



BUZZ POINTS

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Andhra Pradesh Sets Historic Record in Quantum Education with Over 1 Lakh Students Enrolled

Amaravati, February 06, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh has achieved a historic milestone in the field of higher education, as over 1,04,070 students from the state enrolled in the NPTEL (National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning) Quantum Program — a record described as "never before" at the national level by education experts.

This unprecedented success is largely attributed to the visionary measures and coordinated efforts of the Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education (APSCHE). Under the leadership of APSCHE Chairman Acharya Kotha Madhu Murthy, officials provided continuous guidance, clear direction, and comprehensive oversight, enabling the program to reach such a wide student base.

The Quantum Program aims to prepare students for the future in cutting-edge technological domains such as quantum computing and quantum communication. To achieve this, APSCHE coordinated extensively with universities and colleges across the state, organizing awareness campaigns, workshops, and guidance sessions to highlight the program's importance. Vice-Chancellors and Single Point of Contact Officers (SPOCs) played an active role in encouraging students and simplifying the enrollment process, ensuring maximum participation.

World's Largest Capacity Building Programme of the students on Quantum Technologies. 1000000 Enrolled for Introduction to Quantum Computing: Quantum Algorithms and Qiskit. APSCHE Congratulates All HEIs, SPOCS, Mentors & Students for this Humongous Achievement. Appeal to SPOCS and Mentors requested to all students till they get certified.

Speaking on the achievement, Acharya Kotha Madhu Murthy said, "This enrollment milestone aligns with the goals of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu to make quantum technology accessible to students. Quantum computing and communication will shape the future globally, and it is a matter of pride that Andhra Pradesh students are taking the lead." He emphasized that APSCHE's vision goes beyond merely

awarding degrees. "Our mission is to equip students with futuristic skills that will make them globally competitive," he said. He further noted that this record reflects the growing aspirations of students, dedication of teachers, and the state's commitment to cutting-edge education and research. With this achievement, Andhra Pradesh has once again positioned itself as a national leader in educational innovation and technical training. Experts predict that

the state's students will continue to play pivotal roles in upcoming national and international educational programs, building a strong foundation for India's leadership in emerging technologies. This remarkable milestone demonstrates how coordinated policy, institutional support, and student enthusiasm can create a world-class learning ecosystem, preparing Andhra Pradesh's youth for a technology-driven future.

Nara Lokesh Slams 'Team 11' as Brand Ambassadors of Adulteration and Murder

TPN Bureau | Andhra Pradesh, February 6, 2026 :

Andhra Pradesh IT and Education Minister Nara Lokesh has strongly criticized a group referred to as "Team 11," accusing them of promoting adulteration and being linked to criminal activities. The remarks were made during a Telugu Desam Party (TDP) workshop on booth management held in Mangalagiri, aimed at strengthening party organization at the grassroots level.

Lokesh highlighted the alleged connections of Team 11 to incidents involving adulterated liquor and ghee, as well as the controversial Babai murder case. He claimed that opponents were misrepresenting the outcomes of these matters and using political propaganda to mislead the public. According to Lokesh, it was essential for party workers to counter such misinformation and uphold accountability in public discourse.

The minister stressed the importance of reinforcing the party from the booth level up, urging TDP cadres to analyze areas where the party had lost support in previous elections. Booth-level review and corrective action were emphasized as key strategies to ensure stronger performance in future elections. Senior leaders were assigned to thousands of booths across five zones to supervise local party activities, energize workers, and ensure consistent monitoring of grassroots efforts.

Lokesh also discussed the government's achievements, noting progress in infrastructure projects, including the Visakhapatnam steel plant and Polavaram projects, and the development of Amaravati as a key urban hub. He cited social welfare initiatives such as expanded pension schemes and teacher recruitment programs as examples of governance and administrative performance. The minister urged party workers to

maintain discipline and unity, stressing that internal conflicts within the opposition coalition must be avoided. He emphasized that leaders should dedicate time to understanding local issues at the booth level, provide guidance to party workers, and ensure that the party maintains strong connections with communities across the state.

