



**Weather Forecast**

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
H 33° C L 25° C	H 35° C L 26° C	H 36° C L 26° C



# Attack on Chilukur Priest Sparks Political Storm

- CM Revanth Reddy Vows Strict Action
- KTR Criticizes Government's Response
- Union Ministers Demand Swift Justice
- Police Arrest Key Accused in Attack
- Investigation Reveals Radical Links
- Temple Priest's Father Files Complaint

**TPN correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 11:** The attack on CS Rangarajan, the chief priest of Chilukur Balaji Temple in Rangareddy district, has ignited a political storm. The incident, which took place last Friday, has drawn sharp reactions from leaders across party lines, demanding strict action against the perpetrators.

**CM Revanth Reddy Assures Strict Action**  
Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy personally responded to the attack by speaking with Rangarajan on Monday evening. He inquired about the details of the assault, assured him of full support, and urged him to remain courageous. The CM instructed police officials to take stringent action, emphasizing that such violent incidents would not be tolerated. Minister Sri-dhar Babu also strongly condemned the attack, warning that the government would not tolerate violence in the name of "Rama Rajyam."

**KTR Slams Government's**

## Response

BRS working president KT Rama Rao (KTR) criticized the government's handling of the situation. Using the X platform, he questioned why self-proclaimed "Dharma Rakshaks" had remained silent and why the state government had not acted decisively. "Dharma Rakshaks carry out attacks while the protectors of the Constitution sit and watch," KTR stated, demanding answers from the Chief Minister and Home Minister.

## Union Ministers Demand Justice

Union Ministers G. Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay strongly condemned the attack. Kishan Reddy described it as "inhuman, painful, and unacceptable in a democracy." He emphasized that the attack was not just against an individual but an assault on Sanatana Dharma. Meanwhile, Bandi Sanjay contacted Rangarajan to inquire about his health and assured him of necessary support.

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## STATUTORY WARNING TO CELEBRITIES DO NOT INVEST IN HEALTH APPS

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Everything about health

## HEALTH ON US

- Call Health app controversy leaves celebrity investors at a loss.
- Founders allegedly abscond after collecting ₹700 crore.
- New health app 'Health On Us' aims to raise ₹1,000 crore.
- Celebrity investments linked to unaccounted money management.
- Authorities urged to intervene in potential financial scam.

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## SC to Telangana Speaker : Decide Soon



**SC Seeks Speaker's Response Deadline for Disqualification Pending**  
**Court Questions Delay in Decision**  
**BRS Challenges MLA Defections**  
**Telangana Speaker Under SC Scrutiny**  
**SC Sets February 18 Hearing**

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## KTR Challenges CM Revanth to Resign and Recontest

- Accusations Against Revanth Reddy
- Land Dispute in Lagacharla
- Call for Electoral Retribution
- Farmers' Unmet Promises



**TPN correspondent Kondagal, Feb 11:** BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has issued an open challenge to Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, daring him to resign as Kodangal MLA and recontest against BRS leader Patnam Narendar Reddy. KTR asserted that if the Congress candidate fails to secure a 50,000-vote majority, he would take political retirement. He made these remarks while addressing a protest meeting in Kosgi town, Kodangal Assembly

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## Free Sand for Indiramma Indlu

## Crackdown on Sand Smuggling

## Strict Monitoring & Inspections

## Fast-Track Sand Delivery

## HYDRA to Oversee Hyderabad Region

## Transparent Online Booking System

## Fixed Prices, No Black Market



## CM Orders Action on Sand Smuggling

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## Tears in Telangana: Harish Rao's Attack on Govt

- Congress Betrayed People's Trust
- Unfulfilled Promises, Broken Hopes
- Loan Waiver: A Grand Deception
- RMPs Face Neglect, Farmers in Crisis



**TPN correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 11:** BRS leader and Siddipet MLA Harish Rao expressed deep concern over the state of affairs in Telangana, stating that "tears are visible in the eyes no matter which group is affected." He participated in the RMP and PMP protest at Indira Park's Dharna Chowk, where he criticized the Congress government for failing to fulfill its pre-election promises.

Harish Rao reminded the public that Congress leaders had made multiple assurances, even securing support from Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi. However, he questioned the lack of implementation, pointing out that despite visiting Delhi

11 times, Chief Minister Revanthy Reddy could not secure a meeting with Rahul Gandhi. He urged the Congress leadership to fulfill its commitments, including those made to RMPs and PMPs.

### Allegations of Harassment and Broken Promises

Harish Rao accused the Congress government of harassing RMPs by filing cases against them, despite promising training and certification. He stated that during the BRS regime, no cases were filed against RMPs and PMPs, and their livelihoods were protected. In contrast, under Congress rule, people's

lives have been severely impacted, with farmers, weavers, auto drivers, and even builders facing hardships.

He criticized the Congress for mishandling the farmer loan waiver, stating that while Rs. 45,000 crore was promised, only Rs. 15,000-16,000 crore had been disbursed. He alleged that funds meant for pensions, festival sarees, nutrition kits, and student fee reimbursements were diverted for the loan waiver, further burdening the people.

Harish Rao called on the government to immediately address these issues and provide relief to the affected groups.

## BC Commission Report Submitted to Govt

- BC Commission Submits Report
- Reservation Finalization Begins
- Key Recommendations Outlined
- Impact on Local Body Elections
- Government to Review Findings

**TPN correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 11:**

The Dedicated Backward Classes (BC) Commission has submitted its comprehensive report to the Telangana government, outlining recommendations for reservations in local body elections. The report, spanning 700 pages, was handed over by BC Commission Chairman and former IAS officer Bhusani Venkateswara Rao to Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari.



The commission, established in November last year, was tasked with conducting a caste census to determine reservations for politically backward communities in local governance. Over the past year, the commission toured the state, collecting public opinions and data, which was later compiled with information from the Planning Department.

### Key Recommendations in the Report:

- Village wards should serve as the unit for ward member reservations.
- Mandals should be the unit for MPTC (Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency) reservations.
- ZPTC (Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituency) reservations should be allocated at the district level.
- Panchayat Raj Department should finalize ZP Chairman reservations at the state level.

• Reservations should be determined according to assembly segments.  
• The report is structured into six key segments for better implementation.

The commission worked for nearly three months on

finalizing the BC reservations and has now forwarded its findings to the BC Welfare Department for further action. With this report, the Telangana government is expected to move forward in determining reservations for Gram Panchayat elections.

The finalization of reservations will play a crucial role in upcoming local body elections, making the commission's report a key factor in shaping the political landscape. The Telangana Panchayat Raj Department will now proceed with implementing these recommendations to ensure fair representation of backward classes in local governance.

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## Attack on Chilukur Priest Sparks Political Storm

### Police Investigation and Arrests

According to Moinabad police, a case was registered based on a complaint filed by Rangarajan's father and temple managing committee chairman, Soundararajan. The investigation revealed that Veera Raghava Reddy and his associates attacked Rangarajan after he refused to support their demand to form an army for establishing "Rama Rajyam." The accused allegedly threatened him, giving him a deadline until Ugadi to comply. When Rangarajan refused, they physically assaulted him.

Police reviewed CCTV footage and arrested the main accused, Veera Raghava Reddy, on Sunday. The Rajendranagar DCP later announced that four people, including two women, had been arrested in connection with

the attack. The suspects were reportedly from Khammam and Nizamabad. Efforts are ongoing to apprehend the remaining accused.

### Background on the Main Accused

Investigations revealed that in 2022, Veera Raghava Reddy had formed an organization called 'Ramarajyam.' He posted recruitment notices on social media, offering a salary of Rs. 20,000 along with accommodation for those willing to join his so-called "Rama Rajyam Army." His radical agenda appears to have culminated in the recent attack on Rangarajan.

The police continue to probe the incident as political tensions rise over the implications of the attack and the need for swift justice.

## KTR Challenges CM Revanthy to Resign and Recontest

constituency, against what he described as the government's anti-farmer policies and land deals in Lagacharla.

### Accusations Against Revanthy Reddy

KTR criticized the Congress government, equating its rule to that of the Kauravas and accusing Revanthy Reddy of governing like Duryodhana. He claimed that despite making 420 promises, the Chief Minister had done little in the past 14 months. He alleged that only Rs 11,000 crore of the Rs 49,500 crore loan waiver commitment had been fulfilled.

"Has he provided the farmer assurance money? Has he given Rs 1 lakh for weddings? What happened to the scooties promised to young women?" KTR questioned. He further alleged that Revanthy Reddy was attempting to transfer lands belonging to the poor to his family members, including his brothers and son-in-law.

### Land Dispute in Lagacharla

KTR highlighted the controversial land acquisition in Lagacharla, where he

claimed the government was trying to take lands worth Rs 60-70 lakh per acre for just Rs 10 lakh. He praised the women of Lagacharla for taking their grievances to Delhi and presenting their case before the SC and ST Commissions.

He also pointed out that cases had been filed against 70 people opposing the land deals, including former MLA Patnam Narendra Reddy and 40 BRS leaders and activists. He criticized the government for imprisoning them for over 40 days while sparing Congress and BJP leaders.

### Call for Electoral Retribution

KTR declared that the people of Kodangal were eager to teach Revanthy Reddy a lesson in the upcoming elections. He alleged that they were prepared to send him to Achampet instead of allowing him to continue representing Kodangal.

The event saw the participation of several former ministers, MLAs, and senior BRS leaders, including Srinivas Goud, Niranjan Reddy, Mahmood Ali, Sabitha Indra Reddy, and Vemula Prashanth Reddy.

## STATUTORY WARNING TO CELEBRITIES DO NOT INVEST IN HEALTH APPS

**TPN Correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 11**

Market experts are warning celebrities against investing in health apps, citing past failures and financial losses. A major example is Call Health, an app founded by Teja Raju, son of Satyam Ramalinga Raju, with reported involvement from TV9 founder Ramaraju. Several celebrities invested substantial amounts in the platform, expecting high returns, but the app failed to sustain operations. Investors did not receive any returns, and their inquiries about the investment status went unanswered. Recently, in a shocking development, the app's founders allegedly absconded, leaving investors in distress. Reports indicate that the company collected nearly ₹700 crore from various investors before shutting down operations.

**TPN correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 11:**

The Supreme Court has sought clarity on a "reasonable time" for the Telangana Assembly Speaker to decide on disqualification pleas against BRS MLAs who defected to the Congress. The court emphasized that in a democracy, the rights of a political party cannot be frustrated by undue delays.

A Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and K. Vinod Chandran was hearing two petitions, including one filed by BRS leaders over the delay in disqualifying the defected MLAs. The court noted, "We respect the other

two wings of governance, but that does not mean an Act of Parliament should be rendered ineffective."

Earlier, a division Bench of the Telangana High Court had directed the Speaker to decide on the disqualification petitions within a "reasonable time." One of the petitions challenged the November 2024 order of the Telangana High Court on the disqualification of three BRS MLAs who joined Congress, while another plea pertained to the remaining seven legislators who defected.

### SC to Telangana Speaker : Decide Soon

During the hearing, the Supreme Court questioned whether "reason-

able time" could extend until the end of the Assembly's term. The Bench sought a specific response from the Telangana Legislative Assembly's counsel.

Justice Chandran remarked, "If you don't give us a reasonable time, we are reasonable men." The petitioners' counsel pointed out that a previous three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court had ruled that "reasonable time" for such decisions should not exceed three months, barring exceptional circumstances.

lebrities investing so heavily in such ventures? Financial analysts speculate that many celebrities use these investments as a means to manage unaccounted wealth. However, when they face fraud or mismanagement, retrieving their funds becomes difficult due to the lack of proper documentation and accountability. Experts are urging both the Union and State Governments to take immediate action to prevent such scams. Regulatory bodies must implement stricter oversight on such investment schemes to protect investors from financial fraud. With rising concerns over the misuse of investment platforms, authorities are expected to closely monitor future health-tech ventures to prevent another large-scale financial scandal.

