gaming, comics, music, broadcasting, and digital media.

It brought together leading creative minds from India and abroad to foster dialogue, partnerships, innovation, and global showcasing of talent.

Also, CIC Season-I emerged as "India's largest creative talent movement" and achieved unprecedented global reach.

SATCAB SYMPOSIUM



































SATCAB SYMPOSIUM







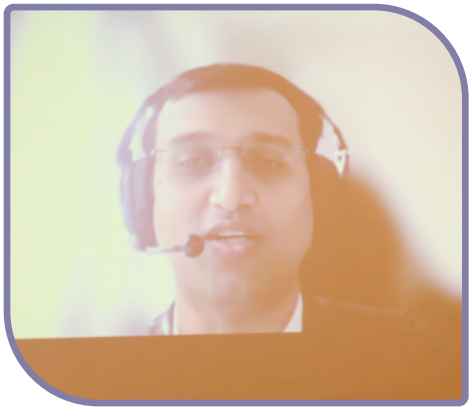
















ROLL ON

Network18 CEO-Broadcast Avinash Kaul exits after 10+ years

Avinash Kaul has resigned from his position as CEO of Network18 (Broadcast) and Managing Director of A+E Networks, bringing to an end a long and influential tenure at Network18 Media & Investments Limited, which oversees Network18 group of news channels, according to sources familiar with the matter.

Kaul, however, was not available for comments and the company did not offer any formal statement on his exit and who would replace him.

Associated with the Network18 group for more than ten years, Kaul played a key role across several leadership positions helping in reshaping the news network. Over the course of his journey, he served as CEO of the IBN News Network and President, Chief Operating Officer, and Managing Director of A+E Networks, before eventually taking over as CEO-Broadcast of Network18.

In the past year, his mandate was further expanded, with a sharper focus on driving direct revenue growth across the group's television, digital and print businesses. Alongside this, he continued to oversee ratings performance and key operational verticals across TV and print. In his role, Kaul reported to Rahul Joshi.



A seasoned media professional, Kaul brought with him decades of experience in the media and entertainment industry. Before joining Network18, he served as CEO of the television division at Bennett, Coleman and Company Limited, which operates the Times TV Network and Zoom TV. His career also includes senior leadership stints at Sahara One Entertainment & Media, NDTV Media, Star India, Discovery Communications and WPP, giving him a broad-based understanding of broadcasting, content, and media monetisation.

Saurabh Dwivedi quits ITG after 12 years; Kuldeep Mishra to head Lallantop editorial

Journalist Saurabh Dwivedi, the founding editor of Lallantop and India Today Hindi, has resigned from India Today Group Digital after a 12-year-long association, marking the end of a significant chapter in the group's digital journalism journey, the announcement was made yesterday. Dwivedi's exit brings a leadership transition at Lallantop, one of India's most influential Hindi digital news platforms.



Following Dwivedi's departure, Kuldeep Mishra will take complete charge of Lallantop's editorial operations, while Rajat Sain will lead the production team. Both Mishra and Sain have been part of Lallantop since its inception and were closely involved in building the platform from the ground up.

In a post on X announcing his decision, Dwivedi thanked the platform for shaping his professional journey. "Thank you, @TheLallantop for identity, lessons, and courage. And best wishes for the future. My association here comes to an end. I will introspect, take a leisure break and then talk about the resolve to move forward. You all have also taught me many things. Thank you," he wrote.

Dwivedi's announcement drew reactions from across the journalism fraternity. Senior journalist Rajdeep Sardesai responded on X, calling Lallantop a trendsetter and Dwivedi one of its defining forces. "We will all miss you @saurabhtop and I will miss you even more. For me, Neta Nagri will always remain a special show. And @TheLallantop a real trend setter. Hopefully our paths will cross again. Good luck and god bless!" Sardesai said.

Dwivedi joined the India Today Group as a Features Editor at aajtak.in under the Mediaplex initiative and steadily emerged as one of the group's most prominent homegrown editorial leaders. As the founding editor of Lallantop, he played a crucial role in shaping its distinct, conversational editorial voice and expanding its reach among young, Hindi-speaking audiences, particularly across India's Hindi heartland.

Sonal Poddar joins Enterr10 Television as head of marketing

Enterr10 Television has announced the appointment of Sonal Poddar as its new Head of Marketing, strengthening the leadership team at a time when the network continues to expand its brand presence through Dangal TV and its digital offerings.

As stated in a press note, Sonal was previously leading Product Marketing and Public Relations at Jio Platforms Limited, where she played a key role in shaping strategy and marketing initiatives across emerging technologies such as 5G, 6G, and artificial intelligence. With over 12 years of experience, she brings deep expertise across advertising, brand strategy, digital marketing, public relations, and media management.

An alumna of MICA, Sonal holds a Bachelor's degree in Advertising and a Master's degree in Communication Management. Her professional journey spans reputed organisations including Hungama.com Pvt. Ltd., India Today Group, Mudra, and exchange4media, where she worked across multiple facets of media and marketing communications.

Known as a result-oriented marketing professional, Sonal has handled diverse communication verticals ranging from advertising and digital campaigns to social media, influencer marketing, and large-scale brand initiatives. Her experience also includes movies and music marketing, giving her a well-rounded understanding of both content and consumer engagement. A



technology enthusiast, she has been an early adopter in the OTT space and actively works with AI- and ML-driven marketing solutions.

In her new role at Enterr10 Television, Sonal Poddar will spearhead the company's overall marketing strategy and drive brand growth initiatives, with a focus on strengthening audience connect and enhancing the network's positioning in an increasingly competitive media landscape.

Media Reports Dismissed: Mitul Sangani Remains CEO of News18 Digital

Network18 has firmly dismissed recent media reports and industry chatter suggesting that Mitul Sangani is set to exit the group, stating that the speculation is incorrect and misleading.

In a Network18 press note issued by the company's top management, it was clarified that, contrary to the media report and the general buzz, Sangani is not leaving the organisation. The communication affirmed that he will continue in his current role as Chief Executive Officer of News18 Digital and will work closely with the leadership team on driving the company's digital strategy and growth agenda.



Sangani, who took charge as CEO of News18 Digital in April 2025, has been closely associated with Network18's digital news operations for over seven years. During this period, he has been among the key leaders shaping the group's digital-first news business, contributing to its scale, structure and market positioning.

In his role, Sangani has overseen the overall business strategy for News18 Digital, with a focus on revenue growth, audience expansion, deeper user engagement and stronger brand presence across platforms. Sources familiar with the matter said his leadership has been central to building and strengthening News18's multi-language digital news portfolio, particularly at a time when competition in the digital news space has intensified.

With Network18 reiterating continuity at the leadership level, the group is expected to maintain momentum across its digital news initiatives as it navigates an increasingly platform-driven and competitive media environment. The clarification underscores the company's intent to remain focused on execution and long-term growth, rather than being distracted by unfounded speculation.



Moumita Ghosh joins India Today Group as AVP – Aaj Tak Sales

Moumita Ghosh has been appointed Assistant Vice President (AVP) – Aaj Tak Sales at India Today Group, marking a significant addition to the broadcaster's leadership team. In her new role, Ghosh will be responsible for driving business operations for Aaj Tak SD, Aaj Tak HD and Good News Today, with her base in Bengaluru.

Announcing the development on LinkedIn, Ghosh said she is pleased to take on the role, where she will lead the South Market for the Hindi cluster. She described the transition as a meaningful milestone in her professional journey, shaped by years of learning, unlearning and steady growth across different regions of the country.

new responsibilities at India Today Group, Ghosh said she looks forward to strengthening partnerships, unlocking new growth opportunities and creating long-term value for the business and its stakeholders.

Ghosh brings close to two decades of experience in media sales and leadership, with a strong track record across enterprise sales, branch leadership and revenue strategy. Over the years, she has handled key responsibilities in multiple Indian markets, building teams and leading business operations in fast-evolving media landscapes.

Before joining India Today Group, Ghosh served as Branch Head – South (Display Sales) at NDTV, where she oversaw regional sales operations and contributed to revenue growth. Prior to that, she was associated with Zee Media Corporation Limited as Branch Head – South. In this role, she led go-to-market strategy and revenue operations across Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Telangana, managing both enterprise and mid-market segments.



Her appointment comes at a time when Aaj Tak continues to strengthen its leadership and sales strategy to deepen advertiser engagement and expand its footprint across key regional markets. With her extensive multi-market experience, Ghosh is expected to play a crucial role in accelerating growth for the Aaj Tak network in southern India.Having worked extensively across North, East and now South India, Ghosh noted that her career has given her first-hand exposure to diverse market dynamics, audience behaviour and business ecosystems. These experiences, she said, have helped her build high-performing teams, deliver strategic outcomes and drive sustainable business growth in highly competitive media environments.

Naveen Kumar joins News India 24X7 as Production Head

News India 24X7 has announced the appointment of Naveen Kumar as its new Production Head, marking a significant addition to the channel's leadership team. With more than two decades of experience in the media and entertainment industry, Naveen brings strong expertise across video editing, graphic design, production management, and camera and sound operations.

As shared in a LinkedIn post update by the organisation, Naveen will be responsible for overseeing the end-to-end production workflow at News India 24X7. In his new role, he will focus on ensuring smooth execution of productions and timely delivery of high-quality content, while supporting the channel's broader editorial vision. His experience in handling large teams and complex production environments is expected to play a key role in strengthening operational efficiency.



Over the years, Naveen has built an impressive professional portfolio, having worked on major film projects such as The Amazing Spider-Man, Gangs of Wasseypur and King Kong. His career also includes collaborations with well-known artists including Arijit Singh, Papon and T.N. Krishnana. In addition, he has been involved in producing ad films for leading brands such as Sony TV, OLA and NEXA, reflecting his versatility across formats and genres.

Before joining News India 24X7, Naveen held important roles at organisations such as STAR NEWS, Eagle Home Entertainment and Page 3. During this time, he further sharpened his skills in editing, design and production management. His experience also extends to live concerts and large-scale events, where he successfully managed high-pressure, time-sensitive productions.

An alumnus of RDS College, Muzaffarpur, Naveen is a commerce graduate and also holds a diploma in multimedia and editing, giving him a strong foundation in both the creative and technical aspects of production.

Welcoming him on board, Shailendra Sharma (Shalu), Chairman, and Rana Yashwant, CEO and Editor-in-Chief of News India 24X7, said they were delighted to have Naveen join the organisation. They noted that his extensive industry experience and production expertise would be a valuable asset and expressed confidence that he would contribute significantly to shaping the channel's content strategy

JANUARY 2025

2nd January

MIB gears up to regulate online ads, influencer marketing

3rd January

ITG launches 'Stage Aaj Tak' with Yo Yo Honey Singh's Millionaire Tour

3rd January

SPNI, ZEEL announce revised pricing with launch of new channels

9th January

India leading growth market in MPA's video, b'band report



09th January

DD FreeDish opens door to pvt. sector HD TV channel



10th January

GTPL Hathway reports stable performance in Q3 FY25

11th January

Prasar Bharati launches 'Kumbhvani' FM channel

14th January

Jio Star eyes Rs.6,000 cr ad revenue from ICC Champions Trophy and IPL 2025



15th January

FreeDish invites applications for MPEG2 slots; some TV channels to leave



21st January

AIADAS, ALCOA exhort MIB to slash LCO registration fee to Rs 2k



23rd January

Network18 crowned No.1 news network with largest market share

25th January

NDTV announces 34% revenue surge in Q3 FY25, launches global platform 'NDTV World'



28th January

Dangal TV content is for family viewing, says senior exec Basu

29th January

SPNI appoints Parinda Singh as head of marketing for Hindi movies cluster & Sony Marathi



31st January

MIB advisory to cable ops on carriage of additional TV channels



FEBRUARY 2025

3rd February

Parliamentary panel bats for unified media rules

4th February

'Bigg Boss 18' clocks record 205mn+ views across TV, digital



4th February

Live Times shatters records: 100mn reach, 300mn views in just 120 days

5th February

As FreeDish MPEG4 stream is upgraded, applications invited for slots

5th February

Gayatri Yadav joins Reliance as Group CMO



7th February

NDTV's mega drive bringing Delhi Elections to life with unmatched coverage

11th February

Prasar Bharati earns Rs.55.4cr on Day 1 of DD FreeDish e-auction

11th February

NCW writes to MIB on objectionable digital content

13th February

SPN secures rights for Pak cricket, PSL 2025

13th February

Kartik Aaryan Best Actor at Zee Real Heroes Awards '25



14th February

Parliamentary panel to petition MIB on digital media content rules

14th February

JioCinema, Disney+Hotstar being merged to form JioHotstar

14th February

Aaj Tak reigns supreme across TV, digital during biggest news cycle

18th February

Aaj Tak's 'Black and White' dominates primetime TV, YouTube

19th February

Zee CEO Punit Goenka says open to future mergers



19th February

K. Satish Nambudiripad takes charge as DG Doordarshan



21st February

'Duologue with Barun Das' returns with S3 on News9

22nd February

TRAI proposes DTH relief; pushes for interoperable STBs & rules for FAST channels

MARCH 2025

01st March

Prabhat Karwal joins NDTV brand studio as Group Head

05th March

IIFA 2025 to honour 50 years of 'Sholay'