The remarks by Lokesh are expected to heighten political discourse in Andhra Pradesh, particularly regarding the accountability and ethical conduct of public figures. His call for organized grassroots mobilization and vigilant oversight reflects the party's strategy to strengthen its presence in preparation for upcoming elections. By focusing on both governance achievements and booth-level organization, the TDP aims to consolidate its influence across the state while countering political misinformation and ensuring sustained engagement with the electorate.

YS Jagan Mohan Reddy Slams Chandrababu Naidu, Accuses Government of "Jungle Raj"

TPN Bureau | Vijayawada, February 06, 2026:

Vijayawada: YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) president and former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Friday sharply criticized current Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, alleging that his government has allowed a breakdown of law and order in the state and fostered an environment akin to "jungle raj."

Addressing the media during a visit to senior party leaders, Jagan claimed that violence and intimidation against opposition members and YSRCP workers have become routine under the ruling Telugu Desam Party (TDP). He said that incidents targeting party leaders, including attacks on properties and physical assaults, reflect a deliberate attempt to suppress dissent and silence political opposition.

Jagan specifically highlighted recent attacks on senior YSRCP leaders, including former minister Jogi Ramesh and Ambati Rambabu, as examples of the government's failure to maintain law and order. He alleged that these incidents were not isolated but part of a larger pattern of harassment, with ruling par-



ty supporters allegedly involved in orchestrating acts of violence while authorities allegedly turned a blind eye.

The YSRCP chief criticized the state administration for misusing law enforcement agencies and police machinery for political purposes. According to him, the failure to take strict action against those responsible for violent incidents has created an unsafe environment for political activity and undermined democratic principles. Jagan asserted that democracy cannot function where opposition leaders fear for their safety, and public trust in governance is eroded by unchecked acts of intimidation.

Jagan also accused the government of diverting attention from governance failures by focusing on politically motivated narratives, including legal actions against opposition leaders. He warned that continued violence and administrative negli-

gence would only intensify public anger and could backfire politically against the ruling party in the long run.

The YSRCP president emphasized that his party remains committed to defending democratic rights and ensuring that opposition voices are not silenced. He reiterated that political accountability and public safety are paramount and called for immediate steps to restore normalcy and protect citizens from politically motivated aggression.

The comments by Jagan Mohan Reddy highlight the growing tensions between the ruling TDP and the opposition YSRCP in Andhra Pradesh. With both parties actively mobilizing supporters and raising allegations against each other, the political climate in the state remains highly charged as leaders prepare for upcoming electoral contests.

Analysts argue that whether it is YSRCP or TDP, invoking caste identities in cases involving individual misconduct only ends up unfairly tarnishing entire communities. They stress that accountability must remain individual-centric, warning that continued misuse of caste rhetoric could further erode public trust in political discourse.

AP Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan's Sensational Tweet Sparks Political Debate

Amaravati, February 3, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan created a stir on social media with a sensational tweet that quickly became a topic of discussion across political circles and the public. Known for his direct communication style, Kalyan has increasingly used social media to share his policy perspectives, highlight governance issues, and address citizens' concerns. His latest tweet emphasized youth aspirations and the need for a long-term vision for the state's development.

In the message, Kalyan stressed that the state's young population seeks more than traditional welfare

measures. Instead, they are looking for a clear roadmap that empowers them with opportunities, skills, and economic prospects. This statement sparked extensive debate online, with commentators analyzing its implications for governance, public policy, and electoral strategy. The tweet comes at a time when Kalyan's role in the ruling alliance government is under scrutiny. He has been vocal on several contentious issues, including regulatory enforcement in sectors like excise, and has demanded stricter oversight to prevent misuse and corruption. Political analysts say his message reflects a broader strategy to position the government as forward-looking, emphasizing structural development rather than

short-term populist measures. Kalyan's statement also highlights the government's focus on strengthening youth engagement and ensuring accountability at all levels. Party meetings in recent weeks have shown his insistence on proactive action by leaders, particularly in addressing controversies such as the Tirumala laddu adulteration case. His emphasis on transparency and vision-based governance is seen as a move to bolster public confidence in the administration.

