



BUZZ POINTS

Union Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Ensures Mortal Remains of Dubai Migrant Reach Native Village



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TRUE POINT

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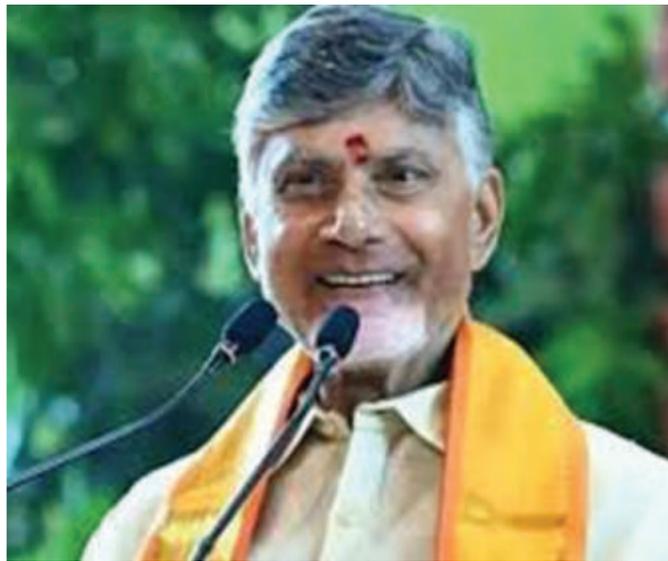
Blueprint for Irrigation Projects: CM Chandrababu Vows to Complete

Amarvathi
25.02.2026 TPN
bureau :

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu unveiled a comprehensive blueprint for completing key irrigation projects across the state, reaffirming his government's commitment to provide water to every acre of cultivable land. Addressing a massive public gathering in Markapuram district after laying the foundation stone for Veligonda Project feeder canal works worth ₹456 crore, the Chief Minister declared that Phase-I of the Veligonda Project would be completed by July this year.

Naidu criticized the previous administration for inaugurating incomplete projects. "We do not indulge in ribbon-cutting ceremonies for unfinished works. We will complete the project and dedicate it to the nation only after ensuring water reaches farmers," he asserted.

The Veligonda Project aims to provide irrigation to 4.35 lakh acres, benefiting constituencies including Giddalur, Markapuram, Yerragondapalem, Kanigiri, Udayagiri, and Badvel. The total estimated cost of the project stands at ₹9,081 crore, of which ₹5,451 crore has already been spent on construction. Additionally, ₹484 crore has been spent on land acquisition and ₹184 crore on rehabilitation. The Chief Minister stated that an additional ₹2,540 crore is required to fully complete the project. Over the past 20 months alone,



₹540 crore has been spent to accelerate works.

Officials briefed the Chief Minister that the feeder canal is designed to carry 11,580 cusecs of water. The Nallamala Sagar reservoir has been structured to store 53.83 TMC of water, and plans are in place to draw 45 TMC within 45 days to fill the reservoir. Canal lining works are progressing at a rate of 200 meters per day, with side wall construction expected to be completed by May-end, ensuring readiness before the flood season.

Naidu reiterated that his government is preparing a scientific irrigation blueprint with the support of retired engineers to ensure water access to every acre. He emphasized that only 53 TMC is required for Veligonda, while thousands of TMCs from the Godavari and Krishna rivers flow unused into the sea annually.

Beyond irrigation,

the Chief Minister announced ₹1,300 crore to supply safe drinking water to every household from Nallamala Sagar, particularly addressing fluoride-affected areas in the district. He also sanctioned ₹50 crore for constructing a new district Collectorate in Markapuram, fulfilling a long-standing demand after the district's formation.

Highlighting welfare initiatives, Naidu said the NDA government is implementing "Super Six" schemes, including pension disbursements of ₹34,000 crore annually, financial assistance to farmers under Annadata Sukhibhava, free bus travel for women under Stree Shakti, and free LPG cylinders under the Deepam scheme. He reiterated that the Polavaram Project would be completed before the 2027 Pushkarams and pledged to transform Rayalaseema and Prakasam regions into

horticulture hubs.

The Chief Minister also reviewed project progress with irrigation officials and directed them to ensure timely completion of tunnels, canals, and related infrastructure. He stressed strict monitoring and instructed authorities to keep him updated regularly on milestones.

During his visit—the first since Markapuram became a new district—Naidu received an enthusiastic public welcome. Several ministers and public representatives attended the event, thanking the Chief Minister for fulfilling the promise of district formation.

Concluding his address, Naidu said, "I live for the people and the state. Our goal is development without discrimination—across caste, creed, or region. Completing Veligonda and bringing water to farmers' fields will usher in a new era of prosperity for this region."

Lokesh Dismisses Allegations on VSR Aviation, Calls Charges Politically Motivated

Amarvathi
25.02.2026 TPN
bureau :

Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh strongly refuted allegations made by the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) regarding VSR Aviation, stating that the accusations are politically motivated and baseless.

Interacting informally with media representatives, Lokesh drew a sharp comparison, saying, "They killed my uncle and put the knife in our hands. The allegations now being made about VSR Aviation are similar in nature." He alleged that attempts were being made to create a false narrative to target him and his associates.

Clarifying the controversy, Lokesh said there is no connection between Heritage Group and VSR Aviation. He explained that Heritage Fin Lease was established in 1996 and functions as a financial services company. In 2022, VSR Aviation availed finance from Heritage Fin Lease in the normal course of business. "Like many other companies, VSR also took finance. That does not imply any special relationship," he stated.

He questioned the logic behind the allegations, asking whether they had anticipated coming to power or that their party's MP would later become Union Aviation Minister. "Did we dream that Ajit Pawar would board a VSR flight and that it would meet with



an accident?" he remarked, dismissing suggestions of any prior knowledge or conspiracy.

Responding to criticism from YSRCP chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Lokesh said he was not obligated to answer every unfounded accusation. "Why should I respond to every baseless charge? However, wherever clarity is required, we will provide a detailed and fitting reply," he said, adding that he would present comprehensive information on the VSR Aviation issue.

Addressing comments by senior YSRCP leader Botsa Satyanarayana, who had remarked that "petty thieves are being caught while big thieves are being spared," Lokesh responded pointedly. "Is Botsa calling Jagan a big thief? Is he asking authorities to arrest him? The SIT investigation has already revealed the facts," he asserted.

Lokesh also claimed that more than six cases had been filed against him and others during the previous regime. He stated that before filing a chargesheet, approval must be obtained from

the competent authority — the Governor in the case of ministers and the Speaker in the case of MLAs. "Why were no valid pieces of evidence shown to the Governor? Did they present even a single credible proof? All the cases filed against us were false," he alleged.

On internal party matters, Lokesh announced plans to strengthen legislative capacity-building. He said a structured orientation program would be conducted for MLAs, with residential sessions held at the party office for two days. "The principal for the orientation classes will be Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. We are all students," he remarked.

He added that meetings with MLAs and MPs are conducted in a "family concept," beyond political discussions, focusing on governance and coordination rather than partisan issues.

Reiterating his stance, Lokesh said the government remains committed to transparency and would respond firmly wherever necessary, while refusing to be distracted by what he described as politically driven allegations.

IPS Officer Sunil Naik Moves Andhra Pradesh High Court for Anticipatory Bail

Amarvathi
25.02.2026 TPN
bureau :

An IPS officer, Sunil Naik, on Wednesday filed an anticipatory bail petition before the Andhra Pradesh High Court in connection with a custodial torture case involving current MLA and Assembly Deputy Speaker Raghu Rama Krishna Raju.

The case pertains to allegations of custodial torture during the arrest of Raghu Rama Krishna Raju, which has remained a politically sensitive and legally contentious issue in the state. A case has been registered against Sunil Naik at the Nagarampalem Police Station in Guntur district. At the time of Raju's arrest, Sunil Naik was serving as Superintendent of Police (SP) in the Andhra Pradesh Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

According to official sources, the anticipatory bail plea was filed amid reports that efforts were underway to arrest the officer. Two days prior to the filing of the petition, Guntur SP Damodar reportedly traveled to Bihar in connection with the case to secure custody of Sunil Naik. However, a Bihar court declined to grant a transit warrant, effectively halting immediate arrest proceedings outside Andhra Pradesh.

The refusal of the Bihar court to issue a transit warrant appears to have prompted Sunil Naik to approach the High Court seeking protection from arrest. Legal experts suggest



that the anticipatory bail petition is aimed at preventing any coercive action against him while the investigation is ongoing.

The custodial torture allegations relate to events that occurred during Raghu Rama Krishna Raju's arrest, which had attracted widespread attention at the time. Raju had alleged that he was subjected to physical and mental harassment while in custody. The matter subsequently became the subject of legal scrutiny and political debate.

The registration of the case against Sunil Naik has added a new dimension to the ongoing proceedings. As a senior police officer who held a key investigative position at the time of the arrest, his role has come under examination in the context of the allegations. The investigation is being closely monitored given the high-profile nature of the individuals involved.

Sources indicate that the anticipatory bail petition is likely to come up for hearing on Thursday. The High Court is expected to consider arguments from both sides, including the necessity of custodial interrogation, the nature of the

allegations, and the officer's cooperation with the investigation.

Legal observers note that anticipatory bail, if granted, would provide interim protection from arrest, subject to conditions imposed by the court. These may include directions to cooperate with the investigation, refrain from influencing witnesses, or surrender travel documents if required. On the other hand, if the court declines to grant relief, investigative agencies may proceed with steps to secure custody through due legal process.

The case has significant administrative and legal implications, particularly given that it involves a serving IPS officer and a sitting legislator who currently holds the position of Deputy Speaker in the state Assembly. The outcome of the anticipatory bail hearing is likely to influence the course of the investigation and the broader legal proceedings in the matter.

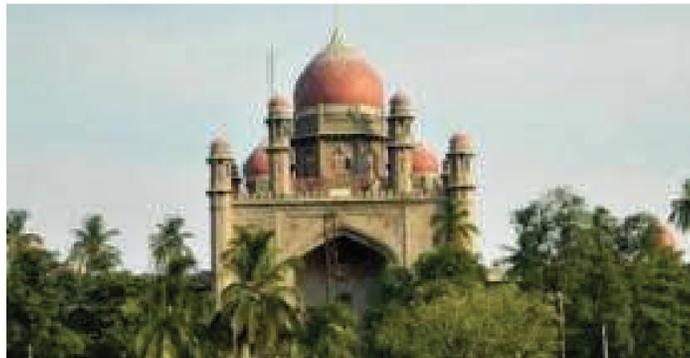
As the hearing approaches, attention remains focused on the High Court's decision and the next steps in what continues to be a closely watched case in Andhra Pradesh's legal and political landscape.

High Court Seeks Compliance Report in Group-1 Evaluation Irregularities Case

Amarvathi
25.02.2026 TPN
bureau :

The Andhra Pradesh High Court has taken a serious view of the state government's delay in complying with its earlier directions concerning alleged irregularities in the evaluation of the Group-1 examination conducted under the 2018 notification. The matter came up before a division bench comprising Justice Battu Devanand and Justice Hari Hara Nath Sharma, which expressed strong displeasure over the failure of the Chief Secretary to submit a compliance report as previously directed.

The controversy stems from allegations of large-scale irregularities in the evaluation of answer scripts in the Group-1 examination. Earlier, while examining multiple appeal petitions filed against a single judge's order cancelling the Group-1 examination, the High Court had directed the state government to ensure a transparent and impartial investigation into the evaluation process. The court had ordered the constitution



of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the alleged discrepancies in the valuation of answer sheets.

In addition to directing the formation of the SIT, the court had also instructed the government to transfer all candidates who had secured positions under the 2018 Group-1 notification and were already in service to non-focal posts. The objective behind this direction was to facilitate a fair and uninfluenced investigation. The court had further ordered the government to submit a compliance report detailing the steps taken in accordance with its directions.

However, during the hearing on Tuesday, the Registrar (Judicial) informed the bench that

no such compliance report had been filed by the Chief Secretary. Taking note of this, the bench sought clarification from Advocate General Dammalapati Srinivas on whether there was any update regarding the submission of the report.

Responding to the court, the Advocate General stated that the Chief Secretary intended to seek certain clarifications from the court before filing the report and therefore had not yet submitted it. He also informed the bench that due to personal inconvenience, the Chief Secretary was unable to proceed as planned.

The bench, however, made it clear that personal inconvenience could not be considered

a valid ground in matters involving court directions. The judges observed that compliance with judicial orders is mandatory and that any delay without sufficient justification could be viewed seriously. The bench further remarked that the conduct of the Chief Secretary appeared, by its very nature, to be contemptuous.

When the Advocate General requested the court to adjourn the matter by a day to enable the filing of the compliance report, the bench responded that before initiating contempt proceedings, it would grant an opportunity to the Chief Secretary. However, the court directed that the Chief Secretary must appear before it

and explain the reasons for non-compliance.

The development marks a significant turn in the ongoing legal battle over the Group-1 examination. The case has drawn widespread attention among aspirants and civil service candidates, many of whom have been awaiting clarity on the status of the recruitment process. The High Court's insistence on a transparent investigation and strict compliance underscores the judiciary's commitment to ensuring fairness and integrity in public recruitment.

The matter has now been adjourned to enable further proceedings, including the potential personal appearance of the Chief Secretary. The court indicated that it would decide on further action, including the initiation of contempt proceedings, based on the explanation provided and the steps taken by the government to comply with its earlier directions.

As the case progresses, all eyes remain on the state government's response and the steps it takes to address the concerns raised by the court regarding the integrity of the Group-1 examination process.

NRI Institute of Technology Students Visit Andhra Pradesh Assembly, Meet Minister Kolusu Parthasarathi

Amarvathi 25.02.2026 TPN bureau :

Students of the Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning (AI & ML) department from NRI Institute of Technology, located in Agiripalli, had a rare and enriching opportunity as they visited the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly and witnessed the ongoing Assembly proceedings firsthand.

The visit enabled the students to closely observe the functioning of the democratic system and understand legislative processes in action. Watching live debates, discussions, and policy deliberations gave them valuable insights into governance, public administration, and the role of elected representatives in shaping the state's future.

On this occasion, the students also met the Hon'ble Minister for Information & Public Relations, Kolusu Parthasarathi. Interacting warmly with the students, the



minister encouraged them to broaden their horizons beyond technical education. He advised them to develop awareness about governance, policymaking, and civic responsibilities alongside their academic pursuits in emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning.

During an informal interaction, the students expressed their interest in visiting the Polavaram Project to gain practical exposure to one of the state's major infrastructure initiatives. Appreciating their curiosity and enthusiasm, Minister Kolusu Parthasarathi assured them that arrangements would be made for the visit. In a gener-

ous gesture, he also stated that he would personally bear the expenses associated with the Polavaram tour.

The students conveyed their heartfelt gratitude to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for providing them with such a valuable experiential learning opportunity. They described the Assembly visit as a memorable and inspiring experience that would remain a milestone in their academic journey.

Faculty members accompanying the students noted that such visits bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world governance, motivating young technocrats to become informed and responsible citizens.

Women Ridership Rises to 65% as Andhra Pradesh Expands Free Travel and Transport Reforms



Amarvathi 25.02.2026 TPN bureau :

Andhra Pradesh has witnessed a remarkable surge in women's participation in public transport, with female ridership increasing from 40% to 65% following the launch of the Stree Shakti free bus travel scheme.

Speaking during the discussion on budget demands in the State Assembly, Transport Minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy highlighted the transformative impact of the initiative introduced under the leadership of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu.

Launched on August 15, 2025, the Stree Shakti scheme provides free bus travel to women across five categories of state-run services, including City Ordinary, City Express, Palle Velugu, Ultra Palle Velugu, and Express buses.

According to the minister, the scheme has enabled 47 crore free journeys so far, with the government bearing a subsidy burden of 1,660 crore. On average, around 25 lakh women utilize the facility every day, reflecting both the popularity and social impact of the initiative.

In a significant expansion of welfare measures, the State Cabinet has also decided to extend free

bus travel to persons with disabilities. The minister described the move as a major step toward inclusive mobility and social equity, ensuring that vulnerable sections of society can access transport without financial constraints.

Highlighting parallel initiatives, Ramprasad Reddy noted that the government has extended financial assistance worth 436 crore to 2,90,669 auto drivers under the "Auto Driver Seva" scheme during 2025-26. To strengthen skill development, Driver Training and Research Institutes (IDTR) are currently under construction in Done (Kurnool district) and Darsi (Prakasam district). Additionally, an Inspection and Certification (I&C) Centre is being established at Gambhiram in Visakhapatnam at a cost of 16.50 crore.

The minister emphasized that modernization and safety reforms remain key priorities. At present, nine Automated Driving Test Tracks (ADTT) are operational in the state, with five more to be set up under CSR support from Maruti Suzuki. Furthermore, Automated Testing Stations (ATS) are functioning in 18 districts, and the remaining districts are expected to be covered soon. These ini-

tiatives aim to improve transparency, efficiency, and road safety standards.

Under the AP Electric Mobility Policy 4.0 (2024-29), the government has exempted motor vehicle tax for electric vehicles purchased and registered within the state. The administration has also constituted a dedicated Road Safety Fund, channeling enforcement revenues toward accident prevention measures and infrastructure upgrades.