The court posted the next hearing for February 18.

## CM Orders Action on Sand Smuggling

**TPN correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 11:**

Telangana Chief Minister has directed officials to take immediate steps to provide free sand for Indiramma Indlu beneficiaries and ensure affordable sand prices for common consumers. He emphasized the need to prevent black-market activities and ordered strict action against the sand mafia.

In a high-level meeting, the CM instructed officials to clear all pending bills related to sand procurement and implement a transparent system to regulate sand distribution. He stressed that no one involved in illegal sand smuggling would be spared and ordered surprise inspections at sand reaches across the state.

To curb smuggling, the government plans to appoint special officers for

monitoring, while district collectors and SPs will be assigned specific responsibilities. In Hyderabad and its surrounding areas, HYDRA has been tasked with tackling illegal sand transportation. Additionally, vigilance and enforcement teams will be deployed to ensure compliance.

The CM also announced the installation of 360-degree cameras and solar lights at all sand reaches to enhance surveillance. Entry and exit points will be secured with strong fencing, and registered lorries will be empaneled for transportation. A tracking system for sand transport vehicles will be introduced to prevent illegal movement.

To streamline supply, the government aims to ensure sand reaches consumers within 48 hours of book-

ing. A special portal will be set up to address consumer grievances immediately. Changes will also be made in the online booking system, allowing bookings during office hours for better accessibility.

The CM warned that officials involved in illegal activities would face strict action. He assured that he would personally conduct surprise inspections if necessary. To maintain transparency, permanent employees will be assigned responsibilities to avoid irregularities in the sand distribution system.

With these measures, the Telangana government aims to provide affordable sand to consumers while cracking down on illegal smuggling and black-market operations.

# Minister Surekha Condemns Attack on Chilukuru Priest

**Justice for Chilukuru Priest  
Hinduism Stands for Peace**

TPN correspondent

**Hyderabad, Feb 11:** Telangana Minister for Forest, Environment, Endowments, and Charities, Konda Surekha, strongly condemned the attack on Chilukuru Balaji Temple Chief Priest CS Rangarajan, who is currently in a coma. She assured his family that the Revanth Reddy-led government will stand by them and take strict legal action against those responsible.

During her visit to Rangarajan's residence, the Minister emphasized that Hinduism is an ocean that merges many rivers, embracing diverse beliefs and traditions. She warned against political forces misusing the name of "Rama Rajya" to create unrest, stating that the government will suppress such divisive attempts with an iron fist.

Minister Surekha urged the people of Telanga-

**Strict Action Against Attackers  
No Room for Religious Violence**



na to remain united and not fall into sectarian conflicts over such incidents. She criticized anti-social elements who exploit religious sentiments for their own gain, asserting that imposing one's beliefs on others goes against the very essence of Hinduism.

Expressing deep regret over the attack, she stated that violence in the name of Sri Rama,

who lived his life by religious principles, is unacceptable. She assured that those involved in the assault will be brought to justice and issued a stern warning against future such acts.

The Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to maintaining peace and protecting religious harmony in Telangana.



## Three-Way Battle in BRS: Mahesh Goud

TPN correspondent

**Hyderabad, Feb 11:** TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud criticized former Chief Minister KCR, questioning why he remains confined to his farmhouse after losing power. He accused KCR of neglecting the people of Gajwel and claimed that the BRS party has shut down in Telangana.

Goud alleged that BRS and BJP have a secret pact to defeat Congress candidates in the upcoming MLC elections. He claimed that, similar to the parliamentary elections, BRS is indirectly supporting BJP. He further mocked BRS, stating that the party lacks strong candidates for the MLC elections.

Criticizing BJP, Goud remarked that despite having eight MPs from Telangana, the party failed to bring any substantial benefits to the state in the Union Budget. He accused BJP leaders of exploiting religious sentiments for political gain.

He also took a dig at KTR, stating that a power struggle is underway within BRS among KTR, Kavitha, and Harish Rao. He accused BRS leaders of hypocrisy in advocating for BCs, stating that KTR's family, which did not participate in the caste census, has no right to demand a re-survey.

## KTR Demands Strict Action Against Attackers

TPN correspondent

**Hyderabad, Feb 11:** BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has strongly condemned the attack on Chilukuru Balaji Temple chief priest CS Rangarajan, calling it a clear indication of the deteriorating law and order situation in Telangana. KTR visited Rangarajan at his residence and assured full support to his family.

Expressing his anger, KTR stated that the brutal attack in Chilukuru, Moinabad mandal of Rangareddy district, was a heinous act. He emphasized that the state government has a responsibility to take strict action against the attackers, regardless of their motives.



KTR pointed out that if a priest dedicated to serving God faces such violence, the safety of common citizens is at greater risk. He high-

lighted that Chilukuru Balaji Temple has millions of devotees worldwide, and any harm to its priests is an insult to the faith of countless devotees. He demanded that all accused be arrested immediately and punished severely.

Additionally, KTR urged the state government to provide full security to Rangarajan's family and implement strict measures to prevent such incidents in the future. He was accompanied by former ministers Sabitha Indra Reddy, V. Srinivas Goud, MLC Naveen Kumar Reddy, MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy, and other BRS leaders, including RS Praveen Kumar, Pattolla Karthik Reddy, Methuku Anand, and Balka Suman.

## BRS Supporting BJP in MLC Elections: Minister Sridhar Babu



TPN correspondent

**Hyderabad, Feb 11:** Minister Sridhar Babu has accused the BRS of deliberately not announcing a candidate for the MLC elections to support the BJP. Speaking to a news channel on Monday, he stated that his government is committed to fulfilling the aspirations of the youth.

Sridhar Babu clarified that the BC caste census was not conducted for electoral gains but as a sincere initiative to ensure justice for all communities. He criticized the BJP and BRS for treating the caste census as a political tool, whereas the Congress government is conducting it with genuine intent.

He emphasized that elections come and go, but the government's duty is to implement policies that benefit the people in the long run. The caste census, he said, aligns with Rahul Gandhi's vision of ensuring social justice. Sridhar Babu reiterated that the Congress government remains focused on its developmental agenda rather than short-term political gains.

## KCR's Rule Is an iPhone, Revanth's Rule a Chinese Phone: Kavitha

TPN correspondent

**Hyderabad, Feb 11:** BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha, during a media conference in Jagityal, compared the governance of former Chief Minister KCR and current CM Revanth Reddy. She stated that KCR's rule was like an iPhone, while Revanth Reddy's rule is like a Chinese phone—attractive on the outside but inefficient in functionality.

Kavitha criticized CM Revanth Reddy for using rhetoric to secure BC votes while failing to disclose the caste-wise population figures. She questioned why Minister Ponnam Prabhakar called a meeting with BC associations instead of the Chief Minister himself. She ar-



gued that Revanth Reddy's refusal to engage with BC leaders is an insult to the community and demanded that he hold direct discussions with BC caste associations. Kavitha further claimed that KCR had already counted 52% of BCs in 2014.

Targeting Kadiyam Srihari, she accused him of betraying the BRS party after winning as an MLA. She alleged that he switched parties for personal gain. Reiterating her analogy, Kavitha emphasized that the difference between an iPhone and a Chinese phone reflects the gap between KCR's governance and Revanth Reddy's administration.

## KTR Slams Telangana Government Over Chilli Farmer's Plight

TPN correspondent

**Khammam, Feb 11:** A chilli farmer from Navaram village in Chintakani mandal, Khammam district, broke down in tears after failing to get a fair price for his produce. A video of the farmer, who lamented that he spent lakhs on cultivation but was forced to sell chillies for just ₹3,000 per quintal, has gone viral on social media.



Reacting to the video, former minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) took to X on Monday to criticize the Congress government. He questioned whether the "heartless Chief Minister" and the "merciless government" could see the distress

of farmers. "Will they put pepper in the eyes of the chilli farmer for believing in false promises? Will they punish a father of two girls? Is this the change that Indiramma's rule promised?" KTR asked.

He also criticized the Agriculture Minister and other officials for failing to ensure remunerative prices for farmers. "What should farmers do if they are not getting fair prices? What are the three ministers in Khammam doing?" he questioned, demanding that the government provide a support price instead of making empty promises about bonuses.

## Manda Krishna Seeks Meeting with CM Revanth



TPN correspondent

**Hyderabad, Feb 11:** MRPS founding president Manda Krishna Madiga has written an open letter to Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, requesting a meeting to discuss concerns regarding the SC classification issue.

While welcoming the government's decision in favor of SC classification, Manda Krishna pointed out flaws in the Justice Shamim Akhtar Commission report. He expressed concerns that these flaws could jeopardize the rights of certain castes.

He urged the Chief Minister to allocate time for discussions, allowing MRPS to provide suggestions for addressing these issues. Manda Krishna emphasized the importance of rectifying any shortcomings to ensure fair representation and justice for all affected communities.

## Thummala Slams KTR for Disrespecting KCR



TPN correspondent

**Hyderabad, Feb 11:** Telangana Minister Thummala Nageswara Rao criticized BRS leader K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) for attacking the Congress government despite doing little for farmers during BRS' decade-long rule. Speaking to the media on Monday, Thummala accused KTR of undermining KCR's reputation among farmers and called his criticism of Congress hypocritical.

He claimed that farmers suffered under the BRS government and that KTR's comments on agriculture were misleading. He alleged that KTR's statements were offensive, as they indirectly encouraged farmer suicides. He warned that if KTR continues targeting the agriculture depart-

ment, BRS will face setbacks in the upcoming MP elections.

### Congress' Rythu Bharosa vs. BRS' Rythu Bandhu

Thummala mocked KTR's defense of the Rythu Bandhu scheme, stating that the Congress government's Rythu Bharosa program would extend support to the KCR family for their cultivable land as well. He alleged that under BRS rule, financial aid was even given for barren lands, and the actual figures would soon be revealed. He announced that the government has begun using satellite imagery to accurately assess agricultural land.



# High Court Slams Hydra Over Weekend Demolitions

- Court's Frustration with Hydra's Demolition Tactics
- Telangana High Court Questions Hydra's Holiday Demolitions
- Justice Lakshman's Critique: Hydra's Notice and Action Discrepancy
- Legal Battle Over Koheda Village Demolitions

TPN correspondent

Hyderabad, Feb 11: The Telangana High Court has expressed significant frustration over the weekend demolition practices by Hydra. In a recent hearing, Justice K. Lakshman criticized the authority's approach to demolitions conducted on holidays, specifically Sundays, questioning the efficacy of notices issued just days before.



The issue came to light when Samreddy Balreddy, a resident of Koheda Village in Abdullapur Met Mandal, lodged a House Motion Petition alleging that his properties were illegally demolished. The court, addressing the petition, highlighted the impracticality of submitting necessary documents in a single day, especially on weekends. Justice Lakshman remarked, "No matter how many times you tell them, they won't change! What

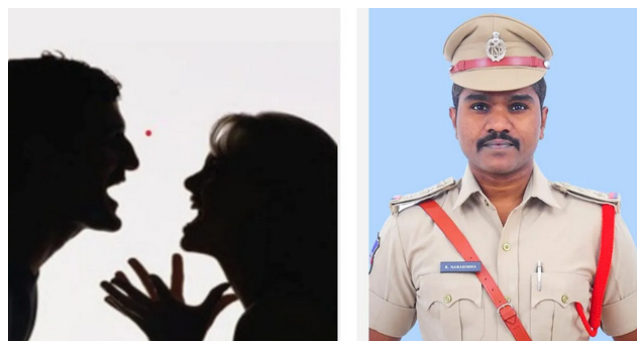
is the point of giving notices on Friday and doing demolitions on Sunday?" This statement underscored the court's exasperation with Hydra's methods.

Additionally, the court warned that strict actions would be taken if such practices continue during holidays. Meanwhile, 170 plot owners have accused a realtor of unlawfully occupying 7,258 plots in survey numbers 951 and 952 in Koheda village and constructing a farmhouse. In response, Hydra

officials investigated the claims, issued notices to the realtor, and, upon receiving no response, proceeded with demolitions under heavy police surveillance last Sunday.

