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Chandrababu Pawan Kalyan Meeting Concludes Amid Strategic Talks on AP Politics



Amaravati, February 4, 2026 | TPN Bureau:

A key political meeting between Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan concluded on Wednesday after extensive discussions on current political developments and strategic priorities for the state government. The meeting at the CM's residence in Undavalli lasted several hours and covered a wide range of issues, including coalition coordination, upcoming elections, and organizational priorities. The leaders focused primarily on strengthening the alliance be-

tween the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Jana Sena Party (JSP) within the state's ruling coalition. With the political landscape in Andhra Pradesh evolving ahead of local body elections and other key polls, both Chandrababu Naidu and Pawan Kalyan deliberated on joint strategies for political outreach and coordination among coalition partners. High on the agenda was also the division of responsibilities among coalition partners and planning for senior roles in the government structure. Officials indicated that discussions included how best to balance administrative duties and strengthen cooperation amidst changing political dynamics. The meeting also ad-

ressed opposition narratives and political challenges, including recent controversies that have drawn criticism from rival parties. The leaders stressed the importance of clear communication to the public and unified responses to opposition claims, ensuring governance remains focused on service delivery and transparency. Political analysts note that the meeting signals a concerted effort by the TDP JSP alliance to consolidate its position in Andhra Pradesh. By enhancing cooperation and aligning on key governance priorities, Chandrababu Naidu and Pawan Kalyan aim to present a cohesive front on both administrative matters and electoral strategies.

Jana Sena emphasized its intent to remain an active stakeholder in state issues, asserting a broader vision for political engagement. Meanwhile, TDP leaders reiterated their commitment to strengthen coalition ties and amplify governance initiatives that resonate with voters across diverse constituencies. Observers say this session comes at a politically sensitive time, as the alliance positions itself to tackle governance challenges while preparing for future electoral contests. The concluding meeting underscores ongoing efforts to balance coalition unity with effective governance in Andhra Pradesh's evolving political landscape.



YS Jagan Warns Ruling Party, Says YSRCP Will Return to Power with Interest

Amaravati, Feb 4, 2026 | TPN Bureau:

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy issued a forceful warning on Wednesday, asserting that his party will return to power in the state and make the current government pay "with interest" for what he described as injustices and political vendettas. Addressing the media during his visit to Guntur, Jagan reacted strongly to recent incidents involving party leaders and workers, including the attack on former minister Ambati Rambabu's residence and alleged harassment of YSRCP cadres. He accused the ruling coalition, led by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, of misusing law enforcement and using false cases to target his party's leaders and supporters. Jagan said that Ambati Rambabu, a senior leader from the Kapu community, is a

respected figure and claimed that the manner in which he was allegedly beaten and the vandalism of his property were unacceptable acts of political persecution. He questioned why strict action was not taken against those who allegedly destroyed property, and highlighted what he said were cases of double standards in policing. Asserting that his party's government will return to power within three years, Jagan warned the ruling coalition that it would be held accountable for its actions. "We will not only come back; we will make them pay with interest for all the wrongs done," he declared, urging the ruling leadership to reconsider its approach before it was too late. Jagan also cautioned against sowing "toxic seeds" of division and hostility in society, urging political opponents to stop actions that, he said, harm public harmony and democratic norms. He stated that if such incidents con-

tinued, his party would not hesitate to call for statewide protests or even bandh to oppose what it sees as misuse of power. The YSRCP leader spoke at length about law and order issues, alleging that the current government's actions amount to a form of "jungle raj" and that political vendettas have taken precedence over governance. He claimed that those responsible for attacks on his party workers were not being punished fairly, and that the administration was protecting political interests rather than upholding justice. Jagan's remarks reflect ongoing tensions between the YSRCP and the ruling coalition, with opposition leaders increasingly vocal about alleged injustices and setbacks faced by their party members. The warning is likely to intensify political debate in the state as the next elections approach, setting the stage for a heated contest between major political forces.

Kilaru Rajesh in the Race for Rajya Sabha?

Amaravati, February 1, 2026 | TPN Bureau: Kilaru Rajesh, a relatively unknown name among the general public, is quietly gaining attention in political circles as a potential candidate for one of the vacant Rajya Sabha seats from Andhra Pradesh. Rajesh first came into the limelight as a classmate and close associate of Lokesh during their school days at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. Over the years, he has steadily risen through the ranks of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), playing key roles behind the scenes. Party insiders note that wherever Lokesh undertook a program or the party faced a challenge, Rajesh was always at the forefront, ensuring smooth execution and organization. Though Rajesh completed his Master's degree abroad, he has worked exclusively within the TDP since joining in 2012. His contribution became more widely recognized during the inquiry into the Skill Development Scam, which involved Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, when his name surfaced in media reports and political discussions. Despite his crucial role, Rajesh is known for staying away from public limelight. Party circles describe him as someone who manages everything from behind the scenes, quietly executing responsibilities without seeking personal credit. "He never responds to allegations or

criticisms and focuses solely on completing the tasks assigned by the party," insiders said. Now, however, Rajesh may finally step into the public eye. With four Rajya Sabha seats from Andhra Pradesh set to fall vacant, his name has reportedly emerged as a strong contender for one of them. Party sources suggest that TDP high command is likely to reward his loyalty and years of silent service

with this opportunity. Rajesh's ascent also reflects the broader trend in TDP's strategy of giving opportunities to members who have been with Lokesh and the party from early days, particularly in the youth and organizational wings. Those familiar with party dynamics note that Rajesh's disciplined approach and ability to remain unflustered by criticism have made him an indispensa-

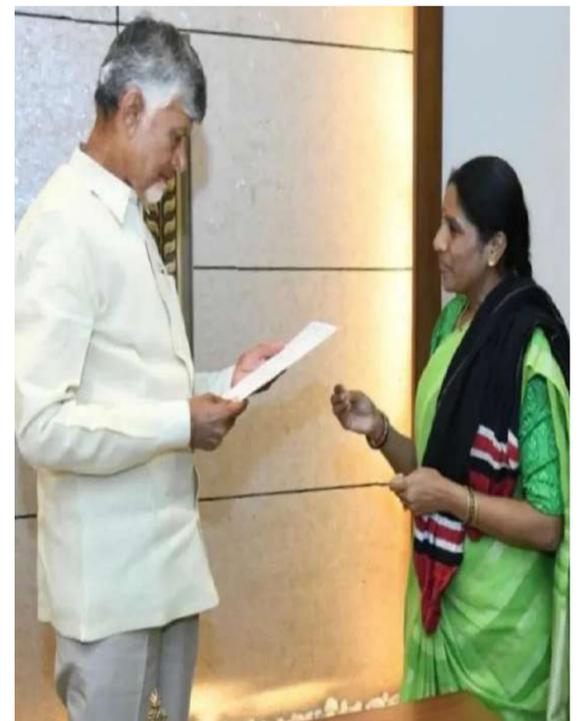
ble part of the party machinery. Whether Kilaru Rajesh will secure a Rajya Sabha seat remains uncertain, but political observers say his chances are strong, given his long-standing service and loyalty. In the coming days, the TDP high command's decision will determine whether this silent strategist finally steps into the national legislative arena.



Gaddar's Daughter Vennela Meets AP CM Chandrababu to Seek Tribute for Revolutionary Poet

Amaravati, Feb 4, 2026 | TPN Bureau:

FiVennela Gaddar, daughter of renowned revolutionary poet and folk singer Gaddar, met Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday to discuss proposals aimed at commemorating her father's legacy. The meeting, held at the Chief Minister's office, focused on initiatives to honour Gaddar's contributions to Telugu culture and social movements. During the meeting, Vennela submitted a formal request seeking approval for the installation of a statue of Gaddar in a prominent location in the state. She also proposed renaming the Arts and Culture block at Andhra University in his honour. Vennela explained that these steps would serve as a lasting tribute to her father's role in promoting folk arts, literature, and social awareness through his poetry and performances. Vennela highlighted Gaddar's influence on successive generations of artists and activists, emphasizing that his work reflected the struggles and aspirations of the common people. She said that memorialising him would not only preserve his legacy but also inspire students, scholars, and the public to engage with the cultural and social values he championed. The Chief Minister welcomed Vennela and listened attentively to her proposals, acknowledging the importance of recognising figures who have made significant cultural and social contributions. Chandrababu reportedly assured her that the government would give serious consideration to her requests and examine ways to appropriately honour Gaddar's memory. Vennela expressed optimism



following the meeting, stating that she was hopeful that the government would take concrete steps to implement her proposals. She noted that the recognition of Gaddar's work would resonate with people across Andhra Pradesh, especially in promoting awareness of folk traditions and revolutionary literature. The meeting is being seen as a significant gesture by the state government to engage with families of influential cultural figures, highlighting the administration's interest in preserving and promoting Andhra Pradesh's rich artistic and literary heritage. Cultural observers said that

acknowledging Gaddar's contributions through memorials and institutional renaming would strengthen public appreciation for folk arts while providing a platform for educational initiatives. The move could also encourage similar steps to recognise other artists, writers, and cultural leaders who have played a transformative role in society. Vennela, who continues her father's work in cultural and political spheres, expressed her hope that the state would take timely action and create meaningful tributes that reflect Gaddar's enduring legacy in Telugu culture and people's movements.

BEE Urges States to Accelerate Energy Efficiency

Vijayawada, 04 February 2026 | TPN Bureau
The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), under the Ministry of Power, has called on State Designated Agencies (SDAs) across India to adopt advanced global technologies to drive energy efficiency, reduce costs, and support sustainable economic growth.

Krushna Chandra Panigrahy, the newly appointed Director General of BEE, highlighted India's energy efficiency success stories at India Energy Week (IEW) 2026 in Goa, a global platform hosting experts, industry leaders, and policymakers from over 120 countries.

"Time-bound action plans must be strictly implemented to fast-track energy efficiency across sectors, generate employment, and address climate change," Panigrahy said.

BEE's 2023-24 Performance Report showcased record achievements, including electricity savings of 321.39 billion units, conservation of 53.6 million tonnes of oil equivalent, monetary savings exceeding 2 lakh crore, and a reduction of 321.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions—among the highest in recent years.

Panigrahy urged states to deploy cutting-edge technologies such



KC Panigrahy the Director General of BEE is enquiring about the feedback & impact on the Geo thermal & Heating Pump Latest Global Technology of EESL from its technical expert in IEW2026, Goa.

as artificial intelligence and machine learning-based energy management systems, smart grids, high-efficiency lighting and HVAC systems, renewable energy integration, and energy-efficient motors and pumps in the industrial sector. In agriculture, he highlighted solar-powered irrigation, micro-irrigation systems, and efficient pumps, noting initiatives like PM-KUSUM that are transforming rural energy consumption.

For urban infrastructure and buildings, he recommended smart building designs, high-performance insulation, green construction materials, automation

systems, and integrated renewable energy solutions to deliver reliable, cost-effective energy while reducing stress on power grids.

During his visit to the BEE and Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) pavilion at IEW, Panigrahy reviewed advanced technologies including geothermal and heat pump solutions, reaffirming EESL's commitment to delivering innovative, affordable, and scalable clean energy solutions.

He commended proactive states such as Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Odisha,

Kerala, Karnataka, and Telangana for leading energy efficiency efforts. Highlighting Andhra Pradesh's landmark MoU with EESL under the PMAY Central Scheme, Panigrahy noted that beneficiaries now have access to BEE star-rated energy-efficient appliances, helping households reduce electricity bills while saving energy. Panigrahy described such initiatives as exemplary models of Centre-State cooperation, emphasizing that empowering citizens to participate actively in energy conservation is key to advancing India's sustainable development and climate action goals.

Atchannaidu Welcomes Zero Excise Duty on Unbranded Raw Tobacco

Amaravati, 04 February 2026 | TPN Bureau
The Andhra Pradesh government has welcomed the central government's recent decision to reduce excise duty on unbranded raw tobacco products to zero, calling it a significant relief for tobacco farmers and small traders across the state.

State Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu said the move would directly benefit farmers and bring clarity to taxation policies that were previously ambiguous.

Under the new notification, raw tobacco falling under HS Code 2401, which is not packed for retail sale, will no longer attract any excise duty. Minister Atchannaidu explained that in

the past, unclear guidelines regarding excise on bulk tobacco and unbranded products had created difficulties for both producers and traders. This notification now removes those hurdles and ensures transparency and fairness in the system.

However, he clarified that branded, pre-packaged tobacco products will continue to be taxed at 18% excise duty. "This distinction ensures that while farmers and small traders gain direct benefits, the government revenue from branded products remains protected," the minister added.

According to Minister Atchannaidu, this step will help farmers obtain better prices for their raw tobacco, as

the removal of excise duty on bulk, unbranded products reduces production costs and improves profit margins. "It is a clear win for the agriculture sector, particularly for small-scale farmers and traders who were previously burdened by confusing regulations," he said.

The minister also noted that the new guidelines would prevent misuse by stopping unbranded raw tobacco from being misrepresented as branded products. This, he added, will strengthen the integrity of the tobacco supply chain and ensure fair trade practices.

Speaking on the broader impact, Atchannaidu said the zero-duty decision will provide relief to the raw

tobacco supply system without affecting government revenue, while also enhancing transparency in the taxation process. "Farmers will directly benefit from these changes and gain the opportunity for better returns," he said.

The notification has been issued by the Public Relations Office of the Agriculture, Cooperation, Marketing, Animal Husbandry, and Fisheries Departments. Minister Atchannaidu called on stakeholders to implement the notification efficiently, emphasizing that this decision reflects the government's commitment to supporting farmers, promoting fair trade, and ensuring sustainable growth in the agriculture sector.

Atchannaidu Urges Additional Funds for Agriculture and Allied Sectors

Amaravati, 04 February 2026 | TPN Bureau
Ahead of the upcoming Andhra Pradesh Assembly session for the 2026-27 financial year, State Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu met with Finance Minister Pyyavula Keshav to discuss budget allocations aimed at strengthening the state's agriculture and allied sectors.

During the meeting, Minister Atchannaidu emphasized the need to provide robust support to farmers by allocating additional funds to the agriculture and allied departments. He highlighted the importance of boosting farm income, enhancing agricultural productivity, adopting modern technologies, and expanding the livestock and allied sectors.

The minister also stressed the need to promote agro-industries and ensure comprehensive development across rural and farming communities.

Atchannaidu requested that the upcoming



state budget give special priority to key initiatives, including infrastructure development, construction of office buildings, and implementation of ongoing and proposed projects under the agriculture and allied departments. He emphasized that these allocations would not only strengthen the agricultural supply chain

but also improve overall efficiency and productivity in the sector.

The minister called for specific focus on programs that could increase farmers' incomes, enhance farm productivity, and modernize practices through technological adoption. He also highlighted the need to support animal husbandry and allied sectors through budgetary provisions that could enable expansion and better services for rural communities.

Responding positively, Finance Minister Pyyavula Keshav assured that the coalition government places full priority on farmer welfare and the development of agriculture and allied sectors. He confirmed that necessary measures would be taken to ensure adequate budgetary allocations for these areas in the upcoming state budget. The meeting reflects the state government's continued commitment to strengthening agriculture, supporting farmers, and promoting sustainable growth in allied sectors. By proactively planning additional funding and resources, the government aims to create a comprehensive framework for rural development, enhance farm productivity, and modernize the agriculture and animal husbandry sectors in Andhra Pradesh.

Mohan Babu University Faces Calls for Blacklisting Amid Student Protests

Amaravati, February 4 | TPN Bureau
Left parties have demanded that Mohan Babu University be blacklisted, strongly condemning the alleged assault and abduction of student leaders who were protesting against what they described as rampant fee exploitation by the private university in Tirupati district.

In a joint statement, CPI(M) state secretary V. Srinivasa Rao and CPI state secretary Gujjula Eswarayya said it was shocking that university bouncers allegedly attacked and forcibly abducted leaders of student organisations who were participating in a peaceful protest. They asserted that such actions were unconstitutional and reflected the "lawless functioning" of the university management.