Special concessions have also been extended to students. On the initiative of Education Minister Nara Lokesh, Intermediate students are allowed free bus travel upon presenting their hall tickets during examination periods.

Looking ahead, the state plans to introduce 750 new buses under the PM e-Bus service initiative. Proposals have also been submitted for additional CNG and electric buses to strengthen sustainable and eco-friendly public transport.

With expanded welfare schemes, infrastructure modernization, and a focus on inclusivity, Andhra Pradesh's transport sector is undergoing significant reform aimed at empowering women, supporting drivers, and promoting green mobility.

War Against Cervical Cancer: 3.45 Lakh Girls to Receive Free HPV Vaccine in Andhra Pradesh



Amarvathi 25.02.2026 TPN bureau :

In a major public health initiative aimed at preventing cervical cancer among women, the Government of Andhra Pradesh will administer the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine free of cost to approximately 3.45 lakh girls who have completed 14 years of age. The announcement was made by State Medical and Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav.

The vaccination drive will be rolled out across 1,683 Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Urban Health Centres equipped with cold chain storage facilities. The vaccine, administered as a 0.5 ml injection, is designed to provide protection against HPV-related cancers, particularly cervical cancer. The Minister stated that medical personnel have already been trained for vaccine

distribution, and 1,90,890 doses have been received from the Centre in the first phase. Additional doses will be supplied as per requirement.

The formal national launch of the vaccination programme will take place on February 28 at Ajmer, Rajasthan, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In Andhra Pradesh, the programme will be inaugurated by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. Minister Satya Kumar Yadav conducted a high-level review meeting on Wednesday to oversee preparations for the launch and implementation.

Consent and Certification

Vaccination will be administered between 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM at designated health centres. Consent from at least one parent or guardian will be mandatory before ad-

ministering the vaccine. After vaccination, girls will receive an official certificate. The programme will be implemented in coordination with the Education Department and the Women & Child Welfare Department and is expected to continue for approximately three months. Real-time data will be recorded through the U-WIN digital platform.

The HPV vaccine (Gardasil-4), recommended by the World Health Organization, offers protection against HPV types 6, 11, 16, and 18—significantly reducing the risk of cervical cancer. The market cost of the vaccine is ₹3,927 per dose, making the free distribution a major relief for families.

District-Wise Coverage

According to data collected through village and ward secretariats, 3,45,377 girls aged be-

tween 14 and 15 years have been identified across 28 districts. Kurnool district has the highest number of eligible beneficiaries at 23,957, while Polavaram district has the lowest at 2,777. Vaccine distribution to districts is being carried out proportionately.

Ongoing Cancer Screening and Expenditure

The coalition government had already initiated large-scale cancer screening programmes. Upon assuming office, Minister Satya Kumar Yadav signed the cancer survey file as his first official decision. So far, 1.71 crore individuals have undergone screening for oral, breast, and cervical cancers under the NCD-04 programme, including 53.63 lakh women. Among them, 6.40% (3,43,487 women) were

identified as high-risk for cervical cancer—the highest among the three categories.

Between 2007-08 and January 24, 2026, the government has spent ₹4,751.82 crore through the NTR Vaidya Seva Trust for cancer treatment of over 6.32 lakh patients. Of this, ₹2,997 crore was spent on treatment for women, with cervical cancer cases accounting for a significant share.

Globally, cervical cancer remains the second most common cancer among women aged 15 to 44. With nearly 6 lakh new cases and 3 lakh deaths annually worldwide, prevention through vaccination is a critical strategy. The state government's initiative marks a decisive step in safeguarding the health of young girls and reducing the long-term burden of cervical cancer.

Historic Boost to Farm Storage Capacity: Over 1,000 Modern Warehouses Sanctioned Under AIF in Andhra Pradesh

Amarvathi 25.02.2026 TPN bureau :

In a major push to strengthen rural agricultural infrastructure, the Andhra Pradesh government has taken significant strides under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), sanctioning and executing over 1,000 modern warehouses across the state. Responding to questions in the Legislative Council, Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu detailed the scope and progress of the initiative aimed at transforming Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) into Multi-Purpose Facility Centres (MPFCs).

Launched in June 2020 under the Government of India's Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) scheme, the program focuses on strengthening storage and drying infrastructure at the level of Rythu Seva Kendras (RSKs). Except for Visakhapatnam district, warehouse and drying yard construction is underway across the state with a total investment of ₹504.42 crore.

The financing model offers significant support to PACS. With NABARD providing refinance assistance, loans are extended at 4% interest with a 3% interest subvention. Projects are structured under a 90% loan and 10% margin



money pattern. The state government has sanctioned ₹50.4 crore toward margin money, of which ₹20 crore has already been released. Additionally, government land is being leased for 33 years at a nominal rent of ₹1 per year, along with exemptions on registration fees and stamp duty. The state also provides a full government guarantee for loans under the scheme.

So far, construction has commenced on 1,005 MPFC warehouses. Of these, 717 warehouses along with associated

drying yards have been completed. Across 572 PACS, 1,111 procurement centers have been established and equipped with moisture meters, weighing balances, and desktop systems. Furthermore, 462 assaying centers in 232 PACS have been supplied with essential laboratory equipment. Works worth ₹381.72 crore have been completed, including ₹373.97 crore for warehouse construction and ₹7.75 crore for equipment procurement.

Minister Atchannaidu emphasized that these

scientific storage facilities will enable farmers to store produce safely, reduce post-harvest losses, and secure better market prices. The initiative is expected to significantly strengthen the rural economy and empower cooperative institutions at the grassroots level.

Focus on Drying Infrastructure and Farmer Income

The government has also prioritized measures to address crop damage caused by untimely rains. The minister noted that tarpaulins

were distributed during the 2014-19 period, but the program was later discontinued. Following the formation of the coalition government in 2024, tarpaulins were procured through the Civil Supplies Department and stocked in bulk at every Rythu Seva Kendra (RSK). Unlike earlier individual distribution, farmers can now borrow tarpaulins from RSKs as needed and return them after use.

Recognizing technological advancements in agriculture, the government is also exploring the introduction of electronic dryers. Although modern electronic dryers are available in the market, their high cost poses a challenge. In consultation with Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar, the state plans to launch pilot projects by installing one or two electronic dryers in each region. If successful, the initiative will be expanded statewide.

The primary objective, the minister reiterated, is to ensure that wet paddy is scientifically dried so farmers can obtain better prices without facing distress sales. With sustained investment, institutional support, and technology adoption, the Andhra Pradesh government aims to usher in a new era of agricultural modernization and enhanced farmer incomes.

Ambati Breaks Silence After Remand

Amaravathi, February 20 | TPN Bureau

Former Andhra Pradesh minister and YSR Congress Party leader Ambati Rambabu on Thursday clarified that his earlier remarks were not directed at former Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, while levelling serious allegations against political rivals and police officials following his release from Rajahmundry Central Jail.

Rambabu had been in judicial remand for 18 days in connection with three separate cases before being granted bail. Addressing the media after his release, he accused Union Minister Pemmasani Chandrasekhar of targeting him politically and warned that his opponents would have to "pay a price."

He said the events of the past few weeks had been closely watched by the public. According to Rambabu, he was arrested by Nallapadu police around midnight on January 31 and remained in custody without an opportunity to present his



version until his release. He maintained that he had only attempted to advise party workers near a flex banner put up by the Telugu Desam Party, insisting he did not tear it.

The former minister alleged that tensions es-

calated the following day when he was verbally abused while returning from a temple visit, prompting him to respond in anger. He later regretted his language, stating that his remarks were not aimed at Chandrababu Naidu and that

he felt remorse after returning home.

Rambabu further claimed that large groups gathered outside his residence for several hours, creating unrest and intimidating his family. He alleged that the attackers acted with

police backing and that his supporters from the YSR Congress Party were prevented from reaching his house. He also accused police of attempting to assault him at around 2 a.m. while he was in custody, adding that he would pursue legal action over the incident.

Dismissing allegations of caste-based remarks, Rambabu said his family itself included members from the community in question and accused rivals of deliberately fueling divisions. He criticised both Nara Lokesh and Pawan Kalyan, alleging political vendetta and claiming attempts were being made to sideline him.

Invoking the legacy of slain leader Vangaveeti Ranga, Rambabu said his party could not afford to "lose another voice," referring to veteran Kapu leader Mudragada Padmanabham.

The remarks have intensified the ongoing political war of words in Andhra Pradesh, with sharp reactions expected from rival parties in the coming days.

Chaos in Andhra Pradesh Assembly Over Tirumala Incident



Amaravati, February 21, 2026 | TPN Bureau

A heated uproar erupted in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly on Friday as YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) MLAs staged a protest involving sacred images of Lord Venkateswara, sparking sharp criticism from ruling party members. The controversy revolves around the YSRCP members allegedly holding images of the deity while reportedly wearing footwear inside the Assembly — an act deemed disrespectful by the opposition.

The clash began when the Assembly Chairman, Koyye Moshen Raju, rejected a motion to discuss the TTD (Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams) ghee supply issue, prompting YSRCP legislators to rush to the podium in protest. During the demonstration, they displayed images of Lord Venkateswara, drawing immediate condemnation from ruling party leaders, who described the act as a violation of sa-

cred customs, calling it a "serious offense" against religious sentiments.

Reacting strongly to the incident, State Minister Achchennaidu recalled a similar controversy involving former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, claiming, "When Jagan visited Tirumala in the past, he walked across the temple premises in shoes. Today, YSRCP leaders in the Assembly held Lord Venkateswara's pictures while wearing shoes and boots. Instead of apologizing to the devotees for such actions, they are spreading falsehoods and issuing challenges. What else can one say about them?"

Ministers Nara Lokesh and P. Keshav also expressed strong disapproval, stating that the actions of YSRCP MLAs hurt Hindu sentiments and called for an immediate apology.

However, YSRCP Assembly floor leader Botsa Satyanarayana strongly refuted the allegations, challenging the opposition to provide evi-

dence proving that their members held the deity's images while wearing shoes. In response, the protesting MLAs released photographs and video clips on social media showing their footwear, seemingly reinforcing their defence.

The tense standoff led the Assembly Chairman to adjourn the session temporarily, highlighting the heightened friction between the ruling party and the opposition in the state. Analysts note that this episode not only underscores the sensitivity of religious issues in Andhra Pradesh politics but also reflects the ongoing confrontations between YSRCP and opposition legislators over procedural matters in the Assembly.

The incident is likely to dominate political debates in the coming days, as both sides accuse each other of disrespecting sacred traditions and political overreach, keeping the state's political atmosphere charged.

Durgesh Condemns YSRCP Members for Disrespecting Lord Venkateswara's Image



Amaravati, February 20, 2026 | TPN Bureau

State Tourism, Culture, and Cinematography Minister Kandula

Durgesh has strongly criticized members of the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) for allegedly showing disrespect to

Hindu sentiments in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly. Speaking at the media point within the assembly premises on Friday, Minister Durgesh expressed outrage over YSRCP members carrying an image of Lord Venkateswara on a placard into the assembly and reportedly placing it on tables with their footwear. He described the act as "highly improper, offensive, and deeply hurtful to the religious sentiments of devotees."

The minister was accompanied by several colleagues, including Ministers Nara Lokesh, Anam Ramanarayana Reddy, Payyavula Keshav, Nimmala Ramanaayudu, Dola Balaveeranjaneya Swami, Savitha, Gummidu Sandhya Rani, and Vangalapati Anita. Also present were BJP MLC Somu Veerajulu, Jana Sena MLC Hari Prasad, and other senior legislators. Together, they voiced their condemnation of the YSRCP members' actions, emphasizing that such behavior is unacceptable in a democratic forum and amounts to a misuse of religious symbols for political purposes.

Minister Durgesh accused the YSRCP leadership of exploiting religion under the supervision of Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for political gain. He demanded that the Chief Minister offer an immediate apology to the Hindu community, asserting that failure to do so would signal a disregard for the sentiments of devotees and the cultural values of the state. "The carrying of the deity's image into the assembly and its disrespectful handling demonstrate arrogance and contempt for religious norms," he said.

The minister urged the Assembly Speaker to take strict action against the lawmakers involved. He warned that if no action is taken, similar incidents could occur in the future, creating a dangerous precedent. Durgesh stressed that the people of Andhra Pradesh, along with devotees, are closely observing these developments and will not tolerate the use of religion as a political tool. He also reiterated that Jana Sena would continue to fight to protect religious sentiments until the responsible individuals are

held accountable.

Highlighting the importance of respect for religious and cultural symbols in a democracy, Minister Durgesh called for awareness among all legislators regarding the sensitivities of diverse communities. He emphasized that government institutions and political leaders must set an example by upholding ethical and cultural values.

The official statement was issued by the Public Relations Officer of the Department of Tourism, Culture, and Cinematography, Government of Andhra Pradesh, reinforcing the government's commitment to protecting religious sentiments and ensuring accountability in public conduct. The statement also urged that all political parties respect the faith and beliefs of citizens while participating in legislative and public activities.

This incident has drawn widespread attention across the state, highlighting the sensitive intersection of politics and religion, and has intensified calls for strict enforcement of decorum and respect within the legislative assembly.

Tirumala Ghee Row Sparks Assembly Uproar



Amaravati, February 21, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly witnessed another major uproar on Friday over the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) ghee supply issue, as YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) MLAs staged a protest inside the House, drawing sharp reactions from opposition members.

The confrontation began when YSRCP legislators, holding placards, marched into the Assembly to press for a discussion on the Indapur Dairy ghee supply. The motion submitted by the YSRCP members was rejected by Assembly Chairman Koyye Moshen Raju, prompting them to surround the podium with images of Lord Venkateswara and placards in protest.

The demonstration sparked immediate outrage from ruling party members, who condemned the YSRCP lawmakers for bringing religious images into the political fray. They argued that

using images of the deity for protest violated Hindu sentiments and politicized sacred symbols. Several ministers demanded action against the YSRCP members and called for public apologies.

Responding to the criticism, Assembly Chairman Moshen Raju sought to calm tensions, stating that the YSRCP members had not committed any wrongdoing. "I will call them and speak to them. There is no fault in their actions," he said, emphasizing that dialogue, not confrontation, should resolve such disputes.

The incident highlighted the growing friction between the YSRCP and the ruling party in the state Assembly, as political disagreements over procedural matters escalate into debates over cultural and religious sensitivities. Analysts note that repeated clashes like these reflect the heightened politicization of religious is-

ssues in Andhra Pradesh's legislative proceedings.

Observers also pointed out that protests involving religious imagery, even in political contexts, can trigger public sentiment and media attention, increasing pressure on both the government and opposition to carefully navigate sensitive topics.

The Assembly session remained tense throughout the morning, with the Chairman trying to restore order and urging all members to engage in constructive discussion. The ghee supply issue itself, though procedural in nature, continues to act as a flashpoint for political protests, keeping the Assembly in the news for both administrative and cultural controversies.

As tensions simmer, the focus now shifts to whether dialogue and negotiation can defuse the standoff or if further confrontations will dominate the Assembly agenda in the coming weeks.

MP Lavu Criticizes Congress for AI Summit Protest

New Delhi, February 21, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Narasaraopet MP Lavu Srikrishna Devarayalu on Friday strongly condemned the Congress Party following a protest by Youth Congress workers at the ongoing Global AI Summit in Delhi. The protest involved demonstrators tearing open their shirts to express dissent, an act that the MP described as highly disrespectful and damaging to India's international image.

Speaking to the media, Lavu alleged that Congress leaders, under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi, behaved in a manner that embarrassed the nation in front of global technology leaders and world dignitaries attending the summit. "Their conduct has reduced India's prestige on the international stage and made the country a subject of ridicule," he said.

The MP accused the Congress Party of prioritizing selfish political interests over national welfare. "Congress is acting with the intention of hindering India's development and preventing opportunities for the youth. Their actions demonstrate a complete disregard for the country's progress," he added.

Lavu also expressed surprise at the silence of the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) regarding the incident. "It is astonishing that YSRCP has not condemned these acts. When it comes to national interest, 'Mother Congress' and 'Child Congress' share the same approach," he remarked, emphasizing that political loyalties should not come at the cost of the nation's reputation. Demanding accountability, Lavu called for an immediate public apolo-

gy from the Congress Party to both the people of India and the international community. He urged stringent action against those responsible for the protest, insisting that politics must never undermine national honor.

The MP further stressed that despite political disruptions or attempts to hinder progress, India's development trajectory cannot be stopped. He warned that those who disrespect the nation would not be forgiven by the public.

This statement adds to the ongoing debate over political protests at high-profile international events, highlighting tensions between parties over the appropriate conduct of representatives in global forums. Analysts note that such incidents can have far-reaching implications for



India's diplomatic and technological reputation, particularly at platforms involving international leaders and corporate giants. The AI Summit protest

continues to attract national attention, prompting calls from multiple quarters for political restraint and responsibility in safeguarding the country's image abroad.

District Development – Party Expansion Is the Main Goal



AMARAVATHI 25.02.2026 TPN BUREAU

Gadde Anuradha and MP Keshineni Chinni emphasized that “district development and party expansion remain our top priorities.”