The High Court's critique brings to light the need for more considerate timing and procedures in land and property management, ensuring that legal processes are respected even under urgent circumstances.

## Dowry Case Takes New Turn



TPN correspondent

Hyderabad, Feb 11: In a dramatic turn of events in Hyderabad, Abids Circle Inspector (CI) Narasimha has responded to dowry harassment allegations made by his wife by leveling counter-accusations against her. Initially, Narasimha's wife had filed a complaint with the City Commissioner, alleging that she was being harassed by Narasimha for additional dowry.

In his defense, CI Narasimha made shocking claims, stating that his wife was involved in an illicit affair with AR Constable Nimmala Srinivas and another individual named Suresh. He detailed that despite his warnings and attempts to salvage their marriage through a panchayat held at the SP's office, his wife continued her alleged extramarital relationship, even going so far as to have an abortion after becoming pregnant by her supposed boyfriend.

Narasimha further accused his wife of blackmail, claiming she threatened to file cases against him that could potentially cost him his job if he confronted her about the affair. He mentioned that she would engage in long phone conversations with her boyfriend and meet him discreetly in Nakirekal, her hometown, despite his pleas for change.

This case has taken a complex turn, involving allegations of infidelity, blackmail, and now, counter-allegations, highlighting the intricacies and personal battles intertwined with dowry disputes. The situation underscores the need for a thorough investigation to ascertain the truth amidst these grave accusations.



## GHMC to Construct Underpasses in High-Traffic Areas: Commissioner

TPN correspondent

Hyderabad, Feb 11: The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) is set to construct flyovers, underpasses, and Road Under Bridges (RUBs) in high-traffic areas under the Hyderabad City Traffic (HCT) project, GHMC Commissioner Ilambarathi announced. Tenders will soon be called for the development of key junctions around KBR Park. Addressing public grievances, the Commissioner stated that out of 3,000 complaints received since January, 500 remain unresolved, with most concerning town planning. Additionally, GHMC has submitted a report to the High Court on measures taken to control the city's stray dog problem.

There are ongoing issues with EESL, the company responsible for maintaining streetlights in Hyderabad. In sanitation efforts, GHMC has installed smart bins at various locations and aims to set up 800 smart bins by March.

Regarding the Indiramma housing scheme, the survey is 95% complete. Once finalized, ward meetings will be held.

The Commissioner reiterated GHMC's commitment to improving urban infrastructure and resolving public concerns efficiently.

## Reddy Arrested in Temple Priest Attack

TPN correspondent

Hyderabad, Feb 11: Veera Raghava Reddy has been taken into custody following an attack on CS Rangarajan, the chief priest of the Chilukur Balaji Temple in Ranga Reddy district. The incident, which involved an assault by 20 individuals, came to light late. Reddy, who sought support for establishing "Rama Rajya," was reportedly behind the violence after Rangarajan refused to cooperate.

Rangarajan's father, Soundar Rajan, reported to the police that his son was brutally tortured. The police swiftly identified Reddy as the main accused, leading to his arrest early this morning. Reddy has a history with the law, with a previous case registered against him at Abids police station in 2015. Alongside Reddy, five others have been detained, with

ongoing efforts to apprehend the rest involved in the attack.

Further investigations have uncovered Reddy's promotion of a so-called "Rama Rajyam" law via YouTube, raising questions about his motives and supporters. The timing of the complaint, filed two days post-attack on Sunday, has fueled public speculation.

Prominent figures including Union Minister Bandi Sanjay, BRS leader KTR, and Congress ministers have condemned the attack, emphasizing the need for justice irrespective of the accused's affiliations. This case has sparked a debate on the influence and actions of individuals like Reddy, prompting calls for a deeper investigation into who might be backing him.

## 10 kg Ganja Seized in Hyderabad

TPN correspondent

Hyderabad, Feb 11: In a significant crackdown on drug trafficking, the police arrested two software engineers for transporting 10 kg of ganja in a car near Gymkhana Grounds in Secunderabad. The duo was apprehended while driving an Innova, which upon search yielded the contraband.



The arrested individuals, identified as working for a prominent IT company in Hyderabad, were found to be involved in smuggling ganja from the Andhra-Orissa border to sell within the city. One of the accused, Praveen Verma, reportedly engaged in this illegal activity due to insufficient salary from his job.

The police investigation revealed that the ganja was part of a larger operation, with the substance being transported and sold across

Hyderabad. Alongside the drugs, authorities also seized cell phones and the Innova car used in the smuggling operation.

This arrest highlights the ongoing issue of drug trafficking in urban areas, often involving individuals from diverse professional backgrounds. The case is under further investigation to dismantle the entire network involved in this illegal trade.

## Massive Fire in Gunny Bag Godown, Rs. 25 Lakh Loss Reported

TPN correspondent

Adilabad, Feb 11: A massive fire broke out in the gunny bag storage godown of the Girijan Cooperative Corporation (GCC) under ITDA limits in Utnoor, Adilabad district. Locals noticed the blaze and immediately alerted the fire department.



Firefighters rushed to the scene and are making efforts to control the flames. According to officials, the godown housed around 90,000 gunny bags, all of which were completely destroyed. The estimated loss is around Rs. 25 lakh.

Authorities are yet to determine the exact cause of the fire. An investigation is underway to ascertain further details.

## Young Woman Raped in Jubilee Hills, Accused Arrested



TPN correspondent

Hyderabad, Feb 11: In a shocking incident, a 19-year-old woman was raped in the heart of the city. The crime took place at midnight in

Jubilee Hills when the accused, identified as Shiva Narasimha, entered the victim's house while she was alone.

According to reports, the accused promised to help with her marriage but later overpowered her, covering her mouth before committing the assault. The victim's parents, upon learning about the incident, immediately lodged a complaint at the Jubilee Hills Police Station.

A rape case has been registered against Shiva Narasimha, and the police have launched an investigation. Authorities are gathering further details to ensure strict action against the accused.

## Classmates Reunite After 36 Years to Honor Teachers

TPN correspondent

Hyderabad, Feb 11: A group of former classmates, who studied together 36 years ago, reunited for a heartfelt gathering at Aura Cresit Resorts on the outskirts of Hyderabad. These alumni of Rayalaseema College of Physical Education, Proddutur, Kadapa district, had pursued their studies in the 1987-88 academic year. While some are now in prominent positions, others have successfully ventured into business and startups.



The event, named Atmiya Sammelanam, brought together not only the classmates but also their former teachers, who were honored and celebrated by their students. The alumni expressed their deep gratitude, seeking the blessings of their mentors who played a significant role in shaping their careers.

tion College. Other key members included R. Janardhana Reddy, V.A. Bhaskara Rao, B.V.S. Narasimha Rao, G.K.N.V. Ramanamurthy, A. Ravindra Reddy, B. Surendra Reddy, and Ch. Aruna Reddy. Contributors such as T. Venkatarao, I. Srinivasa Rao, T. Srinivasa Reddy, K. Srinivasa Reddy, N. Apparao, and A. Mallikarjuna also played vital roles in making the event a success.

The reunion was meticulously planned by an organizing committee led by K. Ramreddy, Principal of the Government Physical Educa-

The RCPE alumni extended their heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported and participated in the memorable reunion.



# Good News for 2008 DSC Candidates

Recruitment Process to be Completed in Three Days

TPN correspondent

**Hyderabad, Feb 11:** The long-awaited recruitment process for DSC 2008 candidates is finally set to be completed within three days. The Telangana High Court has expressed strong displeasure over the delay in filling 1,382 posts and has directed the Education Department to expedite the process.



A bench comprising Justice Abhinand Kumar Shawili and Justice Tirumala Devi questioned School Education Commissioner Narasimha Reddy about the prolonged delay and emphasized the need to respect court orders. The court remarked that any failure to

implement its directives could impact officials' careers. The High Court reminded the government counsel that the Election Commission had granted permission to fill 1,382 posts on a contract basis and warned that a non-bailable warrant would be issued if officials failed to com-

ply. Following this, School Education Commissioner Narasimha Reddy appeared before the court and assured that the recruitment process had been initiated. The court then ordered that appointments be completed within three days and postponed the next hearing to February 17.

**Background of the Issue**

The controversy began in 2008, when a DSC notification was issued to fill 30,000 SGT posts, with 30% reservation for D.Ed candidates. The High Court, in February 2023, ordered that the remaining 2,367 posts be filled with qualified B.Ed candidates on a contract basis, similar to Andhra Pradesh. Out of these, 1,382 candidates opted for recruitment, but the process was delayed due to MLC election rules.

Now, with the court's strict intervention, the recruitment process is finally set to conclude within three days, bringing relief to long-waiting candidates.

# Bharat Biotech Announces World's First Lumpy Skin Disease Vaccine

TPN correspondent

**Hyderabad, Feb 11:** Bharat Biotech's Biovet, an animal health company based in Mallur, Karnataka, has received approval from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) for the Diva Marker Vaccine, the world's first vaccine to prevent Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) in dairy cattle.



The company has announced that the Biolump vaccine, set to be launched soon, is the world's only marker vaccine specifically designed for dairy cattle. The vaccine underwent extensive testing at the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) and was confirmed to meet global safety and quality standards. It was developed in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research - National Research Centre on Equines (ICAR-NRCE) and Bharat Biotech's BioVet.

### Significance of the Vaccine  
Bharat Biotech's founder, Dr. Krishna Ella, highlighted the importance of the Diva Marker vaccine in disease surveillance and eradication in the dairy industry. He emphasized that obtaining the CDSCO license marks a major milestone in veterinary healthcare.

With nearly 2 lakh cattle deaths and millions losing their milk production capacity due to LSD in the past two years, the Biolump vaccine is expected to be a game-changer. Biovet's Mallur facility will have the capacity to produce 500 million doses annually, reducing reliance on foreign vaccines and strengthening India's dairy industry.

Dr. B.N. Tripathi, Dr. Naveen Kumar, and NRCE scientists led the research efforts, with ICAR scientists playing a crucial role in its development.

# MLC Polls: Nominations Close in Karimnagar

TPN correspondent

**Karimnagar, Feb 11:** The filing of nominations for the Medak-Adilabad-Nizamabad-Karimnagar MLC Graduates and Teachers constituencies was completed on Monday. A total of 100 candidates filed their papers for the graduates' constituency, while 17 candidates submitted nominations for the teachers' segment.

The scrutiny of nominations will take place on Tuesday, and the last date for withdrawal is February 13. The election is scheduled for February 27, with counting set for March 3.

Congress candidate V. Narender Reddy, owner of Alphores Educational Institutions, filed his nomination in the presence of TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud, Ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy, Sridhar Babu, Ponnam Prabhakar, Jupalli Krishna Rao, and MLC T. Jeevan Reddy. He also led a massive rally in Karimnagar before filing his papers.

From the BJP, Anji Reddy and Malka Komuraiah are contesting for the graduates' and teachers' segments, respectively.

Independent candidates include Prasanna Harikrishna, owner of 'Winners' Publications, former BRS Mayor S. Ravinder Singh, Yadagiri Shekhar Rao, and senior journalist Pulagam Devidas from Nizamabad.

# BJP Has No Right to Seek Votes in Graduate MLC Polls: Konda Surekha



TPN correspondent

**Karimnagar, Feb 11:** Telangana Endowments, Charities, Forests, and Environment Minister Konda Surekha stated that the BJP has no moral right to seek votes in the Medak-Karimnagar-Adilabad-Nizamabad graduate MLC elections.

Speaking at the nomination rally of Congress MLC candidate V. Narender Reddy on Monday, she was joined by TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, Ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy, Sridhar Babu, Ponnam Prabhakar, and Jupalli Krishna Rao, along with district MLAs, MLCs, and former ministers Shabbir Ali and Jeevan Reddy.