Alongside his digital messaging, Kalyan is actively involved in ground-level political activity, including planning campaigns for upcoming elections in neighboring regions. His efforts are aimed at mobilizing support



while highlighting the party's development agenda and commitment to youth empowerment. Political observers note that Kalyan's tweet underscores the growing importance of social media in shaping public discourse in Andhra Pradesh. By focusing on youth, long-term planning, and ac-

countability, he is reinforcing his political image and signaling a clear direction for the state's governance priorities. The message also reflects the high stakes of modern political communication, where digital platforms can influence both public opinion and party strategy in real time.

Two Deaths Cast Shadow Over Jagan Mohan Reddy's Visit to Jogi Ramesh

Vijayawada, February 6, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada: YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) president and former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's visit to meet former minister Jogi Ramesh in Ibrahimpatnam turned tragic on Friday as two

fatalities occurred during the tour, raising concerns over safety and crowd management during political rallies. Jagan began his journey from Tadepalli toward Ibrahimpatnam with the aim of personally meeting Jogi Ramesh. Near the minister's residence, Chillakallu YSRCP vil-

lage president D. Rambabu, who was part of Jagan's convoy, suddenly collapsed due to a health complication. Despite being rushed to a nearby hospital, doctors confirmed that Rambabu had already passed away. Shortly thereafter, a young man named Bhargava, a resident of Ibrahimpatnam

Kothagate, lost his life while performing a bike stunt on the road. Bhargava collided with a bar gate, sustaining fatal injuries. His body was immediately taken to Vijayawada Government Hospital for post-mortem examination.

Eyewitnesses reported that several YSRCP activists, eager to par-

ticipate in the rally, gathered in large numbers along the roads of Ibrahimpatnam, including Ring Road and nearby areas. Some groups performed stunts on motorcycles and created chaos, obstructing traffic and causing disturbances. Despite the presence of senior party leaders, including

AP JAC Amaravati's Fourth State Convention Draws Massive Support in Vijayawada

Vijayawada, February 6, 2026 | TPN Bureau:
The Andhra Pradesh Joint Action Committee (AP JAC) Amaravati on Thursday expressed gratitude to government employees across the state for making its Fourth State Maha Sabha a grand success, reaffirming its commitment to uphold the trust placed in the organisation over the past decade.

Held at the Tummalapalli Kalakshetram in Vijayawada on February 5, the convention witnessed an overwhelming response, with nearly 12,000 employees participating in a massive rally and public meeting. Leaders de-

scribed the turnout as a clear reflection of the unity, confidence, and growing influence of AP JAC Amaravati among employees from diverse government departments.

Addressing the gathering, AP JAC Amaravati leaders said the organisation has succeeded in winning the confidence of a majority of employees in Andhra Pradesh over the last ten years. They credited this achievement to consistent advocacy on employee issues, unity across departmental associations, and transparent leadership. The successful conduct of the fourth state convention, they



said, stands as strong testimony to this collective faith. The state committee extended special thanks to leaders and members

of all 96 departmental associations affiliated with AP JAC Amaravati for their coordinated efforts in organising the event. The leadership emphasised that the unity displayed during the convention would further strengthen future struggles and negotiations in the interest of employees.

During the Maha Sabha, a 21-member AP JAC Amaravati State Committee was unanimously elected. Senior leader Boppana Raju Venkateswarlu from the Revenue Department was elected as State Chairman for a fourth consecutive term. Palishetty Damodara Rao of the RTC was re-

ed as State General Secretary for the second time. T.V. Phanipraju from the Cooperative Department was elected as Associate Chairman for the third time, while Thimmasarthi Nag-eswara Rao of the Municipal Department was elected as Treasurer for the first time.