As per the directions of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) state leadership, the site for the new TDP office in NTR district at Gollapudi was inspected on Wednesday morning by district TDP president Gadde Anuradha and MP Keshineni Chinni, along with senior party leaders. They revealed that the ground-breaking ceremony will be held soon, and construction work will commence immediately. The leaders conducted a detailed survey of the site and discussed the building’s design, departmental offices, meeting halls, media center, training hall, digital communication unit, and special facilities for party workers. They decided that the office would be built with modern infrastruc-

ture, symbolizing transparency and efficiency.

Speaking on the occasion, Gadde Anuradha highlighted that the district office would be more than just a building. “It will serve as a strong center for party activities, a guiding platform for our workers, and a coordination hub to address public issues,” she said. She added that locating the office at the heart of the district would allow easy access for leaders and the public from all constituencies. The office will play a key role in overseeing development initiatives, monitoring government schemes, gathering public feedback, and responding effectively to local concerns.

MP Keshineni Shivanath expressed confidence that under Gadde Anuradha’s leadership, the district party would gain greater prestige. He pointed out that her experience as ZP chairman, her administrative skills, and strong connections with the public are her key

strengths. “She has the leadership qualities to unite everyone, understand issues from village to district level, and move forward with a clear vision,” he noted.

He further explained that in the coming days, the party plans to accelerate membership expansion, delegate responsibilities to youth, increase women’s participation, strengthen party presence from booth to district level, and maintain continuous engagement with the public through social media and digital platforms.

The event also saw the participation of several key leaders, including TDP district chief secretary Chennuboyin Chitti Babu, Gollapudi TDP president Nuthalapati Narada, State Trade Vice President Gudapati Padmashekhar, Vijayawada Market Chairman Narra Vasu, ST Cell State Secretary Sheenu Nayak, TDP leaders Borra Tirupathirao,

T.N.T.U.C State Vice President Paruchuri Prasad, along with numerous district and constituency-level leaders, party workers, and supporters.

The inspection marked a significant step toward strengthening the party’s organizational framework in NTR district. By establishing a state-of-the-art office, the TDP aims not only to enhance party operations but also to create a platform for active engagement with local communities. Leaders emphasized that the new office would act as a model for transparency, efficiency, and public-centered development, ensuring that the party remains closely connected with the people it serves.

With strategic planning and modern facilities in place, the TDP aims to bolster both district development and party expansion, ensuring a stronger presence at every level—from grassroots to district headquarters.

Fire Safety Measures Must Be Strictly Followed, Says Vijayawada Fire Officer



AMARAVATHI 25.02.2026 TPN BUREAU:

Fire safety measures must be strictly implemented to prevent accidents, said Maladri, District Fire Officer of the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation. Acting on the instructions of Municipal Commissioner Dhyana Chandra, officials conducted surprise inspections on Wednesday morning at Panja Center, Janda Chettu Center, and One Town areas in Vijayawada.

During the inspection, fire department officials closely examined halim stalls and other temporary food vendors to ensure that proper fire prevention equipment was available on-site. They verified whether stall owners had essential safety tools and checked if they knew how to use them in case of an emergency. The team emphasized that negligence in maintaining fire safety equipment could lead to serious accidents, especially in crowded commercial areas.

District Fire Officer Maladri personally interacted with vendors and explained the importance of preventive measures. He instructed them to mandatorily keep sand buckets, water drums, and fire extinguishers at their stalls. Moreover, he stressed that simply possessing equipment is not enough; vendors must also understand its correct usage. Officials demonstrated how to operate fire extinguishers and provided practical guidance on handling emergency situations effectively.

The inspection also focused on creating awareness rather than merely issuing warnings. Officers

educated vendors about common causes of fire accidents, such as gas leaks, improper storage of flammable materials, and electrical short circuits. They advised stall operators to regularly check gas connections, maintain safe distances between cooking units, and avoid overcrowding around heat sources.

Fire officials reiterated that preventive action is always better than reacting after an incident occurs. By following basic safety norms and keeping firefighting tools readily accessible, vendors can significantly reduce the risk of fire outbreaks. The department also warned that strict action would be taken against those who fail to comply with safety regulations.

Station Fire Officer Naresh and other staff members participated in the inspection drive. The coordinated effort aimed to strengthen public safety measures across busy commercial zones in the city.

The Vijayawada Municipal Corporation’s public relations wing stated that such surprise inspections will continue in different parts of the city. Authorities urged all business establishments, especially food vendors operating in public spaces, to strictly adhere to fire safety norms.

Through this proactive initiative, officials hope to minimize fire hazards and ensure the safety of both vendors and the public. The message from the fire department was clear: preparedness, awareness, and strict compliance with fire safety measures are essential to prevent avoidable tragedies.

Spread Wide Awareness on PuraMitra App, Says Vijayawada Commissioner

AMARAVATHI 25.02.2026 TPN BUREAU:

Commissioner Dhyana Chandra has directed officials to create widespread public awareness about the PuraMitra app, designed to simplify tax payments and resolve civic issues efficiently. The Commissioner of Vijayawada Municipal Corporation emphasized that citizens can now report problems and access municipal services from the comfort of their homes using the app.

During a teleconference held on Wednesday morning with department heads, the Commissioner instructed officials to ensure that every resident understands the benefits and usage of the PuraMitra app. He stated that people living within the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation limits can lodge complaints directly through the app, and concerned authorities will respond promptly to resolve them within a stipulated timeframe.

The Commissioner highlighted that the State Government has made the PuraMitra app available to improve transparency and service delivery. Citizens can download the app from the Google Play Store on their Android phones. Through the app, residents can access nearly 122 municipal services, including filing complaints, paying taxes, and obtaining certificates such as birth, death, and marriage registrations. He explained that users can upload photos along with their complaints to provide clear evidence of issues. Civic problems such as non-functioning streetlights, garbage accumulation, revenue-related matters, town planning concerns, and engineering issues can be reported easily. Moreover, applicants can track the status of their complaints and service requests in real time, ensuring accountability and timely resolution.

The app also allows residents to make payments for property tax, water charges, trade license fees, drainage charges, property mutation fees, shop lease amounts, agreement fees, and advertisement taxes—all without visiting municipal offices. This digital platform aims to reduce paperwork, save time, and enhance convenience for



citizens. Commissioner Dhyana Chandra further announced that starting next week, awareness campaigns will be conducted ward secretariat-wise to guide residents on downloading and effectively using the app. Officials have been instructed to actively promote the application and assist people in understanding its features and benefits.

The Vijayawada Municipal Corporation’s Public Relations Officer stated that the initiative marks a significant step toward digital governance and citizen-centric administration. Authorities believe that increased public participation through the PuraMitra app will strengthen service delivery, improve grievance redressal, and promote transparency in municipal operations.

With technology playing a key role in urban management, the Commissioner urged citizens to take full advantage of the PuraMitra app and contribute to building a cleaner, more efficient, and responsive Vijayawada city.

KL University Students Conduct Awareness Program on Health and Safety for School Girls

AMARAVATHI 25.02.2026 TPN BUREAU

Students from KL University organized a comprehensive awareness program for girl students at Bishop Azariah High School in Vijayawada, focusing on women’s safety and menstrual health issues. The initiative aimed to educate young girls about their rights, health, and personal safety while encouraging open conversations about sensitive topics.

The program was conducted by the MCA department students of KL University, who interacted directly with the schoolgirls and addressed various concerns related to women’s safety. They explained the legal rights available to women and highlighted important emergency helpline numbers that can be used during distress situations. In addition, the speakers provided guidance on protection from cybercrimes, stressing the importance of being cautious while using digital platforms. They also demonstrated basic self-defense techniques and encouraged students to stay alert and confident in public spaces.

A significant part of the session focused on responsible social media usage. The resource persons advised students to protect their personal information and avoid sharing sensitive details online. They explained how cyber harassment, identity theft, and online fraud can occur, and they offered practical steps to prevent such incidents. By doing so, they aimed to build digital awareness among young girls at an early stage.

Furthermore, the awareness program addressed menstrual health and hygiene, an area of-



ten surrounded by myths and misinformation. The KL University students clarified that menstruation is a natural biological process and should not be viewed with shame or stigma. They worked to dispel common misconceptions and encouraged open discussions about menstrual health.

The session included detailed explanations about maintaining hygiene during periods, the proper use of sanitary pads, and healthy habits to follow during the menstrual cycle. They also discussed common health issues that girls may face during menstruation and ad-

vised them on when to seek medical help. Through menstrual education, the organizers sought to enhance self-confidence among the students and promote better health awareness.

Importantly, the program encouraged girls to speak openly about their concerns and seek help whenever necessary. The speakers reassured them that discussing health or safety issues is a sign of strength, not weakness. They emphasized that schools, parents, and authorities are there to support them.

The school management and

teachers appreciated the initiative and praised KL University students for conducting such a meaningful session. They expressed the need for more frequent awareness programs that empower young girls with knowledge about safety, legal rights, and health care.

Overall, the event successfully combined education, empowerment, and awareness. By addressing both personal safety and menstrual health, the program helped create a supportive environment where students felt informed, confident, and motivated to take charge of their well-being.



Minister Narayana Visits Diarrhea-Hit Areas in Srikakulam, Reviews Relief Measures

Amarvathi 25.02.2026 TPN bureau :

Srikakulam: In the wake of rising diarrhea cases in several parts of Srikakulam town, Andhra Pradesh Minister Narayana conducted an extensive field visit to the affected localities, reviewed the ground situation, and interacted directly with patients and their families. The minister was accompanied by MLA Shankar, senior officials from the Municipal Administration Department, and the District Collector.

The visit comes amid growing concerns over public health and sanitation in certain pockets of the town where multiple cases of diarrhea have been reported in recent days. The minister first toured the worst-affected areas to assess sanitation conditions, drinking water supply systems, and waste management practices. He directed municipal officials to intensify sanitation drives, ensure regular chlorination of drinking water, and deploy additional health teams to prevent further spread of the illness.

Minister Narayana personally visited hospi-



tals where patients are currently undergoing treatment. At Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) and KIMS Hospital, he interacted with doctors and medical staff to review the treatment protocols being followed. The minister inquired about the availability of medicines, IV fluids, beds, and emergency response facilities. Doctors informed him that most patients are responding well to treatment and that the situation is under control, though close monitoring continues. The minister also met

several patients admitted to these hospitals, speaking to them individually and asking about their health conditions. He assured them that the government is committed to providing the best possible medical care and that all necessary resources would be made available without delay.

In a gesture of solidarity, Minister Narayana visited the family of Mandala Suresh, who reportedly lost his life due to complications related to diarrhea. He expressed deep condolences to the bereaved family

and assured them of government support. The minister emphasized that such incidents are unfortunate and that preventive measures would be strengthened to avoid similar tragedies in the future.

Further, the minister visited the homes of several patients who had recently been discharged from the hospital. He interacted with their families and advised them to maintain hygiene, use boiled or purified drinking water, and immediately report any recurring symptoms. Health officials accompanying

the minister conducted awareness sessions in the localities, educating residents about preventive measures such as handwashing, proper food storage, and safe water consumption.

Addressing the media, Minister Narayana stated that special medical camps would continue in the affected areas and that continuous monitoring would be carried out by the district administration. He directed officials to identify the root cause of the outbreak, whether linked to contaminated water sources or drainage issues, and take permanent corrective steps.

The district administration has also formed rapid response teams to ensure early detection of new cases. With coordinated efforts between the health and municipal departments, authorities expressed confidence that the outbreak would be fully contained soon.

The minister's visit has brought reassurance to residents, as the government intensifies measures to safeguard public health in Srikakulam.

Milk Adulteration is a Heart-Wrenching Tragedy: Declare Health Emergency Immediately, Demands Former MP Margani Bharat



Amarvathi 25.02.2026 TPN bureau :

Calling the recent milk adulteration incident "deeply painful and inhuman," former Rajahmundry MP Margani Bharat has demanded that the state government immediately declare a health emergency. Addressing a press conference at the YSR Congress Party city office in Rajahmundry, he alleged gross negligence and an attempt to downplay the severity of the incident.

Bharat stated that senior party leaders and former ministers visited the victims undergoing treatment and were shaken by the condition of elderly patients and young children. "Seeing infants who do not even understand hunger or pain suffering like this is heartbreaking. Words fail to describe the agony," he said emotionally.

He expressed serious concern that an 80-year-old woman, Kanaka Ratnam, reportedly died in connection with the adulterated milk consumption, yet her name was allegedly missing from the official list of deceased victims. He questioned the haste in conducting the post-mortem and demanded transparency from both the police department and hospital authorities.

The former MP

criticized the government for announcing ₹10 lakh compensation to the deceased families, calling it insufficient. "This is not the time for token relief. The compensation should be at least ₹25 lakh, and long-term medical assurance must be provided to children currently undergoing treatment in case future health complications arise," he asserted.

Alleging a cover-up, Bharat accused the coalition government of trying to shield those responsible. He claimed that new explanations, including the presence of ethylene glycol, were being floated to divert attention. "If such a chemical had mixed in milk, the color would have visibly changed. Instead of conducting a fair probe, they are creating confusion," he alleged.

He further criticized the condition of government hospitals, stating that basic medical infrastructure such as dialysis units and ventilators were inadequate. He cited the case of the elderly woman who was shifted from Rajahmundry to Kakinada for treatment, where she later succumbed. According to him, incomplete medical college projects and stalled healthcare infrastructure have worsened the crisis.

Bharat also pointed

out that nearly 20 lakh liters of milk are consumed daily across the state and emphasized that strict regulatory monitoring is the responsibility of the government. He demanded that blood samples and milk samples be sent to national forensic laboratories for an impartial investigation.

The former MP alleged that the current administration lacks seriousness in handling public health emergencies. "If the opposition had not intervened promptly, this issue would have been buried," he claimed, adding that the Chief Minister should personally visit Rajahmundry and declare a health emergency to restore public confidence.

He also highlighted reports of multiple food safety violations in hostels and mid-day meal schemes across the state, stating that such repeated incidents reflect administrative failure.

Concluding his remarks, Margani Bharat said the lives of elderly citizens and children cannot be treated lightly. He reiterated his demand for a comprehensive judicial inquiry, enhanced compensation, medical guarantees for affected families, and immediate corrective action to prevent such tragedies in the future.

Assembly Echoes with Rajanagaram's Voice: MLA Bathula Balarama Krishna Raises Key Road Issues

Amarvathi 25.02.2026 TPN bureau :

Amaravati: The voice of Rajanagaram resonated strongly in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly as Rajanagaram MLA Bathula Balarama Krishna raised pressing concerns over the completion of crucial road infrastructure projects in his constituency. Participating in the Assembly sessions held at Amravati, the MLA urged the government to take immediate steps to complete three long-pending NDB roads that are vital for regional connectivity and economic growth.

Addressing the House, Balarama Krishna stated that despite being sanctioned during the previous YSR Congress Party government, the projects failed to progress due to contractor negligence. He emphasized that the incomplete roads have been causing significant inconvenience to the public.

The three major NDB roads highlighted by the MLA include:

- **Rajanagaram – Gadarada Road**
- **Kapavaram – Muggalla Road**
- **Chinakondepudi**



– Cheepurupalli Road

He pointed out that the Rajanagaram-Gadarada road, particularly near the MSME Park at Kalavacherla village, remains unfinished even as the MSME Park inauguration is scheduled soon. Calling the delay unfortunate, he demanded swift intervention from the Roads and Buildings Department.

The MLA expressed gratitude to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, and R&B Minister Janardhan Reddy for allocating ₹10,000 crore to the Roads and Buildings Department in the state

budget. He appreciated the coalition government's efforts toward building a pothole-free Andhra Pradesh within a short span of governance.

Balarama Krishna also sought acceleration of the Katheru-Chinakondepudi R&B road, which has been delayed due to court disputes and land acquisition challenges. He suggested the installation of solar street lights to ease the financial burden on gram panchayats facing fund shortages for electricity maintenance.

Highlighting rising traffic concerns, the MLA stressed the need to widen the 4-kilometer

stretch between Sriramapuram and Rajamahendravaram, which passes through a forest-adjacent zone and serves nearly 30 villages. Immediate expansion and development works, he argued, are essential for public safety and smooth transportation.

Further, he proposed the widening of the Korukonda temple road stretch from the bus stand to Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple, noting that land acquisition would not be a major hurdle and that the project could be executed swiftly with timely fund allocation.

Raising serious concerns over frequent ac-

cidents at the Narendrapuram-Rajanagaram junction on the national highway, he demanded sanctioning of funds for a flyover to prevent further loss of lives. He described the junction as a critical connectivity hub linking Rajamahendravaram Rural, City, and Rajanagaram constituencies.

The MLA also advocated for new road links connecting the Industrial and MSME Parks at Kalavacherla to Nandarada Road and Gadarada Canal Road. He noted that improved road connectivity across Madhurapudi, Gadala, Nidigatla, Diwan Cheruvu, Sriramapuram, and Srikrishnapatnam would significantly boost real estate activity and regional economic development.

Concluding his address, Bathula Balarama Krishna asserted that people's needs remain his top priority and that comprehensive road infrastructure is the backbone of rural-urban connectivity, industrial growth, and overall economic progress in Rajanagaram constituency.

DRM Waltair Inspects Visakhapatnam-Rayagada-Tikiri Section

Amarvathi 25.02.2026 TPN bureau :

The Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of Waltair Division, Shri Lalit Bohra, conducted an extensive inspection of the Visakhapatnam-Rayagada-Tikiri railway section, reviewing key infrastructure development works and safety measures across the stretch.

