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AP CM Congratulates Centre on India-US Trade Agreement

Amaravati, February 3, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday congratulated the Union Government on the successful conclusion of the India-United States trade agreement, describing it as a landmark development that will significantly strengthen India's global economic position and bilateral relations with the US.

In a statement, the Chief Minister said the agreement reflects India's growing stature in the global economy and showcases the country's ability to negotiate mutually beneficial partnerships with major world powers. He lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his leadership in finalising the deal, stating that it would open new avenues for trade, investment, and economic cooperation between the two nations.

Naidu observed that the reduction in trade barriers under the agreement would enhance market access for Indian products and improve the competitiveness of Indian exporters. He said sectors such as agriculture, food processing, textiles, pharmaceuticals, information technology, and



manufacturing are expected to benefit from improved access to the US market. According to him, this will lead to increased exports, job creation, and higher income opportunities, particularly for youth and small entrepreneurs. Highlighting Andhra Pradesh's potential, the Chief Minister said the state stands to gain considerably from the agreement due to its strong base in agriculture, marine exports, electronics, and emerging industries. He expressed confidence that Andhra Pradesh's farmers, MSMEs, and industrial units would be able to leverage the new trade environment to expand their presence in international markets.

Naidu further stated that the agreement would encourage greater foreign investment into India, including Andhra Pradesh, by reinforcing investor confidence in the country's economic policies. He said closer economic engagement with the US would also facilitate technology transfer, innovation, and skill development, helping India move further up the global value chain.

The Chief Minister noted that India's consistent focus on economic reforms, infrastructure development, and ease of doing business has played a key role in enabling such international agreements. He stressed that cooperation with major economies like the US is es-

sential for sustaining long-term growth and ensuring inclusive development.

Calling the agreement a "win-win" for both nations, Naidu said it strengthens strategic ties while promoting shared prosperity. He urged industries, exporters, and entrepreneurs to proactively prepare themselves to take advantage of the new opportunities created by the deal.

He concluded by stating that Andhra Pradesh would align its policies and initiatives to maximise the benefits of the India-US trade agreement and contribute meaningfully to India's vision of becoming a leading global economic power.

Ambati Rambabu Episode Sparks Statewide Debate on Political Conduct and Accountability

TPN Bureau | Amaravati, February 3, 2026 :

A heated political debate has erupted across Andhra Pradesh following the arrest and subsequent attack incident involving former minister Ambati Rambabu, raising larger questions about political language, public anger, police action, and accountability in public life. The episode has triggered intense discussion on who was at fault — the speaker, the attackers, or the authorities — and how far public tolerance extends when political discourse crosses accepted limits.

The controversy began with remarks made by Ambati Rambabu that many sections of society found objectionable. Even political opponents of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu felt the language used was inappropriate, arguing that criticism could have been expressed without resorting to personal or provocative expressions. Observers note that public reactions often depend not only on what is said, but also on who says it and how consistently such language is used.

In Rambabu's case, his past reputation for

aggressive and confrontational speech appears to have played a significant role in shaping public sentiment. Political analysts point out that leaders known for measured language generally face protests or slogan-shouting, but rarely physical aggression. In contrast, Rambabu's repeated use of harsh rhetoric seems to have eroded public sympathy, resulting in minimal support even after the attack and arrest.

The situation escalated further when, instead of issuing an apology, R a m b a b u addressed the media again with strong remarks, which intensified anger among ruling party cadres. Demands for immediate arrest grew louder, and as police action was perceived as delayed, tensions mounted, ultimately leading to violence. By the time law enforcement intervened, the situation had already spiralled out of control.

Subsequent statements by Rambabu's family members also drew criticism on social media, with many questioning the decision to issue sharp comments at a sensitive moment. Online reactions suggested that these remarks further reduced any chance of public

sympathy, instead reinforcing negative perceptions.

Within the ruling party's cadre, the incident appears to have strengthened a growing sentiment that silence in the face of provocation is no longer acceptable. Similar reactions were earlier seen in other incidents, leading to a belief among supporters that failing to retaliate would be perceived as weakness.

On the other hand, analysts argue that the opposition leadership continues to believe that constant confrontation generates political mileage. However, critics warn that such an approach may have contributed to past electoral setbacks and could again alienate neutral or undecided voters. There is a growing view that repeated controversies and aggressive attitudes may prevent any erosion of the ruling coalition's vote base, instead consolidating it further.

As political tempers remain high, many believe the episode serves as a reminder that public perception is shaped not merely by ideology, but by conduct, tone, and the ability to read public mood. How voters ultimately respond to such incidents remains to be seen.

Coalition Government on the Back Foot After Tirumala SIT Report

Amaravati, February 3, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The submission of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) report on the Tirumala issue has left leaders of the ruling coalition visibly unsettled, triggering intense political debate and exposing cracks in the government's preparedness. Soon after details of the report emerged, coalition leaders were seen grappling with uncomfortable questions over its contents and the manner in which events unfolded.

Within the coalition, there is growing confusion over why certain prominent names did not find mention in the SIT report and whether the investigation was confined to a limited scope. Leaders are questioning what exactly the SIT examined and whether the government failed to anticipate the direction the probe would take. Though the SIT is being led by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), it also includes state officials, raising concerns about how no clear signals or inputs reached the ruling alliance in advance.

Adding to the unease is the perception that the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) had prior clarity about the report's conclusions. Even before the report became public, YSRCP leaders appeared prepared and launched a sharp politi-



cal offensive. Once it emerged that the SIT ruled out the presence of animal fat, the opposition quickly claimed that the coalition's allegations stood exposed as false. Coalition leaders, however, argue that the core issue of using chemical substitutes instead of traditional ghee was diluted, with the debate being narrowed only to the animal fat aspect.

The controversy is particularly sensitive because Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu himself was the first to flag the issue publicly, followed by strong reactions from Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. This has now sparked questions within political circles about how such statements were made in the absence of a formally authenticated report. Supporters argue that Naidu is known for speaking only after due

verification, suggesting that information available at the time may have indicated serious concerns.

Attention has now shifted to whether the real failure lies not with the SIT investigation but with the government's inability to read the probe's trajectory. Questions are being raised about the role of government intelligence agencies and whether they failed to assess how the investigation would proceed

and how it could be politically leveraged.

The government has since announced the formation of another inquiry committee, but legal experts point out that a fresh probe is unlikely to override or significantly alter a CBI-led SIT report. Further controversy erupted with the swift transfer of senior officer Ashok Singhal after his name appeared in the report. Critics say the haste raises questions about

whether his role was properly reviewed earlier and whether the sudden action reflects panic rather than prudence.

Several Telugu Desam Party leaders privately admit that the coalition responded late, allowing the opposition to control the narrative. They note a similar pattern in earlier controversies, including the PPP issue and now the Tirumala laddu ghee matter. While acknowledging YSRCP's aggressive political style, leaders within the coalition concede that stronger anticipation and sharper counter-strategies were needed.

The episode has ultimately triggered introspection within the ruling alliance on whether the lapse was due to intelligence failure, leadership miscalculation, or a combination of both—an assessment the coalition government can no longer afford to ignore.



Caste Narrative Fails to Gain Traction in Ambati-Jogi Ramesh Controversies

TPN Bureau | Amaravati, February 3, 2026:

The political attempt to turn recent controversies involving YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leaders Ambati Rambabu and Jogi Ramesh into caste-based debates appears to be falling flat, with public discourse increasingly questioning the relevance of caste in matters of law, order, and accountability.

The debate began with the arrest of former minister Ambati Rambabu over his alleged abusive remarks against Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. Soon after his arrest, a section of social media users and political sympathisers raised the issue of caste, questioning how a person belonging to the Kapu community could be arrested in such a manner. This narrative, however, drew sharp criticism from many quarters, who argued that caste cannot be a shield for alleged misconduct.

Several voices pointed out that the core issue was not Ambati Rambabu's caste, but the nature of his statements. Critics asked whether using abusive language or making derogatory remarks against a constitutional authority could ever be justified, irrespec-



tive of caste identity. They questioned why attention was being diverted from the alleged offence to the community he belongs to. Ironically, Ambati Rambabu himself has, in the past, made controversial remarks about the Kapu community. He had publicly stated that Kapus did not form part of YSRCP's vote bank and had issued negative characterisations of the community. He had also launched verbal attacks on prominent Kapu leaders, including Pawan Kalyan and actor Chiranjeevi. This history has led many to question the sincerity of those now expressing outrage in his name, invoking Kapu identity.

As the debate intensified, old video clips of Ambati Rambabu's statements on Kapus began circulating widely on social media, blunting attempts to project him as a victim of caste-based targeting. The entry of Kapu leader Mudragada Padmanabha Reddy into the discussion further fuelled public criticism, with some questioning why



a leader from a different caste background was speaking on behalf of the Kapu community.

A similar pattern emerged in the case of YSRCP leader Jogi Ramesh. After allegedly making derogatory remarks against IT Minister Nara Lokesh and subsequently facing an attack, Jogi Ramesh sought to frame the issue as an attack on Backward Classes (BCs). This, too, triggered backlash, with many from BC communities questioning why an individual's actions were being attributed to the entire community. Critics asked whether belonging to a BC community grants immunity from legal action.

Political observers note that the repeated use of caste cards by parties and their social media wings to provoke outrage and create unrest has reached a point of diminishing returns. In both the Ambati and Jogi Ramesh episodes, public response suggests growing resistance to such narratives.

Pawan Kalyan Praises India's Global Economic Achievements

Amaravati, February 3, 2026 | TPN Bureau
 Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan on Tuesday hailed India's recent global economic achievements, describing them as a reflection of the country's growing stature on the world stage. He credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership for steering India toward landmark international trade agreements that are expected to strengthen the nation's economy and expand its global influence.

Speaking on the significance of these developments, Pawan Kalyan said India is entering a decisive phase in its economic

journey, marked by stronger partnerships and enhanced credibility among global powers. He noted that the recent trade understandings forged with key international partners demonstrate India's ability to negotiate from a position of strength while safeguarding national interests.

Highlighting agreements with major global markets, the Deputy Chief Minister said these pacts would provide wider access for Indian goods and services, boost exports, and improve the competitiveness of domestic industries. He emphasized that such agreements



are not merely symbolic, but have practical implications for economic growth, job creation,

and increased investment opportunities across sectors. Pawan Kalyan also

underlined the potential benefits for farmers and small-scale industries, stating that improved

access to international markets could translate into better prices for agricultural produce and new opportunities for rural livelihoods. He observed that reduced trade barriers and tariff rationalisation would help Indian products gain a stronger foothold abroad, ultimately benefiting producers at the grassroots level.

The Deputy Chief Minister remarked that India's expanding economic engagement reflects a broader vision of inclusive growth and global cooperation. According to him, the country's progress in forging strategic economic partnerships has enhanced investor con-

fidence and positioned India as a reliable and forward-looking global partner.

Pawan Kalyan further said that these achievements would have a long-term impact on sectors such as manufacturing, agriculture, services, and technology. He added that increased global integration would encourage innovation, strengthen supply chains, and contribute to sustainable economic development.

Expressing appreciation for the Prime Minister's efforts, Pawan Kalyan stated that India's rise on the global economic map is the result of consistent policy direction, diplomatic

outreach, and a focus on long-term national interests. He said the momentum created by recent international agreements should be leveraged to further empower states, industries, and citizens.

Concluding his remarks, Pawan Kalyan expressed optimism that India's enhanced global economic presence would translate into greater prosperity and stability in the coming years. He said the country's growing influence in international trade and economics signals a confident and resilient India, ready to play a larger role in shaping the global economic order.

CM Reviews Agriculture and Allied Sectors, Focus on Sustainable Farming and Farmer Incomes

Amaravati, February 3, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday conducted a comprehensive review of the agriculture and allied sectors, stressing the need for sustainable farming practices, stronger market systems, and technology-driven reforms to enhance farmers' incomes and ensure long-term growth of the rural economy.

During the high-level meeting at the Secretariat, the Chief Minister directed officials to accelerate the expansion of natural farming across the state. He underlined the importance of reducing excessive dependence on chemical fertilisers and pesticides, stating that soil health and environmental sustainability must be treated as long-term priorities. Naidu asked officials to strengthen certification and trace-

ability mechanisms so that farm produce grown under natural farming methods gains better acceptance and value in markets.

The Chief Minister also focused on agricultural marketing reforms, instructing officials to prepare a comprehensive plan to modernise Agricultural Market Committees. He emphasised optimal utilisation of market committee lands and the creation of integrated

facilities such as cold storages, godowns, and processing units to reduce post-harvest losses. Strengthening and expanding Rythu Bazaars was highlighted as a key step to ensure farmers get fair prices while consumers receive quality produce at reasonable rates. Addressing recent price fluctuations of key commodities, the Chief Minister called for proactive measures to prevent distress sales by farmers. He asked de-

partments to improve coordination between agriculture, horticulture, and marketing wings to ensure better price realisation through efficient value chains. Officials were directed to explore mobile Rythu Bazaars and direct marketing models to bridge the gap between farmers and consumers. Naidu stressed the importance of timely soil testing and input planning ahead of the upcoming cropping sea-

sons. He instructed officials to complete soil health assessments in advance and ensure fertiliser distribution is aligned with actual crop requirements. The Chief Minister also reviewed the availability of fertilisers and seeds, making it clear that there should be no scope for artificial shortages or misinformation that could create panic among farmers.

The review meeting also covered the perfor-

mance of allied sectors such as horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries, and dairying. Naidu said these sectors play a crucial role in supplementing farm incomes and generating rural employment. He asked officials to prepare focused action plans to improve productivity, promote value addition, and strengthen market linkages, especially for export-oriented produce.

Concluding the re-

view, the Chief Minister asserted that agriculture remains the backbone of Andhra Pradesh's economy and said reforms must translate into tangible benefits for farmers. He directed officials to ensure effective implementation of schemes, regular monitoring, and accountability at all levels, stating that farmer welfare and agricultural resilience would remain a top priority of the government.

AP Ministers Address Media After Cabinet Meet; Focus on Tirumala Laddu Inquiry and Governance Agenda

Amaravati, February 3, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Senior ministers of the Andhra Pradesh government on Tuesday addressed the media following a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, outlining key decisions and the government's stand on major issues, including the Tirumala laddu controversy and ongoing development initiatives.

Speaking at the press conference, Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav said the Cabinet had held a detailed discussion on the allegations surrounding the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) laddu prasadam. He stated that the government is committed to protecting the sanctity of Tirumala and the faith of millions of devotees. To ensure transparency and accountability, the Cabinet has decided to appoint an inquiry commission to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the matter and ascertain the facts. The minister stressed that no individual or institution would be shielded if lapses are found, and assured that the inquiry would be conducted in a



fair and impartial manner. He also remarked that the present government is determined to address issues that were either ignored or inadequately handled in the past, particularly those linked to public faith and religious sentiments. Apart from the laddu issue, ministers used the occasion to highlight the broader governance and development agenda of the state government. They said the administration is focused on accelerating economic growth, strengthening public finances, and ensuring that welfare schemes reach the intended beneficiaries. Emphasis is being placed on agriculture, irrigation, infrastructure development, and employment generation as part of a comprehensive growth strategy. The ministers

noted that special attention is being given to farmers through improved market access, timely procurement, and support for allied sectors. Initiatives aimed at youth empowerment, skill development, and job creation are also being prioritised. They added that the government is working to attract investments and improve ease of doing business to stimulate industrial growth across the state. Responding to questions from journalists, the ministers reiterated the government's commitment to transparent administration and regular engagement with the public. They said mechanisms are being strengthened to monitor project implementation and ensure accountability at all levels of governance.

US Tariff Reduction Brings Relief to Aqua Sector: Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu

Amaravati, February 3, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The reduction of import tariffs by the United States on Indian seafood exports from 25 per cent to 18 per cent has been welcomed as a major boost to the aqua and fisheries sector, Andhra Pradesh Agriculture, Cooperation, Marketing, Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu said on Tuesday.

The minister stated that the tariff cut, implemented as part of the India-US trade understanding, would provide significant relief to seafood exporters in the state, particularly those associated with the aquaculture sector. Andhra Pradesh, being the largest producer and exporter of marine products in the country, stands to benefit substantially from this decision, he added.

