

BUZZ POINTS

CM Chandrababu, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan Launch AM Green Ammonia Plant in Kakinada, Eye Green Energy Revolution

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Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu Pays Glowing Tribute to NTR on 30th Death Anniversary

TPN Bureau | January 18

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu marked the 30th death anniversary of legendary actor-turned-politician N.T. Rama Rao (NTR) with profound reverence, hailing him as an unsailable force in both cinema and politics. In a heartfelt post on X (formerly Twitter), Naidu described NTR as the “pole star” of Telugu cinema’s vast sky and an invincible warrior on the political battlefield, whose struggles forever etched a new chapter in the history of generations.

Naidu’s tribute vividly recalled NTR’s transformative welfare initiatives that reshaped Andhra Pradesh’s socio-economic landscape. “Two rupees per kilo of rice, social security pensions, construction of pucca houses, electricity for farmers, the mandal system for local self-governance, property rights for women and children, and irrigation and drinking water projects for Rayalaseema these unprecedented welfare and development schemes changed the course of history,”



Naidu wrote.

He emphasized that NTR’s path remains a guiding light for all, urging contemporaries to follow in his footsteps. NTR, born Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao on May 28, 1923, rose from stardom in over 300 Telugu films portraying mythological icons like Rama, Krishna, and Shiva to founding the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) in

1982. In a stunning electoral debut, he swept to power in 1983, ending Congress dominance and championing Telugu pride. His populist measures, including subsidized rice and pensions for the elderly, widows, and disabled, empowered millions and laid the foundation for decentralized governance through the revolutionary mandal system.

Naidu, who served as NTR’s son-in-law and TDP successor, has often invoked his mentor’s legacy amid ongoing political rivalries with the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP). This anniversary tribute comes at a pivotal time, as Naidu’s NDA government pushes ambitious projects like the revived Amaravati cap-

ital and Polavaram irrigation, echoing NTR’s focus on farmer welfare and regional equity. Rayalaseema, long a TDP stronghold, benefits from Naidu’s renewed emphasis on water security a direct nod to NTR’s Pinnapuram and Telugu Ganga initiatives. Political analysts view the post as more than nostalgia; it’s a strategic reaffirmation of TDP’s roots. “Naidu is reminding voters of NTR’s golden era amid criticisms of current policies,” said Prof. K. Raja Reddy, a Vijayawada-based political commentator.

TDP leaders across the state organized prayer meetings, blood donation camps, and cultural programs in NTR’s honor, from Hyderabad’s NTR Ghat to rural mandal headquarters. NTR passed away on January 18, 1996, after a prolonged illness, leaving a void in Telugu politics. His grandson, Jr. NTR, continues the family legacy in cinema, while Naidu steers the state toward what he calls “NTR-style development 2.0.”

As Andhra Pradesh navigates post-bifurcation challenges, Naidu’s words resonate: NTR’s fight for Telugu self-respect endures as an eternal inspiration.



Another 5 lac Houses to be distributed on Ugadi

Chandrababu Naidu Honors NTR on 30th Death Anniversary, Vows to Uphold Telugu Pride and Welfare Schemes

TPN Bureau | January 18

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu paid glowing tributes to Telugu Desam Party (TDP) founder N.T. Rama Rao (NTR) on his 30th death anniversary at the party’s central office here, emphasizing that NTR established TDP solely to protect the self-respect of the Telugu people. Naidu recalled how NTR stood up for Telugu identity when the community faced ridicule as “Madrasi” in other parts of India.

“NTR reminded the world that the Telugu race stands united,” Naidu said, placing floral wreaths before NTR’s portrait amid chants from TDP leaders and workers. In his speech, Naidu highlighted NTR’s transformative impact on politics. Before NTR, he noted, only the uneducated entered politics; NTR prioritized educated individuals, elevating standards.

Naidu announced plans to launch 700 more Anna Canteens soon, extending the scheme to provide homes to another 500,000 families.

He affirmed the efficient implementation of the Super Six schemes despite financial hurdles. “We are fulfilling every promise,” Naidu declared. Criticizing the previous YSRCP government, Naidu accused them of pasting their leaders’ photos on ancestral lands, calling it a misuse of public property. He pointed out that 80% of complaints received statewide concern land issues.

Slamming YSRCP chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Naidu expressed outrage over claims of “credit theft,” referencing Jagan’s allegations that the TDP spent 700 crore on surveys just to affix photos on boundary stones. Naidu also addressed government employees, stating payments of pending dues ensured a “genuine Sankranti” celebra-

tion. He boasted that 25% of national investments have flowed into Andhra Pradesh, crediting the state’s progress. Turning to NTR’s legacy, Naidu credited him with securing Andhra Pradesh’s rights to Krishna Delta surplus waters and stressing responsibility to supply water to Rayalaseema. Naidu reaffirmed TDP’s full support to Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership, playing a key role nationally without compromising principles.

“We never compromise power for authority; we want the nation and state to prosper,” he said. Praising TDP workers’ loyalty, Naidu remarked, “Even if a knife is held to their throats demanding they leave TDP, our cadres would sacrifice their lives for the party.” The event underscored TDP’s commitment to NTR’s vision of Telugu self-respect, welfare, and development amid ongoing political rivalries.

Rice Husk Plates: Andhra Pradesh Innovation Turns Farm Waste into Plastic-Free Future

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Narasaraopet, Palnadu District, Andhra Pradesh: In a groundbreaking move to combat plastic pollution, a team from Kakani village near Narasaraopet has launched “Agriware,” producing biodegradable plates, glasses, and spoons from rice husks. This eco-friendly venture transforms agricultural waste once discarded as useless into sustainable alternatives, addressing both environmental hazards and health risks posed by single-use plastics.

Plastic waste lingers in soil for years, degrading land fertility and breaking down into microplastics that contaminate water sources. This disrupts microbial ecosystems, upsetting environmental balance. Worse, consuming food from plastic plates leaches toxins into meals, disrupting hormonal systems especially in children and women and

leading to digestive issues, weakened immunity, and heightened cancer risks, warn environmental experts. Despite these dangers, plastic usage surges, piling up as environmental menace.

Enter Agriware’s solution: rice husk plates. “Convenience brought plastic plates, glasses, and cups into our lives, but overuse endangers health. Microplastic particles enter our bodies via food, causing long-term issues. Our field-born answer? Rice husk plates,” says Rajyalakshmi, an M.C.A. graduate from Kakani who spearheaded the initiative. Teaming up with two partners, she aimed to employ 10 locals while building a green industry.

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) provided technical support, enabling their biodegradable product unit. Production is simple and chemical-free. A standard 12-inch plate re-



quires 100 grams of husk, scaled by size. Instead of synthetic glues, they use natural binders like tamarind seed powder and rice flour gum. Rice husks and bran by-products of milling are mixed in precise ratios, heated to 400°C, and molded into durable items. Used once and discarded, they decompose in soil within weeks, serving as fertilizer for plants without harming the earth. Agri-

ware also crafts plastic-free invitation cards using fully natural methods, skipping chemical gums and paper boards. “This is a sustainable fix to plastic pollution and related illnesses,” Rajyalakshmi adds. The venture highlights rice’s dual role: not just food, but also the plate to eat it from. Anyone can replicate this model ideal for women’s self-help groups. Setup costs

range from 50-60 lakh for machinery, demanding interest, patience, and perseverance for success. Rajyalakshmi emphasizes its accessibility for rural entrepreneurs. This innovation proves farm waste can be an environmental ally. As plastic alternatives sprout from fields, Agriware lights a hopeful path for a greener tomorrow in Andhra Pradesh and beyond.



Andhra Pradesh Assembly Deputy Speaker Invites YSRCP MLAs, Warns of Disqualification for Absenteeism

TPN Bureau | January 18, 2026

Visakhapatnam: Andhra Pradesh Assembly Deputy Speaker Raghurama Krishnam Raju made significant remarks on the upcoming Assembly sessions during a media interaction in Visakhapatnam on Sunday. He indicated that sessions are likely to commence in February, extending an open invitation to YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and his party’s MLAs to participate actively.

Raju, who visited Visakhapatnam and attended several programs, emphasized the importance of legislative attendance. He highlighted that the Ethics Committee is currently examining the issue of MLAs drawing salaries without attending sessions, underscoring the need for accountability.

Disqualification Looms for Prolonged Absences

In a firm stance on absenteeism, Raju clarified the rules under the 10th Schedule of the Constitution. “MLAs who fail to attend Assembly sessions for 60 consecutive days face disqualification,” he stated unequivocally. However, he added that a single appearance within those 60 days would suffice to main-



tain eligibility. Raju dismissed YSRCP leaders’ claims of differing atmospheres in the Legislative Council versus the Assembly.

“There is no such distinction both houses maintain the same decorum,” he asserted, urging YSRCP members to understand this reality. He advised them against misconceptions, noting that constitutional positions do not require resignation from representing political parties, as no such provision exists.

Criticism of YSRCP’s Constitutional Misinterpretation

Taking a sharp dig at YSRCP’s grasp of legal nuances, Raju remarked, “Those who can’t comprehend exemptions under the 10th Schedule or even read English properly are making these baseless statements.” He referenced complaints lodged against him by the Andhra Pradesh government but affirmed his commitment to self-discipline. Raju explained that he avoids TDP meetings to uphold propriety, stressing there is no rule mandating such

abstention. The Deputy Speaker reiterated that he has never publicly discussed politics in his official capacity, focusing instead on constitutional duties. His comments come amid ongoing tensions between the ruling TDP-led NDA coalition and the opposition YSRCP, which has boycotted sessions since losing power in 2024.

Broader Context and Implications

Raju’s outreach assumes significance as the state prepares for its budget session. The YSRCP’s boycott strategy has drawn criticism for undermining democratic processes, with the Ethics Committee probe potentially leading to salary deductions or stricter measures. Meanwhile, the Legislative Council’s dynamics remain stable, countering opposition narratives of bias. Political observers view Raju’s invitation as a bridge-building effort, though YSRCP’s response remains uncertain. Jagan Mohan Reddy has previously accused the Speaker of partisanship, but Raju coun-

Balakrishna Pays Emotional Tribute to NTR on Death Anniversary in Hyderabad

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Hyderabad: On the death anniversary of legendary actor and former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao (NTR), his son and MLA Nandamuri Balakrishna led family members in paying heartfelt tributes at the Ghats here today. The solemn event drew prominent figures, including AP CM N. Chandrababu Naidu's wife Nara Bhuvaneshwari, Nandamuri Ramakrishna, Nandamuri Suhasini, and others, who offered floral tributes and performed rituals in remembrance of the iconic leader. Balakrishna, speaking to the media after

the ceremony, reflected deeply on his father's unparalleled legacy in both cinema and politics. "To become a great soul requires immense hard work and dedication qualities that NTR embodied," he said. "As long as the sun and moon exist, he will live on. In films, he portrayed roles no one else dared to touch, experimenting boldly with method acting and complete character immersion in every role." He highlighted NTR's political revolution, noting how the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), founded by his father, created a seismic shift. "He took politics, once limited to a few, to every doorstep. He extended



support to the poor and weaker sections, instilling pride in every Telugu person. NTR understood the hunger pangs of the impoverished. The welfare schemes he introduced are now implemented nationwide," Balakrishna added. Balakrishna praised NTR's visionary projects that brought governance closer to the people. "Initiatives like Telugu Ganga and Galeeru Nagi revolutionized development. TDP continues his spirit today," he affirmed, underscoring the party's ongoing commitment to those ideals. Nandamuri Ramakrishna, another family member, echoed the sentiments, calling NTR the "heartbeat of Telugu people and the darling child of the arts goddess."



He lauded NTR's contributions to cinema and politics, emphasizing how the leader elevated Telugu identity on the global stage. "His services to the Telugu nation are immeasurable; he proved our cultural pride to the world," Ramakrishna stated. The event resonated deeply amid Andhra Pradesh's dynamic political landscape, where TDP's influence remains strong under CM Chandrababu Naidu. NTR's 1982 entry into politics disrupted Congress dominance, championing Telugu self-respect and populist welfare. Schemes like subsidized rice and old-age pensions, pioneered by him, set benchmarks still emulated across India. Family members, including Nara Bhuvaneshwari whose husband Naidu helms the current TDP government joined in the anjali ghata, symbolizing unity. The gathering at the Ghats served as a poignant reminder of NTR's enduring impact, blending cinematic stardom with transformative leadership. As TDP pushes development agendas like river linking and irrigation projects reminiscent of NTR's era, Balakrishna's words reinforce the party's foundational ethos. The tribute not only honored a personal loss but also reignited discussions on NTR's role in empowering marginalized communities and fostering Telugu pride.

Central Government Launches 'Chat Farmer' App to Modernize Indian Agriculture

Gopavaram: In a significant push towards Digital India, the Central Government has introduced the 'Chat Farmer' app to bring modernity into farming practices. Developed in collaboration with Digital Green Trust, this innovative mobile application empowers farmers with instant access to expert advice on crop cultivation, livestock management, poultry farming, beekeeping, and fisheries. The app addresses critical challenges like pest control, disease prevention, and sustainable farming techniques, making vital information available at users' fingertips. Key features of the Chat Farmer app include location-based weather forecasts for the next four to five days, delivered directly via mobile. Farmers can receive voice-based, concise advisories tailored to their specific crops simply by asking questions or uploading crop photos for diagnosis and doubt resolution. It provides comprehensive guidance on fertilizer usage for various crops, optimal irrigation schedules, pest management strategies, and more, all customized to local conditions.

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User-Friendly Multilingual SupportOne stand-

out aspect is its support for multiple regional languages, ensuring advisories align with the crop-growing regions. Farmers can watch educational videos on pest and disease control, gaining practical insights without needing to visit extension offices. Market price updates help users make informed selling decisions, while on-demand digital assistants expert agronomists are available around the clock to clarify any queries. The app's launch comes at a crucial time for India's agrarian economy, where smallholder farmers often grapple with unpredictable weather, counterfeit inputs, and knowledge gaps. By leveraging AI-driven chat interfaces and voice technology, Chat Farmer bridges these divides, promoting precision agriculture even for those with limited literacy or smartphone familiarity. Raising Awareness to Curb Misuse and Losses NewsToday is actively creating awareness about this game-changing tool. Many farmers, lacking proper knowledge, overuse pesticides and chemicals available in local markets, leading

farmers often grapple with unpredictable weather, counterfeit inputs, and knowledge gaps. By leveraging AI-driven chat interfaces and voice technology, Chat Farmer bridges these divides, promoting precision agriculture even for those with limited literacy or smartphone familiarity. Raising Awareness to Curb Misuse and Losses NewsToday is actively creating awareness about this game-changing tool. Many farmers, lacking proper knowledge, overuse pesticides and chemicals available in local markets, leading

ing to crop failures and severe financial losses. "Chat Farmer changes that," says a government spokesperson. "Our network of specialists provides science-backed recommendations for every crop type, from paddy and millets to horticulture and allied sectors. It's not just an app it's a virtual farm advisor." Early adopters in pilot regions report higher yields and reduced input costs. For instance, a Telangana farmer shared how the app's photo-analysis feature identified early blight in his tomato crop, saving it from total loss. The

government aims to onboard millions of users nationwide, integrating it with schemes like PM-KISAN and Kisan Call Centres for seamless support. This initiative aligns with broader goals of Atmanirbhar Bharat in agriculture, fostering self-reliance through technology. Download the app from Google Play Store or App Store today search 'Chat Farmer' and transform your farming journey. As Digital India accelerates, tools like Chat Farmer promise to empower rural India, boosting productivity and incomes sustainably.