Surekha recalled that in the past, Jeevan Reddy was known as the voice of graduates and assured that Narender Reddy would serve in the same way. She emphasized that the Congress government has brought significant reforms in the education system since coming to power, providing over 55,000 jobs in one year and aiming for more than 2 lakh jobs next year.

Highlighting Congress' achievements, she mentioned free bus services, free electricity, farmer insurance, loan waivers, and the ₹500 gas cylinder scheme. She urged graduates to support Narender Reddy, ensuring his victory in the MLC elections.

# Khammam's Velugumatla Park Set for Major Upgrade

TPN correspondent

**Khammam, Feb 11:** District Collector Muzammil Khan announced plans to develop Velugumatla Urban Park into a major tourist attraction. During his visit on Monday, accompanied by District Forest Officer Sidharth Vikram Singh, he inspected the ongoing road construction from the main road to the park.

Khan suggested installing an attractive arch at the entrance to enhance visibility and directed that the roadwork be completed by March 15. He also emphasized displaying informative boards at the Integrated Collectorate bus stop and ensuring transport availability for visitors, in-

cluding a dedicated bus service.

To boost engagement, selfie points will be set up at scenic spots in the park to encourage social media sharing. Plans are also underway for a cycling track, with bicycles available for rent. Additionally, arrangements will be made for visitors to enjoy 'Vana Bhojanam' (forest picnics), and the park's canteen will be entirely plastic-free.

Fencing will be installed around the park to enhance security and maintenance. Officials present included Public Health EE Ranjith, Khammam Forest Range Officer G. Nageswara Rao, and Public Health AE Anitha.



# Suryapet Farmers Protest for Water Supply Through SRSP Canals

TPN correspondent

**Suryapet, Feb 11:** Farmers in Suryapet staged a protest on Monday, demanding irrigation water from the Sri Rama Sagar Project (SRSP) canals. Farmers from Chivemla, Mothe, Nadigudem, and nearby mandals laid siege to the Irrigation Department Chief Engineer's Office, accusing officials of ignoring their plight.

ernment, stating that the lack of water supply was severely affecting crop cultivation in the Yasangi season. Farmers in tail-end areas particularly criticized officials for failing to ensure water supply despite repeated appeals. They demanded an end to the rotation method, which they claimed was causing their lands to dry up.

They raised slogans against the gov-

Many farmers recalled that last year, authorities had promised suffi-



cient water supply, prompting large-scale cultivation. However, midway through the season, the supply was

stopped, leading to severe crop losses. This year, despite assurances of water supply from January 1 to April 7, delays have left crops drying up. Meanwhile, farmers in Yadadri Bhongir staged a similar protest in the Bikkeru canal, demanding water to save their paddy crops. They urged the Congress government to release Godavari water into the canal, similar to what was done by the previous BRS government.

# Illegal Structures Demolished in Kothagudem's Saraiah Colony



TPN correspondent

**Kothagudem, Feb 11:** Authorities demolished three illegal structures built on 600 yards of land in Saraiah Colony, Chunchupally mandal, on Monday.

Following the orders of district Collector Jitesh V Patil, revenue, police, and panchayat officials carried out the demolition using JCBs. The land in question was under a legal dispute, and panchayat officials had issued multiple notices to the encroachers, which were ignored.

Affected residents had complained to the Collector about the illegal construction. Officials stated that the action was taken as the buildings were erected without necessary approvals.

# Panchayat Raj AE Caught by ACB While Taking Bribe in Warangal

TPN correspondent

**Warangal, Feb 11:** The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) caught a Panchayat Raj Assistant Engineer (AE) red-handed while accepting a bribe for house construction permission.



According to reports, a resident of Kuntapalli village in Sangem mandal had approached PR AE Ramesh for approval to construct a house. The official allegedly demanded a bribe of ₹10,000. Unable to comply, the victim reported the matter to ACB.

Following their instructions, ACB officials set up a trap and caught Ramesh in the act while accepting the bribe in Hanumakonda Subedari on Monday. A case has been registered, and an investigation is underway. Further details are awaited.

# Gummadidala Farmers Oppose Pyaranagar Dump Yard Project

TPN correspondent

**Sangareddy, Feb 11:** The Gummadidala Grama Rythu Sangham has vowed to oppose the proposed Pyaranagar dump yard, fearing environmental and groundwater pollution in the mandal.

Farmers in Gummadidala, Anantharam, and Mabapur cultivate vegetables on 6,000 acres, supplying 15-20 tonnes daily to Hyderabad markets like Bowenpally, Shapur Nagar, Kukatpally, and Moosapet. They worry the dump yard will harm their yield and force many to quit farming.

Established in 1990, the Sangham has a history of fighting for farmers' rights.

Founder-member Maddula Bal Reddy said they would leave no stone unturned to urge GHMC to relocate the project. Farmers in Pyaranagar and Nallavalli, who rely on vegetable farming, fear losing their livelihood if the dump yard proceeds.



# The Vital Role of Ideology in Political Alliances: The Case for the INDIA Bloc

## OPPOSITION PARTIES MEET UNITED WE STAND

17-18 JULY BENGALURU, KARNATAKA



In the wake of election results, it is tempting to rush to conclusions about the fate of political alliances, especially in the context of India's evolving political landscape. However, a hasty evaluation can be misleading. While media and social media may thrive on instant reactions, serious political analysis requires patience and context. This is particularly important when it comes to assessing the significance of coalitions like the INDIA bloc, which has gained attention leading up to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The INDIA bloc was conceived as a strategic alliance to challenge what many saw as authoritarian governance. Its formation was not an arbitrary decision but a calculated effort to unite parties sharing a common vision for India's future. While the bloc's cooperation has occasionally led to intra-coalition competition at the state level, it has nevertheless proven effective as a platform for national coordination, as seen in parliamentary floor management. Electoral politics can be analyzed at three levels: tactical, strategic, and foundational. Tactical politics is about

winning at all costs, sometimes compromising core beliefs for short-term gains. This approach weakens voter trust in the long term. On the other hand, strategic politics focuses on long-term goals and alliances based on shared principles. It is about working together for the greater good without sacrificing core values. Finally, foundational politics refers to the bedrock principles of democracy, transparency, justice, and development, which should never be compromised for immediate electoral success.

A party's ideological commitment plays a central role in its identity. The clear ideological stance helps define its values and vision, guiding policy decisions and uniting its members. Parties that deviate from their core principles for tactical advantage risk losing their credibility and alienating their base. The recent Delhi elections serve as a reminder of the importance of ideological consistency in retaining voter loyalty. Voters are keenly aware of whether parties stand by their principles or change their stance to appease the whims of the moment.

## Why the Delhi Result Matters Beyond Delhi

The Congress Party may argue that the Delhi election is not a validation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership but a rejection of Arvind Kejriwal's deceitful politics. There's some truth to this assertion, yet the BJP has its own reason to celebrate, claiming that Modi's charisma and Amit Shah's strategic prowess remain intact. However, the AAP, while conceding the Delhi seat to the BJP, can take pride in the fact that its influence remains strong, as evidenced by its 42% vote share.

Kejriwal and his colleagues can claim that they forced the BJP to change its approach in several significant areas. Firstly, the BJP had to abandon its usual Hindu-Muslim rhetoric. During the early stages of the Delhi campaign, BJP ticket aspirants used divisive slogans, such as "ek hai to safe hai," which were first seen in Maharashtra. But, as the election progressed, the BJP shifted its focus, criticizing the AAP government's governance rather than playing the communal card. The BJP's restraint in this regard was likely due to Kejriwal's influence, signaling that the middle-class electorate in Delhi had little appetite for polarizing politics.

Secondly, Kejriwal's policies forced the BJP to



adopt its own version of populism. Once critical of AAP's "revdi" culture, the BJP now promises a range of welfare schemes, including Rs 2,500 per month for women, free LPG cylinders on major festivals, free education from KG to PG, and insurance for gig workers. This shift towards populism indicates that the BJP is now committed to maintaining similar welfare measures, which AAP introduced, underlining that Modi's government is aligning with the welfare-driven policies that Kejriwal pushed.



## Restoring the Balance: Women as Messengers of Peace

Women have long been the cornerstone of society, embodying wisdom, nurturing, and resilience. They have given life, shaped cultures, and upheld peace throughout history. However, the balance between feminine and masculine energies has been distorted over time. While femininity is inherently tied to motherhood—a creative, sustaining force that shapes life itself—societies have often relegated women to secondary roles, failing to recognize their power and influence in the world.

Ironically, those who once suppressed women have later positioned themselves as advocates for their empowerment, framing it as a gift rather than a rightful restoration of what has always been theirs. This empowerment, however, has often been defined within patriarchal limits, preventing true change and reinforcing traditional power dynamics.

### A Call for Balance

True progress is not about granting women controlled freedoms but about reclaiming what is inherently theirs. Women must not ask for permission to lead or shape the world; they must reclaim their rightful space. This is not a call for dominance but for balance—one where the feminine energy is restored as an equal force that nurtures, leads, and co-creates a peaceful future for all.

### A Multidisciplinary Approach

Addressing the suppression of women and restoring balance requires a multifaceted approach. This issue is not confined to any single domain—it is interwoven with spirituality, philosophy, social structures, and religion. Understanding the interconnectedness of these dimensions will guide us toward deeper, systemic transformation, dismantling outdated paradigms and building new systems of equity and harmony.

### Spiritual and Philosophical Perspectives

Historically, many spiritual traditions revered the feminine as a force of creation and wisdom. From the Shakti in Hinduism to the Yin energy in Taoism, the feminine was central to spiritual understanding. However, patriarchal interpretations diminished women's roles, sidelining them from leadership in spiritual traditions. Restoring this balance means honoring the feminine as a guiding force in healing and transformation, acknowledging that every girl child carries the divine essence of motherhood.

Philosophically, thinkers have long argued that society cannot progress by suppressing half its population. The exclusion of wom-

en from leadership and decision-making leads to cycles of conflict, greed, and environmental destruction. True progress can only be achieved when the feminine is recognized as essential to ethical governance and societal advancement.

### Social and Religious Dimensions

Women have always been central to communities, yet their leadership has often been undermined. Studies show that societies with equal representation of women in decision-making processes tend to be more peaceful and prosperous. Yet, cultural norms and laws continue to hinder their full participation. Breaking down these barriers is essential for collective growth and flourishing.

Religiously, all major faiths honor the mother as a sacred figure, central to creation and moral guidance. From the veneration of Mother Mary in Christianity to the reverence of female figures in Buddhism and Hinduism, the divine feminine has always been central. Returning to these core truths is vital for spiritual and societal restoration.

### A Call to Action

*Restoring balance requires immediate, deliberate action. To build a peaceful world, we must:*

1. **Ensure equal access to education and leadership roles for women.**
2. **Promote women's participation in peace processes and community development.**
3. **Challenge oppressive cultural norms and replace them with narratives of empowerment.**
4. **Encourage men to become allies in women's progress.**
5. **Recognize women's wisdom in governance and decision-making.**

Most importantly, we must instill in every girl child the truth that she is not an object in a man's world but a creator of the world itself.

### Women as Messengers of Peace

The future of our world depends on restoring the balance between feminine and masculine energies. Women must reclaim their rightful place, and men must stand as allies—not gatekeepers—alongside them. A world that fully embraces the feminine will be one where peace, creativity, and life itself can flourish. This restoration is not a distant dream. It is happening now, in our homes, communities, and within ourselves. The time to act is now—to break cycles of exclusion and build a world rooted in justice, compassion, and collaboration. Let us not wait for change; let us become it.

## Biren Singh's Resignation: The End of a Populist Era in Manipur



On February 9, Biren Singh resigned as the Chief Minister of Manipur, seemingly the only honourable option left to avoid an inglorious exit and maintain some dignity for the BJP. Unlike his earlier resignation drama on June 30, 2023, when he skillfully diverted national media attention to Rahul Gandhi's visit, this time his resignation was swiftly accepted by the Governor. This marked a stark contrast to the past, highlighting the erosion of his populist appeal and the BJP's national leadership's growing recognition of his political liability.