08th March

M'ashtra Chief Secy, MIB Secy hold high-level meeting on WAVES



08th March

India Today Group unveils AI pop stars, pioneering A-POP music genre



08th March

LCOs raise alarm over unregulated FAST Channels, call for govt. action

12th March

In a surprise move, Airtel joins hands with Musk's Starlink for India

13th March

JioStar secures 20 top brands for TATA IPL 2025

13th March

Abhisheik Joshi steps down as head of ShemarooMe



14th March

Top India Ministers pitch WAVES '25 to foreign envoys in New Delhi



14th March

TRAI likely to recommend 5-year satellite spectrum allocation

14th March

JioStar to remove entertainment content from YouTube

18th March

Goafest returns to Goa this year in May



19th March

Telecom Minister Scindia bats for need of satellite internet

21st March

SATCAB Symposium, featuring top class speakers, to be held on March 20,2025



22nd March

Regional OTT platform STAGE secures $12.5 million funding



22nd March

SATCAB Symposium 2025: Industry experts debate future of distribution, AI & CTV revolution





22nd March

CNN-News18 celebrates three years as India's No.1 English news channel



24th March

Parliamentary panel recommends unified media council



25th March

Story behind launch of Hathway/DEN Reels channel

26th March

Megha Tata joins Edstead as strategic advisor



27th March

NDTV appoints U.K. Sinha as chairperson; Dipali Goenka joins as independent director



27th March

TV9 Network's WITT 2025 to host PM Modi as keynote speaker





27th March

JioHotstar crosses 100mn subscribers



28th March

Digital overtakes TV as Indian M&E growth slows down



31st March

93% LCOs say monthly income dipped since 2018: Survey

APRIL 2025



01st April

Kaushik Moitra to head regulatory practises at B&P

01st April

DD FreeDish subs base 49mn homes; likely to reach 53mn: FICCI-EY report



02nd April

WAVES 'Create in India Challenge' crosses 85k registrations



02nd April

News18 India dominates YouTube viewership, races 43% ahead of Aaj Tak





03rd April

'Pushpa 2: The Rule' set for TV premiere on JioStar



04th April

Rahul Kanwal quits TVTN; rumoured to be joining NDTV group



04th April

BSNL makes profit after 18 years, adds 55 lakh users: Scindia

04th April

Network18 appoints Puneet Singhvi as CSO, Mitul Sangani to lead News18 Digital as CEO



05th April

Sudhir Chaudhary steps down from Aaj Tak, begins new chapter with DD News



07th April

PM Modi to deliver keynote at News18 Rising Bharat Summit 2025





08th April

Govt. says pvt. sector TV channels can ride pubcaster's WAVES



09th April

Bodhitree, Assam sign pact for Global Media Hub



09th April

Aaj Tak crosses 15mn followers on Instagram

09th April

TV9 Network unveils News9 Corporate Badminton Championship



10th April

JioStar named official b'cast partner for Rugby Premier League





11th April

NDTV 24x7 strengthens primetime with new shows, fresh faces

12th April

JioStar vice-chair Uday Shankar on surge in streaming subs, trade tariff challenges



14th April

Rahul Sinha takes charge of Zee News' DNA



16th April

MIB cancels 1,100 MSO registrations; only 843 remain active





17th April

GTPL Hathway Q4 revenue at Rs. 8,989 mn signals 10% YoY growth



18th April

Nalin Mehta named Network18 editorial Chief AI Officer



19th April

In officials' reshuffle, Shankar moves out of MIB; Prabhat comes in

21st April

Shiv Aroor's 'India Matters' to debut tonight on NDTV 24x7



22nd April

WAVES offers big opportunity to all media: Murugan



24th April

Priyanka Khaneja Gandhi takes over as Head of Amazon India ads marketing





26th April

Rahul Kanwal to take charge as NDTV CEO from June 16



26th April

JioStar records Rs.10,006cr revenue, JioHotstar hits 503mn MAUs

28th April

Centre bans 16 Pakistani YouTube channels





29th April

Avijit Dhar appointed VP-Marketing for Star Plus



29th April

Sony MAX 1 set to launch on May 1



30th April

TV9, I&B Ministry join hands at WAVES 2025

MAY 2025



01st May

'Right Time for Create in India, Create for the World,' says PM Modi at WAVES

01st May

PM Modi releases stamps honouring Guru Dutt, Bhanumathi, other cinema icons at WAVES



02nd May

Stakeholder alignment media's big media challenge: BARC Chairman



02nd May

TRAI chief not in favour of separate rules for OTT, legacy b'casters





02nd May

Big B forays into gaming; unveils 'Age of Bhaarat' at WAVES



02nd May

Gaurav Dwivedi on empowering India's storytellers through WAVES OTT



02nd May

Sudhir Chaudhary announces new show for DD News, says "Good content still has a place" at WAVES 2025

02nd May

Nita Ambani calls India a "timeless civilisation" in powerful speech at WAVES 2025



02nd May

Prasar Bharati invites applications for MPEG-2 slots on DD Free Dish



03rd May

WAVES Bazaar seals Rs.250 crore in global media deals





03rd May

Uday Shankar upbeat on Indian M&E sector; stresses on need for local focus



05th May

NBF issues advisory to member news channels on Pak guests



06th May

TV9's News9 global Summit – WAVES edition puts India on global creative map

07th May

JioStar launches JioStarverse to redefine influencer marketing

07th May

India Today Group elevates internal talent amid leadership reshuffle

09th May

ZEEL appoints Rohit Suri as Chief Human Resource Officer





12th May

Sudhir Chaudhary unveils teaser of his new show 'Decode With Sudhir Chaudhary' on Doordarshan

13th May

JioStar becomes b'cast partner for IndianOil UTT



14th May

TV Today Network elevates Gaurav Verma as COO of Aaj Tak

14th May

India TV appoints Navneet Gautam as Chief Manager for digital strategy



14th May

Ekta Kapoor drops hint on return of 'Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi'



19th May

Vodafone Idea rolls out 5G in Delhi NCR



16th May

TV9 Digital gets global spotlight in Google case study for seamless sign-in feature



16th May

OTTplay Premium, GTPL Hathway launch GTPL Genie+



17th May

WBD names Jerome Bigio as SVP of Marketing for Asia-Pacific

19th May

Zee Entertainment appoints Ashwin Gargava as Head of DTH Business



21st May

Scindia: India to see fastest rollout of Internet-over-satellite service



21st May

Deepak Chaurasia joins Live Times as Director News





23rd May

SC: Both State, Central govts can levy tax on DTH services

23rd May

SPNI secures Roland Garros b'cast rights until 2027

27th May

SPNI, JioStar in pioneering b'cast pact for India tour of England

27th May

NDTV formally announces Rahul Kanwal as CEO & Chief Editor



27th May

Sony PAL emerges as No.1 FTA Hindi GEC with 109mn viewers

29th May

Manoj Dobhal appointed Chairman of Dish TV India Board



29th May

News18 India tops Hindi news charts in BARC Wk20

JUNE 2025



03rd June

SC ruling may up tax load on streamers, gaming apps

03rd June

Bharat Express now available on DD Free Dish channel no. 69



03rd June

Delhi HC grants Star India power to instantly block pirated apps





04th June

'Decode' boosts DD News ratings, dominates YouTube engagement

04th June

CCI approves proposed Interpublic acquisition by Omnicom





06th June

Deepak Chaurasia returns with 'Khabar Thok Ke' on Live Times

09th June

Unless interventions take place, pay TV decline will continue: AIDCF-EY report





09th June

Aaj Tak tops Hindi news rankings again in BARC week 21 ratings



09th June

India TV launches family-focused OTT app with multi-genre content



10th June

Five channels win MPEG-4 slots in DD Free Dish's 88th e-auction

10th June

Ferzad Palia joins upGrad as CEO of new D2C business



11th June

Cable industry sounds alarm calls for urgent reforms, investment



11th June

Abhisheik Joshi takes charge as Group CEO of New Media Holding





16th June

IETE re-elects Sunil, ex-Prasar Bharati additional DG, as President for 2025-26 term



17th June

TRAI moots tariff caps for retail b'band to PDOs under PM-WANI



17th June

Anirudhsinh Jadeja takes over as AIDCF President

18th June

Meenakshi Kandwal joins NDTV India



19th June

Shubhankar Mishra joins NDTV India for prime time



19th June

Mukund Acharya appointed CTO at SPNI





20th June

News18 India tops hindi news charts for third year in a row



20th June

DTH subs base dips to 56.92mn in Jan-Mar '25 quarter: TRAI



21st June

YouTube Shorts has 200bn+ daily views: Neal Mohan

23rd June

Siti Networks, NXTDIGITAL quit industry body AIDCF



24th June

Rahul Shaw joins NDTV to lead experiential business





25th June

ITG's MO hits 105mn Insta views in 30 days

25th June

MIB announces mock auction for private FM Radio phase III



25th June

Prasar Bharati to auction vacant FreeDish MPEG-4 slots in July



26th June

JioHotstar nears Netflix with 300mn subscribers after IPL Boost





28th June

Gaurav Banerjee takes over as Chairman of BARC India



28th June

NDTV COO Anil Uniyal steps down after two-year tenure

JULY 2025



02nd July

‘Squid Game’ S3 opens with 60mn views in global record

02th July

ICC WTC final 2025 sets new viewership record in India



03th July

MIB proposes amendments to TRP policy guidelines, seeks feedback



04th July

Uorfi Javed, Nikita Luther win S1 of ‘The Traitors’





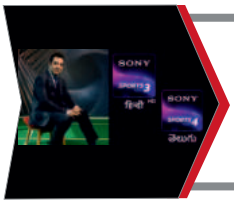
04th July

730 FM radio channels’ auction this month: MIB Secy Jaju



07th July

Sanjog Gupta moves to ICC as CEO; Chatterjee named JioStar Sports chief



08th July

SPN expands regional sports offering with two new channels

08th July

Dish TV reappoints Gaurav Goel as Chief Strategy Officer



08th July

‘Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi’ revival to premiere July 29



09th July

Zee shareholders approve appointment of directors via postal ballot





10th July

Starlink gets nod from space regulator INSPACe for satcom services



11th July

GTPL Hathway FY26 Q1 revenues pegged at Rs. 900cr



11th July

GTPL Hathway FY26 Q1 revenues pegged at Rs. 900cr

14th July

Rashid Khan joins NDTV Alive as director ops



15th July

Netflix dominates 77th Emmy nominations with 120 nods across 44 titles



16th July

Tata Play Binge adds Prasar Bharati’s WAVES OTT





16th July

Dangal TV crosses 50mn YouTube subscribers, joins global top 100



18th July

SPNI network ad sales head Sandeep Mehrotra moves on



19th July

Riding IPL bonanza, JioStar reports Rs 11,222cr revenue Q1 FY26

21st July

NP Singh, Bharat N. Anand join JioStar board as Independent directors



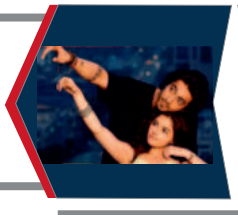
21st July

Raj Nayak, YAAP Digital launch ‘House of IP’ for sports, entertainment



22nd July

YRF’s ‘Saiyaara’ rakes in Rs.119 cr worldwide in opening weekend





24th July

Aayush Ailawadi joins NDTV as AI, Tech Editor



25th July

Govt blocks ULLU, ALTT, Desiflix among 25 apps for hosting risqué content

29th July

‘Bigg Boss’ S19 unveils new logo





31st July

Kiran Mani to lead IAMAI Digital Entertainment Committee

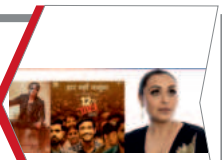
AUGUST 2025

01st August

COAI pitches for comms OTT services to be regulated

02nd August

SRK, Rani bag 1st National Film Awards, Massey named co-best actor



04th August

NDTV.in is India's top Hindi news website

05th August

SPNI MD & CEO Banerjee new Chairman of BARC India





05th August

JioStar Entertainment CEO Kevin Vaz named IDMIF prez



06th August

BCS Ratna Awards 2025 set to celebrate broadcasting excellence in Delhi On Aug 6



07th August

BCS Ratna Awards 2025: India's broadcasting titans shine at XIth edition

08th August

Navika Kumar receives Sarvottam Nagrik Sanman for journalism



08th August

WBD posts Q2 profit as HBO Max rollouts expands subs base



08th August

Saas-bahu saga's thumping return:'Kyunki...' clocks1.66+ bn watch time





08th August

Republic Media Network launches R4Sports



9th August

Padmaja Joshi joins NDTV24x7 as Managing Ed, primetime anchor



11th August

Imtiaz Ali-directed 'Chamkila' bags top honours at Screenwriters' Awards

11th August

Jio Studios crosses Rs.1,000cr at box office in FY25

12th August

Prasar Bharati announces 90th e-auction for DD FreeDish MPEG-2 slots

13th August

Govt. advisory to pvt. TV channels on I-Day & sign language





14th August

India-Eng Test series hands JioHotstar record digital viewership



18th August

NDTV's 'Jai Jawan' with Aamir a salute from Jammu's Akhnoo



18th August

Gautam Jain takes charge as lead of content development at Sony SAB

19th August

Netflix hosts screening of 'Kapil Show' for visually impaired



19th August

Syed Suhail joins NDTV India as Sr. Exec Editor, primetime anchor

20th August

ITG's Kalli Purie for greater women representation in RSS structures





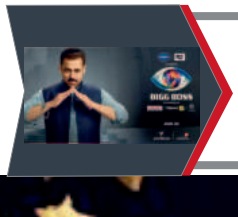
21st August

MIB's Murugan says govt expanded rural media outreach via TV, radio



21st August

Online gaming regulation Bill, including stiff penalties, clears Lok Sabha



22nd August

JioStar ropes in 9 sponsors for 'Bigg Boss' Hindi S19

23rd August

Online gaming Bill gets President nod; firms suspend money games



23rd August

DEN, Hathway, GTPL black out WBD channels amid pending pacts; SCV, K CCL raise demands