CM Chandrababu Naidu Announces Expansion of Anna Canteens, Honors NTR on Death Anniversary

TPN Bureau | January 18, 2026
Ongole | Vijayawada: In a heartfelt tribute to legendary leader N.T. Rama Rao (NTR) on his death anniversary, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu announced plans to launch another 700 Anna Canteens across the state soon. Speaking at a commemorative event, Naidu highlighted how over 200 such canteens are already operational, drawing inspiration directly from NTR's vision of welfare for the masses. "Running more than 200 Anna Canteens in the state with NTR's spirit," Naidu declared, emphasizing the initiative's roots in the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) founder's legacy. These affordable meal centers, offering subsidized food to the poor, have become a hallmark of TDP governance, reminiscent of NTR's populist schemes in the 1980s. Naidu promised the swift rollout of 700 additional outlets, aiming to make nutritious meals accessible statewide and combat hunger amid rising living costs. Paying glowing homage to NTR, whom he described as the architect of Telugu identity, Naidu vowed to secure India's highest civilian honor for him. "We will ensure Bharat Ratna for NTR, who brought recognition to the Telugu nation without fail," the Chief Minister affirmed. NTR, who stormed to power in 1983 with his Telugu pride slogan and free rice distribution, remains an icon for TDP supporters. Naidu's pledge underscores the party's ongoing efforts to elevate NTR's stature na-

tionally, amid discussions in political circles about posthumous awards. The announcements came amid celebrations of the TDP-led NDA coalition's "Super Six" guarantees, which Naidu hailed as "super hits." These flagship promises—covering welfare, jobs, and infrastructure have gained momentum since the alliance's victory in the 2024 elections, ousting the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP). Naidu revealed ambitious housing targets, stating that 500,000 home inaugurations would occur on Ugadi day this year. "In the next three years, we will build and provide houses to every poor person," he assured the gathering, addressing long-standing shelter shortages in rural and urban Andhra Pradesh. The event, held at NTR's memorial in Vijayawada, drew TDP workers, Jana Sena Party (JSP) allies, and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders, reinforcing coalition unity. Naidu criti-

cized past regimes for stalling development, contrasting them with the NDA's rapid progress on irrigation, roads, and industrial corridors. "NTR's dreams are our blueprint," he said, invoking the matinee idol-turned-politician's mass appeal. This expansion builds on TDP's 2014-2019 tenure, when Anna Canteens first gained popularity, only to be discontinued under YSRCP rule before revival post-2024. Officials estimate the new canteens will serve millions daily at Re 1 per meal, funded through state budgets and public-private partnerships. Housing pledges align with PMAY schemes, targeting 25 lakh homes by 2029. Naidu's speech galvanized supporters, blending nostalgia with forward-looking governance. As Andhra Pradesh navigates economic recovery, these initiatives signal TDP's focus on welfare populism ahead of local polls.



Tirumala Temple Gears Up for Grand Rathasapthami on January 25 Amid Surya Jayanti



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Tirumala: In a vibrant celebration of Surya Jayanti, the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has announced elaborate arrangements for Rathasapthami Utsavam on January 25 at the sacred Tirumala Venkateswara Temple. Lord Venkateswara will grace devotees atop seven majestic vehicles, parading through the temple's mada streets in a divine procession that draws lakhs of pilgrims annually. Rathasapthami, observed on the seventh day of the Shukla Paksha in the holy month of Maaf (Magha), holds profound spiritual significance. Vedic scriptures proclaim this as the day Surya Deva, the Sun God, was born, bestowing light upon the entire universe. Devotees be-

lieve bathing in the Sun's rays on this auspicious occasion purifies the soul, wards off ailments, and brings prosperity. TTD expects a massive influx of pilgrims, prompting comprehensive facilities including enhanced darshan queues, parking, and accommodation. To accommodate the crowds, TTD has canceled several key sevas on January 25: Kalyanotsavam, Unjal Seva, Arjita Brahmotsavam, and Sahasra Deepalanakara Seva. Core rituals like Suprabhatam, Thomala, and Archana will proceed in ekanta (private) mode, ensuring seamless conduct of the main event. The high-light remains the seven-vehicle procession, unfolding across the day: 5:30 AM to 8:00 AM (Sunrise at 6:45 AM); Suryaprabha Vahana

– Lord on the radiant Sun vehicle, symbolizing divine illumination. 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM: Chinna Sesha Vahana The petite five-hooded serpent adorning the deity. 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM: Garuda Vahana Mounted on the mighty eagle, Lord's faithful vahana. 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM: Hanumanta Vahana Accompanied by the devoted Hanuman. 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM: Chakrasnanam Sacred bath with the Sudarshana Chakra. 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM: Kalpavruksha Vahana Beneath the wish-fulfilling celestial tree. 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM: Sarvabhoopala Vahana As the king of kings. 8:00 PM to 9:00 PM: Chandraprabha Vahana Concluding under the moon's glow. TTD Executive Officer has directed officials to prioritize devotee safety, with special provi-

sions for differently-abled pilgrims and free meals via Annadanam. Roads leading to Tirumala will see increased traffic, and devotees are urged to use shuttle services from Tirupati. Live telecast on TTD channels and SVBC will allow virtual participation. This festival underscores Tirumala's enduring legacy as a beacon of faith, blending ancient traditions with modern logistics. Past Rathasapthamis have seen over 5 lakh visitors, fostering an atmosphere of devotion amid chants of "Govinda" echoing through the hills. TTD appeals to pilgrims to follow guidelines, avoid plastics, and book accommodations via tdevasthanams.ap.gov.in. With clear skies forecast, January 25 promises a celestial spectacle.

Nara Lokesh, Purandeswari Pay Homage to NTR on 30th Death Anniversary in Hyderabad

TPN Bureau | January 18, 2026

Hyderabad: On the solemn occasion of Telugu Desam Party (TDP) founder N.T. Rama Rao's (NTR) 30th death anniversary, Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh and TDP MP D. Purandeswari led tributes at NTR Ghat here today. The event drew a large gathering of TDP leaders, cadres, and devoted fans, underscoring the enduring reverence for the iconic actor-turned-politician who reshaped Andhra Pradesh politics.

Nara Lokesh arrived at the NTR Ghat, the memorial site where NTR was cremated in 1996, and placed floral wreaths on his samadhi. He offered prayers and performed anjali, a traditional gesture of respect, evoking deep emotion among those present. Lokesh, son of TDP chief N. Chandrababu Naidu, shared a poignant message on social media, calling NTR "the architect of Telugu pride" and vowing to uphold his vision of self-respect and development for the state. Joining Lokesh was



Purandeswari, who represents Rajahmundry in Parliament and is a key TDP figure. Her presence highlighted the party's unity ahead of upcoming political challenges in Andhra Pradesh. A significant number of TDP leaders and workers from across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh converged at the ghat, turning the event into a massive show of solidarity. Prominent among them was actor Kalyan Ram, NTR's grandson and a popular figure in Telugu cinema, who reached the venue to pay his respects.

Kalyan Ram's participation bridged NTR's cinematic legacy with his political footprint, resonating with fans who idolize the mati-

nee idol. Under the auspices of the NTR Trust, the ghat was exquisitely adorned with flowers, creating a serene and reverential atmosphere. The trust organized a special photo exhibition showcasing highlights from NTR's illustrious career in cinema and politics.

Rare images from his blockbuster films like Pathala Bhairavi, Mayabazar, and Daana Veera Soora Karna were displayed alongside moments from his political journey his meteoric rise in 1983 by founding TDP, sweeping to power on a platform of Telugu self-respect, and implementing landmark welfare schemes like rice subsidies for the poor. NTR, born Nandamuri Taraka

Rama Rao on May 28, 1923, was a colossus in both reel and real life. As a superstar, he starred in over 300 films, embodying mythological heroes and earning the moniker "Viswa Vikhyata Nata Sarvabhooma." Entering politics at 60, he toppled the Congress government, serving as Chief Minister thrice (1983-89, 1994-95).

His populist policies, including the 2-per-kg rice scheme, empowered the masses and laid the foundation for TDP's enduring legacy. Even 30 years after his passing on January 18, 1996, NTR remains a symbol of regional pride amid Andhra Pradesh's ongoing political battles between TDP, YSRCP, and others. The homage event

comes at a time when TDP, in coalition with JSP and BJP, is pushing development agendas in Andhra Pradesh under Naidu's leadership. Lokesh, as IT and Electronics Minister, has been vocal about reviving NTR's vision through tech-driven governance. Supporters chanted slogans like "Jai NTR" and "Telugu Beema," reflecting the party's resolve to reclaim power in the state.

TDP spokesperson K. Rama Mohan Rao described the gathering as a "renewal of commitment" to NTR's ideals. As the day progressed, cultural programs and bhajans dedicated to NTR kept the spirit alive, ensuring his legacy endures.

Naidu Honors NTR on Death Anniversary, Vows to Uphold Telugu Pride and Development Agenda, Fires on opposition

TPN Bureau | January 18, 2026

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu paid floral tributes to Telugu Desam Party (TDP) founder N. T. Rama Rao (NTR) at the party headquarters here on his death anniversary, emphasizing that NTR established TDP to protect the self-respect of Telugu people. "When they called us 'Madrasis' in disdain, NTR reminded them that the Telugu nation stands as one," Naidu declared during a commemorative event, underscoring the party's roots in regional pride.

Naidu highlighted NTR's transformative reforms, crediting him with introducing 20% reservations for Backward Classes (BCs) in local bodies and granting women half-share in property rights. "Before NTR's party, politics was dominated by

the uneducated; he prioritized the educated," he said. Naidu also recalled NTR's pioneering Annadhanam scheme in Tirupati, his assertion of rights over Krishna Delta surplus waters, and his commitment to supplying water to Rayalaseema.

Shifting to his government's achievements, Naidu outlined ambitious welfare and infrastructure plans despite financial constraints. "We've efficiently implemented Super Six schemes and will soon set up 700 Anna Canteens across the state. On Ugadi, another 5 lakh housewarming ceremonies will take place," he announced.

He criticized previous rulers for merely posing with photos on ancestral lands while land disputes making up 80% of complaints—festered. "They spent 700 crore on surveys

just to print their photos on pillars," Naidu quipped, adding that his administration cleared employees' dues as a "true Sankranti gift." Naidu boasted of attracting 25% of national investments to the state, crediting cooperation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

"TDP has never compromised for power; we want the nation and state to prosper," he affirmed, thanking party workers who stood firm even under threats. He reiterated the party's zero-tolerance for rowdiness: "This is an NDA government remember CBI. We've fought so people remain safe despite attacks on me."

Taking indirect swipes at YSRCP leader Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Naidu dismissed narratives of TDP's decline. "A party funding media with corruption



money is our misfortune," he said, countering credit-stealing claims on projects like Greenko and Bhogapuram Airport. "Land, sand, wine that's YSRCP's credit. Cyberabad, Amaravati, Kia, Bhogapuram are ours.

Where's the foundation for credit theft?" On capital ambiguity, Naidu mocked: "Wherever the CM sits becomes the capital? Bengaluru or Idupulapaya?

People rejected three capitals chaos, giving us victories in all regions. Let's proudly declare: Andhra Pradesh's capital is Amaravati.

"Naidu's speech blended nostalgia, policy updates, and political retorts, rallying TDP cadres amid ongoing governance pushback. The event drew senior party leaders, reinforcing TDP's legacy in Andhra politics.

Ministers Slam YSRCP as TDP Leaders Honor NTR on 30th Death Anniversary



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Amaravati | Nellore: Andhra Pradesh ministers sharply criticized YSRCP leaders for indulging in "psycho thoughts" even as the state's people celebrated Sankranti joyfully under the coalition government. Speaking at events marking the 30th death anniversary of TDP founder and former Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao (NTR), ministers Nagani Satyaprasad, P. Narayana, Vangalapudi Anitha, and others paid floral tributes to his statue in Amaravati and held programs across districts, reminiscing his contributions to united Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema. In Amaravati, Minister for Animal Husbandry ANagani Satyaprasad lambasted YSRCP for stooping to "corruption politics," accusing them of animal sacrifices during Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's birthday celebrations. "They only do what their leader fancies that's their true nature," he said, highlighting how the previous YSRCP regime scrapped sub-plan funds, marginalized weaker sections, and disrespected women. Satyaprasad condemned YSRCP for trolling old Jallikattu photos and linking a Palnadu family feud to the coalition government.

"Our government won't spare wrongdoers; people are thriving in prosperity now," he asserted. Praising CM N. Chandrababu Naidu's round-the-clock development efforts, he noted Naidu's upcoming Davos visit, emphasizing his focus on state progress and welfare. In Nellore, Municipal Administration Minister P. Naraya-

na described NTR as a revolutionary in cinema and politics. At the party office, joined by MLC Beeda Ravichandra and Kovuru MLA Prashanti Reddy, Narayana recalled NTR's schemes ensuring "rice, home, and egg" for all. "We're continuing his high-quality rice distribution and empowering youth in politics. He granted property rights to women," he said. Ravichandra hailed NTR for instilling self-respect in Telugu people, showcasing their valor globally and reshaping national politics. Prashanti Reddy noted that despite 30 years, NTR's services remain etched in public memory, with TDP workers following his path. District-wide service programs included blood donations by hundreds. Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha portrayed NTR as an extraordinary leader who voiced Telugu self-respect, turning the impossible into reality. "From silver screen deity to political icon, he was worshipped lifelong," she said. Anitha stressed NTR's historic stand against Delhi, uplifting Telugu pride when states bowed. "He first addressed the poor's hunger," she added, linking current schemes like Amma Odi, rice to the poor's doorstep, girls' honor, and village recognition to NTR's vision. "Government means standing as people's support that's his legacy. The events underscored TDP's commitment to NTR's ideals amid ongoing political rivalries, with ministers contrasting coalition governance's progress against YSRCP's alleged negativism.

AP Minister Kollu Ravindra Slams YS Jagan Over Development Obstruction, Urges Unity at NTR Death Anniversary Event



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Machilipatnam, Krishna District: Andhra Pradesh Minister Kollu Ravindra unleashed sharp criticism against YSRCP leader YS Jagan Mohan Reddy during a public event marking the death anniversary of former Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao (NTR). Speaking at the Bus Stand Centre in Machilipatnam, the minister accused Jagan of attempting to derail the state's progress and called on the public to "stamp out" this "pest" hindering development.

Ravindra warned that arbitrary behavior would not be tolerated. "Jagan is trying to block Andhra Pradesh's growth. We must crush this termite that's latched onto the state. If he acts recklessly, we won't sit idle," he declared, urging vigilance against opposition tactics. The remarks came amid ongoing political tensions between the ruling TDP-led coalition and the opposition YSRCP.

The event honored NTR's legacy, with Ravindra leading tributes. He garlanded the NTR statue at the Bus Stand Centre and several others across the city, offering floral wreaths and paying respects. The minister also inaugurated an anna dana (free food distribution) program for the poor, emphasizing welfare initiatives inspired by NTR's vision.

Interacting with the media afterward, Ravindra praised Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's leadership. "Under CM Naidu's guidance, NTR's spirit drives people-centric governance in the state," he said. He affirmed that NTR's ideals would endure "as long as the sun and moon exist," vowing never to forget the TDP founder's contributions. Ravindra highlighted the Sankranti festivities as a symbol of Telugu unity. "Telugu people

from across the globe returned home to celebrate, showcasing our cultural bonds," he noted.

He pointed to overwhelming public support for the coalition government's development projects, from infrastructure to welfare schemes. "People are responding extraordinarily to our progress initiatives," the minister added. In a call to action, Ravindra urged collective effort. "Everyone must join hands to develop the state. Let's build Andhra Pradesh together, leaving politics aside."

The event underscored the TDP's focus on NTR's populist legacy while countering opposition narratives amid the state's push for economic revival. The minister's fiery speech reflects escalating rhetoric as the coalition advances key projects like industrial corridors and irrigation works, which YSRCP has criticized as unfilled promises.

Chandrababu Naidu Blasts Jagan Reddy Over 'Conspiracies' and Fake News at TDP Meet

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Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu unleashed a scathing attack on YSRCP chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy during a meeting with TDP cadres at the party headquarters here on Sunday. Naidu accused the YSRCP of hatching conspiracies against his government for the past 18 months, branding the party itself as "fake" from its inception, allegedly funded by corruption proceeds.

"PAPER party funded by ill-gotten money fighting such a party is our misfortune," Naidu thundered, slamming YSRCP's recent claims of "credit theft." He highlighted the \$10 billion AM Green investment in Kakinada as an example, dismissing their narratives as malicious propaganda.

Naidu warned that Jagan and his associates were relentlessly spreading "poisonous" misinformation against the TDP-led government. The CM questioned YSRCP's moral standing, asking, "What do you call a party shielding Viveka Reddy's murderers?" He criticized YSRCP leaders for attacking him despite their own alleged misdeeds. Naidu also condemned efforts to incite TDP leaders over a recent clash in Palnadu, cautioning against "street brawls" that undermine dignity. "I've seen it all in politics, but this is unprecedented," he said. Issuing a stern warning, Naidu declared zero tolerance for personality assassinations on social media, promising strict action. "We're delivering good governance—who can touch us? But we won't spare those



committing crimes under political guise," he asserted. He took pride in TDP's role in ending factionalism in Rayalaseema and vowed a complete cleanup in Palnadu to transform it into a violence-free zone. Recalling how YSRCP locked gates to block his visits there during their rule, Naidu quipped, "Those locks will become nooses for them." Naidu lambasted the previous YSRCP regime for fostering a "reign of sand, wine, mines, drugs, and ganja." Shifting to achieve-

ments, he emphasized his dual responsibility as CM and TDP president to protect party workers. Praising the NDA's national success, he noted Narendra Modi's third term and BJP's five wins in Gujarat as models for TDP. "You took our manifesto door-to-door; stable governments drive development," he said.