Singh's resignation came after intense political pressure, including an open revolt from several BJP members in the valley areas, and the with-

drawal of support by the National People's Party (NPP) in November 2024. The impending threat of a no-confidence motion in the upcoming session of the Assembly, scheduled for February 10, made it clear that Singh and the BJP could no longer afford to face the political fallout. The resignation reflects the culmination of the internal tensions within his leadership, which had been building for some time.

During his tenure, Singh's leadership was defined by his efforts to reinvent his image and position himself as a father-like figure to the Meitei ultranationalists. Early in his first term (2017-2022), he used his political acumen to co-opt influential hill tribal leaders, stabilizing his position despite

significant internal opposition within the BJP, particularly from figures like Biswajit Singh and Konthoujam Govindas. However, with the BJP's comfortable majority in the 2022 assembly elections, Singh's political fragility persisted, leading him to adopt a more aggressive populist approach.

Singh's attempt to rejuvenate Meitei indigenous politics, particularly through the revival of Sanamahism, became a central aspect of his leadership. This initiative, aimed at appealing to Meitei ultranationalists, was seen as a way to strengthen his political base. However, the revival of indigenous cultures, while a populist move, was never considered a threat to the broader Hindutva agenda of the BJP and the Sangh Parivar.

## India Open to Energy Imports ; Gas Prices to Drop in 2026: Minister Puri

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India is open to importing energy from any source at the lowest possible prices, said Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, on Monday. Addressing the media ahead of the Indian Energy Week (IEW) 2025, Puri reassured that the country remains flexible in sourcing energy and is continuously expanding its network of suppliers. The country has increased its number of energy suppliers from 27 to 39, adding nations like Argentina to the list. Puri emphasized that tenders for energy importation are open to all suppliers, with a focus on purchasing from the most cost-effective sources.



In his statement, the minister allayed concerns regarding the impact of US sanctions on Russia's energy supplies to India. He stated that despite global uncertainties, India's energy import portfolio continues to grow. Puri also highlighted that domestic oil marketing companies are looking to expand their natural gas purchases, and prices are expected to drop significantly by 2026. He projected a major increase in the availability of natural gas, with Qatar being a potential supplier.

Additionally, Puri addressed the growing demand for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) in India, revealing that LPG supply is nearly saturated in the country. The government's next focus is to extend the reach of piped natural gas (PNG) to households, which is 30% cheaper than LPG.

In a key development, Puri mentioned that Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum, and GAIL are exploring the possibility of purchasing liquefied natural gas (LNG) and crude oil from the United States, with long-term contracts in the pipeline. This aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to the US, where energy discussions are expected to be a significant part of the agenda.

IEW 2025, which will kick off in New Delhi, is expected to be the second-largest energy event globally, attracting top ministers and CEOs. The event will also host a Clean Cooking Ministerial to advance the global transition to clean cooking solutions.



## Looking forward to meeting my friend Donald Trump: PM Modi

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, ahead of his two-nation tour to France and the United States, expressed his eagerness to meet his "friend" President Donald Trump during his upcoming visit to the US from February 12 to 14. Modi reminisced about the fruitful collaboration during Trump's first term, emphasizing the importance of further strengthening the India-US global strategic partnership.

In a statement released by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) ahead of his departure, Modi highlighted the visit as a crucial opportunity to continue building on the successes of India-US cooperation. The agenda includes discussions on key areas such as technology, trade,

defense, energy, and strengthening supply chain resilience. Modi stated, "We will work together for the mutual benefit of the people of our two countries and shape a better future for the world."

Before heading to the United States, PM Modi will visit France, where he will attend the AI Action Summit from February 10 to 12. This summit will bring together world leaders and tech CEOs to discuss AI technology's collaborative approach for innovation, public good, and security.

Additionally, Modi will meet French President Emmanuel Macron to review progress on the 2047 Horizon Roadmap for India-France strategic partnership. During his visit, the leaders will also travel to the French city of Marseille to

inaugurate India's first Consulate there and visit the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor project, a key initiative involving India's collaboration with France and other partner nations in advancing nuclear energy research.

Furthermore, PM Modi will pay his respects to Indian soldiers who lost their lives during World Wars I and II at the Mazargues War Cemetery in Marseille. Talks on potential India-France collaboration in the civil nuclear energy sector may also be explored following India's plans to amend the Atomic Energy Act to allow private sector participation.

PM Modi's visit to the US follows a highly anticipated diplomatic agenda aimed at strengthening ties with President Trump and the broader US government.



## Podcaster Allahbadia Who Received Award From PM Modi Now Facing Flak For His Remark

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Ranveer Allahbadia, the popular social media influencer and podcaster known for his YouTube channel "BeerBiceps," has sparked controversy following an inappropriate remark made during an appearance on comedian Samay Raina's show, "India's Got Latent." Allahbadia's comment, in which he asked a contestant, "Would you rather watch your parents have sex every day for the rest of your life or join in once and stop it forever?" quickly went viral, receiving widespread criticism on social media. Many users expressed their disgust, with Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis warning against the misuse of freedom of speech. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights also urged YouTube to take urgent action regarding the matter.

Allahbadia, who is also an entrepreneur, hosts "The Ranveer Show" and is the founder of BeerBiceps Media Private Limited. He runs 12 YouTube channels, which collectively have over 6 billion views. His main channel, "BeerBiceps," features interviews with celebrities, entrepreneurs, and athletes, while his "Ranveer Allahbadia (Hindi)" channel caters to a Hindi-speaking audience. He has also co-founded several ventures, including Monk-E, BigBrainco, and Level Supermind.

This isn't the first time Allahbadia's content has attracted criticism. In 2023, during a podcast with advocate J Sai Deepak, he asked who should leave India, leading to backlash. Additionally, in April 2024, he faced scrutiny for sharing an unverified claim about a village in Kerala enforcing Islamic law. Despite the backlash, Allahbadia has remained unapologetic, refusing to take down controversial videos.

## Devotees Stuck In Traffic Jam For 30 Hours In Maha Kumbh

TPN Correspondent | Mahakumbh

Ahead of the Magh Purnima festival, set for February 12, a massive influx of devotees headed towards Prayagraj for the Maha Kumbh has caused significant traffic disruptions. Long lines of vehicles have caused severe congestion on roads and highways, with traffic moving at a frustratingly slow pace.

Commuters are experiencing considerable delays, with many sharing their frustrations on social media. Some travelers attempted to bypass the jams by using village routes or the old Raebareilly-Prayagraj road, only to be stopped at the Bela Kachhar parking area, located about 18 kilometers from the city. From this point, a large number of passengers have been forced to continue their journey on foot, adding to the discomfort of the already weary pilgrims.

In the midst of the chaos, bike services in Prayagraj have witnessed a surge in demand. Local youths have been offering rides to help people navigate through

the city's traffic. While some are offering free rides out of goodwill, others are charging fares ranging from Rs 100 to Rs 500. Despite the cost, many travelers are willing to pay to avoid the long walk, highlighting the dire situation of the stranded devotees.

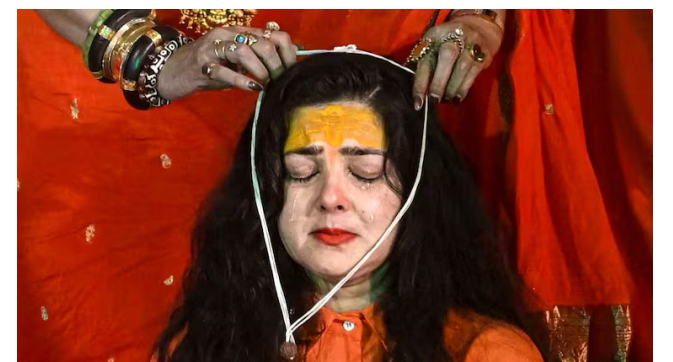
Samajwadi Party president took to X to express his concerns over the traffic situation, calling for urgent emergency measures to help the millions of devotees caught in the gridlock. In his post, he urged the authorities to view the distress of the pilgrims with empathy and take action to alleviate their suffering. He also highlighted the massive jams reported at Nawabganj, Gauhania, and the Varanasi side, adding that the situation was making life difficult for ordinary citizens as well.

As Prayagraj prepares for the auspicious day of Magh Purnima, authorities will need to address the ongoing traffic challenges to ensure the safe and smooth movement of devotees during the Maha Kumbh.



## Mamta Kulkarni Resigns From Kinnar Akhara: 'Egoistic People Have A Problem With Me'

TPN Correspondent | Delhi



Actress Mamta Kulkarni, who recently made headlines for announcing her celibacy, has officially resigned from her position as Mahamandaleshwar of the Kinnar Akhara. While stepping down from the prominent post, Kulkarni made it clear that she will continue her spiritual journey and live as a "Sadhvi."

In a video shared on social media, the former actress stated, "I am resigning from the post of Mahamandaleshwar of Kinnar Akhara. I have been a 'sadhvi' since my childhood, and I'll continue to be so." Kulkarni's resignation comes after a period of turmoil within the Akhara, where she pointed out internal politics and ego-driven disputes. She criticized the members of the Akhara, stating, "These people are egoistic and disconnected from Brahma Vidya. They fight among themselves and have no understanding of true knowledge."

Mamta Kulkarni had embraced a new identity as "Shri Yamai Mamta Nandgiri" when she was appointed as Mahamandaleshwar on January 24 during the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. However, her induction sparked controversy among certain Hindu leaders, including yoga guru Baba Ramdev, who questioned the legitimacy of attaining sainthood "in a single day." Baba Ramdev also emphasized that the Kumbh Mela is a sacred festival and should not be tainted by inappropriate behavior.

Soon after Kulkarni's anointment, she was expelled from the Kinnar Akhara by its founder, Rishi Ajay Das, and Laskhmi Narayan Tripathi, who had initially inducted her.

# PM Modi's France Visit to Strengthen AI, Nuclear, and Strategic Ties

- PM Modi to attend AI Action Summit in Paris on February 11, focusing on AI.
- India and France to enhance cooperation in nuclear energy, trade, and strategic security.



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will depart for Paris on Monday, February 10, for a three-day official visit, marking an important moment in strengthening India-France ties. A highlight of the visit will be the third edition of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Action Summit, which PM Modi will co-chair alongside French President Emmanuel Macron. The summit aims to promote the responsible and ethical use of AI and is part of global discussions that began in the UK (2023) and South Korea (2024). The outcome of this summit could influence the future of AI technologies,

with key players from around the world in attendance.

The visit will also include significant bilateral engagements, with PM Modi meeting President Macron to discuss strategic and economic partnerships. A major focus will be on expanding trade, technology, and cooperation in areas like nuclear energy. Additionally, the leaders will address the India-France CEOs Forum to further enhance business relations between the two nations.

On February 11, PM Modi will travel to Marseille, where President Macron will host a dinner in his honor. The two leaders

will also pay tribute to Indian soldiers at the Mazargues War Cemetery, commemorating their contributions during World War I. In a significant gesture, they will jointly inaugurate the Consulate General of India in Marseille, further solidifying the diplomatic presence in France.

A visit to Cadarache is also on the agenda, where PM Modi and President Macron will tour the site of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER), a leading project in nuclear fusion energy, where India plays a crucial role.

After concluding his visit to

France, PM Modi will head to the United States on February 12-13, where he will meet President Donald Trump. This will be his first meeting with Trump since the latter's second term began, offering an opportunity to strengthen Indo-US relations and discuss areas of mutual interest.

India and France have long enjoyed a strong and multifaceted partnership, covering defense, nuclear cooperation, space exploration, digital security, and more. This visit is set to deepen these ties further, with both nations continuing to collaborate on global challenges and strategic interests.