Explaining the background, Atchannaidu said that earlier, apart from the base tariff of 25 per cent, Indian seafood exports were burdened with additional penal duties, pushing the effective tariff to nearly 50-58 per cent. This had severely impacted exports to the US

market. Between April and November 2025, India's seafood exports to the United States declined by about 15 per cent in volume, falling to around 2.01 lakh metric tonnes, while export value dropped by over 6 per cent to approximately 1.72 billion US dollars. Frozen shrimp, the primary export item to the US, was among the worst affected.

With the tariff now reduced to 18 per cent, the minister said Indian seafood products would regain competitiveness in the American market. Stalled export orders are expected to resume, and stocks lying in bonded warehouses are likely to be cleared in the coming months. He projected that seafood exports to the US could increase by 10 to 15 per cent in the near future, with export volumes potentially returning to pre-tariff levels in the second half of the 2025-26 financial year.

Atchannaidu also pointed out that profit margins in the seafood processing industry, which had fallen to around 5-5.5 per cent during the high-tariff period, are expected to improve to 7-8 per cent following the



tariff reduction. He noted that duty concessions announced in the Union Budget 2026 on key inputs for seafood processing would further strengthen the sector.

While the US market is showing signs of recovery, the minister said Indian seafood exports to non-US markets such as the European Union, China, Vietnam, Russia and the United Kingdom have remained stable. In early 2025-26, non-US markets accounted for nearly 57 per cent of shrimp

exports, highlighting successful market diversification. The minister emphasised that the tariff reduction would enhance income stability for aqua farmers and fishermen, generate more employment opportunities, and improve the overall gross value addition of the fisheries sector in Andhra Pradesh. Citing estimates, he said total Indian seafood exports in 2025-26 could reach 14 to 15 lakh metric tons, underlining the positive outlook for the industry.

Nara Lokesh Reaches Delhi for Key Meetings with Central Ministers

Amaravati, February 3, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh's Minister for IT, Electronics and Education, Nara Lokesh, arrived in New Delhi on Tuesday evening ahead of a series of important discussions with senior Union ministers. Lokesh was accorded a warm welcome by Telugu Desam Party (TDP) Members of Parliament at the airport, reflecting the political and administrative significance of his visit.

The focus of the trip is primarily on advancing the state's development agenda and securing crucial support from the Central Government. Over the next two days, Lokesh is scheduled to hold back-to-back meetings with key ministers on February 4, centering on

fund mobilisation, infrastructure projects, and policy support for priority sectors in Andhra Pradesh.

According to officials familiar with the itinerary, Lokesh will emphasise the expansion of the IT and electronics industry, including efforts to attract new investments and establish cutting-edge technology facilities in the state. Discussions are expected to cover proposals for easing regulatory processes and enhancing Andhra Pradesh's overall competitiveness as an investment hub.

Another major item on his agenda is the implementation of commitments under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, especially related to the development of Amaravati as the state capital and the re-



lease of pending funds tied to the project. Lokesh is also likely to present detailed progress reports on ongoing state works worth around 92,649 crore to relevant Central ministries, showcasing Andhra Pradesh's developmental momentum and fiscal utilisation.

Education sector reforms are also set to figure prominently in the discussions, with Lokesh highlighting initiatives aimed at modernising the state's education infrastructure and aligning it with national skill development objectives. He is expected to seek enhanced cooperation on programmes that would benefit students and support workforce readiness in emerging sectors.

Infrastructure interests

are also on the docket. Sources indicate that Lokesh may engage with the Union Railways Ministry regarding high-speed rail corridors such as Hyderabad-Bengaluru and Hyderabad-Chennai, which hold strategic economic value for greater connectivity and regional growth.

Lokesh will stay overnight in Delhi and return to Andhra Pradesh later in the week after completing the scheduled bilateral talks. The state government anticipates that the engagements will yield concrete support for its ongoing and future development initiatives, reinforcing Andhra Pradesh's efforts to accelerate economic progress and secure national partnerships.

AP Cabinet Approves Special Inquiry Commission on Tirumala Laddu Ghee Controversy

Amaravati, February 3, 2026 | TPN Bureau
The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet on Tuesday approved the constitution of a special inquiry to thoroughly investigate the controversy surrounding the alleged use of adulterated ghee in the preparation of the Tirumala Srivari Laddu prasadam, a matter that has triggered widespread public concern and political debate.



The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, where ministers held detailed discussions on the findings of the Special Investigation Team (SIT), the chargesheet filed in court, and the information available with the government. According to official sources, the Cabinet observed discrepancies between the SIT report and the chargesheet, raising questions over whether all critical aspects of the case were adequately reflected.

In view of these inconsistencies, the Cabinet resolved to order a

fresh and comprehensive inquiry through a dedicated commission. The proposed inquiry will re-examine the procurement process, quality checks, tender procedures, and supply chain related to the ghee used in the preparation of the laddus. The objective, officials said, is to establish the complete facts, fix responsibility wherever lapses occurred, and recommend corrective measures. Ministers underlined that the issue involves the faith of

millions of devotees and therefore demands absolute clarity and transparency. The Cabinet noted that even the slightest doubt over the purity of the prasadam could have serious religious and social implications, making it imperative to leave no question unanswered.

The government maintained that the new inquiry is not intended to undermine the SIT, but to address public concerns arising from gaps and unanswered questions. Offi-

cial said the commission would have the authority to examine records, summon individuals concerned, and submit a detailed report to the government within a stipulated time.

The Cabinet also reiterated its commitment to safeguarding the sanctity of Tirumala temple traditions and ensuring that strict quality control mechanisms are enforced in all future procurements. It asserted that anyone found responsible for wrongdoing,

negligence, or manipulation in the process would face stringent action. The decision comes amid intense political exchanges over the issue, with the government stating that facts, not allegations, must ultimately prevail. The Cabinet said further action would be decided after studying the findings of the inquiry commission, with the aim of restoring public confidence and upholding the integrity of the revered Tirumala laddu prasadam.

Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan Cracks Down on Liquor Overpricing, Orders Strict Enforcement



Amaravati, February 3, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has taken serious note of complaints alleging that liquor is being sold at prices higher than the prescribed Maximum Retail Price (MRP) in several parts of the state. Issuing a stern warning, he directed the Excise Department to initiate strict action against shops and outlets found violating pricing norms.

Responding to complaints received from districts including Kakinada and other regions, the Deputy Chief Minister said charging more than the approved MRP is illegal and unacceptable. He made it clear that such practices not only burden consumers but also damage the credibility of the government and its regulatory mechanisms.

Pawan Kalyan instructed excise offi-

cial to intensify inspections and maintain close surveillance over liquor outlets across the state. He emphasised that no shop owner should exploit consumers under any circumstances and that violations would invite stringent penalties, including suspension or cancellation of licences.

Taking to social media, the Deputy Chief Minister said his office had been receiving repeated representations from the public regarding overpricing. He reiterated that liquor must be sold strictly at government-approved rates and called upon officials to act swiftly and decisively wherever irregularities are detected.

The issue has gained political attention in recent days, with allegations of overpricing being raised by the opposition as well. However,

government sources said the administration is determined to ensure transparency and fairness in liquor sales, and that enforcement would be tightened to prevent any misuse.

Recently, the state government revised liquor prices by approving a uniform increase in MRP across categories. Officials clarified that while the revised rates are legally valid, charging anything beyond the notified price constitutes a clear violation of rules.

Pawan Kalyan's directive is being seen as a signal of the government's intent to protect consumer interests and enforce discipline in the excise system. The Excise Department has reportedly been asked to submit regular reports on inspections and action taken, indicating a zero-tolerance approach towards overpricing and malpractice in liquor sales.

Police Issue Notice to Former Minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy

Nellore, February 3, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Nellore police have issued a notice to former minister and YSR Congress Party leader Kakani Govardhan Reddy in connection with alleged derogatory remarks made against Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and senior Telugu Desam Party leader Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy.

According to police sources, the notice was served following complaints that Kakani made abusive and objectionable comments during recent political interactions in the district. The remarks allegedly included references that were deemed offensive and beyond the bounds of acceptable political discourse, prompting the police to initiate an inquiry.

Police officials visited Kakani Govardhan

Reddy's residence and formally handed over the notice, asking him to appear before investigators and cooperate with the probe. The notice seeks his explanation regarding the statements attributed to him and warns of further legal action depending on the findings of the investigation.

The development has added to the ongoing political tension in Nellore district, which has witnessed a series of confrontations and legal actions involving leaders from rival parties in recent weeks. Supporters of the YSR Congress Party have alleged that the police action is politically motivated, while leaders of the ruling coalition maintain that the law is being applied uniformly, irrespective of political affiliation.

Kakani Govardhan Reddy is understood to



have conveyed his willingness to cooperate with the investigation, while also seeking clarity on the specific allegations and evidence cited against him. His response and appearance before the police are expected to determine the next course of action in the case.

Police officials stated that the inquiry is being conducted in accordance with legal procedures and that freedom of expression does not extend to the use of abusive or defamatory language. They added that further steps would be taken after examining state-

ments, evidence, and Kakani's explanation.

The case highlights the growing scrutiny of political rhetoric in the state and the increasing role of law enforcement in responding to complaints related to public statements by political leaders.

Case Registered Against Former Minister Vidadala Rajini in Yadlapadu Incident

Palnadu, February 3, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Palnadu police have registered a criminal case against former minister and YSR Congress Party leader Vidadala Rajini following a tense incident at the Yadlapadu Devasthanam on January 30, which drew strong reactions from political circles in the district.

According to police sources, Rajini, along with a group of around 21 YSRCP leaders and activists, had gone to the temple premises to protest and make statements asserting that there was no adulteration in the Tirumala laddu ghee. The purpose of their visit, as described by supporters, was to undertake a purification ritual at the Devasthanam.

However, the group's attempt to enter the temple compound was blocked by members of the opposition, leading

to agitation and an undisciplined situation at the site. Eyewitnesses said tensions rose when the two sides confronted each other, forcing police to intervene and restore order.

Following the altercation, the local police registered a case against Vidadala Rajini and the accompanying YSRCP workers on charges of disturbing peace and public order. The complaint alleged that their actions resulted in a breach of tranquillity at a religious place of worship, necessitating formal legal action.

In response to the police notice, Rajini strongly condemned the filing of the case, accusing the ruling coalition government of targeting her and her supporters for political reasons. She claimed that the police action was an attempt to suppress their protest and



intimidate those raising their voice on issues related to the Tirumala laddu matter. Rajini also alleged that opponents had instigated an attack on her group, escalating the situation unnecessarily.

Local political observers noted that the registration of the case against a former minister has added to the already heated political environment in Palnadu. The controversy reflects ongoing tensions around the laddu

ghee debate and demonstrates how protests and counter-protests have spilled into legal and administrative arenas.

Police officials have stated that the investigation is continuing and that further proceedings will be guided by evidence and statements from all parties involved. They also emphasised that maintaining public order and neutrality remains their priority, and that the law will take its

course as the case progresses.

Supporters of Rajini have mounted a vocal defence on social platforms and local meetings, asserting that the case is politically motivated. Meanwhile, opposition leaders have welcomed the police action as necessary to uphold law and order. The situation continues to evolve as both sides prepare for the next phase of legal and public engagement.

Nara Lokesh Welcomes India-US Trade Deal, Says Andhra Pradesh Set to Gain Significantly

Amaravati, February 3, 2026 | TPN Bureau

IT and Industries Minister Nara Lokesh has welcomed the recently concluded India-United States trade agreement, describing it as a major boost for the Indian economy and a strong opportunity for Andhra Pradesh to expand its export footprint and industrial growth.

Reacting to the development, Lokesh said the reduction in import tariffs and improved market access under the agreement would directly benefit Indian exporters, particularly those based in Andhra Pradesh.

He noted that key sectors such as marine exports, agriculture, food processing, MSMEs, pharmaceuticals, textiles, and manufacturing are expected to witness increased demand from the US market, helping local producers compete more effectively at the global level.

The minister termed the agreement a "big win" for Indian industry and said it reflects the deepening economic and strategic partnership between India and the United States. According to Lokesh, the trade deal sends a positive signal to global investors about India's growing role in international supply chains and the confidence that major economies have in Indian products and manufacturing capabilities.

Lokesh highlighted that Andhra Pradesh is particularly well placed to leverage the benefits of the agreement due to its strong export-oriented ecosystem. With a long coastline, modern ports, seafood processing hubs, agricultural diversity, and a growing manufacturing base, the state has the infrastructure needed to scale up exports quickly.

He pointed out that marine exports, one of the state's flagship sectors, could see substantial gains as tariff barriers are eased and demand rises. Emphasising the state government's commitment to export-led growth, Lokesh said Andhra Pradesh has been consistently working to improve the ease of doing business, attract investments, and support local entrepreneurs. He said policies aimed at encouraging MSMEs, startups, and large industries would help ensure that the benefits of the trade agreement reach all sections of the economy, from small farmers and fishermen to large industrial units.

The minister also underlined the importance of value addition and diversification. He said the government is encouraging industries to move beyond raw exports and focus on processed and high-value products, which can fetch better prices in international markets. This, he added, would not only in-

crease revenues but also create skilled employment opportunities for the youth.

Lokesh credited India's trade negotiators and national leadership for securing favourable terms in the agreement while safeguarding domestic interests. He said such balanced agreements are crucial in a global environment marked by economic uncertainty and shifting trade dynamics. The minister added that stronger trade ties with the US would also help Indian companies integrate with advanced technologies and global best practices.

Industry stakeholders have expressed optimism that the agreement will lead to higher export orders, improved pricing, and greater stability for export-oriented sectors. Lokesh said the state government would work closely with industry bodies, exporters, and trade associations to address challenges and maximise the gains from the agreement.

Reiterating Andhra Pradesh's long-term vision, Lokesh said the state aims to emerge as one of India's leading export hubs in the coming years. He asserted that international trade agreements like the India-US deal will play a vital role in driving sustainable economic growth, strengthening industries, and generating large-scale employment across the state.

Fresh Twist in Krishna District Student Suicide Case: Multiple Arrests Made

Amaravati, February 3, 2026 | TPN Bureau
A fresh twist has emerged in the investigation into the student suicide case reported from a private college hostel in Krishna district, with police uncovering new evidence that has widened the scope of the probe and led to multiple arrests.

The case pertains to a student who was found dead in his hostel room under suspicious circumstances. Initially treated as a case of suicide triggered by personal reasons, the investigation took a decisive

turn after police examined statements from fellow students and reviewed digital evidence. Investigators found that the student had allegedly been under severe mental stress following repeated confrontations with another student.

According to officials, an earlier altercation between the deceased student and a fellow hostel inmate had escalated tensions on campus. A video related to the incident reportedly circulated among students, intensifying psychological pressure on the victim. Police believe that a subsequent



lieve that a subsequent confrontation on the day of the incident may

have played a crucial role in worsening his distress.

The investigation further revealed serious lapses on the part of the college management. Police suspect that crucial evidence at the scene was tampered with soon after the incident. It is alleged that certain writings made by the student before his death, reportedly indicating the names of those responsible for his mental agony, were erased. This raised strong suspicions of an attempt to suppress facts and obstruct the

investigation.

Based on these findings, police have arrested several individuals, including members of the college administration and staff, along with a student allegedly involved in the dispute. The arrests were made on charges related to abetment, negligence, and destruction of evidence. Officials stated that custodial interrogation is underway to establish the exact sequence of events and individual roles.

The incident has sparked widespread concern among parents

and student groups, who are questioning safety measures and accountability in private educational institutions. Many have demanded stringent action against managements that fail to safeguard students or attempt to cover up incidents.

Police clarified that the investigation is ongoing and that further arrests may follow. The case has renewed calls for stricter enforcement of student welfare and hostel monitoring norms to prevent similar tragedies in the future.

Man Murdered at Vijayawada Railway Station, Police Launch Investigation



Vijayawada, February 3, 2026 | TPN Bureau

A shocking murder at Vijayawada Railway Station has drawn widespread attention after a young man was killed in broad daylight following a violent altercation. The incident, which took place at one of the busy platforms, has prompted a swift response from railway police and local law enforcement.

According to initial information from police sources, the victim and the accused were reportedly friends who had visited the station together. When both consumed alcohol, an argument broke out between them over an undisclosed issue. Tempers flared during the confrontation, and in the heat of the moment, the accused allegedly struck the victim with a heavy object, causing fatal injuries.