The Left leaders pointed out that the Higher Education Regulatory and Monitoring Commission had already established that Mohan Babu University was collecting excessive fees from students and had directed the management to refund the excess amounts. However, they alleged that the exploitation continued unabated despite regulatory intervention. They demanded that the state government immediately blacklist the university and take stringent action against those responsible for the violence.

According to the statement, several student organisations, including AISE, SFI and NSUI, had called for a peaceful



demonstration at the Tirupati Collectorate to protest against the alleged fee irregularities. During this protest, university bouncers and alleged hired goons reportedly assaulted SFI district secretary Akbar and district leader Vinod and forcibly took them away in a car. The Left parties termed the incident a serious threat to democratic rights and student activism.

Meanwhile, the Students' Federation of India (SFI) described the intimidation and abduction of its leaders as "barbaric acts." SFI state president Ram Mohan and state secretary

Prasanna Kumar demanded the registration of criminal cases against the university management. They said letters had been sent to High Court Chief Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur, Governor Abdul Nazeer and IT and Education Minister Nara Lokesh, seeking immediate intervention into the alleged harassment of students.

The SFI also demanded the cancellation of the university's recognition, alleging widespread irregularities. It announced a call for statewide protests on Wednesday, including the burning of effigies of Mohan Babu Univer-

sity management, to highlight student grievances. The organisation alleged that the university was illegally collecting mess fees ranging from 17,000 to 20,000 from day scholars and marking students absent if they failed to pay. It further claimed that around 60 students from the Computer Science Engineering department had already faced attendance suspension. Additionally, it accused the management of collecting 40,000 per student under the pretext of placement training fees.

Adding to the chorus of criticism, the Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) demanded immediate action against the university. DYFI state president Y. Ramu and state secretary G. Ramanna said institutions that had become "centres of irregularities" should have their recognition withdrawn. They stressed that harassing students who were unable to pay high fees was unjust and unacceptable, and called upon the government to protect students' rights and ensure accountability.



Minister Kollu Ravindra Slams Jagan Reddy Over Tirumala Laddu Controversy

Anakapalli, Feb 4, 2026 | TPN Bureau:
Andhra Pradesh Minister for Mines and Excise Kollu Ravindra on Wednesday strongly criticized former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, alleging that the Tirumala Tirupati laddu prasadam had been adulterated during his tenure and that the sanctity of the temple was compromised. Speaking to the media at the TDP office in Anakapalli, the minister said that the previous five years of Jagan's rule had been marked by corruption and mismanagement across the state.

Minister Ravindra cited findings from investigation agencies and the Special Investigation Team (SIT) appointed by the Supreme Court, which, he said, clearly confirmed irregularities in the preparation of the laddu prasadam. According to the SIT report, companies named Bole Baba and Vaishnavi, which supplied ghee for the prasadam, had allegedly supplied little to no actual ghee. The committee also found that government regulations on procurement had been altered for selfish mo-



tives, including reducing experience requirements, waiving milk purchase norms, and lowering turnover thresholds from 250 crore to 150 crore. Key officials involved in these decisions, including Chevireddy Bhaskar Reddy and Bhooman Karunakar Reddy, were reportedly present in approval meetings where tenders were finalized without proper scientific scrutiny.

The Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI) reportedly confirmed that no pure ghee was supplied, and that adulterated blends including palm oil were used along with chemicals like lactic acid and mono-lactic acid. The SIT named Balaji, Dharmareddy, and EO Anil Kumar Singhal as key conspir-

ators, and evidence suggested that the chairman allegedly charged 25 per kilogram, with part of the money deposited in personal accounts or transferred through hawala channels.

Minister Ravindra said that despite clear evidence of adulteration, YSRCP leaders were shamelessly denying wrongdoing. "The people are observing the lies used to cover this great sin. Jagan Reddy lacks faith in Swamy and has no respect for Hindu sentiments, which is why he failed to issue the necessary declarations. Even global dignitaries and presidents were granted declarations to offer their respects at Tirumala, but Jagan Reddy, as Chief Minister, allowed irregularities," he said.

The minister also

condemned the social media campaigns and deliberate misinformation that, according to him, YSRCP leaders were spreading to confuse devotees and the public. Ravindra cited other examples of alleged misconduct during Jagan's tenure, including the desecration of temple structures, theft of ceremonial items, and attempts to profane religious events.

Kollu Ravindra warned that the government would take strict action against anyone found responsible for these irregularities and vowed to protect the sanctity of Tirumala Tirupati and all other temples in the state. "We will ensure that the sacredness of our temples is preserved and those who committed wrongdoings are held accountable," he said.

The statement reflects rising political tension in Andhra Pradesh as TDP leaders continue to hold Jagan accountable for allegations related to temple administration and religious practices, highlighting the intersection of politics, governance, and faith in the state.

Acchennaidu Slams Jagan's Guntur Visit as "Political Drama"

Guntur, Feb 4, 2026: Former Andhra Pradesh minister and senior TDP leader Kinjarapu Acchennaidu has strongly criticized Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's recent visit to Guntur, describing it as a theatrical exercise rather than a serious governance initiative.

Acchennaidu pointed out that Jagan, who reportedly aimed to meet local "Booth leaders," turned a routine 34-kilometer journey from Tadapalli to Guntur—a trip that should take about 30 minutes—into a nine-hour-long procession. "This is a failed attempt to salvage a sinking YSR Congress Party," he said, adding that the Chief Minister's visit resembled a TV serial rather than a public engagement rooted in administrative purpose.

The TDP leader said Jagan's conduct reflected the patterns of his earlier "Jungle Raj" governance, which, he claimed, had severely

eroded public trust. "The people of Andhra Pradesh, who witnessed his rule, reduced his party's tally from 151 seats to just 11," Acchennaidu said. He stressed that real public problems cannot be addressed on the roads but require discussion and action in the state Assembly.

Acchennaidu also condemned alleged YSRCP-linked violence in the region, including attacks on TDP offices and leaders' residences. "When our leaders visited homes demanding apologies for derogatory remarks made by local figures, YSRCP framed it as an attack. Police have filed 31 cases against our members, yet Jagan continues to provoke unrest in Guntur," he said.

Highlighting the chaotic traffic situation during the visit, Acchennaidu said Jagan repeatedly flouted traffic norms while posing for media coverage. He accused the Chief Minister of using the visit to



incite his party cadres and create a spectacle, rather than focusing on development. "He has previously visited individuals with criminal cases, showing sympathy instead of upholding law and order. Today, he is extending the same support to local 'Booth leaders,'" the minister

added.

Acchennaidu urged Jagan to direct his attention to constructive governance, especially with the upcoming Assembly session starting February 11. "If he truly wants to address public issues, he should attend the Assembly with his 11 MLAs and contribute to the state's develop-

ment, instead of provoking unrest on the streets," he said.

The TDP leader reiterated that Andhra Pradesh cannot afford political instability fueled by theatrics or aggressive posturing, emphasizing that governance must prioritize law, order, and development over personal theatrics.

Anakapalli District Collector Urges Completion of Family Survey and Literacy Initiatives

Anakapalli, Feb 4, 2026 | TPN Bureau:

Anakapalli District Collector Vijay Krishnan has directed officials to complete the ongoing Family Survey within the next two days, emphasizing its importance as a priority program for the district. The directives came during a video conference review with Mandal-level MPDOs on Wednesday, covering family surveys, the Akshara Andhra literacy program, and the EPTS data upload initiative.

During the meeting at the Collectorate, Vijay Krishnan stressed that the family survey must reach 100% completion by the deadline, noting that 72% of the survey had already been completed. He instructed officials to treat the survey as a



high-priority task and ensure full compliance within the stipulated timeframe.

Regarding the Akshara Andhra program, the Collector highlighted that 89,944 illiterate individuals in the district have been identified. Volunteers have been assigned to map and provide literacy training to these individuals,

with special examinations scheduled for March. He instructed the DRD, DWAMA, and SGSW departments to ensure that the necessary learning materials such as books, pencils, and other supplies are distributed and that literacy activities are conducted efficiently. Vijay Krishnan also instructed officials to ensure 100%

registration of volunteers across the district and stressed timely data entry into the EPTS website. He directed that documents issued and received by each office be uploaded daily to maintain accurate records and facilitate program monitoring. In addition, the Collector emphasized employee skill development, instructing staff to complete at least three to five capacity-building courses each month through the iGOT-Karma Yogi portal, aimed at improving administrative efficiency and overall service delivery. The video conference was attended by DRD-E and DWAMA program directors Sachi Devi and Poornima Devi, SGSW coordination officer S. Manjula Vani, Mandal-level MPDOs, as well as Mu-

nicipal Commissioners of Narsipatnam, Yelamanchili, and Anakapalli. The Collector engaged directly with officials from all mandals to review progress, identify bottlenecks, and ensure strict adherence to deadlines for all ongoing initiatives.

The directives underline the district administration's focus on completing the family survey, enhancing literacy among adults, and leveraging technology for efficient governance. Officials were reminded that timely action, proper mapping of illiterate individuals, and volunteer engagement are critical to achieving the state's development targets and ensuring community participation in governance programs.

TDP Leaders Lash Out at Jagan Over Condolences to Controversial Figures

Amaravati, Feb 4, 2026 | TPN Bureau:

Leaders of the ruling Telugu Desam Party (TDP) have strongly counter attacked YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing him of playing politics by offering condolences and support to controversial figures while neglecting public issues and democratic norms.

The criticism comes in the wake of Jagan's recent political activities in Guntur, where he visited former minister Ambati Rambabu and publicly expressed sympathy after an attack on his residence. TDP leaders described the visit as a staged publicity stunt rather than a sincere expression of concern.

Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Acchennaidu said Jagan's behavior was inappropriate, arguing that instead of addressing law and order or condemning violence, he was engaging in "drama" by sympathising

with individuals who have made offensive remarks in the past. Acchennaidu challenged Jagan to discuss public issues in the Assembly rather than embarking on roadshows, asserting that the former Chief Minister lacked public support and credibility.

Veteran TDP leader Varl Ramayya criticised Jagan's record over the past five years, claiming that his governance had created chaos and unrest in the state. Ramayya said it was ironic that Jagan now spoke about democracy and rights when, according to him, his tenure was marked by disorder. He also questioned the decision to treat controversial figures like Ambati Rambabu as "gentlemen," calling it laughable.

SCADAP Chairman Deepak Reddy also joined the attack, accusing Jagan of inconsistency and fear mongering. He ridiculed Jagan's leadership



style, comparing his small number of MLAs to a "cricket team" and daring him to attend the upcoming Assembly session with his 11 members and ask at least 11 questions. Deepak Reddy's remarks were aimed at highlighting what he described as Jagan's inability to meaningfully engage with legislative duties.

Former MLC Ashok Babu addressed the Tirupati laddu controversy, asserting that official reports did show irregularities in the

prasadam and challenging Jagan and his party to a public debate on the issue. He criticised what he called the YSRCP's attempt to dismiss technical evidence and accused its leaders of speaking without fully understanding the facts.

TDP leaders also pointed to past incidents of violence and unrest in the state, including attacks on party offices and leaders, and questioned why Jagan was now positioning himself as a defender of law and order.

They argued that such selective sympathy does little to address broader governance issues or restore public trust.

The counterattack from the TDP reflects growing political tension in Andhra Pradesh, where opposition leaders are increasingly vocal in challenging the YSRCP's narratives. As both parties step up criticism ahead of key political contests, these exchanges are likely to further shape public discourse and party strategies in the weeks ahead.

S Jagan Accuses Pawan Kalyan of False Propaganda, Slams Chandrababu Government



Amaravati, Feb 4, 2026 | TPN Bureau:

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy lashed out at Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday, accusing them of spreading false propaganda and engaging in irresponsible political tactics.

Addressing the media during a visit to Guntur, Jagan claimed that allegations made by Pawan Kalyan regarding the Tirumala laddu issue are baseless and politically motivated. He criticised both Pawan and Chandrababu for allegedly using misleading statements to influence public opinion without regard for religious sentiment and facts. Jagan asserted that politics should not be played without respect for faith and devotion, suggesting that both leaders lack

understanding of these values. He challenged their narrative by pointing out that official laboratory reports and investigation findings, including those submitted to higher authorities, found no evidence of the claimed contamination in the laddu prasadam.

The former Chief Minister argued that repeated misinformation and exaggerated claims are being used to divert attention from real issues facing the people of Andhra Pradesh. He urged Chandrababu, Pawan and other senior leaders to retract their statements and apologise for causing confusion and distress among devotees and citizens.

Jagan also touched upon broader political tensions in the state, claiming that attacks on his party members and leaders amount to a breakdown in law and order. He condemned

incidents of violence against YSRCP workers, questioning why strict action was not taken against those allegedly responsible. In his remarks, Jagan accused the ruling coalition of resorting to divisive tactics and questioned whether political leaders were prioritising personal agendas over social harmony and governance. He urged the government to focus on constructive public service rather than what he described as reckless political propaganda.

The strong criticism reflects ongoing political friction in Andhra Pradesh between the YSRCP and the ruling alliance, with both sides trading accusations ahead of upcoming electoral battles. Jagan reaffirmed his party's commitment to fighting misinformation and highlighted the need for responsible political discourse in the state's public life.

Key Coalition Meeting at Chandrababu's Residence Tomorrow

Amaravati, Feb 4, 2026 | TPN Bureau:

Andhra Pradesh's ruling coalition is set to convene a critical strategy meeting tomorrow at Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's residence in Undavalli. Scheduled for the morning of February 5, the session will bring together senior leaders of the coalition to deliberate on pressing political developments and chart a coordinated approach ahead of upcoming electoral and public engagements.

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and other prominent leaders from coalition partners are expected to attend. According to sources within the alliance, the discussions will focus on consolidating the coalition's position on key issues, including recent controversies that have stirred public debate, such as the Tirumala laddu dispute, which has become a central topic in state politics. Leaders aim to ensure a united narrative in response to criticism from opposition parties and to present a coherent policy and communication strategy to the public.

The agenda is expected to cover both immediate concerns and long-term electoral strategies. Coalition leaders are likely to review messaging for grassroots outreach, particularly in regions where political competition is intense. Ensuring alignment among partner parties

and strategizing on public engagement are seen as critical elements of the meeting. Officials indicate that the coalition intends to finalize a roadmap for upcoming campaigns, addressing both voter expectations and internal organizational coordination. Preliminary discussions between Chandrababu Naidu and Pawan Kalyan have reportedly set the stage for the formal meeting, highlighting the need for cohesion among alliance partners. The session is anticipated to address organizational challenges, refine priorities for future political activities, and ensure that leaders present a united front in both media statements and public interactions.

Political analysts note that the meeting comes at a time of heightened tensions in Andhra Pradesh, with opposition parties intensifying criticism and attempting to challenge the ruling coalition on multiple fronts. The Tirumala laddu issue, in particular, has drawn strong reactions and created an environment where coordinated responses are seen as essential to maintain credibility and voter confidence. The coalition is expected to discuss methods for handling controversies, engaging with key community groups, and mitigating the impact of any political missteps.

Another key focus of the meeting will be



preparation for upcoming local body elections and other political activities. Coalition leaders are likely to discuss strategies for maximizing outreach, ensuring smooth coordination among regional units, and addressing any disputes that may arise between partner parties. Observers suggest that this meeting could play a significant role in shaping the political narrative in the state over the next several months.

With the political landscape in Andhra Pradesh becoming increasingly competitive, tomorrow's coalition meeting at Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's residence is being viewed as a decisive step toward reinforcing unity, strengthening organizational efficiency, and formulating a comprehensive strategy to address both current controversies and future electoral challenges. The outcome of the meeting is expected to influence how the coalition manages public communication, internal coordination, and voter engagement in the coming months.

Kanna Lakshminarayana Inaugurates "Chai Rasta" Outlet in Sattenapalli

Sattenapalli, 04 February 2026 | TPN Bureau

Hon'ble MLA Sri Kanna Lakshminarayana inaugurated the "Chai Rasta" outlet at the Taluka Center in Sattenapalli, established by MEPMA Self-Help Group (SHG) women under the "One Family – One Entrepreneur" initiative.