## Saudi Arabia Implements New Measures for Hajj 2025, Restricts Children

TPN Correspondent | Riyadh

Saudi Arabia has announced new regulations for the 2025 Hajj pilgrimage, including a ban on children accompanying pilgrims. This decision aims to safeguard the well-being of young ones, who may face risks from the intense crowding that occurs each year during the pilgrimage. The Ministry of Hajj and Umrah emphasized that the safety of children is a top priority, and this measure is designed to prevent harm to them during the event.

In addition to the ban on children, the Ministry is introducing several other safety initiatives to improve the pilgrimage experience. These measures include conducting public safety awareness campaigns, implementing advanced intelligent systems to better manage the movement of pilgrims in sacred areas, and enhancing the infrastructure of the pilgrimage sites. This includes modernization of tent camps and walking routes to ensure safer and more efficient pilgrimages for all attendees.

Saudi Arabia has also reiterated its commitment to prioritizing first-time Hajj participants for the 2025 season, as is the usual practice. This ensures that those who have not had the opportunity to perform the pilgrimage before are given the chance to do so.

The 2025 Hajj season is expected to take place between June 4-6, depending on the sighting of the moon. Performing Hajj is one of the Five Pillars of Islam, and every capable Muslim is required to undertake the journey to Makkah at least once in their lifetime, provided they have the physical and financial means to do so.

In addition to these domestic measures, Saudi Arabia has also announced restrictions on issuing multiple-entry visas for certain nationalities. Affected countries include Algeria, Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Indonesia, and several others. From now on, Saudi Arabia will only issue single-entry visas for tourism, business, or family visits, indefinitely suspending the previous one-year multiple-entry visas.

For Saudi citizens and residents, registration for Hajj 2025 is available via the official Nusuk app, which allows applicants to update their health details and submit necessary documentation for Hajj packages.

## Shift Palestine To Saudi Arabia? Netanyahu Suggestion Draws 'Fantasies' Jibe



TPN Correspondent | Washington

Saudi Arabia has strongly rejected Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's recent proposal suggesting that the Palestinian state be established within Saudi Arabia's territory. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia issued a statement on Sunday, February 9, condemning Netanyahu's remarks, which it claimed were aimed at diverting attention from Israel's ongoing actions in Gaza. The statement highlighted the "continuous crimes" committed by Israeli forces, including what it described as ethnic cleansing against Palestinians.

The Saudi government reaffirmed that the Palestinian people have an inherent "right to their land" and are not "intruders or immigrants" to be displaced at will by Israeli occupation forces. The statement emphasized that the Palestinian cause is a matter of justice and sovereignty, rejecting any suggestion that Palestinians should be resettled outside their homeland. The controversy began when Netanyahu, during a televised interview on February 6, discussed potential diplomatic normalization between Israel and Saudi Arabia. A misstatement by Israeli journalist Yaakov Bardugo initially suggested that no progress could be made without the creation of a Saudi state, which was later corrected to "Palestinian state" by Netanyahu. However, Netanyahu added, "Unless you want the Palestinian state to be in Saudi Arabia. They have plenty of territory."

# Trump Announces 25% Tariffs on All Steel and Aluminium Imports

TPN Correspondent | Washington DC

In a significant escalation of his trade policy, US President Donald Trump revealed that the United States will impose a 25% tariff on all steel and aluminium imports, with additional metal duties expected to be announced later in the week. Speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One on Sunday en route to the NFL Super Bowl in New Orleans, Trump also confirmed that reciprocal tariffs would be introduced as early as Tuesday, with the new tariffs taking effect almost immediately.

While Trump did not specify which countries would be targeted by the reciprocal tariffs, he emphasized that the US would match tariffs imposed by other nations, applying this strategy to all countries. "Very simply, it's, if they charge us, we charge them," he explained. This move marks another step in his ongoing trade policy overhaul.

During his first term from 2016 to 2020, Trump imposed a 25% tariff on steel and a 10% tariff on aluminium, but he later granted several countries, including Canada, Mexico, and Brazil, duty-free quotas. Former President Joe Biden continued these exemptions, extending them to the United Kingdom, Japan, and the European Union. However, US



steel mill capacity utilization has declined in recent years, raising concerns about the effectiveness of these quotas.

Canada, Mexico, and Brazil are the largest sources of US steel imports, followed by South Korea and Vietnam. Canada is also the largest supplier of primary aluminium to the US, accounting for 79% of total imports in the first 11 months of 2024, while Mexico is a major supplier of aluminium scrap and alloys. Trump has long expressed dissatisfaction

with the European Union's 10% tariff on US auto imports, which he claims is much higher than the 2.5% tariff the US levies on European cars. The US maintains a 25% tariff on pickup trucks, a key product for Detroit automakers like General Motors, Ford, and Stellantis' US operations. The average US trade-weighted tariff rate stands at about 2.2%, according to World Trade Organization data, compared to higher rates in countries like India (12%), Brazil (6.7%), Vietnam (5.1%), and the EU (2.7%).

# PTI Rules Out Dialogue with Sharif Government, Says Talks Are Closed

TPN Correspondent | Islamabad

Omar Ayub Khan, the Leader of Opposition in Pakistan's National Assembly and a key member of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party founded by jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan, has dismissed the possibility of resuming talks with the government led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Speaking to the media on Sunday, Ayub stated that the "chapter of talks is now closed," referring to the breakdown of political negotiations between the two sides.



Ayub further explained that political discussions cannot be based on mere wishes and require a firm commitment,

which he claims the government has failed to demonstrate. He criticized the Sharif ad-

ministration for not displaying the goodwill necessary for productive dialogue, making it clear that the PTI would not engage in any further discussions under the current circumstances.

The statement from Ayub reflects the growing tensions between the opposition party and the government, with both sides seemingly entrenched in their positions. The stalemate highlights the ongoing political crisis in Pakistan, as Imran Khan's PTI continues to face significant challenges, both in terms of its leadership and its relationship with the government.

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## Action to be taken if gold auction norms violated by banks, NBFCs: Sitharaman

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday assured that strict action would be taken if banks or Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) violate the established processes for auctioning gold when a borrower defaults on their gold loan payments. Speaking during the Question Hour in Lok Sabha, Sitharaman emphasized that both NBFCs and Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) are governed by similar rules regarding gold loan auctions.



Sitharaman explained that the auction process is well-regulated, with clear guidelines to ensure fairness and transparency. When a borrower fails to repay their gold loan, both banks and NBFCs follow a defined process. This includes sending several notices to the borrower informing them about their default status and providing adequate time for repayment.

The Finance Minister further clarified that in cases where a borrower still does not pay, the institutions are required to follow strict procedures before proceeding with the auction. The goal is to ensure that the borrower has been given every possible opportunity to settle the loan before the gold is auctioned.

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## India to prioritize energy infrastructure in capex shift from FY25-30

India's capital expenditure (capex) from FY25-30 is expected to shift focus from public-led transport infrastructure to a more balanced investment in energy infrastructure, including electricity generation and the integration of power grids for efficient transmission and distribution, according to a BNP Paribas report. This transition reflects India's commitment to sustainable development and energy security.



tional disruptions.

Despite global trade uncertainties and shifting monetary policies, India's economy is projected to remain resilient. Unlike smaller, trade-dependent nations, larger economies such as India, China, and the US are less reliant on external trade, which provides some insulation from the economic risks posed by tariff wars and interna-

The report highlights India's inward-focused economy, which is expected to experience lower volatility in trade compared to more export-reliant nations. The US 10-year bond yield has surged from 3.7% in September 2024 to 4.5%, while India's 10-year yield has remained stable, fluctuating between 6.7% and 6.9%. This narrowing of the yield gap has led to a 3% depreciation

of the Indian Rupee (INR) since September 2024.

BNP Paribas economists predict that US inflation will face continued upward pressure, likely preventing any rate cuts in 2025. In contrast, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may adopt a dovish stance and implement rate cuts to support domestic economic growth, which could further compress the yield gap and apply downward pressure on the INR. In the Indian stock market, sectors like consumer staples and industrials are trading at a premium compared to historical valuation averages. While industrials have benefitted from India's strong manufacturing momentum, the consumer staples sector is expected to undergo a period of time correction.

## India Launches EFTA Desk to Strengthen Economic Ties with Europe

India has launched a dedicated desk to foster deeper economic engagement between India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries, namely Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland. The formal launch took place at Bharat Mandapam, with Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, representing India at the event.



The newly established EFTA Desk aims to assist businesses from the four EFTA countries in preparing for the opportunities created by the EFTA-India Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA), signed on March 10, 2024. The desk will act as a central point of contact for EFTA businesses looking to expand into India, offering support and guidance on market entry, investment opportunities, and resolving potential issues.

While the TEPA is still in the process of being ratified, businesses across the EFTA nations are already exploring investment opportunities and strengthening their commercial ties with Indian partners. Over 100 EFTA businesses are visiting India this week to explore potential collaborations, an outcome of ongoing efforts by EFTA countries to raise awareness about the benefits of the agreement.

## India Energy Week 2025 Set to Strengthen Global Energy Ties



India Energy Week (IEW) 2025, the much-anticipated annual energy event, is all set to take place from February 11-14, 2025, at the Yashbhoomi in New Del-

hi. Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri is expected to address a press conference on Monday, where he will unveil details about the event. IEW

2025 is poised to be a major platform for global energy discussions, bringing together Ministers, CEOs, and industry leaders from across the world.

This third edition of IEW is set to expand significantly, with a 65% increase in exhibition space, covering a total of 28,000 square meters. The number of conference sessions will rise to 105, while the event is expected to draw over 70,000 global delegates. Energy ministers from more than 20 countries, including major energy producers, advanced economies, and nations from the global south, will be in attendance.

India Energy Week 2025 is building on the success of its previous editions and is fast becoming a crucial meeting point for the global energy sector. The event will offer a platform for deepening collaborations, exchanging knowledge, and showcasing innovations within the energy industry.

Ahead of the event, global commodities information provider S&P Global Commodity Insights highlighted India's growing role in the global energy market. According to their report, India's refined crude demand will peak later than in other major economies, placing the country at the forefront of driving global demand.

## Markets Slump as Trump's Tariff Move and Weak Rupee Shake Investor Confidence



Domestic stock markets were in turmoil on Monday. Donald Trump's tariff announcement hit them hard. He said that tariffs of 25% will be imposed on aluminum and steel products imported from other countries. Investors were worried that this would affect the supply chain worldwide. On the other hand, the results of companies were not promising, the rupee reached a new lifetime low against the dollar, and the dollar index and US bond yields increased, which damaged the positive sentiment. With this, the Nifty fell by 178 and the Sensex by 548 points.



The BSE Sensex, which closed at 77,860 in the previous session, opened at 77,789 on Monday. It touched an intraday low of 77,106. It reached an intraday high of 78,849. Finally, it closed at 77,311, with a loss of 548 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,543, touched a low of 23,316 and a high of 23,568. It closed at 23,381, down 178 points. The Nifty Bank fell 177 points to settle at 49,981.

In the Nifty50, 11 companies gained while 39 lost. Kotak Bank, Bharti Airtel, Britannia, Tata Consumer, HCL Tech were the top gainers. Trent, Power Grid, Tata Steel, Titan, ONGC were the biggest losers. Auto, media, metal, pharma, realty, PSU bank, consumer durables shares were mixed. India Vicks rose 5.55% to 14.45.

The market breadth on the NSE today completely shifted in favour of sellers. 2955 stocks traded while 2257 lost. 627 gained. Shares of 30 companies touched 52-week highs. Shares of 153 companies reached 52-week lows.

Escorts Kubota's net profit in the third quarter rose 8.5% to Rs 323 crore from Rs 298 crore. Nykaa's net profit rose 60.6% to Rs 26 crore from Rs 16.2 crore. Power Mech Projects' net profit rose 33.3% to Rs 82 crore from Rs 61.5 crore. The rupee weakened 6 paise against the dollar to settle at 87.48. It had touched 87.90 earlier. Avanti Feeds' net profit rose 86.5% to Rs 135 crore from Rs 72 crore. UBS has given a buy rating to Apollo Tyres with a target price of Rs 525. Jefferies has given a buy rating to Thermax with a target price of Rs 4835. All shares of Adani Group closed in losses today. Engineers India's net profit rose 78% to Rs 93.8 crore from Rs 52.7 crore. Sarigama India's net profit rose 19% to Rs 62 crore from Rs 52.5 crore.

