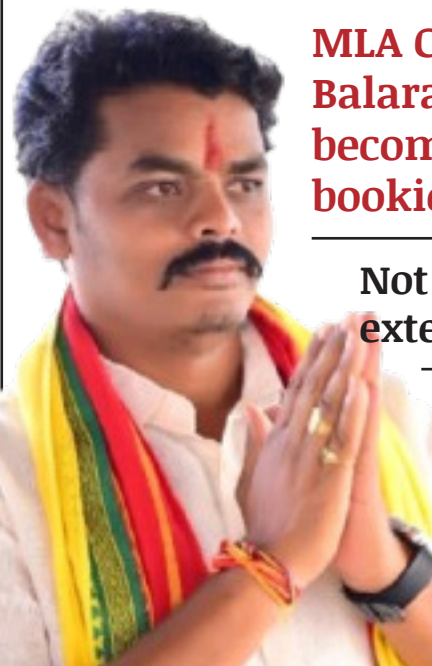




**Weather Forecast**

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
H 27° C L 14° C	H 30° C L 19° C	H 26° C L 21° C

# MLA himself become a betting bookie, running drugs network, is it true?



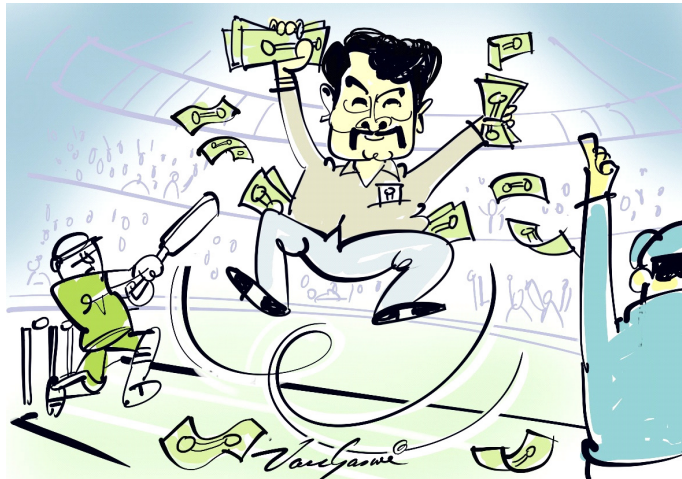
**MLA Chirri Balaraji himself become a betting bookie, allegedly**

**Allegedly he is running a betting network and drug trafficking**

**In the name of betting, they are looting tribal's money allegedly**

**Not only limited to Polavaram, but extended to border constituencies also**

**Ganja and drugs are distributing through the same team allegedly**



**Allegations coming on Balaraju are shocking for all the people** | **Story on MLA deals on lands will be tomorrow**

TPN Correspondent Polavaram, Feb 12

Allegations against Mr. Balaraju, MLA of Polavaram, are shocking the public. The accusations are so extensive that they cannot be covered in a single report. In this article, we focus on his alleged involvement in betting and the drug trade.

A betting network is reportedly operating vigorously in Polavaram and nearby constituencies, with allegations that Mr. Balaraju is leading the operation and earning crores of rupees. According to sources, One from Rajavaram, One from Bayyanigudem, and One from Rajavaram are the major bookies in the region, allegedly working in coordination with the MLA. The network is reportedly targeting innocent tribals, drawing them into gambling and looting their money. Additionally, sources claim that the betting operations are expanding throughout the agency area, as they believe tribals are easy to exploit. Before the elections, Janasena had little hope of winning this seat, but due

to the anti-incumbency wave against Jagan, the party secured victory. However, Mr. Balaraju is acting as if he won the seat solely on his own, sources say. Initially, he made a dramatic display over receiving a car as a gift from his followers, but now, allegedly, he could open an entire car showroom with the money he has earned from betting. Reports also suggest that the MLA attempted to start a gambling club, but his efforts failed. However, he did not give up and allegedly spent Rs. 10 lakhs to obtain approval for the club through a TDP leader.

The allegations do not stop at gambling. Sources claim that Balaraju's team is also involved in distributing ganja and other drugs. Recently, a tragic incident occurred where youngsters under the influence of drugs crashed into a parked car, resulting in a fatality. A local resident commented, "What can we say? Our youth have become addicted to ganja and drugs. One is distributing these substances, as per our knowledge. On one hand, they are looting money through bet-

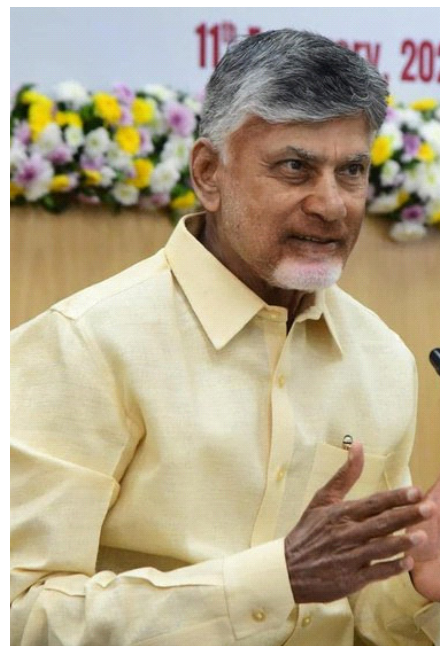
ting, and on the other, they are ruining lives with drugs. It is shocking that our MLA himself is the leader of these activities."

In a recent incident at Nidadavole, a vehicle carrying ganja was seized by the police, and five people were arrested. However, it is alleged that MLA Balaraju used his influence to secure their release, further indicating that his network extends beyond Polavaram into neighboring constituencies.

Locally, Janasena is divided into two factions, one supporting the MLA and the other opposing him. The opposing group has been raising serious questions about these allegations, but MLA Balaraju appears confident that no action will be taken against him by the party leadership.

Tomorrow, we will delve deeper into another set of allegations: land scams involving tribals. We will explore how the MLA allegedly helped non-tribals acquire tribal land, how he bribed opposition leaders with land, and how he personally benefited from these dealings. Stay tuned for the full report.

## CM Directs Speedy Clearance of Files in Govt Offices



TPN Correspondent Amaravati, Feb 12

- CM instructed officials to expedite file clearance in the e-office system.
- Secretaries and department heads directed to identify and eliminate delays.
- Reaffirmed commitment to tribal rights, ensuring the 1/70 law remains intact.

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has expressed serious concern over bureaucratic delays in government offices, directing officials to accelerate the clearance of files. During a high-level meeting with ministers and secretaries at the Secretariat on Tuesday, he emphasized the need for efficiency in governance, stating that some files are being held up unnecessarily for months.

CM Chandrababu stressed that non-financial files must be cleared without delay, while financial files should be processed based on budget availability. He pointed out that certain officials retain files for six months to a year, which is an unacceptable practice. He instructed secretaries and department heads to analyze the reasons for such delays and implement measures to streamline approvals.

RTGS CEO K. Dinesh Kumar present-

ed a report on e-office file clearance trends across various departments. The report highlighted that while some departments clear files within three days, others experience significant delays. CM Chandrababu directed all departments to adopt best practices and ensure files are not unnecessarily stalled.

Meanwhile, CM Chandrababu reaffirmed his commitment to tribal welfare, addressing concerns over the 1/70 law. He clarified that his government has no intention of removing this protective legislation, which safeguards tribal land rights. He emphasized that preserving tribal communities is crucial to protecting India's cultural heritage and reiterated the government's efforts to enhance education, healthcare, and living standards for tribals.

Through social media, the Chief Minister reassured tribals that their rights are secure and that his government remains dedicated to their welfare and development.

## I Will Not Re-Enter Politics – Chiranjeevi

Pawan Kalyan Will Fulfill My Political Aspirations

- Chiranjeevi clarifies he has no intention of returning to politics.
- Expresses confidence that Pawan Kalyan will fulfill his political vision.
- Says his focus remains on cinema and public service.



TPN Correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 12

Actor and former politician Chiranjeevi has put an end to speculations about his political comeback, stating that he has no plans to re-enter politics. Speaking at a recent event, Chiranjeevi said he is completely focused on cinema and public service and that his political aspirations will be carried forward by his brother, Jana Sena Party chief and Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. "I will not return to politics. My political goals will be achieved through Pawan Kalyan. He is dedicated to public service and is working tirelessly for the betterment of the people," Chiranjeevi stated.

Chiranjeevi, who had launched the Praja Rajyam Party (PRP) in 2008, later merged it with the Congress. However, his political journey did not go as expected, and he eventually stepped away from active politics. Since then, there have been occasional specula-

tions about his possible return, especially with the rise of Pawan Kalyan in Andhra Pradesh politics.

Reiterating his stance, Chiranjeevi emphasized that he is proud of Pawan Kalyan's leadership and trusts him to achieve what he initially envisioned. "Pawan has a clear vision and is committed to the welfare of the people. I have no doubts about his ability to bring about positive change," he added.

With Pawan Kalyan now holding a key position in the Andhra Pradesh government, his influence in state politics has grown significantly. Political analysts believe that Chiranjeevi's open endorsement further strengthens Pawan's leadership and sends a clear message about the family's political direction.

While Chiranjeevi remains a revered figure in the film industry and continues his philanthropic work, his unwavering support for Pawan Kalyan has solidified the latter's role as the family's political torchbearer.

## Dy CM Pawan Kalyan South India Temples Visit from Today

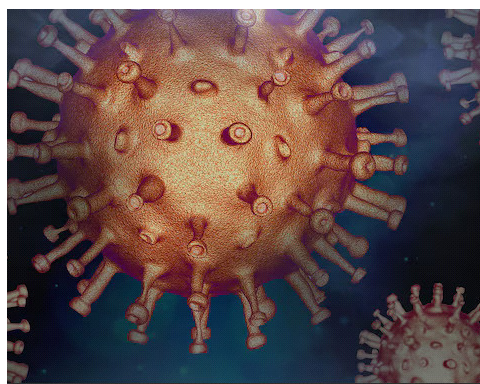
- Deputy CM departs for Cochin after recovering from illness.
- Three-day temple tour to fulfill past vows and strengthen Sanatana Dharma.
- Visit includes prominent temples in Tamil Nadu and Kerala.





# Bird Flu Outbreak in AP and Telangana

- Thousands of Chickens Dead, Public Alarmed
- Government Issues Health Advisory
- Poultry Farmers Asked to Follow Biosecurity Measures
- How Bird Flu Spreads to Humans



TPN Correspondent  
AP/TG, Feb 12

The recent outbreak of bird flu in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Chhattisgarh has raised concerns among poultry farmers and consumers. Thousands of chickens have died due to the spread of the influenza A virus, leading to a decline in egg production and a significant drop in chicken consumption. Despite falling poultry prices, people are hesitant to buy chicken, fearing infection.

## Central and State Governments on High Alert

The alarming rise in chicken deaths has prompted the Central Government to issue an advisory to states, urging them to take immediate preventive measures. The Telangana government has responded by warning people to avoid consuming chicken for a few days. The Animal Husbandry Department is actively working on the Centre's directives, and Special Chief Secretary Savyasachi Ghosh has instructed district collectors to implement strict biosecurity measures in poultry farms.

## Precautionary Measures for Poultry Farmers

- Poultry farmers have been advised to:**
- Follow strict biosecurity protocols.
  - Ensure the proper disposal of infected chickens.
  - Refrain from selling dead chickens.
  - Maintain hygiene in poultry farms and feed storage areas.
  - Report any signs of infection to authorities immediately.

Officials are closely monitoring the situation, and reports indicate a high number of chicken deaths in Borlam Camp village of Banswada mandal, Kamareddy district.

## Understanding Bird Flu (Avian Influenza)

Bird flu, scientifically known as avian influenza, is a viral infection that primarily affects birds, including chickens, turkeys, and ducks. The disease is caused by various strains of the influenza A virus, including H5N1, H7N9, and H5N8. While not all strains are dangerous to humans, some can lead to

severe health complications.

## Symptoms of Bird Flu in Chickens

- Swollen heads.
- Purple discoloration of legs and bodies.
- Difficulty breathing.
- Diarrhea, coughing, and sneezing.
- Sudden death in severe cases.

In mild cases, infected chickens may survive but continue spreading the virus. However, in severe outbreaks, chickens can die within hours or a few days.

## Can Bird Flu Spread to Humans?

Although rare, bird flu can spread to humans through direct contact with infected birds or contaminated surfaces. The virus can also become airborne through poultry waste, increasing the risk of transmission. If chicken meat or eggs are not cooked properly, the virus can survive and infect humans. Cooking poultry products at a minimum of 75 degrees Celsius is essential to kill the virus.

## Symptoms of Bird Flu in Humans

- Fever and cough.
- Sore throat and body aches.
- Headache and eye infections.
- In severe cases: Pneumonia, respiratory failure, brain damage, and high mortality rates.

The H5N1 strain has a fatality rate of nearly 50% in infected humans. However, human infections are rare.