On infrastructure, Naidu highlighted acquiring 2,500 acres for Bhogapuram airport—stalled for five years under Jagan, who even returned 500 acres plus

India's first Civil Aviation University. He ridiculed YSRCP's credit claims on these. Reaffirming Amaravati as the capital, Naidu mocked Jagan's "three capitals" chaos and "cemetery" jibes.

"If the CM stays in Bengaluru, is it the capital? Amaravati is the divine people's capital. We'll develop all regions Visakhapatnam as No. 1 city, Tirupati as a mega city," he declared proudly. The meeting served as a strategic huddle, with Naidu directing cadres

Tamil Nadu Dominates South Zone Asmita Khelo India Soft Tennis League in Ongole

TPN Bureau | January 18:

Vijayawada | Ongole, Andhra Pradesh: The South Zone Asmita Khelo India Women's Soft Tennis League concluded its thrilling penultimate day at the Indira Gandhi Municipal Corporation Stadium's Tennis Complex here, under the auspices of the Andhra Pradesh Soft Tennis Association (APSTA). Tamil Nadu athletes stole the show, clinching the sub-junior singles title and securing spots in all doubles finals across categories, underscoring their supremacy in the regional

showdown. In the sub-junior singles category, Srimate from Tamil Nadu emerged as the undisputed champion, powering through the field with clinical precision. Andhra Pradesh's A.S. Vaishali fought valiantly to claim the runner-up position, while teammates Reetya and Shastiga from Tamil Nadu rounded out the podium with third-place finishes. Vaishali's silver medal marked a proud moment for the host state, injecting local fervor into the competition. The doubles semifinals delivered edge-of-the-seat action, propelling



Tamil Nadu pairs into every final. In sub-junior doubles, Srimate and Anila (Tamil Nadu) dismantled Sanmathi and Reetya (also Tamil

Nadu) 3-0 in the first semifinal, showcasing flawless coordination. The second semifinal saw Shrutlaya and Rishik (Tamil Nadu) edge out Kanishta and Madhu (Tamil Nadu) 3-1, setting up an all-Tamil Nadu clash for the title. Junior doubles semifinals followed suit. Nishalini and Tamilvaji (Tamil Nadu) overwhelmed Janini and Akshita (Tamil Nadu) 3-0 in the opener, while Sadhana and Narumugai (Tamil Nadu) triumphed 3-2 over Dharani and Tah (Karnataka) in a nail-biter, highlighting Tamil Nadu's depth. Senior doubles semifinals were equal-

ly one-sided for the southern powerhouse. Ragashree and Shweta (Tamil Nadu) blanked Sonika and Nidhi (Karnataka) 3-0, and Sharanya and Hamrutha (Tamil Nadu) dominated Poorva and Srimate (Tamil Nadu) 3-0, ensuring another intrastate final. APSTA General Secretary D. Dileep Kumar announced that finals across all doubles categories will unfold on Monday, culminating in a prize distribution ceremony. Andhra Pradesh Sports Promotion and Infrastructure Development Corporation (SAPID) Chairman Animini Ravinaidu will

grace the event as chief guest, adding official prestige to the celebrations. The league, part of the national Asmita Khelo India initiative, has galvanized women's soft tennis in the South Zone, drawing teams from Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and beyond. With Tamil Nadu's sweep, the finals promise high-stakes rivalries within their ranks, while Andhra's Vaishali's runner-up finish signals rising talent. Fans and officials anticipate a fitting finale, boosting the sport's grassroots momentum.

CM Chandrababu, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan Launch AM Green Ammonia Plant in Kakinada, Eye Green Energy Revolution



TPN Bureau | Jan 18 Kakinada: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan laid the foundation stone for AM Green's ambitious green ammonia plant here on Saturday, marking a pivotal shift from grey to green energy in Andhra Pradesh. Describing it as a "historic milestone," Naidu said the world is now turning towards Kakinada for green hydrogen, green ammonia, green methanol, and green molecules, positioning the region as a global green energy hub. The duo pressed the concrete mission switch at 2:30 PM, followed by a review of the plant's 3D model. Speaking at a subsequent meeting, Naidu emphasized environmental protection as the government's top priority. He praised AM Green Chairman Chalamalasetty Anil and partner Kolli Mahesh for their innovative vision, noting the plant's first-phase production would commence by June 2027. "Telugu people are rewriting history by leading this transition," Naidu remarked, highlighting the shift from NTR's era promotion of grey ammonia via NFCL to today's green initiative. Naidu recalled supporting Anil's pumped storage plant idea in 2016, crediting his perseverance through setbacks for this success. The project employs world-class expertise, with plans for 2 GW of green energy production in Kakinada and a massive \$10 billion in-

vestment. By 2029-30, Anil envisions even grander expansions, including a satellite launching center on Hope Island, which surprised Naidu. Pawan Kalyan echoed the enthusiasm, lauding Anil—a Kakinada native—as an inspiration who pursued dreams sans initial funds. The 495-acre facility, with 1.5 million tonnes annual capacity, attracts 15,600 crore in investments, reducing pollution in fertilizers and power sectors. He linked frequent coastal flooding in Pithapuram to environmental imbalances, underscoring green energy's role in restoration. Naidu reiterated his commitment by landing his helicopter despite delays, rejecting a virtual foundation to honor the occasion's significance. Attendees included MP Tangedla Uday Srinivas, MLAs Kond Babu and Pantham Nana Ji, MLCs Karri Padmasri and Perabattula Rajasekharam, Collector Apurva Bharath, and former Pithapuram MLA Varma. In lighter remarks, Naidu urged preserving traditions amid tech adoption, citing vibrant Sankranti festivities in Godavari districts and Jagannathotta Prabhala Teertha Utsavams. He quipped about Kakinada's MLAs both named Venkateswara Rao while promising improved roads. This project aligns Andhra Pradesh's green ambitions with global sustainability goals, combating coal-oil-gas dependency and coastal threats.

AP Class IV Employees Central Association Elects Unopposed Leadership in Guntur, Urges Immediate 12th PRC

TPN Bureau | January 18, 2026 Vijayawada | GUNTUR: The All Andhra Pradesh Government Class IV Employees Central Association (affiliated with AP JAC Amaravati) held its state-level council meeting today at Sri Srinivasa Bhavan in Guntur. Presided over by association state president Y.S. Malleshwar Rao, the event saw the unopposed re-election of the entire leadership team, including Rao as president for a third term and T. Chennappa as general secretary. Elections were conducted by G. Suresh, state general secretary of the AP Co-operative Services Association. The new 13-member state committee comprises President Y.S. Malleshwar Rao (Guntur district), General

Secretary T. Chennappa (Anantapur district), Associate Presidents including I. Maddileti (Kurnool), Treasurer Y. V. Krishnaraju (Krishna district), Honorarium President I. Subramanyam (Chittoor), two state secretaries, one publicity secretary, one executive secretary, four vice-presidents, and additional members. AP JAC Amaravati State Chairman Bopparaju Venkateswarlu, the chief guest, commended the current coalition government's proactive stance on employee issues. He highlighted how the previous YSRCP regime's financial and non-financial woes for workers were being addressed through persistent JAC efforts. Key achievements include the formation of a ministerial sub-com-



mittee on Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's orders, the CM's October 18, 2025, meeting with unions where promises were made, and subsequent resolutions. Bopparaju expressed gratitude for recent payouts: a Diwali DA installment and nearly 1,000 crore in arrears cleared before Sankranti. He urged the government to prioritize pending bills for deceased employees, retirees, and medical claims

among thousands of crores owed to anna-kethagiri workers and pensioners. "Employees, teachers, pensioners, contract, and outsourcing staff have high hopes in the coalition government ensure they are fulfilled," he appealed. The association reiterated its demand for the immediate announcement of the long-delayed 12th Pay Revision Commission (PRC), noting two years already lost. Other at-

tendees included state JAC leaders K. Sangeeta Rao, B. Kishore Kumar, T. Nageswar Rao; AP JAC Amaravati Women's Committee State Chairperson Parelakshmi, Secretary General Ponnuru Vijayalakshmi; and Guntur Revenue Services Association District President P.A. Kiran Kumar. The meeting underscored ongoing solidarity between Class IV employees and broader JAC efforts for welfare.

Vijayawada Panchayats Issue Ultimatum to CRDA Over VIP Corridor Sanitation Woes



TPN Bureau | Jan 18 Vijayawada: "We have no resources and are struggling. Take responsibility. Sanitation management isn't our sole duty. Without your support, it's impossible. At least allocate half of the building fees and fines you collect from our villages to us. Otherwise, we can't advance sanitation or carry out work," declared village panchayats along the VIP Corridor on NH-16, issuing an ultimatum to CRDA officials. Facing financial constraints, limited machinery, and a shortage of sanitation workers,

these panchayats find maintaining hygiene along the VIP Corridor increasingly burdensome. They've presented their demands to the CRDA and even informed Collector Lakshmi about the issues. Staff Shortages Hamper Operations Panchayats are grappling with challenges in sanitation upkeep along the Airport Corridor (VIP Corridor), stretching about 15 km from the airport to the Ramavarappadu Ring Road on National Highway 16. While the Amaravati Development Corporation Limited (ADCL) handles greenery maintenance, sanitation duties fall entirely on local panchayats, including

Ramavarappadu, Prasad Padu, Enikepadu, Nidamanuru, Gudavalli, and Kesarapalli. Workers operate in two shifts: 6 AM to 2 PM and 2 PM to 10 PM, manually cleaning both sides of the 15-km highway a task that's become overwhelming. Own funds or the previously allocated 15th Finance Commission grants fall short. Panchayats suffer acute staff shortages, and hiring more is fraught with hurdles. Sanitation goes beyond sweeping; it involves removing dust from the highway, cleaning drains, and deploying vacuum cleaners, dozers, drain-cleaning machines, and JCBs—equipment they lack.

Without these, comprehensive hygiene maintenance is unfeasible. A corporation sweeping vehicle operates on the corridor but only partially cleans both sides of the central divider, and even that inconsistently. Over 95% of the work relies on panchayat sanitation staff, who, understaffed, leave dirt and dust scattered. Crop residue from tractor-trailers exacerbates littering and smoke issues. Frustrated by these mounting problems and limited resources, the panchayats have drawn a line. Their ultimatum puts pressure on the CRDA what decision will the authority make now?

TDP Activist Killed in YSRCP Attack in Kakinada District; 12 Booked for Murder

TPN Bureau | January 18, 2026 Allipudi, Kakinada District: Tension gripped Allipudi village in Kotananduru mandal after Telugu Desam Party (TDP) activist Lalam Bangarayya was brutally killed in an alleged attack by YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) workers on Friday night. Bangarayya's death has sparked outrage among TDP and Jana Sena Party (JSP) supporters, who organized his funeral procession on Saturday

amid heavy police deployment. Bangarayya's body was brought from Kotananduru to Allipudi in a massive public procession. TDP leaders, including Chintaneedi Abhayi, Gadi Rajubabu, Ankaraddi Ramesh, Potha Suribabu, Inuganti Satyanarayana, Pentakota Bhaskara Satyanarayana, and Motukuri Venkatesh, paid floral tributes at his residence. The last rites were performed at the local



crematorium, where his grieving family including elderly parents lamented the loss, leaving villagers emotional. Police registered cases under Sections 302 (murder) and 307 (attempt to murder) against 12 individuals, including YSRCP mandal president Chintakayala Chinababu and 11 others. Kotananduru SI T. Ramakrishna confirmed the action and deployed a police picket to prevent unrest. "We have ensured

tight bandobust to avoid any untoward incidents," he said. Earlier, Bangarayya's postmortem was conducted at Tuni Area Hospital. Another TDP activist, Chintakayala Shriram, critically injured in the clash, was shifted to a private hospital in Kakinada for advanced treatment. TDP leaders gathered at the hospital from early Saturday, condemning the violence. Speaking to media, TDP district vice-president Inuganti

Satyanarayana and Market Committee Chairman Ankaraddi Ramesh accused local YSRCP leaders of turning the peaceful Tuni constituency "blood-soaked." They alleged Chinababu orchestrated the attack during Bangarayya's birthday celebrations, which included cake-cutting. "They ambushed him with knives and rods. We've lost a dedicated worker," said eyewitness Ankaraddi Bullibabu, blaming Chinababu directly.

They also referenced past YSRCP attacks on media like Andhra Jyothi. Tuni MLA Yanamala Divya visited the injured Shriram, offering support alongside party leaders. "Such faction-style murders in villages are tragic. We won't spare the culprits stay strong, we're with you," she assured, vowing justice. The incident highlights escalating political rivalries in East Godavari district ahead of local developments.



CPI Demands Probe into Anantapur Urban MLA’s Alleged Misconduct and Land Encroachments

TPN Bureau | January 18, 2026

Anantapur: The Communist Party of India (CPI) Anantapur city committee has urged the state government to launch an immediate investigation into the alleged illegal activities and misconduct by Urban MLA Daggupati Venkateswaraprasad and his followers. Party leaders and activists staged a protest march on Saturday from the Ambedkar statue to the Superintendent of Police (SP) office in Anantapur, raising slogans against the MLA's purported "mafia-style" operations.

Addressing the gathering, CPI city secretary



Shriramulu accused the MLA of betraying public trust since assuming office. "Daggupati Venkateswaraprasad may

not have been well-known to Anantapur residents before the elections, but people voted for him with faith in

TDP and Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu," Shriramulu said. He alleged that the MLA, along with his associate

Gangaram, has been indulging in rowdy behavior reminiscent of a land mafia. Specific charges included threats to hotel

owners for refusing room bookings, illegal encroachments on vacant lands, and even occupying property belonging to a woman leader from the MLA's own TDP party."These actions have disappointed the public and tarnished the image of the ruling party," Shriramulu added, emphasizing that such impunity undermines governance in Anantapur district.

The protesters submitted a formal memorandum to District SP Jagadish, demanding swift legal action, including FIRs against the accused and protection for affected citizens. They warned that failure to act would lead to

escalated agitations across the district.The demonstration drew participation from prominent CPI leaders, including Ramanayya, Padmavati, Lingamayya, Santosh, Krishnuadu, Kullaiswami, Narayanaswami, Raju, and Srinivas. Banners and placards condemning "MLA's illegal land grabs" and "goonda raj" were prominent during the march, which proceeded peacefully amid tight police security.This protest highlights growing tensions in Anantapur, a region plagued by land disputes and urban development issues. Critics point to the MLA's rapid rise elected on TDP's wave in the

2024 assembly polls as enabling unchecked power. TDP sources dismissed the allegations as politically motivated, claiming CPI's history of opposing the government. However, locals report rising complaints about encroachments in commercial areas like Azadnagar, fueling demands for transparency. The SP's office confirmed receipt of the memorandum and stated that complaints would be examined.

As Andhra Pradesh focuses on infrastructure under Naidu's leadership, such incidents risk derailing public confidence. CPI vowed to continue protests until accountability is ensured.

Bandla Ganesh Embarks on Sacred Padayatra to Tirumala to Fulfill Vow for Chandrababu Naidu



TPN Bureau | January 18, 2026

Hyderabad: Prominent Telugu film producer and distributor Bandla Ganesh is set to commence a devotional padayatra (foot pilgrimage) to Tirumala on January 19, honoring a vow he made during a turbulent period in Andhra Pradesh politics. The journey, dubbed "Sankalpa Yatra," underscores Ganesh's deep faith in Lord Ven-

kateswara and his admiration for current Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu.

Ganesh, known for producing blockbuster films like Magadheera and Baahubali, announced the pilgrimage from his residence in Shadnagar, on the outskirts of Hyderabad. He will flag off the yatra at 9 AM by breaking a coconut in front of his home's threshold, a traditional ritual symbol-

izing resolve and divine blessings. The multi-day trek from "his home's doorway to the hilltop shrine" aims to reach Tirumala for darshan of Sri Venkateswara Swamy.

The vow traces back to the YSRCP regime (2019-2024), when Naidu, then opposition leader, faced arrest in a controversial case linked to the skill development scam. Amid political persecution, Ganesh publicly pledged the padayatra at the Sri Venkateswara Temple in Tirumala. Standing at the temple's threshold, he prayed for the removal of "false cases" against Naidu whom he hails as a "visionary leader the nation takes pride in" and for his release from jail.