During the inspection, Shri Lalit Bohra undertook a detailed window trailing inspection, carefully examining critical railway infrastructure. His review focused on signaling systems, points and crossings, track renewal works, yard remodeling activities, new line operations, bridges, tunnels, and other essential installations. Emphasizing the paramount importance of railway safety, the DRM directed officials to maintain



stringent safety standards and ensure the timely completion of all ongoing developmental projects.

At Tikiri Railway Station, the DRM inspected passenger amenities, including waiting halls, drinking water facilities, sanitation, and overall station cleanliness. He assessed the quality of services being

provided to passengers and identified areas where further improvements could be implemented to enhance commuter convenience.

Shri Lalit Bohra also visited the railway siding at Tikiri, where he interacted with freight customers. During discussions, he reviewed freight handling operations and explored meas-

ures to improve efficiency and strengthen business performance. He stressed the need for better coordination between railway officials and freight stakeholders to ensure smooth cargo movement and increased revenue generation.

Continuing his tour, the DRM inspected Singaram Railway Station and reviewed operations at the Singaram railway siding. He examined freight handling facilities and infrastructure readiness, taking stock of operational performance and maintenance standards. Officials briefed him on ongoing works and future plans aimed at boosting operational capacity.

Later, Shri Lalit Bohra visited Keutguda Railway Station, where he once again reviewed passenger amenities and station infrastructure.

He instructed concerned officials to address minor deficiencies promptly and ensure a safe and comfortable travel experience for passengers.

Throughout the inspection, the DRM was accompanied by senior officials from various departments, including Civil Engineering, Signal & Telecom, Electrical, Traction, and Safety branches. The coordinated inspection reflects the division's continued commitment to infrastructure modernization, operational efficiency, and passenger safety.

The visit underscores the railway administration's focus on strengthening infrastructure, enhancing freight operations, and maintaining high safety standards across the Visakhapatnam-Rayagada-Tikiri section.

Union Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Ensures Mortal Remains of Dubai Migrant Reach Native Village

Amarvathi 25.02.2026 TPN bureau :

In a deeply moving humanitarian gesture, Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu extended timely support to a grieving family from Srikakulam district, ensuring they could have a final glimpse of their loved one who passed away in Dubai.

The deceased, Budagattla Mohan Rao (42), a native of Devunalthada village in Vajrapukotturu mandal of Srikakulam district, had migrated to Dubai to earn a livelihood for his family. Working as a rigger, Mohan Rao reportedly complained of ill health on February 9 and stayed back in his room while his colleagues went to work. When they returned, they found him unresponsive.

The sudden demise left his family—wife Dhanalakshmi and sons Rajesh and Nithin—devastated.

Although the news of his death was conveyed to the family in Devunalthada, uncertainty loomed large



necessary formalities and ensure smooth transportation of the mortal remains.

Importantly, the minister ensured that the bereaved family faced no financial burden in the process. From Dubai to Delhi, then to Visakhapatnam, and finally to Devunalthada village, the transportation was handled without any hurdles.

On Wednesday, the mortal remains reached the native village, allowing the family and villagers to pay their last respects. The final rites were conducted as per their customs and traditions, bringing some solace to the grieving household.

Villagers of Devunalthada and family members expressed heartfelt gratitude to Minister Ram Mohan Naidu for standing by them in their darkest hour. His swift intervention not only brought back the mortal remains but also restored hope and dignity to a family that feared they would be denied a final goodbye.

Trump's War Fantasies: Numbers, Narratives, and a Dangerous Fiction



The recent remarks by Donald Trump about the 2025 conflict between India and Pakistan reveal more than simple exaggeration—they expose a troubling pattern of distortion, self-promotion, and narrative manipulation. His shifting claims about the scale of the conflict are not harmless misstatements but part of a broader attempt to reshape reality in a way that centers himself as the key actor.

The Ever-Changing Numbers Game

At the core of the controversy lies Trump's inconsistent description of events. At various moments, he has claimed that five, seven, or even eleven fighter jets were shot down during the conflict. These changing figures are not supported by any official confirmation and appear to fluctuate depending on the audience and context.

Such inconsistency raises an important question: are these numbers meant to inform, or to impress? The pattern suggests the latter. By inflating or altering figures, the narrative becomes more dramatic, painting a picture

of a crisis spiraling toward catastrophe. The higher the stakes appear, the more significant Trump's supposed intervention seems.

In reality, conflicts between nuclear-armed neighbors are always serious, but they are also tightly managed, with both sides carefully controlling escalation. The casual expansion of numbers risks misrepresenting that delicate balance.

The Claim of "Stopping a War"

Trump has repeatedly asserted that he played a decisive role in preventing a full-scale war. According to his version of events, millions of lives could have been lost if not for his intervention. This claim elevates him from observer to savior, placing him at the center of a crisis involving two sovereign nations.

However, such assertions do not align with how international diplomacy typically works. De-escalation in such situations is rarely the result of a single individual's action. Instead, it is the product of multiple channels—military restraint, diplomatic engagement, and

internal calculations within each country.

The suggestion that one external figure single-handedly prevented disaster simplifies a complex process into a personal achievement narrative.

A Pattern of Self-Projection

Trump's comments fit into a broader pattern of self-projection. Throughout his political career, he has often portrayed himself as the central force behind major developments, whether in domestic policy or global affairs.

In this case, the India-Pakistan conflict becomes less about regional dynamics and more about personal storytelling. The narrative shifts from a bilateral standoff to a dramatic scenario in which Trump intervenes at the critical moment to restore order.

This approach may be effective in capturing attention, but it comes at the cost of accuracy. It reduces a multifaceted geopolitical situation into a simplified, personality-driven account.

Why India Pushes Back

India's response to such claims has been firm and consistent. It has rejected any suggestion of external mediation, maintaining its long-standing position that all issues with Pakistan must be handled bilaterally.

This stance is not merely procedural—it is rooted in sovereignty and strategic independence. Accepting the idea of outside intervention would signal a shift in policy that India has resisted for decades.

At the same time, India's decision not to publicly disclose operational details—such as aircraft losses—reflects a calculated approach. Silence in this context is not confirmation; it is restraint aimed at avoiding further escalation or unnecessary disclosure.

The Risks of Exaggeration

While political exaggeration is not new, its consequences can be more serious in the context of international conflict. When statements involve nuclear-armed states, even rhetorical inflation can have ripple effects.

Exaggerated claims can influence public perception, shape media narratives, and

create misunderstandings about the scale and nature of a conflict. They can also contribute to unnecessary alarm, especially among audiences unfamiliar with the region's dynamics.

In extreme cases, such narratives can complicate diplomacy by introducing distorted versions of events into public discourse.

Media Amplification and Confusion

In today's fast-moving information environment, statements by prominent figures spread rapidly. Once amplified, they can take on a life of their own, often detached from verification.

Conflicting numbers and dramatic claims are particularly prone to circulation because they capture attention. Over time, repetition can blur the distinction between speculation and fact.

This dynamic makes it even more important for public figures to exercise caution. When influential voices present inconsistent accounts, they contribute to a cycle of confusion that is difficult to correct.

Strategic Undertones

There may also be a strate-

gic dimension to Trump's remarks. By portraying himself as a key mediator, he reinforces the idea that global stability depends on strong, decisive leadership—specifically his own.

This framing aligns with a broader narrative in which the United States is positioned as an indispensable actor in international crises. However, such positioning does not always align with the preferences of the countries directly involved.

In South Asia, both India and Pakistan have their own strategic calculations, and external narratives do not necessarily reflect internal realities.

Fantasy vs Reality

The gap between Trump's claims and the available facts highlights the difference between narrative and reality. The 2025 conflict was undoubtedly serious, involving heightened tensions and military activity. But it did not unfold in the dramatic, near-apocalyptic manner suggested by his statements.

Nor was its resolution the result of a single intervention. It was shaped by deci-

sions made within each country, influenced by long-standing policies, risk assessments, and diplomatic considerations.

Calling such statements "fantasy" does not mean the events were insignificant—it means they have been selectively exaggerated to fit a particular storyline.

Conclusion: Why It Matters

The significance of this issue extends beyond one individual's rhetoric. It raises broader concerns about how global events are described and understood.

When influential figures present inconsistent or inflated accounts, they risk distorting reality and undermining trust. In regions marked by historical tension and strategic sensitivity, such distortions can have serious implications.

Accurate narratives are essential, especially when dealing with matters of war and peace. In a world where information travels quickly and widely, maintaining the line between fact and fiction is not just important—it is necessary.

Rajbanshi Politics: Why Every Vote Matters in North Bengal

The growing political focus on the Rajbanshi community in West Bengal reflects a deeper shift in the state's electoral dynamics. As elections approach, both the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) are making calculated efforts to win over this influential group, recognizing that its support could decisively shape outcomes in North Bengal.

Who Are the Rajbanshis?

The Rajbanshis are a Scheduled Caste community primarily concentrated in North Bengal districts such as Cooch Behar, Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, Malda, and Murshidabad. They form a significant portion of the electorate in several of these areas, making them a powerful voting bloc.

Their demographic strength makes them a classic "swing community." In tightly contested elections, their voting preferences can determine which party secures victory in multiple constituencies.

The Electoral Importance of North Bengal

North Bengal has become a key political battleground where both major parties are competing intensely. The BJP has made notable gains in the region in recent years, while the TMC continues to main-

tain a strong organizational presence.

Because electoral margins are often narrow, even a modest shift in support from the Rajbanshi community can significantly alter results. This makes their political alignment crucial for both parties.

Trinamool's Outreach Strategy

The TMC has focused on cultural recognition and symbolic gestures to connect with the Rajbanshi community. One of its major efforts has been advocating for greater recognition of the Rajbanshi language, which is closely tied to the community's identity.

The party has also engaged in outreach that includes honoring community leaders and acknowledging their historical and cultural contributions. These moves are intended to build trust and demonstrate respect for the community's unique identity.

By emphasizing cultural pride, the TMC seeks to position itself as a party that understands regional aspirations and values inclusivity.

BJP's Appeal to Identity and Representation

The BJP has adopted a different approach, focusing on representation, development, and political empowerment. It has attempted to build support



by highlighting issues such as economic progress, infrastructure, and greater political visibility for marginalized communities.

Leaders from the Rajbanshi community within the BJP have played a crucial role in this strategy, acting as a bridge between the party and local voters. Their presence helps reinforce the message that the community has a voice within the party's structure.

At the same time, there have been instances of dissatisfaction among some leaders, indicating that maintaining long-term support requires more than electoral promises.

The Politics of Recognition vs Development

A central theme in this political contest is the balance between symbolic recognition and tangible development. The TMC's emphasis on cultural identity appeals to a

sense of belonging and pride, while the BJP's focus on development speaks to aspirations for economic progress and opportunity.

For many voters, both aspects are important. Identity without development may feel incomplete, while development without recognition can seem impersonal. The challenge for both parties is to effectively combine these elements in a way that resonates with the community.

Internal Diversity and Political Fluidity

The Rajbanshi community is not politically uniform. Different segments have varying priorities based on factors such as geography, economic status, and local leadership.

This diversity leads to a fluid political landscape where allegiances can shift over time. No single party can assume guaranteed support, making continuous engagement essential.

Leaders within the community may also express differing views, reflecting the complexity of expectations and the evolving nature of political alignment.

Symbolism and Electoral Timing

The timing of outreach efforts is significant. Many initiatives aimed at the Rajbanshi community tend to intensify in the lead-up to elections, highlighting their strategic importance.

Cultural events, policy announcements, and public recognition are often used to influence voter sentiment. While these efforts can generate goodwill, they also raise questions about whether they represent genuine commitment or are driven by electoral considerations.

A Contest of Narratives

The competition for Rajban-

shi support is also a contest of narratives. The TMC frames its approach around regional pride and cultural acknowledgment, while the BJP emphasizes integration, development, and national identity.

These narratives reflect broader ideological differences between the two parties. As a result, the Rajbanshi vote carries both electoral and symbolic significance.

Conclusion: The Decisive Swing Factor

As West Bengal moves closer to elections, the Rajbanshi community remains at the center of political attention. Its demographic strength and strategic location make it one of the most influential voter groups in the state.

Both the Trinamool Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party recognize that winning the support of this community could determine the outcome in North Bengal. Their competing strategies highlight the evolving nature of electoral politics, where identity, development, and representation all play crucial roles.

In a closely contested political environment, the Rajbanshi vote has the potential to be decisive, shaping not just regional outcomes but the broader political landscape of the state.

Stalin Predicts Frequent Modi Visits Ahead of Tamil Nadu Poll Battle



As the political temperature rises ahead of the crucial Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has made a sharp and strategic prediction about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's role in the upcoming campaign. According to Stalin, the Prime Minister is likely to visit the state repeatedly in the coming months—a move he believes could ultimately backfire on the BJP-led alliance.

A Campaign Season Marked by Frequent Visits

With elections expected soon, political activity across Tamil Nadu has intensified. Stalin suggested that the Prime Minister has already begun increasing his visits to the state and will continue to do so as polling day approaches. These visits are expected to include participation in government programmes, public rallies, and symbolic appearances at culturally significant locations.

Among the anticipated engagements are events in Madurai, including the inauguration of key infrastructure projects and participation in political gatherings aimed at strengthening the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the region. The Prime Minister is also expected to use these visits to energize party workers and expand the BJP's footprint in a state where it has historically struggled to gain dominance.

Stalin's Political Counter:

"It May Hurt Them"

Despite the BJP's efforts, Stalin dismissed the growing frequency of the Prime Minister's visits as politically motivated. He argued that such appearances are driven more by electoral calculations than governance concerns.

More strikingly, Stalin claimed that repeated visits by the Prime Minister could actually harm the NDA's prospects. According to him, even leaders within the alliance may be uneasy about this strategy. His reasoning is rooted in a broader political narrative: each visit, he believes, reminds voters of what he describes as a lack of meaningful contributions from the central government to Tamil Nadu.

Stalin framed the situation as a paradox—while the BJP hopes to gain momentum through high-profile campaigning, it may instead reinforce voter dissatisfaction.

Battle Lines Clearly Drawn

The upcoming election is shaping up as a high-stakes contest between the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and its allies, and the opposition led by the AIADMK in partnership with the BJP. Stalin characterized the election as a direct contest between Tamil Nadu's regional interests and what he portrayed as external political influence.

He emphasized that governance in the state should remain rooted in local priorities rather than decisions made in

New Delhi. This framing aligns with the DMK's longstanding ideological positioning, which emphasizes regional identity, federal autonomy, and resistance to centralized control.

Criticism of Central Government Policies

A key component of Stalin's argument revolves around alleged neglect by the central government. He pointed out that recent national-level decisions and budgetary allocations did not sufficiently address Tamil Nadu's needs.

By contrasting approvals and investments in other states with what he described as a lack of attention to Tamil Nadu, Stalin sought to strengthen his claim that the Centre has overlooked the state. This criticism is likely to become a central theme in the DMK's campaign messaging.

Political Messaging Ahead of Polls

Stalin also used the moment to highlight his own governance approach. He stressed that his administration works for all residents of Tamil Nadu, regardless of their political preferences. This inclusive message is aimed at consolidating broad voter support as the DMK seeks another term in power.

At the same time, he drew a contrast with leaders who, in his view, become visible only during election periods. This distinction is intended to position the DMK as consistently

engaged with public welfare, while portraying opponents as opportunistic.

High Stakes for All Parties

The 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly election is expected to be fiercely contested, with multiple political players attempting to expand their influence. While the DMK aims to retain power, the BJP and its allies are working to make deeper inroads into the state's political landscape.

The outcome will not only determine the state's leadership but could also signal broader shifts in national political dynamics, particularly in southern India where regional parties have traditionally held strong ground.

Conclusion

Stalin's remarks reflect both confidence and a calculated political strategy. By predicting frequent visits from the Prime Minister—and framing them as potentially counterproductive—he is attempting to turn the BJP's campaign strength into a perceived weakness.

As election day approaches, Tamil Nadu is set to witness an intense political contest marked by sharp rhetoric, strategic campaigning, and competing visions for the state's future. Whether the Prime Minister's visits will boost the NDA's chances or validate Stalin's prediction remains one of the key questions in this evolving political battle.

BJP Leader Nitin Nabin Accuses Rahul Gandhi of Acting as "Puppet of Foreign Powers"



A fresh political controversy erupted after BJP leader Nitin Nabin launched a sharp attack on Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, accusing him of acting under the influence of foreign powers and undermining India's interests on the global stage.

Nabin alleged that Rahul Gandhi's statements and actions, particularly during his international engagements, reflect narratives that are harmful to India's image. He claimed that such remarks appear aligned with foreign agendas rather than national priorities, and accused the Congress leader of repeatedly criticizing India while abroad.

The BJP leader also brought up historical references involving the Nehru-Gandhi family, suggesting that there has been a pattern of compromises that, according to him, impacted the country's sovereignty. He argued that Rahul Gan-

dhi's recent comments continue that legacy and weaken India diplomatically.

This criticism comes amid ongoing political tensions between the ruling BJP and the opposition Congress, especially in the context of international relations and trade discussions. The BJP has frequently accused Rahul Gandhi of presenting a negative image of India on global platforms, while Congress leaders have countered by saying that raising concerns is part of democratic accountability.