## Is There a Vaccine for Bird Flu?

Currently, there is no specific vaccine for bird flu in humans. Doctors prescribe antiviral medications like Tamiflu and Relenza for treatment. Hospitalization may be necessary for severe cases, but the virus is not highly contagious among humans, reducing the risk of widespread transmission.

## Government's Warning to the Public

Health officials are urging people to be cautious while consuming poultry products. They advise:

- Avoiding raw or undercooked chicken and eggs.
- Ensuring thorough cooking of poultry at 75 degrees Celsius or higher.
- Practicing good hygiene when handling raw chicken.

The Telangana government has emphasized the importance of public awareness and preventive measures to control the spread of the virus. As the situation unfolds, officials remain vigilant, and further advisories may be issued based on developments in the outbreak.

# Dy CM Pawan Kalyan South India Temples Visit from Today

TPN Correspondent  
Andhra Pradesh, Feb 12

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party president Pawan Kalyan has resumed his South India temple tour, departing from Hyderabad to Cochin by today. His spiritual journey, initially postponed due to illness, has now been rescheduled as he has recovered.

During this three-day tour, Pawan Kalyan will visit several significant temples in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, including the Anantha Padmanabha Swamy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram, Meenakshi Temple in Madurai, Sri Parasurama Swamy Temple in Thiruvallam, Agastya Jeeva Samadhi, Kumbheshwara Temple, Swamimalai, and Tiruttani Subramanya Swamy Temple. This pilgrimage is intended to fulfill the vows he had made in the past.

Apart from the religious aspect, Pawan Kalyan's visit is being viewed as a strategic move with political significance, particularly in the context of his strong advocacy for Sanatana Dharma. Recently, he proposed the establishment of a Sanatana Dharma Protection Board, a concept that has received widespread support, including from RSS leaders. His call for the preservation of Hindu traditions has resonated at the national level, reinforcing his stature beyond Andhra Pradesh politics.

Political analysts speculate that this temple tour is not just a spiritual endeavor but also a way to strengthen BJP-Jana Sena ties in South India. His growing influence in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala aligns with the BJP's broader strategy in the region. With his increasing engagement in national issues and religious discourse, Pawan Kalyan is positioning himself as a key player in shaping the future of NDA politics in the South. Meanwhile, Jana Sena sources indicate that following this tour, Pawan Kalyan is likely to make important political announcements during the upcoming Jana Sena plenary meeting. His latest initiatives and strategic moves are generating widespread interest across South India.

# JEE Main First Session Results Released: Two Telugu Students Score 100 Percentile

TPN Correspondent  
AP/ TG, Feb 12

The results of the first session of JEE Main, conducted for engineering admissions at the national level, were released on Tuesday. A total of 14 students from across the country achieved a perfect 100 percentile. In the girls' category, Guthikonda Manojna from Andhra Pradesh secured a 100 percentile score. Telangana student Banibrata Maji also attained a perfect score, making them the top performers from the Telugu states.

The first session of JEE Main was held from January 22 to 29 this year, with nearly 9 lakh students appearing for the exam. The second session is scheduled to take place from April 1 to 8.

From both sessions, approximately 2.5 lakh students will be shortlisted for JEE Advanced, which serves as the gateway to prestigious IIT admissions. Students can check their results on the official JEE Main website: [https://jeemain.nta.nic.in](https://jeemain.nta.nic.in).

# Key Development in Investigation Against Former CID DG PV Sunil Kumar

TPN Correspondent  
Amaravati, Feb 12

A significant development has taken place in the investigation against former CID DG PV Sunil Kumar. Acting on the orders of the Union Home Ministry, CID officials recorded the statement of Advocate Gudapati Lakshminarayana, who had earlier filed a complaint against Sunil Kumar, alleging misuse of power, illegal detentions, and third-degree torture. On Tuesday, CID officials summoned Lakshminarayana to their office and collected key evidence. According to sources, he provided documents and testimony related to alleged police excesses during Sunil Kumar's tenure. The CID is now expanding the investigation by summoning TDP Media Cell In-charge Darapaneni Narendra, senior journalist Kollu Ankababu, and TDP leader Dharanikota Venkatesh. The allegations date back to the time when Sunil Kumar served as CID DG. Reports suggest that several individuals were detained unlawfully, and third-degree methods were used against them. Advocate Lakshminarayana's complaint led the Home Ministry to order an inquiry, but under the previous government, the police department reportedly failed to respond adequately. After the formation of the new government, Lakshminarayana once again approached the Union Home Ministry, prompting fresh action.

During questioning, the advocate submitted evidence related to the controversial arrests.

# CM Chandrababu Warns Ministers on Punctuality

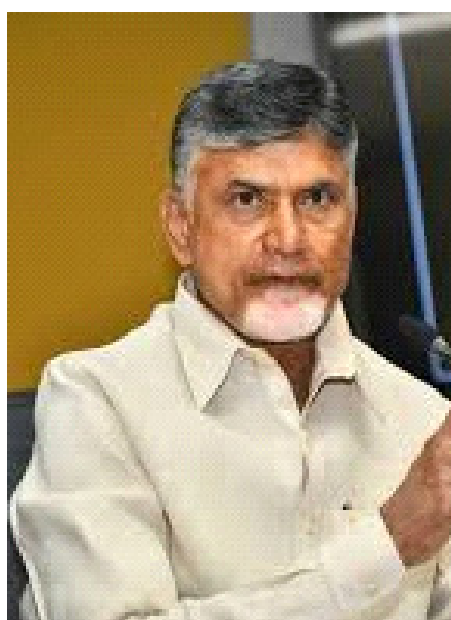
"I Will Not Tolerate It Anymore," Says CM

TPN Correspondent  
Amaravati, Feb 12

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has issued a stern warning to ministers and top officials over lack of punctuality. Expressing his frustration, he made it clear that delays in governance meetings will no longer be tolerated.

During a high-level review meeting at the Secretariat in Amaravati, CM Chandrababu arrived five minutes early, setting an example of discipline. However, many ministers and officials failed to show up on time. He waited for 10 minutes in the fifth block, visibly displeased with their tardiness.

Addressing them firmly, the CM stressed the importance of time management, stating that being punctual is an essential part of smart and efficient governance. "From now on, this will not be tolerated. Every official and minister must ensure they respect time and responsibilities," he warned.



Sources indicate that the Chief Minister is determined to instill discipline and efficiency in administration. With key governance initiatives in motion, CM Chandrababu's strict approach sends a clear message that delays and negligence will not be excused.

# Minister Kandula Durgesh Holds Virtual Meeting with Union Minister

TPN Correspondent  
Amaravati, Feb 12

Andhra Pradesh State Tourism and Culture Minister Kandula Durgesh and Tourism Department MD Amrapali participated in a virtual meeting with Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat from the AP Secretariat. The discussion focused on the ongoing tourism development projects in Andhra Pradesh under central government schemes such as PRASAD, Swadeshi Darshan 2.0, and Shashki.

Minister Durgesh highlighted the progress in temple and tourism infrastructure. He stated that 60% of the Simhachalam Temple development work has been completed, while the Annavaram Temple project has finalized its tender process. However, he noted that work was temporarily stalled due to the MLC election code.

Further updates included the Borra Caves-Lambasinghi tourism project, which is set to proceed under Swadeshi Darshan 2.0, while tenders for Gandikota Fort development have been received. He also mentioned that the Akhanda Godavari project is in the tender stage.

Minister Kandula Durgesh urged the Union Minister to expedite approvals for the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of key tourism projects at Nagarjuna Sagar, Ahobilam, and Suryalanika. Responding positively, Union Minister Shekhawat assured necessary support for these initiatives. The meeting marked a significant step towards boosting tourism and heritage development in Andhra Pradesh.



## Minister Kollu Ravindra Says a Massive Liquor Scam took Place During the Previous Govt



- Strict Action Against Belt Shops, No belt shops will be allowed.
- Case will be registered against anyone operating illegal liquor outlets.
- Previous government pledged liquor to take loans worth ₹25,000 crores.

TPN Correspondent  
Amaravati, Feb 12

Excise Minister Kollu Ravindra has asserted that the government is taking strict measures to ensure a transparent liquor policy and warned that cases will be filed against anyone operating belt shops. Speaking in Amaravati on Tuesday, the

minister accused YS Jagan's government (2019-2024) of manipulating the liquor sector to increase prices and sell low-quality liquor. He stated that an investigation is underway into past liquor irregularities, and those responsible are afraid of the truth coming out. He emphasized that 10% of liquor shops

have been allocated to the Kallu Geeta community and criticized the past government's policies for causing injustice to BCs. He also revealed that the coalition government has introduced 150 new liquor brands and assured that customers will get quality liquor of their preference. Kollu Ravindra further alleged that YS Jagan's administration took a ₹25,000 crore loan by pledging liquor sales, out of which ₹13,000 crore remains unpaid. He confirmed that the current government is repaying these debts systematically every month.

A vigilance probe into liquor distilleries has been ordered, and the minister reiterated that belt shops will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

## Jagan If You Have Guts Come to Assembly - GV Anjaneyulu

TPN Correspondent  
Amaravati, Feb 12

Assembly Chief Whip GV Anjaneyulu launched a scathing attack on YSRCP chief and former CM Jagan Mohan Reddy, alleging that he is afraid to attend the Assembly. Addressing the media on Tuesday, Anjaneyulu stated that Jagan is making excuses for his absence, demanding the status of Leader of the Opposition instead of engaging in legislative debates.

He pointed out that while the government is prepared to answer all questions, Jagan is choosing to stay at home and make statements instead of confronting the Assembly. He said, "Jagan claims he will ask questions remotely, but such a system has never existed before. The Assembly is meant for discussions, yet he refuses to participate."

Anjaneyulu also reminded that in the past, Jagan himself had remarked that poaching a few TDP MLAs would strip the party of opposition status. However, he claimed that the people have now given Jagan a fitting lesson.

He reiterated that special awareness classes for MLAs will be held on February 22nd and 23rd, with Lok Sabha



Speaker Om Birla and a former Vice President attending the sessions. The initiative, backed by CM Chandrababu Naidu and Speaker Ayyanna Patrudu, aims to ensure newly elected MLAs understand House procedures and responsibilities.

Furthermore, Anjaneyulu emphasized that whips will closely monitor attendance and that MLAs must submit their questions by February 14th to ensure effective discussions.

Questioning the credibility of Jagan and his YSRCP legislators, he remarked, "How can they justify taking public salaries when they don't even show up in the Assembly? Do they have no self-respect?"

He assured that the government will conduct the Assembly with dignity, addressing public issues even in the absence of a strong opposition.

## Is Gali Jagadish Reddy Joining YSRCP?



- Gali Jagadish, son of former minister Gali Muddukrishna Naidu, to join YSRCP in Jagan's presence.
- Speculation that Roja was not informed, fueling political intrigue.
- Jagadish is the brother of TDP MLA Gali Bhanu Prakash and related to a key Karnataka leader.

TPN Correspondent  
Nagari, Feb 12

In a surprising political move, Gali Jagadish, the second son of former minister Gali Muddukrishna Naidu, is set to join the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) in the presence of Jagan Mohan Reddy on Wednesday. This comes at a time when several senior leaders have left the party, while new entrants are making their way in. The latest development has sparked controversy within YSRCP, as it is being alleged that former minister and Nagari leader Roja was not in-

formed about Jagadish's entry. Political circles are abuzz with speculation that this is a strategic move by Jagan to weaken Roja's influence in Nagari, especially given her ongoing rift with YSRCP heavyweight Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy. Jagadish's entry also holds significance as he is the brother of the current TDP MLA from Nagari, Gali Bhanu Prakash, and his uncle is a prominent leader in Karnataka politics. With this latest development, all eyes are now on the political future of Roja and her position within YSRCP.

## YV Subba Reddy Slams TDP on Polavaram, Railway Zone, and Steel Plant Issues

TPN Correspondent  
New Delhi, Feb 12

YSRCP MP YV Subba Reddy launched a scathing attack on the TDP government, alleging that while YSRCP is actively working to solve state issues, TDP is only focused on making baseless allegations.