The remaining members of the state committee represent a wide spectrum of services and employee groups, including Police, Panchayat Raj, Rural Water Supply (RWS) Engineering departments, Class IV employees, retired employees' associations, government drivers' unions, the AP Government Doctors'

Association, Veterinary Doctors' Association, Headmasters' associations, and Village and Ward Secretariat employees, among others.

In a joint statement, Chairman Boppana Raju Venkateswarlu and General Secretary Palishetty Damodara Rao thanked all employees for their continued support and assured them that the newly elected state committee would work tirelessly without betraying their trust. They reiterated that AP JAC Amaravati would remain a strong, united platform dedicated to protecting the rights, welfare, and dignity of government employees across Andhra Pradesh.

Raithu Mobile App to Be Promoted Statewide as One-Stop Digital Platform for Farmers

Amaravati, February 6, 2026 | TPN Bureau:
The Andhra Pradesh Department of Agriculture has decided to take up state-wide awareness and adoption of the Raithu (Cultivator) Mobile App in campaign mode, describing it as a multi-purpose digital platform designed to provide end-to-end services to farmers. Director of Agriculture Dr. Manajeer Jeelani Samoon, IAS, issued these directions during a comprehensive review meeting held on Friday with agriculture officers up to the mandal level.

and the Raithu Mobile App. The Director instructed field-level officers to actively educate farmers about these digital services and ensure their effective adoption on the ground.

Dr. Samoon emphasized that special priority should be given to the Raithu Mobile App, which functions as a comprehensive digital interface for farmers, offering real-time information and services related to cultivation. Officers were directed to ensure that every farmer within their jurisdiction downloads and regularly uses the app.

with technical support from Vassar Labs, the app operates on the integrated Andhra Pradesh Agricultural Information Management System (APAIMS).

The Raithu Mobile App enables farmers to access information on government agricultural schemes, crop-specific advisories, weather forecasts, daily market prices, soil health details, pest and disease alerts, and beneficiary information. It also features an AI-based assistant with multilingual voice support, allowing farmers to receive real-time guidance and recommendations tailored to their crops and location.

District wise Farmer App Registrations as on			
i.No	DISTRICT		Achievement as on date
1	Alluri Sitharama Raju	2	4155
2	Anakapalli	1	27080
3	Ananthapuramu	1	7192
4	Annemayya	1	17676
5	Bapatla	1	8825
6	Chittoor	1	17166
7	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema	1	12121
8	East Godavari	1	10340
9	Eluru	1	17566
10	Cuntur	1	5968
11	Kakinada	1	9558
12	Krishna	1	6166
13	Kurnool	1	18560
14	Nandyal	1	13342
15	NTR	1	7077
16	Palnadu	1	18059
17	Parvathipuram Manyam	1	7345
18	Prakasam	1	12097
19	Sri Potti Srimamulu Nellore	1	3946
20	Sri Sathya Sai	1	7651
21	Srikakulam	1	15465
22	Tirupati	1	21010
23	Visakhapatnam	1	1591
24	Vizianagaram	1	11682
25	West Godavari	1	6828
26	Y.S.R.	1	28747
TOTAL			317213

make agricultural advisories, schemes, and financial assistance packages more accessible and easily understandable for farmers. Under this initiative, the state is leveraging advanced technologies such as fertilizer supply monitoring, weather-based advisories, drone and farm machinery integration, satellite-based crop monitoring, and input resource management.



MAO Gudivada assisting the Blackgram farmer in downloading process of Rythu App from Google Play Store

A key feature of the app is the uberization of agricultural machinery services, which allows farmers to book farm equipment on a rental basis from nearby service providers. The app also supports e-Crop registration with pre-populated land and crop details, eliminating the need for manual data entry and ensuring faster registration.