"Every Telugu person's prayers culminated in Chandrababu achieving resounding victory and reclaiming his former glory,"

Ganesh stated in a press release. He noted recent court victories, including the Supreme Court and high court dismissing key cases against Naidu, which brought him "inner peace" and prompted his family to remind him of the unfulfilled vow. "With my parents' blessings, I'll start from Shadnagar, reach the hill by the grace of that Srinivasa, and have darshan.

This isn't a political yatra it's repayment of my vow to the Kaliyuga's direct deity, Sri Venkateswara Swamy, who fulfilled my heart's wish, heeded my words, and relieved my anguish. "Ganesh's gesture comes at a time when Naidu, leading the TDP-BJP-JSP alliance government since June 2024, has navigated legal battles while pushing development agendas in Andhra Pradesh.

The producer, a longtime TDP supporter, has

often used his platform to back Naidu publicly, blending his cinematic influence with political allegiance.This padayatra revives a tradition of vows (mokku) in Telugu culture, where devotees promise pilgrimages for divine intervention in personal or communal crises.

Ganesh emphasized its personal devotion, distancing it from politics despite its origins in Naidu's ordeal. Supporters and fans are expected to join segments of the journey, turning it into a larger expression of faith.

As Andhra Pradesh politics heats up ahead of local elections, such acts highlight the intertwining of spirituality and leadership loyalty. Ganesh's yatra could inspire similar pilgrimages, reinforcing Tirumala's role as a spiritual beacon for the Telugu diaspora.

Thick Fog Alerts Issued Across Multiple AP Districts; Drivers Urged to Exercise Caution

TPN Bureau | January 18, 2026

Visakhapatnam: The India Meteorological Department's (IMD) Cyclone Warning Centre in Visakhapatnam has issued an urgent alert for dense fog enveloping several districts in Andhra Pradesh, prompting warnings for reduced visibility and heightened road safety risks. The advisory, released amid persistent foggy conditions, predicts intense fog impacts over the next three hours in Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema, West Godavari, Eluru, NTR, Krishna, and Bapatla districts.

"Very dense fog is likely at many places, with visibility dropping below 50 meters in some areas," the bulletin stated. Motorists have been specifically advised to remain vigilant, slow down, and use fog lights where available to prevent accidents. This winter phenomenon is not uncommon in Andhra Pradesh's coastal and delta regions, where cool nights and high humidity combine to trap moisture near the ground.

Recent satellite imagery shows a thick



fog bank stretching from the Godavari delta to the Krishna basin, exacerbated by light northerly winds and near-zero cloud cover overnight. Temperatures dipped to 15-18°C in affected areas early Sunday, fostering ideal conditions for fog formation.

Local authorities report multiple incidents already. In Eluru, a minor collision involving three vehicles occurred on NH-16 around 4 AM due to poor visibility. West Godavari police have deployed additional traffic personnel at key junctions, while Krishna district collectors urged early commuters to check live weather updates via the IMD app.

"Fog can reduce visibility to hazardous levels; avoid high speeds and overtaking," said Eluru SP K. Ravi Kumar. Farmers in Konaseema and Bapatla, key agricultural belts, face disruptions too. Paddy fields

shrouded in mist could delay harvesting, and fishermen have been cautioned against venturing into fog-prone coastal waters.

The NTR district administration activated fog lamps on major highways and issued SMS alerts to over 50,000 residents. IMD forecasts gradual clearing by late morning as solar heating disperses the fog, but similar conditions may persist through the week. This alert underscores Andhra Pradesh's vulnerability to winter fog, which claimed over 20 lives in road mishaps last season.

Officials recommend hazard lights, ample following distance, and real-time navigation apps for safe travel. Residents can monitor updates at mausam.imd.gov.in or local helplines. Safety first remains the mantra as Andhra Pradesh navigates this foggy spell.

Successful Awareness Session on JEE and NEET Held at Tirumala Schools in Rajamahendravaram



TPN Bureau | January 18, 2026

Rajamahendravaram: An awareness session on JEE Advanced, JEE Main, and NEET examinations drew around 15,000 students and parents to the premises of Tirumala Educational Institutions in Rajamahendravaram on Sunday. The event targeted students from classes 5-6 as well as those completing classes 7, 8, 9, and 10, along with their families, highlighting the intense competition for top engineering and medical seats across India.

Speaking at the session, Tirumala Rao emphasized the staggering odds students face nationally. He noted that for 54,000 seats in prestigious institutions like IITs, NITs, IIITs, and BITS, about 15 lakh students appear for JEE Main and Advanced exams. "On average, out of every

28 candidates who take the test, only one secures a seat," Rao explained. In stark contrast, he pointed out that at Tirumala Institutions, the success rate is remarkably higher one in every five students gains admission to these elite colleges.

Rao drew similar parallels for medical aspirants. With 1.18 lakh medical seats available nationwide, around 24 lakh students compete through NEET. "Typically, only one out of every 20 qualifiers gets a seat," he said. However, Tirumala's track record shines brighter, with one in every three students securing a medical seat. These statistics underscore the institutions' proven coaching model, which has consistently outperformed national averages.

Addressing broader challenges in student development, Rao urged parents to shield children from excessive screen

time. He observed that lack of physical activity leads many youngsters to addictive phone games and social media, diverting focus from studies. "Keep children away from smartphones and electronic gadgets," he advised.

"Instead, teach them to interact with elders respectfully and shoulder responsibilities," Rao stressed that over-reliance on gadgets is eroding concentration on academics among today's youth, calling for a balanced approach to foster discipline and focus.Tirumala Institutions Director Nunna Sarojini Devi reinforced the pivotal role of parents, particularly mothers, in shaping children's growth.

"A mother's influence is irreplaceable in nurturing good habits, values, and overall development," she said. She encouraged every mother to im-

part value-based education alongside academics.The session featured inspiring testimonials from successful alumni parents. Dr. Komal, an Ayurvedic doctor at Kakinada Government Hospital, shared her experience of seeing her children become doctors after studying at Tirumala.

Vanaparthi Malleswara Rao, father of Tejashri who secured a seat at IIT Mumbai in 2025, also recounted their journey, offering practical insights to the audience.Other key attendees included Academic Director G. Satish Babu, Principal V. Srihari, faculty members, non-teaching staff, and parents.

The event concluded on a motivational note, reinforcing Tirumala's commitment to guiding students toward top-tier careers while emphasizing holistic upbringing.

AP Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy Slams YS Jagan Over Land Grabbing Allegations at Nellore Event

TPN Bureau | January 18, 2026

Ponguru (Nellore District): Andhra Pradesh Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy unleashed a scathing attack on YSRCP chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing the previous regime of attempting to seize farmers' lands through the controversial Land Titling Act. Speaking to the media after inaugurating several development programs in Marripadu Mandal's Ponguru village, the minister vowed that the current coalition government has protected landowners' rights by scrapping the contentious law. The event marked the unveiling of an NTR statue, a tribute to the TDP founder, alongside foundation stone-laying ceremonies for multiple infrastructure projects. Minister Anam also distributed government-stamped passbooks to local farmers, reinforcing the administration's commitment to agricultural welfare. "We

have safeguarded farmers' lands," he declared, emphasizing the coalition government's swift action post-assuming power.

Anam didn't hold back in his criticism of the YSRCP's tenure. He alleged that under Jagan's leadership, local party leaders plastered the Chief Minister's images on survey stones during the Land Titling process, siphoning off Rs 675 crore in the process. "They looted Rs 32,000 crore from farmers and the public under the guise of 'True of Charge' claims," he fumed, referring to dubious land verification drives that allegedly exploited vulnerable landowners.

Highlighting ongoing initiatives, the minister assured farmers in the Metta region that the Somashila High Level Canal project would soon be completed, ensuring a steady water supply. "This will transform agriculture in the area," he added, positioning the TDP-led

coalition's efforts as a stark contrast to the "plunder" of the previous administration.

The remarks come amid heightened political rhetoric in Andhra Pradesh, where the TDP-JSP-BJP alliance continues to target YSRCP's governance record. Anam's outburst underscores the coalition's narrative of restoring transparency in land records and prioritizing farmer welfare key promises from the 2024 elections. Local residents welcomed the development push, with farmers expressing relief over the passbook distribution and canal assurances. "These stamped documents give us security after years of uncertainty," said one beneficiary.

As TDP ramps up grassroots events ahead of potential by-polls, Anam's Nellore visit signals intensified efforts to consolidate rural support. The minister's media interaction drew sharp responses from YSRCP leaders, who dismissed



Trump’s “Board of Peace” and the Future of Global Order: A Critical Moment for India



The announcement of a “Board of Peace” under US President Donald Trump marks a striking and potentially transformative moment in global diplomacy. Originally conceived to manage the aftermath of the Gaza conflict, the initiative now raises questions about the future architecture of international peace and security. For New Delhi and other capitals, it is a development that deserves careful reflection—not just for its implications in the Middle East but for the broader system of multilateral cooperation that has governed global affairs since World War II.

The Board of Peace, initially tasked with supervising stabilization and reconstruction efforts in Gaza, is reportedly inviting dozens of world leaders and is being positioned as a dynamic body capable of addressing a wide spectrum of global conflicts. Critics argue that it represents a depar-

ture from established norms of open, equal multilateral dialogue because it could become an exclusive, invitation only forum dominated by American leadership, rather than the universal, collective decision making processes of the United Nations Security Council.

If the model expands beyond Gaza, the consequences could be profound. The Security Council, despite its flaws, remains the primary space where sovereign states—large and small—have a formal voice in decisions about peace and security. The Board’s structure, with Trump at its helm and an executive committee drawn largely from trusted allies, signals a move toward ad hoc coalitions of the willing, potentially sidelining traditional multilateral platforms and their norms of inclusivity and equal participation.

For India, this moment is espe-

cially significant. New Delhi has long championed reformed multilateralism, advocating for a more representative and effective United Nations system while respecting its core principles. The Board of Peace raises uncomfortable questions about whether that faith is misplaced in a world where powerful states can create parallel structures that mirror old institutions but operate according to very different logics.

Moreover, the broader context of Trump’s global agenda—including his scepticism toward the World Trade Organization and NATO, and policy moves that have unsettled the European Union—suggests a strategic shift: from strengthening post war multilateral frameworks to crafting alternatives that reflect US preferences for control and decision-making.

India’s response to this shifting landscape will require careful

calibration. New Delhi must weigh the potential benefits of engaging with initiatives like the Board of Peace against the risks of legitimizing structures that could dilute the authority of global institutions that underpin international stability. This is not merely a matter of foreign policy posture; it touches the core of how India conceives its role in shaping a rules based global order that promotes equity, sovereignty, and collective problem-solving.

As the international system navigates a period of extraordinary flux, India’s strategic choices will matter not only for its own interests but also for the future of multilateralism. The emergence of the Board of Peace demands not just tactical engagement but a thoughtful reassessment of long-held assumptions about how global governance should function in the decades ahead.

When Dignity Is on Trial, Unity Comes Out Stronger

There is a line written long ago by a progressive thinker that still rings painfully true today: in our country, a woman’s character, a Dalit’s merit, and a Muslim’s patriotism are always questioned. I am reminded of this line because what Telangana has witnessed in recent days reflects this harsh reality once again.

Over the past few days, Telangana’s political and public space has passed through an unusual and deeply disturbing phase. This was not routine controversy or everyday political noise. It shook the conscience of anyone who believes in fairness, dignity, and democratic values. In all my years of observing politics, governance, and media, I have never seen a situation quite like this.

For perhaps the first time, officers belonging to all three All India Services—the IAS, IPS, and IFS—came together on a single issue and spoke in one voice. Such unity among civil servants is extremely rare. When it happens, it is a clear signal that something has gone seriously wrong. The officers’ associations strongly condemned a television broadcast that carried false, careless, and deeply irresponsible allegations against serving women IAS officers.

Through formal statements, they made it clear that the content was untrue, unethical, and harmful. They said it violated the dignity and privacy of the officers and crossed every boundary of responsible journalism. They demanded a public apology, immediate removal of the content, and warned that legal action would follow if necessary. They firmly rejected all claims related to postings and personal matters, calling them completely baseless and motivated. Most importantly, they clarified that this was not an attack on one individual officer, but an attack on the credibility and integrity of the entire civil service system.

What made this episode even more serious was its nature. It bore all the signs of a “media trial.” Senior officers across cadres warned that character assassination of women officers in the name of news is not just unethical, but dangerous for democracy. Such actions weaken public institutions and discourage honest officers from working fearlessly. This was not an outburst of emotional anger; it was moral resistance. The officers made it clear that targeting women officers with baseless allegations under the cover of journalism is shameful and unacceptable.

From the Telangana government’s side, Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy responded with clarity and responsibility. He condemned what he described as a deliberate campaign by certain television channels and social media platforms to malign women officers. He reminded everyone that criticism is part of democracy, but dragging officers—especially women—into manufactured controversies crosses a red line. His appeal was simple yet power-

ful: imagine yourself in the place of that woman officer. Is it a crime for women to work? What is gained by harassing women officers and disturbing their families? His response reflected not political defensiveness, but concern for democratic values and basic human dignity.

Following sustained pressure and widespread condemnation, the concerned television channel issued a public apology. This moment deserves to be recognised as a collective victory—not just for a few individuals, but for the entire bureaucracy of Telangana. IAS, IPS, and IFS officers stood united, and that unity made accountability possible. It also marked an important moment in our democracy, highlighting both the tension and the necessary balance between two constitutional pillars: the media and the executive.

The Telangana government has also taken firm institutional action. A Special Investigation Team has been formed to probe misleading and defamatory reports aired against women IAS officers. Police cases have been registered based on complaints from officers’ associations, and cyber crime authorities have begun investigations. Senior ministers, including Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, Seethakka, and Duddilla Sridhar Babu, have spoken out strongly against false and defamatory reporting. They have clearly stated that spreading baseless allegations against public servants working for the state’s development cannot and will not be tolerated.

The unified stand taken by the IAS, IPS, and IFS Officers’ Associations sends a powerful message. They have unequivocally condemned the broadcasts as untrue, defamatory, unethical, and a violation of dignity and privacy. Their demand is not extraordinary—only accountability, apology, and responsibility.

Standing up for women officers is not political loyalty. It is a moral duty. Protecting their dignity is not a favour. It is justice. If we fail to draw this line today, the cost tomorrow will be far higher—not just for officers, but for the very idea of democracy itself.



— Sagar Vanaparthi, Policy Analyst

The Nobel Prize and the Politics of Ego: Machado’s Gesture Sparks Debate

The image of a Nobel Peace Prize medal being handed over in Washington this January is a spectacle that blends political theatre with global symbolism. Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado, recipient of the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize, presented her medal to US President Donald Trump, who accepted it publicly. What should have been a solemn celebration of democracy and human rights instead became a moment charged with questions about the transactional nature of modern politics.

At its core, the Nobel Peace Prize is meant to honour individuals whose courage and dedication advance freedom and human dignity, often at great personal risk. Machado’s struggle against authoritarian rule in Venezuela rightfully earned her the accolade. Yet the public handing over of her medal to a political figure whose relationship with the ideals of the prize has long been contentious raised concerns about the integrity of such gestures.

The optics of the event suggested that symbols of moral authority can be co-opted into political theatre. Machado’s gesture, while perhaps intended to highlight support or solidarity, risked reducing the symbolic weight of the Nobel to a tool for political leverage. The focus shifted from the values the prize represents to a moment of personal and political posturing, highlighting how even the most revered international honours can be reframed in the currency of attention and influence.

This episode underscores a broader tension between principle and spectacle in global affairs. The Nobel Peace Prize, once a beacon of principled recognition, should not be treated as a gift



or trophy to be handed over in pursuit of political advantage. True recognition of leadership and peace is earned through sacrifice, courage, and the relentless pursuit of justice, not traded in corridors of power or used as a prop for public display.

The Machado-Trump episode also illustrates the challenges facing international symbols in an era of performative politics. When such honours are used for visibility or influence rather than to celebrate genuine achievement, their meaning is diminished. What should inspire reflection, dialogue, and commitment to universal values risks being reduced to

spectacle.

Ultimately, the “giveaway” of the Nobel medal raises uncomfortable questions about the balance between symbolism and action in global diplomacy. While Machado’s intentions may have been strategic, the act serves as a reminder that the power of moral authority lies in its authenticity, and when that authenticity is overshadowed by opportunism, the ideals of recognition and justice itself are put on trial. The world is left to ponder whether symbols of peace and courage can retain their gravitas in a political age defined increasingly by performance over principle.