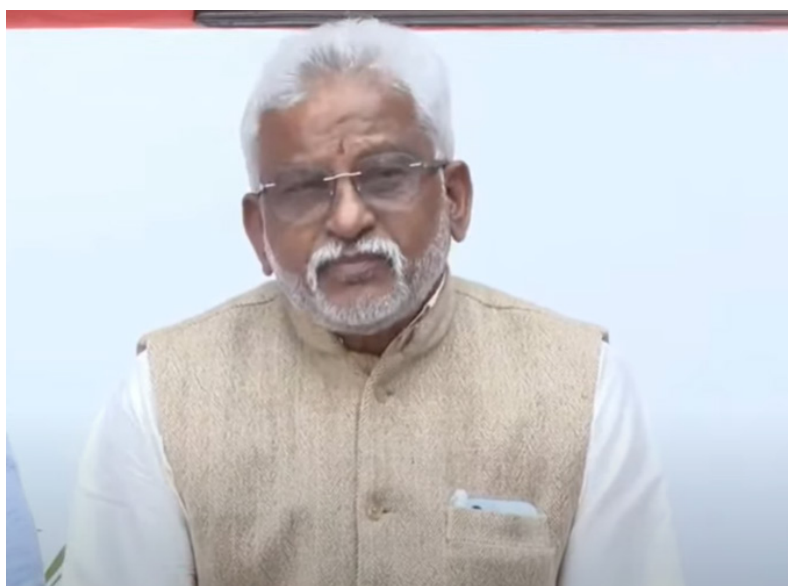
Speaking in Delhi, he expressed disappointment that even though ₹11,440 crore has been allocated for the modernization of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, employees are not receiving their full salaries, leading to frustration among workers.

On the Visakhapatnam railway zone, he acknowledged that it was granted, but demanded the full inclusion of

the Waltair division to ensure the region's railway needs are met effectively.

Regarding the Polavaram project, he accused the TDP government of reducing the project height from 45.7 meters to 41.5 meters, leading to a decrease in water storage capacity. He claimed that this decision would negatively impact irrigation and drinking water supply across the state.

Subba Reddy emphasized that YSRCP had sent proposals to the Centre for the original height but alleged that the TDP government downgraded the project, ultimately compromising Andhra Pradesh's long-term water security.



## Will the State Govt Bear the Cost If the Central Govt Does Not Fund Polavaram? - MP Mithun Reddy

TPN Correspondent  
New Delhi, Feb 11

YSRCP MP Mithun Reddy has raised strong objections to the Centre's stance on Polavaram funding, questioning whether the state government will be forced to bear the cost if adequate funds are not released. Speaking in Delhi, he demanded that the Centre allocate funds as per the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, emphasizing that any reduction in the project's height would be disastrous for the state's water security.

"How can water not be stored in Polavaram at full capacity? If the Centre does not provide funds, will the state have to

bear the cost?" Mithun Reddy questioned.



Additionally, he urged the Centre to expedite the completion of medical colleges in Andhra Pradesh. He criticized the package for the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, saying that similar aid was given to Air India before privatization, hinting at possible privatization of the steel plant as well.

Mithun Reddy also took aim at TDP MPs, accusing them of engaging in personal attacks against YSRCP leaders. However, he stated that YSRCP is ready to work with TDP MPs on state-related issues, urging them to take a stronger stance in securing funds for Andhra Pradesh from the Centre.

## Tirumala Laddu Ghee Was Not Adulterated, Says Bhumana



TPN Correspondent  
Tirupati, Feb 12

Tirupati Former MLA And Former TTD Chairman Bhumana Karunakar Reddy has strongly condemned the false allegations regarding the purity of Tirumala laddu ghee, stating that no adulteration occurred and that CM Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan spread baseless propaganda to mislead devotees.

Speaking to the media, Bhumana criticized CM Chandrababu for falsely claiming that cow dung and animal waste were mixed in the laddu ghee, saying that the CBI SIT remand report made no such

mention. He accused Naidu of trying to hurt Hindu sentiments for political gains.

TTD EO Shyamala Rao clarified that four ghee tanks from AR Dairy were rejected due to substandard quality and sent back, dismissing the claims of adulteration. Ghee used in laddus is lab-certified before being sent to Tirumala, ensuring strict quality standards.

Bhumana further lashed out at Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan, mocking him as "Pawananda Swami" and accusing him of spreading lies in Tirupati. He also dismissed Pawan's claim that one lakh laddus were sent to Ayodhya, stating that such misinformation would invite divine wrath.

He urged opposition leaders not to drag Lord Venkateswara into political controversies, asserting that the coalition government is upholding Tirumala's sanctity, while false allegations by YSRCP leaders would not be tolerated.

## Mega Heroes Should Know the Facts Before Speaking - YSRCP MLA



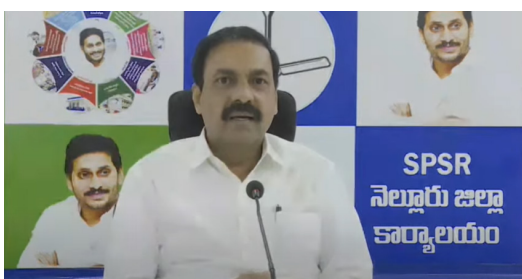
TPN Correspondent  
Yarragondapalem, Feb 12

YSRCP MLA Thatiparthi Chandrasekhar has strongly condemned the recent remarks made by Mega family actors at film functions, stating that they should be aware of the facts before making political statements. Speaking at an event in Yarragondapalem, Chandrasekhar expressed his displeasure over the repeated targeting of YSRCP and its leadership in public gatherings.

ings. "It is not appropriate to make derogatory comments about our party and Chief Jagan Mohan Reddy at film events. The language they use should be changed, and they should maintain dignity while speaking about political matters," he asserted.

Chandrasekhar emphasized that such public remarks only serve to mislead people and create unnecessary controversies. He urged film celebrities to focus on their profession rather than indulging in political mudslinging. He concluded by cautioning that repeated criticism of the YSRCP on entertainment platforms will not be tolerated and that the party will respond strongly if needed.

## "No WhatsApp Governance, but WhatsApp Liquor Supply is Running Efficiently" - Kakani Govardhan



TPN Correspondent  
Nellore, Feb 12

YSRCP Nellore District President Kakani Govardhan Reddy has accused former CM Chandrababu Naidu of orchestrating

a massive liquor scam during his tenure. Addressing a press conference in Nellore, he alleged that government-run liquor stores were shut down and instead, liquor shop licenses were handed over to TDP-affiliated individuals for financial gains. He claimed that liquor tenders were manipulated to inflate margins and that belt shops flourished under Chandrababu's rule, allowing vendors to sell alcohol at inflated prices. "He promised cheap liquor, but in reality, the public was forced to buy alcohol at any rate the sellers demanded," he said.

Kakani further alleged that liquor sales revenue, which was meant to go to the state exchequer, was instead filling the pockets of TDP leaders. He mocked the coalition government, saying, "There is no WhatsApp governance, but WhatsApp liquor supply is running efficiently." He also claimed that a deal was struck with liquor syndicates to pay ₹5 per bottle as a bribe to Chandrababu, leading to huge profits for the TDP leadership. "A flood of money is flowing into private treasuries, and this is Chandrababu's trademark exploitation," Kakani alleged.



# ₹100 Crore Land Settlements Alleged in Vijayawada

Reports claim land settlements worth ₹100 crore in 7 months under the government.

Former TDP corporator Meppa Venkateswara Rao faces encroachment allegations.

Land in 35th, 36th divisions allegedly taken through threats.

Locals claim rising anarchy in property dealings post-election.

Victims allege coercion, demand strict action against encroachments.

Political influence suspected behind increasing land dispute settlements.

TPN Correspondent  
Vijayawada, Feb 12

Allegations have emerged that land settlements worth ₹100 crore have taken place in Vijayawada within seven months of the coalition government assuming power. Reports suggest that individuals who were inactive during the opposition years have now become heavily involved in land disputes and settlements after returning to power. A key figure in this controversy is Meppa Venkateswara Rao, a former TDP corporator from the 36th division. Critics point out that during the past five years, he did not actively address issues related to his division. However, following the change in government, he has been accused of orchestrating land settlements and disputes under the influence of Central MLA Bonda Uma. Recently, a major land dispute surfaced in the 35th and 36th divisions involving property owned by woodworkers from the southern region. Re-

ports indicate that Meppa Venkateswara Rao intervened in the matter and demanded a substantial sum from the owners to vacate the land. It is alleged that four days ago, he arrived at the site with a group of people and threatened the woodworkers who had been residing on the land for many years, instructing them to leave the premises immediately. The estimated value of this settlement is over ₹20 crore, and locals claim it is just one of many similar transactions that have occurred in the region recently. Residents and opposition voices argue that while the previous government faced criticism for land-related irregularities, the current administration is witnessing even greater levels of anarchy. Concerns are growing among locals over the increasing trend of politically backed land encroachments, with allegations that some leaders are using their influence to exploit landown-



ers and settle high-value properties for personal gains. The situation has raised questions about law enforcement and governance in the city, with demands for strict action against those involved in such illegal activities. The issue is expected to stir further political debates, with opposition parties likely to raise concerns over land mafia activities under the coalition government. Whether authorities will intervene and take action against the alleged wrongdoers remains to be seen.

## Gannavaram DSP Inspects Arrangements for Veeramma Thalli Thirunalla

TPN Correspondent  
Gannavaram, Feb 12

Gannavaram Sub-Division DSP Chalasani Srinivasa Rao conducted a thorough inspection of the Veeramma Thalli Thirunalla arrangements at Parupudi, Krishna district, ensuring that security measures were properly in place. His primary focus was on maintaining tight security, smooth traffic movement, and a hassle-free experience for the devotees. Accompanied by Kankipadu CI Muralikrishna, Uyyur CI Rama Rao, and Town SI Vishwanath, the DSP assessed the overall security preparedness. He directed officials to increase police patrolling in and around the Thirunalla premises to prevent any untoward incidents. Special emphasis was placed on ensuring an uninterrupted flow of traffic and preventing overcrowding at key points. DSP Srinivasa Rao instructed his team to be vigilant and proactive, ensuring quick responses to any emergencies. He urged officers to set up barricades and deploy additional personnel at high-traffic areas to manage the large number of devotees expected at the event. Police officials have assured that all necessary precautions and security measures are being taken to ensure the safety of the devotees. The authorities have also urged the public to cooperate with the police and follow the guidelines to make the festival a peaceful and successful event.

## Exxeella Education Group Hosts Amaravathi Championship Cricket Tournament in Vijayawada

MLA Venigandla Ramu and Exxeella CEO Sowjanya Rasamsetty inaugurate the event

TPN Correspondent  
Vijayawada, Feb 12

The Amaravathi Championship Cricket Tournament, organized by Exxeella Education Group, commenced at Vijayawada Club with great enthusiasm. The tournament, which runs from February 11 to 18, features 10 teams comprising students from various local engineering colleges, promoting sportsmanship and a competitive spirit among young players. The event was inaugurated by Gudivada MLA Venigandla Ramu Garu, who attended as the Guest of Honor, alongside Exxeella CEO Sowjanya Rasamsetty. Addressing the gathering, MLA Venigandla Ramu lauded Exxeella Education Group for



its commitment to student development through sports. He also praised Exxeella Chairman Aravind Arasavilli for his active role in promoting extracurricular activities that contribute to students' overall growth. The tournament not only serves as a platform for budding cricketers but

also emphasizes the importance of holistic education, integrating academics with sports. With Exxeella Education Group's continued support, the event has been a resounding success, inspiring students to excel both on and off the field.

## Youth Must Lead the Way in Road Safety - District Collector

TPN Correspondent  
Vijayawada, Feb 12

The future of the country is in the hands of the youth, and they must take responsibility for road safety, said NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi Sha. He emphasized the importance of strictly following traffic rules to ensure a safe society.

On Tuesday, the District Transport Department organized a special program at Indira Gandhi Municipal Ground-Eat Street as part of the 36th National Road Safety Month (January 16 - February 15). The event saw participation from Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi Sha, Vijayawada Municipal Commissioner HM Dhyanaachandra, DTC A. Mohan, and other officials, who flagged off a walkathon that continued till Benz Circle.

Speaking at the event, Collector Dr. Lakshmi Sha highlighted that road safety is critical for Swarnandhra's development. He revealed that over 400 people lost their lives in road accidents last year in NTR district alone, with 50% of fatalities involving pedestrians. He urged all citizens to use roads responsibly, stating that setting an example would inspire others. She warned that despite awareness efforts, strict legal action would be taken against those violating traffic rules.

Municipal Commissioner HM Dhyanaachandra stressed that road safety measures are being strengthened, but public cooperation is crucial. He reminded attendees that following traffic rules ensures that everyone returns home safely to their families.

DTC A. Mohan urged people to be cautious rather than regretful, noting that awareness programs and enforcement actions are being conducted regularly. He stated that the Road Safety Committee holds frequent meetings with officials from transport, police, and traffic departments to ensure effective implementation of road safety measures.

Leaders from APNGOs, including KV Shivareddy and A. Vidyasagar, emphasized the role of government employees in promoting road safety. They called for greater awareness and responsible behavior from all sectors of society. The event saw participation from DMHO Dr. M. Suhasini, District NSS Coordinator Dr. Kolleti Ramesh, RTOs, Motor Vehicle Inspectors, and Transport Department employees. Students from PB Siddhartha, KBN, Sri Durga Malleswara Siddhartha Mahila College, and SRR-CVR Degree College also took part in the walkathon and awareness activities.