During the event, the MLA purchased the first cup of tea and praised its taste, hygiene, and quality. He commended the innovative concept, developed with the support of IIM and IIT graduates, and

lauded MEPMA's efforts in creating sustainable income opportunities for women entrepreneurs. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Kanna Lakshminarayana said, "Initiatives like Chai Rasta not only provide women with stable monthly income but also uphold the dignity of livelihood. Empowering women in this way strengthens the socio-economic fabric of our society." The Chai Rasta model combines traditional skills with modern business practices to foster entrepreneurship among women. With support from



MEPMA, more outlets are planned across towns and cities in Andhra Pradesh, ensuring that women across the state benefit from a viable income opportunities.

Referring to the Hon'ble Chief Minister's vision of "One Family – One Entrepreneur," the MLA emphasized that the government is committed to ensuring that at least one entrepreneur emerges from every family, promoting self-reliance and financial empowerment.

During the program, MLA Lakshminarayana

also distributed tablets to two HRPs and handed over cheques under various government schemes: 4.85 crore to 28 SHGs under Bank Linkage, 2.00 crore to 100 SHG members under Mudra Yojana and Swayam Siddha schemes, and 37.75 lakh to street vendors under the PM SVANidhi scheme. The event was attended by MEPMA officials, Chai Rasta representatives Kiran and Poorna, local SHG members, government officials, and public representatives. Prominent participants included Palnadu District TDP

Parliamentary Vice President Sri Daruvuri Nageswara Rao, Sattenapalli Telugu Mahila President Smt. Ambika, LH Umarvali, DMC Padmaja, COs Srilakshmi, Jhansi, Srinivas, and over 600 SHG members. The inauguration of Chai Rasta reflects a growing focus on women entrepreneurship and community-driven economic empowerment, highlighting the role of innovative government-backed initiatives in promoting sustainable livelihoods and financial independence among rural women.

Jana Sena MLA Arava Sridhar Appears Before Party Disciplinary Panel Amid Controversy



Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, Feb 4, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Jana Sena Party MLA Arava Sridhar, representing the Railway Koduru constituency, appeared before a three-member party disciplinary panel on Tuesday to respond to serious allegations of sexual harassment. The party convened the internal inquiry to examine claims made by a woman against the legislator and to decide on further action based on the committee's findings.

The disciplinary panel, comprising senior party members, reviewed documents and heard Sridhar's explanation. After the session, Sridhar told the media that he had fully cooperated with the inquiry and would respect the party's decision. He maintained that he is committed to transparency and was

confident of a fair outcome. The controversy arose when a woman, identified as a government employee, accused the MLA of harassment over an extended period. She alleged coercive behavior that caused emotional distress. The accusations gained widespread public attention, sparking discussions among political parties, social groups, and the media. In response, the Jana Sena Party directed Sridhar to appear before the panel and instructed him to refrain from participating in party activities until the inquiry concluded. The panel is expected to submit its report to senior leadership shortly, after which the party will determine if disciplinary action is necessary. Party insiders note that the outcome could significantly impact

Sridhar's political future and his role in legislative affairs. Additionally, law enforcement authorities have reportedly begun investigating the allegations independently, reflecting the seriousness of the case and public demand for accountability. Sridhar, while denying the charges, described the matter as personal and politically motivated. He expressed readiness to face both legal and political challenges. The inquiry is ongoing, and the party has emphasized the importance of following due process while ensuring that the matter is resolved transparently. The panel's findings will be crucial in deciding the MLA's future in the Jana Sena Party and sending a strong message on the party's stance regarding misconduct by its members.

High Court Seeks 33% Reservation for Women in District Bar Association Elections

Amaravati, 04 February 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh High Court has issued notices to the Bar Council of India and the Bar Council of Andhra Pradesh regarding a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking 33% reservation for women in the elections of all District Bar Associations across the State.

The matter was heard by a Division Bench comprising Hon'ble Chief Justice Sri Dheeraj Singh Thakur and Justice Sri Challa Gunaranjan, who took up WP (PIL) No. 14 of 2026 filed by senior advocate Smt. Thota Sunitha.

In her petition, Advocate Thota Sunitha

urged the Court to direct the Bar Council of Andhra Pradesh to implement a 33% reservation for women advocates in District Bar Association elections. She cited Section 3 of the Advocates Act, 1961, which empowers the State Bar Council to take measures for the welfare and representation of advocates.

Highlighting the growing presence of women in the legal profession, the petitioner informed the Court that there are more than 12,000 women advocates registered in Andhra Pradesh. She emphasized that despite their numbers, women remain underrepresented in leadership roles with-

in District Bar Associations.

Appearing party-in-person, Advocate Thota Sunitha submitted that formal recognition of women through reserved representation would ensure their meaningful participation in Bar Association governance, strengthen gender equality, and encourage more women to actively engage in legal administration and decision-making.

The Division Bench noted the significance of the petition in promoting gender inclusivity within the legal profession and issued notices to the Bar Council of India and the Bar Council of Andhra Pradesh for a detailed response. The

Court is expected to examine whether statutory powers under the Advocates Act can be exercised to provide such reservations and ensure equitable participation of women advocates in leadership positions.

The development is seen as a key step toward empowering women in the legal fraternity, addressing long-standing concerns regarding gender representation in Bar Association elections, and promoting a more balanced and inclusive professional environment.

This case has drawn attention from lawyers and legal scholars across the State, with many emphasizing the impor-



importance of institutional measures to enhance women's participation in governance bodies of the legal profession. The High Court's forthcoming decision is likely to set a precedent for gender representation in legal associations in Andhra Pradesh.

CLUES Team Collects Evidence at Ambati Rambabu's Residence Amid Opposition by YSRCP Leaders

Guntur, Feb 4, 2026 | TPN Bureau:

The CLUES team undertook an evidence-gathering operation at the residence and office of former minister Ambati Rambabu in Guntur on Tuesday, following a police case registered at Pattabhipuram Police Station over the recent attack on his property. The operation was conducted under the supervision of CI Ganga Venkateswarlu.

Officials said the team carefully examined the damaged areas, including broken windows at the residence and office, shattered glass at the office premises, and cars that had been vandalized. Multiple pieces of evidence, including fingerprints and other material traces, were col-

lected from the scene for further investigation. However, efforts to seize the sticks and other tools reportedly used in the attack were met with resistance from YSRCP leaders present at the site. Party officials argued that YSRCP president Jagan Mohan Reddy would be visiting the location on Wednesday, and the materials should be taken only after his visit. Following their objections and a brief standoff with police, the authorities decided to withdraw without seizing the items.

The CLUES team's action comes as part of the ongoing investigation into the attack on Ambati Rambabu's residence and office, which had drawn widespread



attention due to the scale of damage and the political tensions surrounding it. Law enforcement sources noted that despite the obstruction, several crucial pieces of evidence were successfully documented, which will help in identifying and prosecuting those responsible.

YSRCP leaders, however, maintained that no

materials should be removed until after their leader's visit, citing procedural concerns. The confrontation highlighted the tense political environment in Guntur, where clashes between party workers and opposition figures have recently escalated.

Authorities reiterated that the investigation into the attack is ongoing, and all evidence, in-

cluding damaged property and forensic samples, will be analyzed to determine the sequence of events and hold accountable those involved. Police sources said further actions would be coordinated to ensure compliance with legal procedures while managing political sensitivities.

The incident underscores the challenges faced by law enforcement agencies in politically sensitive cases, where the collection of evidence can become entangled with party loyalties and local influence. Meanwhile, Ambati Rambabu has condemned the attack and urged authorities to complete the investigation swiftly, ensuring that justice is served.

Janasena MLC Nagababu Slams YSRCP Over Religious Issues

Guntur, Feb 4, 2026 | TPN Bureau:

Senior Janasena leader and Member of Legislative Council Nagababu has released a strongly worded video criticizing the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), alleging that the party has failed to respect Hindu traditions and religious sentiments.

In the video, Nagababu accused the ruling party of being anti-Hindu, claiming that its governance reflects hostility toward Hindu culture and beliefs. He highlighted incidents where he feels religious sites and cultural practices were neglected or

disrespected, including matters related to Tirumala and other significant shrines in the state.

Nagababu also questioned YSRCP's handling of pilgrim facilities, particularly at Tirumala, asserting that increased charges and administrative hurdles have made it difficult for ordinary devotees to visit sacred sites. He claimed that these actions harm not only the devotees but also the cultural heritage of Andhra Pradesh.

Highlighting the role of the ruling party in religious and cultural matters, Nagababu



called out the government for remaining silent on issues such as major Hindu celebrations and temple-related events. He emphasized that a government that claims to support its citizens should actively safeguard and respect their religious practices.

The MLC's video further criticized YSRCP leaders for allegedly creating unrest and tensions instead of focusing on development. Nagababu said that while opposition leaders raise valid concerns, the ruling party often responds with threats or legal actions

instead of addressing the issues substantively.

Observers note that Nagababu's statement reflects a broader strategy of opposition parties using religious and cultural narratives to challenge the YSRCP ahead of upcoming political developments. Nagababu, known for his outspoken stance on religious and cultural issues, appeared calm and measured in his video, clearly outlining his criticism while appealing to the sentiments of Hindu voters.

Janasena sources say that Nagababu's video was intended to mobi-

lize public opinion and reinforce the party's image as a defender of cultural and religious values, contrasting it with what he termed the ruling party's neglect.

The video has quickly gone viral on social media, drawing both support and criticism, and is expected to fuel further political debate in Andhra Pradesh. Nagababu's remarks underscore the continuing role of religious and cultural issues in shaping political narratives in the state, especially as opposition leaders seek to challenge the government on multiple fronts.

Batthula Balaramakrishna Ensures Water Supply for Paddakadlam and Gadala Villages

East Godavari, 04 February 2026 | TPN Bureau

Rajahmundry MLA Batthula Balaramakrishna has directed officials to ensure uninterrupted water supply to livestock and farmers in Paddakadlam and Gadala villages, addressing a long-standing demand of local residents. Speaking at a review meeting with irrigation department officials at his office on Tuesday, the MLA emphasized the urgent need to release water from Srikrishnapatnam Pump House to fill local tanks, which are currently dry. He highlighted the difficulties faced by farmers and villagers due to the lack of water for irrigation and for animals, urging officials to take immediate action

and, if required, escalate the matter to higher authorities. During the meeting, officials discussed key irrigation projects, including the Pushkara Lift Irrigation Scheme, Venkatanagar Pumping Scheme, and Chagallnadu Lift Irrigation Scheme. The MLA instructed that all arrangements be completed efficiently to ensure water reaches the villages without delays. Authorities assured him that water release through Chagallnadu would be completed within three days, while Seeleru water would be utilized to supply through Pushkara as part of the plan. Specifically for Paddakadlam village, MLA Balaramakrishna stressed releasing water via the Venkatanagar Pump-



ing Scheme, a demand pending for years. He suggested a trial run be conducted before the full-scale release through Stage-3 of the project. With the allocation of 2 crore for opera-

tions and maintenance, he expressed confidence that villagers' long-standing request would be fulfilled. Regarding Gadala village, the MLA directed officials to release water through the

Venkatanagar Pumping House project, ensuring supply within three days. Authorities informed him that preparations were underway to deliver water through Stage-1 of the scheme.

The MLA's proactive supervision underscores the government's commitment to addressing farmers' and villagers' essential needs, particularly water for irrigation and livestock. By



closely coordinating with irrigation officials, Balaramakrishna aims to ensure timely execution of projects, preventing crop loss and securing livelihoods. The initiative is expected to bring significant relief

to farmers and livestock owners in the Rajanagar constituency, reflecting the local administration's focus on addressing ground-level issues through timely and effective intervention.

Anakapalli District Collector Urges Completion of Family Survey and Literacy Initiatives

Anakapalli, Feb 4, 2026 | TPN Bureau:

Anakapalli District Collector Vijay Krishnan has directed officials to complete the ongoing Family Survey within the next two days, emphasizing its importance as a priority program for the district. The directives came during a video conference review with Mandal-level MPDOs on Wednesday, covering family surveys, the Akshara Andhra literacy program, and the EPTS data upload initiative.



During the meeting at the Collectorate, Vijay Krishnan stressed that the family survey must reach 100% completion by the deadline, noting that 72% of the survey had already been completed. He instructed officials to treat the survey as a high-priority task and ensure full compliance within the stipulated timeframe.

Regarding the Akshara Andhra program, the Collector highlighted that 89,944 illiterate individuals in the district have been identified. Volunteers have been assigned to map and provide literacy training to these individuals, with special examinations scheduled for March. He instructed the DRD, DWAMA, and SGSW departments to ensure that the necessary learning

materials such as books, pencils, and other supplies are distributed and that literacy activities are conducted efficiently. Vijay Krishnan also instructed officials to ensure 100% registration of volunteers across the district and stressed timely data entry into the EPTS website. He directed that documents issued and received by each office be uploaded daily to maintain accurate records and facilitate program monitoring.

In addition, the Collector emphasized employee skill development, instructing staff to

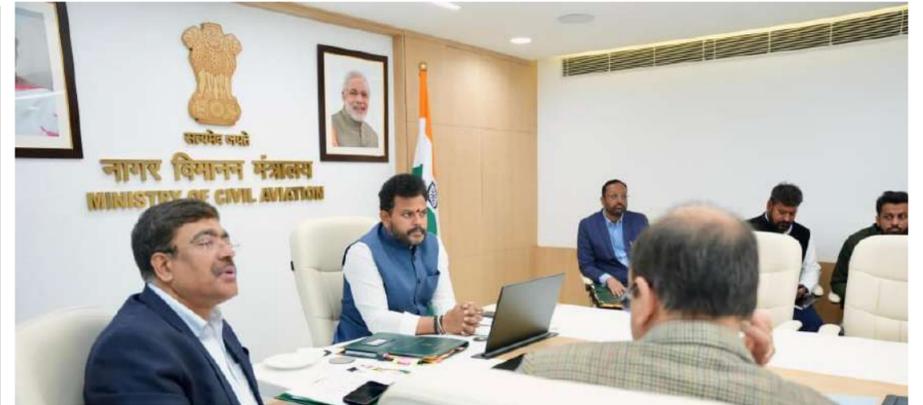
complete at least three to five capacity-building courses each month through the iGOT-Karma Yogi portal, aimed at improving administrative efficiency and overall service delivery.

The video conference was attended by DRD-E and DWAMA program directors Sachi Devi and Poornima Devi, SGSW coordination officer S. Manjula Vani, Mandal-level MPDOs, as well as Municipal Commissioners of Narsipatnam, Yelamanchili, and Anakapalli. The Collector engaged directly with officials from all mandals to review pro-

gress, identify bottlenecks, and ensure strict adherence to deadlines for all ongoing initiatives.

The directives underline the district administration's focus on completing the family survey, enhancing literacy among adults, and leveraging technology for efficient governance. Officials were reminded that timely action, proper mapping of illiterate individuals, and volunteer engagement are critical to achieving the state's development targets and ensuring community participation in governance programs.

India Aims to Become Third-Largest Drone Market with Focus on Indigenous Technology



Srikakulam, February 4 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister for Civil Aviation, Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, has reiterated India's commitment to promoting indigenous drone technology, stating that the country aims to become the third-largest drone market in the world by 2030. The minister made these remarks during a detailed review of drone research and development (R&D) and component manufacturing held at his office in Delhi.