The victim sustained grievous wounds and collapsed on the platform, sparking

panic among commuters and onlookers. Despite urgent attempts by bystanders and railway staff to rush him to a nearby hospital, the man succumbed to his injuries at the scene. Officers at the station quickly cordoned off the area to preserve evidence and begin their investigation.

Railway Police along with local authorities have taken the accused into custody and booked him on charges of murder and related offenses. The motive behind the sudden escalation of the dispute is still under investigation, with police examining CCTV footage and collecting witness statements to reconstruct the sequence of events leading up to the fatal blow.

The violent episode has shocked passengers and residents alike, as Vijayawada Railway Station is typically considered a major transit hub with high daily footfall. Officials stated that the victim's identity will

be formally released after notifying his next of kin and completing procedural documentation.

Investigators are also looking into whether alcohol impairment played a significant role in aggravating the conflict, and whether any other individuals were involved or present at the time of the attack. Senior police officials have assured that the case is being handled with priority and that all necessary forensic and legal steps are being taken to ensure justice.

In the aftermath of the incident, railway authorities have indicated plans to review safety measures and crowd management practices at major stations, aiming to prevent similar violent episodes in the future. This includes enhanced surveillance, patrolling, and rapid response protocols to address emergencies swiftly and maintain passenger safety.

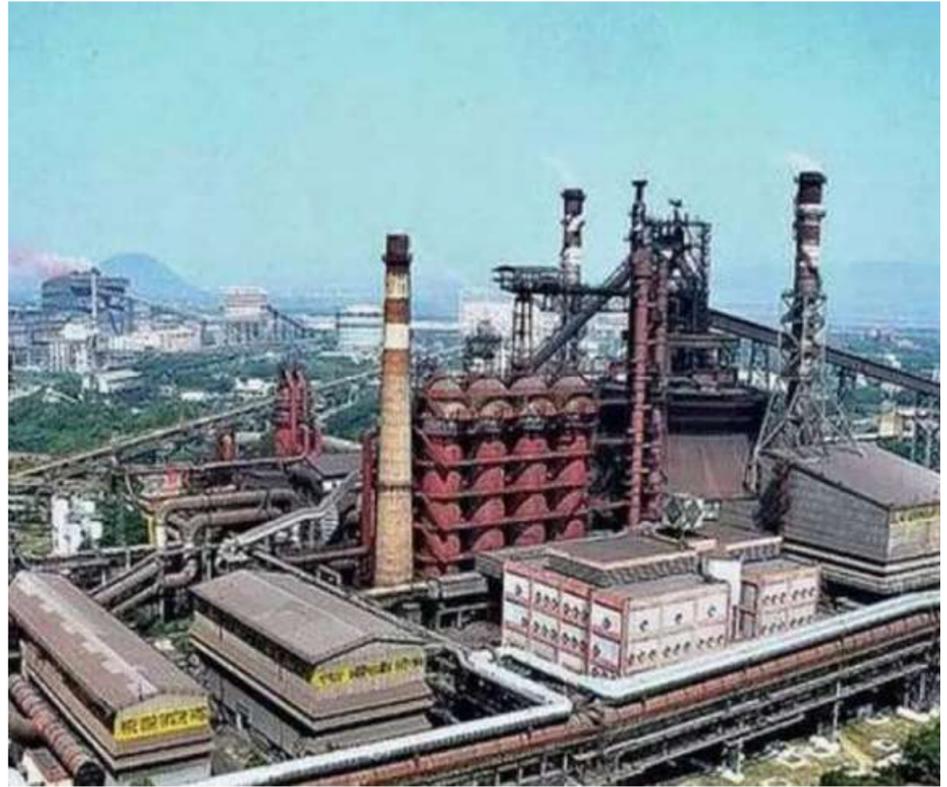
Visakhapatnam Steel Plant Returns to Profit, CM Chandrababu Naidu Welcomes Turnaround

Amaravati, February 3, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Visakhapatnam Steel Plant has staged a significant turnaround by returning to profitability after a prolonged period of financial stress, drawing appreciation from Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, who termed the development a positive sign for Andhra Pradesh's industrial future. Officials informed the Chief Minister that the plant, which had been facing mounting losses and operational challenges, has shown steady improvement in production and financial performance over the past several months. With all three blast furnaces now operating, daily steel production has increased substantially, pushing capacity utilisation to one of its highest levels in recent years.

As a result of higher output and improved operational efficiency, the plant has moved out of losses and posted profits, offering relief to employees and stakeholders who had expressed concerns over its future. The turnaround follows coordinated efforts involving plant management, workers, labour unions, and support measures from the Centre and the state government.

Reviewing the progress, Chandrababu Naidu said the revival of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant proves that public sector units can recover



and grow when there is focused leadership, cooperation from employees, and timely policy support. He congratulated the workforce and management for their commitment and resilience during a difficult phase.

The Chief Minister reiterated that the state government remains committed to protecting the interests of the steel plant

and its employees. He assured that all necessary support would be extended to ensure sustained profitability, long-term stability, and expansion of operations. Naidu also stressed the importance of adopting modern management practices and market-oriented strategies to strengthen the plant further. Senior officials noted that the im-

proved financial position has boosted confidence among workers and ancillary industries dependent on the steel plant. The revival is expected to have a positive impact on employment and the local economy in and around Visakhapatnam. The turnaround of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant is being viewed as a major morale booster for

Andhra Pradesh's industrial sector, especially at a time when several public sector enterprises across the country are facing financial pressure. With renewed momentum, authorities are hopeful that the plant will continue to play a key role in the state's industrial growth and economic development.

Former Minister Perni Nani Blasts Chandrababu Government Over Governance, Calls for President's Rule

Amaravati, February 3, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Senior YSR Congress Party leader and former minister Perni Venkataramaiah (Perni Nani) has launched a sharp attack on the Andhra Pradesh coalition government led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, accusing it of failing on multiple fronts and urging swift political intervention to restore order in the state.

Addressing party workers and media at a recent event, Perni Nani accused the state administration of overseeing a breakdown of law and order, claiming that the government's inability to protect citizens and maintain peace has created what he described as a "President's Rule-like situation" in Andhra Pradesh. He suggested that normal democratic governance has been sidelined and that urgent corrective measures are needed to prevent further deterioration in public confidence.

Perni Nani's criticism touched on what he characterised as the government's misplaced priorities and inability to deliver on key promises. He alleged that despite being in power for a significant period, the coalition government has failed to complete major infrastructure projects it had once championed, and has instead focused on publicity rather than

substantive progress. According to him, people are now bearing the brunt of administrative failures and a widening trust deficit between the government and the public. A central theme in Nani's remarks was the government's handling of economic and development issues, which he said have left large sections of the population disappointed. He questioned the credibility of high-profile initiatives announced by the administration, arguing that many have not translated into meaningful outcomes on the ground. He also highlighted concerns about unemployment, agricultural distress, and stalled industrial projects as evidence of policy shortcomings. Perni Nani did not limit his critique to broad governance issues; he also targeted specific decisions and actions taken by the current administration. He argued that key sectors — including infrastructure development, investment attraction, and public welfare schemes — have not delivered expected results. He challenged the government's narrative on economic gains, alleging that many claims of progress are superficial and not reflected in people's daily lives.

In a particularly pointed section of his address, Nani urged that if the government cannot uphold the constitutional machin-



ery and enforce law and order effectively, there should be consideration of invoking President's Rule to stabilise the situation. This statement reflects the depth of frustration among opposition ranks with what they see as a faltering administration.

His remarks have resonated within political circles and added fuel to an already heated discourse between the YSRCP and the ruling coalition. Government supporters have dismissed his criticism as politically motivated, while opposition leaders have echoed calls for greater accountability and responsiveness from those in power.

As political tensions simmer, Perni Nani's critique underscores the intensifying partisan battle ahead of future electoral contests, with governance performance and public trust becoming central themes of the larger debate in Andhra Pradesh politics.

YS Jagan Mohan Reddy to Visit Guntur, Consoles Ambati Rambabu's Family

Amaravati, February 3, 2026 | TPN Bureau

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) president and former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy is scheduled to embark on a high-profile visit to Guntur district on February 4, 2026, in a move that reflects the continuing political fallout from recent developments in the state.

According to party sources, Jagan will travel to Guntur to meet and console the family members of former minister Ambati Rambabu, who has been at the centre of a heated controversy and legal proceedings in recent days. The visit comes amid heightened political tensions following the arrest of several opposition leaders and rising clashes between party cadres.

Jagan is expected to depart from his residence in Tadepalli early on February 4 and proceed by road to Guntur, where he plans to personally offer support and reassurance to Ambati's relatives. The

former Chief Minister's itinerary is likely to include a formal meeting with the family, expressions of solidarity, and public statements emphasising unity and resilience within his party.

Supporters say the visit is aimed at strengthening party morale and showcasing leadership solidarity at a time when the opposition faces judicial scrutiny and intense media attention. Jagan's presence is likely to draw large crowds, with local party workers and sympathisers expected to gather at key points along the route and at the venue of the visit.

Political analysts note that the visit takes place against the backdrop of broader statewide political tensions, including protests over law and order issues and criticism of the state government's handling of dissent. Jagan's engagement with the Ambati family is seen as both a compassionate political gesture and a strategic effort to maintain visibility and relevance for the YSRCP ahead of



future elections.

In addition to consoling Ambati's family, Jagan is likely to address local issues affecting the Guntur region, including farmers' concerns, employment challenges, and governance questions. The YSRCP leadership has positioned such interactions as part of its ongoing effort to connect with grassroots supporters and articulate alternatives to the policies of the current coalition administration.

The state government has been closely monitoring the situation, balancing security arrangements with the need to allow peaceful political

activity. Officials say appropriate measures will be taken to ensure that the visit proceeds without disruption, maintaining public order and compliance with legal guidelines.

Opposition parties, including the ruling Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Jana Sena Party (JSP), have been critical of the YSRCP's mobilisation tactics, accusing the party of politicising sensitive events to gain advantage. They argue that law and order concerns should take precedence over political posturing. However, YSRCP leaders counter that public engagement and political

Police Launch 'Eagle Teams' to Make East Godavari a Drug-Free District

East Godavari, February 3, 2026 | TPN Bureau

In a major initiative to curb the menace of drug abuse and trafficking, the East Godavari district police have launched a special enforcement drive aimed at transforming the district into a drug-free zone. Under the leadership of Superintendent of Police D. Narsing Kishore, IPS, the police department has introduced a first-of-its-kind system in the state by forming dedicated "Eagle Teams" for each subdivision.

As part of this initiative, five special Eagle Teams have been consti-

tuted across the district. Each team comprises an in-charge officer and three police personnel, supported with dedicated two-wheelers to ensure swift mobility. These teams will operate in plain clothes, blending in with the public, and will maintain constant surveillance on the illegal transportation, sale, and consumption of narcotic substances, including ganja and other drugs.

Addressing the Eagle Team members during a review meeting at the district police office, SP Narsing Kishore clearly outlined their roles and responsibilities. He in-



structed the teams to identify drug-prone hot-spots and maintain round-the-clock monitoring in such areas. Special focus has been directed towards desert-

ed houses, abandoned buildings, isolated locations, and areas with dense vegetation, which are often misused for drug-related activities. The SP also emphasized

the need for surprise vehicle checks at strategic points to intercept drug movement.

To strengthen intelligence gathering and monitoring, the SP an-

nounced the use of drone technology as part of the surveillance mechanism. Eagle Team members will receive special training in drone operations, enabling the police to track suspicious activities using modern technology and prevent crimes before they occur.

Highlighting the serious impact of drug abuse on society, particularly on youth, SP Narsing Kishore stressed the importance of awareness programs. He directed police officers to actively engage with students and young people through campaigns, short film competitions, and video-

based outreach programs to educate them about the dangers of narcotics and substance abuse.

The SP warned that involvement in drug-related cases can have long-term consequences on an individual's life. He explained that a single drug case could affect future prospects, including employment opportunities, passports, visas, and official clearances. At the same time, he assured that the police would adopt a humane approach toward addicts, prioritizing counseling and treatment through de-addiction centers rather than punishment alone.

Appealing for public cooperation, the SP urged citizens to report any information related to drug trafficking or consumption in their localities. He encouraged people to contact their nearest police station or reach out through emergency helpline numbers to assist the police in their mission.

With strict enforcement, advanced surveillance, and community participation, the East Godavari police are confident that the Eagle Teams initiative will play a crucial role in eliminating drugs from the district and safeguarding the future of its youth.

YSRCP Leader Seeks Action Over 'Baseless' TTD Laddu Allegations

Ramachandrapuram, February 3, 2026 | TPN Bureau

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) Ramachandrapuram Assembly constituency in-charge Pilli Suryaprakash on Monday submitted a formal complaint to the Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), seeking strict action against what he described as baseless and irresponsible allegations related to the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) laddu prasadam.

In his complaint, Suryaprakash stated that recent claims alleging the mixing of animal fat in the sacred TTD laddu prasadam were completely unfounded and had severely hurt the religious sentiments of millions of devotees. He said such allegations were creating unnecessary fear among devotees, disturbing public peace, and potentially leading to social unrest and religious polarization.

Speaking to the media after submitting the complaint, the YSRCP leader recalled that the issue had already been

examined in detail following directions from the Supreme Court. He pointed out that a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe had categorically concluded that there was no adulteration in the laddu prasadam. Despite the clarity provided by the investigation, certain individuals and sections were continuing to make unverified statements, he alleged.

Suryaprakash termed these remarks as irresponsible and dangerous, especially given the sensitive religious nature of the issue. He emphasized that Tirumala is one of the most revered pilgrimage centres in the world and that any false propaganda related to its traditions and prasadam could deeply hurt devotees' faith. "Spreading unsubstantiated allegations on such a sacred matter is not only misleading but also threatens social harmony," he said.

The YSRCP leader urged the police to take firm legal action against those indulging in misinformation and provoc-



ative statements. He appealed to public representatives and opinion makers to exercise restraint and responsibility while speaking on sensitive religious issues, so that law and order and communal harmony are not disturbed.

He further stated that freedom of speech does not give anyone the right to spread falsehoods that can inflame passions and create divisions in society. According to him, allowing such narratives to go un-

checked could set a dangerous precedent and erode public trust in revered institutions.

Several YSRCP leaders and party workers accompanied Suryaprakash during the submission of the complaint. Those present included mandal conveners, MPPs, vice-MPPs, MPTCs, municipal councillors, sarpanches, heads of party-affiliated wings, senior leaders, and grassroots workers from the constituency.

The delegation ex-

pressed confidence that the police would examine the complaint seriously and initiate appropriate action in accordance with the law to prevent the spread of misinformation and to protect communal harmony. The issue has once again brought into focus the need for caution and responsibility in public discourse, particularly when it involves matters of faith and religious institutions that command the devotion of millions across the country.

Jana Sena MLA Arava Sridhar Appears Before Party Inquiry Committee

Kadapa, February 3, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Railway Koduru MLA Arava Sridhar appeared on Tuesday before a three-member disciplinary inquiry committee constituted by the Jana Sena Party to probe allegations made against him. The development marks a key step in the party's internal process to examine the controversy, which has triggered political debate across Andhra Pradesh.

The inquiry committee was set up following allegations made by a woman government employee, which surfaced recently and drew significant public attention. Acting swiftly, the Jana Sena leadership initiated an internal probe to ascertain facts and maintain organisational discipline. As part of this process, the MLA was summoned to present his version before the panel.

Arava Sridhar appeared at the designated venue and cooperated with the committee by responding to questions related to the allegations. Sources said the committee sought clarifications on multiple aspects and carefully recorded his explanations. The hearing reportedly lasted for sev-



eral hours, during which the MLA reiterated his stand that the accusations were false and politically motivated.

The MLA had remained away from public engagements in the days leading up to the inquiry, citing the seriousness of the issue and the need to address it through proper channels. His appearance before the committee is seen as a move to place his explanation formally on record before the party leadership.

Apart from questioning the MLA, the committee is also expected to gather inputs from local party leaders, representatives, and organisational functionaries to understand the impact of the controversy at the constituency and grassroots levels. The panel will compile its findings into a detailed report.