## Devineni Uma Urges Graduates to Support Coalition in MLC Elections

TPN Correspondent  
Guntur, Feb 12

TDP state general secretary and former minister Devineni Umamaheswara Rao has urged graduates to support the coalition government, emphasizing its commitment to the state's progress. He called on voters to ensure a landslide victory for Krishna-Guntur Graduates MLC candidate Alapati Rajendra Prasad.

On Tuesday, Devineni Uma held a key meeting with booth committee leaders and senior TDP functionaries at the Chembolu mandal TDP office in Ponnur constituency, Guntur district. He highlighted the 7,962 graduate voters in the region, breaking them down as Ponnur Urban - 523, Ponnur Rural - 2,165, and Chembolu - 1,874 votes. He urged party workers to actively engage with voters, emphasizing the developmental initiatives of CM Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan. He instructed leaders to en-

sure voter turnout and explained the importance of coalition leadership in state progress.

Devineni Uma advised that one person should take responsibility for 30 voters, ensuring proper coordination at the grassroots level.



He emphasized the need to identify positive and negative voters, aiming for 100% polling of favorable votes. He also encouraged efforts to educate neutral and skeptical voters, ensuring they cast their vote correctly on the ballot by marking "1" against Alapati Rajendra Prasad's name. The campaign is being led under the guidance of Dhulipalla Narendra, with a strong push to mobilize graduate voters for the upcoming Legislative Council elections.

## Senior Excise Officials Conduct Inspections in Prakasam Dist



TPN Correspondent  
Prakasam, Feb 12

Prohibition & Excise Commissioner Nishant Kumar and Director of Enforcement Rahul Dev Sharma conducted inspections in Prakasam district, reviewing crime-related records at the Excise office. The visit was aimed at strengthening enforcement and monitoring illegal activities.

The officials later visited the Addanki Excise Station, where they examined station records and inspected Urvasi Wine Shop for MRP violations. They directed the shop management to properly display MRP rates for customers and instructed the Circle Inspector to take action against public alcohol consumption.

Continuing their enforcement checks, the team inspected stock records at the Ongole Depot to ensure compliance with regulations. Additionally, Commissioner Nishant Kumar and Director Rahul Dev Sharma visited the Prakasam District Police Office and Parade Grounds. As part of their efforts to combat illicit distilled liquor, an awareness rally for Navodayam 2.0 is scheduled on February 15, aiming to make Andhra Pradesh liquor-free.



## Sri Kalahasti MLA Invited to Mahashivratri Brahmotsavam in Delhi

The invitation was extended by Anakapalle MP CM Ramesh



**TPN | C. Sekhar**  
**Sri Kalahasti, Feb 12**  
Sri Kalahasti MLA Bojjala Venkata Sudheer Reddy was formally invited to participate in the grand Mahashivratri Brahmotsavam and Gudimalla Brahmotsavam of Sri Kalahasti Swamy. The invitation was extended by Anakapalle MP CM Ramesh and Rajya Sabha member Beeda Mastan Rao during their meeting in Delhi. The Mahashivratri Brahmotsavam, an annual spiritual event, is one of the most significant festivals at Sri Kalahasti Temple, drawing thousands of devotees. The

Gudimalla Brahmotsavam, another important event, is also expected to witness large-scale participation. Speaking on the occasion, CM Ramesh and Beeda Mastan Rao emphasized the spiritual and cultural importance of these celebrations, which uphold the rich heritage of Andhra Pradesh. MLA Sudheer Reddy expressed gratitude for the invitation and assured his participation in the event. The Brahmotsavams will feature special pujas, rituals, and processions dedicated to Lord Shiva, with devotees from across the country expected to take part in the festivities.

## MLA Nanaji Vows to Make Kakinada Rural a Pothole-Free Constituency



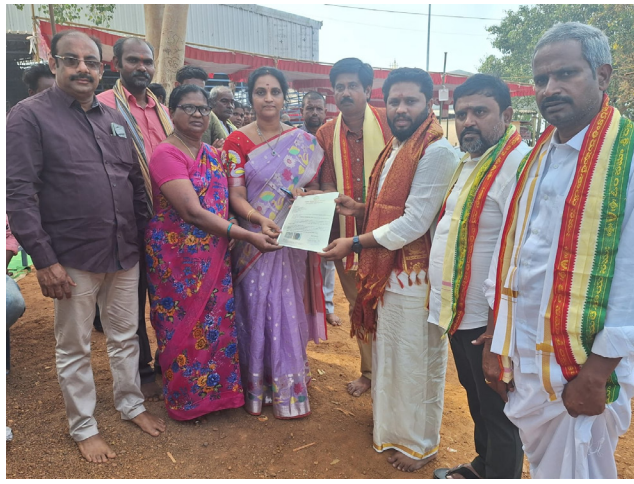
**TPN | Dhanalakshmi**  
**Kakinada, Feb 12**  
Kakinada Rural MLA Pantham Nanaji has pledged to transform the constituency into a pothole-free zone, addressing road development issues that have persisted for years. Speaking at the Gudarigunta MLA office, he emphasized the urgent need for road repairs, highlighting that safe roads are essential for development. Former Ramanayyapet Sarpanch Adabala Ratna Prasad submitted a petition requesting the development of the

Sarpavaram Junction to APSP road. In response, MLA Nanaji assured that despite financial challenges, the coalition government has already initiated repairs on key roads. Nanaji confirmed that he has raised concerns regarding the poor road conditions in his constituency with the government. He also announced that road repairs from Sarpavaram Junction to Achampeta Junction will commence soon, ensuring better connectivity and safer travel for residents.

## Justice Demanded for Bhimasinghi Sugars Workers

**TPN | Narasimhulu**  
**Vizianagaram, Feb 12**  
The workers and employees of Bhimasinghi Sugar Factory have been struggling due to non-payment of Provident Fund (PF) and gratuity by the management. On Tuesday, Lok Satta Party state president Bhisetti Babji, along with labor union leaders, met district joint collector and sugar factory chairman Sethu Madhav to submit a petition seeking immediate justice for the affected workers. During the meeting, the labor leaders highlighted the dire

situation of the employees, emphasizing that the factory has remained closed, pushing workers into financial distress. They expressed concern that despite repeated pleas, their grievances have been ignored. Bhisetti Babji assured the workers that the Lok Satta Party would continue to support their cause until they receive their rightful dues. Responding to the concerns, JC Sethu Madhav assured the delegation that he would speak to the factory MD and take necessary action.



## MLA Maddipati Venkatraju Sanctioned ₹6.50 Lakh Aid for Bone Cancer Patient

**TPN Correspondent**  
**Gopalapuram, Feb 12**  
TDP women's president Kakarla Ramathulasi lauded the proactive efforts of MLA Maddipati Venkatraju in extending immediate assistance to those in need. Upon being informed about the bone cancer diagnosis of Doddigarla Venkatrao from Rajampali, the MLA swiftly sanctioned ₹6.50 lakh under the Emergency Line

of Credit (ELC) scheme to support his treatment. Vice Sarpanch Kakarla Jagadish, who brought the issue to the MLA's attention, appreciated his prompt response despite his busy schedule. Leaders noted that Venkatraju's dedication to addressing medical emergencies has been instrumental in saving lives and providing crucial relief to affected families.

## TDP Pledges Land Titles for BC and SC Farmers in Chendurthi

**TPN Correspondent**  
**Pithapuram, Feb 12**

Former MLA SVSN Varma has assured that the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) will take responsibility for providing land titles to BC and SC farmers cultivating land in Chendurthi village, Gollaprolu mandal, Pithapuram constituency. Addressing the TDP office in Pithapuram town, Kakinada district, Varma stated that these farmers have been engaged in agriculture on 450 acres under Survey No. 1 for many years. He explained that farmers from Chendurthi and Kodavali villages have been cultivating the land, growing cashew and mango orchards for their livelihood. Despite their long-standing occupation, they are now in a state of panic following a recent visit by the District Collector. While revenue officials had earlier provided lease pattas, concerns have arisen about their rights to the land. Varma pointed out that during



TDP's tenure, the party successfully prevented eviction attempts when the land was proposed for Kakinada dumping yard and later for a Police Academy. He emphasized that the District Collector must ensure that those actively cultivating the land receive land titles without any conditions. Following the Collector's visit, elders from the BC and SC communities of Kodavali and Chendurthi approached Varma at the TDP office, urging the party's intervention. In response, Varma assured them that he would escalate the issue to the state leadership and coordinate with officials to secure land titles for the rightful cultivators.

## Avian Influenza Detected in Velpur Poultry Farm



- Krishnanandam Poultry Farm in Velpur tests positive for avian influenza.
- 0-1 km declared an infection zone, all poultry farms to remain closed for 3 months.
- 1-10 km declared a surveillance zone, movement of chickens and eggs banned.
- 20 rapid response teams formed to remove dead chickens, check posts set up.

**TPN Correspondent**  
**Bhimavaram, Feb 12**

District Collector Chadalawada Nagarani confirmed that samples from Krishnanandam Poultry Farm in Velpur, Tanuku Mandal, tested positive for avian influenza. In an emergency meeting held at Pedamiram Collector Camp Office, key officials discussed containment measures. District SP Adnan Naeem Asmi and other senior officials were present. The 0-1 km radius around the infected farm has been declared an infection zone, where all poultry farms will be closed for three months, and chickens will be culled and buried. The 1-10 km area has been marked as a surveillance zone, covering 17 villages, including Komaravaram, Attili, Kavalipuram, and Man-

dapaka. The sale and transport of chickens and eggs have been banned in the affected areas. Check posts have been set up at Velpur Highway, Velpur Railway Gate, Attili, and other locations. 20 rapid response teams have been deployed, equipped with JCBs, lime, and bleaching powder to ensure proper disposal and sanitation. Medical staff will monitor workers involved in poultry removal, and the forest department will observe wild and migratory birds for signs of infection. District officials, including DRO Mogili Venkateswarlu, Animal Husbandry Officer Muralikrishna, and DM&HO Bhanu Nayak, participated in the meeting.

## Interstate Irani Gang Arrested in Chain Snatching Case

₹40 Lakh Worth of Gold Seized



**TPN | Sri Ch**  
**Rajahmundry, Feb 12**

The East Godavari district police have arrested an interstate chain-snatching gang, identified as the Irani gang, responsible for multiple thefts in Rajamahendravaram, Prakasamnagar, Rajanagar, and Kovvur. SP Narasimha Kishore disclosed the details in a press conference on Tuesday. For the past two months, the gang targeted women wearing jewelry at temples, weddings, and functions. They operated on motorcycles, snatching chains before fleeing. The rising incidents caused fear among women, leading to several cases. SP Narasimha Kishore formed four special teams to track the criminals. A breakthrough

came when the suspects attempted to flee at a police check post in Gokavaram, confirming their involvement. The police arrested six members near Gaman Bridge and identified them as Zaheer Hussain, Mohammed Shabbar, Qasim Ali, Kinmat Ali, Sohail Abban Ali, and Dilruba Begum from Naupada, Orissa. Two others, Haider Ali and Javed Ali, are absconding. The gang committed 14 thefts in East Godavari and similar crimes in Orissa, Telangana, Maharashtra, and Chhattisgarh. Police seized 50 tolas (500 grams) of gold. The accused will be charged under theft cases and the PD Act. SP Narasimha Kishore commended the police teams for their efforts in apprehending the gang.

## Young Woman Protests in Front of Boyfriend's House for Cheating

**TPN | C. Sekhar**  
**Kuppam, Feb 12**

Mounika, a resident of Setiganikuruburu village in Rallabuduguru Panchayat, Shantipuram mandal, has approached the DSP, seeking protection from her in-laws' alleged harassment. She stated that she married Chiranjeevi, a man from her village, six years ago out of love, despite belonging to a different caste. Since their marriage, she claims to have faced continuous discrimination and abuse from her in-laws. Mounika alleged that her in-laws have refused to allow her into their house and have withheld her rightful share of the family property. She further accused them of pressuring her to bring dowry from



her parental home instead of granting her a fair share of the family assets. The victim, who belongs to the Harijan community, expressed anguish over the caste-based humiliation she has endured. She also alleged that despite being pregnant, her mother-in-law, brother-in-law, and sister-in-law physically attacked her. Seeking immediate protection and justice, Mounika urged authorities to intervene and ensure her safety, along with that of her two children.

## MBBS Student Dies by Suicide in Rangaraya Medical College

**TPN Correspondent**  
**Kakinada, Feb 12**

A tragic incident occurred at Rangaraya Medical College (RMC) in Kakinada, where a second-year MBBS student was found dead in his hostel room. The student, identified as Ravuri Sairam (22), allegedly died by suicide by hanging himself from a ceiling fan in the RMC Boys Hostel around 1 AM on Tuesday. Fellow students, upon discovering the incident, immediately attempted to rush him to the hospital, but doctors con-

firmed that he was already deceased. Upon receiving information, the police reached the scene, registered a case, and began an investigation to determine the reasons behind the suicide. With semester exams approaching, student anxiety and academic pressure have been rising, raising concerns about mental health support in medical colleges. Authorities are looking into the circumstances leading to the tragedy.