23rd August

SPNI launches 'Rag Rag Mein Bharat' Asia Cup ' 25 campaign

27th August

Multiplex operators growth recipe to govt: reduce GST, up footfalls



27th August

AIDCF urges govt to cut GST on cable TV from 18% to 5%

28th August

Aditya Kaul joins NDTV 24x7 as Sr. Exec Ed for geopolitics, security





30th August

Rabindra Narayan quits PTC Network; to launch global media firm

SEPTEMBER 2025



01st September

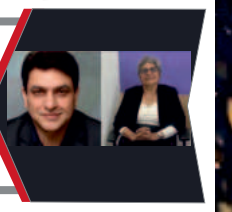
Former ABP Network CEO Avinash Pandey to be new IBDF secy-general

02nd September

NBDA seeks GST law tweaks to cut compliance, financial burden

02nd September

ZEE elevates Laxmi Shetty to lead Ad Revenue; Ashish Sehgal exits



02nd September

BCCI opens bidding to fill Dream11's jersey slot



02nd September

NBDA presses for fair, transparent e-auction framework for DD Free Dish slots

03rd September

NDTV board approves rights issue of up to Rs.400 crore



06th September

Bharat Pavilion debuts at TIFF 2025, introduces WAVES Bazaar to North America

08th September

ITG's MO unveils Insta-first 'SLOT' for GenZ

08th September

SPNI corp comm head Humsa Dhir moves on for newer adventures



09th September

SPN gears up for Asia Cup 2025 with multilingual coverage and expert panel



09th September

Sony Pictures remains sole U.S. entertainment giant with major India presence



10th September

DD FreeDish invites applications for vacant MPEG-2 slots



10th September

TRAI directs all DPOs to furnish monthly & quarterly performance reports

10th September

Prime Video to premiere 'Two Much with Kajol and Twinkle' on Sept. 25



10th September

Delhi to host 3rd edition of 'TV9 Festival of India 2025'



11th September

NDTV Profit unveils new identity 'For Your Profit'



11th September

India's 5G subscriber base crosses 365mn



13th September

YuppTV acquires digital rights for Asia Cup 2025



15th September

Prasar Bharati b'cast partner for world para athletics tourney '25

16th September

Zee CEO Punit Goenka outlines firm's future growth plans



17th September

21st Chetna Yatra kicks off today on PM Modi's birthday



18th September

Aaj Tak captures 51% Instagram market share, leads Hindi news engagement

20th September

Rajat Sharma elected President of NBDA for 2025–2026



22nd September

WAVES Bazaar inaugurated at Busan's Asian Contents & Film Mkt



22nd September

Gaurav Banerjee to lead Sony Pictures Networks India till 2029

22nd September

NDTV board clears acquisition of 'GoodTimes' channel in Rs.18cr deal

22nd September

Hersh Bhandari steps down as Republic TV CEO



27th September

Shemaroo YouTube channel crosses 60mn subscribers

27th September

Tourism Ministry partners with Netflix to showcase India's destinations



29th September

Varun Kohli returns to Bharat Express as Group CEO

28th September

'Indian Idol' returns with new season on Oct.18





30th September

IBDF prez Vaz underscores the resilience of linear TV

OCTOBER 2025



01st October

SRK tops IMDb report as India's most prolific star

01st October

JioStar ropes in marquee sponsors for ICC Women's WC 2025 coverage

02nd October

NDTV, Dettol mark 12th season of 'Banega Swasth India' with new health initiative



03rd October

Zee marks 33 years of private satellite television in India





04th October

Aryan Khan says love for 'The Ba**ds of Bollywood*' moved him



07th October

Gaurav Bhaskar named Google's APAC Comms, public affairs chief



07th October

At Ficci-Frames, Aroon Purie highlights disrupters, challenges in news biz

08th October

JioStar's Kevin Vaz calls for smarter policy alignment for media's growth



08th October

NBF condemns Arasu blackout of Puthiya Thalaimurai channel



08th October

TV9 Network hosts second News9 Global Summit 2025 in Germany

09th October

MIB floats proposals on OTT content accessibility



09th October

India's active mobile subs base crosses 1bn in Aug: TRAI

09th October

Hemlata Sharma bids farewell to Zee Media





15th October

GTPL Hathway Q2 net profit dips 46% to Rs.7.4 crore; revs rises 12%



15th October

MIB cancels licences of several MSOs across India



24th October

Zee Media CEO Karan Singh quits; Raktim Das to take charge

25th October

NDTV launches Golf ProAm at World Summit 2025



27th October

Aneet Padda to make her MHCU debut with Maddock Films' 'Shakti Shalini'



27th October

Netflix India sees strong Fy25 gain with 63% profit surge, 32% revenue rise





29th October

'The Family Man' S3 to premiere on Prime Video Nov. 21



29th October

MIB advisory to OTT platforms cautions on sensitive content

30th October

Amit Khare appointed as CEO of Sansad TV





30th October

NDTV India names Sucherita Kukreti as senior exec; editor & prime time anchor



30th October

Manish Seth returns to Zee Media as CRO



31st October

Delhi HC quashes CBI FIR against Bharat Express' Upendrra Rai

NOVEMBER 2025



01st November

Dipika Kapoor joins India Today as GM-Marketing

01st November

TRAI tells DPOs to finish audits by Dec.31 or face penalties



03rd November

Hyderabad gets IICT centre; MIB to up anti-piracy initiatives



03rd November

Lionsgate Play to have 100+ premieres across languages in 2026





04th November

Airtel Digital TV subscriber base 15.4mn as of Sept 2025



04th November

'Sahitya Aaj Tak 2025' returns with three-day cultural festival in Delhi



04th November

IFFI 2025 to host India's first AI Film Festival, hackathon

05th November

Times Internet elevates Nikhil Sharma as Business Head of NewsPoint



06th November

Saam TV, Skyama Daily Post News secure MPEG-4 slots on DD Free Dish in mid-year e-auction



06th November

SRK, Kajol, Akshay Kumar, Abhishek Bachchan shine at 70th Filmfare Awards





07th November

TV9 Bharatvarsh's Manish Kumar Jha wins Global 'Honest View 2025' media award



08th November

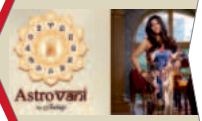
NDTV revives iconic 'Walk the Talk' with Rahul Kanwal

08th November

CII to host Global Media & Entertainment investor meet at 12th BIG Picture Summit 2025

10th November

Balaji Telefilms launches AstroVani — India's first premium astrology app



11th November

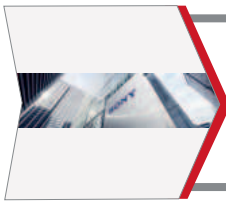
Siddhartha Sharma joins NDTV as exec editor of NDTV Auto



11th November

Former Prasar Bharati CEO Vempati joins BharatGen Tech board





12th October

Sony's Q2 operating profit up 10% as music unit hits high notes

12th October

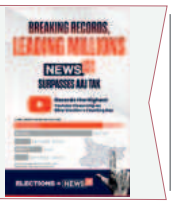
TV Today reports FY25 Q2 net loss of Rs. 1.98cr

13th November

Netflix India appoints Vamsi Murthy Sr. Director & Mktng Head

14th November

News18 Network touches 1mn YouTube viewers on Bihar poll result day



19th November

HGS reappoints Vynsley Fernandes as Whole-Time Director, CEO of media business

20th October

Tushar Shah to exit SPNI after 16 years





21st November

Sumit Awasthi bids farewell to NDTV



22nd November

At 'Sahitya Aaj Tak 2025' opening Kalli Purie dwells on literature, life's bonds

22nd November

Live Times becomes Mumbai's most engaging News channel with 1hr 23min ATS





24th November

Dharmendra, icon of Hindi cinema, passes away at 89

25th November

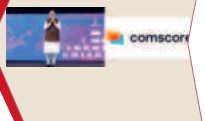
JioStar–Nielsen study redefines cross-screen advertising during IPL 2025

25th November

ABP News' Sr. Journalist Vibha Kaul Bhatt passes away in Mumbai

26th November

Comscore India rankings reveal Modi, YouTube domination

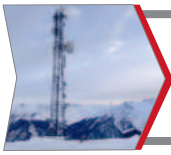


26th November

Aravamudhan K elevated as EVP-Legal & Regulatory at JioStar

26th November

TV Today board panel okays FM radio biz sale to Abhijit Realtors



29th November

Jio total subs 48.47cr, Airtel's 39.36 cr, Vi's 20.07cr: TRAI data

29th November

DD Free Dish to offer free MPEG-4 slots to regional channels

30th November

GTPL Hathway unveils 'GTPL Infinity', new satellite-based HITS platform

DECEMBER 2025



01st December

NBF concerned about alleged BARC corruption; expands ambit

01st December

Gaurav Banerjee calls for a Global creative ambition at CII Big Picture Summit 2025



01st December

Airtel, 'The Family Man' roll out first-of-its-kind in-world OTT brand integration



02nd December

Elon Musk appears in new teaser of Nikhil Kamath's 'WTF is' podcast episode





02nd December

Jay Shah, Harmanpreet Kaur shine as CNN-News18 announces Indian of the Year 2025 Winner

03rd December

Reliance completes merger of Star Television Productions with JioStar



03rd December

Ministry of Tourism signs MoU with Netflix to showcase India's destinations globally

04th December

Reliance Jio leads India's telecom growth ; adds 3.9 mn active subscribers in Oct

04th December

'The Family Man' S3 becomes India's most-watched series of 2025



04th December

Ahaan Panday, Aneet Padda top IMDb's most popular Indian stars of 2025; Mohit Suri leads directors list





04th December

Gaurav Gandhi honored as M&E visionary at CII Summit 2025

04th December

Navneet Sehgal steps down as Prasar Bharati Chairman



04th December

Kevin Vaz highlights India's content surge at Asia TV Forum 2025

05th December

Prime Video's Nikhil Madhok calls for homegrown superhero in Indian streaming



06th December

Netflix to acquire WBD for total enterprise value of $82.7bn

08th December

PM Modi felicitates top 12 photographers as HT marks 100 Years



08th December

Indian govt mulls moving broadcasting out of TRAI's control



08th December

Gaurav Khanna lifts 'Bigg Boss 19' trophy beating Farrhana Bhatt

08th December

TV9 Network unveils AI² Awards to spotlight AI-driven storytelling



09th December

Paramount ups the stakes with $108bn hostile WBD bid



09th December

Ashish Sehgal takes over as CEO of Times TV Network

09th December

India TV crosses 50mn YouTube subscribers

10th December

JioHotstar to invest $444mn over 5 years in South Indian content



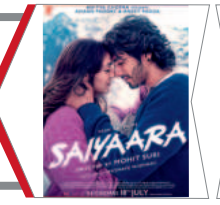
10th December

Aaj Tak gears up for 13th edition of Agenda Aaj Tak in New Delhi



10th December

'Saiyaara' tops IMDb 2025 movies,'Ba***ds of Bollywood' leads series



11th December

GTC Network, 4G Media in pact to build Punjabi content network in US



11th December

Kalli Purie opens Agenda Aaj Tak '25, highlights journalism's global impact

11th December

Sony Sports to telecast Men's Under-19 Asia Cup



12th December

HC dismisses plea against TRAI's 2022 Cable TV amendments



13th December

Govt. not considering rules for use of AI in filmmaking: Murugan



13th December

Saiyaara to make world television premiere on Sony MAX Dec 20

13th December

'Bhabiji Ghar Par Hai 2.0' to return with comedy, chaos, a supernatural twist



15th December

Minister assures mandated rules in place for kids' age-related OTT content





16th December

Dharma buys out Cornerstone stake, relaunches talent management arm

16th December

'The Great Indian Kapil Show' new season to start with Priyanka as guest



16th December

Rana Yashwant appointed CEO, Editor-in-Chief of News India



17th December

Saregama invests $36mn in Bhansali Prod.; to up stake to 51% by 2030





18th December

Pubcaster's WAVES OTT aiming global expansion, revenues



18th December

Danish Khan to step down from SPNI after a decade, to pursue new opportunities



19th December

Govt. spending Rs. 2,540cr to modernise DD, Akashvani: Murugan

19th December

'Bigg Boss Season 19' sets new viewership records across JioHotstar, COLORS



20th December

India box office dips in November, but 2025 still set for record year: Ormax Media



22nd December

50 years on, 'Sholay' still mesmerises audiences





22nd December

Kavita Khandelwal joins ZEE News as regional head



22nd December

NDTV appoints Akhil Gupta as new CFO

23rd December

Larry Ellison pledges $40bn to back Paramount's WBD bid





23rd December

'Dhurandhar' tops 'Animal' at box office, hits India's top 10



23rd December

Republic Media Network appoints Ajay Bedi as EVP, CRO



25th December

India pay TV revenues to continue declining over 2024-29: GlobalData

25th December

AI content labelling mandate likely soon: IT Secretary



27th December

Aditya Dhar's 'Dhurandhar' crosses Rs 1,000 crore mark at global box office



27th December

Zee News hits No. 2 in BARC India week 50





30th December

Jio tops in 5G speed availability, utilisation by subs: Open Signal

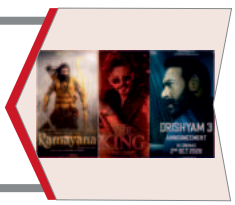


30th December

PM Modi to inaugurate AI Impact Summit in Delhi

30th December

From 'Ramayana' to ' Drishyam 3': Big-ticket films set to define Bollywood in 2026





30th December

Naveen Kumar joins News India 24X7 as Production Head



31st December

India maps out spectrum strategy for next-gen connectivity



31st December

2025 a year of course correction for Indian OTT industry: ChanaJor founder Pratap Jain

31st December

WAVES 2025 boosts vision of 'Create in India, Create for the World'



31st December

Netflix unveils final trailer for 'Stranger Things 5' series finale





India Today marks 50 years with 'Remaking of India' issue

India Today has unveiled its 50th Anniversary Special issue, 'The Remaking of India: 1975–2025', marking five decades of journalism that has chronicled and shaped India's national discourse.