Tax Cuts Have Hemmed in Governments: A Reckoning for Centre and States

In today’s political climate, tax cuts are often presented as engines of growth or populist stimulus. But beneath the applause lies a sobering reality: the cuts have significantly constrained the fiscal capacity of both the Centre and the states, limiting their ability to spend on essential services and long-term development. This is not a temporary blip in government revenues; the consequences are likely to be long-lasting and structurally significant.

Recent tax relief measures—including cuts in both direct taxes and indirect levies such as GST—mean that governments across the board will collect less revenue in the coming years. What makes this especially concerning is that these cuts will be difficult to reverse once enacted. Political realities rarely allow leaders to raise taxes or undo popular relief, even when fiscal prudence demands it. As a result, the constraints on revenue are set to persist beyond the current budget cycle.

For the Centre, this erosion of the tax base comes at a time when expenditure needs remain high. Budget numbers indicate that the government’s revenue mobilisation has already fallen below targets, squeezing its fiscal space and pushing deficit ratios upward. With less money coming in, the only options left are either sharp expenditure cuts—which could undercut vital public services—or greater borrowing, which adds future repayment burdens.

States face their own pres-



ures. While the GST regime was intended to simplify collections and broaden the tax base, recent rate reductions have dented state revenues as well. Several state leaders have urged the Centre to compensate for the shortfall, arguing that states bear a significant portion of revenue losses while still being expected to deliver critical services.

The broader issue is not ideology—whether tax cuts are inherently good or bad—but fiscal sustainability. Both the Centre and the states need adequate resources to meet India’s multifaceted challenges: health, education, infrastructure, and social welfare. If tax revenues continue to shrink without commensurate increases in efficiency or economic expansion, public investment will suffer.

Future governments, bound by the legacy of today’s tax cuts, will have even less flexibility to respond to crises or invest in transformative change.

What this situation demands is a mature conversation about balanced fiscal policy, one that recognises the short-term appeal of tax relief but also the long-term necessity of robust revenue streams. Taxation should be fair and growth-oriented, but it must also be sufficient to sustain the public goods and services that underpin a thriving society.

In short, tax cuts may be politically popular, but they have hemmed in the very governments tasked with delivering on development and welfare, posing a deeper challenge to India’s fiscal health and future prospects.

Indian Woman RPF Officer Honoured for Rescuing More Than 1,500 Children

In a powerful recognition of courage and commitment, the Indian Railways' highest service award has been conferred on Chandana Sinha, a woman officer of the Railway Protection Force (RPF), for her extraordinary role in rescuing vulnerable children from exploitation and trafficking across the rail network.

Sinha, who serves as an RPF inspector, has dedicated the past three years to identifying and safeguarding children who are alone at railway stations, at risk of falling into human trafficking rings or being forced into child labour. Through meticulous attention to subtle behavioural cues and an ability to build trust with distressed youngsters, she and her team have successfully brought over 1,500 children to safety. Many of these rescues took place just moments before the children would have been pulled into dangerous situations.

Her work operates under a specialised initiative known as Operation Nanhe Farishtey ("Little Angels"), which focuses on monitoring railway routes notorious for trafficking activity. Under Sinha's leadership, the unit deploys trained personnel who watch for subtle signs that distinguish vulnerable children from routine passengers. Once identified, children are gently approached, questioned, and either reunited with their families or placed in protective care and connected with support services.

Colleagues describe Sinha as a quiet but intense presence on platforms, someone who sees



what others overlook and acts with patience and precision. Beyond spontaneous rescue efforts, she helped formalise an informal system that combines on-ground observation with networks of informants, community contacts and collaboration with non-governmental organisations, making the rescue efforts more systematic and effective.

The award ceremony, held in the nation's capital, drew praise from senior railway officials and public figures, who lauded her for transforming

everyday vigilance into lifesaving action. The honour recognises not just individual bravery, but also the broader impact of her work in raising awareness about the plight of vulnerable children in transit and the role law enforcement can play in protecting them.

Sinha's achievement highlights a persistent challenge in India's vast railway system, where thousands of children become separated from their families every year due to poverty, lack of supervision, or coercion by traffickers. Her suc-

cess — and the institutional focus it brings — underscores the importance of proactive policing that blends empathy with strategic action.

Despite receiving the country's top railway honour, Sinha reportedly returned quickly to her duties, driven by a belief that her work is not done until every child is safe. The recognition serves as both a tribute to her past efforts and an inspiration for continued action against child trafficking and exploitation on India's railways.

Modi Targets West Bengal Government, Calls for End to 'Mahajungle Raj' Ahead of Elections

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered a major political speech in Singur, Hooghly district, sharply criticising the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) government in West Bengal and urging voters to end what he called the state's "mahajungle raj" ahead of the upcoming assembly elections. The remarks reflect intensifying campaigning in the eastern state, where the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) aims to dethrone the long-entrenched regional party.

Addressing a large rally, Modi accused the TMC, led by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, of presiding over years of misrule, poor governance and law-and-order issues. He claimed that West Bengal's people were eager to bid farewell to the current political leadership and embrace change, arguing that the BJP's model of governance would bring development, stability and improved public services. Several party leaders and supporters at the event echoed this sentiment, saying the people wanted a break from what they described as entrenched political stagnation.



Modi's speech touched on a range of contentious issues. He alleged that the state government had failed to cooperate with the central government on key security measures, including efforts to strengthen border fencing along Bangladesh, and accused it of shielding "infiltrators" and creating obstacles for national security efforts. He said the Centre had repeatedly requested land for border fencing, but that the TMC had not acted on it — framing the issue as both a governance

failure and security risk.

The prime minister also criticised the state administration on social concerns, claiming that education and women's safety had deteriorated under TMC rule and were dominated by corrupt elements, a charge the party has vehemently denied. Modi urged voters, particularly women and young people, to support the BJP for a "double-engine government" — a term used to describe having the same party in power at both the state and national levels —

which he said would ensure better implementation of central welfare schemes and development initiatives.

The rally in Singur, a historic political battleground dating back to land acquisition protests nearly two decades ago, came shortly after Modi inaugurated infrastructure projects in the region. The BJP has been pushing a narrative that a change in leadership would attract investment and accelerate economic growth in West Bengal.

The TMC responded to the prime minister's remarks by rejecting the allegations and accusing the BJP of political opportunism. Party spokespeople have said that their government remains committed to protecting the interests of Bengal's people and criticised the central party for mischaracterising state issues for electoral gain.

With the assembly polls approaching, political tensions remain high in West Bengal, underscoring the fierce competition between national and regional forces for control of one of India's most politically significant states.

One Dead, 24 Injured in Multiple Crashes on Delhi-Lucknow Highway Amid Dense Fog

At least one person was killed and 24 others injured in a series of road accidents on the Delhi-Lucknow National Highway after dense fog severely reduced visibility, authorities said. The string of collisions, involving passenger vehicles and trucks, occurred early in the morning when thick fog blanketed large stretches of the highway, making driving conditions perilous.

Traffic police and emergency responders were alerted to multiple crash sites along the busy route, which links India's capital region with the state of Uttar Pradesh. Reports indicated that several vehicles collided at high speed due to extremely low visibility, with some drivers unable to see vehicles ahead until it was too late to brake.

The fatality occurred when a car rammed into the rear of a larger vehicle in one of the worst-hit sections of the highway. The driver of the car died at the scene,



while passengers and occupants of other involved vehicles sustained injuries ranging from minor to serious. Local hospitals received the injured, and medical teams were working to stabilise those in critical condition.

Police and highway patrol units responded quickly to control the situation, diverting traffic and coordinating with ambulance services to

evacuate those hurt. Authorities temporarily slowed down traffic flow in the affected areas and warned motorists to exercise extreme caution or delay travel until visibility improved.

Dense fog is a common winter hazard in northern India, particularly in January, when cold air over the Indo-Gangetic plains traps moisture near the ground.

The resulting low visibility often leads to multi-vehicle pile-ups on major roadways and has, in previous years, claimed dozens of lives and caused widespread disruption.

Officials urged drivers to reduce speed, use fog lights, maintain safe distances from other vehicles, and avoid risky overtaking under such conditions. Road safety experts also emphasised the need for more advanced warning systems and improved signage to alert motorists to sudden changes in weather and visibility.

The highway accidents have sparked renewed calls for enhanced safety measures during peak fog seasons, especially across critical transport corridors that see heavy commuter and freight traffic. Meanwhile, authorities continue to investigate the sequence of collisions to determine exact causes and to prevent similar tragedies in the future.

Police File Cases Over Deepfake and Fake Content on Manikarnika Ghat Redevelopment



Police in Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi have registered multiple cases against individuals accused of spreading AI-generated and misleading content online related to the redevelopment of the Manikarnika Ghat, one of Hinduism's most sacred cremation sites. Authorities say the digital materials misrepresented the actual work being carried out and risked inflaming public sentiment.

The action came after a complaint was filed alleging that fabricated images and videos showing false scenes connected to the ghat's redevelopment were shared widely on social media, particularly on the platform X. Investigators say some of the content depicted distorted views of statues and religious elements, leading followers to believe that sacred structures were being damaged or desecrated as part of the renovation.

Officials registered eight separate cases under provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita against individuals and specific social media handles accused of

creating and circulating the material. Police described the shared visuals as digitally altered and contrary to the documented progress of the ongoing beautification work, which involves improving cremation facilities and related infrastructure at the historic site.

Authorities said the posts were not only false but were likely circulated with the intent to hurt religious sentiments, spread misinformation and provoke anger among the public. They also expressed concern that misleading content could disrupt social harmony in a city that draws large numbers of pilgrims and visitors due to its spiritual significance.

The police action reflects growing attention to the challenges posed by deepfake technology and manipulated media, which can blur the line between genuine documentation and fabricated narratives. In this case, law enforcement has emphasised that careful verification and responsible sharing of information are critical, especially when it comes to matters touching

on religious feelings and community stability.

Among those named in at least one of the FIRs are well-known public figures, a move that has drawn political attention and debate. One of the accused has claimed that the legal action is politically motivated, insisting that he was raising genuine concerns about the redevelopment.

Local leaders, however, have defended the police response and underscored the importance of preventing the spread of falsehoods that could inflame emotions or mislead the public about sensitive cultural heritage sites. They emphasised that the redevelopment project is being carried out with respect for tradition and with the goal of enhancing facilities for pilgrims and residents alike.

As investigations continue, officials have warned that further legal action may be taken against anyone found to be creating or amplifying deceptive content that threatens peace and public trust in the region.

TVK Chief Vijay to Appear Before CBI Again in Stampede Case



Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) chief and actor-turned-politician Vijay has left for New Delhi to appear once again before the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in connection with the Karur stampede case, officials said.

Vijay is scheduled to face the investigating agency for a second round of questioning as part of the ongoing probe into the deadly stampede that occurred during a political event last year. The incident, which took place in Karur district of Tamil Nadu, claimed several lives and left many others injured, triggering widespread outrage and demands for accountability.

The stampede reportedly occurred when a massive crowd gathered for a TVK-organised programme, leading to chaos and a breakdown in crowd control arrangements. Following public pressure and legal scrutiny, the investigation

was later transferred to the CBI to ensure an independent and comprehensive inquiry.

Vijay had earlier appeared before the CBI and was questioned for several hours. Investigators are examining various aspects of the event, including planning, crowd management, security arrangements and coordination with local authorities. The agency is also questioning party functionaries and reviewing logistical preparations made ahead of the programme.

Sources said Vijay is being questioned in his capacity as the party chief to ascertain the sequence of events and the decision-making process leading up to the gathering. The actor-politician has maintained that his party was not responsible for the lapses that led to the tragedy and has stated that he is fully cooperating with the investigation.

The case has become a major political issue in Tamil Nadu, with rival parties trading allegations over responsibility and safety standards at large public events. The stampede has also reignited discussions on crowd control measures and the need for stricter enforcement of safety norms during political rallies and mass gatherings.

Supporters of Vijay have expressed confidence that the investigation will establish the facts, while families of the victims continue to seek justice and accountability. The CBI's findings are expected to play a crucial role in determining responsibility for one of the most tragic incidents in recent political history in the state.

The investigation is ongoing, and further questioning of witnesses and officials is expected as the agency works to piece together the circumstances that led to the stampede.

European Union and Mercosur Seal Historic Trade Agreement After 25 Years



After more than 25 years of negotiations, the European Union (EU) and the Mercosur trade bloc of South American nations have signed a landmark free trade agreement that could reshape global commerce and geopolitics. The deal — finalised in Asunción, Paraguay — marks one of the most significant trade breakthroughs of recent decades and opens a new chapter in economic cooperation between Europe and South America.

Once fully implemented, the agreement is expected to eliminate tariffs on over 90 per cent of trade between the two sides, gradually lowering barriers that have long hindered the flow of goods and services. This area of co-operation will encompass a combined market of more than 700 million consumers, making it one of the largest free trade zones in the world.

Mercosur, which includes Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, will gain expanded access to the EU's markets for key agricultural exports such as beef, poultry, sugar and soy. In exchange, European companies will benefit from easier access to South American markets, particularly for industrial goods such as cars, machinery, chemicals and pharmaceuticals.

Negotiations on this deal began in the late 1990s but stalled repeatedly due to deep political and economic differences. EU member states were particularly concerned about competition from cheaper agricultural imports and the environmental and labour standards of Mercosur countries. Disagreements over issues such as deforestation in the Amazon and sanitary regulations added further delays, while frequent political changes in both regions shifted priorities over the years.

The pact gained renewed momentum amid rising global trade tensions and shifting international dynamics. With the United States increasingly adopting protectionist measures, Brussels has sought to diversify its trade relationships and reinforce a rules-based global trading system. For Mercosur nations, the agreement promises stable access to a major export destination and a boost to economic growth at a time of heightened uncertainty.

European leaders have touted the deal as a triumph for strategic cooperation and economic resilience. However, not all reactions have been positive. Farmers and agricultural unions in several EU countries have expressed strong opposition, warning that cheaper South American imports could put pressure on domestic prices and rural livelihoods. In response, the agreement includes quota limits and phased tariff reductions on sensitive products, alongside financial support mechanisms to ease the transition.

The pact still faces important hurdles before it can take effect. It must be approved by the European Parliament and ratified by each Mercosur member state, a process that could take months or longer. Observers note that its final adoption will depend on ongoing political debates within national legislatures and the balance between economic opportunity and domestic concerns.

Nonetheless, the EU-Mercosur deal is widely seen as a historic achievement that could strengthen economic ties across continents, encourage sustainable trade practices and signal a renewed commitment to multilateral cooperation in a fractious global environment.

US Vice President and Secretary of State to Attend Winter Olympics, Trump Absent from Delegation



The United States has announced its official delegation for the upcoming 2026 Winter Olympics in Italy, with Vice President J.D. Vance set to lead the American contingent at the opening ceremony. Secretary of State Marco Rubio will also attend, underscoring high-level US representation at the global sporting event, even as President Donald Trump is notably absent from the list of attendees.

The Winter Olympics, scheduled to take place in Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, will begin on February 6 and run through February 22. The Games are expected to bring together athletes from across the world to compete in a wide range of winter sports, while also serving as a platform for cultural exchange and international diplomacy.

According to officials, Vice President Vance will represent the United States in his capacity as head of the delegation at the opening ceremony. He will be accompanied by Second Lady Usha Vance, Secretary of State Rubio, and the US Ambassador to Italy. The delegation will also include several celebrated former American Olympians, highlighting the country's rich sporting legacy and continued support for the Olympic movement.

The absence of President Trump has drawn attention, as US presidents have traditionally used major international events such as the Olympics to

project soft power and engage informally with global leaders. While no official reason has been provided for his non-attendance, the White House has emphasised that the United States will still be represented at the highest diplomatic levels.

The 2026 Winter Olympics will feature a distinctive opening ceremony format, with events held not only in Milan but also across multiple mountain venues in northern Italy. Organisers have said the approach reflects the geographic spread of the Games and aims to showcase Italy's diverse landscapes and cultural heritage.

US officials have described the delegation's participation as an opportunity to celebrate American athletes and reinforce the nation's commitment to international sporting cooperation. The inclusion of former Olympic champions is intended to inspire current competitors and underline the enduring values of excellence, teamwork, and fair play.

As global attention turns to Italy for the Winter Games, the composition of national delegations continues to attract interest, both for its sporting symbolism and for the diplomatic signals it sends. With Vice President Vance and Secretary of State Rubio attending, the United States is expected to maintain a prominent presence at one of the world's most closely watched international events.