# Paris AI Action Summit 2025: From Data to Development

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly reshaping societies around the globe, but its transformative potential remains inaccessible to many, particularly in developing nations. While wealthy countries harness vast datasets to spur technological progress, many others grapple with fragmented, unreliable, or inaccessible data. Without equitable access to high-quality, local data, the benefits of AI for development remain largely untapped. This is not just a technological issue but a critical development challenge.

The Paris AI Action Summit, held with the aim of supporting AI development in the interests of all, including developing countries, represents a step toward addressing this gap. One of the key discussions at the summit will focus on ensuring that AI innovations are accessible to all, with a particular focus on democratizing access to data.

Data is the backbone of AI development, and its importance cannot be overstated. Data-driven solutions have the potential to address complex societal challenges. For example, the Bermuda Principle's data-sharing arrangements in the 1990s, as part of the American Human Genome Project, revolutionized vaccine development. In a similar vein, the rapid creation of COVID-19 vaccines was facilitated by transparent and real-time data sharing. Locally accessible, contextually relevant data can drastically improve living standards, as seen in London's Transport for London (TfL) system, where making non-public data publicly available fostered the creation of over 600 services benefiting millions of residents.

However, in developing countries, barriers like limited computing infrastructure, lack of skilled talent, and inadequate funding prevent AI from reaching



its full potential. A critical issue is the lack of usable, local data for AI development. This challenge is compounded by underdeveloped data governance frameworks, which hinder the creation of policies that protect citizens' data while fostering innovation. These nations must balance the desire to participate in global AI development with the need to maintain control over their data resources and ensure digital sovereignty.

International dialogues such as the Paris AI Action Summit are vital to overcoming these barriers. With non-standardized systems for cross-border data sharing, countries are often isolated in their AI efforts, limiting collaborative opportunities. Developing regions still struggle to access quality datasets suited to their local needs, which exacerbates global in-

equalities in AI. India's approach to leveraging technology for development offers valuable insights for other emerging economies. With initiatives like the Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), India has made significant strides in financial inclusion and technology-driven growth. Prime Minister Modi's participation in the Paris AI Summit could steer global discussions toward inclusive and equitable AI-driven progress.

The Paris AI Action Summit 2025 presents an opportunity to cast AI as a tool for equitable, inclusive, and effective global development. By prioritizing collaborative policies and data democratization, the summit can help bridge the AI divide, ensuring that no region is left behind in the race for AI innovation.



## Can Gautam Gambhir Silence His Critics as India's Head Coach?

Being the head coach of the Indian cricket team is no easy feat. The immense pressure to deliver results, especially in the face of fierce scrutiny, makes the role incredibly challenging. Gautam Gambhir, a veteran with a rich cricketing legacy, is now in that hot seat. Having played a key role in India's World Cup victories and led the Kolkata Knight Riders to three IPL titles, Gambhir took over the reins as head coach with high expectations. However, his journey has been anything but smooth.

Gambhir's appointment as India's head coach was met with skepticism. Critics questioned his lack of coaching experience, drawing a sharp distinction between mentoring an IPL team and managing an international squad. The pressure grew when India faced disappointing defeats, including a historic loss to Sri Lanka in a bilateral ODI series and a whitewash in a home Test series. The critics were quick to blame Gambhir, doubting whether he was the right man for the job.

However, it's essential to understand that coaching an international team involves a different set of challenges than playing for one. A top-level athlete's individual approach to the game, honed over years, doesn't change overnight just because they transition to a coaching role. Gambhir, known for his no-nonsense attitude as a player, has carried this persona into his coaching role. While it has ruffled some feathers, it's this very tenacity that has allowed him to handle the pressure.

Gambhir's tenure has been marked by a rough start. Taking over after the high of India's T20 World Cup victory, he inherited a team with its own set of expectations, following the leadership of Rahul Dravid. His early challenges were inevitable. Critics began to point fingers when results didn't match the standards set by his predecessors. However, it's important to note that Gambhir has had less than seven months to settle into the role, a brief period to adapt to new dynamics and refine his strategies.

Recent successes, like the 4-1 T20 series win against England and a commanding 2-0 lead in the ongoing ODI series, have given Gambhir some breathing room. These victories have quieted critics for now, but the real test lies ahead, with the Champions Trophy looming large.

The ODI format, where India has seen solid results, is of particular importance as the team prepares for the upcoming Champions Trophy. Success in this format has proven vital, with players like Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill finding form, and Ravindra Jadeja's confidence surging after his stellar domestic performance. Gambhir's emphasis on a high-risk, high-reward approach in T20s seems to be slowly filtering into the ODI setup.

Despite the recent improvements, challenges persist. India's Test team still needs attention, especially with a five-Test series in England later this year. Gambhir will need to work on finding the right balance and ensuring that players like Virat Kohli return to form. The ongoing issue with KL Rahul's form and Jasprit Bumrah's fitness will also need careful consideration.

Ultimately, the only way to silence the critics is through consistent success, particularly in ICC tournaments. If Gambhir can lead India to an ICC title, even the harshest critics will be forced to acknowledge his efforts.

## How To Reproduce With Two Fathers - And No Biological Mother

In March 2023, Japanese researcher Katsumi Hayashi made a groundbreaking announcement at the Third International Summit on Human Genome Editing. Hayashi revealed that he had successfully reproduced mice using two male parents. This achievement was the result of his development of a complex method that transformed male pluripotent stem cells into female-like stem cells, enabling the production of eggs from male cells. His work was published in *Nature*, marking a significant milestone in genetic research.



field of genetics.

Almost two years later, a team of Chinese researchers led by Zhi-kun Li, Wei Li, and Qi Zhou of the Chinese Academy of Sciences built upon Hayashi's findings, but with a unique twist. Their procedure also produced a baby mouse from two males, but it eliminated the need for maternal biological involvement beyond gestation. Their work, published in *Cell Stem Cell*, has once again shaken the

The new procedure focuses on overcoming genetic imprinting, a mammalian control system that prevents the combination of two same-sex gametes (sperm or eggs) from resulting in a viable em-

bryo. In mammals, embryos must derive genetic material from both a male and a female to survive, as certain genes are only expressed when inherited from a specific parent. The Chinese team used CRISPR gene-editing tools to deactivate this imprinting barrier, allowing sperm cells to behave like egg cells, making it possible to combine two sperm to create a viable embryo. This embryo was then gestated by a female mouse, and the resulting mice were derived entirely from two male parents.

However, there are still significant challenges with this method. The mice produced through this process are infertile and can only reproduce via cloning. Furthermore, over half of the mice born to two fathers either fail to survive, die prematurely, or do not mature properly. Previous research from this team showed that mice born from two mothers had a higher survival rate, which suggests that the process is far from perfected.

## India's AI Moment: The Race To Catch Up With China And The US

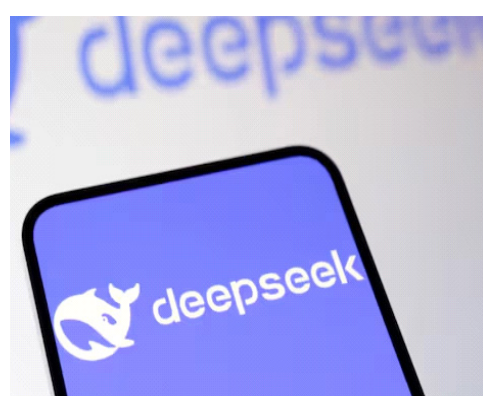
In 2023, OpenAI's CEO, Sam Altman, made a bold statement, claiming it was "totally hopeless to compete with us on training foundation models" for any small team with just \$10 million. However, just two years later, that assertion has been proven wrong. The rise of China's DeepSeek, which trained an open-source large language model (LLM) for just \$5.6 million, has shattered the notion that only deep-pocketed companies can develop cutting-edge AI models. This breakthrough came despite the U.S.'s stringent restrictions on chip exports, signaling that necessity and innovation can overcome even geopolitical obstacles.

**This raises an important question: if China can do it, why can't India? India's AI Awakening**

India, a nation that has long been a sleeping giant in AI, is now starting to awaken. The Indian government has recognized AI's strategic importance and launched the IndiaAI Mission in March 2024, with a budget of Rs 10,371 crore (\$1.2 billion). This initiative, coupled with significant increases in AI funding and the establishment of Centres of Excellence, underscores the government's commitment to AI development. In fact, IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw recently announced that the government is collaborating with at least six developers to build India's first indigenous LLM.

However, while financial resources are on the rise, India faces a major challenge: a talent drain.

**The Talent Drain and Research Deficit**



India has the potential for a thriving AI ecosystem, but much of its talent is working abroad, particularly in Silicon Valley. With India investing just 0.64% of its GDP in research and development (R&D), compared to China's 2.41% and the U.S.'s 3.47%, India lags behind in fostering innovation domestically. This research deficit could hinder India's

ability to keep pace with global AI advancements.

**The Role of the Private Sector**

India's private sector is stepping up to bridge the gap. Leading conglomerates like Reliance Industries, Adani Group, and Nxta are investing heavily in AI infrastructure, including supercomputers and data centres. These investments, if executed well, will be critical for India's AI ambitions.

**US GPU Restrictions: A Major Hurdle**

Despite these advancements, India faces a major challenge: U.S. restrictions on high-end GPUs, essential for training AI models. However, the Indian government is exploring ways to bypass these restrictions by facilitating access to GPUs through partnerships and the

IndiaAI Mission.

**India's Strategic Leverage**

With the geopolitical landscape shifting, India has an opportunity to use its ties with the U.S. to influence key decisions. If India can push for an end to GPU export restrictions and secure a stake in initiatives like the U.S.'s StarGate AI project, it could solidify its position as a global AI leader.

**The Bigger Picture**

AI is not just a technological pursuit—it is a geopolitical one. Nations leading in AI will define global economic and security landscapes. India cannot afford to lag behind in this race. With strategic investments, collaboration, and diplomatic maneuvering, India has the potential to become a formidable AI player.



# Need To Be Careful About AI Biases: PM Modi At AI Summit In Paris

- Modi stresses AI's role in daily life at Paris summit.
- Calls for transparent, bias-free AI and global collaboration.
- Emphasizes AI-driven innovation in healthcare, education, and jobs.

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a global Artificial Intelligence summit in Paris today, emphasizing the transformative role AI is playing in daily human life. Speaking to a gathering of world leaders, PM Modi called for collective global efforts to harness AI's potential, particularly focusing on the need for inclusivity, transparency, and addressing biases in AI systems.

"We must pool our resources and talent to develop open-source systems that foster trust and transparency while ensuring the creation of quality datasets free from biases," PM Modi stated. He stressed that AI applications must be people-centric, ensuring that they serve the global population equitably, especially the Global South. The Prime Minister also raised concerns about the risks posed by AI, including cybersecurity issues, disinformation, and deep fakes, calling for urgent solutions to mitigate these challenges.

PM Modi also highlighted the potential of AI to revolutionize sectors like healthcare, education, and agriculture, suggesting that AI could accelerate progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. "AI can help transform millions of lives," he said, noting that its application could make the path to sustainable development faster and more efficient.



Addressing concerns about AI-induced job loss, the Prime Minister assured that technological advancements do not equate to the disappearance of work. "The nature of jobs changes with time, and new types of jobs are created," he explained. To ensure the workforce is prepared for an AI-driven future, PM Modi emphasized the importance of investing in skilling and re-skilling programs to equip people with the necessary tools for emerging job markets.

The Prime Minister also acknowledged the

high energy demands of AI systems, underscoring the need for green energy solutions to fuel AI's future. "We must scrutinize the high-energy intensity of AI and explore sustainable power options," he added.

PM Modi, co-chairing the AI Action Summit alongside French President Emmanuel Macron, used the platform to advocate for a global approach to AI development that benefits all and minimizes risks, ensuring technology remains a force for good in the world.



## Deepika Padukone Talks About Mental Health On 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' 2025

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The second episode of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha 2025', set to air on Wednesday, promises an insightful discussion on mental health and well-being, featuring Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone. Known for her candidness about mental health struggles, Deepika will engage with students, focusing on the importance of mental well-being, particularly in the context of education.

In a video preview shared by the actress, she responds to a student's question about ways to improve mental health. Deepika emphasized the importance of expressing one's feelings rather than suppressing them, encouraging students to share their thoughts with family and friends. "Always express, never suppress. Be it with anybody," she advised.

During the episode, Deepika will also open up about her personal battle with depression, shedding light on her journey and the significance of mental health awareness. "I want to thank our Prime Minister Narendra Modi for giving us this platform to come out as warriors, not worriers," she said, expressing gratitude for the opportunity to speak on such an important issue.

The 39-year-old actress has been an advocate for mental health, using her platform to encourage open conversations about mental well-being. Her candid admission about her struggles has inspired many, making her an influential voice in promoting mental health awareness.