The session focused on the progress achieved in drone R&D, advancements in component production, as well as the challenges and opportunities facing the sector. Minister Rammohan Naidu discussed in detail the technical, operational, and regulatory aspects necessary to scale up

India's domestic drone industry. He provided key directions to accelerate drone production and strengthen technological capabilities, emphasizing self-reliance in manufacturing and innovation. Highlighting the government's strategic vision, the minister urged all stakeholders, including research institutions, startups, and manufacturing units, to actively contribute to the 'Make in India' initiative. He called for collaboration across sectors to ensure that India not only achieves global competitiveness in drone technology but also reduces reliance on imports. "Our priority is indigenous solutions. By promoting homegrown drone technologies, we aim to secure a strong position in the global market while supporting innovation, entrepre-

neurship, and strategic autonomy," he said. Rammohan Naidu further noted that the ministry has already initiated several measures in coordination with other departments to simplify investment procedures, provide technical support, and encourage private sector participation in domestic drone development. He emphasized that such steps would enable faster adoption of drones across sectors such as agriculture, surveillance, logistics, disaster management, and security operations, creating new opportunities for economic growth and technological advancement. The minister's directives also included strengthening the R&D ecosystem, improving manufacturing standards, and facilitating

access to cutting-edge technologies for domestic innovators. He stressed that these measures are essential for India to compete effectively in the global UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) market and maintain technological sovereignty. By focusing on indigenous research, technical skill development, and investment facilitation, the government aims to build a sustainable ecosystem for drone manufacturing. Minister Rammohan Naidu expressed confidence that, with concerted efforts from government bodies, the private sector, and research institutions, India will achieve its goal of becoming a top-three global drone market by 2030, reinforcing the country's leadership in innovation and high-technology manufacturing.

CPM State Secretary V. Srinivas Rao Criticizes Modi Over Trump Policies

Bhimavaram, February 4, 2026 | TPN Bureau:

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) called for unity among political parties to counter U.S. imperialism and safeguard India's interests, with CPM State Secretary V. Srinivas Rao urging collective action against President Donald Trump's policies.

Speaking at a conference organized by CPM at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Bhavan, Rao criticized the Modi government for allegedly appeasing Trump and compromising India's sovereignty. "While the U.S. exerts dominance over smaller nations, our Prime Minister aligns with Trump, disregarding the dignity of 140 crore Indians," Rao said.

He highlighted rising tariffs on American products from 5% to 18%, claiming

this disproportionately favors U.S. exports and harms domestic industries. Rao also condemned patent policies that he said siphon Indian funds abroad, arguing that Modi's approach undermines India's economic and strategic interests.

CPM district secretary J.N.V. Gopalan presided over the session, emphasizing the adverse effects of the U.S.-India trade agreements on local industries and farmers. "Modi pleases Trump at the cost of our people," Gopalan stated.

Other speakers echoed the concerns, including CPI district leaders and YSRCP representatives. They criticized the increase in tariffs, highlighting the additional burden on farmers and local economies, and argued that the Modi government's alignment with Trump di-



minishes India's global standing.

Congress leaders also joined the criticism, alleg-

ing that Modi has compromised public institutions

and national honor by favoring U.S. interests. Forward

Bloc and minority committee members emphasized that the policies benefit an imperialist agenda rather than India.

Rao urged all political parties to unite against U.S. hegemonic policies and ensure India's independence in making trade and foreign policy decisions. He stressed that the adverse effects of Trump's tariffs are being felt even in West Godavari district, impacting farmers and local industries.

The conference saw participation from a wide range of political and social leaders, including TDP state leader Mente Parthasarathi, CPM district secretaries B. Vasudeva Rao and K. Gopalan, SC Employees Welfare Association leaders A. Veerayya, Amulya Rao, Rajababu, and other civic society representatives.

India's Trade Standoff and the New US Deal: A Test of Strategic Autonomy

The world of international trade and geopolitics has entered an era of unprecedented complexity. Traditional norms and assumptions about how nations interact, cooperate, and exert influence are being challenged on multiple fronts. Nowhere is this more visible than in the evolving relationship between India and the United States, particularly in the context of trade negotiations and tariff disputes.

In recent months, India and the United States found themselves entangled in a high-stakes contest over tariffs, economic leverage, and broader geopolitical strategy. The situation has prompted comparisons to ancient wisdom — especially to the idea that in world affairs “the strong do what they can and the weak suffer what they must.” Yet the unfolding developments suggest that the reality may be far more nuanced than this simple maxim implies.

At the center of the current episode is a significant trade conflict triggered by major tariff increases imposed by the United States on Indian imports. The U.S. administration, asserting concerns over trade imbalances, frequently criticized India's tariff policies and economic barriers as unfair to American exporters. This culminated in the imposition of steep tariffs — at times reaching punitive levels — on a wide range of Indian products. Many of these duties were framed as “reciprocal tariffs,” a label that masked deeper tensions and strategic jockeying. What began as a trade dispute soon morphed into a broader clash over economic priorities, diplomatic signaling, and competing visions of global supply chains.

To understand the dynamics at play, it helps to recognize how tariffs were wielded as strategic instruments. The U.S. federal government, pointing to longstanding trade deficits and what it saw as restricted access for American goods in India, announced higher duties on Indian imports. These levies were not just about economics; they were also aimed at exerting pressure on India's



broader policy choices, especially its energy sourcing and geopolitical alignments. In particular, criticism from Washington targeted India's continued imports of energy resources from Russia, framing them in political terms and linking them to broader global conflicts.

The tariff escalation sent ripples through both economies. Indian exporters, especially in sectors like textiles, leather, engineering goods, and other labor-intensive industries, faced immediate challenges due to reduced competitiveness in the U.S. market. At the same time, the specter of tariffs influenced diplomatic and economic calculations in Delhi, prompting debates about trade diversification, strategic autonomy, and the balancing of national interests.

Amid this backdrop of escalating duties and mutual recriminations, significant negotiations overcame a period of tension and mistrust, resulting in a breakthrough trade deal between India and

the United States. The new deal — forged after extensive discussions between the countries' leaders — reflects a compromise that offers tangible benefits to both sides while reshaping the contours of their economic engagement.

Under the terms of the agreement, the United States significantly reduced tariffs on Indian goods from previously high levels to a more moderate rate. These reductions are expected to reinvigorate bilateral trade, restore some degree of predictability to exporters on both sides, and bring U.S. duties closer to those applied to other trading partners. For India, the tariff cuts are a substantial relief, especially for sectors that had borne the brunt of punitive duties and for small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) that struggled with the cost implications of past tariffs.

In return, India made commitments on expanding market access for certain categories of U.S. goods. This

includes increased purchases of American products such as petroleum, aircraft, defense equipment, and pharmaceuticals over a multi-year period. At the same time, India agreed to maintain certain protections for sensitive domestic sectors, including agriculture and dairy, recognizing the political and cultural significance of these industries at home. The equilibrium achieved in these negotiations reflects an effort by New Delhi to balance domestic priorities with the demands of a powerful trading partner.

The outcome of these negotiations is significant for several reasons. First, it underscores India's capacity to negotiate from a position of strength and agency. Despite initial pressure from the United States and the asymmetry in economic power between the two nations, India managed to secure tariff reductions without completely capitulating on its key concerns. In doing so, the country demonstrated a commit-

ment to strategic autonomy — the ability to pursue its own policy choices without being unduly influenced by external coercion.

Second, the deal carries broader geopolitical implications. In the context of shifting global alignments, India's diplomatic and trade strategies are increasingly influenced by considerations that extend beyond simple economic gains. Alignments with other major economies, such as the European Union and Canada, played a role in shaping the United States' willingness to engage constructively with India. This wider diplomatic context helped India avoid isolation and reinforced its value as a pivotal partner in a multipolar world.

Third, the resolution of the tariff conflict may set a precedent for how middle powers engage with larger economies in an era of growing economic nationalism. The deal signals that trade disputes, even when initially acrimonious, can be resolved

through dialogue and mutual accommodation. It also highlights that nations with robust negotiating strategies and diversified economic partnerships can mitigate the risks associated with unilateral economic measures imposed by larger powers.

However, this does not mean that all challenges have been permanently resolved. Critics caution that while the tariff reductions are a welcome development, long-term stability will depend on the durability of legal agreements and the consistent implementation of commitments by both sides. Past experiences with trade disputes have shown that shifts in political leadership or changes in domestic political priorities can quickly alter the terms of engagement. Maintaining a constructive and predictable trade relationship will require ongoing dialogue, monitoring, and adjustments in response to evolving economic conditions.

Additionally, skeptics ar-

gue that any deal involving concessions on energy sourcing or increased purchases from a trade partner could have implications for India's broader foreign policy independence. While strategic autonomy has been a cornerstone of India's international posture, the push to secure favorable trade terms with the United States may necessitate nuanced recalibrations in other domains. Balancing economic imperatives with geopolitical considerations remains a delicate task.

At the same time, proponents of the deal emphasize its positive impact on market sentiment and investor confidence. The announcement of tariff reductions and clearer trading terms generated optimism among investors, boosted equity markets, and strengthened currency valuations. Exporters, especially in previously disadvantaged sectors, now have renewed opportunities to expand their presence in one of the world's largest consumer markets.

In the larger scheme of global trade, the India-U.S. deal could serve as a catalyst for more collaborative approaches to economic policy. As nations grapple with protectionist impulses, supply chain disruptions, and geopolitical rivalries, the resolution of significant trade disputes through negotiated settlements could offer a template for conflict avoidance and mutual benefit.

Ultimately, the India-U.S. tariff episode and the resulting deal illustrate the intricate interplay between economics and geopolitics. It is a vivid example of how trade policies can be influenced by broader strategic calculations and how countries can leverage negotiation, diplomacy, and diversified partnerships to advance their interests. While ancient adages about power and coercion may capture a timeless dimension of international relations, the contemporary landscape — marked by complex interdependence and negotiated solutions — suggests that even the most formidable forces can evolve toward cooperative outcomes when national interests align.

Balochistan's Rising Flames: Understanding the Roots and Real Drivers of Conflict

Balochistan, Pakistan's vast southwestern province, is once again embroiled in intense conflict and violence. What began as a separatist insurgency has spiraled into one of the most violent episodes in the region in years, capturing global attention as militant groups strike cities, seize territory, and confront state forces. Yet the dominant narratives from Islamabad about who is responsible and why the unrest has reignited fail to address the deeper, underlying causes of the crisis.

In recent weeks, a wave of coordinated attacks has swept across Balochistan, involving assaults on security installations, highway blockades, and clashes with military forces. Militant groups, most prominently the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), have demonstrated an alarming ability to project force across the province, establishing footholds in towns such as Noshki, Pasni, and Kalat. The ferocity of these operations — with reports of armed women fighters and disciplined combat tactics — represents a marked escalation from earlier insurgent actions.

Pakistan's response has been equally intense, with security forces deploying heavy weaponry and launching counter-operations that have resulted in significant militant casualties. The government portrays these efforts as counter-terrorism actions aimed at restoring law and order. But the characterisation of the

conflict solely as terrorism driven by foreign influence or criminality obscures the longstanding political and socio-economic grievances at the heart of the strife.

At the center of this crisis is Operation Herof-2, a large-scale militant offensive that has targeted multiple districts simultaneously. The scale of violence is unprecedented compared with earlier insurgent episodes, with militants reportedly taking temporary control of key transportation routes, engaging in prolonged firefights with security forces, and challenging the state's claim of uncontested authority. This shift in battlefield dynamics suggests that the BLA, and potentially allied separatist factions, have evolved into a more capable and strategically aware fighting force.

Pakistan's political leadership has responded with a familiar denunciation of external interference. Senior officials have repeatedly alleged that neighbouring countries, particularly India, are involved in backing Baloch separatists, using the insurgency as a proxy to destabilise Pakistan. These claims are regularly invoked in parliamentary sessions and official statements. However, despite repeated accusations, there is no publicly verifiable evidence demonstrating sustained foreign sponsorship of the insurgency. Such narratives risk simplifying a complex situation into a binary of “foreign-backed terrorism” and state



victimhood.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's defence establishment has offered alternate explanations that also miss key drivers of unrest. Government figures have pointed to criminal networks — particularly oil smuggling syndicates operating out of the province — as instigators of violence. According to this view, when state authorities began to crack down on lucrative smuggling routes and the illicit trade of fuel, criminal elements resorted to armed rebellion to protect their interests. While it is true that Balochistan's vast and porous borders facilitate smuggling and cross-border smuggling economies have flourished, reducing the conflict to turf battles between criminal gangs and the state fails to capture the depth of lo-

cal grievances.

To understand the roots of the unrest, one must look beyond simple explanations and consider the historical grievances that have defined Balochistan's relationship with the Pakistani state for decades. After the province's accession to Pakistan in 1948, Baloch leaders were quickly sidelined, and the fledgling region's hopes for meaningful autonomy were frustrated. Early promises of self-rule dissolved, and following periodic uprisings, successive Pakistani governments increasingly relied on militarisation to suppress dissent rather than engage politically.

This impasse over political rights has been compounded by economic marginalisation. Balochistan is rich in natural resources — from gas and minerals to coastline assets — yet

the local population remains among the poorest in the country. Despite massive projects such as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which includes the strategically important port of Gwadar, Baloch communities have seen little of the promised development. Jobs related to infrastructure projects often go to outsiders, leaving many locals feeling excluded from both economic opportunity and decision-making. These conditions have fuelled a sense of alienation and resentment that extends well beyond the battlefield.

Another source of tension is the history of heavy-handed security tactics employed by state forces. Human rights organisations and local activists have long documented cases of enforced disappearances, ex-

trajudicial killings, and aggressive counter-insurgency operations that fail to distinguish between armed militants and rural civilians. Such tactics deepen mistrust and breed cycles of retaliation, making it difficult to build confidence between communities and the state.

Leadership dynamics within the separatist movement have also evolved. The BLA's current leaders are portrayed by supporters as educated, disciplined figures motivated by a sense of injustice. They capitalise on local grievances and the perception that legitimate political avenues for change are blocked. Their message resonates in some communities precisely because political leaders seen as state allies are viewed as ineffective or illegitimate. For instance, provincial leadership often lacks credibility among many Baloch, who see these figures as extensions of the federal government rather than genuine representatives of local interests.

International reactions to the violence have largely echoed global concerns about terrorism. Foreign governments have condemned militant attacks and pledged support for Pakistan's stability, but their diplomatic language often overlooks the political and social context that underpins separatist sentiment. This narrow focus on terrorism risks bolstering the state's argument while sidelining discussions about democratic inclusion, human rights, and

equitable development — discussions that many analysts believe are essential for a sustainable peace.

Ultimately, the crisis in Balochistan cannot be fully understood through the lens of simplistic narratives offered by either Islamabad or external critics. While militancy and criminality are real elements of the conflict, they are intertwined with deeper historical grievances, economic exclusion, political marginalisation, and a legacy of mistrust. The resurgence of violence is a symptom of these enduring issues rather than their sole cause.

If Pakistan truly seeks to “put out the fire,” a sustained military response alone is unlikely to achieve lasting peace. A comprehensive strategy that incorporates political dialogue, meaningful economic inclusion, respect for human rights, and local empowerment may offer a more credible path toward stability. Otherwise, each cycle of violence threatens to inflame passions further, drawing in more recruits and deepening the divide between the state and segments of Baloch society.

In the end, reexamining the roots of the conflict and acknowledging the real grievances driving the unrest is essential — not just for policymakers in Islamabad, but for anyone seeking to understand one of South Asia's most enduring and complicated internal struggles.

BJP Defends Ravneet Singh Bittu, Slams Rahul Gandhi Over 'Traitor' Remark



A political confrontation outside Parliament has escalated into a major controversy after Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi referred to Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu as a "traitor," drawing sharp criticism from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The ruling party strongly defended Bittu and accused Gandhi of crossing the limits of political discourse.

The incident occurred near one of Parliament's entrances when opposition leaders were staging a protest. As Bittu walked past the gathering, Rahul Gandhi made a remark calling him a "traitor" and urged him to return to his former political party. Bittu refused to engage with Gandhi and responded angrily, accusing him of acting against the nation. The brief exchange

quickly became a flashpoint in the already charged political atmosphere.

Reacting strongly, BJP leaders condemned Gandhi's language, calling it irresponsible and deeply offensive. They argued that branding a sitting minister and Member of Parliament as a traitor was unacceptable and undermined democratic values. Senior BJP leaders said such remarks lowered the dignity of Parliament and reflected poorly on the opposition leadership.

The BJP also linked the controversy to broader sentiments within the Sikh community, pointing out Bittu's family background and history of public service. Party leaders claimed that the remark had hurt community sentiments and accused Gandhi of being insensitive. They demanded an

apology, asserting that political disagreements should not descend into personal or inflammatory attacks.