US Public Rejects Trump's Greenland Claim as Global Tensions Rise

Former US President Donald Trump's renewed assertion that the United States "needs Greenland" for strategic and security reasons has triggered strong public opposition at home and renewed diplomatic unease abroad, according to a recent public opinion survey and reactions from global leaders.

A new opinion poll shows that nearly 75 per cent of Americans disagree with the idea of the United States taking control of Greenland, the autonomous Arctic territory governed by Denmark. More than half of those surveyed said they strongly oppose such a move, while only about one in four expressed support. The findings highlight widespread scepticism among Americans toward any attempt to expand US territorial control in the Arctic.

Despite the domestic pushback, Trump has continued to frame Greenland as a critical asset for US national security, citing its strategic location, military importance, and growing competition in the Arctic involving Russia and China. He has argued that American control over the territory would strengthen NATO's position and en-



sure long-term security interests in the region.

However, the proposal has drawn firm resistance from Denmark and Greenland's leadership, both of which have repeatedly stated that Greenland is not for sale and that its future must be decided by its people. Greenland, while part of the Kingdom of Denmark, enjoys wide self-governing powers, and any change in its status would require the consent of its population.

The issue has also sparked wider diplomatic

tensions across Europe. Trump's comments, coupled with warnings of potential economic pressure on European allies, have been criticised as undermining transatlantic unity. Several European leaders have warned that aggressive rhetoric over Greenland could weaken NATO solidarity at a time of heightened global uncertainty.

Public protests have taken place in Denmark and Greenland, with demonstrators voicing support for Greenlandic autonomy

and rejecting what they describe as external interference. Protesters have emphasised that Greenland's resources and strategic value should not override democratic principles and self-determination.

Political divisions within the United States are also evident. While Republican opinion appears divided, Democratic leaders and voters have largely rejected the idea, questioning both its legality and its alignment with American values. Critics argue that pursuing control over

Greenland risks damaging long-standing alliances and distracting from domestic priorities.

As geopolitical competition in the Arctic intensifies, Greenland's strategic importance is likely to remain a subject of global debate. However, the strong opposition from the American public and clear resistance from Denmark and Greenland suggest that any attempt to pursue such a move would face significant political, legal, and diplomatic hurdles on the world stage.

Hindu Shop Owner Killed in Bangladesh While Trying to Protect Employee

A Hindu businessman was beaten to death with a shovel in Bangladesh while attempting to protect one of his employees during a dispute, triggering widespread outrage and renewed concerns over the safety of religious minorities in the country.

The victim, identified as Liton Chandra Ghosh, a 55-year-old sweet shop owner, was attacked in the Gazipur district. According to police and local witnesses, the incident began with a minor argument between a customer and a teenage employee at Ghosh's shop. What started as a verbal disagreement quickly escalated into violence.

Reports said the confrontation involved a 28-year-old man who entered the shop and began arguing with the 17-year-old employee over a trivial issue. As tensions rose, the customer allegedly called his parents to the spot, and the dispute turned physical. Ghosh intervened in an attempt to calm the situation and shield his



young employee from harm.

During the altercation, Ghosh was struck on the head with a shovel. He sustained severe injuries and died on the spot before medical help could arrive. The brutal nature of the attack has shocked local residents, who described Ghosh as a peaceful and respected member of the community known for treating his workers with

care and dignity.

Police have detained three people in connection with the killing, including the main accused and his parents. Authorities said an investigation is underway and assured that strict legal action will be taken against those responsible. The victim's family has demanded swift justice and maximum punishment for the accused.

The killing has intensi-

fied concerns among Bangladesh's Hindu community, which constitutes a significant religious minority in the country. Community leaders and rights groups have expressed alarm over what they describe as a growing pattern of violence and intimidation targeting minorities, particularly in times of political or social tension.

The incident occurred

amid heightened national attention to public safety and communal harmony. Minority rights advocates have urged the government to strengthen law enforcement and ensure that all citizens, regardless of religious identity, are protected under the law.

Local protests and mourning gatherings were reported following the incident, with residents calling for peace and accountability. Many stressed that acts of violence over minor disputes reflect deeper social issues that require urgent attention from authorities.

As Bangladesh continues to project itself as a nation committed to secularism and social harmony, the killing of Liton Chandra Ghosh has raised uncomfortable questions about ground realities. Observers say the case underscores the need for decisive action to curb violence, uphold the rule of law, and reassure minority communities that their lives and livelihoods are secure.

US Lawmaker Says India Brings Investment to America, Contrasting With Pakistan



A senior US lawmaker has highlighted the growing economic and strategic importance of India to the United States, pointing out that New Delhi not only receives investment from America but also brings significant capital into the US economy—a contrast he drew with Pakistan during recent remarks at a Washington event.

Republican Congressman Rich McCormick,

speaking at a forum hosted by a Washington think tank, stressed that India's expanding economic footprint and rising global influence make it an increasingly vital partner for the United States. He noted that although Pakistan has a population comparable to India's, it does not generate the same level of investment flows with the US. According to McCormick, Indian companies

and investors have shown willingness to invest in American markets, while Pakistan's economic ties in this regard remain limited.

McCormick also praised India's rapid economic growth and its burgeoning middle class, which he said are beginning to exert influence on global markets. He emphasised that India's contribution extends beyond capital,

pointing to the substantial pool of skilled Indian talent working across key sectors of the US economy and helping drive innovation and productivity.

The lawmaker warned that alienating India could have negative consequences for American interests, arguing that a strong relationship with New Delhi would foster peace and prosperity, while distancing the two countries could create challenges for both. His comments reflect broader discussions in Washington about the strategic value of closer ties with India, particularly as global economic and geopolitical competition intensifies.

Democratic Congressman Ami Bera, who was also part of the dialogue, echoed the importance of maintaining a strong long-term strategic and economic partnership between the United States and India. Bera acknowledged that while there are temporary disagreements

over issues such as tariffs, visas and market access, the underlying logic for cooperation remains robust. He noted that US companies continue to view India as an attractive destination for investment, with multibillion-dollar commitments underscoring the depth of commercial engagement.

Both lawmakers stressed that routine diplomatic or economic engagement with Pakistan should not be interpreted as a shift in the US strategic focus. Instead, they reaffirmed that India's role as a major economic partner and geopolitical actor makes it central to Washington's vision for stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region.

Their remarks come at a time when US-India relations have experienced strains over trade disputes and tariffs, yet both sides continue to emphasise the value of cooperation that transcends short-term political issues.

Market Capitalisation of Three Top Firms Surges ₹75,855 Crore; SBI and Infosys Lead Gains

In a holiday shortened trading week, the combined market capitalisation of three of India's top 10 most valued listed companies jumped by ₹75,855.43 crore, signalling selective strength in heavyweight stocks even as broader equity markets remained subdued.

The standout performers were State Bank of India (SBI) and Infosys, both posting significant valuation gains, supported by positive investor sentiment around banking resilience and renewed confidence in the IT sector. ICICI Bank also contributed to the up-tick, rounding out the trio of firms that drove the collective rise in market value.

SBI emerged as the biggest gainer, with its market valuation climbing by around ₹39,045.51 crore to approximately ₹9.62 lakh crore. The surge reflects renewed investor faith in India's largest public sector lender amid expectations of robust credit growth and improving asset quality. Infosys followed with a strong performance, lifting its market capitalisation by about ₹31,014.59 crore to nearly ₹7.02 lakh crore, underpinned by optimism around its revenue growth prospects and service line performance. ICICI Bank added roughly ₹5,795 crore, taking its market value above ₹10 lakh crore.

Despite these gains among the top three, the broader pic-



ture among the remaining most valuable firms was mixed to weak, with several marquee names posting declines in their market valuations over the week. Reliance Industries, India's most valued company, saw its valuation fall by nearly ₹23,952 crore, underscoring uneven sectoral performance within the blue chip cohort.

Other significant declines were reported in companies such as Larsen & Toubro, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finance, Hindustan Unilever, and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), each recording erosion

in market capitalisation. These drops cumulatively offset much of the broader gain outside the top three, reflecting caution among investors toward sectors like infrastructure, consumer goods, and finance outside the strongest performers.

While the benchmark indices showed limited movement — with the Sensex slightly lower and the Nifty marginally higher over the week — the concentrated capital gains among a few large stocks highlight ongoing selective confidence in India's equity market. Investors appear focused on growth narratives in

banking and technology, even as overall market participation remains cautious.

Market analysts suggest that the contrasting fortunes among India's biggest listed firms reflect divergent sectoral outlooks and varied investor risk appetites. As the market navigates macroeconomic cues and corporate earnings updates in the coming weeks, the performance of heavyweight stocks like SBI and Infosys will be key indicators of sentiment, particularly in a trading environment marked by low volatility and mixed signals.

India- European Union Trade Pact Set to Be ‘Mother of All Deals’; No Member State Opposed, Says Goyal

India and the European Union (EU) are on the verge of finalizing what could be the most significant trade agreement in India's history, with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal calling the proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) the “mother of all trade deals.” According to officials, the pact has so far enjoyed unanimous support across the 27-member EU bloc, with no member state opposing the deal.

The agreement, which has been under negotiation intermittently for over a decade, is designed to balance mutual interests, protect sensitive sectors, and open new avenues for trade and investment. Mr. Goyal emphasized that India has secured favorable terms in sectors critical to national priorities while also offering European businesses access in areas that complement India's economic goals. The deal aims to be a win-win arrangement, creating growth opportunities on both sides.

Analysts say the pact could significantly reshape bilateral trade flows. For India, key priorities include improving market access for labor-intensive goods such as textiles, footwear, and jewelry, where Indian producers hold a competitive advantage. For the EU, the agreement could expand opportunities for automobiles, machinery, and high-value manufactured products, reflecting complementary



economic strengths rather than direct competition.

Investment and regulatory certainty are also central components of the pact. Negotiations are reportedly focusing on provisions related to foreign direct investment, local employment requirements, value addition, and use of domestic inputs, aimed at facilitating European companies looking to expand their footprint in India's manufacturing and services sectors.

Strategically, the India-EU FTA comes at a time when both parties are seeking to diversify trade relationships and reduce dependency on China, amid on-

going global supply chain disruptions and geopolitical tensions. The agreement is expected to strengthen economic ties, promote sustainable trade practices, and enhance India's position in global markets.

The finalization of the deal is expected during high-level meetings around India's Republic Day celebrations later this month. Officials say it will mark a major milestone in India's trade strategy, offering long-term benefits in both market access and investment flows. The pact is also likely to set a benchmark for future trade agreements, showcasing

India's ability to negotiate large-scale, balanced trade arrangements with major economic partners.

As India prepares for the signing of the FTA, industry leaders and exporters are watching closely, anticipating a boost to sectors such as textiles, pharmaceuticals, and IT services, while European companies look forward to stable regulatory frameworks for long-term investments. The agreement is expected to have a transformative impact on trade and investment between India and Europe, heralding a new era of bilateral economic engagement.

IPO Activity Picks Up: Four New Issues Worth ₹2,081 Crore and Nine Listings Set to Debut

India's primary market is gearing up for a busy week as four companies plan to launch initial public offerings (IPOs) collectively seeking ₹2,081 crore, alongside nine companies scheduled to debut on the stock exchanges, marking a period of heightened activity for investors and issuers alike.

The largest of the upcoming IPOs is Shadowfax Technologies, a Bengaluru-based logistics and technology-driven delivery solutions provider. Shadowfax's issue, estimated at around ₹1,907 crore, is the only mainboard offering among the four. The IPO opens on January 20 and closes on January 22, with a price band of ₹118–124 per share. Funds will be raised through a combination of fresh issuance and an offer for sale by existing shareholders, reflecting investor appetite for companies operating in the e-commerce and logistics sector.

In the SME segment, three smaller companies are entering the market next week. Digilogic Systems, which provides automated test and measurement solutions to defense, aerospace,



and automotive sectors, plans to raise approximately ₹81 crore through its IPO, also open from January 20 to January 22, with a price band of ₹98–104 per share. KRM Ayurveda, operating hospitals and clinics, will open its IPO from January 21 to January 23, targeting ₹77.5 crore at a price band of ₹128–135 per share. Shayona Engineering, specializing in precision castings, is set

to launch its IPO from January 22 to January 27, aiming to raise roughly ₹15 crore.

Together, these four issues aim to mobilize ₹2,081 crore, offering investors a blend of mainboard and SME investment opportunities across logistics, healthcare, and engineering sectors.

Alongside these IPOs, nine companies are slated for market

listings next week, increasing activity on the bourses. Notable debuts include Bharat Coking Coal, a subsidiary of Coal India, and Amagi Media Labs, a SaaS-based technology firm. Smaller SME companies, such as Defrail Technologies and Avana Electrosystems, will also begin trading, adding depth and variety to the market.

Market analysts say this packed IPO calendar highlights sustained investor interest despite recent fluctuations in benchmark indices. The mix of sectors and company sizes provides diversified investment choices, while subscription trends and early trading performance of the new listings will be closely monitored to gauge sentiment and liquidity flows in the primary market.

As investors weigh their options, the upcoming IPO and listing activity reflects the continued dynamism of India's equity market, demonstrating that new issues remain an important avenue for capital-raising and market participation, even in volatile conditions.

Tata Motors Seeks Budget Boost to Keep Entry-Level EVs Affordable



Tata Motors has appealed to the government for targeted fiscal support for entry-level electric vehicles (EVs) in the upcoming Union Budget 2026-27, warning that rising production costs and competitive pressures are threatening the affordability of EVs for ordinary buyers.

The automaker highlighted that while general reforms like GST rationalization and a more favorable tax regime have helped the broader passenger vehicle segment, affordable EVs are struggling to remain competitive against cheaper petrol and diesel alternatives. Rising input costs, commodity price volatility, and foreign exchange fluctuations have increased manufacturing expenses by nearly 2%, a burden largely absorbed by the company so far. Executives noted that without government support, the additional costs could soon be passed on to consumers, potentially slowing the adoption of entry-level EVs.

Tata Motors is advocating for specific incentives to keep lower-priced EVs within reach of the mass market. The company believes this is critical not only for maintaining competitiveness but also for advancing India's broader electric mobility ambitions. With petrol and diesel vehicles benefiting from recent cost reductions due to GST adjustments, entry-level EVs risk losing the price advantage needed to attract

first-time buyers.

Beyond individual car sales, Tata Motors is also calling for fleet EVs to be included under the PM E-DRIVE scheme. Fleet vehicles, though accounting for a small share of total passenger vehicle sales, cover roughly a third of all passenger kilometers traveled, making them a significant factor in reducing emissions and curbing oil imports. Incentivizing fleet EVs could generate substantial environmental and economic benefits, the company says, urging the government to align current policies with earlier initiatives under the discontinued FAME-II scheme.

The push comes amid a broader industry trend, where automakers are already adjusting prices in response to rising input costs and currency volatility. Tata Motors' submission signals an urgent need for policy measures that balance growth, sustainability, and affordability in the EV sector.

As the Union Budget deliberations unfold, Tata Motors' request highlights the industry's wider call for government intervention to sustain entry-level EV adoption. By keeping EVs accessible, policymakers can ensure that India's clean mobility targets advance without pricing out the mass market, making sustainable transportation a practical option for more consumers across the country.

India's Power DISCOMs Return to Profit After Years of Losses, Post ₹2,701 Crore in FY25



New Delhi, Jan 18 (Business/Economy Desk) — After years of struggling with massive losses, India's electricity distribution companies, commonly known as DISCOMs, have finally turned profitable, reporting a combined Profit After Tax (PAT) of ₹2,701 crore for the financial year 2024-25. The development marks a significant turnaround for a sector that has long been under financial stress, affecting both investors and power consumers.

For more than a decade, DISCOMs have grappled with mounting losses due to inefficiencies, high technical and commercial losses, delayed tariff revisions, and weak collection practices. Aggregate losses peaked at nearly ₹68,000 crore in FY2013-14, and even in FY2023-24, losses remained at over ₹25,500 crore. The return to profitability reflects a combination of policy reforms, operational improvements, and better financial management, signaling a new chapter for the sector.

One of the key drivers of this improvement has been the reduction in Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses, which account for both electricity lost during transmission and distribution and revenue not collected. AT&C losses have fallen steadily from around 22.6 percent a decade ago to approximately 15 percent in FY25, reflecting better grid management, enhanced metering, and improved billing efficiency.

Another important factor has been the narrowing of the gap between the Average Cost of Supply and the Average Revenue Realised (ACS-ARR). A

smaller gap indicates that utilities are increasingly able to recover costs from the revenues they collect, supporting long-term financial viability. Improved payment discipline has further eased working capital pressures, with faster settlement of dues to power generators boosting confidence across the supply chain.