In a post on Instagram, Deepika shared her excitement for the upcoming episode: "Pariksha Pe Charcha' is back with its 8th edition! And this time, we'll also be discussing the importance of mental health. Thank you, Honourable Prime Minister @narendramodi, for your commitment to this cause. I look forward to launching our episode... #PPC2025."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiative, 'Pariksha Pe Charcha', provides a platform for students and educators to discuss relevant issues, including education, stress, and mental health, fostering a supportive environment for young people across the country.



## India-Indonesia business ties get fresh boost with Prabowo visit

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

During the State Visit of Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto to India from January 24-27, 2025, a series of business meetings, government-to-government interactions, and industry-level talks were held, fostering stronger trade and investment ties between the two nations. The visit marked a significant step towards deepening economic collaboration, with new initiatives aimed at boosting bilateral trade and enhancing mutual investment opportunities.

The President's entourage included over 100 delegates from the Indonesian National Chamber of Trade and Industry (KADIN), all of whom were keen to strengthen Indonesia's economic relationship with India. These meetings focused on fostering deeper business connections and exploring new avenues for trade across various sectors. The discussions encompassed industries such as manufacturing, infrastructure, agriculture, and renewable energy, aiming to identify opportunities for cross-border investments and partnerships. During the visit, both nations expressed a shared commitment to advancing their trade relations, leveraging India's growing market and Indonesia's strategic position as a key player in Southeast Asia. The discussions also focused on overcoming trade barriers and creating a more conducive environment for long-term economic growth.

In addition to formal talks, the visit included networking events, workshops, and roundtable discussions that provided a platform for businesses from both countries to explore potential collaborations. As a result, new avenues of cooperation in areas like digital economy, health, and sustainable development were identified, paving the way for stronger economic ties moving forward. This visit is expected to result in significant improvements in India-Indonesia trade relations, with the possibility of future trade agreements and expanded cooperation in various sectors. Both governments expressed their enthusiasm for strengthening their partnership and ensuring that the momentum generated during the visit leads to tangible benefits for businesses and industries in both countries.



## Sundar Pichai Advocates for Global AI Regulation at AI Action Summit 2025

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Google CEO Sundar Pichai called for balanced regulations to address the risks associated with Artificial Intelligence (AI) while ensuring the continued innovation and positive impact of the technology. Pichai made these remarks on the first day of the AI Action Summit in Paris, France, where global leaders and tech experts are gathered to discuss the future of AI.

In his speech, Pichai emphasized the need for a global AI regulatory framework that is aligned across nations. He highlighted the importance of drawing from existing laws to fill in regulatory gaps, rather than creating entirely new laws from scratch. "It's essential to develop regulations that are not overly restrictive, allowing AI to continue driving progress while addressing the risks it may pose," he said.

Pichai's comments come at a time when AI technology is evolving rapidly and raising concerns regarding its potential misuse, including issues of bias, privacy, and job displacement. While acknowledging these concerns, Pichai urged policymakers to strike a balance between regulation and innovation. He stressed that an international approach would ensure consistency across borders and help prevent fragmented rules that could stifle technological advancements.

The Google CEO also discussed the transformative potential of AI across industries, including healthcare, education, and climate change. He urged governments to foster collaboration with the private sector to develop AI technologies that can contribute positively to global challenges.

The AI Action Summit aims to bring together leaders to discuss AI's future role in society, its ethical implications, and how it can be harnessed for the greater good. Pichai's speech marked a key moment in the ongoing global dialogue on how best to regulate and harness the potential of AI in a responsible and sustainable way.

## J&K Legislative Assembly Holds First Full Session After Seven Years

TPN Correspondent | Jammu

The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly has convened its first full session after a seven-year hiatus, with a significant turnout from the 90 Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs). A total of 82 MLAs have submitted nearly 800 questions and 80 private members' bills, demonstrating active participation and a strong desire to address critical issues.

This session marks a significant shift in the legislative process, as the introduction of bills is now subject to approval by the Law Department—a procedural change brought about following the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories (UTs) in 2019. Previously, such a requirement did not exist when the region functioned as a state.

The decision to hold a comprehensive session is seen as a much-needed platform for MLAs to introduce reforms, engage with the concerns of their constituencies, and address pressing issues. As part of the session, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly had instructed each MLA to submit 20 questions—10 in starred and 10 in unstarred categories—along with three private member's bills by February 10. Notably, all eligible legislators have complied with this requirement, reflecting a commitment to active participation and governance. However, since the reorganization of Jammu and Kashmir in 2019, there have been changes in the scope of legislative discussions. MLAs are no longer permitted to raise questions about the Police Department, anti-militancy operations, law and order, or All India Services, as these fall under the jurisdiction of the central government.



## Welcome to Paris, my friend: Emmanuel Macron welcomes PM Modi ahead of AI Summit

- Modi welcomed in Paris for AI Action Summit with Macron.
- Indian diaspora celebrates, requests cultural center in France.
- Modi, Macron to inaugurate India's first Marseille consulate.

TPN Correspondent | France

French President Emmanuel Macron warmly welcomed Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Paris, expressing excitement for the upcoming AI Action Summit, which the two leaders are set to co-chair. Macron also extended a greeting to US Vice President JD Vance, who will be attending the summit alongside global tech leaders. Sharing the moment on social media, Macron wrote, "Welcome to Paris, my friend @ NarendraModi! Nice to meet you dear @VP Vance! Welcome to all our partners for the AI Action Summit. Let's get to work!"

Upon arrival in Paris, PM Modi was greeted enthusiastically by members of the Indian diaspora, with some even singing 'Hare Krishna' in celebration. One member of the community shared their joy, stating, "Today is my birthday, it's a big day for me and he (PM Modi) blessed me." Another expressed pride in the Prime Minister's visit, noting the importance of the AI summit and the



opening of a new consulate. The communi-

ty also made a request for a cultural center to be established in the city.

The visit is significant not only for the AI summit but also for the deepening India-France strategic ties. Modi and Macron will discuss key advancements in AI for societal benefit, and jointly inaugurate India's first consulate in Marseille, marking a key diplomatic milestone. The two leaders will also review the Horizon 2047 Roadmap, which focuses on long-term cooperation in various sectors.

During his stay, PM Modi will travel to Marseille with Macron to visit the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER), a major nuclear fusion research initiative. Additionally, he will pay tribute to Indian soldiers who lost their lives during the World Wars by visiting the Mazargues War Cemetery. Following his visit to France, PM Modi will travel to the United States for a two-day visit at the invitation of President Donald Trump.



## Bangladesh govt aims to hold polls by December: Ex-PM Khaleda Zia

TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

Bangladesh is working towards holding its general elections by December, according to the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) following a meeting with Muhammad Yunus, the chief adviser to the interim government. Yunus, the Nobel Peace laureate, has been leading the caretaker government since August, when mass protests forced then-Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to resign and seek refuge in neighboring India.

The BNP, led by former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, and Hasina's Awami League have alternated in power for most of the past three decades, marking a longstanding rivalry between the two political parties. Despite the ongoing political turbulence, there is growing anticipation for the upcoming elections as both major parties prepare for what could be a contentious battle for power.

In a statement following the meeting, a BNP official revealed that the party had once again pressed Yunus on the timeline for the elections. Yunus reassured them that efforts were underway to ensure the elections are held by December. The caretaker government, which is tasked with overseeing the election process, has been working to stabilize the country and maintain order during this transitional period.

The announcement comes amid increasing pressure from the political opposition to ensure free and fair elections, with the BNP seeking guarantees from the interim government. The opposition party has expressed concerns over the potential for election manipulation under Hasina's rule and is pushing for reforms to ensure the integrity of the election process.

As Bangladesh heads towards the critical December deadline, the country is bracing for heightened political activity, with both the Awami League and BNP gearing up for what promises to be a high-stakes election.



## Be Psychologically Prepared For Terror Attack: Singapore Minister Warns People

TPN Correspondent | Singapore

Singapore's Law and Home Affairs Minister, K Shanmugam, issued a stark warning on Tuesday, urging the public to mentally prepare for a possible terror incident, as the city-state has seen a rise in radicalized individuals. The minister highlighted recent cases where a teenager, a housewife, and a cleaner were detained under the Internal Security Act (ISA) for their extremist plans.

Speaking at the Sri Thendayuthapani Temple during the Thaipusam 2025 celebrations, Shanmugam referenced a disturbing case involving an 18-year-old student who had been arrested for promoting far-right extremist ideologies. The student, who had been consuming racist and far-right propaganda, idolized the Australian white supremacist responsible for the 2019 Christchurch mosque attacks. He had plans to attack Muslims at a mosque in Singapore and had even gotten tattoos and T-shirts featuring neo-Nazi and far-right symbols.

The Internal Security Department (ISD) detained the student in December 2024. Additionally, Shanmugam noted that a housewife and a cleaner were also targeted for their support of Islamist militant groups. The housewife, a Singaporean Muslim, had been managing social media groups that supported terrorist organizations. Meanwhile, the Malaysian cleaner was arrested in November 2024 and repatriated to Malaysia.

Shanmugam emphasized that while Singapore's authorities have been proactive in combating radicalization, the increasing number of cases signals that the threat is growing. He reassured that ISD's swift actions had prevented many potential threats, but warned that Singaporeans must remain psychologically prepared. "It's not like in other countries.

## Ukraine May Be Russian Someday: Trump Ahead Of Zelensky-Vance Meeting

TPN Correspondent | Washington DC

US President Donald Trump has sparked controversy by suggesting that Ukraine "may be Russian someday," signaling a potential shift in American policy toward Moscow. His remarks came just days before his vice president, JD Vance, was scheduled to meet with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. The comments also come nearly three years after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, as Russian forces continue to make steady progress on the battlefield, while Kyiv struggles with shortages of soldiers and weapons.

In an interview with Fox News, Trump discussed the ongoing conflict, saying, "They (Ukraine) may make a deal. They may not make a deal. They may be Russian someday, or they may not be Russian someday." Trump also expressed a desire for the US to secure a return on the financial aid sent to Ukraine, suggesting the possibility of brokering a trade deal for Ukraine's natural resources, such as rare earth minerals. He claimed that Ukraine had essentially agreed to provide the US with \$500 billion worth of these resources.

Ukrainian officials have previously shown interest in partnering with the US and oth-



er allies for resource extraction in exchange for security guarantees, though no specifics have been disclosed regarding such an arrangement. Meanwhile, Zelenskyy has insisted on tough security guarantees from the West, fearing that any agreement without military commitments—such as NATO membership or peacekeeping forces—would allow Russia to regroup for another attack.

As part of his efforts to end the war, Trump

revealed plans to send his special envoy, Keith Kellogg, to Ukraine on February 20, just days before the third anniversary of Russia's invasion. Kellogg is tasked with drafting a proposal to halt the conflict, though Trump has not yet outlined a clear strategy to bring both sides to the negotiating table. Despite his push for peace, both Zelenskyy and Russian President Vladimir Putin have previously ruled out direct negotiations, with significant barriers remaining between the two sides.

## Pakistan: Imran Khan requests court to conduct open hearing of his cases

TPN Correspondent | Islamabad

Former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has formally requested that his legal cases be heard in an open court, filing a petition with the Islamabad High Court. In the petition, Khan claimed that several "false" cases had been filed against him and that his trial was being conducted in a "controlled" environment at Adiala Jail. He argues that the trial in prison violated both legal procedures and the Constitution of Pakistan.

Since his arrest in 2023, Imran Khan, the founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), has not been presented in an open court. His trials have instead been conducted in makeshift courts set up within the jail. The petition highlights concerns about the lack of transparency in the proceedings, with Khan's legal team facing harassment and restricted access. It also states that the jail administration has not allowed international media to cover the trial, with only a few selected reporters permitted to attend. Additionally, the media was instructed not to use Khan's



name but to refer to him only as the "PTI founder."

In the petition, Khan's legal team urged the Islamabad High Court to issue an order for an open trial to ensure fairness and transparency, as guaranteed under Pakistan's Constitution. Khan's legal representatives

argued that conducting the trial in such a restricted manner violated his fundamental rights, including the right to a fair trial and the right to public and media scrutiny of legal proceedings. Meanwhile, Imran Khan's sister, Aleema Khan, revealed that her brother would write a third letter to Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, General Asim Munir, next week. This follows two previous letters that Khan had sent to General Munir, which were shared with the media. The military establishment, however, has denied receiving any communication from Khan. Imran Khan's petition and his ongoing attempts to secure a fair trial have sparked widespread attention in Pakistan, raising concerns about the integrity of his legal proceedings and the state of justice in the country.