Party sources indicated that the inquiry commit-

tee will submit its report to Jana Sena Party chief Pawan Kalyan, who will take a final call on the matter after reviewing the findings. Any decision on disciplinary action, if required, will be announced only after the leadership's assessment.

The issue has generated considerable interest among political observers, as it could have implications not only for the MLA's future but also for the party's image and internal discipline framework. Meanwhile, supporters and critics alike are closely watching the developments, awaiting clarity on the outcome of the party's inquiry.

Jana Sena leaders have maintained that the party is committed to transparency and accountability, and that appropriate action will be taken based on facts rather than speculation.

Humanoid Robot 'ASC Arjun' Helps Nab Two Criminals at Visakhapatnam Railway Station

Visakhapatnam, February 3, 2026 | TPN Bureau

In a significant boost to technology-driven security, an AI-powered humanoid robot deployed at Visakhapatnam Railway Station played a crucial role in identifying and apprehending two habitual offenders, showcasing the growing role of artificial intelligence in public safety.

The humanoid robot, named 'ASC Arjun', has been deployed by railway authorities as part of an advanced surveillance and crowd-monitoring initiative. On Monday night, the robot detected two suspicious individuals entering the station premises. Using its facial recognition capabilities, the robot matched their faces with images stored in a database of known offenders and immediately alerted the Railway Protection Force (RPF).

Acting swiftly on the alert, RPF personnel monitored live CCTV footage and intercepted the suspects at the station entrance. During preliminary checks, the two individuals were found travelling without valid train tickets, prompting further veri-



fication. Subsequent background checks revealed that both men were habitual offenders with multiple criminal cases registered against them.

According to officials, the suspects had a history of involvement in serious offences, including theft, robbery, dacoity, physical assault, and other criminal activities. Given their criminal background and suspicious presence at the busy railway station, authorities took them into custody and handed the case over to the Government Railway Police (GRP) for further legal action.

Railway officials described the incident as a

milestone in the use of smart technology for crime prevention. They noted that the timely alert generated by the humanoid robot enabled personnel to act within minutes, preventing potential criminal activity in a crowded public space.

ASC Arjun is designed to patrol station premises, scan crowds, detect unusual behaviour, and assist security teams by providing real-time alerts. In addition to surveillance, the robot can interact with passengers, make announcements, and support crowd management during peak hours.

Officials said the suc-

cess of this operation highlights the effectiveness of integrating artificial intelligence with traditional policing methods. Encouraged by the results, railway authorities are considering deploying similar humanoid robots at other major railway stations to strengthen security and enhance passenger safety.

The incident has drawn attention to the evolving role of technology in law enforcement, with officials stressing that AI-based systems are intended to support, not replace, human vigilance, ensuring safer travel environments across the rail network.

TDP MLA Galla Madhavi Responds to Ambati Rambabu Controversy

Amaravati, February 3, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Guntur West MLA Galla Madhavi of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) has strongly reacted to the ongoing controversy surrounding former minister and YSR Congress Party leader Ambati Rambabu, particularly following the attack on his residence and allegations levelled in the political fray.

Addressing the media, Madhavi dismissed the accusations that TDP activists were motivated by caste or personal vendettas. She argued that political disagreements and heated rhetoric are part of public life, but insisted that linking the actions of party workers to any caste agenda is unwarranted. According to her, the recent events have been blown out of proportion by rival political camps seeking to deflect attention from other state issues.

Madhavi questioned the narrative pushed by political opponents, asking whether TDP would order an attack in the same manner as allegations suggest. She pointed out that if there were genuine evidence of wrongdoing by party members, such actions would already have been pursued through proper legal channels. Instead, she accused the opposition of playing political games and trying to provoke reactions from the public.

On the dispute itself, the MLA said controversy arises in politics when leaders use extreme language or rhetoric, and urged all sides to maintain decorum. She maintained that law and or-



der will take its course and that parties should focus on constructive debate rather than escalating tensions unnecessarily.

Madhavi also addressed comments made by the family of Ambati Rambabu, asserting that her own party's cadre acted independently and that there was no directive from the TDP leadership to carry out any violent act. She challenged the opposition to provide clear evidence tying higher party leaders to the alleged incident. Her remarks come against the backdrop of heightened political tensions in Andhra Pradesh, where opposing parties have been trading charges and counter-charges over recent weeks. The state has witnessed protests, counter-protests and le-

gal actions after Ambati Rambabu's arrest and the subsequent reaction from political workers.

Madhavi's comments reflect the TDP's official stance that the controversy should be addressed through democratic processes and legal mechanisms and that attempts to politicise it through caste or identity narratives are divisive and unhelpful. She reiterated that the focus should remain on issues of governance and public interest rather than personal attacks and sensationalism.

The situation continues to evolve as investigations and political discussions unfold, with both sides preparing for further engagements in the public and legislative arenas.

Trump's Trade U-Turn: Is Fear of Missing Out Driving the New U.S.–India Deal After the India-EU Pact?

India's position in global trade diplomacy is undergoing a profound transformation. Once seen as a cautious and slow-moving negotiator, India today stands at the centre of major economic realignments. Two back-to-back developments — the landmark free trade agreement between India and the European Union, followed by a sudden softening of the United States' trade stance towards India — have sparked an intense debate in global economic circles.

At the heart of this debate lies a key question: did Washington's renewed interest in striking a trade deal with India stem from strategic foresight, or was it driven by fear of being left out after New Delhi sealed a historic pact with Europe?

A Sudden Shift in the U.S. Trade Narrative

For a long time, trade relations between India and the United States were strained. The U.S. administration had imposed steep tariffs on Indian exports, in some cases touching 50 per cent, affecting crucial sectors such as steel, aluminium, textiles and other labour-intensive industries. These measures were accompanied by persistent pressure on India over its energy imports and strategic autonomy.

Then came a dramatic change in tone. The U.S. announced a bilateral trade arrangement that significantly lowered tariffs on Indian goods to around 18 per cent. The announcement was accompanied by bold claims that India would expand its imports of American goods, particularly energy, and align more closely with U.S. strategic interests.

This abrupt reversal raised eyebrows. What had changed so suddenly to prompt Washington to retreat from its hardline approach?

Separating Claims From Ground Reality



Public statements from the U.S. leadership portrayed the deal as a sweeping victory — suggesting that India had agreed to zero tariffs on American products, reduced dependence on other energy suppliers, and committed to massive future purchases from the U.S. However, a closer look reveals a more measured and nuanced reality.

The tariff reduction, while welcome, still leaves Indian exporters facing notable barriers compared to the near-zero access offered by some of India's other trade partners. The promise of zero tariffs appears selective rather than universal, focusing on specific industrial or strategic goods rather than across-the-board liberalisation.

Similarly, claims about India's energy commitments remain ambiguous. India has consistently maintained that

its energy policy is driven by affordability, diversification and long-term security. It has shown little inclination to bind itself exclusively to any one supplier, regardless of political pressure.

In essence, the deal appears less like a dramatic surrender by India and more like a recalibration by the U.S. — a recognition that excessive pressure may have been counterproductive.

The India–EU Trade Agreement: A Game Changer

The timing of the U.S. pivot is critical. Just weeks earlier, India and the European Union concluded one of the most ambitious trade agreements in recent history. The pact aims to eliminate tariffs on nearly all goods traded between the two economies over

time, offering Indian exporters unprecedented access to one of the world's largest markets.

Key sectors such as textiles, leather, gems and jewellery stand to benefit enormously. Beyond goods, the agreement also strengthens cooperation in services, technology, sustainability and supply chain resilience.

More importantly, the India–EU negotiations were marked by mutual respect and pragmatism. Sensitive areas like agriculture and dairy were handled carefully, ensuring that political and social realities on both sides were acknowledged rather than overridden.

This cooperative approach stood in sharp contrast to the confrontational tactics previously adopted by Washington.

Was Washington Afraid of Losing Ground?

The success of the India–EU pact may have sent a clear signal to the U.S.: India is no longer dependent on any single market. By securing deep access to Europe, India demonstrated its ability to diversify its trade partnerships and reduce vulnerability to unilateral pressure.

For the U.S., this posed a strategic risk. Europe gaining preferential access to the Indian market could tilt investment flows, supply chains and long-term economic influence away from American firms. In that context, Washington's sudden willingness to compromise begins to look less like generosity and more like urgency.

Fear of missing out — on market access, influence and

strategic relevance — may well have played a role in pushing the U.S. back to the negotiating table.

Two Contrasting Trade Philosophies

The developments highlight a deeper contrast in trade philosophies.

The U.S. approach has often relied on tariff threats and economic coercion, using market access as a bargaining chip. While this can yield short-term concessions, it also encourages countries to seek alternatives and diversify away from dependence.

The EU, by contrast, pursued a model based on gradual liberalisation, predictability and mutual benefit. By offering tangible incentives rather than threats, it created a framework where both sides saw long-term value.

India's response suggests a clear preference for the latter approach.

India's Growing Confidence on the Global Stage

What these developments ultimately reveal is India's rising confidence and bargaining power. By engaging multiple partners — from Europe and Australia to West Asia and beyond — India has built a diversified trade portfolio that strengthens its negotiating position.

This diversification allows India to push back against unreasonable demands, protect sensitive sectors, and pursue economic growth on its own terms. It also signals to global powers that access to the Indian market cannot be taken for granted. The U.S. trade reset appears to be an acknowledgment of this new reality.

What Lies Ahead

While the revised U.S.–India trade understanding is a positive step, it remains incomplete. Many details — including sector-specific concessions, services trade, and future tariff pathways — are yet to be finalised. Further negotiations are inevitable, and friction may resurface in sensitive areas.

However, one conclusion is already clear: India has emerged as a central player in the evolving global trade order. Its ability to balance relationships, resist pressure, and secure mutually beneficial agreements marks a significant shift from the past.

If the U.S. hopes to deepen economic ties with India, it may need to adopt a more collaborative and less coercive approach — one that recognises India not as a junior partner, but as an equal stakeholder in shaping the global economic future.

In that sense, the recent U.S. trade move may not just reflect fear of missing out, but also a reluctant acceptance of India's growing economic clout.

Pakistan's India Match Boycott: A Self-Inflicted Blow Dressed as a Statement



In the world of cricket, few rivalries have gripped global attention like India versus Pakistan. It has been more than just a game — it is history, politics, emotion and identity all wrapped into one. Fans across continents stop, advertisers reposition, broadcasters gear up and millions tune in whenever these two nations meet on the field. Yet now, against that backdrop, Pakistan's decision to boycott their India fixture at the upcoming T20 World Cup represents something starkly different — not a sporting protest, but a self-destructive gesture with more to lose than gain.

This is not just another scheduling controversy. It is an action that threatens Pakistan's own cricketing future, strains international relations within the sport and risks undermining the very objectives that the boycott claims to champion. What Pakistan may see as a bold political statement could well end up being remembered as an avoidable misstep with

long-lasting consequences.

A Rift That Began Long Ago

The seeds of this boycott go back years. India and Pakistan have not played bilateral cricket since 2013. The decision to halt series between the two nations left them facing off only in multi-nation events governed by the International Cricket Council (ICC) or the Asian Cricket Council. The historic agreement that once ensured both teams would face each other only on neutral grounds reflected this new reality.

What was once merely logistical — neutral venues instead of home-and-away series — has since taken on political undertones. Security concerns, diplomatic tensions and national narratives about honour and pride began creeping into what used to be purely sporting arrangements. Over time, even gestures of sportsmanship that once seemed small — like a handshake after a match — became points of contention

and public debate.

In recent tournaments, the absence of cordial gestures on the field signalled how far relations had deteriorated. What may have once been ignored as expected rivalry began to be seen as actively hostile. The mood on both sides hardened, and cricket — the sport — started to feel the strain.

Why the Boycott Now?

Officially, Pakistan's government announced that its team would participate in the T20 World Cup overall, but would not take the field against India in their scheduled group match. The stated reasons are rooted in claims of unequal treatment. Pakistani officials have argued that India receives preferential accommodation in the sport, that their own concerns about playing conditions and scheduling are not given equal weight, and that the larger cricketing institutions do not treat both nations symmetrically.

Beyond procedural grievances, there are political dynamics at play. Historical tensions between New Delhi and Islamabad spill into every arena where the two countries interact — including sports. Events outside cricket, such as security incidents or diplomatic standoffs, often echo into the sporting world, influencing public sentiment and political decisions alike.

In quarterly matchups like World Cups, the India–Pakistan game is always the highest-profile fixture. For some in Pakistan's political establishment, refusing to play against India on principle

may seem like a way to make a strong statement of resistance — a refusal to normalise relations or accept what they see as symbolic dominance.

The Irony of Intent vs. Impact

This boycott is positioned by some in Pakistan as a bold stand. But, paradoxically, the real harm is likely to be felt by Pakistan itself.

First, cricketing relations are governed by agreements and commitments that extend beyond the teams' bilateral tie-ups. International tournaments like the T20 World Cup are organised with the understanding that all qualified teams will play the matches scheduled for them. By refusing to honour that basic premise, Pakistan risks violating membership obligations to the global cricketing body.

Second, skipping a fixture against India does not just affect Pakistan; it has ripple effects across the entire ecosystem. Broadcasters, sponsors and tournament hosts invest heavily based on expectations of marquee matchups. India–Pakistan games generate enormous viewership, command premium advertising rates, and are central to the financial calculus of global cricketing events. Removing such a fixture shakes that model and could lead to legal actions or financial penalties that fall squarely on Pakistan's cricket board.

Third, this decision could jeopardise Pakistan's standing in international cricket. Teams that defy tournament commitments risk sanctions, fines and even suspension. Far from sending a message of strength, Pakistan's leader-

ship may be seen as prioritising short-term political signalling over the long-term health of the game in their own country.

Ultimately, cricket in Pakistan — already struggling with issues of governance, funding and administration — may suffer more than any external opponent.

Political Motivations or Sporting Miscalculation?

Some supporters of the boycott frame it as a necessary step to assert national dignity against perceived slights. But this approach conflates national sentiment with sporting conduct in a way that could be counterproductive.

Sport and politics have always had overlaps, but the healthiest sporting rivalry thrives on competition, mutual respect and the thrill of the contest. A protest that removes one side from the match does not resolve underlying political issues. Instead, it turns the field into a battlefield where no one wins.

By opting out, Pakistan risks alienating itself from fans around the world, including those within its own borders who love the sport and long for moments of triumph and unity rather than division.

Moreover, refusing to play does not silence critics; it amplifies them. Former players, commentators and cricket lovers from multiple countries have already questioned the wisdom of forfeiting such a high-value fixture, pointing out that it is the young players — not the institutions — who pay the price for decisions taken far beyond the

boundary ropes.

Cricket Loses, Fans Lose, Pakistan Loses

Let's be clear: cricket loses first and foremost. The sport thrives on competition, fair play and the ability of athletes to test their skills against the best. Removing a fixture between two of the most passionate teams for reasons that are not directly related to player safety or security robs fans of a defining moment in the tournament.

Fans in both nations have emotional stakes in these matches. Thousands prepare to watch, celebrate, lament or cheer. Millions more plan gatherings, discussions and debates around what is invariably a cultural event as much as a sporting one. To deny them that experience is to tamper with the fabric of cricket fandom.

Pakistan, for its part, risks losing credibility and influence within the cricketing community. Administrative bodies, sponsors and international partners may view this boycott as unpredictable or disruptive, making future negotiations and collaborations harder to navigate.

A Path Back? Yes, But Not Without Costs

The situation is far from irreparable. Pakistan could still reverse its stance, re-engage with the global cricketing community and reaffirm its commitment to the sport's core values. Doing so would send a message of growth, resilience and respect for the game.

However, any such turnaround would require a recal-

ibration of priorities. It would mean acknowledging that cricket cannot be used as a pawn in wider political tussles and that the welfare of the sport and its followers must come before symbolic gestures.

For now, the boycott serves as a cautionary tale. When a country takes an action intended to make a point but ends up harming its own interests, the price is paid in lost opportunities, fractured relationships and diminished respect. What Pakistan may have hoped would showcase defiance could, in reality, mark a setback in its sporting journey.

Conclusion — A Lose-Lose Proposition

In the grand theatre of international cricket, few spectacles are as eagerly awaited as India vs Pakistan. It represents rivalry, history and an extraordinary level of global interest. To forfeit that encounter, especially in a World Cup setting, is to remove one of the tournament's pillars.