Union ministers and BJP spokespersons further alleged that Gandhi's comment was part of a pattern of provocative statements aimed at gaining political mileage. They stressed that disagreement with a leader's political choices does not justify questioning their loyalty to the nation. According to them, the term "traitor" carries serious implications and should not be used casually in political exchanges.

Meanwhile, opposition leaders attempted to downplay the incident, suggesting that the comment was made in the heat of the moment during a protest. Some Congress leaders described it as political rhetoric rather than a personal attack, though the party has so far stopped short of issuing a formal apology.

The episode has intensified tensions between the ruling party and the opposition, with BJP members seeking action and raising the issue within parliamentary forums. The controversy has also triggered heated debates on social media, where supporters of both sides have clashed over the appropriateness of the remark.

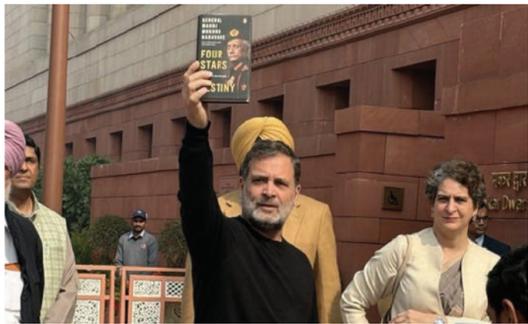
The incident highlights the increasingly confrontational tone of political engagement in and around Parliament. As political parties trade accusations, the focus has shifted from policy debates to personal remarks, raising concerns about the declining civility of public discourse at the highest levels of Indian democracy.

Rahul Gandhi Dares PM Modi Over Naravane Memoir, Questions His Willingness to Face Parliament

Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi intensified his attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday, daring him to enter the Lok Sabha and confront questions surrounding former Army Chief General M. M. Naravane's memoir. The challenge came amid ongoing disruptions in Parliament over national security issues linked to the India-China standoff in eastern Ladakh.

Addressing reporters outside Parliament, Gandhi held up a copy of the unpublished memoir and said he was ready to personally hand it over to the Prime Minister if he came to the House. He claimed that the book contains serious revelations about the 2020 border crisis and accused the government of preventing him from discussing its contents in Parliament. Gandhi remarked that he did not believe the Prime Minister had the "guts" to face direct questioning on the issue.

Gandhi alleged that the memoir sheds light on how the Indian Army was placed in a difficult position due to un-



clear political direction during the Ladakh standoff. According to him, these details raise important questions about accountability and national security, which he said deserve open discussion in Parliament rather than suppression.

The controversy has triggered repeated disruptions in the Lok Sabha over the past few days. Gandhi's attempts to quote from the memoir were blocked by the Speaker, who ruled that referencing an unpublished book dealing with sensitive defence matters vio-

lated parliamentary norms. The standoff escalated on Tuesday, leading to the suspension of several opposition MPs after protests inside the House.

The ruling party has strongly objected to Gandhi's remarks, arguing that discussing unverified or unpublished material related to defence operations is irresponsible and poses risks to national security. Government leaders have maintained that parliamentary rules exist to prevent sensitive information from being misused for political

purposes.

Despite the objections, Gandhi doubled down on his criticism, urging young Indians to read the memoir once it is officially released. He insisted that citizens have the right to know how key decisions were made during one of the most serious military crises in recent years.

The episode has further sharpened tensions between the government and the opposition during the ongoing parliamentary session. What began as a procedural dispute has now evolved into a broader political confrontation over transparency, accountability and the limits of parliamentary debate.

As the standoff continues, the issue is expected to remain a flashpoint in Parliament, with both sides standing firm. While the government stresses the need for caution and protocol, the opposition argues that national security decisions must be open to scrutiny at the highest democratic forum.

Mamata Banerjee Takes SIR Case to Supreme Court, May Argue It Herself

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has reached the Supreme Court of India to pursue her petition challenging the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in her state, in a move that could become historic. The SIR process, initiated ahead of the upcoming West Bengal assembly elections, has triggered intense political and legal battles, with Banerjee at the forefront of the opposition to it.

Banerjee arrived at the Supreme Court on Wednesday morning, accompanied by her legal team, to argue her plea. The petition questions the legality, methodology and consequences of the SIR exercise, which aims to update and verify voter lists before the elections. Critics, including the chief minister, allege that the process is biased, lacks transparency and could lead to the disenfranchisement of large numbers of legitimate voters if not properly regulated.



In her petition, Banerjee has sought directions from the court to halt certain aspects of the SIR and to ensure that elections are conducted using the previous voter list compiled in 2025. She has raised concerns about how some names may be wrongly removed due to minor discrepancies, such as spelling variations or changes in marital surnames, which she says could unfairly exclude eligible voters. These concerns are

part of a larger argument that the SIR, as implemented, could disproportionately affect ordinary citizens, especially marginalised groups.

One notable feature of the day's proceedings is Banerjee's intention to personally argue her case before the bench. As a holder of a law degree, she has asked the court for permission to present her arguments directly, a step that, if granted, would mark the first time a sit-

ting chief minister appears in person to argue a case in the nation's highest court. This reflects her determination to push her legal challenge at the highest level and underscores how central the issue has become to the political climate in West Bengal.

The Supreme Court has issued notices to key respondents, including the Election Commission, and is hearing a batch of petitions on the matter. The court's engagement signals its willingness to scrutinise the concerns raised and ensure that electoral processes uphold democratic principles and fairness.

Banerjee's legal challenge comes amid rising tension between the state government and the Election Commission over the manner and timing of the SIR process. The outcome of the hearing could have significant implications for the conduct of the assembly elections and for voter rights in the state.

President's Rule Lifted in Manipur, BJP's Yumnam Khemchand Singh Set to Become Chief Minister



In a major political development, the central government has revoked President's Rule in Manipur, nearly a year after it was first imposed, paving the way for the formation of a new Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government in the northeastern state. This move marks the end of an extended period of direct central administration and a return to elected governance in the state.

President's Rule was initially imposed in Manipur after the resignation of the then-Chief Minister N. Biren Singh amid prolonged ethnic violence that had severely disrupted law and order. The decision to withdraw the central rule follows a period of deliberations among political leaders and signals renewed confidence in the state's ability to manage its affairs through an elected government.

The Ministry of Home Affairs issued an official notification stating that the

proclamation placing the state under President's Rule has been revoked with immediate effect. The decision restores constitutional governance and clears the path for a new council of ministers to take office in Imphal.

Senior BJP leader Yumnam Khemchand Singh has been chosen by his party and its allies as the leader of the legislature party and is poised to assume office as the Chief Minister of Manipur. Khemchand Singh, a two-term MLA and a seasoned political figure in the state, will take the oath of office in a ceremony scheduled for the evening, marking the formal beginning of his administration.

In anticipation of the transition, representatives of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) met with the state's Governor to stake claim to form the government. The new leadership team is expected to include members of the BJP and its coalition part-

ners, reflecting a broad political base aimed at ensuring stability.

The lifting of President's Rule and the swearing-in of the new chief minister come at a crucial time, with the state seeking to restore normalcy, promote peace among communities, and focus on development after months of unrest and administrative uncertainty. The transition also underscores a strategic shift toward re-empowering local leadership and addressing long-standing issues through elected representatives.

State and national political circles have welcomed the development as a positive step toward democratic resilience and governance. With the assembly still intact and the tenure extending into 2027, the new government now has the mandate and responsibility to rebuild trust among communities and steer Manipur toward a more stable and prosperous future.

Rohit Shetty Firing Revives Dark Era of Underworld Influence in Bollywood



The recent firing outside filmmaker Rohit Shetty's Mumbai residence has reignited memories of a chilling chapter in Bollywood's history when organised crime wielded significant influence over the Hindi film industry. The attack, carried out by unidentified gunmen linked to a notorious gang, has sparked fresh concerns about the safety of film personalities and whether underworld elements are attempting to reassert themselves in the industry.

Late one night, multiple shots were fired at Shetty's high-rise home in the Juhu area of Mumbai, leaving the neighbourhood shaken though no one was injured. Initial police investigations suggest that a sophisticated weapon was used in the incident, and subsequent inquiries have connected the act to members of a well-known gang previously involved in violent crimes. In the days after the shooting, authorities stepped up secu-

rency around Shetty's residence and extended protection to his personal security detail as the probe widened. Law enforcement deployed multiple teams to track down the shooters and arrest associates believed to have provided logistics and support.

The gang's alleged involvement in the attack has drawn comparisons with the mafia's dominance over Bollywood in the 1980s and 1990s. During that era, underworld figures regularly exerted pressure on film producers, directors and actors through threats, extortion and even violence. Filmmakers who refused to cooperate with these criminal networks were targeted, sometimes fatally. Some prominent industry figures were killed or attacked, and others were forced to comply with demands simply out of fear for their lives and livelihoods. In addition to extortion, a symbiotic relationship also existed where criminal gangs in-

vested in movies to launder money, often gaining influence over casting decisions, storylines and profit shares.

While mainstream film financing has changed significantly since then, with major studios and legitimate investors now dominating, the recent attempt on Shetty's life has raised questions about whether remnants of that underworld influence are resurfacing. The cinema community has expressed alarm, noting that such violence not only threatens individuals but also the creative freedom and economic confidence that sustain the industry.

Many in Bollywood remember the past as a grim reminder of how deeply criminal networks once infiltrated film production and distribution. The latest incident serves as a stark warning that the spectre of organised crime has not been completely banished, and that the industry must remain vigilant to protect itself from renewed threats.

Pakistan Claims Baloch Rebels Using Advanced US-Made Weapons Amid Escalating Violence

Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has claimed that Baloch separatist militants are using advanced weapons and surveillance equipment, including rifles and night-vision devices of apparent US origin, raising concerns within the country's security establishment amid a sharp escalation of violence in Balochistan.

Speaking in Pakistan's National Assembly, Asif said insurgent groups operating in the restive province possess military-grade equipment that even Pakistani security forces lack. He questioned how rebel groups had acquired such sophisticated arms and suggested that their operational capability has significantly increased in recent months. His remarks reflect growing alarm in Islamabad over the intensity and coordination of militant attacks.

According to the defence minister, the leadership of the Balochistan Liberation Army and allied groups is believed to be operating from outside Pakistan, particularly from neighbouring Afghanistan. He alleged that these groups receive logistical and material support from across the border, a claim Pakistan has repeatedly made in the past while blaming external actors for fueling the separatist insurgency.

Asif also acknowledged the challenges faced by Pakistani forces in combating the militants, describing them as "handicapped" by the vast geography of Balochistan, which accounts for more than 40 percent of the country's landmass. The difficult terrain, sparse population, and improved rebel capabilities



ties have made counter-insurgency operations increasingly complex.

Balochistan has witnessed one of its most violent phases in years, with insurgent groups carrying out coordinated attacks across multiple districts. These assaults have targeted security installations, infrastructure, and transport routes, disrupting daily life and heightening fears of prolonged instability. Militants have demonstrated greater tactical planning and discipline compared to earlier phases of the insurgency, suggest-

ing an evolution in their operational methods.

The defence minister ruled out negotiations with the separatists, describing them as criminals linked to smuggling networks and illegal trade. He asserted that the government would respond with the full force of the state to restore order and maintain territorial integrity.

Balochistan, despite being rich in natural resources, has long been plagued by unrest rooted in political marginalisation, economic deprivation, and allegations

of heavy-handed security measures. While Pakistani authorities continue to attribute the insurgency to foreign support and illicit weapons flows, critics argue that lasting stability will remain elusive without addressing the province's deeper political and socio-economic grievances.

As violence intensifies, Khawaja Asif's comments underscore the growing strain on Pakistan's security apparatus and the scale of the challenge it faces in regaining control over one of its most volatile regions.

Russia Launches Massive Missile and Drone Strike on Ukraine's Power Grid Ahead of Peace Talks



Russia has launched one of its largest aerial assaults of the year against Ukraine, hitting the country's power infrastructure with a massive barrage of missiles and drones just before peace negotiations were set to resume.

According to Ukrainian officials, Russian forces fired hundreds of long-range drones and scores of missiles overnight, targeting energy facilities, power plants, and electrical networks across several regions, including the capital, Kyiv. The assault disrupted electricity and heating services at a time when much of Ukraine is enduring extremely cold winter temperatures, leaving thousands of residents without heat and power in freezing conditions.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the prolonged attack came a day before scheduled talks in Abu Dhabi aimed at advancing a negotiated end to the nearly four-year-long war with Russia. He accused Moscow of prioritising military pressure over diplomatic progress and using strikes on civilian infra-

structure as a tool of coercion, intensifying hardship for ordinary Ukrainians as diplomats prepared to meet.

The bombardment involved what Ukrainian authorities described as record levels of weaponry in a single campaign, with long-range drones and ballistic missiles among the munitions launched. Multiple regions saw power stations, thermal plants, and transmission lines damaged, and reports indicate that residential buildings and other infrastructure were hit during the strikes. Scores of people were reported wounded in the attacks, and the damage forced emergency crews to delay restoration work on vital services.

NATO and Western leaders condemned the strikes, with officials noting that the timing of the attack — immediately prior to a new round of talks — cast doubt on Moscow's willingness to genuinely pursue peace. The assault was widely viewed as a potential effort to strengthen Russia's negotiating position by applying pressure on Kyiv and its allies.

Ukraine's leaders responded by urging international partners to provide additional air-defence systems and reinforcing calls for "maximum pressure" on Russia to halt the war. They emphasised that continued assaults on energy infrastructure not only harm civilians but also complicate the diplomatic environment just as negotiators gather to discuss possible settlements.

While peace talks were scheduled to bring Ukrainian and Russian delegates together in the United Arab Emirates, the spike in violence has underscored how fragile ceasefire efforts remain. The continued conflict over energy assets and civilian infrastructure highlights the formidable challenges facing diplomats in securing any lasting agreement.

The latest wave of strikes illustrates the stark reality that military escalation can occur even as diplomatic efforts advance, and it raises serious questions about the roadmap ahead for peace negotiations and the protection of civilians enduring the hardships of war.

Melinda French Gates Says Epstein Files Bring Back Painful Memories of Her Marriage to Bill Gates

Melinda French Gates has spoken publicly about the emotional impact of newly released documents linked to the late financier Jeffrey Epstein that mention her former husband, Bill Gates. In a candid conversation on a podcast, she described how seeing her ex-husband's name in those records brought back difficult memories from their 27-year marriage.

French Gates said the revelations triggered "unbelievable sadness" and resurfaced what she called "very, very painful times" from the past. While she has moved on in her life since their divorce, she admitted that revisiting those details was emotionally hard for her because it reignited memories she had hoped to leave behind.

The files — part of millions of pages of material released as part of a Justice Department review — include draft emails attributed to Epstein. Some of these communications contain sensational claims about Bill Gates's per-



sonal life, including an allegation that he contracted a sexually transmitted infection after encounters with women described in the documents. One message appears to refer to efforts to manage the situation privately, though it is unclear whether these messages were ever actually sent or received by the people mentioned.

French Gates declined to comment on the specifics of the allegations. She emphas-

ised that any remaining questions about the behaviour referenced in the files should be addressed by those involved, including her ex-husband, rather than by her. She also expressed deep empathy for the victims of Epstein's crimes, especially the young women who suffered abuse at his hands, saying their experiences are heartbreaking and deserve attention and justice.

Reflecting on her own past,

French Gates noted that the revelations reminded her of the challenges in her personal life, but made clear that she has since built a life separate from the "muck" of those earlier years. She said she is grateful to have moved forward, focusing on her own work and wellbeing.

Bill Gates has strongly denied the allegations emerging from the Epstein files. A spokesperson for him described the claims as false and misleading, asserting that Epstein's material often reflected his own frustrations and attempts to defame those he knew.

The ongoing scrutiny highlights broader societal conversations about accountability, the influence of powerful networks, and the need to centre the voices of survivors of abuse in the public discourse. French Gates's remarks contribute to this conversation by acknowledging both her personal anguish and the larger context of harm uncovered in the Epstein files.

Elon Musk's X Faces Criminal Investigation in France Over Content and AI Practices

French authorities have launched a wide-ranging criminal investigation into Elon Musk's social media platform X, intensifying regulatory scrutiny over how the company manages content, data, and artificial intelligence tools within the country.