Government-led reforms and initiatives have played a central role in this turnaround. Programs aimed at modernizing infrastructure, expanding smart metering, linking financial incentives to performance, and enforcing timely tariff revisions have strengthened DISCOM operations. Coordination between the Ministry of Power and state governments has also been critical in implementing reforms at the ground level.

The profit milestone comes at a crucial time as India's energy demand continues to grow, driven by industrial expansion, urbanization, and increased household consumption. Analysts note that financially healthy DISCOMs are essential not only for reliable power supply but also for enabling further investment in renewable energy and supporting India's energy transition goals.

While challenges remain, including the need to maintain efficiency gains and manage operational costs, the return to profitability demonstrates that sustained policy focus and management reforms can transform a long-struggling sector. For consumers, investors, and the government, this is a positive signal that India's power distribution landscape is on a more sustainable path.

OnePlus Pad Go 2: The Tablet That Plays It Cool



In a world where tablets are constantly racing to outshine each other with flashy features, the OnePlus Pad Go 2 takes a different approach: it quietly gets the job done. Priced at around ₹28,999, it doesn't pretend to compete with the top-tier iPads or gaming tablets. Instead, it stakes its claim as a practical, reliable device for everyday use.

The design is one of the Pad Go 2's understated strengths. Its unibody metal frame is sturdy and feels premium without being flashy. The camera module is modest, avoiding the awkward bumps seen on other tablets. The new Lavender Drift color adds a subtle elegance, giving it a personality that is refined yet approachable. Accessories like the folio case and stylus are well-designed, practical, and make using the tablet a smoother experience, whether for work, study, or entertainment.

Battery life is where

this tablet truly impresses. With a 10,500 mAh battery, it easily powers through long workdays, streaming sessions, or online classes. Normal usage can easily surpass 10 hours, while heavier usage still yields a comfortable 7-8 hours. Fast charging isn't revolutionary, but given the large battery and overnight charging convenience, it doesn't feel necessary.

Under the hood, the MediaTek Dimensity chipset delivers smooth performance for everyday tasks. Apps open quickly, multitasking is fluid, and video streaming is buttery. While it isn't a powerhouse for hardcore gaming, casual games run without major issues, making it ideal for most users. OxygenOS 16, running on Android 16, brings thoughtful gestures and multitasking features that feel intuitive rather than forced.

The 12.1-inch display is another highlight, offering crisp visuals and de-

cent outdoor visibility. With a 120 Hz refresh rate, scrolling through apps or social media feels fluid, and watching videos is a pleasant experience. It's not a display that will wow photographers or graphic designers, but it gets the job done with style and efficiency.

The OnePlus Pad Go 2 doesn't try to be the loudest or the flashiest tablet on the market. Instead, it feels like a confident choice for anyone who wants a reliable companion for work, streaming, creative projects, or casual gaming. It prioritizes everyday usability and comfort over headline-grabbing specs, proving that sometimes, the quietest tablets leave the best impression.

In short, if you want a capable, dependable tablet that won't break the bank or overwhelm you with features, the Pad Go 2 is a smart, practical pick.

We Are Slowly Being Poisoned: Chess Grandmaster Calls Out Delhi's Toxic Air



In a rare departure from chess boards and world rankings, Indian grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi has taken to social media to deliver a piercing critique of Delhi's winter smog — and it isn't wrapped in polite sportsmanship. The usually measured strategist posted a stark message on his social feed, declaring that residents of the national capital are “slowly being poisoned,” and lamenting that no one seems sufficiently alarmed by the city's deteriorating air quality.

The post was accompanied by a screenshot of Delhi's Air Quality Index hitting hazardous levels, a reading so severe that even brief outdoor exposure can be harmful to health. “We are slowly being poisoned and no one cares? Shouldn't solving this be the top priority?” he wrote — a line that struck a chord far beyond the chess community.

Gujrathi's remarks arrived at a moment many Delhi residents already

recognized the familiar grey haze that descends each winter. Smog, thick enough to blur the skyline and sting the eyes, has become almost routine during this season, but the grandmaster's words expressed frustration with the resignation that often accompanies it. His post triggered an outpouring of reactions online. Some echoed his anxiety, pointing out that pollution levels are alarmingly high not just in Delhi but in other cities too, and that clean air increasingly feels like a luxury. Others voiced cynicism about the pace of meaningful action, noting that severe smog episodes seem to recur year after year with little lasting change.

The criticism from a high profile athlete also follows other sports figures making tough decisions because of the air. Recently, a top international badminton star withdrew from a major tournament hosted in the capital, citing extreme pollution as a

health risk — a sign that even elite competitors are not immune to the harsh conditions.

By highlighting the toll that toxic air exacts on everyday life and athletic performance alike, Gujrathi's message served as a reminder that environmental issues are not abstract statistics but real, lived experiences. His intervention brought fresh attention to broader debates about public health, environmental policy and individual well being, at a time when authorities and citizens alike are grappling with how to balance economic activity and quality of life.

Whether his words will help turn seasonal alarm into sustained action remains to be seen. But for now, the chess grandmaster has reminded many that the stakes — breathing clean air, or enduring the slow squeeze of smog — affect everyone, whether they navigate 64 squares or simply walk out their front door.

Fujifilm X-E5: The Retro Camera That Demands Your Attention



In the mirrorless camera world, the Fujifilm X-E5 lands like a stylish throwback with a modern brain. On first glance, it's a compact, retro-styled rangefinder — all dials, levers, and clean lines — evoking the charm of classic film cameras. But spend a little time with it, and you quickly realize this is not just a pretty face; it's a powerful tool designed to

challenge and reward anyone who takes it seriously.

At the heart of the X-E5 is a 40.2MP APS-C sensor paired with a fast processor. The result is crisp, richly detailed images that make you reconsider what your pocket camera can do. Fujifilm's signature film simulation modes are built in, letting photographers evoke nostalgic

color palettes straight out of the camera. Whether you crave vibrant modern tones or muted, vintage-inspired moods, the camera's settings make experimentation irresistible.

One of the most noticeable upgrades in the X-E5 is its five-axis in-body image stabilization. Hand-held shots in low light suddenly feel achievable without a tripod, and

shaky hands during street photography are no longer a dealbreaker. For casual users, this is a dream, and for professionals, it's a versatile tool that makes day-to-day shooting more reliable.

Yet the X-E5 doesn't make itself easy. Its menu system, packed with options, can feel like learning a new language. Switching between

modes, tweaking film simulations, or adjusting exposure settings requires attention, patience, and a willingness to explore. For anyone used to quick point-and-shoot simplicity, it can feel overwhelming, but the payoff is a camera that responds exactly how you want when you master it.

Video capabilities are strong as well, with high-resolution recording and flexible frame options, making the X-E5 more than just a stills camera. While it lacks weather sealing and the tilting screen is a little fiddly, these quirks are minor compared to the versatility and image quality it offers.

The Fujifilm X-E5 is designed for photographers who enjoy the process as much as the final shot. It's not a casual accessory — it's a companion that challenges, inspires, and rewards creativity. For those ready to embrace its depth, it offers an experience that is both nostalgic and forward-looking, blending classic aesthetics with modern performance.

In short, the X-E5 is a camera for curious creators who want more than snapshots — it's a tool for those willing to engage, experiment, and make each image their own.

Elon Musk vs OpenAI: The Billion Dollar AI Feud Unfolds

In what feels like a Silicon Valley courtroom drama with the stakes dialed up to eleven, Elon Musk and OpenAI are headed for a full blown legal showdown that could redefine how tech start ups honour their founding promises. This is not your typical boardroom spat — it's a high profile clash between one of the world's most controversial billionaires and one of the most influential artificial intelligence labs on Earth.

At the heart of the dispute is a claim that sounds almost Shakespearean in scale: Musk alleges that OpenAI, the organisation he helped co found and bankroll in its earliest days, abandoned its nonprofit mission and misled him as it morphed into a for profit powerhouse. According to the lawsuit, Musk donated about \$38 million in seed funding and played a crucial role in recruiting talent and lending credibility to the fledgling project. But as OpenAI's valuation skyrocketed — bolstered by deals with Microsoft and a massive pivot toward commercialisation — Musk argues he was shortchanged and defrauded out of his rightful share of the gains. He's seeking up to \$134 billion in damages from both OpenAI and Microsoft, citing what he calls “wrongful gains” made



from his early support.

The newly unsealed court documents are revealing bits of the story that feel more like legal thriller material than tech policy debate. Among the trove are diary entries and internal communications suggesting that OpenAI's leadership had explored profit oriented paths

long before the formal transition. These documents, now part of public filings, have become a central battleground in the case — and fuel for Musk's claim that the nonprofit promise was never truly honoured.

OpenAI, for its part, has vigorously rejected the allegations, calling

A jury trial is now slated for April 2026, and both sides are digging in. Whether this legal face off will settle questions about AI's future, nonprofit integrity, or billion dollar valuations remains to be seen — but one thing's clear: the clash between Musk and OpenAI has become one of the tech world's most riveting sagas in recent memory.

Apple's Foldable iPhone: The Phone That Just Might Finally Bend Reality



In the gadget world, every new iPhone launch feels like a festival — but whisper it softly: Apple's first foldable iPhone might be the event that actually turns heads. After years of sketches, rumours and “maybe someday” headlines, the Cupertino giant's bid to enter the foldable smartphone arena is now closer than ever.

For those tired of traditional slabs of glass, the foldable iPhone promises a “book style” experience: a device that feels like an everyday phone when closed but opens up into a tablet like screen for movies, multitasking, or showing off that perfect meme collage. Early hints suggest it won't have a square, narrow format, but instead lean into a broader display reminiscent of a small tablet, making apps look less “squished” and more at home.

One of the wildest parts of this story is the hinge. Apple seems to be obsessed with it — not just any hinge, but one

forged from sophisticated materials like titanium and even a liquid metal alloy. The goal? A folding mechanism that's sturdy, sleek and maybe even crease light, solving a problem that has plagued many foldables so far. Engineers appear to be wrestling with this part harder than a suspense novelist struggling with the final chapter.

Inside, the internal screen could be nearly 8 inches diagonally — comfortably bigger than

many existing phones but still pocketable when folded. The outer screen is expected to be slightly over five inches, familiar enough that many won't feel lost when using it one handed. Most intriguingly, Apple might ditch Face

ID on this model in favour of a side mounted Touch ID sensor, a nod to practicality over face scanning flair.

Rumours about cameras and battery life are equally tantalising. Expect dual 48 megapixel rear shooters with strong imaging credentials, and whispers even suggest this foldable could pack one of the largest batteries ever seen in an iPhone. That could mean real all day use — something foldables often struggle with under heavy multitasking.

Timing is part of the suspense. Industry speculators point to a 2026 debut, possibly alongside Apple's next flagship lineup. But there's chatter that Apple continues to tinker with the design, nudging expectations toward 2027 if perfection takes longer.

Whether it's a game changer or just a very stylish flex, one thing is certain: when Apple finally folds, the tech world will be watching — and maybe holding its breath.

Zaheer Khan and Ajinkya Rahane Question Ravindra Jadeja’s ODI Role Amid Recent Struggles

A fresh debate has surfaced in Indian cricket circles over the role and effectiveness of senior all rounder Ravindra Jadeja in the One Day International (ODI) format, as former players Zaheer Khan and Ajinkya Rahane publicly questioned whether Jadeja’s contributions with the ball remain impactful enough to justify a regular place in the team. The discussion has gained traction following Jadeja’s recent performances in the ODI series against New Zealand, where he failed to take a wicket and did not bowl his full quota of 10 overs in any match. Jadeja’s subdued outputs in those games — including conceding significant runs without penetrating the opposition batting — prompted scrutiny of whether his bowling has declined at a time when conditions increasingly demand attacking intent. Zaheer Khan, a veteran of India’s fast bowling ranks, pointed out that modern ODI cricket requires bowlers to do more than just contain runs in the middle overs. According to him, bowlers must also pose a genuine threat to take wickets and shift momentum. He stressed that while Jadeja remains a skilled operator, the



evolving nature of limited overs cricket means mere containment is no longer sufficient. Echoing a similar sentiment, Ajinkya Rahane highlighted that Jadeja has become somewhat predictable in his bowling patterns, particularly on flatter surfaces where traditional spinners must vary pace and angle to remain effective. Rahane contrasted Jadeja’s style with that of Axar Patel, who he believes brings more variation and unpredictability with the ball — traits that can disrupt batting rhythms in ODIs. Rahane also suggested that players must continuously adapt their games to changing conditions, implying that Jadeja may need to evolve further to maintain his appeal in the 50 over format. The debate takes on added significance as India prepares for upcoming white ball assignments and looks ahead to the 2027 ODI World Cup. Jadeja’s legendary status as a multi format performer and his contributions with bat, ball and in the field cannot be understated, but critics argue that recent returns in ODIs have not matched his extensive reputation. Fans and pundits alike are now closely watching whether India’s management will continue to rely on the seasoned all rounder or seek greater balance by favouring players with sharper attacking credentials. For his part, Jadeja retains strong backing from teammates and supporters who believe his experience and cricketing acumen remain assets, especially in high pressure situations. Still, the questions raised by Zaheer and Rahane underscore a broader conversation about how India optimises its squad composition in a fiercely competitive format where aggression and variation are at a premium.

IND vs NZ 3rd ODI: Arshdeep Singh Strikes Early, Sparks Debate Over Team Selection

In a thrilling start to the third and final ODI between India and New Zealand in Indore on Sunday, left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh made an immediate impact on his return to the Indian XI, igniting discussions over head coach Gautam Gambhir’s earlier team selections. With the ODI series tied 1 1, India made a single change to the squad for the decider, bringing back Arshdeep in place of Prasidh Krishna. After winning the toss and opting to bowl, captain Shubman Gill handed Arshdeep the new ball — a move that paid dividends instantly. On the fourth delivery of his very first over, Arshdeep bowled Henry Nicholls through the gate, sending the experienced Kiwi opener back to the pavilion and giving India a crucial early breakthrough. Arshdeep’s immediate success highlighted his skill in swinging the new ball and brought attention to the broader debate around selection decisions. Fans and cricket



pundits quickly took to social media to express their frustration at Gambhir for previously leaving the pacer out of the ODI XI. Many argued that Arshdeep’s ability to strike early had been evident in past performances, and his exclusion in the first two matches was unjustified. Some posts described the omission as “shameful,” noting that consistent performers deserve a regular place in the squad. Former players and experts also joined the conversation, pointing out that bowlers often face more competition to secure spots compared to batters, and that overlooking an in-form bowler can be costly in key matches. The debate underscored the intense scrutiny Indian cricket faces, where every selection decision is analyzed and critiqued by millions. For India, Arshdeep’s return has been a timely boost. His early dismissal of a top-order batsman set

the tone for the bowling attack and gave the team an advantage in conditions that favored swing. New Zealand, chasing consistency at the top of their order, faced immediate pressure, and Arshdeep’s disciplined line and length tested their technique. Beyond the on-field performance, this episode emphasizes the importance of clear selection policies and consistent opportunities for players. As the series decider unfolded, it became evident that Arshdeep’s inclusion was not just a tactical move but a statement on trusting in-form talent. With future international tournaments on the horizon, how India balances team selection, player form, and experience will remain a key talking point for fans, analysts, and management alike. Arshdeep Singh’s fiery return may have settled the debate temporarily on the field, but the discussion about selection fairness and strategy is far from over.