What Pakistan's boycott really risks doing is not just harming cricket's economics and international harmony but deeply injuring its own cricketing future. When a nation inflicts loss upon itself in the name of making a point, it must ask whether the point was worth making in the first place.

At the end of the day, the decision to boycott does not elevate Pakistan's standing. Instead, it raises questions about priorities, impacts the very fans whose emotions are bound to the sport and could leave lasting scars on a cricketing legacy built over decades.

Inside Story: What PM Modi Told NDA MPs About the India-US Trade Deal



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed members of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) parliamentarian party about the recently announced India-US trade deal, describing it as a significant milestone for the country's global economic engagement. In a closed door meeting held amid routine parliamentary business, Mr. Modi shared his perspective on how the agreement came about, why it matters and what it means for India's future.

Mr. Modi began by emphasising the importance of active parliamentary participation. He urged all NDA MPs to maintain full attendance in the Lok Sabha and engage constructively in debates, particularly on key government achievements such as the Un-

ion Budget and major policy outcomes like this trade pact. He stressed that MPs should communicate these successes effectively to their constituents, reinforcing the government's development narrative at the grassroots level.

Turning to the trade agreement with the United States, the Prime Minister described it as a "milestone" in bilateral relations, reflecting a more favourable environment for economic cooperation between the two countries. He acknowledged that negotiations had been challenging and had attracted criticism at various stages. Yet, he said, the government had remained steadfast and patient, navigating through complexities with resolve and strategic foresight.

"People were criticising, but

we kept courage," Mr. Modi told the party members, underscoring that patience had paid off and resulted in a positive outcome that could benefit the nation. He framed the deal as evidence that India's stature on the global stage is rising, and said that the world order is increasingly tilting towards India, reflecting its growing influence in global economic and strategic affairs.

In his remarks, Mr. Modi also referenced the role of sustained diplomacy and leadership. He noted that the trade agreement was anchored in respect and longstanding ties between the two largest democracies. The pact, announced following a phone call between him and the U.S. President, includes a significant

reduction in U.S. tariffs on Indian goods, which Mr. Modi has welcomed as a step that will help Indian exporters.

While not delving into all technical details, Mr. Modi expressed confidence that the deal would unleash opportunities for Indian manufacturers and exporters, strengthen economic ties and boost investor sentiment. He reiterated that such agreements are part of a broader strategy to integrate India more deeply into the global economy.

The Prime Minister's message to his party was clear: despite criticism and tough negotiations, steadfast diplomacy and strategic patience have yielded a deal that he believes will benefit the country and demonstrate India's rising global standing.

India Secures 'Best Deal in Region' With US, Says Piyush Goyal



India has clinched what its government describes as the "best trade deal in the neighbourhood" with the United States, according to Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. Speaking publicly about the recently announced agreement, Goyal emphasised that the pact represents a significant opportunity for India's economy, highlighting the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and strategic negotiation efforts.

Goyal said the India-US trade agreement came after extensive discussions and reflects terms that are more favourable than deals secured by neighbouring countries or other competing economies. He framed the agreement as both a strategic win and economic boost for India, attributing its success to effective diplomacy and strong bilateral ties.

The minister noted that the deal has been structured to protect key domestic interests, particularly in sensitive areas like agriculture

and dairy, which are crucial for millions of farmers and rural workers. He stressed that these sectors were safeguarded during negotiations, meaning that Indian producers will not be disadvantaged as trade opens up. Goyal also highlighted that the pact will open up new opportunities for fishermen, farmers, youth and small businesses, positioning it as a "good omen" for India's future growth.

A central theme of his remarks was credit to Prime Minister Modi's relationship with the U.S. leadership. According to Goyal, Modi's personal rapport with the U.S. President played a crucial role in bringing the negotiations to a successful conclusion. The minister described this dynamic as having helped India secure terms that are advantageous and strategically balanced.

Goyal also criticised opposition reactions to the deal, accusing critics of spreading misleading information about its terms and implications. He reiterated that de-

tails will be disclosed through proper channels soon, suggesting that the government plans to share official documentation and descriptions once they are finalised.

The minister reiterated that the agreement will present major opportunities for exporters, especially in sectors that had previously faced high U.S. tariffs. By lowering trade barriers, Indian manufacturers and service providers may find access to the American market significantly improved. Goyal's comments underlined expectations that the pact can stimulate economic activity and enhance India's export competitiveness.

Overall, Goyal characterised the agreement as a milestone in India's trade diplomacy, one that promises to deepen economic ties while advancing India's broader goal of becoming a more prominent player in global commerce. He urged stakeholders to view the deal as a positive development that balances economic openness with national priorities.

Trinamool Congress Says It Is Consulting Parties on Possible Impeachment of Poll Body Chief Over Voter Roll Controversy

The Trinamool Congress (TMC) has announced that it is in talks with other political parties about the possibility of moving an impeachment motion against the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India, amid a bitter political clash over the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The party's move comes after a tense standoff between West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and the top officials of the Election Commission in Delhi. The conflict centres on the SIR exercise, a nationwide effort to update and clean the electoral list, and has become especially heated in West Bengal, which is scheduled to hold assembly elections later this year.

TMC leaders have been highly critical of how the Election Commission, led by CEC Gyanesh Kumar, has conducted the SIR process. They allege that the voter roll revision is being unfairly targeted and that large numbers of names



have been removed from draft lists in constituencies represented by TMC lawmakers compared to those held by rival parties. Party figures argue that the way the exercise is being carried out could disenfranchise voters and affect election outcomes, particularly in opposition ruled states.

In response to these concerns, a senior TMC MP, Kalyan Banerjee, said the party is consulting with other political groups to explore whether an

impeachment motion against the CEC is justified. According to him, the issue goes beyond West Bengal and has "implications for the voting rights of every citizen in the country." He characterised the current approach to SIR as incorrect and requiring accountability at the highest level of electoral administration.

The TMC's announcement has added a new dimension to an already heated political debate. Mamata Banerjee herself

has been vocal about her displeasure with the Election Commission's actions, alleging that the SIR exercise is being applied selectively and questioning why it has not been conducted in some states governed by other parties. She has also publicly criticised the leadership of the poll body, describing their conduct as dismissive and unfair.

The row has drawn reactions from various quarters, with opposition figures backing the TMC's concerns about the timing and implementation of the voter roll revision, while ruling party leaders and the Election Commission maintain that the process is being executed in accordance with legal norms and rules.

As consultations continue, the potential pursuit of impeachment proceedings signifies the depth of political mistrust surrounding the electoral roll revision and highlights how contentious electoral preparations have become ahead of a key election year.

DGCA Orders Special Audit of VSR Ventures After Fatal Plane Crash That Killed Ajit Pawar

India's aviation regulator has ordered a special audit of VSR Ventures, the private jet company whose aircraft crashed recently, killing Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and four others. This move marks a significant step in the investigation as authorities work to understand the circumstances that led to the tragic accident and ensure aviation safety compliance.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) directed the audit as part of a deeper probe into the operations, maintenance practices and safety protocols of VSR Ventures. The audit is expected to be completed by mid February and will examine whether the company adhered to regulatory standards, maintained proper aircraft records and followed correct procedures for aircraft upkeep and flight documentation. The findings of the audit could have wide ranging implications for the company and for aviation oversight in India's non scheduled operator sector.



The Learjet 45XR aircraft carrying Ajit Pawar was on a charter flight from Mumbai to Baramati in Pune district when it crashed while attempting to land. The crash occurred in poor visibility conditions, and all five people on board — including Pawar, his personal security officer, flight crew and a flight attendant — died instantly. The aircraft was attempting a second landing approach at the airstrip at the time of the accident.

Alongside the DGCA audit,

the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) is conducting a formal investigation into the sequence of events that led to the crash, including weather conditions, pilot actions and possible mechanical factors. Investigators have recovered the aircraft's flight data and voice recorders and are analysing them as part of the ongoing examination.

The audit comes amid broader scrutiny of VSR Ventures' safety record. Aviation authorities have noted that the same

company had previously operated an aircraft that was involved in an accident during landing at another airport a few years earlier. There have been regulatory actions in the past, including the European aviation regulator withholding authorisation for the company to operate in certain territories because of incomplete responses to safety queries.

The DGCA's decision aims to ensure that all aspects of operations by private charter operators meet the highest safety benchmarks, especially after a high profile fatal crash. Officials undertaking the audit will focus on maintenance logs, pilot training and compliance with civil aviation norms.

The development reflects the seriousness with which Indian aviation authorities are approaching the investigation. As the probe unfolds, both the audit findings and AAIB's technical inquiry will play crucial roles in understanding what went wrong and how similar tragedies can be prevented in the future.

Parliament in Turmoil as Opposition Protests, Demands Clarification on US Trade Deal



The Budget Session of Parliament witnessed dramatic disruptions as the Lok Sabha was thrown into chaos by opposition protests. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi attempted to raise sensitive issues during the debate on the President's address, touching on both national security and the recently announced India-US trade deal.

The confrontation intensified when Gandhi tried to quote from an unpublished memoir by former Army Chief General MM Naravane about the 2020 military stand off with China. The Speaker refused permission, citing parliamentary rules on unpublished material. This led to loud protests, adjournments, and the suspension of several Congress MPs for disorderly conduct.

Rahul Gandhi accused

the government of trying to silence dissent and block discussion on critical issues, including border security. He also questioned how the India-US trade deal could be finalised so quickly after months of negotiations, alleging that key interests — particularly those of farmers and small producers — were compromised.

Ruling party leaders defended the Speaker's decision, arguing that parliamentary procedures were correctly enforced and accusing the opposition of disrespecting House norms. Government MPs also emphasised that the trade agreement offers strategic and economic benefits and that discussions on the deal are welcome on the floor of Parliament.

Amid the chaos, the Union government indicated it

would make a formal statement on the India-US trade agreement, providing clarity on its terms and implications. Party leaders stressed the deal's potential to strengthen bilateral economic ties and boost India's global trade presence.

Beyond the trade row, the session is set to address key issues such as the Union Budget, external affairs, and national security. However, repeated adjournments, opposition demands for transparency, and heightened rhetoric suggest further clashes are likely in the coming days.

Overall, the Budget Session has highlighted how policy debate, parliamentary procedure, and political strategy intersect, reflecting deep divides in Parliament over both domestic and international matters.

How India's New Trade Deals With the US and EU Could Reshape Its Economy

India is at the centre of a major shift in global trade dynamics, with two landmark agreements announced in quick succession — a recent trade deal with the United States and a historic free trade agreement (FTA) with the European Union. Together, these pacts have sparked optimism about India's export potential, enhanced market access, and integration into global supply chains, even as questions remain about implementation and long term impact.

The India-US Trade Deal: Immediate Tariff Relief and Renewed Engagement

The most high profile development has been the announcement of a trade understanding between India and the United States. Under this deal, the United States has agreed to reduce its tariffs on Indian exports to around 18 per cent, a significant cut from previous levels that had reached as high as 50 per cent due to punitive levies tied to issues such as Russia related energy purchases.

This tariff rollback is aimed at boosting India's competitiveness in one of the world's largest consumer markets, especially for sectors such as textiles, pharmaceuticals, seafood, steel, chemicals and labour intensive manufacturing. Indian exporters had long faced high duties in the U.S., which sharply reduced shipments in certain segments and strained trade relations. The reduction in duties is expected to revive export flows, improve profit margins, and help Indian products regain lost market share.

In return, India is expected to expand its imports of American goods, including energy products, defence equipment, aircraft, telecommunications equipment and agricultural goods. Discussions have also pointed to commitments on reducing purchases of Russian crude oil, although Indian leaders have yet to publicly confirm concrete changes to their energy strategy. The broadened imports from the U.S. market — potentially reaching substantial volumes — are seen as a way to deepen economic integration and balance trade flows.

The immediate reaction from markets has been positive. Indian stock indices rallied strongly following the announcement, supported by expectations that tariff relief and clearer trade ties will benefit corporate earnings and encourage foreign investment. The Indian rupee also strengthened as sentiment improved across financial markets, reflecting a renewed appetite for risk assets tied to export driven growth.

Beyond Tariffs: Regulatory Certainty and Trade Facilitation

While the headline of the India-US deal is the tariff reduction, analysts emphasise that the broader significance lies in regulatory certainty and cooperation frameworks. The deal reflects a thawing of trade tensions that had built up over the



past few years, especially around tariff disputes and market access barriers. By agreeing to revise tariff structures and engage on trade facilitation issues, both sides are signalling a willingness to collaborate more systematically on trade policy, standards alignment and dispute resolution.

For Indian manufacturers and exporters, this clarity could spur long term planning and investment in capacity expansion, especially in sectors where India has a natural cost and scale advantage. It also sends a political message: that the world's two largest democracies are committed to strengthening economic ties even against the backdrop of broader geopolitical competition.

The India-EU Free Trade Agreement: A "Mother of All Deals"

Just before the India-US announcement, New Delhi and the European Union concluded negotiations on what is being touted as one of India's most important trade pacts to date. After nearly two decades of talks, the FTA is expected to usher in a new era of trade cooperation between India and one of its largest economic partners.

Under this agreement, the EU will eliminate or sharply reduce tariffs on the vast majority of Indian exports, with estimates suggesting that over 99 per cent of Indian goods by value will eventually enjoy zero duty access into European markets. The tariff elimination covers traditional strengths of the Indian economy such as textiles, apparel, leather products, jewellery, gems, marine products and engineering goods. Labour intensive sectors, which employ millions, stand to benefit particularly from this preferential access to one of the world's largest consumer markets.

On the flip side, India has agreed to lower tariffs on a wide range of European imports, including automobiles, machinery, pharmaceuticals and premium goods like wine and spirits, over a phased period. This level of market

opening — in a uniform customs union rather than a country by country arrangement — means that European firms will gain relatively predictable, long term access to the Indian market.

The FTA also goes beyond traditional goods trade, covering services, digital trade, customs cooperation, and facilitation of business mobility. This broad scope makes it one of India's most comprehensive trade agreements ever negotiated.

Comparing the Two Deals: Complementary, Not Contradictory

While the India-US deal focuses on immediate tariff relief and bilateral market access, the India-EU FTA represents a structural realignment of India's trade relations with a key global bloc. Together, they offer a two pronged strategy:

- Short Term Boost Through Tariff Cuts:** The U.S. deal provides immediate relief on tariff barriers that had crimped exports, particularly where duties were punitive. Lower tariffs improve price competitiveness and can help restore market share quickly.
- Long Term Market Expansion:** The EU FTA creates a massive preferential trade zone with a large, diverse consumer base and integrated services and goods markets. By eventually eliminating duties on most Indian exports, the agreement helps diversify India's export destinations and reduce reliance on any single market.

The combined effect is expected to boost Indian exports, attract new investment, and integrate India more deeply into global value chains. Labour intensive sectors, in particular, are likely to see heightened opportunities, given preferential access and lower cost barriers.

Opportunities and Challenges Ahead

Despite the promise, several

implementation issues remain. The India-US deal still requires detailed negotiations on specific sectors, services, and regulatory alignment. Questions around commitments on energy and agricultural imports are yet to be fully clarified, and both sides will need to work through complex technical and political hurdles to complete a full treaty.

The India-EU FTA also requires ratification and finalisation of implementation schedules. Phased tariff reductions, services commitments and non tariff measures will need careful coordination to ensure that the benefits are realised over time without undermining sensitive domestic sectors.

There are also concerns about maintaining a balance between opening markets and protecting key domestic industries such as agriculture, dairy and small scale manufacturing. Indian negotiators appear to have safeguarded some sensitive areas, but ongoing dialogue and policy support will be essential to ensure that trade liberalisation does not produce uneven outcomes.

Strategic Implications: A New Trade Posture for India

Taken together, these deals signal a shift in India's approach to global commerce — from reactive trade management to proactive engagement and diversification of market access. In a world where protectionism and geopolitical tensions often complicate trade flows, India's ability to secure significant agreements with both the United States and the European Union underscores its growing economic clout and diplomatic leverage.

For Indian exporters, manufacturers, investors and workers, the key will lie in leveraging these new openings to scale capacity, enhance competitiveness and build deeper integration with global supply chains. If implemented effectively, these trade deals could mark a defining moment in India's economic trajectory — expanding opportunities for growth, jobs and international engagement in the decade ahead.