Released in January 2026, the commemorative edition reflects on the country's political, economic, social and cultural transformation over the past half century, while also setting a new benchmark in magazine publishing.

According to a press release issued by the India Today Group, the anniversary edition has been conceived as a once-in-a-generation collector's issue and is the largest ever produced by the magazine. Published as a never-before double issue, it brings together more than 800 curated images and 256 pages of deep editorial content. The English edition spans over 600 pages, while the Hindi edition runs beyond 360 pages, including innovative advertising formats.

Through its expansive and reflective content, the special issue captures five decades of defining moments, tracing India's journey through political shifts, economic reinvention, social change and cultural evolution. The scale of the edition mirrors the complexity of the story it seeks to tell, offering readers a comprehensive chronicle of how modern India has been shaped since 1975.



The anniversary issue also stands out for the exceptional participation it has received from the advertising community. India Today English features over 190 advertisers and more than 400 advertising pages, while India Today Hindi includes over 55 advertisers and upwards of 150 pages. This strong presence, the group said, underlines the magazine's continued relevance as a trusted, credible and influential platform for brands.

Commenting on the milestone, Manoj Sharma, Chief Executive Officer, Publishing, India Today Group, said the 50th Anniversary issue reinforces the belief that advertising delivers its strongest impact when carried by trust, depth and intent. He noted that in a fragmented media landscape, magazines continue to offer brands credibility and sustained attention, with long-form journalism creating an environment where messages are absorbed and valued. According to him, the milestone reflects advertiser confidence in print as a premium medium associated with meaning, permanence and influence.

Founded in 1975, India Today has published 2,006 issues over the past fifty years, building a reputation for authoritative reporting, sharp analysis and powerful visual storytelling. The 50th Anniversary Special stands as a definitive chronicle of modern India, documenting history as it unfolded and offering readers a lens to understand both the present and the road ahead.

With 'The Remaking of India: 1975–2025', India Today reaffirms its role as a chronicler of consequence, creating an enduring record for readers, institutions and future generations, while underlining the magazine's continued relevance in India's media landscape.

Amit Shah to headline CNBC-TV18 India Business Leader Awards on Jan 10

CNBC-TV18 is set to host the 21st edition of the India Business Leader Awards (IBLA), one of the country's most prestigious business honours, on January 10, 2026, in Mumbai. The flagship event will bring together India's top political leadership, leading industrialists and global business decision-makers to celebrate excellence in enterprise and leadership.

According to a press release issued by CNBC-TV18, the high-profile evening will be headlined by Union Home Minister Amit

Shah, who will attend the ceremony as the Chief Guest. The event will also see the presence of Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, underscoring the awards' national importance and influence.



The 21st edition of IBLA will honour leaders who are driving enterprise success, contributing to national progress and strengthening India's position on the global economic stage. Over the years, the platform has built a reputation for recognising changemakers whose ambition, innovation and resilience continue to shape India's long-term growth story.

This year's awards ceremony will feature some of India's most influential business leaders, including Mukesh Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director of Reliance Industries Limited; Noel Tata, Chairman of Tata Trusts; N. Chandrasekaran, Chairman of Tata Sons; Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman of the Aditya Birla Group; Sunil Bharti Mittal, Founder and Chairman of Bharti Enterprises; and Sajjan Jindal, Chairman and Managing Director of the JSW Group. Their presence reinforces IBLA's standing as one of India's most sought-after platforms celebrating leadership and enterprise excellence.

Setting the tone for the year ahead, IBLA 2026 is positioned as India's biggest business honours, bringing together the nation's foremost industrialists, global CEOs and senior policymakers under one roof. The awards continue a legacy of more than two decades of recognising leaders who think beyond borders, build with purpose and drive industries towards sustainable value creation.

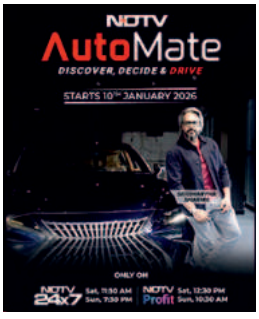
The winners are selected by a distinguished jury known for its depth of experience and credibility. The jury for the 21st edition is chaired by Kumar Mangalam Birla and includes eminent leaders such as Challa Sreenivasulu Setty, Chairperson of State Bank of India; C Vijayakumar, CEO and Managing Director of HCLTech; Dr Preetha Reddy, Executive Vice Chairperson of Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Limited; Arundhati Bhattacharya, President and CEO of Salesforce South Asia; Dilip Shanghvi, Founder and Executive Chairman of Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Limited; Zia J. Mody, Co-Founder and Managing Partner at AZB & Partners; P D Singh, CEO of Standard Chartered for India and South Asia; and Tarun Garg, MD and CEO of Hyundai Motor India Limited.

The 21st edition of the CNBC-TV18 India Business Leader Awards is presented by Standard Chartered and promises to be a defining moment in celebrating leadership, enterprise and India's evolving economic influence.

NDTV launches 'AutoMate' to decode India's mobility shift

NDTV has announced the launch of 'AutoMate', a fresh and contemporary conversation focused on understanding how mobility in India is changing. As the idea of movement shifts beyond engines and infrastructure to include intelligence, sustainability and digital connectivity, 'AutoMate' aims to help audiences decode what this transformation means in real, everyday terms.

According to an NDTV press release, 'AutoMate' has been developed as a multi-format franchise rather than a conventional automobile programme. The platform blends NDTV's editorial credibility with modern visual storytelling, positioning mobility at the intersection of technology, lifestyle and daily decision-making. The focus is on making complex industry developments accessible and relevant to a wide audience.



Curated by Siddhartha Sharma, Executive Editor, NDTV Auto, 'AutoMate' follows a modular, platform-first format. Each episode is structured into distinct segments, enabling the content to work both as a weekly television show and as shorter digital formats across online platforms. This approach allows viewers to engage with the content in multiple ways, depending on how and where they consume it.

The show covers the full spectrum of the automotive experience. Segments such as 'AutoMate' Reviews and Head-to-Head focus on evaluating and comparing cars, bikes and electric vehicles, offering practical insights for buyers and users. 'AutoMate' Shift looks at the rapid changes taking place in hybrid and electric mobility, connected vehicles and emerging automotive technologies.

Beyond products and innovation, 'AutoMate' also explores the human and cultural side of mobility. 'AutoMate Culture' and 'AutoMate Travel' spotlight the people, communities and journeys that shape India's automotive identity. Industry developments and policy perspectives are addressed through 'AutoMate CXO' and 'AutoMate News', including leadership conversations under the Drive Cast series.

Commenting on the launch, Siddhartha Sharma said mobility conversations today extend far beyond vehicles to include technology, energy choices, regulations and everyday movement. He added that 'AutoMate' is designed to examine these shifts in a clear and practical manner by bringing together products, policy and real-world experience.

Aaj Tak to host 'Mumbai Manthan' amid Maharashtra's crucial civic polls

As municipal elections gather momentum across Maharashtra, including the keenly watched Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) polls, Aaj Tak is set to bring civic politics into sharp focus with a day-long political conclave titled 'Mumbai Manthan'. The event will be held on January 8, 2026, and aims to capture the evolving political and governance narrative shaping urban Maharashtra.

According to a press release, 'Mumbai Manthan' will serve as a platform for wide-ranging discussions on civic challenges, governance priorities, development agendas and the broader political equations influencing municipal elections across cities and towns in the state. The conclave is expected to facilitate open, issue-led conversations, bringing together voices from both the ruling establishment and the opposition to reflect on the future of grassroots democracy and urban administration.

The speaker lineup features a cross-section of senior political leadership, including Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Aaditya Thackeray, Sanjay Raut, Ashish Shelar, Supriya Sule, Praful Patel, Varsha Gaikwad and Varun Sardesai, among others. Their participation is expected to provide diverse perspectives on the political dynamics at play as Maharashtra's cities prepare for a new phase of local governance.

The conclave will also see participation from prominent voices in business and public policy. Industry leaders such as Niranjan Hiranandani and Nilesh Shah will join the discussions, alongside noted election analysts Sanjay Kumar, Pradeep Gupta and Amitabh Tiwari, who are set to present data-driven insights into voter behaviour, electoral trends and public sentiment.

With 'Mumbai Manthan', Aaj Tak reinforces its focus on fostering informed public discourse and democratic engagement. The conclave seeks to offer citizens a clearer understanding of the issues, policies and leadership choices that are likely to shape Maharashtra's urban future, with Mumbai at the centre of this civic and political churn.

BT names jury for India's Best CEOs Awards' 14th edition

Business Today has announced the distinguished jury for the 14th edition of BT India's Best CEOs Awards, its annual platform that recognises exceptional leadership across India Inc. The winners of the prestigious awards will be decided by a panel of seasoned business leaders and industry veterans at a jury meet scheduled for January 9.

According to a press release issued by Business Today, this year's edition places a sharper focus on what truly defines enduring leadership in a challenging economic environment. At a time when markets are rewarding discipline as much as ambition, the awards will evaluate CEOs on their ability to deliver profitable growth, resilient execution and capital-efficient strategies. The underlying theme emphasises profitability not merely as a financial metric, but as a source of long-term power to invest, innovate, attract talent and create sustained shareholder value.

The jury for the 14th edition will be chaired by Harsh Mariwala, Chairman of Marico Ltd, widely respected for his visionary leadership and for building one of India's most admired FMCG companies. Joining him on the panel are some of the country's most influential business voices, including Kaku Nakhate, Chair, India, BofA Securities; Sanjeev Krishan, Chairperson, PwC in India; Vibha Padalkar, MD and CEO, HDFC Life Insurance; Abhijit Roy, MD and CEO, Berger Paints India; Amish Mehta, MD and CEO, CRISIL; Shanti Ekambaram, former Deputy MD, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Sanjiv Mehta, Executive Chairman, L Catterton.

PwC India will serve as the knowledge partner for the awards and will support the evaluation process alongside senior editors from Business Today. The jury will assess CEOs on a wide range of parameters, including financial performance, strategic direction, shareholder returns, success in mergers and acquisitions, global expansion initiatives and turnaround achievements.



The awards draw their universe of eligible companies from the BT 500 list of India's largest firms ranked by profitability, reinforcing the platform's core belief that sustainable value creation is anchored in strong and consistent earnings. In addition to recognising top-performing CEOs, the awards will also feature special honours such as Business Icon of the Year and Lifetime Achievement.

India Today report highlights Putin interview's global reach

India Today Group has released a Media Impact Report detailing the scale and global influence of its exclusive interview with Russian President Vladimir Putin, conducted at the beginning of the year. The report captures the reach, engagement and international media uptake generated by the conversation, positioning it as one of the most widely referenced political interviews in recent years.

According to a press release issued by the India Today Group, the interview recorded an extraordinary footprint across television, digital and social platforms worldwide. As of January 2026, the content had garnered 235 million video views across broadcast and digital platforms, with peak concurrent live viewership touching 1.2 million globally. The interview also drove significant social engagement, recording 5.8 million interactions including shares, comments and reactions across platforms such as Meta, X, Instagram and YouTube.

The report highlights extensive international media pickup, with coverage, citation and attribution across 25 leading global news organisations. Prominent front-page and headline placements were seen across Europe, Asia and the Global South, reflecting the interview's cross-continental resonance. International amplification included leading media houses such as the BBC, Reuters, Associated Press, The Washington Post and The New York Times, along with wide regional and multilingual adoption.

Findings from the report suggest that the interview's impact went beyond scale to establish sustained relevance in global discourse. While high-profile Western political interviews, including Donald Trump's appearances on 60 Minutes and ABC's 100 Days, or President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's engagements with U.S. broadcast networks, drew strong domestic or regional attention, their international citation remained comparatively limited. In contrast, the India Today exclusive emerged as a consistent reference point across global newsrooms, policy discussions and international commentary.

The Media Impact Report also underlines the depth of engagement achieved by the interview. Beyond live broadcast numbers, the content saw prolonged global consumption in the weeks following transmission across digital platforms. Social metrics reflected active audience participation, with millions engaging in discussion and content sharing rather than passive viewing.

Based on peak concurrent live viewership and post-broadcast digital performance, the report places the interview among the most-watched real-time global political conversations in recent times. The sustained global interest, the report notes, reflects both the editorial credibility of the India Today platform and the relevance of the questions posed.

NDTV Profit revamps look, editorial focus

NDTV Profit has ushered in the new year with a renewed editorial vision, refreshed visual identity and sharper programming, marking a new phase for the business news channel amid growing volatility in global and domestic markets.

From January 5, 2026, the channel has begun a process of reinvention aimed at offering deeper context, stronger analysis and more meaningful business conversations for investors and professionals.