RCB Continue Winning Streak, Defeat DC by Eight Wickets in WPL 2026

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) extended their impressive run in the Women’s Premier League (WPL) 2026, securing their fourth consecutive victory with a comprehensive eight-wicket win over Delhi Capitals (DC) at the DY Patil Sports Academy in Navi Mumbai on Saturday. The win solidifies RCB’s position at the top of the league standings and demonstrates their dominance in the early stages of the tournament. Chasing a target of 167 set by DC, RCB faced an early setback as opener Grace Harris was dismissed for just 1 by DC’s experienced bowler Marizanne Kapp. However, skipper Smriti Mandhana took charge with authority, crafting a brilliant innings of 96 runs off 61 balls. Her knock featured 13 fours and three sixes, anchoring RCB’s chase and providing the perfect platform for the team’s middle order. Mandhana found cru-



cial support from Georgia Vull, who remained unbeaten on 54 off 42 deliveries. Together, the duo compiled a 142-run partnership, effectively putting the game out of DC’s reach. RCB sealed the victory with 10 balls to spare, maintaining their unbeaten streak in the tournament. Earlier, DC’s batting struggled against disciplined bowling from RCB. The Capitals were restricted to 166 in their 20 overs, with the scoreboard reading 74/6 at one point. South African opener Shafali Verma top-scored with a resilient 62 off 41 balls, while Lucy Hamilton added a valuable 36. Despite

these efforts, DC’s innings lacked the momentum needed to set a challenging target. For RCB, the bowling attack was instrumental in dismantling DC’s lineup. Lauren Bell and Sayali Satghare shone with the ball, each claiming three wickets, effectively choking DC’s top and middle order. Once RCB’s batters settled, the Capitals struggled to create pressure, leaving them with limited options to turn the game around. The win underscores RCB’s balance as a team, combining solid leadership, aggressive batting, and disciplined bowling. Smriti Mandhana’s performance once again highlighted her crucial role, both as a batter and as a guiding force for the team. Meanwhile, Delhi Capitals remain at the lower end of the points table, facing a challenge to recover form in the upcoming matches. With momentum firmly on their side, RCB look well-positioned to challenge for the WPL 2026 title. Their consistent performances and confidence at this stage make them a formidable opponent for the remaining teams, and fans will eagerly watch to see if they can sustain this level of excellence throughout the tournament.

Virat Kohli’s Playful Push on Daryl Mitchell Becomes Viral Highlight of IND vs NZ 3rd ODI



In a light-hearted moment that stole attention during the third and final ODI between India and New Zealand in Indore on Sunday, Indian batting star Virat Kohli was seen playfully nudging New Zealand batter Daryl Mitchell off the ground as the visiting player walked back to the pavilion. The incident quickly went viral on social media, adding a humorous highlight to an otherwise tense match. The playful exchange came at the conclusion of Mitchell’s remarkable innings. He scored a brilliant 137 runs off 131 balls, striking 15 fours and three sixes. His commanding performance helped New Zealand post a challenging total of 337 for eight in their 50 overs, leaving India with a steep target to chase. As Mitchell walked off after being dismissed by Mohammed Siraj in the 45th over, cameras captured Kohli standing near the boundary ropes. In a moment of friendly sportsmanship, Kohli lightly pushed Mitchell toward the dressing room exit while both shared smiles. Fans and cricket analysts interpreted the gesture as light-hearted banter between two experienced competitors, acknowledging Mitchell’s dominant innings. The video of the incident spread rapidly online, with fans praising the playful side of Kohli, who is often known for his intense focus and competitive spirit on the field. Commentators noted that the moment showcased Kohli’s personality beyond his batting prowess, reminding viewers that even elite athletes enjoy moments of humor and camaraderie during matches. Despite India’s spirited efforts with the bat later in the game, Mitchell’s century and a significant partnership with teammate Glenn Phillips, who also scored a century, ensured New Zealand maintained a strong position. The interaction between Kohli and Mitchell highlighted that mutual respect and sportsmanship remain integral to the spirit of international cricket, even in fiercely contested matches. Fans responded to the incident with amusement and admiration, emphasizing that such unscripted moments enrich the cricketing experience. The playful push became a talking point alongside the on-field action, proving that cricket’s charm extends beyond runs, wickets, and statistics. Moments like these offer a glimpse into the personalities behind the helmets, showing that humor and camaraderie can shine even in high-stakes international games. As India and New Zealand look ahead to future encounters, this viral exchange will likely be remembered as a light-hearted highlight of the series, demonstrating that sportsmanship and fun remain a part of the game’s enduring appeal.

Tata Steel Masters 2026: Arjun Erigaisi Wins, Gukesh Draws in Exciting Opening Round



The Tata Steel Masters 2026 chess tournament in Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands, began with thrilling action for India’s top grandmasters, as Arjun Erigaisi claimed a convincing victory over compatriot R Praggnanandhaa, while reigning World Champion D Gukesh fought to a hard-earned draw against Uzbekistan’s Javokhir Sindarov. Erigaisi, the top seed of the event, showcased his tactical acumen and preparation in his clash with Praggnanandhaa. Playing the Queen’s Gambit Accepted, Erigaisi capitalized on an early middlegame error when Praggnanandhaa’s king became exposed in the center. Erigaisi’s precise calculation allowed him to mount a decisive attack, forcing a resignation after 32 moves. The win provided Erigaisi with a strong start and positioned him among the early leaders in the tournament standings. Meanwhile, Gukesh was involved in a much longer battle against Sindarov. Opting for the Queen’s Gambit Declined, Gukesh navigated complex middlegame tactics and even attempted a bold queen sacrifice to seize the initiative. However, Sindarov’s resourceful defense neutralized the threat, and after 78 moves, neither player could force a victory, resulting in a well-earned draw. Gukesh’s performance highlighted his resilience and strategic depth, keeping him firmly in contention as the tournament progresses. Other first-round action also produced notable results. American grandmaster Hans Moke Niemann recorded a solid win by capitalizing on a tactical blunder from his opponent, while German prodigy Vincent Keymer defeated Dutch star Anish Giri, joining Erigaisi and Niemann as early leaders with full points. Indian grandmaster Aravindh Chithambaram drew his encounter with Germany’s Matthias Bluebaum, and several other games ended in draws, adding depth and intrigue to the opening round. The Tata Steel Masters, known as one of the most prestigious and long-standing elite chess tournaments in the world, continues to attract top players globally. With Erigaisi’s win and Gukesh’s resilient draw, India’s grandmasters have made a strong impression in the tournament’s opening stage. Fans and analysts are now keenly watching how the Indian contingent builds momentum in the upcoming rounds against some of the world’s strongest competitors. As the tournament progresses, the spotlight will remain on Erigaisi and Gukesh, who are expected to be key contenders. Their opening-round performances have set the tone for a competitive event, promising exciting games and high-level strategy in the rounds to come.

Rashmika Mandanna Overwhelmed by Love from Japanese Fans During Pushpa 2 Promotions



Telugu and pan-Indian star Rashmika Mandanna found herself deeply moved by an outpouring of affection from fans in Japan while promoting the international release of Pushpa 2: The Rule. The actress, who traveled to Tokyo with her Pushpa 2 co-star Allu Arjun, was inundated with heartwarming letters and gifts from admirers during her brief stay in the country.

The 29-year-old actor took to her social media to share a poignant moment from the trip, posting images of herself surrounded by the handwritten notes and thoughtful presents she received from Japanese fans. Rashmika described the experience as “so so soooooo wholesome,” revealing that even in a short one-day visit, the enthusiastic reception moved her to tears. She shared that she carefully brought all the gifts and letters back home, cherishing each one as a symbol of the love and support from

her international audience.

Rashmika’s heartfelt message expressed profound gratitude, saying she was overwhelmed by the genuine affection shown by admirers who had gathered to catch a glimpse of her during promotional events. The warmth went far beyond typical celebrity greetings — many fans wrote personal notes that touched the actress deeply, prompting her to respond with sincerity and emotion.

In her post, Rashmika also made a special promise to her Japanese supporters. She assured them that she plans to return to Japan for a longer visit next time, so she can spend more quality time with her fans and immerse herself further in their culture. In a delightful and humble gesture, she even said she intends to learn more of the Japanese language before her next visit, highlighting her eagerness to connect more meaningfully with her growing fanbase

overseas.

During the promotional stint in Tokyo, Rashmika and Allu Arjun took part in special events celebrating the January release of Pushpa 2 in Japanese theatres. The film’s reception in Japan has signaled a growing appreciation for Telugu cinema on the global stage, with audiences turning out enthusiastically to celebrate the blockbuster along with its stars. Fans at the event were seen recreating iconic poses from the film and greeting the actors with boundless energy.

Rashmika’s experience stands as a reflection of how Indian cinema’s reach continues to expand, with heartfelt fan interactions serving as powerful reminders of the emotional bond artists share with audiences around the world. The overwhelming response in Japan has clearly left an unforgettable impression on the actress, who returns home grateful and inspired by the global love she has received.

Eros International Seeks ₹84 Crore in Legal Dispute Over Tere Ishk Mein



Mumbai — Bollywood has been drawn into a high-profile legal battle as Eros International Media Limited has filed a suit seeking 84 crore in damages over the film Tere Ishk Mein. The case, filed in the Bombay High Court, has sparked widespread discussion in the film industry, bringing intellectual property rights and promotional ethics into sharp focus.

The dispute centres on allegations that Tere Ishk Mein, directed by Aanand L. Rai and starring Dhanush and Kriti Sanon, was promoted as a “spiritual sequel” to the 2013 blockbuster Raanjhanaa, a film produced by Eros. The production house claims that this positioning unfairly leveraged the popularity, goodwill, and legacy of Raanjhanaa without obtaining prior consent or legal authorisation.

In its petition, Eros has asserted exclusive ownership over all intellectual property associated with Raanjhanaa, including copyrights, trade-

marks, sequel rights, and character associations. The company alleges that promotional materials for Tere Ishk Mein created a misleading connection between the two films, causing confusion among audiences and resulting in commercial exploitation of its intellectual assets.

The lawsuit names several parties, including director Aanand L. Rai, his production company, music label partners, and entities associated with the film’s distribution and digital release. Eros has also stated that it had issued prior legal notices objecting to the film’s marketing strategy, but claims those concerns were not adequately addressed.

While Tere Ishk Mein performed reasonably well at the box office and received attention for its emotional narrative and performances, the legal action has now placed the film under scrutiny beyond its cinematic merits. Industry observers believe the case could have wider implications,

especially at a time when filmmakers increasingly rely on brand recall, cinematic universes, and thematic continuations to attract audiences.

Legal experts note that the outcome of this case may help define clearer boundaries between creative inspiration and intellectual property infringement. It could also influence how filmmakers describe and promote films that share thematic or emotional similarities with earlier works.

So far, the makers of Tere Ishk Mein have not issued a detailed public response to the allegations. The matter is expected to proceed through further hearings, with the industry closely watching developments.

As Bollywood continues to evolve into a more legally conscious and globally connected industry, this dispute serves as a reminder of the growing importance of intellectual property protection and transparent marketing practices in Indian cinema.

Nandamuri Family and Film Fraternity Pay Grand Tributes to Legendary NTR on 30th Vardhanthi

The 30th Vardhanthi of legendary actor, politician, and cultural icon Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao (NTR) was commemorated with heartfelt tributes at the NTR statue in Film Nagar. Members of the Nandamuri family, film industry stalwarts, political leaders, and thousands of fans gathered to honor the man who reshaped Telugu cinema and championed the pride of the Telugu people.

The statue of NTR was adorned with elaborate garlands as admirers paid homage to the “Viswa Vikhyatha Nata Sarvabhoudha.” Veteran actor and film personality Kaja Surya Narayana remarked, “NTR garu is number one in the history of Telugu cinema. Alongside ANR, he is one of the two eyes of our film industry. His political and cinematic contributions paved the way for countless individuals to achieve success.” He further expressed his wish for a statue of Akkineni Nageswara Rao to honor the other pillar of Telugu cinema.

Social activist Madala

Ravi highlighted NTR’s enduring influence, stating, “He elevated the pride of the Telugu race globally. He deserves the Bharat Ratna, and it is our responsibility to work collectively towards that recognition.”

Writer Paruchuri Gopalakrishna recalled NTR’s rise to legendary status, citing the iconic dialogue from Mana Desam. “Even after three decades, Annagaru feels alive among us. His presence is felt in every corner of our cinema and culture,” he said.

Director Tammareddy Bharadwaja reflected on NTR’s selfless dedication, saying, “He lived without selfishness and experimented with every role and story in cinema. Remembering him only on anniversaries is insufficient; we must strive to follow his ideals in both cinema and politics to truly honor his legacy.”

Actor Prasanna Kumar emphasized NTR’s inspirational journey, calling him “a training ground for actors and a beacon for political leaders. He showcased the valour and pride of Telu-



gu people to the world.” Director YVS Chowdary added, “Statues remind future generations of our heroes. NTR rose to the pinnacle of cinema with dedication and hard work, earning global recognition for the Telugu race.”

Family members, including Nandamuri Janakiram’s wife Deepika and Mohana Roop, also participated, sharing cherished memories of NTR’s warmth and guidance.

The event served as a powerful reminder of

NTR’s timeless legacy, reflecting his unparalleled impact on cinema, politics, and the hearts of Telugu people. His ideals and achievements continue to inspire generations, cementing his place as a true icon of Telugu culture.

Akhil Akkineni’s Century Powers Telugu Warriors to Thrilling CCL 2026 Victory



Actor Akhil Akkineni delivered a sensational performance with the

bat to lead the Telugu Warriors to a commanding win in the Celebrity

Cricket League (CCL) 2026. In a match that had fans on the edge of their seats at the ACA-VDCA International Stadium, Akhil smashed a scintillating century to guide his team to a 52-run victory over the defending champions, Punjab De Sher, in the highly anticipated league clash.

After winning the toss, the Telugu Warriors elected to bat first and set a challenging target. Akhil, captaining his side with both confidence and flair, took charge from the outset. He put on a spectacular batting display, scoring 101 runs off just 56 balls with an impressive array of boundaries and sixes. His aggressive yet calculated innings punctuated an opening partnership with teammate Ashwin Babu, who contributed a solid 60 runs. Together, the pair laid the foundation for the Warriors’ formidable total, propelling the team

to 184 for four in their allotted 20 overs.

Akhil’s century was the first in this season’s CCL and instantly became the defining moment of the match. His commanding presence at the crease not only electrified the crowd but also gave the Warriors a psychological edge heading into the run chase. Throughout his knock, he displayed a remarkable blend of precision and power, thrilling fans and onlookers alike with his batting prowess.

Chasing 185, Punjab De Sher struggled to build momentum against disciplined bowling and sharp fielding from the Warriors. Despite a determined fifty from their own batter, the visitors could not sustain their challenge. Regular breakthroughs from the Telugu Warriors’ bowlers eventually restricted Punjab De Sher to 132 all out in 18.2 overs, handing the home

side a convincing 52-run triumph.

The win marked a significant moment for the Telugu Warriors in the 2026 league stage, especially against a team that entered the tournament as defending champions. Akhil Akkineni’s leadership — both as captain and with the bat — was widely praised by teammates, fellow players, and spectators, with many hailing the innings as one of the most memorable performances of the season.

As the CCL 2026 progresses, the Telugu Warriors will look to build on this strong start, buoyed by Akhil’s match-winning century and the team’s all-around performance. With the tournament promising even more excitement, cricket and cinema fans alike will be eagerly watching to see how the Warriors fare in their upcoming fixtures.

Chiranjeevi’s MSG Breaks Even in Just Six Days, Becomes a Box Office Sensation

Hyderabad, January 18, 2026

Megastar Chiranjeevi has once again proven his box office dominance with his latest release, Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu (MSG), which has impressively broken even within just six days of its release. Released during the festive Sankranti season, the film has drawn massive crowds to theatres across India and overseas, marking a major success early in its run.

Directed by Anil Ravipudi and produced under the Shine Screens banner, MSG is being hailed as a family entertainer that combines Chiranjeevi’s star power with heartfelt storytelling. Fans have flocked to cinemas, resulting in record-breaking ticket sales, while the movie’s strong word-of-mouth has ensured consistently high footfalls across multiplexes and single-screen theatres alike.

Within the first six days, the film has reportedly grossed over

₹260 crore worldwide, surpassing expectations for even the biggest star-driven films. Industry insiders note that the movie’s festive release and family-centric appeal played a crucial role in its rapid box office recovery, helping it recover production costs in record time.

MSG has also performed exceptionally well in overseas markets, with North America emerging as a major contributor to the film’s early success. The film’s appeal among global audiences has reinforced Chiranjeevi’s stature as a pan-Indian superstar and demonstrated the growing influence of Telugu cinema internationally.

In addition to financial milestones, MSG has created waves in terms of audience engagement. The film reportedly outperformed the lifetime ticket bookings of other major releases, highlighting the massive enthusiasm surrounding Chiranjeevi’s new outing. Fans

have lauded the actor for his electrifying performance and the film’s emotional storytelling, while critics have praised its blend of entertainment, drama, and festive charm.

Trade analysts predict that if the current momentum continues, MSG could soon cross the ₹300 crore mark, cementing its place as one of the biggest hits in Chiranjeevi’s illustrious career. The film’s early success has not only delighted fans but also sent a strong signal to the Telugu film industry about the continued drawing power of megastar-led releases.

As MSG continues its run in theatres, it stands as a testament to Chiranjeevi’s enduring popularity and his ability to connect with audiences across generations. With a combination of strong performances, festive timing, and family-friendly storytelling, MSG is shaping up to be a defining cinematic event of 2026.