Explained: Trump's Claim That India Agreed to 'Zero Tariff Barriers' in Trade Deal



In a recent announcement about a new trade deal between the United States and India, U.S. President Donald Trump stated that India has agreed to reduce tariffs and non tariff barriers on American goods to "zero." This comment has sparked a mix of excitement and confusion, because New Delhi has not publicly confirmed such a commitment, and key details of the agreement are still unclear.

At the heart of the issue is what "zero tariff barriers" really means. Tariff barriers are straightforward taxes on imported goods that make them more expensive, while non tariff barriers include indirect restrictions such as quotas, licensing rules, standards, and certification requirements. Together, these can significantly affect how easily foreign products enter a market. Trump's speech suggested that India is willing to eliminate both types of obstacles for U.S. products, but how, when and under

what conditions remains undefined.

India's response so far has focused on the tariff reduction for Indian exports to the U.S., which Trump said would fall to around 18 per cent from much higher levels. The Indian leadership welcomed this development without mentioning any promise to make U.S. imports tariff free. Officials have emphasised that trade discussions are ongoing and that any deal must be mutually beneficial and workable for both sides. There has been no official announcement detailing specific products or timelines for cutting tariffs to zero.

Critics and analysts highlight that Trump's description may be more aspirational than contractual, signalling a broad intention to improve market access rather than an immediate elimination of all trade barriers. In other words, the phrase "zero tariffs" might refer to a future direction of

negotiations rather than a binding, finalised commitment. Some observers believe the claim could relate to a future phase of negotiations tied to a bigger free trade agreement that both countries have been discussing for some time.

There are also unanswered questions about other elements mentioned alongside the zero tariff statement, such as a large scale purchase of U.S. goods and changes to India's energy import practices. Until a joint formal text or detailed implementation plan is released by both governments, many aspects of the deal — including the zero tariff claim — remain subject to interpretation.

In essence, while the "zero tariff barriers" statement has drawn headlines, it reflects a political signal of intent rather than a confirmed, immediate policy change. The real impact will only become clear once formal details are agreed and published.

426 kg Gandhi Statue Stolen in Melbourne, Police Launch Investigation



A 426 kg bronze statue of Mahatma Gandhi has been stolen from outside the Australian Indian Community Centre in Rowville, a suburb of Melbourne, sparking a police investigation and concern among the local community.

The theft is believed to have occurred in the early hours of January 12, 2026, when three unidentified offenders allegedly used an angle grinder to cut the statue from its foundation before loading it into a vehicle and fleeing the scene. Only the statue's feet were left behind.

The sculpture, a gift from the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, symbolised peace, non violence, and the strong cultural ties between India and Australia. It was unveiled in November 2021 and has since been a prominent landmark for Melbourne's Indian Australian

community.

Local authorities, including the Victoria Police Knox Crime Investigation Unit, are investigating the incident. Police have urged scrap metal dealers and the public to remain vigilant and report any attempts to sell bronze pieces that could be linked to the stolen statue. They are also appealing for CCTV footage, eyewitness accounts, or any information that could help identify the perpetrators.

The theft has drawn strong reactions from community and political leaders. Members of the Indian Australian community expressed shock and distress, calling the act a violation of a culturally significant landmark. Local politicians condemned the theft as deeply upsetting and emphasised the need to ensure multicultural communities feel safe and respected.

This incident has revived memories of an earlier attack on the same statue shortly after its unveiling in 2021, when it was vandalised in a separate act. At that time, officials condemned the disrespectful act and encouraged community cohesion.

In India, government representatives also condemned the theft and urged Australian authorities to act promptly to recover the statue and hold those responsible accountable, describing the act as deeply troubling and an affront to shared values of peace and cultural respect.

Authorities are now focused on tracking down leads and ensuring that culturally significant monuments are better protected, while community members hope that the Gandhi statue will be recovered and restored soon.

Moscow Says It Has Heard Nothing From India on Ending Russian Oil Imports

Russia has officially stated that it has not received any communication from India about stopping purchases of Russian oil, despite claims by the United States that such a commitment was part of a recent trade agreement between the two countries.

According to a Kremlin spokesperson, Moscow has heard no statements from New Delhi indicating that India plans to halt or significantly alter its energy purchases from Russia. The Russian government emphasised that it continues to value its strategic partnership with India and intends to further develop bilateral ties, including in the energy sector, regardless of external developments.

The clarification comes after the U.S. President spoke about a trade understanding with India that reportedly involved lowering U.S. tariffs on



Indian exports in exchange for India stopping its purchases of Russian crude. Indian leaders welcomed the tariff cuts and broader trade discussion, but have not publicly confirmed any change in their approach to Russian oil purchases.

The uncertainty over India's

stance on Russian oil comes amid broader global efforts to reduce revenue flowing to Moscow from energy exports following Russia's military actions in Ukraine. Western nations have pushed for countries to diversify their sources of energy and reduce reliance on Russian crude, but India —

as one of the world's largest oil importers — has historically sourced significant volumes of discounted Russian oil, which has helped manage fuel prices domestically.

In India, reactions to the trade deal and its implications for crude imports have been mixed. Some political leaders welcomed the tariff reductions, while analysts note that any abrupt change to long-standing energy relationships could have economic repercussions and complicate India's energy security strategy.

For now, Moscow's statement indicates that there is no official confirmation from India regarding halting purchases of Russian oil, even as global geopolitical and trade dynamics continue to evolve. Whether formal discussions or decisions on energy imports follow in the coming weeks remains uncertain.

US-EU Trade Pacts Signal a New Era for the Indian Economy; Markets, Rupee See Boost



Major international trade developments involving the United States and the European Union are being seen as catalysts for a transformational shift in the Indian economy, with positive implications for both financial markets and the currency.

Investors and analysts alike view the recent trade agreements — including a landmark deal between India and the US that significantly lowers tariffs on Indian exports — as marking a strategic turning point. The sharp reduction in reciprocal levies is expected not only to improve export competitiveness but also to reinforce confidence in India's growth story. Markets have responded with strong rallies in equities, particularly in export-oriented sectors, while the Indian rupee has strengthened noticeably. This newfound momentum is widely interpreted as signalling greater global integration for India's economy.

Observers note that

these trade pacts come at a time when India's macroeconomic fundamentals remain robust. The combined effects of lower trade barriers, expanding market access and renewed investor optimism could help accelerate capital inflows, shore up the currency, and support long-term economic expansion. Financial markets have already shown strong reactions, with broad equity gains across diverse sectors and a notable uptick in currency valuation.

Industry experts and corporate leaders describe the agreements as more than just tariff changes — they represent a confidence anchor for businesses and global investors. By reducing regulatory uncertainty and enhancing export prospects, these deals are expected to attract fresh foreign investments, encourage supply-chain integration and stimulate job creation. For companies aligned with global trade networks, the lowered tariff environment

could translate into improved margins and higher utilisation of production capacity.

At the same time, the timing of these pacts — coming soon after India's trade agreement with the EU — reinforces a broader narrative of strategic alignment with major global partners. Together, they underscore India's ambition to become a manufacturing and export powerhouse while strengthening its presence in global value chains. Many market watchers believe this dual momentum will help sustain investor interest and provide a more supportive backdrop for economic growth going forward.

In summary, the combination of new trade agreements involving the US and the EU is being viewed as a structural positive for India — one that can drive stronger markets, bolster the currency and elevate the country's position in global commerce.

Indian Markets Rally Most in Nine Months After India-US Trade Deal; Key Trading Levels to Watch



Indian equity markets delivered one of their strongest single-day performances in about nine months after an announced trade agreement between India and the United States. The major stock indices rallied sharply on optimism that lowered tariffs and renewed trade cooperation will ease market overhang and spur investor confidence.

The Sensex and Nifty benchmarks climbed more than 2.5% in the session, logging one of the most impressive single-day gains in recent memory. A broad market uptrend was seen, with most sectors participating and both large and mid-cap stocks posting solid gains. The rupee also strengthened, reflecting improved sentiment on expectations of renewed foreign fund inflows and stronger export prospects.

Technical indicators have begun to shift in favour of bulls following the sharp price ad-

vance. The domestic benchmark index has reclaimed key moving averages that had acted as resistance in recent weeks, suggesting that investor appetite is returning after a period of volatility.

Analysts highlight several near-term support and resistance levels that traders are watching closely:

- On the upside, breaks above the 25,600-25,700 zone could open the door to further gains toward higher levels such as 25,800 to 26,000, where earlier supply pressures were noted. A sustained move past these zones could signal deeper bullish momentum.
- On the downside, immediate support is seen near the 25,000 psychological level, followed by a lower range around 24,900-24,800, which could cushion any pullbacks if profit-taking occurs. These zones may act as floors if volatility returns or if the initial enthusiasm fades.

The strong rally appears driven by both short-covering and fresh buying, as investors reassessed valuations and positioned for improved export competitiveness amid lowered tariff barriers. Export-linked sectors such as IT services, pharmaceuticals, auto ancillaries, textiles, gems and jewellery, and engineering goods are expected to remain in focus as markets digest the implications of the trade deal for corporate earnings and competitiveness.

Technically, analysts suggest that while the immediate move higher reflects strong relief sentiment, follow-through buying and confirmation above key resistance levels will be critical for validating a more sustainable uptrend. The evolving price action around the mentioned support and resistance zones will be closely monitored by traders as a barometer of market strength in the near term.

Markets Rally Sharply as India-US Trade Deal Sparks Strong Gap-Up Opening

Indian equity markets witnessed a powerful rally after news of a trade agreement between India and the United States that significantly cuts tariffs on Indian exports to 18 percent. The positive development triggered a sharp gap-up opening, with benchmark indices posting one of their strongest single-day moves in recent weeks.

The Sensex surged by over 2,000 points in early trade, while the Nifty 50 jumped past key resistance levels, reflecting a broad-based surge in investor confidence. Buying interest remained strong throughout the session, supported by optimism over improved export prospects and easing global trade concerns.

Market sentiment was buoyed by expectations that lower tariffs would enhance the competitiveness of Indian goods in the US market, improve earnings visibility for exporters and revive foreign investor interest. Analysts said the announcement removed a major uncertainty that had weighed on markets for months.

Export-oriented sec-



tors led the rally. Textiles, gems and jewellery, chemicals and specialty manufacturing stocks saw strong gains as investors priced in potential demand recovery and margin expansion. Banking and financial stocks also advanced sharply, supported by improved risk appetite and expectations of stronger economic activity.

The rally was further fuelled by short covering,

as traders who had positioned for downside were forced to unwind bearish bets following the unexpected positive trigger. Broader market indices also performed well, with mid-cap and small-cap stocks participating in the uptrend.

Market experts noted that while the sharp move reflects immediate enthusiasm, sustainability of the rally will depend on follow-through

buying, clarity on implementation of the trade agreement and upcoming global economic cues. However, the trade deal has clearly shifted near-term sentiment in favour of bulls.

Overall market breadth remained firmly positive, with advancing stocks far outnumbering decliners across exchanges. Volumes were higher than average, indicating strong participation from

both institutional and retail investors.

The sharp rally highlights how major policy and trade developments can swiftly alter market direction. With tariff concerns easing and export visibility improving, investors are expected to closely track sector-specific opportunities arising from the India-US trade agreement in the coming sessions.

Gems & Jewellery Shares Jump Up to 20% After India US Trade Deal Boosts Export Outlook



Indian gems and jewellery stocks surged strongly in trading after a landmark trade agreement between India and the United States pushed markets higher. The rally was driven by optimism that lower U.S. tariffs will make Indian exports more

competitive and help revive demand in the world's largest consumer market.

Several leading companies in the sector saw their share prices climb sharply. Goldiam International led the gains, with its stock rising about 20% in a single session, hit-

ting circuit limits on heavy trading. Other exporters also saw significant gains, with Rajesh Exports rising around 5% and other jewellery makers posting rallies of varying strength.

Stocks of well known names such as Tribhovan-

das Bhimji Zaveri and counterparts in the certification and retail segment also climbed in double digits before moderating. Even organised jewellery retailers and associated firms recorded notable upticks, reflecting renewed investor interest in businesses with strong export exposure.

The sharp rise in valuations came as traders priced in the expected benefits of the tariff reduction, which cut reciprocal duties from high levels to a more competitive rate. This shift is expected to ease the cost burden on Indian producers exporting to the U.S., potentially restoring order flows that had slowed amid tariff pressures.

Investors also pointed out that the U.S. remains one of India's largest export destinations for gems and jewellery, making any improvement in trade

terms particularly impactful for the segment. With tariffs lowered, companies that rely on diamond, gold and gemstone shipments may find it easier to win contracts and sustain volumes.

The broader market reaction to the trade deal lifted sentiment across other export linked sectors such as textiles and engineering goods, but the gems and jewellery pack stood out due to its sharp intraday percentage moves. Traders said the moves reflected a combination of short covering and fresh long positions as investors repositioned for what they see as a multi session recovery.

Market participants will be watching closely in coming sessions to see if the jewellery sector can maintain its gains once the initial reaction fades and attention turns to fundamentals and actual export data.

Rupee Hits Highest Level in Weeks After India US Trade Deal Boosts Sentiment



The Indian rupee strengthened sharply against the U.S. dollar, rising to its highest level in about three weeks following the recent India United States trade agreement. The currency's strong performance marked one of its most significant single day gains in years, as market sentiment improved after news of tariff reductions and renewed trade cooperation.

On the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee climbed by more than one percent in a single session, settling near levels not seen in several weeks. The move represented a notable rebound after recent pressures on the currency due to macroeconomic uncertainties and previous trade tensions. Forex traders said the positive shift in sentiment came as investors reacted to the trade deal, which includes a major cut in U.S. tariffs on Indian exports. This development helped ease risk perceptions that had weighed on the rupee and other Indian assets. The improved outlook also came alongside a rally in Indian equity markets, which bolstered overall confidence across financial markets.

The rupee's performance outpaced many of its Asian peers, making it one of the best performing regional currencies during the session. Analysts noted that although the currency's gains reflect renewed optimism, the pace and extent of further appreciation will depend on broader global conditions, central bank actions and ongoing investor appetite for emerging market assets.

Market participants also pointed out that the currency rebound has been supported by expectations of renewed foreign investment flows and improved economic prospects tied to the trade agreement. While details of the pact's implementation are still being digested, the immediate reaction underscores the importance of trade policy in influencing currency markets.

Overall, the rupee's rise to three week highs highlighted a strong risk on sentiment among investors, with financial markets responding positively to the expectation that lowered trade barriers and enhanced cooperation with the U.S. could boost India's export competitiveness and economic growth.

SPARC Earns Valuable FDA Priority Review Voucher After Sezaby Approval

Sun Pharma Advanced Research Company Ltd (SPARC) has been granted a Priority Review Voucher (PRV) by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), marking a strategic milestone for the Indian drug developer and boosting optimism around its future pipeline.

The voucher was issued in connection with the FDA's approval of Sezaby, SPARC's therapy for neonatal seizures, a serious condition affecting newborn infants. A Priority Review Voucher is a special incentive given by the FDA to companies that develop treatments for rare pediatric diseases. The programme aims to encourage investment in areas with high unmet medical needs by rewarding developers with a tangible asset that can enhance their regulatory and commercial strategy.

What makes the voucher particularly valuable is its flexibility. It can be redeemed to secure an accelerated review for a future drug application, shortening the FDA's standard review timeline by several months. In a business where time to market can make a significant difference in revenue and competitive positioning, this faster pathway can be a powerful tool. Alternatively, companies can sell the voucher to other drug developers — often for substan-



tial sums — turning it into a potential revenue source that can support R&D or strengthen the balance sheet.

SPARC has indicated that it intends to use the voucher to accelerate its broader pipeline, though it has not yet specified whether it will apply it internally to a forthcoming drug filing or monetise it through a sale.

In a statement, SPARC's leadership described the award as a recognition of their commitment to addressing unmet needs and as providing added strategic flexibility. The recognition comes as the company expands its research focus in niche areas where regulatory incentives like priority vouchers can significantly impact development timelines.

The news was well received in the market, with SPARC's shares trading higher as investors welcomed the regulatory win. The voucher adds an important option for the company as it seeks to bring new therapies to patients faster and enhance its competitive edge in the complex global pharmaceutical landscape.