As part of the probe, French prosecutors have searched X's offices in Paris and summoned Elon Musk and senior company executives for questioning. The investigation, which began earlier this year, has expanded in scope following complaints related to harmful content, algorithmic practices, and the use of AI-generated material on the platform.

The charges under examination include the alleged circulation of child sexual abuse material, the creation and spread of sexually explicit deepfakes, and violations of personal image rights. Authorities are also investigating claims related to Holocaust denial and denial of crimes against humanity, both of which are criminal offences under French law. In addition, prosecutors are looking into whether X's algorithms manipulated content visibility in ways that breached national regulations.

Another major focus of the investigation concerns the operation of X's artificial intelligence systems, including its chatbot technology. Officials are examining whether automated tools enabled the extraction or use of data in an unlawful manner and whether the platform failed to prevent the dissemination of illegal AI-generated content. The inquiry is also assessing whether X may have oper-



ated as an illegal digital platform under French law.

French law enforcement agencies, including cyber-crime specialists, are supporting the probe as authorities seek to determine whether X complied with its legal obligations while operating in France. The investigation reflects growing concerns among European regulators about the risks posed by unregulated AI tools and inadequate content moderation on large social media platforms.

In response, X has denied all allegations and described the investigation as politically motivated. The company has argued that the probe threatens free expression and has maintained that it complies with

applicable laws. Elon Musk has publicly criticised the actions of French authorities, portraying them as an attempt to suppress open discourse.

The case marks one of the most serious legal challenges faced by X in Europe and highlights the broader regulatory push to hold technology platforms accountable for content safety, data protection, and AI governance. The outcome of the investigation could have significant implications not only for X's operations in France, but also for how digital platforms are regulated across the European Union as scrutiny of online harms and artificial intelligence continues to intensify.

Kremlin Rejects Claim That India Will Halt Russian Oil Purchases After US Pressure

The Kremlin has rejected claims that India has agreed to stop purchasing Russian crude oil following pressure from former US President Donald Trump, asserting that Moscow has received no official communication from New Delhi indicating any such shift in energy policy.

Responding to remarks made by Trump about persuading India to halt Russian oil imports as part of a broader trade understanding, Russian officials said there was no confirmation from Indian authorities to support the claim. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov stressed that Russia continues to view India as a key strategic and energy partner and sees no evidence that bilateral oil trade is under threat.

Russian officials emphasised that energy cooperation between Moscow and New Delhi is based on commercial logic and mutual benefit rather than political pressure from third parties. They reiterated that India's purchases of Rus-



sian crude remain economically attractive, particularly due to competitive pricing and stable supply arrangements. According to the Kremlin, decisions on oil trade are sovereign matters and should not be dictated by external actors.

The comments highlight Russia's resistance to attempts by Western countries to reshape global energy flows through diplomatic or economic pressure. Moscow maintains that it will continue expanding energy partner-

ships with countries willing to engage on pragmatic terms, including India, which has emerged as one of the largest buyers of Russian oil in recent years.

India, for its part, has not publicly confirmed any agreement to stop importing Russian crude. Indian officials have consistently maintained that the country's energy policy is guided by affordability, supply security, and national interest. Analysts note that any significant change in In-

dia's oil sourcing would require time, as refiners operate under long-term contracts and complex logistical arrangements.

Meanwhile, China's position remains relevant in the broader context of global oil markets. As one of the world's largest energy consumers, China has continued to purchase substantial volumes of Russian crude, underscoring the limited effectiveness of external pressure on major Asian economies when it comes to energy trade decisions.

The episode reflects the growing geopolitical contest surrounding energy supplies, with major powers seeking to influence trade flows amid sanctions and shifting alliances. For now, Russia appears confident that its energy ties with India remain intact, while New Delhi has shown no indication of abandoning its long-standing approach of balancing strategic relationships with economic priorities.

Sigachi Industries Shares Soar After CEO Granted Bail in Fatal Factory Blast Case



Shares of Sigachi Industries jumped sharply after the company announced that its Managing Director and CEO, Amit Raj Sinha, was granted bail by the Telangana High Court in the high-profile case linked to a deadly factory explosion last year. The firm's stock rallied nearly 20%, marking one of its strongest sessions after a period of sharp decline.

The Telangana High Court granted conditional bail to Sinha, who had been in judicial custody since late December while the investigation into the tragic incident continued. As part of the bail conditions, he was required to execute a personal bond along with sureties and comply with specific directives aimed at protecting the integrity of the ongoing inquiry.

The explosion occurred at Sigachi's chemical unit in the Pashamylaram area of Sangareddy district and resulted in significant

loss of life and injuries among workers. In response to the tragedy, authorities opened a criminal investigation, eventually leading to charges and the arrest of the company's top executive.

Following the news of the bail, market sentiment turned positive, and investors responded by buying shares of the company. This helped reverse some of the losses that had accumulated since the incident and associated legal developments. The share price recovery reflected renewed optimism among traders about the company's prospects now that a key uncertainty — the CEO's legal status — has been clarified.

In an official statement, Sigachi Industries reaffirmed its commitment to full cooperation with investigators and the judicial process. The company expressed sympathy for families affected by the blast and highlighted efforts to enhance safety

practices across operations, underlining its intention to rebuild trust and strengthen risk management protocols.

The stock had been under pressure since the blast when investors reacted to the severity of the incident, legal action against management, and concerns over operational disruptions. The latest bounce in the share price suggests that markets may be pricing in increased clarity and reduced near-term uncertainty around the leadership and legal proceedings.

Overall, the bail ruling appears to have eased investor anxieties, contributing to a notable uptick in Sigachi's share performance. Whether this momentum persists will depend on how the company navigates continued legal and regulatory scrutiny, implements safety improvements, and restores confidence among stakeholders and the broader market.

Indian Markets Bounce Back from Early Weakness as Rebound Takes Nifty Above 25,750

Indian equity markets staged a notable recovery after suffering early losses, with key indices bouncing sharply from their intraday lows and reclaiming important support levels. After a volatile start triggered by a sell-off in certain high-profile sectors, the benchmark Nifty 50 climbed back above the 25,750 mark, driven by a mix of recovery buying, strong foreign inflows, and easing volatility.

The market rebound was broad-based, with frontline index Sensex also rising significantly from its lows as traders responded positively to recent cues. A renewed sense of optimism among investors helped pare earlier declines, and major sector groups saw buying interest return as the session progressed.

What Drove the Bounce

Several factors combined to lift market sentiment:

1. Fresh Foreign Buying

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) turned net buyers, injecting substantial funds into equities. This influx of capital was a key catalyst behind the uptick, supporting prices across cash markets and lifting overall sentiment.



The increase in FII participation helped offset earlier selling pressure and underlined confidence in Indian stocks.

2. Lower Market Volatility

The India VIX — a key gauge of expected market volatility — eased during the session, signaling reduced near-term uncertainty. A lower volatility reading typically improves investor risk appetite, encouraging both institutional and retail participants to add positions after a weak start.

3. Export-Linked Optimism

Stocks in sectors expected to benefit from stronger global trade, especially

export-oriented industries, drew attention. Companies in textiles, gems and jewellery, and marine products saw renewed interest, reflecting optimism about external demand conditions.

Drag from Select Sectors

Despite the broader rebound, not all segments participated equally.

IT stocks, in particular, faced headwinds earlier in the day. Heavyweights in the technology space experienced a sell-off as concerns over rapid advancements in artificial intelligence prompted questions about future profitability and job mod-

els. This weakness capped some of the gains and contributed to early volatility.

However, as the session evolved, buying interest in other areas helped blunt the impact of sectoral weakness, enabling the indices to recover.

Technical and Sentiment Insights

Market technicians noted that reclaiming levels above 25,750 is important from a sentiment standpoint, as it offers a psychological floor for index action. Should the market sustain above this zone, it would reduce the probability of deeper dips and potentially enable further

resistance levels. Conversely, failure to hold above this could widen intraday swings.

What's Next for Investors?

The rebound underscored the markets' resilience despite early selling pressures and sector-specific concerns. While the relief rally offers some comfort to investors, analysts caution that continued foreign flows and improvements in earnings growth will be crucial to sustaining momentum.

In the near term, market participants are likely to monitor global economic cues, domestic policy developments, and sector-specific news — particularly around technology and export demand — for signs of direction. Sustained recovery will depend on consistent buying interest and clearer cues on economic fundamentals.

In summary, after a volatile session marked by early weaknesses, Indian markets managed to bounce back, reclaiming key levels and restoring investor confidence. Whether this rebound sustains will hinge on continued positive sentiment and broader macro-economic developments.

Indian IT Stock Sell-Off Driven by AI Repricing Concerns, Not Weak Demand



The sharp sell-off in Indian IT stocks has sparked concerns among investors, but market analysts say the decline reflects fears of long-term repricing triggered by artificial intelligence rather than any immediate slowdown in technology demand.

Major IT stocks witnessed steep losses, dragging the broader IT index sharply lower in a single session. Shares of leading companies such as Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, LTIMindtree, and Coforge fell significantly

as investors reassessed how rapidly advancing AI technologies could disrupt traditional IT services models.

According to analysts, the trigger for the sell-off was heightened global attention on new artificial intelligence platforms that promise to automate large portions of work historically handled by human engineers. These tools can dramatically compress project timelines, raising concerns that IT firms may face pressure on billing rates,

revenue growth, and workforce requirements over time.

However, experts stress that the market reaction should not be mistaken for a collapse in client demand. Enterprise technology spending remains stable, and companies across industries continue to invest in digital transformation, cloud migration, cybersecurity, and data modernisation. The concern lies more in how future projects may be priced and delivered as automation increases

productivity.

Indian IT companies have long operated on labour-intensive models, where revenues are closely tied to the number of people deployed and hours billed. AI-driven efficiencies challenge this structure by reducing the time and manpower required to complete projects. This has prompted investors to re-evaluate long-term earnings potential, leading to valuation adjustments across the sector.

Analysts also note that the sell-off was amplified by broader global weakness in technology stocks and profit-taking by foreign investors. Such sentiment-driven moves can exaggerate short-term price declines even when business fundamentals remain intact.

Importantly, industry experts believe Indian IT firms are not unprepared for this shift. Most large players have already embedded AI into their service offerings, invested in automation platforms, and retrained employees to work alongside advanced technologies.

Rather than eliminating demand, AI is expected to change the nature of work — shifting focus toward higher-value services such as AI governance, systems integration, advanced analytics, and platform engineering.

In the long run, analysts view the current phase as a transition rather than a structural breakdown. While AI may disrupt legacy delivery models and pressure margins in the near term, it also opens new opportunities for IT companies that adapt quickly and reposition themselves within evolving client ecosystems.

The key takeaway, according to experts, is that the recent decline reflects investor uncertainty around future pricing and business models, not a sudden deterioration in demand. As clarity emerges on how AI reshapes enterprise technology spending, valuations are expected to stabilise, particularly for companies that successfully align innovation with client needs.

SEBI Says No Immediate Changes to F&O Rules; Capital Market Stocks React Positively



The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has made it clear that it is not planning to implement any immediate restrictions or changes on the futures and options (F&O) segment of the Indian equity markets, reassuring investors and market participants amid recent debate over derivatives regulation.

SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey addressed concerns about potential policy shifts while speaking to reporters in Mumbai, emphasising that the regulator is taking a methodical, data-driven approach to how equity derivatives are overseen and that the existing regulatory framework remains in place for now. He reiterated that there would be no new curbs on F&O trading, and the weekly expiry cycle — an important structural feature of the derivatives market — will not be altered in the near term.

This statement comes against the backdrop of recent announcements in the federal budget that raised transaction

taxes on equity derivatives to curb excessive speculative activity. Some traders and analysts had been speculating whether SEBI might follow up with further restrictions aimed at reducing risk in the F&O segment. However, Pandey's comments sought to calm the market, stressing that any potential regulatory changes would be carefully calibrated and would not be rushed. His remarks suggested that the regulator is focused on evidence and analysis rather than reactionary measures.

Following SEBI's assurance of status quo on F&O rules, capital market stocks saw an uptick as investors interpreted the news as supportive for risk assets. Key players in the broader capital market index recorded gains, with companies like stock exchange operators and brokerage firms among those showing positive price movement. The market reaction reflected relief among participants that an abrupt tightening of derivatives rules was

not imminent.

In addition to derivatives, Pandey also highlighted that SEBI is actively engaging with stakeholders to implement other budget proposals, notably those aimed at deepening India's corporate bond market. This includes discussions on ways to expand market participation beyond traditional issuers and increase liquidity in fixed-income segments. The regulator's broader focus appears to blend stability in derivatives with longer-term development of the overall capital market ecosystem.

SEBI's current stance reinforces its role as a balanced regulator, aiming to protect investor interests and market integrity while also supporting orderly growth and innovation. By maintaining the existing frameworks and communicating a cautious but steady regulatory path, the regulator seeks to foster confidence among both domestic and foreign participants in India's financial markets.

Ambani Says JioBlackRock to Help Indians Turn Savings into Long-Term Investment Returns

Mukesh Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director of Reliance Industries, has outlined a bold vision for transforming how Indians deploy their long-accumulated savings into productive, long-term investment earnings. Speaking at a high-profile event in Mumbai alongside Larry Fink, CEO of global asset manager BlackRock, Ambani emphasised that while Indian households have built a strong culture of saving over decades, much of that capital remains underutilised in low-yield assets.

Ambani pointed out that although Indians have consistently saved for many years, that money has not been put to work in ways that generate meaningful long-term returns. He stressed that this presents a major opportunity to shift household wealth from idle savings into assets that can grow over time and support financial security for



future generations. According to him, JioBlackRock — the joint venture between Reliance and BlackRock — aims to be at the forefront of this transformation by incentivising savers to become investors.

At the heart of Ambani's argument is the idea that disciplined saving alone is not sufficient for wealth creation unless those funds are chan-

nelled into productive investments. He underscored that many Indian families still park their money in traditional vehicles like bank deposits, physical assets, or low-yield instruments, which fail to compound wealth effectively over long periods. By contrast, long-term investing in diversified assets can unlock stronger returns and provide financial resilience.

Ambani also highlighted the shared philosophy between Reliance and BlackRock on the broader purpose of capital allocation. Both organisations, he said, believe that investment capital should not just pursue short-term gains but also contribute to societal progress and economic growth. In his remarks, he reflected on a conversation with BlackRock's Fink about the mu-

tual goal of ensuring that investment money is put to work in ways that benefit both investors and the wider community.

The broader event also featured remarks from Larry Fink, who spoke about the "era of India" and the significant opportunity for long-term wealth creation if investors adopt patient, growth-oriented strategies. Fink encouraged participants to look beyond short-term market fluctuations and focus on sustained engagement with capital markets as a means of participating in the country's growth story.

Together, Ambani and Fink's messages signal a concerted effort by JioBlackRock to democratise access to investment opportunities, encourage wider market participation among Indian households, and shift the national mindset from saving to investing for long-term financial success.

Pilot's Surprise In-Flight Tribute to His Father Leaves Passengers Moved



A routine flight turned into an unforgettable moment for passengers aboard an IndiGo aircraft when the captain made a heartfelt announcement that surprised and delighted everyone on board. What began as a normal journey became a touching tribute to family, service, and shared history — a moment that quickly went viral on social media.

The video circulating online shows Captain Ranveer taking the microphone to address his passengers with a warm smile. He began by introducing himself and acknowledging those aboard, but there was a deeper story he wanted to share. Ranveer revealed that the flight was departing from Dabolim Airport — a place of special significance for him personally. It was from this very airfield that he began his naval flying career nearly four decades ago.

As he spoke to the travelers, he explained that among the passengers were two very important people to him. One was his father, Admiral V.S. Shekhawat, a respected former Chief of Naval Staff. Also on board was Vice Admiral I.C. Rao, a longtime colleague and classmate of his father's from more than 70 years earlier. The coincidence of their being on the same flight touched the captain deeply, and he felt compelled to share it with everyone present.