Nabin further stated that India, under its current leadership, is asserting itself strongly on the world stage and pursuing policies that prioritize national interest. In contrast, he alleged that opposition leaders like Rahul Gandhi are attempting to derail that progress through irresponsible statements.

The Congress party has not remained silent on such accusations. Its leaders have often defended Rahul Gandhi, stating that his speeches abroad are aimed at highlighting democratic values and drawing attention to issues within the country, rather than harming India's reputation.

The political exchange highlights the deepening divide between the two parties as they prepare for upcoming electoral battles. Issues related to foreign policy, national image, and leadership credibility are increasingly becoming central themes in their war of words.

As the debate intensifies, both sides continue to frame their narratives strongly—BJP emphasizing nationalism and global standing, while Congress stresses accountability and democratic critique—setting the stage for further confrontations in the political arena.

Rethinking Fertiliser Subsidies: Shivraj Singh Chouhan Suggests Direct Cash Transfer to Farmers

India's fertiliser subsidy system may be headed for a major overhaul, as Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has indicated that the government is considering shifting from the current model to a Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanism for farmers. The proposal, still in its early stages, could significantly change how subsidies reach millions of cultivators across the country.

At present, the government provides fertiliser subsidies directly to manufacturing companies, allowing farmers to purchase fertilisers at reduced prices. However, Chouhan has raised an important question: why not transfer this subsidy amount straight into farmers' bank accounts instead? Such a move, he suggested, could empower farmers by giving them the freedom to decide how best to use the financial support.

The idea stems from concerns about inefficiencies in the current system. Critics have long argued that routing subsidies through companies can lead to distortions in the market, limited transparency, and even misuse. By contrast, a DBT system would place decision-making directly in the hands of farmers, potentially making the process more transparent and efficient.

Chouhan also highlighted another pressing issue—the practice of bundling, where fertiliser companies allegedly compel farmers to purchase additional products along with essential inputs. He strongly criticized such practices, describing them as unfair and burdensome for farmers who are often left with no choice but to comply. A shift to direct transfers could eliminate this problem by breaking the dependency on company-controlled distribution channels.

Despite the potential advantages, the minister made it clear that the proposal is still under consideration and not a finalized policy. Implementing such a system



would require careful planning, as fertiliser subsidies involve massive financial outlays and affect agricultural productivity nationwide. Ensuring that farmers use the funds effectively and that fertiliser usage remains balanced would be key challenges.

The discussion around subsidy reform comes alongside a broader push to improve India's agricultural ecosystem. As part of this effort, the government has been working to strengthen the connection between scientific research and farming practices on the ground. Chouhan emphasized that many innovations developed in research institutions fail to reach farmers due to poor coordination and lack of direct engagement.

To address this gap, a new initiative has been proposed in which thousands of agricultural scientists will spend time in villages, interacting directly with farmers. The goal is to better understand real-world challenges, share modern techniques, and ensure that innovations are actually adopted in the field. This approach reflects a shift toward more grassroots-driven agricultural development.

The fertiliser subsidy debate is particularly significant because of the sheer scale of government spending in this area. India allocates a substantial portion of its budget to ensure affordable fertilisers, making it one of the largest subsidy programs in the agricultural sector. Any change to this

system would therefore have wide-ranging economic and social implications. Supporters of the DBT model argue that it could lead to more rational use of fertilisers, as farmers would be more conscious of how they spend the subsidy money. It may also encourage diversification and reduce over-reliance on certain types of fertilisers, which has been a long-standing issue affecting soil health.

On the other hand, some experts caution that a sudden transition could create uncertainties. Farmers accustomed to subsidized prices might face initial difficulties in adjusting to a cash-based system, especially if market prices fluctuate. There are also concerns about ensuring that all farmers, particularly small and marginal ones, have access to banking infrastructure and digital systems required for DBT.

In essence, the proposal represents a potential paradigm shift in India's agricultural policy. By moving subsidies directly into farmers' hands, the government could promote greater autonomy, reduce systemic inefficiencies, and address long-standing issues in fertiliser distribution.

For now, the idea remains a topic of discussion rather than an immediate reform. However, it signals the government's willingness to rethink traditional approaches and explore new ways to support farmers in a rapidly evolving agricultural landscape.

Sasikala's Political Comeback: A New Party and Its Implications for Tamil Nadu

The political landscape of Tamil Nadu may be on the cusp of a significant shift as veteran leader V. K. Sasikala signals her return to active politics with the launch of a new party. Once a powerful figure in the state's political circles and a close aide of former Chief Minister J. Jayalalithaa, Sasikala's re-entry could reshape alliances, voter loyalties, and electoral strategies ahead of upcoming elections.

For years, Sasikala remained a controversial yet influential figure, particularly within the AIADMK. After Jayalalithaa's death, she briefly emerged as a central force in the party's leadership struggle. However, legal challenges and internal resistance led to her marginalization. Despite this, she retained a loyal support base, especially among sections of the party cadre and specific caste groups.

Her decision to float a new political outfit now appears to be a calculated move to reclaim lost ground. Rather than attempting reconciliation within AIADMK, Sasikala seems to be carving out an independent space, aiming to consolidate her supporters under a fresh banner. This strategy allows her to bypass internal party conflicts while directly appealing to voters who still associate her with Jayalalithaa's legacy.

One of the most critical aspects of Sasikala's political strategy is her focus on community-based support. Tamil Nadu politics has long been



shaped by caste dynamics, and Sasikala is believed to have influence among sections of the Thevar community. By mobilizing this base, she could create a significant vote bank that may alter electoral equations, especially in closely contested constituencies.

Her move also has implications for other political players. The AIADMK, already dealing with factionalism, could face further erosion of its traditional support. Leaders who once aligned with Sasikala may now be tempted to join her new party, leading to a split in votes that could weaken the party's overall performance.

At the same time, the ruling DMK and the BJP will be closely watching developments. For the DMK, a divided opposition could work in its favor, increasing its chances of retaining power. For the BJP, Sasikala's emergence presents both an

opportunity and a challenge. While she could help fragment anti-BJP votes, she could also complicate alliance-building efforts in the state.

Another key factor is the role of smaller regional parties and leaders who have previously broken away from AIADMK. Figures like T. T. V. Dhinakaran have already attempted to create alternative political platforms, with varying degrees of success. Sasikala's entry into this space could either unify such factions or intensify competition among them.

The timing of her move is also significant. With elections approaching, political parties are actively recalibrating their strategies, forging alliances, and reaching out to voters. By launching her party now, Sasikala ensures that she remains a relevant player in these discussions and has enough time to build organizational

strength on the ground.

However, challenges remain. Building a party from scratch requires not just a loyal support base but also strong leadership, resources, and a clear ideological vision. Sasikala will need to present a compelling narrative that differentiates her party from existing ones while also invoking the legacy of Jayalalithaa in a way that resonates with voters.

Public perception will also play a crucial role. While some view her as a capable political strategist, others remain skeptical due to her past controversies. Winning over undecided voters will require sustained efforts, including grassroots outreach, effective communication, and credible policy proposals.

Despite these hurdles, Sasikala's political comeback cannot be underestimated. Tamil Nadu has a history of dramatic political shifts, often driven by charismatic leaders and changing alliances. Her re-entry adds a new layer of complexity to an already dynamic political environment.

In the coming months, much will depend on how effectively she can translate her influence into electoral success. Whether her new party emerges as a decisive force or merely a spoiler will become clear as the political battle unfolds. What is certain, however, is that Sasikala's return has once again stirred the state's political waters, setting the stage for an intriguing contest ahead.

PM Modi's Israel Visit: Strategic Talks, Knesset Address Highlight Growing Ties

Prime Minister Narendra Modi began a significant two-day visit to Israel, underlining the deepening strategic partnership between the two nations. The visit, his second to Israel, is marked by high-level meetings, diplomatic engagements, and a landmark address to the Israeli Parliament, the Knesset.

Upon arrival, Modi was warmly received by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, reflecting the strong personal rapport between the two leaders. Their discussions are centered on expanding cooperation across key sectors such as defence, technology, trade, agriculture, and innovation. Both countries have steadily strengthened ties over the years, transforming their relationship into a robust and multifaceted strategic partnership.

A major highlight of the visit is Modi's address to the Knesset, a rare honour that signals the importance Israel places on its relationship with India. In his speech, Modi is expected to emphasize shared democratic values, the fight against terrorism, and the growing alignment of interests between the two countries in an increasingly complex global environment.

The visit also focuses heavily on future-oriented collaboration. India and Israel are exploring partnerships in cutting-edge areas such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, quantum computing, and water management. These sectors are seen as key drivers of the next phase of bilateral cooperation, offering mutual benefits in innovation and economic growth.

Apart from official talks, Modi's itinerary includes participation in events showcasing



technological advancements and innovation ecosystems. Such engagements aim to encourage joint ventures, research collaborations, and increased investment flows between the two nations.

The strengthening of India-Israel relations reflects a broader shift in India's foreign policy over the past decade. While India has historically maintained support for the Palestinian cause, it has simultaneously built strong ties with Israel, balancing its diplomatic approach in the region. This visit highlights India's intent to further consolidate its global partnerships while maintaining strate-

gic autonomy.

The timing of the visit is also significant, coming amid ongoing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. Discussions between the two leaders are expected to touch upon regional security concerns, stability, and the need for peaceful resolutions to conflicts. India has consistently advocated for dialogue and diplomacy in addressing such challenges.

Economically, Israel has emerged as one of India's important partners in Asia, with bilateral trade continuing to grow. Both sides are keen to expand this further by encouraging cooperation in emerging

technologies and boosting business-to-business connections.

For Israel, the visit represents an opportunity to strengthen ties with a major global player like India, while for India, it reinforces its role as a key stakeholder in international diplomacy and innovation-driven partnerships.

Overall, Modi's visit underscores the steady evolution of India-Israel relations into a dynamic and forward-looking partnership. With shared interests in security, technology, and economic growth, both nations appear committed to building a stronger and more comprehensive alliance in the years ahead.

Trump Warns Iran on Nuclear Weapons in State of the Union, Signals Both Diplomacy and Force

U.S. President Donald Trump issued a strong warning to Iran during his State of the Union address, declaring that the United States would never allow Tehran to acquire nuclear weapons, while also leaving the door open for diplomatic negotiations.

In a speech that focused heavily on national security and global threats, Trump described Iran as the "world's number one sponsor of terror" and stressed that preventing it from developing nuclear weapons remains a top priority for his administration. He made it clear that while diplomacy is his preferred route, the U.S. is prepared to act decisively if necessary.

Trump said he hopes the issue can be resolved through talks but underscored that there are clear limits. He emphasized that the U.S. cannot permit a situation where Iran becomes a nuclear-armed state, warning that such a development would pose a serious threat not only to America but also to global stability.

The remarks come at a time of heightened tensions between Washington and Tehran. The United States has significantly increased its military presence



in the Middle East as a show of strength amid concerns over Iran's nuclear ambitions.

During his speech, Trump also referred to past U.S. military actions against Iran, claiming that earlier airstrikes had severely damaged the country's nuclear infrastructure. He suggested that despite those operations, Iran is attempting to rebuild its capabilities, raising fresh concerns in Washington.

The President further accused Iran of advancing its missile program, warning that it could

soon develop long-range weapons capable of reaching the United States. These claims add to growing fears among U.S. officials that Iran's military and nuclear activities are escalating despite international pressure.

At the same time, diplomatic efforts are still ongoing. The U.S. and Iran are preparing for another round of talks, with mediation support from Oman. These discussions are expected to focus on limiting Iran's nuclear program and potentially easing economic sanctions in return.

Trump reiterated that while he is willing to pursue peace, he will not hesitate to confront threats. His speech reflected a dual-track strategy—combining negotiations with a strong military posture—to pressure Iran into compliance.

The developments have also sparked debate within the United States. Some lawmakers have called for greater transparency regarding the administration's approach, warning that any military action without public discussion could lead to prolonged conflict and unintended consequences.

Meanwhile, Iran has maintained that its nuclear program is intended for peaceful purposes and has warned that it will respond firmly to any aggression. This has added to concerns about a potential escalation if diplomatic efforts fail.

Overall, Trump's address highlighted a critical moment in U.S.-Iran relations. With negotiations underway but tensions still high, the situation remains uncertain. The coming weeks are likely to play a decisive role in determining whether the crisis moves toward resolution or confrontation.

Iran Dismisses Trump's Nuclear Allegations as 'Big Lies'

Iran has strongly rejected recent claims by former US President Donald Trump regarding its nuclear ambitions, calling them baseless and misleading. The response comes amid renewed tensions over Tehran's nuclear program and growing international scrutiny.

Iranian officials accused Trump of spreading "big lies" about the country's intentions, insisting that its nuclear activities remain peaceful and within the framework of international agreements. They reiterated that Iran has consistently complied with its commitments under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and any accusations suggesting otherwise are politically motivated.

The controversy began after Trump warned that Iran was moving closer to developing nuclear weapons, raising concerns about global security. His remarks sparked reactions both domestically and internationally, with critics arguing that such statements could further esca-



late tensions in an already fragile geopolitical environment.

In response, Iranian authorities emphasized that their nuclear program is strictly for civilian purposes, including energy production and medical research. They pointed to ongoing cooperation with international monitoring bodies as evidence of transparency. Tehran

also criticized the United States for what it described as a pattern of misinformation and pressure tactics aimed at undermining Iran's sovereignty.

Diplomatic observers note that the exchange highlights the continuing strain in US-Iran relations, particularly after the US withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal. Since then, efforts to re-

vive the agreement have faced repeated setbacks, with both sides accusing each other of non-compliance and bad faith.

Iran further warned that such rhetoric could hinder diplomatic progress and complicate negotiations aimed at restoring trust. Officials stressed the importance of dialogue and mutual respect in resolving disputes, urging the international community to rely on verified information rather than political narratives.

The situation underscores the broader challenges in addressing nuclear proliferation concerns while balancing national interests and regional stability. As tensions persist, the prospects for a renewed agreement remain uncertain, with both sides holding firm to their positions.

Overall, Iran's firm denial of Trump's claims reflects its ongoing effort to counter international criticism and assert its stance on nuclear policy, even as global attention on the issue continues to intensify.

Trump Repeats Claim of Preventing India-Pakistan Conflict in Speech



In a recent address resembling a State of the Union-style speech, former US President Donald Trump once again asserted that his administration played a decisive role in preventing a major conflict between India and Pakistan. He claimed that tensions between the two nuclear-armed neighbors had escalated dangerously and that his intervention helped defuse the situation.

Trump suggested that without US involvement, the situation could have spiraled into a catastrophic war, even hinting at the possibility of nuclear escalation. He portrayed his diplomatic efforts as a key achievement of his presidency, framing it as part of a broader record of resolving global conflicts and maintaining international stability.

According to Trump, he personally engaged with leaders from both countries at a critical moment, urging restraint and dialogue. He emphasized that his administration's approach focused

on direct communication and strong leadership, which he believes helped bring the situation under control.

However, India has consistently rejected such claims. Indian officials have maintained that any understanding or de-escalation between India and Pakistan was achieved bilaterally, without third-party mediation. New Delhi has long upheld its position that issues with Pakistan are strictly bilateral and do not involve external intervention.

Trump's remarks have drawn attention once again because similar claims were made during and after his presidency. Each time, Indian authorities have reiterated their stance, making it clear that no foreign leader mediated between the two nations during periods of heightened tension.

The context of Trump's statement appears to be part of a broader narrative in which he highlights his foreign policy record. In his speech, he listed multiple instances where he believes his

leadership helped prevent or end conflicts around the world. The India-Pakistan situation was presented as one of the most significant examples.

Critics argue that such claims may oversimplify complex geopolitical situations, where multiple factors—including diplomatic channels, military decisions, and internal political considerations—play a role in de-escalation. Analysts also point out that tensions between India and Pakistan have historically fluctuated, often managed through direct or backchannel communication between the two countries.

Trump's renewed assertion is likely to continue sparking debate, particularly in India, where officials remain firm in rejecting any suggestion of third-party mediation. The issue underscores the sensitivity surrounding India-Pakistan relations and the importance both nations place on handling their disputes independently.

Trump Targets Venezuela Oil Trade, Expands Tariff Threats in State of the Union



In his recent State of the Union address, Donald Trump outlined an aggressive trade strategy that includes imposing tariffs on countries engaged in buying oil from Venezuela, signaling a sharp escalation in economic pressure tactics.

Trump announced that nations purchasing Venezuelan oil could face steep tariffs, framing the move as part of a broader effort to counter governments he described as hostile to U.S. interests. The proposal reflects a newer strategy often referred to as "secondary tariffs," which target not just a specific country but also its global trade partners. This approach expands the reach of U.S. economic influence beyond direct bilateral trade.

The policy is rooted in concerns over Venezuela's political and economic situation, as well as its strained relationship with the United States. By penalizing countries

that continue to import Venezuelan oil, the Trump administration aims to isolate Caracas economically and limit its revenue streams. Venezuela's oil sector remains a crucial pillar of its economy, making it a key pressure point in international relations.

In addition to Venezuela, Trump suggested that similar tariff measures could be applied to countries trading with other geopolitical rivals, including those involved with Iranian and Russian oil markets. This indicates a broader strategy to reshape global trade flows in alignment with U.S. foreign policy objectives.