Essay Claims Stanford Students Pretend to Be Jain to Avoid Expensive Mandatory Meal Plan



A student essay has triggered debate after alleging that some undergraduates at Stanford University are falsely identifying as followers of the Jain religion in order to bypass the university's costly mandatory meal plan. The annual dining plan, which reportedly costs close to ₹7 lakh, is required for most students living on campus, though exemptions are permitted for religious or medical dietary needs.

According to the essay, a small number of students are exploiting this exemption policy by claiming adherence to Jain dietary practices, which are among the most restrictive religious food guidelines. Jain diets are based on the principle of non-violence and prohibit foods such as root vegetables, onions, garlic and other items that may involve harm to living organisms. Because these requirements can be difficult for large dining halls to accommodate, students with documented Jain dietary needs may be allowed to opt out of the meal plan.

The author claims that some students, despite not practising Jainism, are using this provision to avoid paying for the campus dining programme. Instead, they allegedly use the funds to buy groceries or eat off campus, which they consider cheaper or better suited to their preferences.

The essay frames this behaviour as part of a broader culture of "optimisation" among students, where individu-

als exchange tips on navigating university systems in ways that maximise personal benefit. While the author does not present official data, the claim is based on conversations and observations within the student community.

The allegations have sparked mixed reactions online. Some argue that the issue highlights frustration with the high cost and inflexibility of university meal plans, especially when students feel they lack control over food quality and spending. Others caution that unverified claims could unfairly cast doubt on students who genuinely follow religious dietary practices and rely on exemptions in good faith.

Stanford University has not publicly commented on the essay's claims or clarified how religious dietary exemptions are verified and monitored. It remains unclear how widespread the alleged misuse may be, or whether the university has mechanisms in place to prevent abuse of the system.

The controversy has reignited a broader discussion about the balance universities must strike between respecting religious diversity, ensuring fairness in policy implementation, and addressing rising costs associated with campus living. It also raises questions about whether institutions should rethink rigid meal plan requirements to better reflect student needs and affordability concerns.

Anupam Mittal Says Stop Shaming Gen Z for Job-Hopping, Shares a Smarter Career Strategy



Entrepreneur and "Shark Tank India" judge Anupam Mittal has spoken out against the criticism often directed at Generation Z professionals for frequently switching jobs, urging people to view early career movement as exploration rather than instability.

In a widely discussed social media post, Mittal said that job-hopping in the early years of a career should not be treated as a red flag. Instead, he compared it to dating — a phase where individuals try different roles, industries and work cultures to understand what suits them best. According to him, this experimentation helps young professionals gain clarity about their strengths, interests and long-term goals.

Mittal pointed out that many Gen Z workers prioritise factors such as meaningful work, mental well-being and work-life balance. When a role fails to meet these expectations, switching jobs becomes a rational choice rather than a sign of disloyalty or lack of commitment. He emphasised that labelling young professionals as unreliable for moving jobs too often ignores how the modern workplace has evolved.

However, Mittal also stressed that exploration should have a time limit. He advised that once individuals discover a role or organisation that aligns

with their ambitions, they should focus on building depth rather than constantly moving on. Drawing from his experience as a founder and recruiter, he said that long-term commitment demonstrates growth, reliability and leadership potential.

He suggested a simple framework: young professionals between the ages of 21 and 24 should feel free to experiment aggressively with different jobs and career paths. This phase allows them to learn quickly and avoid being locked into unsuitable roles. After the age of 25, he believes it is important to commit to a role or company for several years to develop expertise, credibility and a stronger professional identity.

Mittal noted that when evaluating experienced candidates, he often looks for at least one sustained stint of four to five years, as it reflects an individual's ability to grow within an organisation and see responsibilities through to completion.

His comments resonated with many young professionals who said the advice validated their career choices and eased the pressure to conform to outdated expectations. Others added that while career paths today are increasingly non-linear, finding a balance between exploration and stability remains key to long-term success.

Bengaluru Tenant Shocked as Landlord Demands One Month's Rent Just to Show Flat



A Bengaluru resident searching for a rental home was left stunned after a landlord allegedly demanded one month's rent upfront merely to allow a viewing of the property. The unusual demand, which surfaced through a social media post, has sparked widespread discussion about unethical practices in the city's already challenging rental market.

The incident occurred when a young profession-

al, new to Bengaluru, was scouting for accommodation in a residential high-rise. While visiting the building, he approached the security guard to ask if any flats were available for rent. The guard confirmed that a unit was vacant and provided the contact number of the property owner.

After speaking with the owner over the phone, the prospective tenant was informed that the security guard would facilitate

the visit. There was no mention at this stage of any fee or advance payment to view the apartment. Believing the process to be straightforward, the individual returned to the building to inspect the flat.

However, upon approaching the security guard to proceed with the viewing, he was told that one month's rent must be paid in advance before the door would be opened. Taken aback by the unex-

pected demand, the man refused to pay and immediately walked away, sensing something was amiss.

Confused and frustrated, he later shared the experience online, asking whether such a practice was common or a potential scam. The post quickly gained attention, with many users strongly criticising the demand. Most responses advised renters never to pay any amount before physically viewing a property, particularly

when the owner or a verified agent is not present.

Several commenters suggested the demand was a clear red flag and warned that it could be an attempt to exploit desperate house-hunters in a competitive market. Others speculated that the security guard might have been acting independently or in coordination with intermediaries to extract money from unsuspecting tenants.

The incident highlights the difficulties faced by renters in Bengaluru, where soaring demand, limited supply and high deposits have already made house-hunting stressful. Unusual and questionable practices such as charging money simply to view a property add another layer of concern for tenants navigating the market.

Experts and experienced renters recommend dealing directly with verified owners or registered brokers, insisting on proper documentation and refusing any demand for money before a legitimate viewing. The episode serves as a cautionary tale for renters to stay vigilant and trust their instincts when something feels wrong.

Viral Video Shows Delivery Agent Forced to Climb Six Floors With Heavy Parcel — Netizens Slam Housing Society

A video that has recently gone viral on social media shows a delivery agent struggling to climb up six flights of stairs while carrying an oversized and heavy parcel on his back, sparking widespread criticism of the housing society's treatment of service workers.

In the footage, the delivery worker is seen painstakingly making his way up the staircase of a residential building. What makes the situation particularly striking is that the society's lift was reportedly functional, yet the delivery agent was denied access to it, forcing him to carry the burden up the stairs. At one point, he nearly loses his balance due to the weight of the parcel, but continues his effort until he finally reaches the apartment on the sixth floor. Once there, he is heard being cautioned to be careful as he navigates the large parcel through the doorway.

The clip was shared by a social media user with a

caption explaining that society members did not allow packers, movers, or delivery staff to use the elevator, compelling the worker to climb the stairs with the heavy load.

As the video spread online, reactions poured in from people across various platforms, with many users expressing shock and anger at the incident. A common sentiment was that the housing society's actions were inhumane and discriminatory, reflecting a lack of respect and consideration for the physical strain placed on gig economy workers who already perform demanding tasks as part of their jobs.

Several commentators called out what they described as a broader problem: an attitude in some residential communities that prioritises convenience for residents over the dignity and well-being of service workers. A number of social media users argued that if elevators are operational, they



should be made accessible to delivery personnel, especially when they are carrying heavy goods that put them at risk of injury.

Some critics went further, suggesting that buildings with more than a few floors should be required to provide dedicated service elevators for movers and delivery workers, instead of im-

posing restrictions that force them to use tiring and potentially unsafe stairways.

The video reignited an ongoing discussion about how gig workers are treated in urban environments, highlighting the physical hardships they often face and raising questions about empathy, basic courtesy and

the responsibilities of residential housing societies.

Many people echoed the view that respect and humane treatment should be extended to everyone who contributes to everyday life, especially those who perform labour-intensive tasks under challenging conditions.

Startup Founder Shares How a Cold Email to Narayana Murthy Led to a Meeting



A Bengaluru-based entrepreneur recently shared an inspiring story about how a simple, unsolicited email he sent to Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy in 2016 resulted in an unexpected and memorable meeting. What began as a bold outreach turned into a real demonstration of openness and

accessibility, underscoring how initiative and respect can sometimes open remarkable doors.

The founder, who leads a local travel startup, revealed the episode during a podcast interview. After returning to India from the UK, he wanted to meet one of India's most respected business leaders

to learn from his journey and insights. With no prior connection, he drafted an email to Murthy, expressing admiration for his work and a desire to meet in person. The message was essentially a "cold email" — an unsolicited outreach without expectation of a response.

To the entrepreneur's

surprise, Murthy replied within just a few hours. The reply was prompt and gracious, and it copied Murthy's secretary so that a meeting could be arranged. The speed of the response caught him completely off guard, especially given Murthy's stature and how busy he must have been at the time.

The meeting was eventually scheduled for a few weeks later at Murthy's office in Bengaluru. The entrepreneur described the experience as humbling and inspiring. Murthy arrived precisely on time, greeted him warmly, and engaged in a genuine conversation. What stood out most to the founder was not just the meeting itself, but Murthy's humility, punctuality and willingness to make time for someone he had never met before.

The startup founder said that the encounter left a lasting impression on him, reinforcing the belief that respected leaders can have a profound

impact by staying approachable. He also noted that Bengaluru's culture of openness and collaboration — what some have referred to as the city's special blend of accessibility and humility — played a role in making such an interaction possible.

The story has resonated with many aspiring entrepreneurs who see it as a reminder that boldness, paired with respect and thoughtful communication, can sometimes create opportunities that seem unlikely. It also highlights an important lesson in professional outreach: a sincere message can lead to meaningful connections, even with individuals who are hugely successful and highly sought after.

For the founder, the meeting wasn't just a personal milestone — it was a validation of his belief in taking the initiative to learn and connect, regardless of hierarchy or status.

ICC Warns Pakistan of Legal and Financial Trouble Over T20 World Cup Boycott Row

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has issued a stern warning to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) over its controversial decision to boycott the high profile T20 World Cup match against India, raising the spectre of legal action, financial penalties and broader consequences for Pakistan's cricket authorities.

The warning comes amid mounting uncertainties surrounding Pakistan's participation in their scheduled Group A fixture against India on February 15 in Colombo, a match seen as one of the most watched and commercially valuable in any cricket tournament. While Pakistan's government has cleared the team to take part in the tournament, it has directed that the national side will not take the field against India, a move that has stunned the global cricket community and prompted widespread debate.

The ICC's message to the PCB is clear: backing out of a scheduled match purely on political or strategic grounds is inconsistent with the obligations of participating in a global sporting event. Officials have emphasised that the boycott jeopardises the tournament's integrity, disrupts commitments to broadcasters and sponsors, and under-



mines the principles of competitiveness and fairness that underpin ICC events.

Beyond strong words, the ICC has warned that Pakistan could face serious repercussions if it sticks to its boycott plan. Major broadcasters, including the official media partners for the T20 World Cup, stand to lose substantial revenue if the India-Pakistan fixture does not take place, and they may pursue legal action against the PCB and potentially the ICC itself for

breach of contract. The potential damages involved could be in the tens of millions of dollars, raising the stakes even higher for all parties.

In addition to possible lawsuits, Pakistan risks financial penalties such as withholding of its share of ICC distributions, which make up a significant portion of revenue for full member boards. The ICC has hinted that non-compliance with tournament terms could also open the door to other forms of discipli-

nary action, though it stopped short of announcing specific sanctions.

The warning has put the PCB and the government of Pakistan in a difficult position, prompting reports of legal consultations and internal debate over how best to respond. Officials in Lahore have reportedly prepared legal strategies to counter any ICC action, even sending legal advisers along with team representatives to Colombo in anticipation of further discussions. Cricket fans and admin-

istrators around the world are watching closely. With diplomatic, commercial and sporting considerations all in play, the unfolding episode could reshape how international cricket balances political realities with contractual and competitive obligations. The ICC has stressed that all member boards are expected to honour their commitments — and that ignoring them could lead to consequences that extend far beyond a single match.

New Zealand Enter T20 World Cup as Strong, Balanced Contenders with Key Players in Form



As the ICC T20 World Cup 2026 gets underway, New Zealand has emerged as one of the tournament's most balanced and threatening teams, blending experience with in form talent and tactical flexibility. With several key players firing at the right time, the Black Caps arrive in strong contention for a deep run and potentially a title challenge.

One of New Zealand's biggest strengths lies in their well rounded squad composition. Unlike some teams that rely heavily on a few stars, New Zealand has dependable performers across batting, bowling and fielding departments. Their batting lineup boasts players capable of anchoring innings as well as those who can score rapidly in the

death overs. This balance gives the team the adaptability to adjust to different match situations, whether they are setting a target or chasing.

In recent months leading up to the World Cup, several Kiwi batsmen have shown excellent form in T20 cricket, consistently contributing big scores in domestic and international matches. Their per-

formances have lent confidence and added firepower to the top and middle order, helping the team build momentum heading into the tournament.

New Zealand's bowling attack is equally threatening. The pace battery includes bowlers with the ability to strike early with the new ball, as well as specialists who excel at containing runs and taking crucial wickets in the middle overs. Their spin options add another dimension, especially on surfaces that assist turn. Fielding, a traditional strength of New Zealand sides, remains a highlight, with sharp catchers and agile ground fielders ready to save valuable runs.

Leadership and experience are also key assets for the Black Caps. The team's captain and senior players bring strategic acumen and calm under pressure — qualities that have helped New Zealand perform consistently in ICC events over the years. Their familiarity with big

moments and high pressure games could prove decisive when the tournament reaches its knockout stages.

Cricket analysts have noted that while New Zealand may not boast the standout individual statistics of some other squads, their depth and team cohesion make them particularly dangerous in T20 cricket, where matchups and momentum swings can define outcomes.

Looking ahead, New Zealand's schedule offers a mix of challenging opponents and opportunities to build confidence. If they continue executing their plans effectively and key players maintain form, the Black Caps are well placed to finish among the top contenders and potentially surprise even the most favoured teams.

For fans and neutrals alike, New Zealand's blend of talent, balance and tactical intelligence makes them one of the most compelling teams to watch in this year's T20 World Cup.

Pat Cummins Confirms When Josh Hazlewood Is Likely to Return in T20 World Cup 2026

Australia's pace spearhead Josh Hazlewood is expected to make a return to action during the T20 World Cup 2026, according to captain Pat Cummins. Hazlewood, who missed the early part of the tournament due to a nagging injury, has been progressing well in his recovery, and team management now anticipates his reintegration into the playing XI in the coming days.

Hazlewood's absence was felt by the Australian bowling unit in the opening matches, as the team looked to deploy other seam options to fill the void. Known for his metro-nomic accuracy and ability to bowl tight lines in all phases of the game, Hazlewood brings a disciplined edge to Australia's bowling attack — especially at the backend of innings, where batters often look to accelerate.

Speaking at a team update, Cummins highlighted that Hazlewood has been training on the sidelines and "responding posi-



tively" to conditioning sessions. The skipper noted that while the team remains cautious not to rush the pacer back too early, the goal is to have him available for what could be crucial middle matches in Australia's group stage schedule. Cummins also emphasised that Hazlewood's experience and calming presence in the bowling

group will be valuable as the tournament pressure escalates.

Australia's management has been balancing workload carefully, especially given the compressed nature of the World Cup schedule. With multiple fixtures in quick succession, fitness and freshness have become key talking points for all sides. Hazlewood's phased

return is part of a broader strategy to ensure that the team fields its best possible combination at the business end of the competition.

The news will be welcomed by fans and teammates alike, given Hazlewood's consistent performance in international T20 cricket and his role in Australia's success across formats. His ability

to execute yorkers at will, maintain consistency in challenging conditions and hold nerves under pressure adds depth and balance to the bowling unit.

Australia's pace attack has shouldered responsibility through the early phase of the World Cup, with Cummins himself leading from the front. However, the possible arrival of Hazlewood is seen as a timely boost — a development that could lift morale and further sharpen Australia's bowling resources ahead of tougher encounters.

As Australia eyes a deep run in the tournament, Hazlewood's return could provide the finishing touch that enhances their overall competitiveness. With each injury update, Cummins and the support staff have reiterated a cautious but optimistic outlook, suggesting that fans may soon see one of the most experienced campaigners back in action for the green and gold.