# Domestic stock markets are reeling under Donald Trump's blow

*They fell sharply for the second consecutive day.*



Negative sentiment prevailed after Trump said that he would impose 25% tariffs on aluminum and steel imports. In addition, equity shares crashed due to the sharp fall in the rupee, the rise in the value of the dollar, and the rise in bond yields. Mid and small cap indices fell by 2-3 percent. Investors lost wealth worth Rs 10 lakh crore as Nifty 350 and Sensex fell by 1100 points intraday.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 77,311 in the previous session, opened at 77,384 on Tuesday. It touched an intraday low at 76,030. It reached an intraday high at 77,387. It ended at 76,293, down 1,018 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,383, touched a low of 22,986 and a high of 23,390. It closed at 23,071, down 309 points. The Nifty Bank fell 577 points to settle at 49,403. Markets Plunge as Trump's Tariff Shock and Rupee Weak-

ness Trigger Heavy Sell-Off

Six companies gained and 44 lost in the Nifty50. Auto, Media, PSU Bank, Realty, Healthcare, Consumer Durables, Oil and Gas indices fell by 2-3%. Adani Enterprises, Grasim, Trent, Airtel, Britannia were the top gainers. Eicher, Apollo Hospitals, Shriram Fin, CoalIndia, BEL were the top losers.

Today, the market breadth in NSE has completely shifted in favor of sellers. Out of a total of 2918 shares traded, only 326 gained. 2532 lost. Shares of 18 companies reached 52-week highs. 407 shares reached 52-week lows.

Birla Soft's net profit in the third quarter fell 27% to Rs 116 crore from Rs 161 crore. IRCTC's net profit increased by 13.7% to Rs 341 crore from Rs 300 crore. Indo Count's net profit increased by 30%

to Rs 75.5 crore from Rs 58 crore. The rupee strengthened by 65 paise against the dollar and settled at Rs 86.83. Canara Bank reduced its one-month MCLR rate by 10 basis points. Morgan Stanley has given an overweight rating to Apollo Hospitals with a target price of Rs 8,159. Procter & Gamble's net profit rose 18% to Rs 364 crore from Rs 308 crore. Devyani International shares fell 5% on the decline in profit. BLS's net profit rose 43% to Rs 121 crore from Rs 84 crore. Campus Activewear's net profit rose 86% to Rs 46.5 crore from Rs 25 crore. Jefferies has given a buy rating to Grasim Industries with a target price of Rs 3150. Raymond Lifestyle MD and CEO Sunil Katharia has resigned. Bajaj Group shares rose today. Adani shares rose. IIFL Finance's Q3 profit fell 22.7%. HSBC has given a buy rating to Rainbow Medicare with a target price of Rs. 1720.

## Patanjali Foods See 71% Jump In Q3 Profit On Cooking Oil Boost



Indian consumer goods manufacturer Patanjali Foods posted a 71% increase in its third-quarter profit on Monday, bolstered by robust demand for its flagship cooking oils. The maker of Ruchi Gold oil reported a profit of 3.71 billion rupees (\$42.4 million) for the three months ending December 31, up from 2.17 billion rupees in the same period last year.

The demand for edible oils, an essential item in Indian households, has remained strong despite the broader challenges posed by inflation. Consumers, who have been avoiding branded goods due to price hikes, continued to purchase cooking oils, even as manufacturers raised prices to offset the rising cost of raw materials.

Patanjali's revenue from its edible oils segment, which accounts for almost three-fourths of the company's total revenue, saw a growth of 22.5% during the quarter. This

surge helped drive a 15% increase in overall revenue, which reached 91.03 billion rupees.

However, not all of Patanjali Foods' segments performed well. Revenue from its food and fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) segment dropped 18%, reflecting weaker demand in the category. The company's expenses also rose by 13%, largely due to a hike in import taxes on crude and refined edible oils that came into effect in mid-September. This increase in input costs had a significant impact on the company's profitability.

Despite the challenges in certain sectors, Patanjali Foods' strong performance in the edible oils market highlights its resilience and the ongoing demand for essential consumer goods, particularly in a climate of inflation. The company's focus on this key segment has provided a solid foundation for growth during the quarter.

## 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.

## Tea trade bodies push for minimum sustainable price and 100% auction of teas

In a significant development for the Indian tea industry, major tea trade bodies have announced plans to implement a minimum sustainable price for teas, alongside a proposal for 100 percent auction of all teas. This decision aims to ensure better profitability and sustainability for tea producers, especially small tea growers, across the country.

An interactive session was held today in Kolkata, bringing together stakeholders from the organized tea sector and small tea growers from both North and South India. The event provided a platform for dialogue on the challenges and opportunities within the tea industry, with a focus on sustainable growth strategies for the future. Key topics of discussion included improving quality control, optimizing production processes, and ensuring fair pricing mechanisms that benefit all players in the supply chain.

The proposal for a minimum sustainable price comes at a crucial time when the tea industry is grappling with fluctuating market prices, increased production costs, and competition from global markets. By establishing a baseline price, trade bodies hope to provide a more stable income for small tea growers, who often face financial instability due to market volatility.



The move is expected to help safeguard the livelihoods of farmers and ensure the continued production of high-quality tea.

Additionally, the push for 100 percent auctioning of teas aims to increase transparency and fairness in the trade process. Auction systems have long been seen as an effective way to determine market-driven prices, and this approach is intended to create a more competitive and equitable environment for all tea produc-

ers, big and small.

The event in Kolkata marked a critical step towards improving collaboration between different sectors of the tea industry. It highlighted the need for collective action to address issues such as price instability and access to markets, while also emphasizing the importance of sustainable practices in ensuring the long-term health of the tea industry in India.

## SEBI Bars LS Industries and Promoter for Stock Price Manipulation

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has imposed a ban on LS Industries Ltd., its promoter Profound Finance, and four other entities from participating in the securities market, following an investigation into stock price manipulation. The regulator's attention was drawn by an article published on the NDTV Profit website on February 3, which highlighted the inexplicable valuation of LS Industries at Rs 5,500 crore despite having almost negligible revenue.

SEBI's investigation followed concerns regarding the company's inflated market value, raising ques-

tions about the authenticity of the stock's trading activity and the role of various entities involved in the manipulation. The regulator's actions aim to safeguard market integrity and protect investors from potentially harmful practices. The regulatory body's decision has sent a strong message to the market, reinforcing its commitment to ensuring transparency and fairness in trading practices. The case underscores the importance of scrutiny around corporate valuations and the need for regulatory oversight to prevent stock market manipulation.





## When It Rained Meat: The Bizarre Kentucky Meat Shower Of 1876



Imagine taking a peaceful stroll one morning, only for chunks of meat to suddenly rain down from the sky. This bizarre occurrence took place on March 3, 1876, in Bath County, Kentucky, leaving residents utterly confused and intrigued. Known as the Kentucky Meat Shower, this strange phenomenon has puzzled historians and scientists for generations, sparking numerous theories about its origins. The event unfolded between 11 am and afternoon when local resident Mary Crouch was outside making soap near Olympia Springs. She was stunned to witness what can only be described as a “meat storm,” with pieces of meat falling over an area roughly 100 by 50 yards.

The meat varied in size, with some chunks measuring 5 cm<sup>2</sup> and others up to 10 cm<sup>2</sup>. Locals quickly gathered to inspect the mysterious shower. Among them was Harrison Gill, who noted that the meat had landed on fences and the ground, appearing fresh enough to spark curiosity. In a remarkable display of frontier daring, some brave individuals even sampled the strange meat, with reports describing it as tasting like venison or mutton. As the unusual event made its way into the news, various theories were proposed about the meat’s origin. Some suggested it was noster, a gelatinous substance produced by cyanobacteria that can resemble meat during rainfall.

Others ventured more outlandish theories, even invoking divine intervention. However, the most plausible explanation came from LD Kastenbine, who theorized that vultures, known for their habit of vomiting their meals when startled, might have been the source. As the birds flew overhead, they could have ejected their partially-digested meal, which fell to the ground below. Despite some confusion, a piece of the “meat” is preserved at Transylvania University in Lexington, adding to the mystery. Though the exact nature of the Kentucky Meat Shower remains unclear, it stands as a strange reminder of the unexpected wonders and oddities nature can throw our way.

## “Kurchi Madathapetti” Conquers Global Music Charts



Apple has rolled out an urgent security update, iOS 18.3.1, just one week after the release of the major iOS 18.3 update. The new patch addresses critical security vulnerabilities found in Apple iPhones, highlighting the company’s ongoing efforts to keep devices secure and protect user privacy. For users already running iOS 18.3, the iOS 18.3.1 update is about 450 MB in size. It specifically targets a newly discovered zero-day exploit, which could have allowed unauthorized access to iPhones, including potentially enabling law enforcement to unlock devices. This vulnerability posed a significant security risk, as it could have allowed unauthorized parties to bypass iPhone security measures, jeopardizing user data and privacy. Apple has emphasized the importance of installing this update as soon as possible to mitigate the risks associated with these vulnerabilities. As part of its commitment to security,

Apple regularly releases patches like iOS 18.3.1 to address newly discovered threats and bolster device protection. Users are encouraged to download and install the update promptly by going to **\*\*Settings > General > Software Update\*\***. Those who haven’t yet updated to iOS 18.3 can apply this critical update directly, which will include all the security fixes in the previous update as well. While Apple doesn’t typically release details about specific vulnerabilities, the rapid rollout of iOS 18.3.1 underscores the severity of this security concern. With the growing sophistication of cyberattacks and exploits, keeping software up-to-date is essential to maintaining the security and integrity of devices. By quickly addressing vulnerabilities like the one patched in iOS 18.3.1, Apple continues to reinforce its commitment to user safety, ensuring that iPhones remain protected from emerging threats.

## : Elephant Family Gives ‘Z Class Security’ To Calf In Anamalai Tiger Reserve



Supriya Sahu, the Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu, recently shared a touching moment from the Anamalai Tiger Reserve. In a post that has since captured the hearts of many, she observed a peaceful elephant family and highlighted their protective nature towards their baby elephant, drawing an endearing comparison to ‘Class Z’ security. Sahu, who heads the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests, noted how the elephant family slept peacefully in the deep jungles of the reserve. “Observe how the baby elephant is given Z class security by the family,” she remarked, pointing out how the young elephant sought reassurance from its family members. Her post reflected the similar dynamics often seen in human families, where the young find comfort and safety in the presence of loved ones. The touching scene was captured by wildlife photographer Dhanu Paran in a brief 15-second video,

which shows the bond within the elephant family. The video features a parent elephant, a young one, and three calves, including a newborn, peacefully resting together. Supriya Sahu’s post, along with the video, quickly garnered attention on social media, with many users expressing their admiration for the beauty of the moment. One user wrote, “Wonderful and rare sight to see such beautiful things. Amazing..Thanks for showing us while another commented, “Love is the binding force amongst all beings in the world, which humans are moving away from!” The video not only highlighted the loving family dynamics of elephants but also sparked reflections on the importance of preserving such moments of peace in nature. This heartwarming display from the Anamalai Tiger Reserve serves as a reminder of the deep emotional bonds that animals, too, share within their families, resonating with people on a universal level.

## Cobra In Amazon Package: Bengaluru Couple Shocked To Find Venomous Snake In Parcel

In an unexpected and alarming turn of events, a Bengaluru couple received a shocking surprise with their latest Amazon delivery. What was meant to be a simple package containing an Xbox controller turned out to have an entirely different kind of guest— a dangerous spectacled cobra. The family, residing on Sarjapur Road, eagerly awaited their package, expecting to find their gaming accessory inside. However, their excitement quickly transformed into fear when they opened the package and noticed a venomous snake attached to the packaging tape. The spectacled cobra, also known as the Indian cobra (*Naja naja*), is a highly venomous species commonly found across the Indian subcontinent. Its venom is a powerful neurotoxin that can cause severe respiratory paralysis, potentially leading to death if not treated immediately. This species is known for its iconic hood and is a symbol of cultural importance in Hindu mythology, often depicted in religious art and folklore. While once used by snake charmers, this practice is now illegal in India due to concerns about animal welfare. Fortunately, the family remained unharmed, but the discovery highlights the unpredictable nature of deliveries and the potential risks associated with them. It’s unclear how the snake made its way into the package, but experts suggest that it may have entered the parcel while it was in transit or during the packaging process. This incident serves as a stark reminder of the unusual oc-



currences that can sometimes accompany online shopping. While it’s highly unlikely to encounter such a scenario regularly, it’s always important for consumers to carefully inspect their deliveries upon receipt.