According to an NDTV Profit press release, the revamp reflects a shift in how business journalism is evolving. The focus is no longer limited to reporting developments as they occur, but on interpreting market shifts in real time, providing clarity and helping viewers navigate increasingly complex economic conditions. The channel said this renewed approach is designed to match the pace and unpredictability of today's business environment.

Explaining the thinking behind the transformation, Rahul Kanwal, CEO and Editor-in-Chief of NDTV, said business news must earn credibility every day, particularly in unforgiving market conditions. He said NDTV Profit is sharpening its market-hour conversations with greater pace, stronger analytics and a clearer editorial intent, with relevance and trust at the core of the journey.

As part of this phase, NDTV Profit has strengthened its market coverage with greater urgency and depth, aligning content to the needs of investors, professionals and enterprise leaders. Its long-standing market-opening franchise has also been reinforced. From January 5, India Market Open features an expanded panel of market voices, with Parag Thakkar, Fund Manager at Fort Capital, and

Kush Bohra of KushBohra.com joining existing anchors Tamanna Inamdar, Niraj Shah and Alex Matthews. The channel said the wider panel brings sharper perspectives to the morning trade, combining conviction-led views with disciplined technical analysis.

The daytime programming line-up has also been refreshed to track different phases of the trading session. Shows now focus on large corporates, intraday trends, emerging opportunities and small-cap movements, offering viewers structured insights as the market evolves through the day.

Commenting on the refreshed programming mix, Tamanna Inamdar, Managing Editor, NDTV, said the current phase is about sharpening both talent and intent. She noted that the channel is strengthening its core shows, introducing new voices and building formats that reflect how markets function today—fast-moving, information-heavy and constantly changing—with a clear emphasis on clarity and usefulness.

The renewed NDTV Profit also places greater emphasis on analytical depth, with increased use of data-led insights and evolving AI-assisted tools to strengthen market interpretation. The aim, the channel said, is to help investors take more informed and confident decisions in a complex environment.

As markets close, NDTV Profit shifts focus to forward-looking perspectives. At 9 pm, India Business Report, anchored by Vikram Oza, brings together the day's most consequential developments, placing them in context and examining their implications for the days ahead.

With its refreshed look, sharper editorial voice and deeper analytical focus, NDTV Profit is positioning itself for the next chapter of business journalism—one that seeks to keep pace with a changing India and an increasingly complex global economy.

Network18 renews CNN's News18 partnership for 10 years

Network18 has extended its long-standing licensing and brand partnership with CNN International for its flagship English news channel, CNN-News18, renewing the agreement for another decade. The renewed deal will now run until 31 December 2035, reinforcing one of the most enduring collaborations in India's television news landscape.

According to a press release, Network18 and CNN have further strengthened a relationship that began in 2005 and was first renewed in 2015. Entering its third decade, the partnership is being positioned for the next phase of growth, with a sharper focus on digital expansion and connected TV (CTV), alongside the traditional television offering.

A key highlight of the renewed agreement is CNN-News18's expanded digital ambition. The channel plans to scale its presence beyond India, extending its reach to international audiences through platforms such as YouTube and connected TV. This move is aimed at building a strong global digital footprint and ensuring that CNN-News18 content is accessible across devices and geographies.

Commenting on the renewal, Rahul Joshi, Managing Director and Editor-in-Chief of Network18 Group, described the partnership as a landmark collaboration in global news. He said that while the TV news alliance has flourished over the past two decades, the renewed agreement opens up new growth avenues, particularly through digital and connected TV platforms.

The Network18–CNN partnership gains added relevance at a time when news consumption has become increasingly "glocal", with global developments directly impacting local audiences. CNN's extensive international newsgathering capabilities, combined with Network18's reach and credibility in India, enables CNN-News18 to offer a comprehensive and globally contextual view of current affairs.

With the refreshed partnership, CNN-News18 has further consolidated its position as a leading destination for English news in India. The channel is known for breaking major stories quickly, securing key newsmakers, and ensuring that audiences can access news seamlessly across television, digital platforms and connected devices. It continues to uphold its long-standing brand promise—"On Your Side".

CNN International, which is part of Warner Bros. Discovery, will continue to bring its global editorial strength and leadership to the collaboration. Phil Nelson, Executive Vice President, CNN International Commercial, said that strong affiliate partnerships have been central to CNN since its inception and expressed confidence in extending the relationship with Network18, one of CNN's largest and most prominent affiliates worldwide.

CNN-News18 has also recently refreshed its on-air look, adopting a more contemporary and stylish aesthetic to enhance viewer experience. Importantly, all content is now produced to be inherently TV- and digital-ready, allowing for seamless distribution across broadcast, digital and CTV platforms. The channel has significantly scaled up its connected TV presence to serve audiences increasingly consuming news on large-screen digital devices.

Looking ahead, Network18 plans to make further investments in CNN-News18's digital, technological and editorial capabilities to strengthen its leadership position and expand its footprint both in India and internationally. The channel operates from a state-of-the-art facility in the New Delhi region, supported by bureaus across the country, a strong editorial and production team, and Network18's advanced broadcast infrastructure and news-gathering technology.

NDTV Good Times announces Shankar–Ehsaan–Loy's first-ever India tour

NDTV Good Times has announced a landmark cultural initiative with the launch of Shankar–Ehsaan–Loy's first-ever India tour, marking a multi-city celebration of music, memories and Bollywood's enduring soundscape. The tour brings together one of Indian cinema's most influential composer trios and audiences across key cultural hubs, promising a rare and immersive live experience.Portable speakers

As per a press release, the multi-city tour will begin in Mumbai on February 8, followed by Hyderabad on February 22 and Bengaluru on March 27. The concerts will give fans across generations the opportunity to experience the trio perform live, celebrating a body of work that has defined modern Hindi cinema for over two decades.



Over the years, Shankar–Ehsaan–Loy have carved a unique space in Indian music with their ability to blend Indian classical, rock, jazz, folk, Sufi and electronic influences, often within the same album. Their sound has shaped the emotional grammar of countless films, making their compositions both timeless and instantly recognisable. Speaking about the journey and the spirit behind the tour, the trio said, "We are here because of a bigger purpose and that is to stick around and to create music together."

From high-energy chartbusters like 'Kajra Re', 'Gallan Goodiyaan' and 'It's the Time to Disco' to soulful melodies such as 'Mitwa' and the raw, youthful energy of 'Rock On!!', their music has been woven into celebrations, heartbreaks, friendships, weddings and road trips. While millennials grew up with their songs as the soundtrack to key life moments, Gen Z continues to discover and embrace their music with the same enthusiasm, underscoring the trio's cross-generational appeal. The tour is envisioned as a meeting point of nostalgia and contemporary musical ideas, where Bollywood melodies and pure musical brilliance come together in a shared live setting. Each concert promises an evening steeped in emotion, familiarity and collective memory,, offering audiences .

Times Now Navbharat launches prime-time show 'Chakra View' with Sumit Awasthi

Times Now Navbharat, the Hindi news channel of Times Network, has expanded its prime-time line-up with the launch of 'Chakra View – with Sumit Awasthi', a new show anchored by senior journalist Sumit Awasthi.

The programme airs Monday to Friday at 6.57 pm and aims to bring sharper, fact-based news analysis to a competitive prime-time space dominated by loud debates and fragmented narratives.



According to a press release issued by the network, 'Chakra View' has been conceptualised as a clarity-driven format that moves beyond surface-level reactions to deliver deeper analysis and solution-oriented discussions. The show seeks to offer viewers a 360-degree perspective on major developments, focusing on the 'why' behind the headlines while adding context, accountability and depth to issues shaping national discourse.

The programme covers a broad spectrum of key national and geopolitical stories, supported by advanced graphics and alpha-led visuals to enhance viewer understanding. A strong emphasis has also been placed on people-first journalism, with dedicated segments spotlighting youth issues, citizen-centric concerns and stories emerging from digital platforms, all filtered through a rigorous fact-checking process before being brought to air.

In a distinctive audience-led approach, 'Chakra View' allows viewers to participate in shaping the editorial agenda by choosing topics they want examined in greater detail. This interactive format is designed to keep the show responsive to public interest and evolving conversations. In the run-up to the launch, Times Now Navbharat also rolled out extensive digital-led initiatives to build anticipation and engage audiences across platforms.

Commenting on the launch, Ashish Sehgal, CEO – Times Television Network and Chief Growth Officer – Media & Entertainment, said that news carries a responsibility far greater than entertainment as it actively shapes public opinion and future narratives. He underlined that accuracy, accountability and balance are critical in news delivery, noting that Chakra View reflects this philosophy by going beyond headlines to provide credible, meaningful analysis in prime time.

Milind Soman, Ankita Konwar honoured at NDTV Fitness Awards 2025

Supermodel and fitness advocate Milind Soman, along with endurance runner and wellness campaigner Ankita Konwar, were recognised at the NDTV Who's Next 2025 Awards for their sustained efforts in promoting fitness and preventive health across age groups.

At the ceremony, Soman was conferred with the Fitness Icon of the Year Award, while Konwar received the Millennial Fitness Icon Award, acknowledging their long-term influence on India's evolving fitness culture.

According to a press release issued following the awards, the recognition highlights the duo's consistent work in making fitness inclusive, accessible and relevant, especially for women. Their initiatives have focused not just on physical activity, but also on awareness, self-care and preventive health, resonating with both older and younger generations.



Speaking at the event, Milind Soman said fitness is rooted in everyday discipline rather than extremes. He noted that initiatives such as Pinkathon were conceptualised to make fitness approachable and to remind people, particularly women, to prioritise their health. He added that it was encouraging to see this journey and philosophy being acknowledged on a national platform.

Over the years, Soman has played a key role in shaping the fitness conversation in India by advocating consistency and long-term well-being. He is the founder of Pinkathon, India's largest women's run, launched in 2012 to encourage women to embrace fitness while also spreading awareness about breast cancer and preventive health. The initiative has grown into a nationwide movement, reaching over half a million women across cities including Mumbai, Bengaluru, Delhi, Hyderabad, Chennai and Kolkata. Pinkathon has also facilitated free breast screenings for thousands of women and raised more than Rs.1 crore towards the treatment of underprivileged cancer patients, while introducing first-time runners through inclusive formats such as the Saree Run, Grandmothers' Run and Babywearing Mothers' Walk.

The Fitness Icon of the Year Award recognises Soman's impact in making fitness a lifelong habit across age groups and linking physical activity with awareness and self-care rather than short-term goals.

Ankita Konwar, who was honoured as the Millennial Fitness Icon, has emerged as a strong voice for mindful fitness and women's health among younger audiences. Accepting the award, she said the recognition reflects a growing awareness among millennials about holistic well-being and the importance of listening to one's body.

Konwar is the founder of Invincible Women, an ultramarathon and health awareness initiative launched in 2023 to encourage women to challenge both visible and invisible barriers to prioritising their health. Invincible Women's Run is India's first women-only ultramarathon, featuring endurance-based events ranging from 50 km to 100 km, and focuses on building physical resilience, mental strength and long-term wellness.

Together, the recognitions underline how both Soman and Konwar have contributed to creating a more inclusive and conscious fitness ecosystem in India, inspiring individuals across generations to view health as a sustained commitment rather than a fleeting trend.

Zee News hits No. 2 in BARC India week 50

Zee News has surged to the No. 2 position in the BARC India ratings for Week 50 of 2025, recording its best performance in nearly six years and reinforcing its growing connect with news viewers across the country. The latest rankings place the channel among the top performers in the highly competitive Hindi news genre.

As per the latest BARC India report (HSM | All 15+ | 06:00–24:00 hrs), Zee News emerged as the second most-watched Hindi news channel during the week, registering a 10.2 percent market share. The channel reached 50.8 million viewers, with strong engagement levels indicating a sustained rise rather than a short-term spike.

The channel's performance was particularly notable in rural and free-to-air segments. In HSM Rural, Zee News ranked No. 1 among NCCS All 15+ audiences with a market share of 12.2 percent, while also delivering the highest rural reach at 17.6 million viewers. On the Free Platform, the channel continued its leadership position with a 12.7 percent market share and a reach of 15 million viewers.

Regionally, Zee News strengthened its footprint in key Hindi-speaking markets. The channel secured the top position in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, where it recorded a 13.5 percent market share, underlining its resonance with audiences in politically and socially significant states.

NDTV Conclave: Rajasthan CM vows no Aravalli tampering

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma on Dec 22 gave a firm assurance that there would be no tampering with the Aravalli mountain range under his government, asserting that environmental protection will not be compromised in the name of development.

Addressing the NDTV Rajasthan Conclave titled 'Rising Rajasthan: Development with Heritage' in Mandawa, Jhunjhunu district, the Chief Minister presented a detailed account of the state government's two-year tenure and reiterated that balancing development with heritage conservation remains a core priority.

According to an NDTV press release, Sharma described the Aravallis as the lifeline of Rajasthan, stating that the ancient mountain range is central to the state's ecology and water balance. He questioned the changes made to the definition of the Aravallis in 2002 and 2009 and sought clarity on the intent behind those decisions. The Chief Minister underlined that his government has adopted a firm stance against illegal mining and other unlawful activities, making it clear that the Aravallis would not be allowed to suffer damage under any circumstances.



Taking a strong stand on paper leak cases, Sharma alleged that such incidents during previous governments occurred with political patronage. He claimed that under the Congress regime, paper leaks became an organised mafia that shattered the aspirations of poor and hardworking youth. Reiterating his government's zero-tolerance policy, he said over 200 examinations have been conducted during the current tenure without a single leak, and more than 300 accused have been sent to jail, reflecting a commitment to transparency and accountability.