The announcement comes amid ongoing debates over the legality and effectiveness of sweeping tariff powers. Recent judicial scrutiny has raised questions about the limits of executive authority in imposing such measures. Despite this, Trump

doubled down on his stance, emphasizing that tariffs remain a central tool in protecting American industries and advancing national security goals.

Critics argue that these policies could strain relations with key trading partners and disrupt global markets, particularly in the energy sector. Countries dependent on Venezuelan oil may face difficult choices between maintaining energy supplies and avoiding U.S. economic penalties.

Supporters, however, see the move as a decisive step toward asserting U.S. dominance in international trade and curbing the influence of adversarial regimes.

Overall, Trump's remarks underscore a shift toward more assertive and far-reaching economic policies, with tariffs being used not just for trade protection but also as instruments of geopolitical strategy.

Eris Lifesciences–Natco Pharma Partnership: A Big Push for Affordable Diabetes Care in India



In a significant development for India's pharmaceutical sector, Eris Lifesciences has entered into a strategic partnership with Natco Pharma to launch the widely used diabetes and weight-management drug semaglutide in the Indian market. This collaboration marks a crucial step toward improving access to advanced metabolic treatments in a country with a rapidly growing diabetic population.

A Strategic Collaboration

The partnership brings together complementary strengths. Eris Lifesciences, known for its strong presence in chronic therapies—especially diabetes care—will handle commercialization and distribution. Natco Pharma, on the other hand, contributes its expertise in complex drug manufacturing and regulatory processes.

This collaboration follows Natco Pharma receiving approval from India's drug regulator to manufacture a generic version of semaglutide. With regulatory clearance in place, the companies are preparing for a commercial launch expected around March 2026.

What is Semaglutide and Why It Matters

Semaglutide belongs to a class of drugs known as GLP-1 receptor agonists. These medicines have gained global attention for their effectiveness in managing Type 2 diabetes and aiding weight loss. They work by improving blood sugar control and reducing appetite, making them a breakthrough therapy in metabolic care.

Globally, semaglutide-based drugs have become blockbuster treatments. In India, their importance is even greater due to the rising prevalence of diabetes and obesity. With millions affected by these conditions, there is a strong demand for effective and affordable treatment options.

Patent Expiry: A Turning Point

One of the key factors driving this partnership is the expected expiry of patents on the original semaglutide drug in India. Once patent protection ends, multiple pharmaceutical companies can introduce generic versions, significantly

cantly reducing costs.

Currently, semaglutide therapies can cost upwards of ₹10,000 per month. However, with the entry of generics, prices are expected to drop sharply to around ₹3,000–₹4,000 per month. This price reduction could make the drug accessible to a much larger segment of patients.

Industry estimates suggest that several companies may enter the market once patents expire, creating intense competition and further driving affordability.

Expanding India's Diabetes Treatment Landscape

India is home to one of the largest diabetic populations in the world. With lifestyle changes, urbanization, and rising obesity levels, the burden of metabolic diseases continues to grow.

The introduction of generic semaglutide is expected to play a transformative role in this space. It not only offers better glycemic control but also addresses weight-related complications, which are often linked to diabetes.

Eris Lifesciences sees this partnership as a natural extension of its existing diabetology portfolio. The company already has strong relationships with specialists such as endocrinologists and physicians, which will help in driving adoption of the drug across the country.

A Highly Competitive Market Opportunity

The semaglutide market is shaping up to be one of the most competitive segments in the pharmaceutical industry. With patent expiry approaching, several domestic and global players are preparing to launch their versions of the drug.

The growing demand for weight-loss and diabetes medications has already triggered a wave of partnerships and deals in the sector. Companies are combining manufacturing capabilities with strong marketing networks to gain an early advantage.

In this context, the Eris–Natco partnership positions both firms strategically. While Natco ensures a reliable supply of the drug, Eris leverages its commercial reach to maximize market penetration.

Business and Market Impact

The announcement of the partnership has already generated positive sentiment in the stock market, with shares of both companies witnessing gains. Investors are optimistic about the revenue potential of semaglutide, given its strong demand and expanding use cases.

For Eris Lifesciences, the move strengthens its position in the high-growth diabetes segment. For Natco Pharma, it reinforces its capabilities in developing and manufacturing complex generic drugs.

The collaboration is also expected to create long-term value, as semaglutide is not just a short-term opportunity but part of a broader shift toward advanced metabolic therapies.

Future Outlook

Initially, the focus of the partnership will be on Type 2 diabetes management. However, as clinical use expands, semaglutide could play a larger role in overall metabolic health, including obesity treatment.

The success of this collaboration will depend on several factors, including pricing strategy, distribution efficiency, and competition from other players entering the market. Nevertheless, the early-mover advantage and combined strengths of the two companies give them a strong starting point.

Conclusion

The partnership between Eris Lifesciences and Natco Pharma represents a major milestone in India's healthcare landscape. By bringing an advanced and previously expensive therapy within reach of more patients, the collaboration has the potential to reshape diabetes care in the country.

As generic versions of semaglutide enter the market, patients can expect improved access, reduced costs, and better treatment outcomes. At the same time, the deal highlights how strategic collaborations are becoming essential in the evolving pharmaceutical industry.

Ultimately, this development is not just about business growth—it is about making life-changing treatments more accessible to millions of people who need them the most.

IT Stock Crash Hits LIC Hard: ₹42,500 Crore Wealth Erosion in Just Two Months

India's largest insurer, Life Insurance Corporation of India, has taken a significant hit as a sharp correction in IT stocks wiped out nearly ₹42,500 crore from its investment portfolio in just two months. The development highlights how vulnerable even the country's biggest institutional investors can be to sector-specific downturns.

A Massive Erosion in Value

The decline comes amid a steep fall in IT sector stocks during early 2026. LIC, which holds substantial stakes in major technology companies, saw the value of its investments shrink considerably as stock prices tumbled.

The ₹42,500 crore erosion is not due to selling of shares, but rather a drop in market valuation. This means LIC still holds the same investments, but their current worth has decreased due to falling stock prices.

Why IT Stocks Are Falling

The IT sector, which was once a strong performer in Indian markets, has been under pressure due to multiple global and domestic factors. Weak demand from key international markets, especially the US and Europe, has affected revenue growth prospects for IT companies.

Additionally, concerns over global economic slowdown, reduced technology spending, and cautious corporate budgets have contributed to the decline. As a result, IT stocks have seen sharp corrections, dragging down indices linked to the sector.

LIC's Exposure to IT Sector

LIC is known for its extensive equity investments across sectors, including banking, energy,



FMCG, and technology. Its significant exposure to IT stocks means that any sharp movement in this sector directly impacts its overall portfolio value.

Being a long-term investor, LIC typically holds large stakes in blue-chip companies. While this strategy works well during bullish phases, it can also lead to substantial notional losses during market downturns.

The recent fall underscores the risks associated with concentrated exposure to specific sectors, even for diversified portfolios.

Not a Realised Loss, But Still Significant

It is important to understand that this ₹42,500 crore decline is a "mark-to-market" loss. In simple terms, it reflects the current valuation of LIC's holdings rather than an actual cash loss.

If the IT sector recovers in the coming months, a portion—or even all—of these losses could be reversed. However, if the downturn continues, the

pressure on LIC's portfolio may persist.

A Pattern of Market Volatility

This is not the first time LIC has faced such fluctuations. As one of India's largest institutional investors, its portfolio often mirrors broader market movements.

Previous market corrections have also led to significant declines in LIC's investment value, particularly when large-cap stocks face selling pressure. The latest episode once again demonstrates how market volatility can impact even the most stable financial institutions.

Implications for Investors and Policyholders

LIC manages funds on behalf of millions of policyholders and investors. While short-term fluctuations are a normal part of equity investing, such large swings often raise concerns among stakeholders.

However, experts point out that LIC's long-term investment approach

helps it weather short-term market volatility. The company's diversified portfolio and steady inflows from premiums provide a cushion against temporary declines.

For policyholders, this means that such losses do not immediately impact returns or payouts, as LIC does not rely solely on equity investments.

The Bigger Picture

The ₹42,500 crore decline also reflects a broader trend in the Indian stock market, where sectoral rotations are becoming more pronounced. While IT stocks are currently under pressure, other sectors such as banking, capital goods, and infrastructure have shown resilience.

This shift indicates that investors are reallocating funds based on changing economic conditions and growth prospects.

What Lies Ahead

The future trajectory of LIC's portfolio will largely depend on how the IT sector performs in the coming months. If global demand stabilizes and

technology spending picks up, IT stocks could recover, helping LIC regain lost ground.

On the other hand, prolonged weakness in the sector could continue to weigh on its investment value.

Conclusion

The sharp ₹42,500 crore decline in LIC's IT investments serves as a reminder of the inherent risks in equity markets. Even the most established institutions are not immune to sector-specific downturns.

While the losses are currently notional, they highlight the importance of diversification, risk management, and long-term investment strategies. For LIC, the challenge will be to navigate this volatility while maintaining stability for millions of policyholders who depend on it.

In the end, the episode reinforces a simple truth of the stock market: gains and losses are part of the cycle, and resilience lies in long-term vision rather than short-term fluctuations.

Markets Slide on Expiry Day: IT Sell-Off Drags Nifty Below 25,450

Indian stock markets witnessed a sharp decline on February 24, 2026, as heavy selling pressure—particularly in information technology (IT) stocks—pulled benchmark indices significantly lower. The downturn came on the monthly derivatives expiry day, a session that often sees heightened volatility, and was further aggravated by weak global cues and rising uncertainty in international markets.

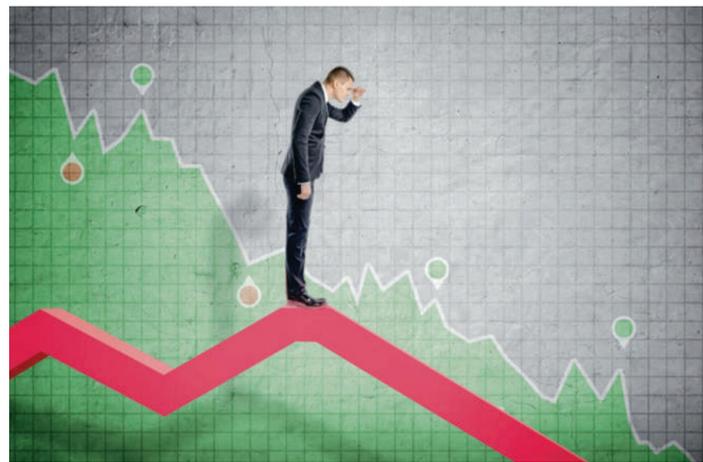
The Nifty 50 index slipped below the crucial 25,450 mark, closing around 25,424, down over 1 percent for the day. Meanwhile, the Sensex plunged by more than 1,000 points, ending near 82,226, reflecting widespread selling across sectors.

IT Stocks Lead the Decline

The primary driver behind the market fall was a steep correction in IT stocks. The Nifty IT index dropped sharply—over 3 percent—amid growing concerns about the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on the sector's growth outlook.

Investors are increasingly worried that rapid advancements in AI could disrupt traditional IT services, potentially affecting revenue models and profit margins of major tech firms. These fears triggered a broad sell-off in IT shares, which are heavily weighted in benchmark indices, thereby amplifying the market's overall decline.

Global Uncertainty Adds Pressure



Apart from sector-specific weakness, global factors also weighed heavily on investor sentiment. Renewed concerns around US trade policies and tariff uncertainties contributed to caution in global markets, which spilled over into Indian equities.

Additionally, mixed signals from international markets and geopolitical tensions created an environment of risk aversion. Investors preferred to reduce exposure to equities, especially in sectors seen as vulnerable to global economic shifts.

Expiry Day Volatility Intensifies Selling

The fall coincided with the monthly derivatives expiry, a period known for sharp swings due to the unwinding of positions in futures and options contracts. Such sessions often exaggerate market moves, and this time was no different.

Markets opened on a

weak note and continued to decline throughout the day, with selling intensifying in the latter half. The index even dipped below 25,350 during intraday trade before recovering slightly toward the close.

Broader Markets Also Under Pressure

The weakness was not limited to large-cap stocks. Broader markets also ended in the red, indicating that the selling pressure was widespread. Midcap and smallcap indices also declined, reflecting cautious sentiment across segments.

This broad-based decline suggests that investor sentiment was weak across the board, rather than being restricted to a few sectors.

Other Contributing Factors

Several additional factors contributed to the market downturn:

- Rising crude oil prices increased concerns about inflation and input costs
- Weak global cues signaled uncertainty in international markets
- Currency pressure added to investor caution

Together, these elements created a challenging environment for equities.

Investor Sentiment Turns Cautious

The sharp fall reflects a shift in investor mood from optimism to caution. After a period of strong gains in previous months, markets appear to be entering a phase of consolidation, where investors reassess valuations and external risks.

The decline in IT stocks, in particular, signals deeper concerns rather than just short-

term profit booking. As technology continues to evolve rapidly, market participants are increasingly factoring in long-term disruptions into their investment decisions.

What Lies Ahead?

Market experts believe that volatility may persist in the near term, especially given ongoing global uncertainties and sector-specific challenges. Key factors to watch include global policy developments, crude oil trends, and the performance of IT companies.

While corrections are a natural part of market cycles, sustained weakness in key sectors could keep indices under pressure in the short term.

Conclusion

The February 24 sell-off highlights how quickly market sentiment can shift due to a mix of domestic and global factors. The sharp decline in IT stocks, coupled with expiry-day volatility and external uncertainties, dragged benchmark indices lower and erased recent gains.

For investors, this serves as a reminder of the importance of diversification and cautious decision-making during volatile phases. While long-term fundamentals remain strong, near-term market movements are likely to stay sensitive to global developments and sector-specific risks.

Foreign Traveller Praises India's Sleeper Buses, Calls Them Better Than Europe

A foreign traveller's experience on an Indian sleeper bus has gone viral on social media, drawing widespread attention and sparking conversations about the quality of public transport in India. The traveller, a Canadian content creator named Justin, shared a video documenting his overnight journey, where he expressed surprise and admiration for the comfort and affordability of the service.

In the video, Justin is seen exploring the interior of a sleeper bus during a trip in Kolkata. He appeared impressed by the facilities provided, which included a proper sleeping berth, clean bedding, a blanket, bottled water, and even snacks. Comparing the experience with his travels in Europe, he stated that European buses "have nothing" on Indian sleeper buses, highlighting the level of comfort offered at a relatively low price.

He emphasized that one of the biggest advantages of sleeper buses is the convenience they offer. Passengers can simply go to sleep and wake up in a different city, saving both time and the need for hotel accommodation. Justin described the journey as relaxing and enjoyable, noting that he woke up feeling refreshed at his destination.

The video quickly gained traction online, amassing millions of views and drawing hundreds of comments. Many social media users appreciated his positive outlook and agreed with his observations. Several pointed out that India offers a wide range of travel



options, and that comfortable experiences are often linked to choosing better-quality services.

Some users also highlighted that international travellers sometimes form negative opinions when they opt for the cheapest or most basic modes of transport. In contrast, Justin's experience demonstrated that with a slightly higher budget, travellers can enjoy modern and well-maintained facilities in India.

Others praised him for presenting a balanced perspective and showcasing a side of Indian infrastructure that is often overlooked. The discussion also brought attention to the evolving standards of private bus services in the country, especially in major cities and popular travel routes.

Overall, the viral video has not only entertained viewers but also helped reshape perceptions about travel in India. It serves as a reminder that the country offers diverse experiences, and with the right choices, even budget travel can be both comfortable and memorable.

"What Surprised Me Most": A Foreign Woman's Honest Take on Solo Travel in India



Solo travel in India often comes wrapped in strong opinions, warnings, and stereotypes. For many outsiders, the country is seen as chaotic, overwhelming, and even intimidating—especially for women travelling alone. However, one foreign traveller's recent experience challenges these assumptions and offers a refreshing, nuanced perspective on what it's really like to explore India solo.

Sharing her journey through a video that quickly gained attention online, the traveller opened up about five things that genuinely surprised her during her time in India. Her observations paint a picture that is both realistic and unexpectedly positive.

One of the biggest surprises for her was how safe she felt compared to what she had been told before arriving. Like many first-time visitors, she had heard repeated warnings about safety concerns, particularly for solo female travellers. But her actual experience turned out to be far less alarming. She noted that while it is important to stay cautious—as one would in any unfamiliar country—she did not constantly feel threatened. Instead, she often found herself navigating cities and public spaces with more confidence than she initially expected.

Another striking aspect of her journey was the kindness and helpfulness of strangers. She observed that locals were often willing to step in and assist, whether it was giving directions, offering advice, or simply checking if she was okay. This sense of everyday hospitality left a strong impression on her, especially because it contrasted with the more impersonal interactions she had experienced in some other countries.

The traveller also spoke about the intense curiosity she attracted as a foreign woman travelling alone. People frequently stared, approached her, or tried to strike up conversations. While this attention could sometimes feel overwhelming, she gradually came to understand that it was driven more by curiosity than by ill intent. Over time, she adapted to it, learning how to respond politely while maintaining her personal space.

India's affordability was another aspect that stood out to her. From accommodation and food to transportation, she found it possible to travel comfortably without spending excessively. This made it easier for her to extend her trip and explore more destinations than she had originally planned. For

solo travellers, especially those on a budget, this affordability can be a significant advantage.