Integrated with the national-level Agri Stack, the APAIMS 2.0 Raithu Mobile App offers secure Aadhaar-based login, personalized alerts, and accessibility even in low-network areas, helping farmers reduce cultivation risks and improve productivity.

farmers have already downloaded and are using the app, and directed officials to intensify efforts to bring all remaining farmers onto the platform. Farmers have been advised to download the app from the Google Play Store or Apple App Store, or seek assistance at their nearest Rythu Seva Kendra (RSK).

Mobile ICTC Launched to Strengthen HIV Control in Anakapalli

Anakapalli (Collectorate), February 6 | TPN Bureau
In a significant step towards strengthening HIV/AIDS prevention and control, Anakapalli District Collector Vijaya Krishnan on Friday flagged off a Mobile Integrated Counselling and Testing Centre (ICTC) vehicle at the Collectorate premises. The initiative, launched under the aegis of the Andhra Pradesh State AIDS Control Society (APSACS), aims to extend HIV-related services to people living in remote and underserved areas of the district.

ly detection and effective control of HIV/AIDS. The mobile unit, he said, represents an important milestone in the district's efforts to curb the spread of the disease.

The Collector explained that the mobile ICTC vehicle will conduct door-to-door outreach programmes, offering free and confidential HIV testing, pre- and post-test counselling, and awareness sessions. By ensuring unbiased and reliable testing services, the initiative will help reduce stigma, encourage voluntary testing, and ultimately contribute to lowering transmission rates. He urged the public to make use of these facilities and undergo regular health check-ups to lead a healthy life.

dant, and a driver. The team will also create awareness on HIV, tuberculosis (TB), and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) on a daily basis. ICTC and PPCT counselors will extend their services while strictly maintaining confidentiality and respecting personal privacy. Through this mobile unit, the state is implementing a comprehensive and sustainable approach to AIDS control, particularly targeting rural and hard-to-reach regions.

Disha Clinical Services Officer Dr. C.H. Spandana said the mobile ICTC vehicle was allocated to Anakapalli district under the guidance of the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) and APSACS. She said the unit would provide counselling, diagnostic testing, and complete information on HIV/AIDS using pamphlets and audio-visual materials.

Gottipati Ravi Kumar Launches 2.73 Crore Development Works in Giddaluru

Giddaluru, February 6, 2026 | TPN Bureau:
Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar on Friday assured full support for the overall development of the Giddaluru Assembly constituency, stating that infrastructure improvement remains a top priority of the state government.

The Minister, along with local MLA Ashok Reddy, toured various parts of the Giddaluru constituency in Markapuram district and participated in a series of inauguration and foundation-laying programmes for development works worth 2.73 crore. Addressing the public, Gottipati Ravi Kumar said the government is committed to strengthening basic infrastructure in rural and semi-urban areas to improve connectivity and quality of life for people.



Further, the Minister laid the foundation stone for a newly constructed road from the Ongole-Nandyal highway to L. Kota, built at a cost of 50 lakh. The road is expected to significantly ease transportation for residents and farmers in the surrounding villages. He later inaugurated internal cement roads constructed at an estimated cost of 50 lakh in Thurimella village under the Thurimella Panchayat limits, providing better internal connectivity and safer commuting for villagers.

tar road to be constructed at a cost of 1 crore from the Kambham-Giddaluru R&B road to Narsireddypalle village. This road is aimed at improving access to interior habitations and facilitating smoother movement of agricultural produce to markets. In addition, a foundation stone was laid for another cement road project worth 73 lakh from the Kambham-Giddaluru R&B road to Gouthavaram village.

ment would extend complete cooperation for the development of the Giddaluru constituency. He emphasized that improving road infrastructure is essential for economic growth, better access to education and healthcare, and overall rural development.

Local MLA Ashok Reddy expressed gratitude to the Minister for his support and said these works would address long-pending demands of the people. He added that more development projects would be taken up in a phased manner across the constituency.

Senior officials, local public representatives, and party leaders were present during the programme. The residents welcomed the initiatives and expressed hope that the new infrastructure would accelerate development in the region.