Speaking from the cultural heartland of Shekhawati, the Chief Minister said Rajasthan is witnessing a new phase where development and heritage go hand in hand. He maintained that law and order in the state is strong, action against criminals is uncompromising, and the government remains sensitive to public concerns while working actively to resolve them.

On social reforms, Sharma highlighted the government's strict measures against child marriage, noting a significant decline in such cases due to sustained administrative action and public awareness. He said the practice is now close to being eradicated in many regions of the state.

Addressing Rajasthan's long-standing water scarcity, Sharma termed water management as the biggest challenge for sustainable development. He informed that work worth Rs 26,000 crore under the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project has already begun, which is expected to provide lasting solutions for drinking water and irrigation. He also said efforts to bring Yamuna water to the Shekhawati region have been expedited, with the detailed project report currently under preparation.

From the conclave stage, and in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari, the Chief Minister also launched Rajasthan's new Film Tourism Policy. He said the state's forts, havelis and cultural heritage are increasingly attracting global filmmakers, and film tourism would generate employment opportunities for local youth. He added that over 660 havelis in the Shekhawati region have already been conserved.

The Chief Minister further directed officials to establish a Heritage Library to preserve Rajasthan's cultural legacy, emphasising that the havelis of Shekhawati are living symbols of history and shared cultural responsibility.

Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari said the state government is working with a long-term vision for heritage conservation. She noted that while most havelis are privately owned, efforts are being made through awareness and administrative support to preserve their original character. She also revealed that preparations are underway to seek UNESCO World Heritage status for Rajasthan's havelis, with over 600 already identified.

The conclave also featured addresses by Energy Minister Hiralal Nagar, Social Justice Minister Avinash Gehlot and Food Minister Sumit Godara, who highlighted sector-wise achievements of the government. In the opening session, Urban Development Minister Jhabar Singh Kharra reiterated that cabinet expansion is the Chief Minister's prerogative and reaffirmed that the Aravalli range would remain protected under the present administration.



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Global favourite 'Stranger Things' finale drop crashes Netflix

Some users found it difficult to log in on Netflix on Wednesday night to watch the finale of 'Stranger Things', the series that debuted in 2016 and became an instant hit with viewers with its band of adventure-loving kids, nostalgic 80s setting and the Upside Down. The streamer faced a similar technical issue during the season 5 premiere of the show on November 26, a PTI report from Los Angeles, quoting entertainment news outlet Variety, said.

The crash on Wednesday lasted for about a minute and was fixed after a few refreshes. Users encountering the error were met with an image from "Nailed It!" with the caption: "Something went wrong. Sorry, we're having trouble with your request. You'll find lots to explore on the home page", Variety reported, according to PTI.

The disruption on Wednesday, however, was short-lived. The outage reportedly lasted for about a minute and was resolved after users refreshed the app or webpage a few times. Despite the brief hiccup, most users were soon able to resume streaming, with the incident once again highlighting the massive global anticipation surrounding 'Stranger Things' and its finale.

Meanwhile, few days back Netflix had hyped the 'Stranger Things' finale drop by putting out on its website data relating to the series across its various seasons.

The statement from the streamer had said that across five seasons, 42 episodes and over 2,500 minutes, 'Stranger Things' built a world that audiences kept coming back to. Seasons 1-4 garnered more than 1.2 billion views to date, the most views for any Netflix show. In just four weeks, Season 5 Vol. 1 had already reached 102.6 million views globally and all five seasons still remain in the Top 10 this week, according to the statement put out on Christmas eve.

Fans have obsessed over countless iconic moments across all seasons, but two were the most popular with members. The most rewatched scenes in all of 'Stranger Things' are: i) Season 4: When Nancy falls into a trance/possession by Vecna in the seventh episode and ii)



Season 3: When Dustin and Suzie sing 'Never Ending Story' duet at slightly over 35 minutes in the eighth episode.

Then, Season 5, Vol. 1's premiere week was the biggest in the history of Netflix for an English language show, amassing 59.6 million views, hitting #1 in 90 countries and propelling Seasons 1-4 back into the Top 10 — marking the first time an English language Netflix show has had five seasons in the Top 10.

Since the debut of the Netflix Top 10 in 2021, 'Stranger Things' has made the Global Top 10 list 78 times and reached the Top 10 in all 93 countries tracked by the streamer, the statement added.

Big B's singing act turns 'KBC' finale into musical celebration

The latest season of 'Kaun Banega Crorepati' concluded on a high note on December 30, leaving viewers and the studio audience spellbound as Amitabh Bachchan delivered an extraordinary 32-minute non-stop singing performance during the grand finale.

The rare moment transformed the quiz show's closing episode into a heartfelt musical celebration, marking one of the most memorable finales in the show's long history.



According to a UNI report, the emotional sequence unfolded after a specially curated audio-visual montage traced the journey of the season, highlighting inspiring stories, defining moments, and the bond shared between contestants and the host. The montage visibly moved everyone present on set, including Bachchan himself, setting the tone for what followed.

In an effort to lift the mood and bring the evening to a joyous close, Bachchan took centre stage and began singing, continuing uninterrupted for over half an hour. The audience soon rose to their feet, clapping, cheering and singing along, as the atmosphere turned electric with nostalgia and celebration.

During the impromptu performance, Bachchan revisited several of his timeless songs that generations have grown up with. The medley included favourites such as 'Hori Khele Raghuveera' from 'Baghban', 'Rang Barse Bheege Chunarwali' from 'Silsila', 'Chalat Musafir' from 'Teesri Kasam', and 'Mere Angne Mein' from 'Laawaris', along with a special traditional number that added a cultural touch to the evening.

From ‘Ramayana’ to ‘Drishyam 3’: Big-ticket films set to define Bollywood in 2026

The year 2026 is shaping up to be a landmark period for Hindi cinema, with filmmakers lining up an ambitious slate that spans mythological epics, war dramas, action thrillers and franchise sequels. With star power, scale and strong narratives coming together, the upcoming releases have already generated substantial buzz among trade analysts and audiences alike.

According to an ANI report, some of the most anticipated titles of 2026 include Nitesh Tiwari’s ‘Ramayana’, Shah Rukh Khan-led action thriller ‘King’, and Ajay Devgn’s ‘Drishyam 3’, all of which are expected to dominate conversations at the box office. Industry watchers believe the year could mark one of Bollywood’s strongest theatrical runs in recent times.

Among the most talked-about projects is ‘King’, directed by Siddharth Anand and produced by Red Chillies Entertainment in association with Marflix Pictures. The film is special for more than one reason, as it marks Shah Rukh Khan’s reunion with Anand after ‘Pathaan’ and also introduces Suhana Khan on the big screen. Promising high-octane action blended with emotional depth, the film has already sparked strong expectations across fan circles.



Equally ambitious is ‘Ramayana’, being mounted as one of the biggest cinematic ventures in Indian film history. Ranbir Kapoor steps into the role of Lord Rama, with Sai Pallavi as Sita and Yash portraying Ravana. Sunny Deol essays Lord Hanuman, while Ravie Dubey plays Lakshman. Backed by Namit Malhotra’s Prime Focus Studios along with DNEG and Monster Mind Creations, the two-part epic will release with Part 1 arriving on Diwali 2026, followed by Part 2 in Diwali 2027. The film’s music, composed by Hans Zimmer and A.R. Rahman, further adds to its global appeal.

Another major highlight is ‘Dhurandhar 2’, the sequel to Ranveer Singh’s 2025 blockbuster. Scheduled for an Eid 2026 release, the spy thriller will mark its first full pan-India outing across five languages and is expected to benefit from the festive release window. The film has already drawn praise for its scale, action and thematic depth.

Salman Khan’s Battle of ‘Galwan’ is also among the year’s most awaited releases. Based on the 2020 Galwan Valley clash between Indian and Chinese troops, the film revisits a defining moment in recent military history. With Chitrangda Singh cast opposite Khan, the film is slated to hit theatres on April 17, 2026, and has drawn attention for its intense teaser and serious tone.

War drama ‘Border 2’, directed by Anurag Singh, continues the legacy of the 1997 classic with a new ensemble cast that includes Sunny Deol, Varun Dhawan, Diljit Dosanjh and Ahan Shetty. Set against the backdrop of the 1971 Indo-Pak war, the film is scheduled for release on January 23, 2026, and promises a mix of large-scale action and emotional storytelling.

Franchise lovers are also looking forward to ‘Drishyam 3’, with Ajay Devgn returning as Vijay Salgaonkar. Slated for an October 2, 2026 release, the third instalment will continue the gripping narrative that has defined the series, with Tabu, Shriya Saran and Rajat Kapoor reprising their roles.

The year will also see the expansion of the YRF Spy Universe with ‘Alpha’, starring Alia Bhatt, Sharvari and Bobby Deol. The film’s release has been pushed to avoid a clash with ‘Battle of Galwan’, with a new date expected to be announced soon.

Other notable releases include ‘ Mardaani 3’, with Rani Mukerji returning as cop Shivani Shivaji Roy, Vishal Bhardwaj’s ‘O’ Romeo’ starring Shahid Kapoor and Tripti Dimri, Sanjay Leela Bhansali’s ‘Love and War’ featuring Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt and Vicky Kaushal, and Yash’s comeback film ‘Toxic: A Fairytale for Grown-Ups’.

Beyond Bollywood, 2026 will also see major releases across southern cinema, including Prabhas’s ‘The RajaSaab’, Thalapathy Vijay’s ‘Jana Nayagan’, and Rajinikanth’s ‘Jailer 2’. With such a diverse and star-driven lineup, 2026 is poised to be a defining year for Indian cinema, offering audiences spectacle, emotion and storytelling on a grand scale.



Kumar Mangalam Birla to appear on 'KBC' for the first time



In a first for Hindi general entertainment television, industrialist Kumar Mangalam Birla is set to appear on 'Kaun Banega Crorepati', marking his debut on the genre.

The special episode of India's most iconic knowledge-based quiz show will see him in conversation with host Amitabh Bachchan, bringing together two towering personalities from business and popular culture on one stage. According to a press release issued by Sony Entertainment Television, the upcoming episode is positioned as a defining moment for the current season of 'Kaun Banega Crorepati'. It aligns closely with the show's theme, "Jahaan Akal Hai, Wahan Akad Hai," which underscores the role of intelligence, conviction and clarity of thought in shaping individual and collective success. Birla's presence adds a layer of real-world perspective to the philosophy, reflecting how knowledge-led leadership continues to drive India's growth story.

During his appearance, Kumar Mangalam Birla shares an optimistic view of India's economic journey, describing the country as one of the fastest-growing major economies in the world. He speaks about the scale and momentum of progress underway, pointing to the expanding opportunities across sectors and the increasing role of enterprise and innovation in shaping the nation's future. His insights offer viewers a rare glimpse into how one of India's foremost business leaders views the road ahead.

Beyond the discussion on economics and leadership, the episode also reveals a lighter, more personal side of the industrialist. Birla openly expresses his admiration for Amitabh Bachchan, calling him his favourite actor and admitting that sharing the stage with the legendary host is a moment he has long looked forward to. In a candid exchange, he also confesses to feeling a touch of nervousness about answering questions correctly in front of the Shahenshah, a remark that adds warmth and relatability to the conversation.

The interaction between Amitabh Bachchan and Kumar Mangalam Birla blends intellect with ease, offering audiences a mix of thoughtful dialogue and memorable moments. The episode stands out not just for the rarity of such an appearance, but for the way it bridges business leadership, popular culture and the spirit of knowledge that Kaun Banega Crorepati has championed for over two decades.

The special episode will air on Monday, 29 December at 9pm on Sony Entertainment Television and will also be available for streaming on Sony LIV.

Netflix unveils final trailer for 'Stranger Things 5' series finale

Netflix has released the final trailer for the much-awaited finale episode of 'Stranger Things 5', marking the end of one of its most iconic original series. The concluding episode is set to premiere globally on December 31 on the streaming platform, alongside a limited theatrical release.

According to a UNI report, the finale episode is titled 'The Rightside Up' and serves as the eighth and final chapter of the show's fifth season. Netflix had earlier rolled out the concluding season in two parts, with the first four episodes released on Thanksgiving as 'Stranger Things 5: Volume 1', followed by three episodes under Volume 2 on Christmas. Volume 2 ended on a dramatic note with Episode 7, where Max, played by Sadie Sink, regains consciousness and reveals Vecna's ultimate plan — to merge the real world with a mysterious parallel dimension beyond the Upside Down, known as the Abyss.



The revelation pushes the group into action as they devise a risky mission to enter the Abyss, rescue Vecna's captive children and destroy the dimension using a bomb. The episode closed with a chilling sequence showing Vecna, still disguised as Henry Creel, leading his brainwashed victims as they are transported into the Abyss.

The newly dropped trailer revisits several defining moments from across the franchise, blending nostalgia with high-stakes action. It features intense confrontations with Vecna and glimpses of other nightmarish creatures that have defined the series' supernatural universe. Sharing the trailer on Instagram, Netflix described it simply as "one last trailer," underscoring the emotional weight of the farewell.

As reported by Variety, creators Matt and Ross Duffer first introduced 'Stranger Things' nearly a decade ago, with its debut season releasing in July 2016. The series quickly became a global phenomenon, followed by Season 2 in 2017 and Season 3 in 2019. Season 4, like the final chapter, was also released in two volumes in May and July 2022.

HistoryTV18's Rocky takes NCR by storm in new season of #RoadTrippinWithRocky

HistoryTV18's popular digital travel-food series '#RoadTrippinWithRocky' is back with a brand-new season, as Rocky hits the roads of the National Capital Region to explore its diverse food culture.