Perhaps the most profound realization she shared was how much solo travel in India pushed her out of her comfort zone. Every day brought new challenges—navigating unfamiliar streets, dealing with language differences, and adjusting to cultural norms. But instead of feeling discouraged, she found these experiences empowering. They forced her to become more independent, adaptable, and self-aware.

At the same time, her reflections were not entirely free of caution. She acknowledged that India, like any large and diverse country, has its complexities. She emphasized the importance of being mindful of surroundings, dressing appropriately in certain areas, and taking basic safety precautions. Solo travel, she suggested, always requires a balance between openness and awareness.

Her story also highlights a broader reality: India cannot be defined by a single narrative. Experiences can vary widely depending on where one goes, how one travels, and what expectations one carries. While some travellers may face challenges, others find warmth, adventure, and personal growth.

What makes her account particularly compelling is its honesty. Rather than presenting an overly romantic or overly critical view, she offers a balanced perspective shaped by real experiences. She neither dismisses concerns nor allows them to overshadow the positive aspects of her journey.

In many ways, her story reflects a growing trend. More travellers from around the world are choosing to explore India on their own, documenting their journeys and sharing their insights online. These stories often reveal a side of the country that goes beyond stereotypes—one that is complex, vibrant, and deeply human.

For anyone considering solo travel in India, her experience serves as both reassurance and advice. The country may challenge you, surprise you, and occasionally overwhelm you—but it can also leave you with unforgettable memories and a stronger sense of self.

In the end, her journey is a reminder that travel is as much about unlearning as it is about discovering. And sometimes, the most meaningful experiences come from stepping into the unknown with an open mind.

Love, Loss, and Viral Fame: The American Woman Whose Pakistan Journey Sparked Global Debate

An unusual cross-border love story turned into a global talking point after an American woman's dramatic journey to Pakistan captured widespread attention and triggered mixed reactions online. What began as a romantic leap of faith soon spiraled into a complex situation involving heartbreak, cultural differences, and internet fame.

The woman, a 33-year-old from New York, had reportedly developed a relationship with a much younger man from Pakistan through online interactions. Their connection grew strong enough for her to make a bold decision—travel Hajara miles to meet him in person and eventually marry him. Fueled by hope and emotional commitment, she arrived in Karachi expecting to begin a new chapter of her life.

However, things did not unfold as planned.

Upon her arrival, the man's family intervened and opposed the relationship. The reasons were believed to include concerns over the age gap, cultural differences, and the circumstances under which the relationship developed. Faced with this resistance, the relationship quickly fell apart, leaving the woman stranded in a foreign country.

Instead of returning home immediately, she chose to stay.

In a move that surprised many, the woman reportedly remained near the man's residence, refusing to leave despite the breakdown of the relationship. Her actions soon began drawing attention from locals, media outlets, and eventually social media



users around the world. Videos of her speaking to reporters and expressing her demands circulated widely, turning her into an internet sensation.

One of the most talked-about aspects of the episode was her public appeal for financial assistance. She reportedly demanded a large sum of money, including an immediate cash payment, though the reasons behind these demands were not entirely clear. This added another layer of controversy, with many questioning her intentions and state of mind.

As the story spread online, reactions were sharply divided.

Some people expressed sympathy, viewing her as someone who had taken a risky emotional decision and ended up in a vulnerable situation. They pointed to the emotional toll of long-distance relationships and the challenges

of navigating cultural boundaries. Others, however, were more critical, arguing that her actions were impulsive and unrealistic, especially given the complexities of international relationships.

Social media played a significant role in shaping public perception. Clips of her statements and behavior quickly went viral, often accompanied by memes and commentary. While some users mocked the situation, others highlighted deeper issues such as mental health, loneliness, and the influence of online relationships.

Amid the attention, reports suggested that people on the ground extended support to her during her stay. Locals allegedly provided basic assistance, reflecting a sense of compassion despite the unusual circumstances. At the same time, the prolonged nature of her stay raised questions about legal and

diplomatic aspects, particularly concerning visas and repatriation.

Eventually, authorities intervened to resolve the situation. Arrangements were made for her return to the United States, bringing an end to a saga that had unfolded over several months. Her departure marked the conclusion of a story that had blurred the lines between personal choice, public spectacle, and global discourse.

The episode highlights how personal decisions can take on a much larger dimension in the digital age. What might once have remained a private matter instead became a widely discussed topic, amplified by social media and 24/7 news cycles. It also underscores the unpredictable nature of online relationships, especially when they cross cultural, geographical, and emotional boundaries.

At its core, the story is

about human vulnerability—the desire for connection, the risks people take for love, and the consequences when expectations collide with reality. It also serves as a reminder of the importance of understanding cultural contexts and practical realities before making life-altering decisions.

While opinions about the woman's actions remain divided, her story continues to resonate as a cautionary tale. It reflects both the possibilities and pitfalls of a connected world, where relationships can begin with a click but unravel in ways that are far more complicated.

In the end, what started as a personal journey for love became a global conversation—one that raises important questions about trust, judgment, and the powerful role of the internet in shaping modern narratives.

When a "No" Costs Talent: A Boss's Regret Sparks Debate on Work-From-Home Policies

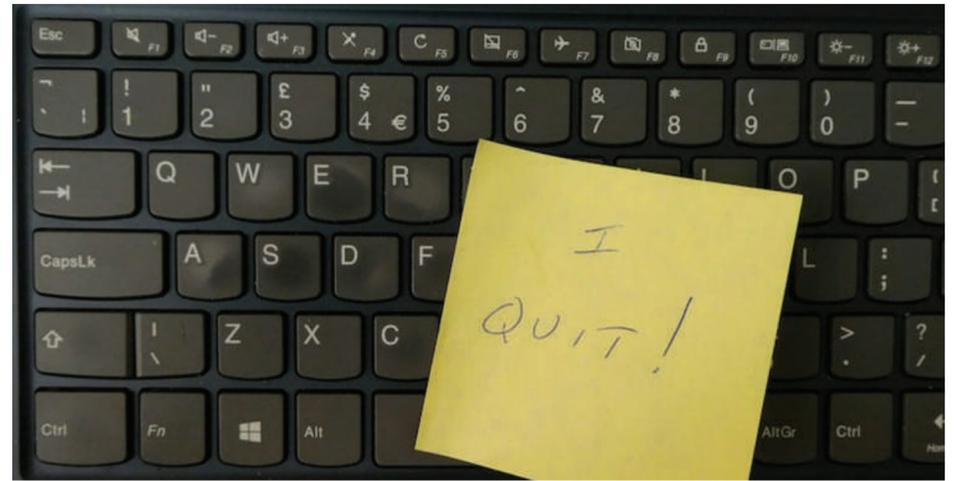
In today's rapidly evolving workplace, flexibility has become more than just a perk—it is often seen as a necessity. The debate around remote work versus office presence continues to divide employers and employees alike. Amid this ongoing conversation, a recent story about a manager who lost his best employee after denying a work-from-home (WFH) request has struck a powerful chord online.

The incident, shared widely on social media, highlights a critical lesson about leadership, trust, and the importance of adapting to changing work cultures.

At the center of the story is a company leader who admitted to making a decision he would later regret. One of his top-performing employees approached him with a request to work from home due to personal circumstances. Despite the employee's proven track record and reliability, the manager chose to deny the request, sticking to traditional workplace policies that prioritized physical presence over flexibility.

At the time, the decision may have seemed reasonable from a managerial perspective. Many employers still believe that productivity is closely tied to being physically present in the office. Concerns about accountability, collaboration, and maintaining team discipline often influence such choices.

However, what followed forced the manager to reconsider his stance. The employee, feeling undervalued and unsupported, decided to resign. Losing a high-performing team member is never easy, but what made this situation particularly painful was the realization that the departure could have been avoided with a more empathetic



approach.

In his reflection, the manager acknowledged that the employee was not just skilled but also deeply committed to the organization. By denying a simple request for flexibility, he had inadvertently pushed away someone who contributed significantly to the company's success.

The story quickly gained traction online, with many people sharing their own experiences and opinions on workplace flexibility. For some, it served as validation of their frustrations with rigid corporate policies. For others, it was a reminder to leaders about the human side of management.

A key takeaway from the incident is the growing importance of trust in modern workplaces. Employees today are increasingly seeking autonomy in how they manage their work. The pandemic accelerated this shift, proving that remote work can be effective across many industries. As a result, expectations have changed, and employees now view flexibility as a sign of

trust and respect.

When organizations fail to recognize this shift, they risk not only losing talent but also damaging morale within their teams.

Another important aspect of this story is the role of communication. In many cases, conflicts over remote work arise not because of the request itself, but because of how it is handled. A more open conversation—exploring alternatives, setting clear expectations, or even offering a trial period—might have led to a different outcome.

Instead, a firm refusal without sufficient consideration sent a message that the employee's needs were secondary to company rules.

The manager's eventual regret underscores a broader reality: policies should serve people, not the other way around. While structure and consistency are important in any organization, they must be balanced with empathy and adaptability.

Interestingly, the story also sparked a wider discussion about leadership styles. Many commenters

pointed out that good leaders are those who listen, understand, and evolve. In contrast, rigid leadership often leads to disengagement and high turnover.

The viral nature of the post reflects a deeper shift in workplace expectations. Employees are no longer willing to accept one-size-fits-all policies, especially when those policies fail to account for individual circumstances. Flexibility is increasingly seen as a competitive advantage for companies looking to attract and retain top talent.

The manager, learning from his mistake, reportedly changed his approach. He now approves most work-from-home requests, recognizing that flexibility does not necessarily compromise productivity. In fact, in many cases, it can enhance it by improving employee satisfaction and work-life balance.

This transformation highlights an important lesson: sometimes, it takes a loss to understand the value of what we had.

The story also raises questions about how organizations can better pre-

pare for the future of work. As hybrid and remote models become more common, companies need to rethink traditional management practices. This includes investing in better communication tools, setting clear performance metrics, and fostering a culture of trust.

Ultimately, the incident serves as a cautionary tale for employers everywhere. In a competitive job market, talent retention is just as important as talent acquisition. Losing a valuable employee over something as avoidable as a denied WFH request is a mistake few organizations can afford to make.

At its core, this story is not just about remote work—it is about understanding people. It is about recognizing that employees are not just resources, but individuals with unique needs and circumstances.

As workplaces continue to evolve, the most successful leaders will be those who can balance organizational goals with human empathy. Because sometimes, a simple "yes" can make all the difference.

Harry Brook Backs Jos Buttler Amid Lean Patch, Calls Him a “Powerhouse of World Cricket”

England captain Harry Brook has come out strongly in support of teammate Jos Buttler, expressing confidence that the senior batter will soon return to form during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026.

Buttler, widely regarded as one of England's most explosive white-ball players, has had a quiet run in the tournament so far. Known for his aggressive batting and ability to dominate bowlers, he has struggled to make a big impact with the bat in recent matches. Despite this, Brook remains confident in his abilities.

Brook described Buttler as a “powerhouse of world cricket,” emphasizing that players of his caliber do not lose their skill overnight. He believes it is only a matter of time before Buttler produces a match-winning performance, especially with the tournament entering its crucial stages.

England's campaign has been a mix of strong performances and resili-



ence. The team recently secured an important win to reach the semi-finals, with Brook playing a key role. His leadership and batting form have been instrumental in guiding the team through challenging situations.

While Buttler's numbers in the tournament may not reflect his usual standards, his presence in the squad remains invaluable. Beyond his batting, he brings experi-

ence, calmness under pressure, and leadership qualities that are essential in high-stakes matches.

Brook highlighted that Buttler's contributions go far beyond statistics. His ability to guide younger players, read match situations, and handle pressure makes him a crucial figure in the team setup. In tournaments like the World Cup, such experience often

proves to be a decisive factor.

England's consistent performances in global tournaments underline their strength as a team. A balanced mix of young talent and experienced players has helped them remain competitive at the highest level. While emerging players like Victor are stepping up, veterans like Buttler continue to provide stability.

As the team heads into the knockout stage, England will be hoping for their senior players to rise to the occasion. Buttler has a strong track record in big matches, and his ability to deliver under pressure is well known.

Brook's backing reflects the strong team spirit within the squad. Instead of focusing on individual struggles, the emphasis remains on collective performance and mutual support. This positive environment can often help players regain confidence and perform at their best.

With the semi-finals approaching, all eyes will be on Buttler. A strong comeback at this stage could not only silence critics but also play a crucial role in England's pursuit of the title.

In cricket, form may fluctuate, but class endures. And with the captain's full support behind him, Jos Buttler has every chance to prove his worth once again on the world stage.

Rinku Singh Set to Rejoin India Camp After Family Emergency

In a major relief for Team India during the ongoing ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, star batter Rinku Singh is expected to return to the national squad shortly after leaving the camp due to a family emergency involving his father's health.

Rinku's sudden departure from the team camp had raised concerns about his availability for India's crucial Super 8 clash against Zimbabwe. However, the latest update from the team management indicates that the hard-hitting middle-order batter is likely to rejoin the squad in time for the important fixture.

Why Rinku Singh Left the Camp

The left-handed batter had rushed back home after his father's health deteriorated significantly. Reports suggest that his father is battling a serious illness and had to be placed under critical medical care. The situation prompted Rinku to immediately leave Chennai, where the Indian team was stationed, and travel back to be with his family.

The development came at a sensitive time in the tournament, with India fighting to stay in contention for a place in the knockout stages. His ab-



sence from training sessions and team activities initially created uncertainty over whether he would be available for selection in the upcoming matches.

Team India's Update on His Return

India's batting coach confirmed that Rinku's return is imminent and that he is expected to rejoin the squad within a short span. The update has come as a significant boost for the team, especially considering the importance of the upcoming matches in the Super 8 stage.

The management remains hopeful that he will be match-ready and available for selection as India prepares for a must-win encounter. His presence adds depth and flexibility to the batting

lineup, particularly in pressure situations.

Impact on India's Campaign

India's campaign in the tournament has reached a critical juncture. The team is under pressure to deliver strong performances in the remaining matches to secure a place in the semi-finals.

Rinku Singh has emerged as a dependable finisher in recent times, known for his ability to accelerate the scoring rate in the final overs. His absence, even temporarily, could have disrupted the team's balance and strategy, especially in tight games.

There were also discussions within the team management about possible backup options if Rinku was unavailable. However, his expected re-

turn now reduces the need for major changes to the playing XI.

A Key Player in India's Middle Order

Over the past year, Rinku Singh has built a reputation as one of India's most reliable T20 batters. His calm approach under pressure and ability to deliver in crunch situations have made him a valuable asset in the shortest format of the game.

His performances in domestic cricket and international matches played a crucial role in earning him a spot in India's squad for the T20 World Cup. With the team aiming for another global title, players like Rinku are central to their plans.

Balancing Personal and Professional

Responsibilities

Rinku's decision to prioritize his family during a medical emergency highlights the human side of professional sport. While international tournaments demand complete focus and commitment, situations like these remind everyone that personal responsibilities come first.

The Indian team management and players have extended their support to Rinku during this difficult time, emphasizing the importance of family and well-being over the game.

Looking Ahead

As India gears up for its next match, all eyes will be on whether Rinku Singh returns to the playing XI and how quickly he can regain match rhythm. Given his track record, the team will be optimistic about his ability to make an immediate impact.

His return not only strengthens India's batting lineup but also boosts team morale at a crucial stage of the tournament.

With the stakes higher than ever, Rinku Singh's comeback could prove to be a turning point in India's campaign as they aim to progress further in the competition.

Medvedev Wants Major Change to Tennis Ranking System to Ease Player Workload



Top Russian tennis star Daniil Medvedev has called for a rethink of the current men's tennis ranking system, urging the sport's authorities to simplify how ranking points are awarded to reduce player burnout and improve the tour calendar.

Medvedev, currently ranked world No. 11, made the comments after advancing to the last 16 at the Dubai Open. He said the way players chase ranking points forces them to play too many events and take part even if they are tired or injured. This, he suggested, increases the risk of physical strain and prevents players from managing their schedules in a way that protects their bodies.

Under the existing system, players accumulate ranking points from a combination of results across a wide range of tournaments over the

year. They count their best performances from a set number of events, including Grand Slams, Masters 1000 tournaments, and smaller ATP 500 and 250-level events. Medvedev believes this structure compels players to enter many tournaments to stay competitive, not just the big ones.

To address this, Medvedev proposed that only the most prestigious events—specifically the Grand Slams and the Masters 1000 series—should contribute ranking points. He suggested that other tournaments could remain on the tour but without offering ranking points. This, he said, would allow players to skip smaller events without fear of losing ground in the rankings and would encourage them to focus on their physical well-being.

Medvedev pointed out that even non-mandato-

ry events effectively become mandatory for players seeking enough points to qualify for the season-ending ATP Finals. He recalled how players sometimes feel obliged to participate in smaller tournaments simply to accumulate enough points, even when it might not be in their best interest physically.

His proposal would see a streamlined calendar where four Grand Slams and a set number of Masters events are the main contributors to rankings, while lower-tier tournaments would no longer impact players' positions. Medvedev said that while many players would likely agree with the idea, implementing such a system would be challenging due to existing commercial interests and tournament licensing agreements.