### 1. Gulf Oil Lubricants :

Gulf Oil Lubricants is a leading player in the Indian lubricants market, specializing in automotive and industrial lubricants. The company has a strong brand presence and strategic partnerships with major automobile manufacturers. Strong demand for automotive lubricants. Expanding distribution network and tie-ups with OEMs. Growing presence in industrial lubricants. Positive, driven by rising vehicle sales and increasing industrial demand.



### 2. GODFRYPHLP



Godfrey Phillips is one of India's leading tobacco and FMCG companies, producing brands like Four Square, Red & White, and Marlboro (licensed from Philip Morris). Strong brand portfolio in the tobacco industry. Expansion into FMCG and confectionery segments. Consistent dividend payouts and stable cash flow. Stable, with strong margins and high cash flow, but faces regulatory risks in the tobacco sector.

### 3. GREENLAM

Greenlam Industries is a leading producer of laminates, decorative veneers, and interior surfaces in India. It has a growing export market presence and strong brand recall. Increasing demand for premium interior and home décor products. Expanding global presence in exports. Capacity expansion and new product innovations. Strong growth potential due to rising urbanization, premium housing trends, and increasing exports.



### 4. ANANTRAJ



Anant Raj is a real estate development and infrastructure company with a strong presence in North India. It focuses on residential, commercial, and IT parks. Rising demand for real estate in North India. Expansion in commercial real estate and IT parks. Government infrastructure push boosting demand. Positive, driven by real estate recovery, increased commercial leasing, and infrastructure development.

### 5. V-Mart

V-Mart is a leading value retail chain in India, primarily catering to Tier 2 & 3 cities. It offers affordable fashion, home essentials, and general merchandise. Strong presence in Tier 2 & 3 cities with affordable pricing. Expansion of store network across rural India. Growing demand for value-based fashion retail. Moderate growth potential, but faces competition from organized retail giants like Reliance and DMart.



## 7 Epic Food Festivals You Can't Miss in 2025



The year 2025 promises to be a foodie's dream, with a variety of festivals celebrating everything from beer to chocolate. These global culinary events offer an unforgettable experience of local flavours, heritage, and creativity. Whether you're a street food fan or a gourmet enthusiast, here are seven food festivals you can't miss in 2025.

### 1. Oktoberfest - Munich, Germany

Oktoberfest in Munich is the world's largest beer festival, running from late September to early October. This event is a celebration of Bavarian culture, with beer halls serving up fresh lager, bratwurst, and other traditional foods. The lively parades, carnival rides, and festive atmosphere make it a must-visit for beer lovers and foodies alike.

### 2. Pizzafest - Naples, Italy

Naples, the birthplace of pizza, hosts Pizzafest, an annual festival where top pizzerias showcase their culinary skills. The festival features pizza-making competitions, live music, workshops, and a wide array of pizza variations—perfect for anyone who loves Italian cuisine.

### 3. Maine Lobster Festival - Maine, USA

Set in the picturesque New England coastline, the Maine Lobster Festival celebrates everything lobster. This seafood extravaganza includes cooking contests, live music, and plenty of lobster in various styles. Originally a way to support local fishermen, this event has grown into an international favorite for seafood lovers.

### 4. Salon du Chocolat - Paris, France

For those with a sweet tooth, Salon

du Chocolat in Paris is a paradise. The world's largest chocolate festival features the finest chocolatiers and pastry chefs, offering live cooking demos, chocolate tastings, and even a fashion show with outfits made entirely of chocolate.

### 5. Melbourne Food & Wine Festival - Australia

Melbourne's Food & Wine Festival is a celebration of global cuisine, renowned chefs, and top wineries. The highlight is the "World's Longest Lunch," where guests dine on exquisite food and drink. Whether you enjoy fine dining or casual street food, this festival offers something for every food lover.

### 6. Fête du Citron - Menton, France

The Fête du Citron (Lemon Festival) in Menton is a vibrant celebration of citrus. Visitors can admire massive sculptures and parade floats made entirely of lemons and oranges, enjoy street performances, and taste citrus-infused delicacies. The festival's sustainable focus ensures all fruit is sold at discounted prices afterward.

### 7. Tokyo Ramen Show - Tokyo, Japan

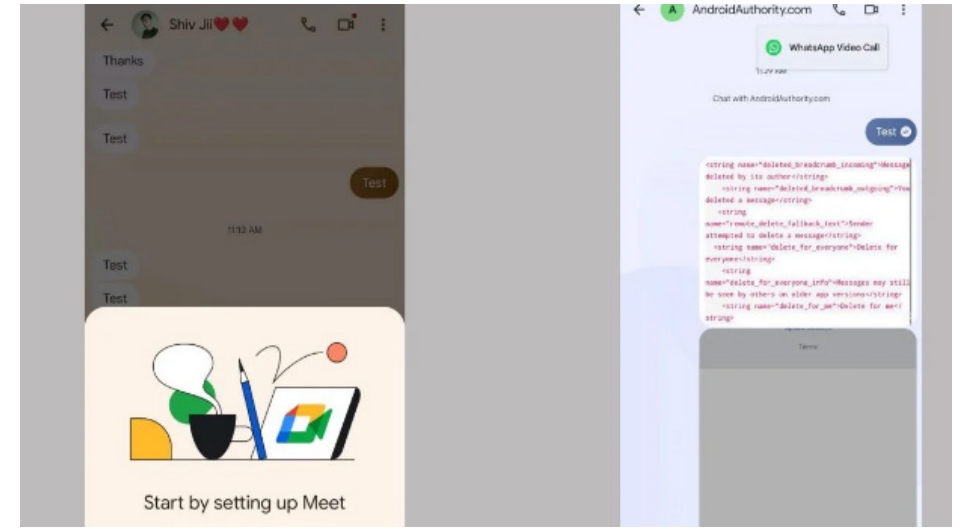
Japan's love for ramen takes center stage at the Tokyo Ramen Show. This event features top ramen chefs from across the country, each presenting their unique bowls of noodles. Whether you're a fan of tonkotsu, shoyu, or miso ramen, this festival is a must-attend for ramen lovers.

Make sure to add these top food festivals to your 2025 travel list for a delicious and unforgettable adventure!

## Google Messages Could Soon Integrate WhatsApp Video Calling

Google Messages is reportedly working on a new feature that will allow users to make video calls via WhatsApp directly from the app. According to an Android Authority report, this feature is still in development and not yet active for users. The discovery was made within the code of Google Messages version 20250131.

The feature is said to activate when the caller does not have Google Meet installed on their device, offering an alternative option for making video calls. In the current version of Google Messages, video calls are only possible through Google Meet, and users are prompted to install it if it's not already on their device. However, with the upcoming WhatsApp integration, users will be able to initiate video calls via WhatsApp without leaving the Google Messages app. The call will open directly in full-screen mode, saving time and reducing clicks, especially for those who primarily use Google Messages



for communication.

It's important to note that this feature will only work in individual chats. For group chats, video calls can still only be initiated through Google Meet. Additionally, if the recipient doesn't have WhatsApp installed, the feature won't be triggered.

Along with this new feature, there's

another update to Google Messages. The camera viewfinder and gallery picker have been merged when opening the camera option, streamlining the photo-taking process. While this WhatsApp video call integration is not yet available, it's expected to make video communication through Google Messages much more convenient in the near future.

## Find Out How Much It Costs To Get A Passport Made Right Away For International Travel



website or download the mPassport Seva app. The application process involves registering on the website, selecting the Tatkal option, and completing the online form. After paying the required fees, you can print the receipt and schedule an appointment at your nearest passport service center.

When applying for a Tatkal passport, you'll need to provide essential documents such as your Aadhar card, PAN card, birth certificate, ration card, or voter ID card, among others. Typically, you will need two or three of these documents to complete your application.

The fees for a Tatkal passport are higher than for a regular passport. A 36-page Tatkal passport costs ₹3500, and a 60-page Tatkal passport costs ₹4000. While there are no discounts for Tatkal applications, children under 8 years old and senior citizens can avail a discount for regular passport applications. Despite the higher fees, the Tatkal service ensures that applicants receive their passports in a much shorter time frame compared to the traditional process.

The Tatkal Passport service is designed to help individuals who need a passport urgently, especially when time is limited. Normally, obtaining a passport takes between 20 to 45 days, but the Tatkal system allows for faster processing. If you need a passport quickly due to emergencies such as medical reasons, education, or sporting events, the Tatkal service can ensure that you receive your passport within 7 to 14 days, depending on the circumstances.

Unlike the standard passport application process, which begins with police verification, the Tatkal process skips this initial step. Instead, the passport is issued promptly, and police verification occurs afterward. Once your application is marked as "granted," your passport is shipped within three working days. The rest of the process, including police verification, takes place after the passport has been issued.

To apply for a Tatkal passport, you can use the official Passport Seva

## Man shares grocery hacks claiming 'quick commerce is cheap': Sparks internet debate

**Haldiram Aloo Bhujia** ₹29.8  
200 g - 1 unit ₹52

**Relish Chicken Plain Salami** ₹60.92  
200 g - 1 unit ₹199

**Britannia 100% Whole Wheat Bread (No Maida)** ₹25.17  
₹44

A Reddit post offering money-saving strategies for online grocery shopping has gone viral, sparking an active debate among users on the pros and cons of popular quick-commerce apps like Blinkit, Zepto, and Instamart. The post quickly garnered numerous comments, as users shared their personal experiences and insights.

The original poster (OP) listed several tips to help users score the best deals while shopping for groceries online. Among the suggestions were comparing prices across different platforms and using cashback credit cards for extra discounts. The OP also recommended BigBasket for its competitive prices, despite its "outdated interface," pointing out that it often provides the best value even when delivery charges are factored in.

Zepto, in particular, received a special mention, with the OP describing it as offering "mind-blowing" deals on inactive accounts. The poster advised users to maintain two phone numbers to take advantage of offers on defunct accounts, which quickly caught the attention of others.

On the other hand, Blinkit received criticism for being "useless" due to its tendency to overprice items and limited stock availability. This drew sharp responses from some users, including one who warned, "Bro, it's just a customer acquisition process. See after 5 to 7 orders, everything will be overpriced." However, the OP defended their experience, replying, "You definitely didn't read my post. Been shopping since 2023 like this." Despite the differing opinions, the post served as a useful resource for shoppers looking to optimize their grocery spending and explore alternatives to traditional shopping.

The viral discussion highlighted how consumers are increasingly turning to quick-commerce apps for convenience but remain cautious of price hikes and other pitfalls. It also pointed to the growing trend of using multiple platforms and strategies to get the best value for money. As the debate continues, many are left questioning the long-term value of these apps as the market for online grocery shopping becomes increasingly competitive.

## Red Lipstick 4,000 Years Ago: The Discovery of the World's Oldest Cosmetic

The world's oldest known lipstick dates back an astonishing 4,000 years, to the Bronze Age, which lasted from 3300 BC to 1200 BC. The red cosmetic was found in the Jiroft region of Kerman province, south-eastern Iran. According to a study published in Scientific Reports, the lipstick was likely a lip-colouring paint or paste made from natural materials like hematite, manganite, and braunite, which were darkened with galena and anglesite. These minerals were then mixed with vegetal waxes and other organic substances to create the cosmetic mixture. The lipstick was stored in a small chlorite vial and was likely a highly prized item in the Bronze Age.

The discovery of this ancient cosmetic provides fascinating insights into the beauty practices of early civilizations. While makeup and cosmetics today are common and widely used, this find suggests that even in the distant past, people were experimenting with natural resources to enhance their appear-



ance. The red hue of the lipstick also reveals that the color red has been associated with beauty and adornment for millennia. The use of materials like hematite, a red iron oxide, indicates that early humans had a deep understanding of the natural world and its potential uses.