What made the announcement so

remarkable was not just the revelation of family ties but the story woven between generations of naval service. Ranveer recounted how, when he began flying in the Indian Navy 39 years ago, his father was already a squadron commander stationed at Dabolim. Over the years, his father's career had taken him to the very top of the naval hierarchy, and now, decades later, father and son were sharing this moment in the skies together.

The heartfelt address was unplanned. Ranveer learned only the day before that his father and his father's old friend would be on the same flight. In a simple gesture of love, he brought a small meal for his father and took a moment to honor him publicly during the flight. As he signed off from his announcement, he revealed to the passengers, "The gentleman you see here is Admiral Shekhawat — my father — and I am the captain of this aircraft."

Passengers reacted with smiles, applause, and emotional appreciation. Clips of the announcement spread rapidly across social platforms, with viewers praising the captain's sincerity and the beautiful convergence of personal history and professional life. Many called it a "fortunate and touching moment" that resonated far beyond just a regular flight, turning an ordinary journey into a memorable story of family pride and service.

US Woman's Bond With 90-Year-Old Neighbour Goes Viral After She Helps Raise Her Baby



A heartwarming friendship between a woman in the United States and her elderly neighbour has captured the attention of millions online, reminding people of the powerful impact of community support.

When Colleen Bordeaux and her husband moved into a new home in Los Angeles, they did not have any close family nearby. The young couple soon met their senior neighbours, 90-year-old Shirley

Dionzon and her husband Ken, who had lived across the street for decades. What began as a friendly greeting gradually grew into a deep bond between Colleen and Shirley, a connection that would later prove invaluable.

As Colleen's life changed with the birth of her first child, Ryder, the support from Shirley became a source of comfort and practical help. During her pregnancy and after the baby's arrival, Shirley

checked in on Colleen regularly, offering encouragement, sharing parenting tips and simply being present. When Colleen experienced discomfort in the later months of her pregnancy, Shirley even offered her walking stick to help her get around.

After Ryder was born, Colleen's own mother was able to stay and help for just two weeks. When she had to return home, the challenge of juggling newborn care and work re-

sponsibilities intensified for Colleen. That's when Shirley stepped in even more. She frequently brought food to the new parents and lovingly took care of Ryder, allowing Colleen to attend work calls or run errands without worry.

A short video shared by Colleen on Instagram showing Shirley holding baby Ryder quickly struck a chord with viewers around the world. The post, which amassed well

over a million views, carried a simple yet powerful message about the importance of community. In her caption, Colleen urged people to reconnect with those around them, saying that if someone needs the support of a "village," it can begin with talking to and caring about neighbours.

For many viewers, the relationship between Colleen and Shirley exemplified a modern interpretation of age-old wisdom: that raising a child and navigating early parenthood doesn't have to be done alone. Their story highlighted how intergenerational friendships can enrich lives on both sides — a younger parent receives support and wisdom, while an older neighbour gets a renewed sense of purpose and connection.

Colleen shared that Shirley helped her trust her own instincts as a new mother, and the two often joked about how children are easy to manage compared with husbands. Meanwhile, Shirley said re-learning how to care for a baby brought her joy and fulfillment.

The online reaction to their story has been overwhelmingly positive, with many praising the pair for reminding the world that deep, meaningful relationships can be found just next door.

Viral 'Four Moons' Moon Video Sparks Debate — Rare Paraselene or Fake?

A strange video showing what looked like multiple moons in the night sky has taken social media by storm, leaving people around the world both amazed and confused.

The video, widely shared and viewed thousands of times, appears to show what looks like four moons hovering above the sky. Many who saw it were stunned by the sight and shared it across platforms, with some users celebrating it as a rare celestial spectacle and others questioning whether it was real or manipulated.

Some of the earliest posts about the footage came from users claiming the scene was filmed over St Petersburg, Russia. In these posts, people suggested that a rare natural occurrence — sometimes described as "four moons" — was visible that night. The striking visual, with bright orb-like shapes alongside the real Moon, certainly looked unusual and dreamlike to onlookers.

Experts and sky watchers explained that the sur-

real sight is likely the result of an atmospheric optical effect known as a paraselene, also called "moon dogs." This phenomenon happens when moonlight passes through flat ice crystals high in the atmosphere. As the light bends or refracts through these tiny crystals, it creates bright spots beside the real Moon, giving the impression of extra lunar discs in the sky.

Paraselenes are similar to the more familiar "sun dogs" — bright spots that sometimes appear beside the sun — but are caused by moonlight instead. Such phenomena are rare and usually occur under very specific weather conditions, especially in cold regions where ice crystals are abundant high above the Earth.

Despite this scientific explanation, not everyone was convinced. Some viewers suggested that the video could be showing something else entirely, such as a train of satellites passing in sequence, giving the illusion of multiple bright lights. Others



dismissed the footage outright, calling it fake or digitally altered and pointing to the unusual alignment of the "moons" as suspicious.

The internet debate became even more confusing when different artificial intelligence tools offered conflicting interpretations — one stating that the video matched the expected characteris-

tics of a paraselene, and another suggesting satellite lights might be a better fit.

Regardless of its cause, the video sparked widespread curiosity and discussion about celestial phenomena and how natural conditions can create astonishing visual effects in the sky. For many online viewers, it served as a re-

minder of how much there still is to learn about the atmosphere and the ways light can interact with it.

In the end, while the beautiful display might look like something from another world, scientists say it is likely a natural optical illusion caused by ice crystals refracting moonlight — a rare but real atmospheric event.

Wild Buffalo Crashes Through Bike Showroom in Kerala; CCTV Captures Dramatic Moment



A dramatic and unexpected incident unfolded in Kerala when a wild buffalo sprinted into a bike showroom, smashing its glass front and wreaking havoc inside, with the entire episode captured on CCTV.

The startling event took place on the morning of February 1 in Kuthuparamba, Kannur district. Footage from the surveillance cameras shows a large buffalo charging directly at the showroom's glass façade. With considerable force, it broke through the glass panels and stumbled into the display area, sending shards of glass flying and damaging furniture and vehicles arranged inside.

As the animal forged ahead, it seemed unsteady. At one point, it slipped and collided with a concrete wall, yet regained its balance and continued moving before eventually finding its way out of the building. The sudden intrusion caused shock and panic among nearby staff and locals, who quickly fled the scene to ensure their safety.

When employees and passersby realised what was happening, there was no one inside the showroom at the moment of impact. This fortunate circumstance meant that nobody was physically hurt, despite the buffalo's reckless entry and the broken glass and dented bikes left behind.

After causing the disruption, the

buffalo exited the showroom, but the direction in which it fled was unclear. Concerned about the presence of the wild animal in a populated area, the Kerala Forest Department launched a search operation. Officials said they would attempt to tranquillise and capture the buffalo if necessary, to prevent potential danger to people and property.

According to wildlife experts and local authorities, the buffalo is believed to have strayed from the nearby Kannavam Forest area, venturing into the commercial locality in search of food or while moving with its herd. Incidents of wild animals wandering into human settlements have been increasing in parts of Kerala, often attributed to shrinking habitats and expanding human activity along forest fringes.

Scenes like this emphasise the ongoing challenges faced in balancing wildlife conservation with growing urbanisation. While the buffalo's unexpected detour caused property damage and a commotion, it also served as a reminder of the complex interactions between humans and wildlife in regions where natural and built environments intersect.

As the search continues, authorities are urging residents to stay alert and report sightings of the animal to ensure it can be safely guided back to its natural habitat without harm.

Volleyball Star Yuji Nishida's Sincere Apology Leaves Fans Touched



Japanese volleyball star Yuji Nishida recently won hearts across the internet after a heartfelt on-court apology during an all-star match turned into a viral moment. What started as a minor accident during a light-hearted event quickly became a powerful display of humility, sportsmanship, and respect.

The incident took place at an SV League All-Star Game in Kobe, where Nishida, captain of the Osaka Bluteon and one of Japan's most recognisable volleyball players, was participating in a half-time serving challenge. Known for his powerful left-handed serves, Nishida attempted a strong shot, but the ball went

off target and accidentally struck a female court-side official on the back. Although the official was unharmed, the unexpected mishap immediately caught everyone's attention.

Rather than brushing off the moment or offering a brief verbal apology, Nishida reacted in an extraordinary way. Visibly

embarrassed, he dramatically slid across the court on his stomach toward the official, his head lowered in a clear sign of remorse. The crowd burst into laughter and applause, recognising both the sincerity and humour in his gesture.

Once he reached the official, Nishida went a step further. He dropped to his knees and bowed repeatedly, pressing his palms together as if pleading for forgiveness. His exaggerated yet genuine apology transformed an awkward moment into one filled with warmth and mutual respect. The official, clearly amused and touched, responded with a smile and a polite bow, signalling that the apology had been graciously accepted.

Videos of the incident quickly spread across social media platforms, attracting millions of views and reactions. Fans from around the world praised

Nishida for his humility, calling the moment wholesome, refreshing, and deeply respectful. Many viewers noted that his actions reflected the cultural importance of sincere apologies in Japan, where gestures of respect often carry as much meaning as words.

Despite the brief interruption, Nishida's performance on the court remained impressive. He went on to play a key role in his team's dominant victory and was later named the Most Valuable Player of the event. The combination of athletic excellence and genuine character only added to the admiration he received online.

In a sport often defined by intensity and competition, Yuji Nishida's heartfelt apology stood out as a reminder that grace, humility, and respect can leave an impact far greater than any winning point.

Ishan Kishan's Comeback Story: Letting Go of Expectations and Trusting the Process

After nearly two years away from the Indian cricket team, Ishan Kishan's return has been defined by patience, resilience and renewed self-belief. The 27-year-old wicketkeeper-batter made the most of his comeback opportunity in the recent T20 series against New Zealand, finishing as one of India's standout performers. His tally of 215 runs in four matches included a memorable maiden T20I century, which played a decisive role in India clinching the series.

Reflecting on his time away from the national setup, Kishan spoke candidly about the mental challenges he faced and the mindset shift that helped him stay grounded. He admitted that early on, he constantly hoped for a recall, but over time, he realised that expectations could become a burden. Instead, he focused on what was within his control — training hard, staying match-ready and delivering whenever opportunities came his way.

Kishan emphasised that confidence never left him, even during the toughest phase of his career. While the absence from selection discussions was difficult, he chose not to let frustration dictate his approach. Rather than overthinking his situation, he chan-



nelled his energy into improving his game and maintaining fitness. According to him, consistency and patience were key to staying mentally strong. The left-hander had stepped away from international cricket in 2023 due to mental fatigue, a decision that briefly halted his momentum. However, the break allowed him to

reconnect with himself, focus on domestic cricket and lean on family and close friends for support. That period, he believes, helped him mature both as a player and as an individual.

His return to the Indian squad came when he was named as a backup wicketkeeper for a major tournament. An unexpected

opening soon followed, and Kishan seized the moment with confidence and attacking intent. His century in the series finale was a reminder of his natural flair and ability to change the course of a game single-handedly.

Ishan Kishan's journey back to Team India serves as a lesson in perseverance. In a competitive en-

vironment where selection is never guaranteed, his story highlights the importance of trusting the process, staying prepared and believing in one's abilities. His performances have not only strengthened his case for a regular spot but have also inspired many young cricketers navigating similar phases in their careers.

India-Pakistan Match Will Happen Despite Boycott Talk, Says Ashwin



Amid speculation and uncertainty surrounding the much-anticipated India-Pakistan clash at the T20 World Cup 2026, senior India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has expressed strong confidence that the match will eventually go ahead. Responding to reports suggesting Pakistan may boycott the fixture, Ashwin dismissed the possibility, stating that

the contest is "100 percent" likely to take place.

The India-Pakistan encounter is one of the biggest attractions of any global cricket tournament, drawing massive viewership and commercial interest worldwide. Recent reports of Pakistan considering a boycott of the match triggered concern among fans and organisers alike, as the fixture

holds immense significance not just sporting-wise, but also financially.

Ashwin believes that practical realities will outweigh political or administrative posturing. According to him, global tournaments function within a tightly connected ecosystem involving broadcasters, sponsors and cricket boards, making it extremely difficult

for any team to selectively opt out of a marquee fixture. He suggested that financial implications and contractual obligations would ultimately ensure the match is played as scheduled.

The experienced off-spinner pointed out that international cricket cannot function smoothly if teams begin choosing which opponents they want to face. Such a move, he implied, would undermine the integrity of the tournament and set a dangerous precedent for future ICC events. In Ashwin's view, the larger interests of the sport will prevail.

The potential boycott has also raised questions about the role of governing bodies in maintaining tournament discipline. Under ICC regulations, teams are expected to honour the official fixture list, and any refusal to play could invite serious consequences, including penalties or sanctions. While no final decision has been announced, the situation re-

mains fluid.

Ashwin further noted that fans across the world look forward to India-Pakistan matches, which often transcend sport and become global spectacles. He emphasised that players, too, recognise the importance of such games and prepare extensively for them. From his perspective, it would be unrealistic to expect a World Cup to proceed smoothly without one of its most anticipated fixtures.

As preparations for the T20 World Cup continue, both teams remain focused on their campaigns. While off-field discussions continue behind the scenes, Ashwin's comments have provided reassurance to fans hoping the clash will go ahead.

Ultimately, his message was clear: logistical, financial and sporting realities make the India-Pakistan match too important to be cancelled. Despite the noise around a possible boycott, Ashwin remains confident that cricket will take centre stage when the tournament begins.

Pat Cummins Admits Australia's Poor Form Ahead of T20 World Cup, Backs Team to Recover

Australia captain Pat Cummins has admitted that his team's recent form in T20 cricket has been far from ideal as they head into the upcoming T20 World Cup. Following a string of disappointing results, Cummins acknowledged that Australia have struggled to find rhythm but remains confident that the side can turn things around once the tournament begins.

Speaking about the team's performances in the lead-up, Cummins described Australia's form as worrying, particularly after a heavy series defeat that raised questions about preparation and balance. However, he downplayed the long-term impact of these setbacks, pointing out that poor lead-up form does not always reflect how teams perform at major tournaments.

Cummins himself will miss the World Cup after failing to recover in time from a back injury. He explained that while the in-



jury was not severe, he simply ran out of time to be fully match-ready before the squad was finalised. The fast bowler stressed that pushing himself prematurely could have led to further complications, especially with a packed international schedule ahead.

Despite his absence, Cummins expressed strong belief in Austral-

ia's squad depth. He noted that the team has quality players across departments who are capable of stepping up when required. Drawing parallels with Australia's build-up to their previous T20 World Cup triumph, Cummins reminded that the side had entered that tournament under similar scrutiny before eventually lifting the trophy.

He highlighted the importance of experienced campaigners and explosive match-winners in the lineup, stressing that confidence and momentum are often the deciding factors in short-format cricket. According to Cummins, Australia's powerful batting group and versatile bowling options give them the tools to compete with any opposition if they

find form early in the tournament.

The skipper also pointed out that several players are returning from minor injuries and may need time to regain full sharpness. He believes the initial matches will be crucial for Australia to build momentum and settle into combinations ahead of the knockout stages.

Injuries to key fast bowlers have added to Australia's challenges, putting additional responsibility on the remaining pace attack. However, Cummins remains optimistic that the team's experience in handling pressure situations at global events will help them adapt quickly.

While acknowledging concerns over form and fitness, Cummins' message was one of belief rather than panic. He maintained that once the World Cup begins, results in the lead-up will matter less, and execution on the day will be what ultimately defines Australia's campaign.

MS Dhoni Calls India a Dangerous T20 World Cup Side, Flags One Factor That Truly Worries Him



Former India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni has described the Indian team as one of the most dangerous contenders in the upcoming T20 World Cup, citing the squad's balance, depth and experience in high-pressure situations. However, even while backing India's strength, Dhoni pointed out one external factor that genuinely concerns him and could influence results in crucial matches.

According to Dhoni, India possess almost all the ingredients needed to succeed in the shortest format — explosive batters, versatile all-rounders and a bowling attack capable of adapting to different conditions. He believes the team's combination of youth and experience makes them a formidable opponent, capable of dominating games on their day. India's familiarity with conditions and recent consistency in T20 cricket further strengthen their position as strong title contenders.