Season 15 of the show will roll out from December 27 to December 30, taking viewers through Noida, Faridabad, Gurugram and Delhi, and will be showcased across HistoryTV18's and Rocky's social media platforms. The new season opens in Noida, where Rocky begins his journey with a visit to the iconic Jain Tikki Wala in Sector 27, followed by a stop at the ever-popular Social. From there, the trail moves to Faridabad, where the focus shifts to local favourites that have earned a loyal following among residents. Gurugram is next on the itinerary, featuring a mix of indulgent vegetarian fare, robust meat dishes at The Pit, and a flavourful Thai experience at Banng.



The finale sees Rocky return to Delhi for a deep dive into the capital's eclectic food scene. From simple roadside falahar to refined fine-dining destinations, the episode promises recommendations that reflect the breadth and character of New Delhi's culinary landscape, catering to both casual diners and seasoned food enthusiasts.

Over the years, #RoadTrippinWithRocky has evolved into one of HistoryTV18's most successful digital-first properties. The format has consistently delivered strong engagement across social platforms, driven by its blend of food, travel, culture and Rocky's easy-going, conversational storytelling style.

Designed for audiences who prefer consuming content on the go, the series is known for its relatable humour and spontaneous approach. Its growing popularity is reflected in its digital performance, with the franchise clocking over 2 billion impressions and more than 550 million video views so far, reinforcing its status as a high-impact and widely followed digital property.

'Battle of Galwan' teaser unveiled

The teaser of Salman Khan's upcoming film 'Battle of Galwan' was unveiled on the actor's birthday, offering audiences a first glimpse into the intense war drama. Salman shared the teaser on his Instagram handle, instantly drawing attention from fans and film enthusiasts alike.



According to an ANI report, the teaser features Salman Khan in the role of an Indian Army officer, seen in a serious and restrained avatar. The visuals highlight the harsh realities of high-altitude deployment, with rugged terrain, biting cold and close-combat sequences capturing the physical and emotional challenges faced by soldiers in extreme conditions.

The brief teaser sets a somber and powerful tone, underscored by a stirring background score composed by Himesh Reshammiya. Portions of the teaser also feature vocals by singer Stebin Ben, adding to the emotional weight of the visuals. Salman's controlled screen presence and the stark imagery suggest a film rooted in realism and sacrifice.

'Battle of Galwan' is based on the 2020 Galwan Valley clash between Indian and Chinese troops, an incident in which 20 Indian soldiers lost their lives. The confrontation led to heightened tensions along the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh, following which the Indian Army increased deployments and carried out extensive measures to safeguard the region against possible aggression.

Actor Chitrangda Singh has been cast opposite Salman Khan in the film, marking a fresh on-screen pairing. While further details about the storyline and release timeline are awaited, the teaser has already sparked strong reactions, with viewers praising its serious treatment of a sensitive and significant chapter in recent history.

With its focus on bravery, sacrifice and the realities of border conflict, 'Battle of Galwan' is shaping up to be one of Salman Khan's most intense and patriotic roles in recent years.

Ranbir Kapoor's 'Animal' set for Japan theatrical release in February

Ranbir Kapoor-starrer ' Animal' is set to expand its global footprint with a theatrical release in Japan, marking another significant chapter in the film's international journey. The high-octane action drama, directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga, will hit Japanese cinemas on February 13, 2026, following its strong box office performance and sustained global attention. According to a UNI report, the makers announced the Japan release on December 24, unveiling an official poster that features Ranbir Kapoor in an intense and rugged avatar. The visual highlights the film's dark, brooding tone and positions 'Animal' as a bold Indian action spectacle rooted in themes of obsession, violence and raw masculinity.



The Japan release is being seen as an important milestone for Animal, underlining the growing international reach of Indian cinema and Ranbir Kapoor's rising stature beyond domestic markets. With Japanese audiences increasingly embracing Indian films across genres, industry watchers expect strong curiosity and anticipation around the film's overseas reception.

Produced by T-Series and Bhadrakali Pictures, 'Animal' will be released in Japan by Geek Pictures, a distributor known for regularly bringing Indian films to Japanese theatres. The film also features Anil Kapoor, Rashmika Mandanna, Bobby Deol and Triptii Dimri in key roles, adding depth to its ensemble cast.

Currently, 'Animal' holds the distinction of being the highest-grossing A-rated Indian film, with a worldwide collection of Rs 915 crore. Backed by striking visuals, a gripping narrative, a thunderous background score and what many describe as a career-defining performance by Ranbir Kapoor, the film is expected to resonate with both Indian cinema followers abroad and Japanese audiences drawn to stylised, international action dramas.

Aditya Dhar's 'Dhurandhar' crosses Rs 1,000 crore mark at global box office

Filmmaker Aditya Dhar's latest directorial venture 'Dhurandhar' has scripted a major box office milestone, crossing the Rs 1,000 crore mark in worldwide collections. The film has emerged as one of the biggest commercial successes of the year, drawing strong footfalls across domestic and overseas markets.Online movie streaming services. According to a PTI report, the makers confirmed the achievement on Friday, underscoring the film's sustained momentum since its release. The production team shared the



updated box office figures through an official post on Instagram, celebrating the entry of 'Dhurandhar' into the coveted Rs 1,000 crore club.

Headlined by Ranveer Singh, the film features a powerful ensemble cast including Sanjay Dutt, Akshaye Khanna, Arjun Rampal, Sara Arjun, R. Madhavan and Rakesh Bedi. 'Dhurandhar' has been produced by Aditya Dhar and his brother Lokesh Dhar under their banner B62 Studios, in collaboration with Jyoti Deshpande of Jio Studios.

The celebratory Instagram post read, "Entering the 1000 CR club, loud and proud. Book your tickets. (Link in bio). #Dhurandhar Frenzy Continues Worldwide," reflecting the makers' confidence in the film's continuing theatrical run.

With its strong cast, scale and mass appeal, 'Dhurandhar' has resonated widely with audiences, reinforcing Aditya Dhar's position as one of the most bankable filmmakers in the industry today.

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India, Japan, China to lead APAC premium VOD revenue growth: MPA

Media market research firm Media Partners Asia (MPA), which released its flagship report titled 'Asia-Pacific Video & Broadband 2026' (AVB 2026) yesterday, said India will overtake China to emerge as the largest market for SVOD subscriptions by 2030 with 358 million individual subscriptions

However, dwelling on the intricacies of pricing and other issues, MPA highlighted that despite growing rapidly, India's premium VOD revenue pie, including subscriptions and ads, will remain 4.5x smaller than that of China and 2.5x smaller than Japan.

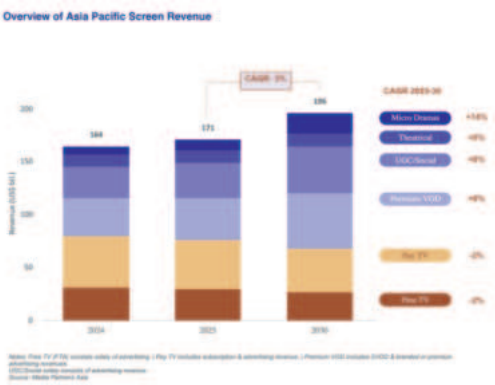
MPA's flagship annual assessment of the region's video industry finds that Asia-Pacific total screen revenues will continue to grow through 2030, but that growth is increasingly concentrated in streaming, social video and connected TV (CTV), while traditional television faces sustained structural pressure.

According to data put out by the Singapore-based company, between 2025 and 2030, the premium video on demand (premium VOD) category, including subscription video on demand (SVOD) and branded or premium advertising-supported video on demand (premium AVOD), is forecast to add approximately US$12.5 billion in incremental growth revenue, reaching US$52 billion by the end of the decade.

Over the same period, user-generated and social video revenues are projected to expand by US$11.4 billion to US$44.5 billion, making creator-led platforms the single largest growth engine across the Asia-Pacific screen economy. In contrast, traditional television revenues are projected to decline by a cumulative US$8.0 billion, reflecting ongoing weakness in linear advertising and pay TV subscriptions.

Commenting on the findings of the report, Vivek Couto, CEO and Executive Director of Media Partners Asia, said: "Value is shifting decisively toward streaming, social platforms and CTV-led monetisation. Markets with scale, pricing power and strong local content ecosystems will continue to outperform, while traditional television economics face long-term structural erosion.

"What differentiates winners in this cycle is not volume alone, but the ability to monetise premium experiences, anchored by sports, high-quality local programming, emerging formats such as micro-dramas, and increasingly by AI-enabled efficiency across the content value chain."



Some of the key highlights of the reports are the following:



Asia-Pacific screen industry revenues expand at a 2.8 percent CAGR between 2025–30 to top US$196 billion, with all net growth generated by online video, which will increase at 7 percent CAGR over the forecast period.

The premium VOD category will be more than US$12.5 billion in growth revenue between 2025 and 2030, led by Japan, China and India, followed by Australia, Korea and Indonesia.

User-generated and social video revenues grew by US$11.4 billion, driven by advertising and expanding CTV inventory with China, Japan, India and Australia leading the way.

Traditional television revenues decline by US$8.0 billion, with China, Japan and India accounting for nearly 70 percent of the contraction, while Australia and Korea will contribute more than 15 percent combined to the decline.

The top 15 online video platforms accounted for 58 percent of total online video revenues in 2025, underscoring rising concentration, led by YouTube, ByteDance's Douyin and TikTok and Netflix, alongside strong national champions such as JioHotstar and U-NEXT.

Some of the key themes and trends identified by AVB 2026 are the following:
AVB 2026 identifies Japan and India as the two largest contributors to incremental video and streaming revenue growth ex-China. In Japan, growth is ARPU-led, supported by higher-priced tiers, premium local content, sports-led differentiation and advanced AVOD adoption. India's growth remains more volume-led but is increasingly supported by monetisation upgrades, advertising-supported offerings, ARPU increases after 2026, and expanding CTV usage.
CTV has emerged as a structural driver of value creation across the region. MPA estimates that CTV households across Asia-Pacific now number close to 160 million ex-China, and are expected to add nearly 100 million more by 2030, with the largest bases in Japan, India, Korea, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines and Australia. The shift to big-screen viewing is materially improving engagement, pricing power and advertising yields.

YouTube tops Netflix, Prime Video and Disney+ in US TV viewership

YouTube has once again emerged as the most-watched streaming platform in the United States, outperforming Netflix, Amazon Prime Video and Disney+ in overall television viewership.

According to the latest audience data released by ratings agency Nielsen, Google-owned YouTube accounted for nearly 13 per cent of total TV viewing time in November, significantly ahead of Netflix, which stood at around 8 per cent. As per a Times of India (TOI) report, the figures underline a trend that has been building for several years, with YouTube consistently generating more TV viewing time in the US than any other streaming service. The data refers solely to YouTube's core video platform and does not include YouTube TV, the company's paid live television service that carries traditional cable channels.

Beyond conventional video consumption, YouTube's growing influence is also evident in the podcasting space. Research firm Edison has found that roughly 75 per cent of all podcast listening happens between 6 am and 6 pm, and YouTube now leads the podcast market as well. The platform said viewers watched nearly 700 million hours of video podcasts on living-room devices in October, marking a 75 per cent jump from the same period last year. Edison's data also places YouTube ahead of Spotify and Apple Podcasts in overall podcast listening.

Sony unveils second 'Wheel of Fortune' brand film with Akshay Kumar

Sony Pictures Networks India has unveiled the second brand film for its upcoming marquee property, 'Wheel of Fortune', featuring Akshay Kumar. Continuing the tone established by the first campaign, the new film once again taps into Akshay Kumar's signature humour and effortless comic timing, positioning the show as a family-friendly entertainer.

According to a press release, the latest brand film is built around situational comedy and uses light-hearted misinterpretations to underline the essence of the game. By leaning into Akshay Kumar's mass appeal, the campaign aims to familiarise Indian audiences with the format of 'Wheel of Fortune' while keeping the narrative playful and engaging.



Sharing insights into the creative approach, Vikas Bahl, who conceptualised, directed and produced the ad films under his production house Good Co., said the idea was to introduce the show in a way that stays true to its core playfulness. He added that with Akshay Kumar as the face of the show, the team could naturally explore witty moments of wordplay, where a single letter or word can change the entire meaning, adding to the fun and anticipation.

Wheel of Fortune is recognised by Variety magazine as the most-watched entertainment show on American television, has been cited by 'Guinness World Records' as the world's most popular TV game show, and has won a Daytime Emmy Award for Outstanding Game Show. With its Indian edition gearing up for launch, the show is set to make its debut on Sony Entertainment Television and Sony LIV.

Viewers can stay tuned to Sony Entertainment Television and Sony LIV for more updates and information on the Indian edition of 'Wheel of Fortune'.



India directs Musk-led X to remove Grok-generated obscene content

The Indian government issued a stern notice to Elon Musk-led social media platform X to immediately remove all vulgar, obscene and unlawful content, especially generated by AI app Grok, or face action under the law.

The Ministry of Electronics and IT (Meity) has issued a notice to the Chief Compliance Officer for India operations of X for failure to observe statutory due diligence obligations under the Information Technology Act, 2000, and IT Rules, 2021, a PTI report from New Delhi stated yesterday.

"...X is hereby directed to...remove or disable access, without delay, to all content already generated or disseminated in violation of applicable laws, in strict compliance with the timelines prescribed under the IT Rules, 2021, without vitiating the evidence in any manner," the order dated January 2 said.