What It Really Means If Pakistan Refuses to Play India at the T20 World Cup



The controversy around Pakistan's announced boycott of their T20 World Cup group match against India has thrown one of cricket's most anticipated fixtures into uncharted territory. With political tensions spilling onto the sport's biggest stage, the possibility that Pakistan may not take the field against India carries significant sporting, strategic and financial consequences for the tournament and the teams involved.

If Pakistan sticks to its stance and refuses to take the field on match day, the outcome is clear under the International Cricket Council's (ICC) playing conditions. In that scenario, the match will be officially forfeited, and India will be awarded two points, while Pakistan will receive none. For a World Cup group where net run rate can be crucial for advancing to the next stage, the defeat on paper could hurt Pakistan's chances of progressing beyond the first round. A loss like this not only costs points but also harms their net run rate — a tiebreaker that often plays a decisive role in closely packed groups.

There is a narrow alternative: if India were not to show up at the venue at the scheduled time, the game would be considered cancelled rather than forfeited, and the points would be shared. However, with the Indian team committed to travelling and preparing as per protocol, a no

show by Pakistan would count as a forfeit under tournament rules.

Pakistan's cricket board and government have hinted that they might argue a force majeure exemption — a legal clause typically invoked for unforeseen and unavoidable events. But sporting authorities view political objections alone as unlikely to qualify, since force majeure normally applies to genuine safety risks or natural disasters, not disagreements over policy or scheduling.

Beyond the immediate sporting fallout, there are broader implications. A forfeited match disrupts the competitive balance of the tournament and deprives fans of a marquee clash that draws massive global viewership. The historic India Pakistan fixture is among the most watched in cricket, generating significant economic activity through broadcasters, sponsors and advertising. Its absence will not only affect those revenues but could also lead to discussions about sanctions or penalties for non-compliance with tournament obligations.

In short, refusal to play would hand India an uncontested victory, dent Pakistan's campaign prospects and place the spotlight firmly on how politics and sport intersect at the highest levels of international cricket — with consequences that could resonate far beyond the points table.

Report Links Pakistan's T20 World Cup Boycott Drama to Bangladesh Elections



With just days to go before the start of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, Pakistan's controversial stance on its scheduled match against India has taken an unexpected political twist in recent reports. What began as a sporting dispute now appears intertwined with broader regional political developments — particularly the impending general elections in Bangladesh.

Pakistan had announced that its team would boycott the high profile group match against India, scheduled for February 15 in Colombo. Although the team is set to participate in the rest of the tournament, the decision to skip only the India fixture has caused widespread debate and confusion among cricket fans and commentators. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has not formally explained its reasons to the International Cricket Council (ICC), leaving a gap filled by speculation in media and political circles.

A recent report suggests that the PCB's controversial decision may be influenced by the timing of the national elections in Bangladesh, slated to take place on February 12 — just three days before the India match. Sources quoted in the report believe that the PCB Chairman, who also holds a government portfolio, might be using the boycott announcement to score political points ahead of the Bangladesh election results. The idea is that a perceived show of solidarity with Bangladesh could

resonate with certain political factions once the elections conclude.

Under this theory, the PCB's current stance might not be final. If a new government comes into power in Dhaka following the elections, Islamabad could potentially reconsider its boycott decision in the days leading up to the India game. There are still two days between the Bangladesh poll and the scheduled match date — a window for possible diplomatic recalibration. This has led some observers to speculate that Pakistan could perform a dramatic reversal, especially if political imperatives shift after the election outcome.

Meanwhile, the ICC has weighed in on the situation, urging the PCB to seek a mutually acceptable resolution. The governing body warned that selective participation — picking only certain matches to play — runs counter to the spirit of a global sporting event, where all qualified teams are expected to compete on equal terms.

The controversy has also reignited debates about the intersection of politics and sport. Critics argue that tying cricket decisions to political developments detracts from the integrity of competition and sets a troubling precedent for future international tournaments. With the Bangladesh elections just around the corner, all eyes will be on Islamabad to see whether political winds will influence Pakistan's final decision on its most anticipated cricket fixture.

Telugu Action Drama "One by Four (One/4)" Celebrates Success Despite Promotional Setbacks



The recently released Telugu action crime drama One by Four (One/4), produced under the banners of Tejas Gunjal Films and Rohit Gunjal Films, has been embraced by audiences across all sections, emerging as a commercial success. The film, starring Venkatesh Peddapalem, Aparna Mallik, and Heena Soni in lead roles, was directed by Bahubali Palani K, who previously worked as an associate director on the blockbuster Baahubali.

A success meet was held at the Hyderabad Film Chamber, where the cast and crew reflected on the film's journey and its reception. Director Bahubali Palani K lauded the audience for the strong response, saying, "Collections are good in every theatre. Once again, viewers proved that if the content is strong, even a small film can achieve big success." He praised lead actor Venkatesh for his performance and action se-

quences and highlighted the dedication of producers Ranjana Rajesh Gunjal and Rohit Ramdas Gunjal, who ventured into Tollywood from Mumbai.

However, both the director and producers expressed disappointment over the absence of the heroines during promotional activities. Bahubali Palani K remarked, "Some actors who initially come seeking opportunities do not show up during promotions. They should at least promote the film with gratitude." Producer Ranjana Gunjal echoed these sentiments, adding, "Despite providing all facilities, their absence caused losses to the film. It is better to encourage and cast Telugu girls rather than relying on North Indian heroines."

Co-producer Rohit Gunjal emphasized that the strong content resonated with audiences and contributed to the film's success, but the promotional support from the cast could have amplified

its reach further. Lead actor Venkatesh Peddapalem also stressed the collective hard work that went into the project, noting that while release hurdles were overcome, promotional efforts were hampered by the heroines' absence.

The film, praised for its gripping storyline and thought-provoking portrayal of a woman facing blackmail, features a robust supporting cast including Temper Vamsi, RX100 Karan, Narendra Varma, Madhusudhan Rao, and Sunitha Manohar, among others. Technical contributions include music by Subhash Anand, cinematography by Guna Shekhar, choreography by Sagar Veluru, and stunt sequences led by Kung Fu Chandra and Joshua.

One by Four (One/4) stands as a testament to the power of strong content, proving that even small films can achieve big success when storytelling resonates with audiences.

Telugu Film 'Winter' Launches with Grand Pooja Ceremony



The much-anticipated Telugu film Winter was officially launched with a grand traditional pooja ceremony, marking the commencement of its production. The project is a joint venture of Crescent Cinemas and TSR Makers and promises to be an engaging drama based on real-life incidents that took place in Kashmir.

The film features a talented ensemble cast including Ram, Aadhitya Suraj Singh, Kusuma Chandhaka, Shashikala, and Srijitaa Ghosh in lead roles. Adding to the excitement, Rizwan Ali will make his debut as the antagonist. The film is produced by Riyaz Ahmed and T. Srinivas Rao, who expressed confidence that Winter will captivate audiences with its gripping storyline and realistic portrayal of events.

Renowned filmmaker Suresh Lankalapalli, who received critical acclaim for his previous work Racharikam, is handling the story, screenplay, and direction for Winter. Speaking

about the film, sources close to the team stated that Lankalapalli aims to blend intense drama with authentic storytelling, creating a cinematic experience that resonates with viewers while remaining true to the real-life incidents that inspired the narrative.

The pooja ceremony was attended by the full team, with rituals conducted to seek blessings for the film's success and a smooth, obstacle-free production. Industry insiders noted that the event reflected both the grandeur and the cultural significance of such launches in Telugu cinema, with the team showing enthusiasm and commitment to bringing the project to life.

While the lead cast has been revealed, the makers confirmed that additional members of the cast and technical crew will be announced in the coming weeks. The production promises high-quality storytelling supported by a dedicated team, including professional oversight in direction, cinematography,

and production design, though specific technical details are yet to be disclosed.

Winter is already generating buzz in industry circles due to its strong storyline, real-life inspiration, and a promising cast. Both producers Riyaz Ahmed and T. Srinivas Rao emphasized that their focus is on delivering a film that combines entertainment with meaningful content, aiming to leave a lasting impact on audiences.

With its official launch complete, Winter is now set to move into full-scale production, promising viewers an intriguing and compelling cinematic experience when it eventually hits theatres.

Cast: Ram, Aadhitya Suraj Singh, Kusuma Chandhaka, Shashikala, Srijitaa Ghosh, Rizwan Ali, and others

Technical Crew: Banners - Crescent Cinemas, TSR Makers; Producers - Riyaz Ahmed, T. Srinivas Rao; Story, Screenplay & Direction - Suresh Lankalapalli; PRO - Sai Satish.

Santosh Shobhan: 'Couple Friendly Will Be a Memorable Film in My Career'

The trailer of the upcoming bilingual romantic musical Couple Friendly was launched today in Hyderabad, setting the stage for its Valentine's Day release on February 14. Starring Santosh Shobhan and Manasa Varanasi in the lead roles, the film is presented by the reputed production house UV Creations and produced under UV Concepts, with co-production by Ajay Kumar Raju P. The film is directed by Ashwin Chandrasekhar and is being made on a grand scale in both Telugu and Tamil.

During the trailer launch, Santosh Shobhan expressed his excitement about the film, calling it one of the most memorable projects of his career. He shared, "UV Creations feels like family. Every film under this banner feels personal. 'Couple Friendly' is made with genuine intention and honesty. My character Shiva has a journey, and I appear in three different looks. These characters will make you laugh, move you emotionally, and even bring tears at times."

Manasa Varanasi, who plays Mithra, praised the depth of her character and the authenticity of the film's Chennai backdrop. "I connected deeply with Mithra on a personal level. The film is like a roller-coaster ride—a fresh, youthful love story shot guerrilla-style across Chennai. Santosh Shobhan's dedication inspired me throughout the



shoot," she said. The film's music, composed by Aditya Ravindran, has already delivered chartbuster songs, adding to the anticipation.

Director Ashwin Chandrasekhar emphasized the sincerity behind the project. "Santosh watched my short films and immediately agreed to do this project. The city of Chennai itself is treated as an important character in the story. I'm confident that audiences will feel the honesty behind this film," he remarked.

Producer and distributor Dheeraj Mogilineni, who is re-

leasing the film across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, praised the performances and storytelling. "Santosh Shobhan has delivered a mature performance, and Manasa Varanasi shines brilliantly. 'Couple Friendly' is a fresh take on love stories and will surely resonate with audiences," he said.

Co-producer Ajay Kumar added, "This is another beautiful love story from the UV banner. We trust Dheeraj garu completely for distributing the film across Telugu states."

Couple Friendly is set to entertain singles, couples, and family

audiences alike, promising a mix of laughter, emotion, and romance. The film's technical team includes DOP Dinesh Purushothaman, editor Ganesh Shiva, art director Michael BFA, and P R O GSK Media (Suresh-Sreenivas).

Cast: Santosh Shobhan, Manasa Varanasi, and others
Technical Team: Art Director - Michael BFA; Editor - Ganesh Shiva; DOP - Dinesh Purushothaman; Music Director - Aditya Ravindran; Executive Producer - S.S. Varma; Written & Directed - Ashwin Chandrasekhar.

Attitude Star Chandra Hass Promises Thrills in 'Barabar Premistha'; Pre-Release Event Celebrates Film



With its theatrical release just days away on February 6, Barabar Premistha, starring Attitude Star Chandra Hass, held a grand pre-release event on Sunday. The film, directed by Sampath Rudra and produced by Geda Chandu, Gayatri Chinny, and AVR under CC Creations and AVR Movie Wonders, also features Miss India finalist Meghna Mukherjee as the female lead and Arjun Mahi in a pivotal

antagonist role. The event was graced by industry veterans including director Jayanth C Paranjee, Aadi Saikumar, and actor JD Chakravarthy, alongside the film's cast and crew.

Chandra Hass expressed his excitement about the film, saying, "This film will not bore the audience even for a second. With countless and unimaginable twists, it will keep viewers glued from start to finish. Di-

rector Sampath has made this film beautifully and presented me really well. I hope audiences watch and support Barabar Premistha on February 6." He also credited his father, Prabhakar, and the producers for supporting the project without compromises.

Aadi Saikumar, who has worked with Chandra Hass' father in the past, praised the lead actor's dedication. "I've seen how hard Chandra

Hass works with complete honesty. I sincerely wish him a big hit and hope Barabar Premistha becomes a major turning point in his career," he said.

Noted director Jayanth C Paranjee described the film as a perfect match for Chandra Hass' persona. "The title itself reflects attitude, confidence, and swagger, just like Chandra Hass. Sampath has directed the film wonderfully, and the songs by Dhruvan are excellent. I strongly believe this film will be a big hit," he added.

The pre-release event also featured remarks from Meghna Mukherjee, Arjun Mahi, music director RR Dhruvan, and producers Chandu, Chinny, and Venky, who thanked the cast, crew, and audience for their support. Director Sampath Rudra highlighted the unique Telangana backdrop and promised a shocking climax that will leave audiences talking.

Barabar Premistha boasts a talented techni-

cal team including cinematographer YR Shekhar, editor Bonthala Nageswara Reddy, dialogue writer Ramesh Roy, and screenplay co-written by Sampath Rudra and MA Tirupati. With its engaging storyline, strong performances, and thrilling twists, the film aims to captivate Telugu audiences across theaters.

Cast: Attitude Star Chandra Hass, Meghna Mukherjee, Arjun Mahi, Muralidhar Goud, Lakshman Meesala, Madhunanand, Abhay Naveen, and others

Technical Crew: Banner - CC Creations, AVR Movie Wonders; Producers - Geda Chandu, Gayatri Chinny, AVR; Director - Sampath Rudra; Screenplay - Sampath Rudra, MA Tirupati; Story - MA Tirupati; Dialogues - Ramesh Roy; Cinematography - YR Shekhar; Music - RR Dhruvan; Editor - Bonthala Nageswara Reddy; PRO - Sai Satish.

Kayadu Lohar Returns to Malayalam Cinema; New Poster of 'Pallichattambi' Released

Malayalam cinema audiences are set to welcome back actress Kayadu Lohar with the upcoming film Pallichattambi, as the makers unveiled a striking new poster featuring her in a single-character look. The poster also confirms the film's worldwide theatrical release date of April 9. Pallichattambi is being launched in five languages, including Malayalam, and has already generated considerable buzz among South Indian cinema fans.

Kayadu Lohar's casting as the female lead was earlier announced through a video that drew significant attention online. Kayadu, who won hearts with her performance in the Tamil blockbuster Dragon, is expected to bring a strong presence to Pallichattambi. The film pairs her with Mollywood superstar Tovino Thomas, who reportedly appears in a

look unlike anything he has portrayed before.

Produced jointly by Noufal and Brijesh under the banner of Worldwide Films, along with Chanukya, Chaitanya, and Charan of C Qube Bros Entertainment, Pallichattambi is a period drama set in the 1950s-60s. The screenplay has been penned by S. Suresh Babu. Apart from Kayadu Lohar, the film features an ensemble cast including Vijay Raghavan, Sudheer Karamana, Baburaj, Vinod Kedamangalam, Prashanth Alex, and several other prominent actors, promising a layered and engaging narrative.

The technical team of Pallichattambi includes Tijo Tomy as cinematographer and Mollywood music sensation Jakes Bejoy composing the soundtrack. Megha Shyam and Thanseer serve as co-producers, while costume design is handled by Manjusha Rad-

hakrishnan and makeup by Rasheed Ahmed. Renith Raj and Kiran Raphael are chief associate directors, with Rajesh Menon overseeing both art direction and production control. Sound design is by Sync Cinema, casting by Binoy Nambala, digital marketing by Akhil Vishnu V.S., and PR by Akshay Prakash. Stills photography is by Rishlal Unnikrishnan, and the poster design is credited to Yellowtooths.

Set against a backdrop of mid-20th-century Kerala, Pallichattambi aims to combine historical authenticity with cinematic spectacle, highlighting the drama, struggles, and dynamics of the era. The latest poster, showcasing Kayadu Lohar's role, has already captivated fans and heightened anticipation for the film's release.

With a strong cast, experienced crew, and a period drama premise, Pal-



lichattambi is positioned to be one of the notable Malayalam releases of

2026, marking Kayadu Lohar's much-awaited return to the industry.