Despite this confidence, Dhoni admitted that one aspect of the tournament format continues to trouble him: dew. Having experienced it extensively during his playing career, he explained how dew can significantly change the nature of a match, particularly during night games. A wet outfield and slippery ball often make life difficult for bowlers, especially spinners, while giving a clear advantage to teams batting second.

Dhoni noted that in such conditions, the toss becomes dispro-

tionately important, sometimes overshadowing team balance or planning. Even a well-prepared side can find itself struggling if conditions shift dramatically under lights. For him, this unpredictability is frustrating because it takes control away from players and places it in the hands of external factors.

The former captain also spoke about the nature of T20 cricket, calling it a format where small margins can decide outcomes. A single poor over, a dropped catch or one exceptional performance from an opposition player can completely change the momentum of a match. Dhoni stressed that consistency and clarity of roles will be vital for India as they navigate the tournament.

He further highlighted the importance of staying mentally calm and physically fit throughout the competition. With matches coming thick and fast, avoiding injuries and managing workload will be just as important as on-field execution.

Overall, Dhoni's assessment reflects a balance of belief and caution. While he sees India as a team capable of going all the way, he also acknowledges that factors beyond skill — such as conditions and match-day circumstances — can play a decisive role. His comments serve as both encouragement and a reminder that in T20 cricket, nothing can be taken for granted.

Dhoni: Age Shouldn't Decide Rohit & Kohli's 2027 World Cup Fate — Performance and Fitness Do



Former India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni has delivered a clear and firm message on the ongoing debate over the future of veterans Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli ahead of the 2027 Cricket World Cup. Speaking at a recent public event, Dhoni made it clear that age alone should not determine whether senior players feature for India in the marquee 50-over tournament. Instead, he insisted that performance and fitness must be the true yardsticks in selection decisions.

Responding to a question about whether Rohit and Kohli — both well into their 30s — will play a role in next year's World Cup scheduled in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia, Dhoni offered a succinct philosophy: if players continue to perform and remain fit, there is no reason to exclude them merely because of their age. He reflected on his own career, recalling that when he debuted for India at 24, no one talked about his age — and he believes the same logic should apply today.

Dhoni emphasised that international cricket, especially a global event like the World Cup, demands both skill and resilience under pressure. While younger players bring energy and fresh talent, experienced players add invaluable calm and composure — particular-

ly in clutch moments. According to him, true cricketing experience comes from years of dealing with pressure situations, something that cannot be fast-tracked or simulated in a few dozen matches.

He underlined that selectors and team management should treat all players equally, with no special allowances or prejudices based on their age. For Dhoni, fitness remains the core criterion: a player could be 22 or 35, but if he's not physically ready to compete at the highest level, he shouldn't be considered. Conversely, a 35-plus player who is fit, hungry and performing consistently deserves to stay.

Dhoni also spoke about the importance of balance in a World Cup squad — a mix of seasoned international campaigners alongside energetic youngsters. Such a blend, he suggested, helps teams navigate the unique pressures of a long tournament, where both leadership and fresh impetus are needed.

Overall, Dhoni's message was both pragmatic and inclusive. In his view, age is just a number — what truly matters is a player's ability to contribute to the team's success through performance, fitness and commitment. This stance offers encouragement to senior Indian stars and puts emphasis back on merit rather than arbitrary cut-offs.

Leader: Legend Saravanan Unveils a Power-Packed New Avatar

Legend Saravanan is gearing up to make a strong impact on the big screen once again with his upcoming film titled *Leader*. Written and directed by acclaimed filmmaker R.S. Durai Senthilkumar, the film was officially announced today with a striking first look poster and an intense glimpse titled "First Blow," instantly grabbing the attention of movie lovers.

Produced on a grand scale by Legend Saravanan Stores Productions, *Leader* features Legend Saravanan in the lead role, while popular actress Payal Rajput plays the female lead. The first glimpse presents Saravanan in a fierce, no-nonsense avatar, packed with mass appeal, high-octane action, and gripping dialogue. His commanding screen presence and impactful delivery have already sparked strong buzz across social media, raising expectations for the film.

Leader is designed as a contemporary action thriller that blends mass elements with suspense and emotional depth. The story revolves around an ordinary man who unexpectedly gets trapped in a dangerous conflict between the underworld and the police. As the tension escalates, the narrative explores how he navigates extraordinary challenges to protect himself and his loved ones. Director R.S. Durai Senthilkumar, known for successful films like *Ethir Neechal*, *Kaaki Sattai*, *Kodi*, *Pattas*, and *Garudan*, brings



his signature storytelling style to this gripping entertainer.

The film has been shot across diverse and visually rich locations including Thoothukudi, Jaipur, Ooty, Georgia, and Chennai, adding scale and variety to the narrative. The action choreography stands out as a major highlight, complementing the film's intense tone and fast-paced storytelling.

The ensemble cast includes Sham, Andrea, Santhosh Prathap, Lal, Baahubali Prabhakar, Amirtha Aiyer, VTV Ganesh, Aishwarya, Aranthangi Nisha, Iyal, Jeyasmirtha, Pathman, Yogiram, OAK Sundar, Mahanadhi Shankar, Mariyam

George, Adithya Kathir, Vel Arunachalam, Niranjan, Shoban Babu, Ashok Pandian, and several others in key roles, adding depth and versatility to the film.

Music for *Leader* is composed by Ghibran Vaibhoda, while cinematography is handled by S. Venkatesh and editing by Pradeep E. Ravag. With strong technical backing and a solid creative team, the film promises a complete theatrical experience.

Leader is slated for a grand theatrical release in April 2026 in both Tamil and Telugu. Further details about promotions and the release campaign are expected to be announced soon.

Ram Charan's Peddi Gets New Release Date — Set for April 30, 2026

The much-anticipated Telugu action-drama *Peddi*, starring Ram Charan, has announced a new worldwide release date. The film will now hit theatres on April 30, 2026, after being postponed from its original March 27 date. The decision to reschedule is reportedly aimed at avoiding clashes with other major releases and ensuring a wider audience reach during the summer season.

Ram Charan shared the update with fans, generating excitement across social media platforms. The film, directed by Buchi Babu Sana, marks one of the most anticipated collaborations in recent Telugu cinema, blending rural action, sports, and drama into a high-energy cinematic experience.

Peddi features Janhvi Kapoor in the female lead, marking her Telugu debut alongside Charan. The supporting cast includes notable actors such as Shiva Rajkumar, Jagapathi Babu, and Divyendu Sharma, promising a strong ensemble performance. The story revolves around intense rural dynamics, action-packed sequences, and emotional storytelling, creating a balance that appeals to a wide audience.

The technical team behind the film is equally impressive. Academy Award-winning composer A.R. Rahman has scored the music, adding emotional depth and high-octane energy to the soundtrack. Cinematography is handled by R. Rathnavelu, while edit-



ing by Navin Nooli ensures a crisp and engaging narrative flow. With this high-profile team, *Peddi* is shaping up to be a visually stunning and technically sound production.

Promotional material released so far has already generated significant buzz. Posters and teasers hint at Ram Charan's rugged and raw transformation for the role, reflecting the character's intense rural persona. Fans have been particularly excited about the film's action sequences, choreography, and overall high production values.

With post-production reportedly nearing completion, the April 30 re-

lease positions *Peddi* strategically for maximum audience engagement and box office impact. Industry analysts predict that the combination of star power, fresh storytelling, and high technical standards will make the film a major success in the Telugu states and beyond.

As anticipation builds, audiences are eagerly awaiting the chance to witness Ram Charan in a powerful new avatar, supported by a talented ensemble cast and a skilled technical team. *Peddi* is set to be one of the most talked-about releases of 2026, promising thrills, drama, and a memorable cinematic experience for fans of all ages.

PowerStar PawanKalyan's Ustaad Bhagat Singh Set to Storm Theatres on March 26

PowerStar PawanKalyan is all set to make a powerful comeback with his highly anticipated film *Ustaad Bhagat Singh*, directed by cult filmmaker Harish Shankar. The makers have officially announced that the film will hit theatres worldwide on March 26, 2026, promising a mass entertainer that caters to fans of all ages. With a mix of action, drama, and larger-than-life sequences, the film is already creating huge buzz across social media and fan communities.

After wrapping up a thrilling and action-packed shoot schedule, *Ustaad Bhagat Singh* has now entered the post-production phase. The first single, *Dekhenge Saala*, has already showcased PawanKalyan's energetic screen presence and signature style, giving fans a glimpse of what to expect from the full film. With explosive moves, punchy dialogue delivery, and high-voltage action, the song has set the tone for the film as a complete entertainer. Harish Shankar, who previously delivered the blockbuster *Gabbar Singh*, aims to recreate that magic with this project, blending mass appeal with a gripping narrative.

The story of *Ustaad Bhagat Singh* revolves around a hero navigating intense conflicts, high-stakes situations, and larger-than-life challenges, all while keeping audiences on the

edge of their seats. PawanKalyan's commanding presence drives the narrative, supported by an ensemble cast including Sreeleela, Raashii Khanna, R. Parthiban, KS Ravi Kumar, LB Sriram, Rao Ramesh, Ramki, KGF Avinash, and several others. The cast brings both depth and diversity, ensuring that every character leaves an impact on the audience.

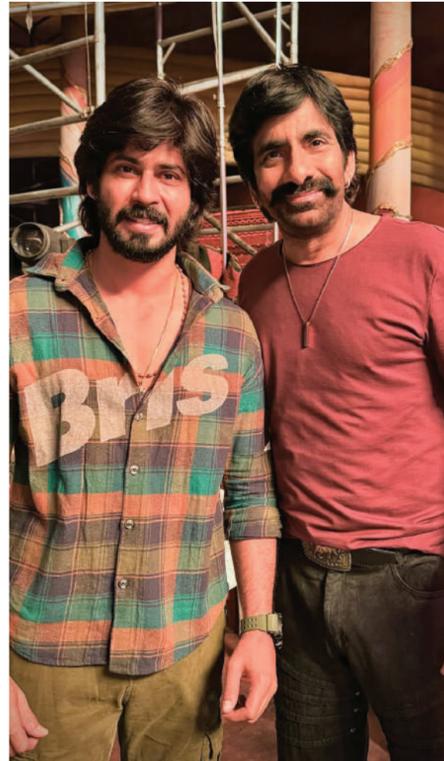
On the technical side, the film boasts an impressive lineup. Music is composed by Devi Sri Prasad, while K. Dasharath and Ramesh Reddy handle the screenplay with additional writing by Praveen Varma and Chandramohan. Editing is overseen by Karthika Srinivas, and Anand Sai manages production design. High-octane action sequences are choreographed by Ram Laxman, Nabakanth, and Prudhvi, ensuring breathtaking stunts and intense fight scenes that will thrill viewers.

Produced by Naveen Yerneni and Ravi Shankar Yalamanchili, *Ustaad Bhagat Singh* promises to be one of the biggest theatrical events of the year. With marketing already in full swing, fans are eagerly awaiting the first show. March 26 is set to become a festival for PawanKalyan's followers as the actor delivers action, drama, and his signature charisma in a film that is poised to dominate screens and set



the box office on fire. *Ustaad Bhagat Singh* is shaping up to be the ultimate mass entertainer of 2026.

Ravi Teja Praises "Sumathi Sathakam" Ahead of February 6 Release



The upcoming Telugu family entertainer *Sumathi Sathakam*, produced under the Vision Movie Makers banner by Sai Sudhakar Kommalapati and directed by M.M. Naidu, is all set for a worldwide theatrical release on February 6. Starring Amardeep Chowdary and Shailli Chowdary in the lead roles, the film is backed by renowned production house Mythri Movie Makers, which will distribute the film across the Telugu states.

The film's promotional campaign has already created a buzz among audiences. The first look, teaser, songs, and other promotional content have received an encouraging response. Amardeep Chowdary's energetic dance performances, particularly in the songs, have been widely appreciated, while Subhash Anand's music has added depth, entertainment, and emotion to the narrative.

As part of the promotions, the *Sumathi Sathakam* team conduct-

ed an extensive tour across the Rayalaseema region, receiving a warm and enthusiastic response from fans. The trailer launch, held at a college in Tirupati, turned into a grand event, with students enthusiastically engaging with the film's catchy hook steps and youthful content.

Adding a touch of glamour and endorsement, popular actor and Mass Maharaja Ravi Teja, who has long been an inspiration to Amardeep Chowdary, watched the teaser, trailer, and other promotional material. Expressing his admiration, Ravi Teja commented, "I have watched the teaser, trailer, and content of Amardeep's film *Sumathi Sathakam*. I really liked it. I wish the film great success and hope Amardeep has a bright future ahead."

The film's title, *Sumathi Sathakam*, has already made a mark with strong recall among audiences. Adding to its appeal, the movie has been awarded a U/A certifi-

cate with zero cuts, a rare feat in contemporary Telugu cinema. The Censor Board praised the film as a feel-good entertainer that provides wholesome entertainment after a long time.

Overseas distribution in North America will be managed by Vibrant Cinemas, with special releases in Dallas by Ravi Kolipara and Jai Pakala.

Cast: Amardeep Chowdary, Shailli Chowdary, Tasty Teja, Mahesh Vitta, JDV Prasad, and others.

Technical Crew: Director: M.M. Naidu | Producer: Sai Sudhakar Kommalapati | Cinematography: S. Halesh | Music: Subhash Anand | Editor: Nahid Mohammed | PRO: Madhu VR | Digital Marketing: House Full Media & Digital Dukanam

With a combination of youthful energy, catchy music, and family-friendly storytelling, *Sumathi Sathakam* aims to strike a chord with audiences across all age groups when it releases on February 6.

Adivi Sesh Unveils Concept Poster of Thriller-Drama "CAT" in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: Popular actor Adivi Sesh recently unveiled the concept poster of the much-anticipated film *CAT* at Anapurna Studios, Hyderabad. Presented by Y. Gangadhar IPS under the VRGR Movies banner and produced by Rajani Gongati, the film is directed by debutant G.V. Naidu. *CAT* has already completed its first copy and is gearing up for a theatrical release in the near future.

On the occasion, Adivi Sesh extended his best wishes to the cast and crew, expressing confidence in the film's potential. He stated that with its gripping story and talented team, *CAT* is poised for a grand success and is likely to make an impact among audiences.

CAT belongs to the drama and thriller genres, promising a suspenseful yet emotionally engaging narrative. The

film features G.V. Naidu, V.J. Balu, Lavanya, and Kalyani Rani in lead roles, bringing a mix of fresh talent and strong screen presence to the project.

The movie is backed by a skilled technical team. Cinematography by Pankaj Thottada captures the film's tense and dramatic moments, while editing by D. Venkata Prabhu ensures a crisp and engaging flow. Maruthi Raja's music is expected to enhance the film's suspenseful atmosphere, adding depth to key sequences. The story, screenplay, and dialogues are penned by V. CH Shekhar Muddu, giving the film a solid narrative backbone.

Director G.V. Naidu, also known as Gongati Veeranjaneyulu, is making his directorial debut with *CAT*. He has stated that the film aims to offer audiences a fresh cinematic experience with a



balance of drama, thrills, and emotional storytelling. The concept poster, which was unveiled by Adivi Sesh, hints at the film's intriguing themes and has already sparked curiosity among moviegoers.

With a compelling storyline, a dedicated cast, and a capable technical crew, *CAT* is being positioned as one of the

promising releases in the thriller-drama segment. Fans and industry observers are keeping a close eye on its release, anticipating an engaging and suspenseful cinematic experience.

As the release date approaches, excitement continues to build around *CAT*, making it one of the upcoming films to watch out for in

Telugu cinema. Cast: G.V. Naidu, V.J. Balu, Lavanya, Kalyani Rani

Technical Crew: Director: G.V. Naidu | Producer: Rajani Gongati | Cinematography: Pankaj Thottada | Editing: D. Venkata Prabhu | Music: Maruthi Raja | Story & Dialogues: V. CH Shekhar Muddu | Banner: VRGR Movies