Meity has also directed X to take action against offending content, users and accounts.

The Ministry has directed the US-based social media firm to submit a detailed action taken report (ATR) within 72 hours of the date when the order was issued.

The government has received from time to time, including through public discourse and representations from various parliamentary stakeholders, that certain categories of content circulating on X may not be in compliance with applicable laws relating to decency and obscenity, the order said.

Earlier in the day, Rajya Sabha member Priyanka Chaturvedi had written a letter to Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, seeking urgent intervention on increasing incidents of the AI app Grok being misused to create vulgar photos of women and post them on social media.

The order said that 'Grok AI' service, developed by X, is being misused by users to create fake accounts to host, generate, publish or share obscene images or videos of women in a derogatory or vulgar manner to indecently denigrate them.

Airtel launches Cartoon Network Classics on Digital TV platform

Bharti Airtel announced the launch of 'Airtel Cartoon Network Classics', an exclusive value-added service on Airtel Digital TV, developed in collaboration with Warner Bros. Discovery.

The new channel brings together a rich library of iconic Cartoon Network animated shows, positioning itself as a dedicated destination for nostalgia-driven, family-friendly entertainment.Online TV streaming services.



According to an Airtel press release, the channel curates some of the most loved animated franchises that defined childhoods across generations. Viewers can revisit timeless favourites such as 'Tom and Jerry', 'The Flintstones', 'Looney Tunes', 'Scooby-Doo', 'Johnny Bravo' and several other classics that continue to enjoy popularity even decades after their original run. The offering is aimed at audiences who grew up watching these shows, while also allowing families to introduce younger viewers to characters that shaped global pop culture in the 1990s and early 2000s.

Commenting on the launch, Pushpinder Singh Gujral, DTH Business Head, Airtel, said the new service adds a distinctive layer to Airtel's entertainment portfolio. He noted that Airtel Cartoon Network Classics gives customers an opportunity to reconnect with iconic stories and characters that remain relevant even today. Gujral added that the channel will be available to all DTH and IPTV users, and aligns with Airtel's focus on delivering curated, high-quality viewing experiences.

The channel is priced at Rs.59 per month and is available on Channel 445 in both English and Hindi. It is offered as an ad-free service and can be accessed across connected set-top boxes such as Airtel Xstream and IPTV, as well as non-connected HD and SD boxes, ensuring uninterrupted viewing without the need for additional equipment.

Arjun Nohwar, Managing Director, South Asia, Warner Bros. Discovery, said the collaboration reflects the company's effort to keep iconic characters and stories accessible for today's audiences. He said the partnership with Airtel enables fans to relive cherished childhood memories, while also introducing a new generation to the original cartoons that have entertained audiences worldwide for decades.

With the launch of 'Airtel Cartoon Network Classics', Airtel continues to expand its range of value-added entertainment services, reinforcing its focus on differentiated, family-oriented content. Subscribers can activate the channel easily through their set-top box, by giving a missed call, or via the Airtel Thanks app, allowing instant access to classic cartoons without complex activation steps.

WhatsApp bans 1cr accounts/month amid Indian number



The government has raised concerns over the scale of misuse of Indian mobile numbers, even as WhatsApp continues to ban a large number of accounts every month for violations. Officials said the Meta-owned messaging platform has banned an average of 9.8 million Indian accounts per month up to October this year, but the lack of transparency around these bans is making it difficult for authorities to tackle spam, cyber fraud and other digital crimes effectively.

According to an Economic Times report, the issue has become a point of discussion between the government and WhatsApp, with officials seeking greater cooperation from the platform. While WhatsApp publishes monthly compliance reports stating how many accounts have been banned, it does not share details of the corresponding mobile numbers. This, officials said, is hampering efforts to trace fraud networks and prevent banned numbers from resurfacing on other platforms.

India is WhatsApp's largest market, and the company identifies Indian accounts through the +91 country code. Government officials noted that in many cases, numbers banned on WhatsApp later appear on other over-the-top (OTT) platforms such as Telegram and are again linked to fraudulent activities. The misuse of Indian mobile numbers, both domestically and from abroad, remains a major concern despite ongoing measures to curb cybercrime. Officials pointed out that OTT apps can continue to function without a SIM card once an account is created using a mobile number, making it extremely difficult for enforcement agencies to track fraudsters. They added that nearly 95 per cent of cases involving digital arrests and impersonation are currently taking place on WhatsApp. "There are concerns around how Indian numbers are being used by fraudsters, and we are addressing those issues. We have to balance convenience against security implications," an official said.

Tracking when a SIM card was issued and verifying whether the know-your-customer (KYC) details are genuine or fake is critical to checking such frauds, officials said. The government is in discussions not just with WhatsApp but also with other OTT platforms to explore ways to deal with the problem more effectively. WhatsApp, however, did not respond to queries on the matter.

The government also directs platforms to ban accounts found to be involved in scams or illegal activities. As per the Department of Telecommunications, nearly 2.9 million WhatsApp profiles and groups have been disengaged till November this year based on government directions. While authorities have visibility into these actions, they say there is no clarity when WhatsApp bans accounts on its own.

"As WhatsApp does not coordinate with authorities regarding accounts it bans independently, we do not know which numbers have been blocked," an official said, adding that the government is not seeking personal details, only the numbers, to verify whether they are genuine or linked to misuse.

Former MeitY official Rakesh Maheshwari said the intent behind monthly compliance reports was to bring greater transparency and accountability. "If there are certain revelations that require deeper introspection, the government has the right to seek more information," he said.

WhatsApp has maintained that due to end-to-end encryption, enforcement actions are based on behavioural signals and that sharing granular account data involves technical, legal and cross-jurisdictional complexities. Officials, however, said that refusal to share even limited details in some cases raises serious security concerns, especially as cyber fraud continues to rise.



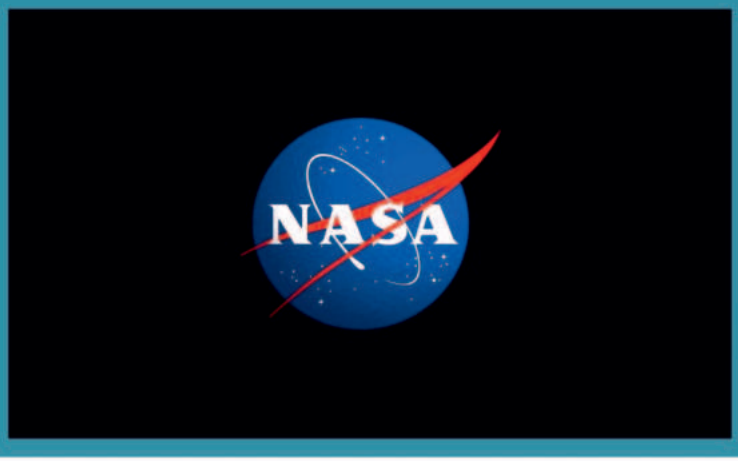


01. Amazon Brings Alexa+ to the Web as AI Competition Heats Up

Amazon has expanded its AI assistant Alexa+ beyond smart speakers and mobile devices by launching it on the web through Alexa.com, allowing users to access the full-featured AI assistant directly from browsers for the first time. This strategic move, revealed at CES 2026, marks a major shift in Amazon's AI playbook as it seeks to compete more directly with popular generative AI platforms like ChatGPT and Google's Gemini.

02. NASA to Provide Media with International Space Station Update Today

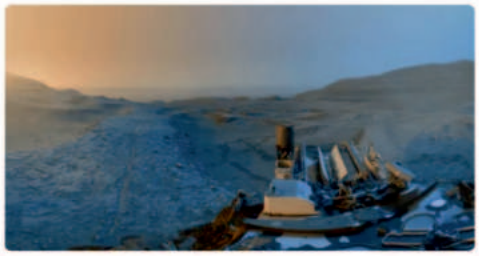
NASA has scheduled a media briefing on Jan 10 to provide the latest updates on operations aboard the International Space Station (ISS). The agency plans to share new information regarding current research activities, crew health and plans, and recent developments in station logistics and science missions.



03. Oppo Reno 15c 5G Launched in India With 7,000mAh Battery and Snapdragon 6 Gen 1 SoC



Oppo has launched the Reno 15c 5G in India, targeting the mid-range segment with a strong focus on battery life and performance. The smartphone is powered by the Snapdragon 6 Gen 1 SoC and packs a massive 7,000mAh battery with fast charging support, positioning it as a reliable option for heavy users. It features an AMOLED display with a high refresh rate, a capable multi-camera setup led by a high-resolution primary sensor, and runs on the latest ColorOS based on Android. With competitive pricing, the Oppo Reno 15c 5G aims to appeal to users looking for long endurance, smooth performance, and a premium experience at an accessible price point.



04. NASA's Curiosity Rover Sends Stunning New Panorama From High on Mount Sharp on Mars

NASA's Curiosity rover has transmitted a breathtaking new panorama captured from high on Mount Sharp, offering scientists and space enthusiasts an unprecedented view of the Martian landscape. The sweeping image showcases layered rock formations, rugged terrain, and distant valleys, providing fresh insight into the Red Planet's geological history and past environmental conditions.

Curiosity, which has been exploring the slopes of Mount Sharp for years, took the panorama using its suite of high-resolution imaging instruments, stitching together multiple frames to create a detailed mosaic. The visuals are helping researchers study ancient sedimentary layers that may hold clues about Mars's transition from a wetter, more habitable world to the dry, arid planet we see today.

The panorama not only highlights Mars's stark beauty but also underscores the enduring capability of Curiosity, which continues to deliver valuable scientific data well beyond its original mission timeline. This latest image reinforces NASA's ongoing efforts to better understand the planet's past and inform future human and robotic exploration missions.

05. Jujutsu Kaisen Season 3 Now Streaming Online

Jujutsu Kaisen Season 3, the latest chapter of the wildly popular anime series, is officially available for streaming online. Fans can now watch the newest episodes on major streaming platforms supporting the show, with dubbed and subtitled options catering to global audiences.



Season 3 continues the high-stakes supernatural action and character-driven storytelling that made Jujutsu Kaisen a breakout hit, diving deeper into cursed battles, emotional arcs, and expanded lore. Viewers can expect intense fights, strategic combat choreography, and the return of beloved characters alongside new faces who challenge both body and spirit.

With strong animation, dynamic world-building, and a gripping narrative, Jujutsu Kaisen Season 3 has already become a trending watch among anime fans worldwide. Whether you're caught up or just starting, now's the perfect time to dive into the latest season.



06. Ducati Launches Multistrada V4 Rally in India

Ducati has officially launched the Multistrada V4 Rally in India, priced at ₹29.72 lakh (ex-showroom), bringing its adventure-touring flagship to riders seeking premium performance on and off the road. The Rally variant is engineered for long-distance exploration, combining the Multistrada V4's potent 1,158 cc V4 engine with rugged hardware suited to varied terrain.

Designed with rally-inspired features, the Multistrada V4 Rally includes spoked wheels, upgraded suspension, advanced cornering ABS, and Ducati's Skyhook Suspension EVO system for improved stability over unpredictable surfaces. The bike also comes equipped with a comprehensive electronics package—featuring multiple ride modes, traction control, wheelie control, and cruise control—ensuring rider confidence in diverse conditions.

07. "Avowed" to Launch on PlayStation 5 on February 17, 2026

Microsoft and Obsidian Entertainment have confirmed that the action role-playing game Avowed will launch on PlayStation 5 on February 17, 2026, exactly one year after its initial release on PC and Xbox Series S/X. The coming to PS5 ends the game's period of platform exclusivity and brings the title to a significantly wider console audience.

Avowed has been praised for its immersive world, deep narrative, and robust RPG mechanics since its debut in February 2025. With the PlayStation 5 launch, Sony console players will now be able to explore the rich fantasy environments, engaging combat systems, and character progression that have made the game a standout title in the genre.



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FASTWAY TRANSMISSION PVT.LTD.

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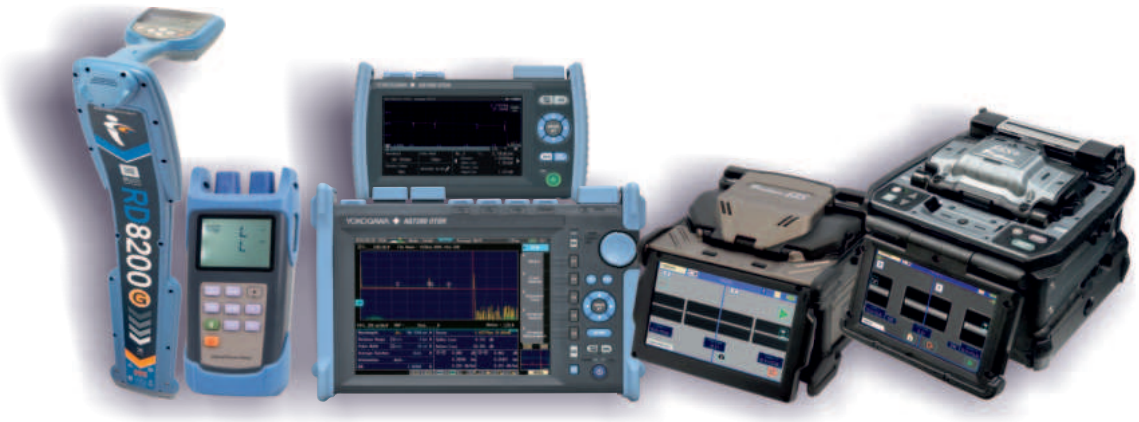
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