Officials and organizers, he acknowledged, rely on ranking points to attract top players to all events, ensuring stronger fields and greater fan engagement worldwide. As a result, Medvedev conceded that meaningful change might be unlikely while he is still competing at the top level.

The debate has sparked considerable discussion within tennis circles, as players and fans weigh the balance between tradition, commercial interests, and the desire for a healthier, more sustainable tour. Medvedev's comments underline growing concern about the physical demands placed on elite players and reflect wider calls for reform in professional tennis.

Bodo/Glimt Pull Off Historic Upset, Knock Inter Milan Out of Champions League



Norwegian underdogs Bodo/Glimt produced one of the biggest shocks in recent European football history by eliminating Italian giants Inter Milan from the UEFA Champions League. The stunning result marks a defining moment in the club's rise and underlines their growing reputation as giant-killers on the continental stage.

Coming into the second leg with a 3-1 advantage from the first match, Bodo/Glimt showed remarkable composure and confidence at the iconic San Siro stadium. Despite facing relentless pressure from Inter Milan, the Norwegian side held their ground and executed their game plan with precision. They went on to secure a 2-1 victory on the night, sealing an emphatic 5-2 aggregate triumph.

Inter Milan, one of Europe's most decorated clubs and recent finalists, dominated possession and created several chances, particularly in the early stages of the match. However, their inability to convert opportunities proved costly. Bodo/Glimt, in contrast, capitalised on key moments and punished defensive lapses with clinical finishing.

The breakthrough came when Jens Petter Hauge found the net, giving the visitors a crucial edge and further denting Inter's hopes of a comeback. Later, Hakon Evjen added another goal, effectively putting the tie beyond reach for the Italian side. Although Inter managed a late consolation goal, it was far from enough to overturn the

deficit.

This victory is widely regarded as the greatest achievement in Bodo/Glimt's history. The club, based in a small town inside the Arctic Circle, has defied expectations throughout the tournament. Their journey has included remarkable wins over top European teams, showcasing a fearless and disciplined style of play that has caught the attention of football fans worldwide.

What makes this achievement even more remarkable is the contrast in resources and stature between the two teams. Inter Milan boast a star-studded squad, vast financial backing, and a rich European pedigree. In comparison, Bodo/Glimt operate with a modest budget and relatively unknown players. Yet, their cohesion, tactical clarity, and belief have enabled them to overcome seemingly insurmountable odds.

Head coach Kjetil Knutsen has played a pivotal role in the team's rise. Under his guidance, Bodo/Glimt have developed a clear identity built on attacking football, high intensity, and strong teamwork. Their success is not just a one-off upset but the result of a long-term project focused on player development and collective

growth. The win also carries historical significance for Norwegian football. Bodo/Glimt have become one of the few clubs from the country to make such a deep run in Europe's premier club competition, inspiring a new generation of players and fans back home.

For Inter Milan, the defeat is a bitter blow. Expectations were high following their strong performances in recent seasons, but their Champions League campaign has come to an abrupt and disappointing end. The result has raised questions about their defensive solidity and ability to handle high-pressure knockout matches.

As Bodo/Glimt advance further in the tournament, their fairytale journey continues. They have already proven that they can compete with—and defeat—Europe's elite. With momentum on their side and growing confidence, they will head into the next stage as a team no opponent can afford to underestimate.

This extraordinary victory is more than just a result; it is a statement. Bodo/Glimt have shown that in football, determination, unity, and belief can still triumph over reputation and resources.

India Send Strong Statement with Intense Chepauk Nets Ahead of Zimbabwe Clash



Team India signaled renewed focus and urgency with a high-energy training session at Chennai's iconic M. A. Chidambaram Stadium (Chepauk) ahead of their must-win Super 8 encounter against Zimbabwe in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026.

After a mixed run in the tournament, the Indian squad approached

the nets session with a clear sense of purpose. The atmosphere was intense, with players engaging in long batting and bowling drills, reflecting a team determined to correct mistakes and regain momentum at a crucial moment.

The training session stood out for its sharpness and energy. Batters

focused heavily on improving shot selection and execution, especially against spin and variations—areas that have posed challenges in recent matches. Bowlers, meanwhile, worked on discipline, line and length, and death-over strategies to ensure tighter control during key phases of the game.

Senior players and coaching staff were actively involved, constantly interacting with players and offering guidance. The emphasis was not just on skill execution but also on mental preparation, with the team aiming to stay composed under pressure in a do-or-die situation.

One of the key takeaways from the session was the clarity in intent. Every player appeared locked in, understanding

the significance of the upcoming clash. Fielding drills were also conducted at high intensity, underlining the importance of saving runs and maintaining sharpness in the field—often a deciding factor in close T20 matches.

India's campaign has reached a critical juncture, where consistency and execution will determine their progress to the knockout stage. The upcoming match against Zimbabwe is crucial, and the team seems fully aware that there is little room for error.

The Chepauk session also reflected a shift in mindset. Rather than dwelling on past setbacks, the team appeared focused on moving forward with confidence and aggression. The players showed a willingness

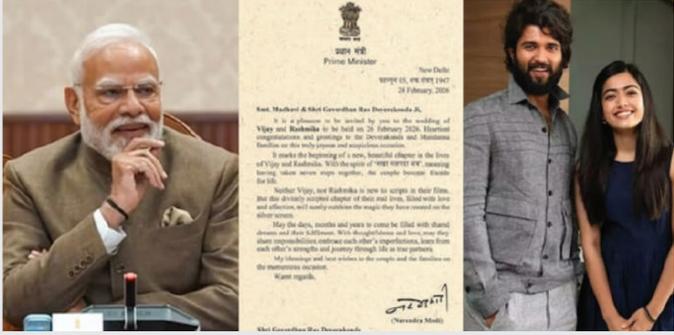
to put in the extra effort, whether it was extended batting practice or repeated bowling spells.

This renewed intensity is expected to play a key role as India looks to bounce back strongly. With conditions in Chennai often favoring spin and tactical gameplay, the preparation at Chepauk could give the team a strategic advantage.

As the match approaches, India's training session has sent a clear message to opponents: the team is regrouped, focused, and ready to fight. The real test, however, will be translating this preparation into performance on match day.

With high stakes and expectations, all eyes will now be on how India delivers against Zimbabwe in what promises to be a decisive encounter.

PM Narendra Modi Extends Heartfelt Wishes to Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna on Their Wedding



The much-talked-about wedding of popular Tollywood stars Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna has finally been confirmed, bringing immense excitement among fans and the film industry alike. Adding to the celebration, Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended his warm wishes to the couple, making the occasion even more special.

According to reports, Narendra Modi sent a heartfelt message congratulating Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna on their union. In his message, the Prime Minister reportedly wished the couple a life filled with happiness, prosperity, and togetherness. His gesture has drawn widespread attention, as it reflects the growing recognition of cinema personalities at the national level.

Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna, who have shared great on-screen chemistry in

films like Geetha Govindam and Dear Comrade, have long been the subject of dating rumors. Despite constant speculation, both actors maintained privacy regarding their personal lives and refrained from confirming their relationship publicly.

In recent months, reports about their wedding began circulating widely across social media and entertainment circles. Details such as wedding preparations, venue, and guest lists fueled curiosity among fans. However, the couple remained silent, neither confirming nor denying the rumors.

Putting an end to all speculation, the duo finally made an official announcement about their wedding. The announcement reportedly came under the title "Wedding of Viros," a name fans often use to refer to the pair. This confirmation has thrilled their followers, who have been eagerly

waiting for this moment. The news quickly went viral, with fans, celebrities, and industry insiders pouring in their congratulatory messages. Social media platforms were flooded with posts celebrating the couple's journey from co-stars to life partners.

Narendra Modi's special message added a significant highlight to the occasion, showcasing how influential and beloved the actors have become beyond the film industry. His wishes not only elevated the importance of the event but also delighted fans across the country.

As Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna embark on this new chapter together, their wedding stands as one of the most celebrated events in recent Tollywood history, marking a joyful milestone in both their personal and professional lives.

Ram Charan Celebrates Cinematographer Rathnavelu's Birthday on 'Peddi' Sets

The sets of Peddi turned festive recently as the film's team came together to celebrate the birthday of ace cinematographer R. Rathnavelu. The celebration, led by lead actor Ram Charan, created a warm and cheerful atmosphere amid the ongoing shoot of this much-anticipated project.

Directed by Buchi Babu Sana, Peddi is shaping up to be a major release in Telugu cinema. The film, which revolves around a sports-based backdrop, has already generated strong buzz among fans and industry circles. With its production progressing steadily, the team appears to be balancing intense work schedules with moments of camaraderie and celebration.



A Joyful Moment on Set

The birthday celebration of Rathnavelu was marked by simplicity and genuine affection. Ram Charan personally took the lead in making the occasion special. He was seen cutting the cake along with Rathnavelu and even feeding him a piece, a gesture that quickly caught the attention of fans on social media.

Photos and videos from the celebration have since gone viral, showcasing the bonding between the cast and crew. The cheerful mood on set reflects the strong rapport shared by the team, which often plays a key role in shaping the final output of a film.

Rathnavelu, known for his exceptional visual style and contribution to several blockbuster films, is handling cinematography for Peddi. His collaboration with Ram Charan and the director is being closely watched, as expectations are high for the film's visual appeal.

About the Film 'Peddi'

Peddi is an upcoming Telugu-language sports action drama

that promises a mix of emotion, action, and rural storytelling. Ram Charan is set to appear in a rugged and massy avatar, unlike many of his previous roles. His transformation for the character has already sparked curiosity among fans.

The film features Janhvi Kapoor as the female lead, marking an exciting pairing on screen. Alongside them, a strong supporting cast adds further depth to the project.

Music for the film is composed by legendary composer A. R. Rahman, whose involvement has significantly elevated expectations. The songs released so far have received an enthusiastic response, and more musical updates are expected soon.

Production Status and Release Plans

The film is currently in its final stages of production. Most of the major shooting has already been completed, with only a few portions, patchwork,

and possibly a special song left to be filmed. The makers are working towards wrapping up these remaining parts quickly so they can move into the promotional phase.

Peddi is scheduled for a theatrical release on April 30, 2026. Given the scale of the project and the star power involved, it is expected to be one of the biggest releases of the year.

Growing Anticipation Among Fans

Fans of Ram Charan are eagerly awaiting the film, especially after glimpses of his new look and the film's theme began circulating online. The sports backdrop combined with a rural setting offers a fresh narrative space, and audiences are curious to see how the story unfolds.

The viral birthday celebration has only added to the excitement, giving fans a behind-the-scenes look at the making

of the film. Such moments help build a stronger connection between the audience and the film even before its release.

What Lies Ahead

Once Peddi is completed and released, Ram Charan is expected to move on to his next project with acclaimed director Sukumar, further keeping his lineup strong and diverse.

For now, however, the focus remains firmly on Peddi. With a talented team, a compelling storyline, and high production values, the film is poised to make a significant impact at the box office.

The birthday celebration of Rathnavelu not only highlighted the positive energy on set but also served as a reminder that behind every big film is a team that works together like a family. As anticipation continues to build, fans can look forward to more updates and glimpses from this promising project in the coming weeks.

Sharwanand's 'Bhogi' First Look Unveiled, Release Date Announced



The makers of Bhogi have officially revealed the much-awaited first look of Sharwanand, creating strong buzz among fans and film lovers. Along with the poster, the team also announced the film's release date, positioning it as a major upcoming pan-India project.

The first-look poster showcases Sharwanand in a striking new avatar. With a rugged appearance, thick beard, and intense expression, he looks fierce and battle-ready. Holding a weapon and set against a raw backdrop, the visual hints at a powerful action-packed story. This transformation marks a significant shift from his usual roles, suggesting a bold and gritty character.

Directed by Sampath Nandi, Bhogi is said to be a high-energy action drama with strong emotional elements. The film reportedly explores themes rooted in a rural setting, blending mass appeal with a compelling storyline. The director, known for delivering commercial entertainers,

appears to be presenting Sharwanand in a completely new light.

The film is scheduled for release on August 28, 2026, and will be released across multiple languages, including Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, and Hindi. This wide release strategy reflects the makers' ambition to reach audiences across the country and expand Sharwanand's appeal beyond regional cinema.

Adding to the excitement, Bhogi is expected to face competition at the box office, as it is set to release around the same time as other notable films. This could make for an interesting clash, drawing attention from audiences and industry observers alike.

The movie features Anupama Parameswaran and Dimple Hayathi as the female leads, bringing both charm and depth to the narrative. The film is produced by K. K. Radhamohan under a well-known production banner, ensuring a strong backing in terms of scale and production quality.

Music for the film is

composed by Bheems Ceciroleo, who is known for his energetic and mass-oriented tracks. His involvement raises expectations for a powerful soundtrack that complements the film's intense tone.

Sharwanand, who has built a reputation for choosing diverse roles, seems to be pushing boundaries with Bhogi. This project marks a clear attempt to reinvent his on-screen image and connect with a wider audience through a more action-driven narrative.

The first look has already generated significant excitement on social media, with fans praising the actor's makeover and the film's intense vibe. The visuals suggest a story filled with action, emotion, and strong character arcs, making it one of the most anticipated films of the year.

Overall, Bhogi promises to be a gripping entertainer that combines action, drama, and emotion. With its grand scale, strong cast, and pan-India release, the film is set to make a notable impact when it hits theatres.

From Xerox Shop to Stardom: The Remarkable Rise of Pradeep Ranganathan



The journey of Pradeep Ranganathan is one of the most inspiring success stories in recent South Indian cinema. In an industry often dominated by established families and larger-than-life personalities, Pradeep carved his own path with determination, relatability, and raw talent. His transformation from an ordinary background to a celebrated actor-director reflects not just personal ambition, but also a shift in audience preferences toward authenticity.

Humble Beginnings

Pradeep Ranganathan did not come from a film background. He grew up in a modest household where his father ran a small xerox shop. Life was simple, grounded, and far removed from the glamour of cinema. Unlike many aspiring actors who migrate to big cities with strong industry connections, Pradeep's early life was rooted in everyday struggles and middle-class realities.

Even after entering the film industry, he report-

edly continued to live simply, often choosing public transport like buses instead of adopting a luxurious lifestyle. This grounded nature would later become one of his biggest strengths, helping audiences connect with him on a deeper level.

Passion for Cinema

From a young age, Pradeep had a deep interest in storytelling and filmmaking. Rather than waiting for opportunities, he began creating content on his own. He explored direction and writing, slowly building his skills and understanding of cinema. His journey was not an overnight success; it involved years of effort, experimentation, and learning.

What set him apart early on was his ability to tell relatable stories—stories that reflected the lives, emotions, and struggles of ordinary people. This approach would later become the defining feature of his films.

Breakthrough and Recognition

Pradeep gained widespread attention with his directorial ventures, particularly films that resonated strongly with the youth. His storytelling style—simple yet emotionally engaging—struck a chord with audiences. Instead of relying on high-budget spectacles, he focused on content that felt real and zeal like they were watching their own lives unfold on screen. This unique connection helped him build a strong fan base in a short span of time.

Breaking Stereotypes

One of the most remarkable aspects of Pradeep Ranganathan's journey is how he challenged long-standing norms in the film industry. For decades, mainstream cinema often followed a fixed template for heroes—certain looks, style, and persona. Pradeep broke that mold.

He emerged as a new-age star who represents the common man. His success signaled a broad-

er change in audience expectations, where authenticity and storytelling began to outweigh superficial elements. This shift has opened doors for many aspiring actors who may not fit traditional standards but possess genuine talent.

Rapid Growth and Success

In just a few years, Pradeep's career witnessed exponential growth. From working behind the scenes to becoming a leading actor, his rise has been nothing short of extraordinary. His films have not only performed well commercially but have also gained critical appreciation for their fresh narratives.

Industry insiders and senior actors have also taken note of his talent. Comparisons with established stars highlight the impact he has made in a relatively short time. His ability to connect with younger audiences, in particular, has positioned him as one of the most promising talents in contemporary cinema.

Staying Grounded

Despite his rapid success, Pradeep continues to maintain a humble and grounded lifestyle. This authenticity reflects both in his personal life and in his work. He has not distanced himself from his roots, and this consistency adds to his credibility as an artist.

In an era where fame can often lead to excess, Pradeep's simplicity stands out. It reinforces the idea that success does not necessarily require abandoning one's origins.

A New-Age Role Model

Pradeep Ranganathan's journey serves as

an inspiration for aspiring filmmakers and actors across the country. His story proves that talent, persistence, and originality can break barriers—even in a competitive industry like cinema.

He represents a generation that values creativity over convention and substance over style. For many young people, especially those from modest backgrounds, his success offers hope and motivation.

Looking Ahead

As Pradeep continues to evolve as an artist, expectations around him are naturally rising. Audiences are eager to see how he expands his creative horizons, whether through acting, directing, or exploring new genres.

Given his track record, it is clear that he is not just a passing phenomenon but a lasting presence in the industry. His ability to adapt, innovate, and stay connected to his audience will likely define the next phase of his career.

Conclusion

The rise of Pradeep Ranganathan is more than just a personal success story—it reflects a larger transformation within the film industry. His journey from a xerox shop background to becoming a celebrated star highlights the power of perseverance and authenticity.

In a world where cinema is constantly evolving, Pradeep stands as a symbol of change. He reminds us that extraordinary success can come from the most ordinary beginnings, and that staying true to oneself is often the most powerful formula for success.