## Japanese Influencer After Eating 600 Fried Chickens And 100 Burgers In One Go

Yuka Kinoshita, Japan’s reigning mukbang queen, has announced her retirement from competitive eating, leaving a significant void in the world of food consumption videos. Known for her ability to devour massive quantities of food, Kinoshita has garnered a dedicated following of 5.2 million subscribers on YouTube. However, after years of entertaining fans with her food challenges, she revealed that health concerns and the toll of constant eating have led her to step away from the spotlight. In a heartfelt video, Kinoshita explained the decision, citing both her health and age as major factors. “Well, I am retiring from eating a lot,” she said in the video, which was shared with her followers in both Japanese and English translations. “I will turn 40 on February 4 and I have been feeling tired from eating a lot. It’s hard for me to continue working as a big eater. My health has deteriorated over the years, and I now



find it difficult to continue at the pace I once did.” Kinoshita further elaborated on how she no longer felt capable of eating at the same extreme levels, revealing that even when she wasn’t full, the act of eating left her exhausted. “It is no problem to eat like a normal person, but I will feel tired even when I am not full,” she shared. The announcement follows a seven-month hiatus she had taken from content creation due to a bipolar affective disorder,

highlighting the significant physical and mental toll that her eating challenges had taken on her. Her fans have flooded social media with messages of support, expressing their sadness at her departure while also thanking her for the years of entertainment she provided. Kinoshita’s decision to retire marks the end of an era in the mukbang community, but she remains an iconic figure for those who enjoyed her entertaining feats of food consumption.





## Jasprit Bumrah Ruled Out of ICC Champions Trophy 2025, Harshit Rana and Varun Chakravarthy Named as Replacements



Jasprit Bumrah has been officially ruled out of India's squad for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 due to a persistent lower back injury, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) confirmed late Tuesday. Following his exclusion, 23-year-old pacer Harshit Rana has been named as Bumrah's replacement in the final 15-man squad. In another significant change, mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy has been included in place of young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, who was initially part of the provisional squad. India's revised squad for the tournament includes: Rohit Sharma (captain), Shubman Gill (vice-captain), Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul (WK), Rishabh Pant (WK), Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshit Rana, Mohammed Shami, Arshdeep Singh, Ravindra Jadeja, and Varun Chakravarthy. Non-traveling substitutes: Yashasvi Jaiswal, Mohammed Siraj, and Shivam Dube will travel to Dubai if required.



## Chelsea Owner Todd Boehly Acquires 49% Stake in Trent Rockets, Beats KKR and Amit Jain

Todd Boehly, co-owner of Chelsea Football Club, has acquired a 49% stake in the English cricket franchise Trent Rockets, beating Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) and Indian investor Amit Jain in the process. Boehly's real estate firm, Cain International, purchased the stake for approximately 39 million British Pounds (around Rs 420 crore), valuing the franchise at GBP 79 million. KKR, owned by Shah Rukh Khan's Red Chillies Entertainment, had been in the running to acquire the team, which would have expanded their global reach, already spanning Trinbago Knight Riders, LA Knight Riders, and Abu Dhabi Knight Riders. Boehly's acquisition further strengthens his sports portfolio, which includes ownership of Chelsea, French side RC Strasbourg, and MLB's Los Angeles Dodgers. The Trent Rockets, based in Nottingham, represent the counties of Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, and Leicestershire and won The Hundred tournament in 2022.

## Pankaj Advani Wins Indian Snooker Championship, Secures 36<sup>th</sup> National Gold

Pankaj Advani, India's most decorated snooker player, clinched his 36th overall national title and 10th men's snooker crown at the Yashwant Club. Advani demonstrated exceptional skill and determination throughout the tournament, overcoming an early setback to defeat Brijesh Damani in the final. Damani claimed the opening frame, but Advani bounced back to win the remaining frames, including a standout 84 break in the final frame to seal the championship. The tournament, which serves as the selection event for the Asian and World Championships, proved to be a turning point for Advani. After suffering a loss to Damani in the group stage, Advani's resilience was on full display as he made a stunning comeback in the round of 48, saving his tournament bid and setting the stage for his eventual victory. Advani now prepares for the Asian Snooker Championship starting February 15.



## India Chess Star Arjun Erigaisi Criticizes Ministry's Decision to Stop Cash Rewards for Grandmasters



Indian Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi has slammed the Indian sports ministry's recent decision to end cash rewards for players achieving Grandmaster (GM) and International Master (IM) titles, a move that has sparked controversy within the chess community. Previously, players received Rs 4 lakh for a GM title and Rs 1.5 lakh for an IM or International Women Master (IWM) title. The ministry now offers rewards only for winning world-level competitions. Erigaisi, who recently achieved a 2800 ELO rating and won the men's Olympiad gold in 2024, expressed that the removal of these rewards would demotivate parents, who often face financial strain supporting their children's chess careers. "Such incentives encouraged parents to back their children's pursuits in chess," he said. While Erigaisi remains focused on his chess ambitions, including qualifying for the Candidates tournament, he acknowledged that the change could affect young players' motivation.

## India to Play International Football Matches in Shillong Ahead of AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has announced that India will play two international matches in Shillong's Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium during the FIFA international window in March. This will be the first time the stadium hosts senior men's international matches since its refurbishment last year.



India will face Maldives in a friendly on March 19, as part of their preparation for the AFC Asian Cup 2027 Qualifiers Final Round. The second match will be against Bangladesh on March 25, marking India's first game in the AFC Asian Cup 2027 Qualifiers. The 15,100-seat stadium, which has hosted several domestic events like the Durand Cup and Indian Super League matches, is now set to stage international fixtures. India is placed in Group C for the AFC Asian Cup 2027 Qualifiers, alongside Hong Kong, Singapore, and Bangladesh.

## Pakistan Finalize 15-Man Squad for Champions Trophy 2025, Haris Rauf Cleared for Fitness

Pakistan has confirmed its 15-man squad for the 2025 Champions Trophy, making no last-minute changes despite widespread criticism. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) reviewed the selection after concerns about the inclusion of batter Khushdil Shah and all-rounder Faheem Ashraf. However, there will be no alterations, and the same players will represent Pakistan in the tournament.

The squad faced scrutiny for having only one specialist opener and a lone specialist spinner, Abrar Ahmed. However, captain Muhammad Rizwan defended the team, stating the emphasis would be on pace bowlers. Haris Rauf, who suffered a muscle injury in the tri-series, is expected to recover in time for the Champions Trophy opener on February 19.

The final squad for the tournament includes Mohammad Rizwan (c), Babar Azam, Fakhar Zaman, and Shaheen Shah Afridi, among others.



## Cristiano Ronaldo Agrees to Extend Contract with Al Nassr Until 2026



Cristiano Ronaldo has reached an agreement with Saudi Arabian football club Al Nassr to extend his contract until June 2026. The Portuguese star's current contract was set to end in June 2025, but the extension, though not yet signed, has been agreed upon by both parties, with an official announcement expected soon. Ronaldo, who turned 40 last week, joined Al Nassr in January 2023 and has scored 82 goals in 90 appearances since. In August, Ronaldo had expressed his intention to likely end his career with Al Nassr, where he feels happy and comfortable. Despite joining for a high-paying deal that initially raised eyebrows, Ronaldo's influence has helped attract other aging stars to the Saudi Pro League. Though he has not won a major trophy with Al Nassr yet, his performances continue to push him toward the milestone of 1,000 career goals.





## Surya Son of Krishnan to Re-release on Valentine's Day



The Tamil film *Surya Son of Krishnan*, starring Surya in a dual role alongside Simran, Sameera Reddy, and Ramya, will be re-released in Telugu on February 14, coinciding with Valentine's Day. Directed by Gautam Vasudev Menon, the film was initially released in Tamil as *Varanam Aayiram* and later dubbed into Telugu. Released in 2008, the film became a major success, particularly in Telugu-speaking regions. CLN Media Production House, the team behind the Telugu release, expressed their excitement about bringing the film back to the-

aters. They highlighted Surya's remarkable performance, Gautam Vasudev Menon's direction, and Harris Jayaraj's timeless music as the movie's key strengths. The re-release will feature over 300 shows across Telugu-speaking regions, including Karnataka and overseas, with special screenings on February 12 and 13. PVR Theatres is also hosting a "Lovers' Day Week" event. The film's enduring popularity and iconic songs continue to resonate with youth, and the production team is confident that this re-release will be a hit.

## How and Where to Buy IIFA 2025 Tickets Hosted by Shah Rukh Khan

The International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards 2025 is set to be an unforgettable event, and you can be part of the action! Scheduled for March 8th and 9th, 2025, the iconic Jaipur Exhibition and Convention Centre (JECC) in Rajasthan will host this glamorous occasion, which marks the 25th edition of the prestigious awards.

**Ticket Prices for IIFA 2025:** Ticket prices for the IIFA 2025 event range from Rs 3,000 to Rs 1.5 lakh, offering different levels of access to the star-studded event. While some categories are already sold out, there are still a few seats left, so don't miss out!

**How to Book Your Tickets:** Booking tickets is a breeze! You can head to District by Zomato's official website or visit the official IIFA website. Once there, click on the "Buy Tickets" option, which will direct you to the IIFA 2025 Jaipur ticket section. Choose your preferred seats, complete the payment, and secure your place at Bollywood's most glamorous event!

**Event Highlights:** For the first time ever, Shah Rukh Khan will co-host the event with Kartik Aaryan, alongside the charismatic Karan Johar. Get ready for electrifying performances



from Bollywood's brightest stars like Kareena Kapoor, Shahid Kapoor, Nora Fatehi, and Madhuri Dixit. So, are you ready for an evening filled with glitz, glamour, and unforgettable memories? Book your tickets now and be part of the biggest celebration in Bollywood!

## NIFFA 2025 Line-Up: Superboys of Malegaon to Open the Festival, Rome Roam Mein as Closing Night Film

The National Indian Film Festival of Australia (NIFFA) has announced an exciting lineup for its 2025 edition, set to be the biggest celebration of Indian cinema in Australia. The festival, which will run from 13 February 2025, will feature 36 Australian premieres, three world premieres, and films in various languages, many never seen in Australian theatres before.

The festival will open with the highly anticipated *Superboys of Malegaon*, a film that garnered acclaim at TIFF and BFI London. It will have its Australian premiere at the red carpet gala in Sydney, followed by events in Canberra, Gold Coast, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth, and Melbourne. The film will be released nationwide by Forum Films on 27 February 2025. The closing night film will be Tannishtha Chatterjee's directorial debut, *Rome Roam*



*Mein*, which has already received critical acclaim. Other notable films include *Wingman* by Anuj Gulati, *Parikrama* by Goutam Ghose, and the world premiere of *The Man Who Hurls News* by Ananth Mahadevan. The festival promises a diverse and engaging selection of films, marking a historic moment for Indian cinema in Australia.

## Deepika Padukone Opens Up About Her Student Life on 'Pariksha Pe Charcha'

Actor Deepika Padukone reflected on her school days during an episode of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's *Pariksha Pe Charcha* (PPC) programme. She recalled being a mischievous child, often jumping from one sofa to another. Deepika also candidly shared her struggles with mathematics, admitting that she was weak in the subject and still is.

In a clip shared by PM Modi on his official X page, Deepika highlighted the importance of mental health and well-being, which is a focal point of this year's *Pariksha Pe Charcha*. The actress, who has been vocal about her battle with clinical depression, emphasized the need for students to focus on mental wellness, especially during exams. The full episode, which features discussions on overcoming exam stress and other relevant topics, will be broadcast on February 12 at 10 am. Deepika's participation in this session aligns with her commitment to spreading awareness about mental health.



## Makers of 'Sanam Teri Kasam' Celebrate Film's Historic Box Office Return

The 2016 romantic drama *Sanam Teri Kasam*, starring Harshvardhan Rane and Mawra Hocane, has made an incredible return to the box office, emerging as the highest-earning film this past weekend. Directors Vinay Sapru and Radhika Rao have expressed immense pride and satisfaction with the film's renewed success, believing it has finally received the recognition it truly deserves.

The film was re-released on February 7, 2025, and its performance has exceeded expectations. The opening day saw earnings of Rs 4.25 crore, followed by Rs 5.25 crore on Saturday and Rs 6 crore on Sunday, bringing its opening weekend total to Rs 15.75 crore — over 170% higher than its original lifetime earnings. This remarkable box office return highlights the enduring emotional connection the film has with its audience.

Harshvardhan Rane, reflecting on his journey with the film, shared an interesting story about his casting. Despite being four months late for the auditions, he passionately begged the makers for an opportunity to audition, even offering to per-



form just for the sake of it. His persistence paid off, eventually landing him the role that would become a turning point in his career.

*Sanam Teri Kasam's* success at the box office marks an extraordinary chapter in the film's journey, proving that its emotional story and performances have found a lasting place in the hearts of viewers.

## Renu Desai Criticizes Ranveer Allahbadia Over Controversial Comments



Renu Desai recently expressed her strong disapproval of social media influencer Ranveer Allahbadia's inappropriate remarks made during an episode of *India's Got Talent*. In the episode, Ranveer posed a highly offensive question to a female contestant, asking whether she would ever witness her parents' intimate moments or participate in such acts herself. His comments were met with shock and outrage from the show's participants and viewers alike. Although Ranveer lat-

er issued an apology, the backlash continued. Renu Desai took to Instagram to criticize his behavior, warning parents to keep their children away from such influencers. She emphasized the importance of raising children responsibly and highlighted how vulgarity, disguised as "freedom of speech," is being accepted by today's youth. Her post quickly went viral, with many agreeing that her message was spot on, urging accountability from influencers and their content.