Interestingly, the Bronze Age was a time of significant cultural and

technological development, and the existence of such a sophisticated cosmetic product shows that appearance and personal care were important even in ancient societies. It's amazing to think that the concept of makeup, especially red lipstick, dates back so far, linking modern cosmetic traditions to their ancient origins.

## Team India Launches 'Donate Organs, Save Lives' Campaign Ahead of 3rd ODI vs England



Ahead of the third ODI between India and England at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on February 12, Team India players, including former captain Virat Kohli, have united to support the 'Donate Organs, Save Lives' campaign. Announced by ICC Chairman Jay Shah, the initiative aims to raise awareness about organ donation. In a video shared by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), Indian players urged people to take the pledge to donate organs. Kohli emphasized, "Score the ultimate century, your organs can help others live beyond your lifetime. Register as a donor and make every life count."

Shubman Gill encouraged fans, saying, "Be the captain of life. Just like a captain leads the team to victory, you can lead someone to life by pledging to donate your organs." Other players like Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Axar Patel, and Hardik Pandya also shared powerful messages, urging people to take the step and make a difference by donating their organs. The campaign has received support from several Indian cricketers, including Ravindra Jadeja, Arshdeep Singh, Washington Sundar, Varun Chakravarthy, and Rishabh Pant. India currently leads the three-match series 2-0 and is gearing up for the final ODI.

## Rashid Khan Breaks T20 World Record, Becomes Highest Wicket-Taker in History



In a thrilling encounter in the ODI Tri-Series, Kane Williamson's brilliant century helped New Zealand secure a spot in the final with a dominant six-wicket win over South Africa on Monday. South African opener Matthew Breetzke set the stage alight with a record-breaking performance, scoring 150 runs on his ODI debut. This remarkable knock was the highest score ever made by a debutant in ODI history, helping South Africa post a challenging 304/6 at Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore. However, it was Williamson's class that stole the

show. The New Zealand captain anchored his side's chase with an unbeaten 133, guiding his team past the target comfortably. His match-winning knock, combined with steady contributions from his teammates, ensured New Zealand's smooth entry into the final of the tournament. This win not only highlighted Williamson's batting mastery but also overshadowed Breetzke's historic debut performance, securing New Zealand's dominance in the series.

## Vidarbha Takes Commanding Lead in Ranji Trophy Quarter-Final Against Tamil Nadu



Vidarbha's dominant performance in the ongoing Ranji Trophy quarter-final has put them on the brink of victory against Tamil Nadu. On Day 3 of the match, Vidarbha pacer Aditya Thakare starred with a five-wicket haul, claiming 5/34 to help bowl out Tamil Nadu for 225 in their first innings. This effort gave Vidarbha a strong 128-run lead, following their total of 353. In reply, Vidarbha overcame early struggles and finished the day at 169/5, with a commanding lead of 297 runs. Yash Rathod played a crucial knock of 55\* off 119 balls, while Harsh Dubey remained unbeaten on

29\*. Tamil Nadu, who had struggled at 159/6 on Day 2, saw their captain Sai Kishore dismissed early for just 7 runs. Vidarbha, unbeaten in the current season, will now look to extend their lead further and put Tamil Nadu under pressure on Day 4. Tamil Nadu's top order, including players like Narayan Jagadeesan and Vijay Shankar, will need to deliver a strong response to defend their chances in the match. Meanwhile, Gujarat continued their impressive run, reaching 511 in their first innings against Saurashtra, and Jammu & Kashmir built a solid lead against Kerala.

## Without PV Sindhu, India Faces Tough Challenge at Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships



India's hopes for a gold medal at the 2024 Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships, starting in Qingdao, China, on Tuesday, have been dealt a significant blow with the absence of star player PV Sindhu due to injury. The world-renowned shuttler sustained a hamstring injury during a training camp in Guwahati on February 4, forcing her withdrawal from the prestigious event. India's previous campaign in 2022 saw them claim a bronze medal, with Sindhu playing a pivotal role in their success. Without her this year, the responsibility falls on world No 29 Malvika Bansod to step into the women's singles spot. India, placed in Group D, will kick off their campaign against Macau on Wednesday, followed by a tough match against South Korea on Thursday. A top-two finish in the group will secure a quar-

terfinal spot, but advancing further will require exceptional performances from the team. India has never won the gold in the Asia Mixed Team Championships but has had notable successes in team events, including Thomas Cup gold in 2022 and a silver at the 2024 Badminton Asia Team Championships. Key players like HS Prannoy, Lakshya Sen, Ashwini Ponnappa, Satwik-sairaj Rankireddy, and Chirag Shetty are expected to carry the team's hopes, along with rising stars in women's doubles, Gayatri Gopichand and Treesa Jolly. With the tournament's last three editions dominated by China and Japan, India will have to overcome a challenging field to make history in this prestigious competition.

## Denis Shapovalov Clinches ATP Dallas Title, Stuns Casper Ruud in Final

Canada's Denis Shapovalov completed a stunning run to the 2024 ATP Dallas title on Sunday, defeating fifth-ranked Casper Ruud 7-6 (7/5), 6-3 in the final. The unseeded Shapovalov claimed his third career ATP title, marking the biggest win of his career after his previous victories in Stockholm (2018) and Belgrade (2023). Shapovalov's triumph came after a series of giant-killing performances, making him only the fifth player since 2020 to defeat the top three seeds

en route to an ATP title. Earlier in the tournament, he overcame world No. 4 Taylor Fritz in the second round and toppled ninth-ranked Tommy Paul in the semifinals. The win is particularly significant after Shapovalov's battle with knee injuries, which sidelined him for much of 2023. He credited his team for helping him return to form, saying, "These titles wouldn't be possible without them." Shapovalov's victory also propels him

22 spots up the ATP rankings to No. 32, a significant rise from his position of 127th at this time last year. In the final, Shapovalov fired 12 aces in the first set and won a tense tie-breaker before breaking Ruud early in the second set and never looking back, sealing the match after an hour and 40 minutes with an overhead smash. This marks Shapovalov's first win over Ruud in three meetings, denying the Norwegian his 13th career ATP title.



## Workout, Breathe, Repeat: Alia Bhatt's Journey to Fitness and Upcoming Projects



Alia Bhatt, known for her versatile performances on screen, is also inspiring fans with her fitness journey. This past Sunday, the actress took to Instagram to share a glimpse of her intense workout routine. In the video, Alia is seen performing flying push-ups with a resistance band tied around her waist for extra support. Dressed in a blue gym top and black yoga pants, she sported a bun, fully focused on her rigorous session. She captioned the video, "The struggle is important," reminding her followers of the dedication and hard work required to achieve their goals. On the professional front, Alia is set to headline Alpha, a spy thriller alongside Sharvari. Directed by Shiv Rawail, the film will add to Yash Raj Films' growing spy universe. Additionally, Alia will reunite with renowned filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali for Love and War, which stars Ranbir Kapoor and Vicky Kaushal. Officially announced in January 2024, the film is scheduled for a Christmas 2025 release. Fans are eagerly anticipating her next moves on and off the screen as Alia continues to balance fitness with her exciting career.

## Nayanthara to Reunite with Mammooty for Upcoming Film 'MMMN'



Tamil cinema star Nayanthara is set to reunite with Mammooty for the upcoming Malayalam film, tentatively titled MMMN. Directed by Mahesh Narayanan, known for acclaimed works like Malik and Take Off, the film will also feature Mohanlal, marking the long-awaited collaboration between Mammooty and Mohanlal after more than a decade. The film's production is being handled by Anto Joseph Film Company, who recently announced Nayanthara's casting in a video posted on Instagram. This project also sees Nayanthara reunite with Mammooty after their previous collaboration in the 2016 film Puthiya Niyamam. The cast includes Fahadh Faasil and Kunchacko Boban in pivotal roles. Nayanthara, who made her Bollywood debut alongside Shah Rukh Khan in Jawan (2023), was most recently featured in the Netflix documentary Nayanthara: Beyond the Fairytale (2024). She will next star in the Telugu film Kannappa, led by Vishnu Manchu.

## Vicky Kaushal, Rashmika Mandanna Promote 'Chhaava' in Amritsar



Actors Vicky Kaushal and Rashmika Mandanna are on a promotional tour for their upcoming historical action drama Chhaava. The duo recently landed in Amritsar, where they interacted with fans and explored the city. Rashmika shared an Instagram story with a picture of herself and Vicky in front of an aircraft, captioning, "Amritsar... Ki haal aaaaa!!!" Dressed casually, she wore a cream T-shirt and blue denim, while Vicky opted for a black sweatshirt and matching sweatpants.

Earlier, Vicky promoted the film in Patna, where he indulged in Litti Chokha, a local delicacy, sharing his experience on social media. He began the tour with a visit to the Grishneshwar Jyotirlinga in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar. Chhaava, directed by Laxman Utekar, is an adaptation of the Marathi novel Chhava by Shivaji Sawant. Vicky plays Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, with Rashmika as Maharani Yesubai. The film releases on February 14, 2025.

## Jacqueline Fernandez Highlights Fitness and Career at Blender's Pride Fashion Tour



At the Blender's Pride Fashion Tour in Chandigarh, actress Jacqueline Fernandez shone as the showstopper, showcasing both her stunning presence and evolution from model to Bollywood star. Dressed in a glamorous ensemble, Jacqueline captivated the audience with her radiant smile, symbolizing her love for both fashion and film. In a heartfelt conversation, Jacqueline shared her early career journey, revealing that she started modelling at the age of five and was walking the ramp by 12. Despite her success in

modelling, acting was always her true passion. "Modelling was something I knew, but deep down, I wanted to be an actor," she said. Her transition to acting was a challenge, as she had no formal training, but her passion for movies helped her navigate the journey. Her breakthrough came with Aladin, which she called a dream come true. Jacqueline also emphasized the importance of a fitness routine, showcasing her commitment to well-being alongside her professional growth.

## Brazilian Cello Player Diego Carneiro Performs with Indian Musicians in Chandigarh



Brazilian cello virtuoso and Rotary Peace Fellow Diego Carneiro recently performed with Indian classical musicians at the Tagore Theatre in Chandigarh. The concert, organized by the city's Rotarians with the Rotary Club Chandigarh Midtown, was part of his peace mission across India.

Hailing from the Amazon region, Diego initially learned piano before discovering his deep connection with the cello. During the concert, he jammed with musicians from the 'Arohi' group, delighting the audience with a fusion of Brazilian and Indian classical sounds.

Diego shared his admiration for Indian classical music, particularly its meditative qualities, saying, "I am learning Indian classical music and am falling in love with it." His work merges music and humanitarian efforts, spreading messages of peace across various regions. "We aim to use music to build communities and address issues like medicine, education, the environment, and conflict zones," he explained, underlining the transformative power of music in fostering a compassionate, connected world.

## Ed Sheeran Surprises Fans with Telugu Song 'Chuttamalle' at Bengaluru Concert

Ed Sheeran delighted fans at his Bengaluru concert by performing the Telugu song "Chuttamalle" alongside Indian singer Shilpa Rao. The song, featured in the 2024 film Devara starring Jr NTR and Janhvi Kapoor, was composed by Anirudh Ravichander and written by Ramajogayya Sastry. Sheeran, who has

previously charmed audiences with hits like "Shape of You" and "Perfect," shared a video of himself singing the Telugu lyrics, expressing his admiration for Rao's voice.

On Instagram, he praised Shilpa Rao, calling it a privilege to perform with her and to learn a new language. Rao, who

has also sung hits like "Malang" and "Besharam Rang," was equally thrilled by the collaboration. Jr NTR and Janhvi Kapoor also reacted to the performance, highlighting the beauty of music transcending boundaries.

Sheeran's Indian tour will conclude with a performance in Delhi on February 15.