Foot March from Rajahmundry to Tirumala Raises Awareness Against Plastic

Kateru (Rajahmendra-varam Rural), East Godavari | February 6, 2026 | TPN Bureau
In a bid to promote environmental conservation and raise awareness against plastic usage, social activist Garapati Vanaja launched a foot march from Rajahmundry to Tirumala on Friday. The journey began at the Shyamalamba Temple in Kateru, with Tirumala Educational Institutions Chairman Tirumala Rao flagging off the procession.

ing plastic consumption has become an urgent necessity.

Vanaja, speaking at the event, urged people to replace plastic items with eco-friendly alternatives such as steel utensils, banana leaves, and traditional vessels during festivals and community feasts. She also called for proper segregation and recycling of used plastics and encouraged the promotion of organically cultivated agricultural products. "We aim to conduct awareness programs in villages along the route to educate residents about the harmful effects of plastic on health and the environment," Vanaja added.

The march attracted participation from a wide cross-section of society, in-



cluding notable activists such as Garapati Vijetha, Neerukonda Anita, Mulpudi Sheshakumari, and Katragadda Umadevi. Local community leaders, youth groups, and villagers also joined the initiative, planting saplings and expressing their commitment to environmental protection.

The foot march is expected to cover several villages en route to Tirumala, engaging local communities in workshops and discussions about sustainable practices. Organizers highlighted that small, collective actions—such as reducing plastic use, embracing biodegradable alternatives, and supporting organic farming—can make a significant impact

on environmental preservation.

This initiative reflects a growing grassroots movement in Andhra Pradesh aimed at combating plastic pollution and promoting eco-conscious practices. By combining traditional awareness methods with community participation, the marchers hope to inspire lasting behavioral change and reinforce the message that environmental responsibility is a duty shared by all.

As the foot march progresses toward Tirumala, it serves as a reminder that public awareness and proactive action are critical in tackling pressing ecological issues while fostering a culture of sustainability for future generations.

Kambala Srinivas Rao Introduces Pranic Healing to Rural Communities

East Godavari, February 6, 2026 | TPN Bureau

East Godavari: Spiritual leader and social activist Kambala Srinivas Rao is gaining recognition for introducing Pranic Healing, a holistic health and spiritual wellness practice, to rural communities in the Gokavaram region. Emphasizing natural methods of improving physical and mental well-being without medication or physical touch, Rao aims to address modern lifestyle stress, anxiety, and health challenges that increasingly affect both urban and rural populations.

Rao, who serves as president of the Rama Sena under the Vishwa Hindu Dharma Prachara Parishad and is active in social and religious initiatives, has recently expanded his focus to health awareness and spiritual empowerment. After extensive study and training in Pranic

Healing, he has started conducting workshops, free training sessions, and awareness camps to make the practice accessible to villagers who are often unfamiliar with alternative healing methods.

Bringing this technique, usually practiced in urban centers, to rural villages is no small task. Despite logistical challenges, Rao has organized free camps and practical sessions where residents—including women, youth, and senior citizens—actively participate. Attendees have reported relief from stress, insomnia, mental fatigue, and other common health concerns through the guided exercises.

Explaining the essence of Pranic Healing, Rao said, "Illness occurs when the life energy in our body diminishes. By cleansing and replenishing this energy, the body naturally recovers. Pranic Healing is not a substitute for medicine



but a complementary method to restore peace to the mind and body." He added, "Through meditation, breathing exercises, and balancing energy flow through hands, anyone can learn and benefit from this practice."

Rao emphasized that the initiative is rooted in service and community welfare, not just spiritual discourse. "A

healthy individual strengthens the entire society. Villages too deserve awareness of alternative health practices," he said.

Villagers have expressed appreciation for the program, noting its practical benefits. "We are learning things we never knew before, and it helps us remain mentally calm," said several participants.

By combining spiritual guidance with practical health awareness, Kambala Srinivas Rao's efforts are setting an example for rural empowerment. His work demonstrates that with dedication and a service-oriented approach, communities can gain healthier lifestyles and spiritual vitality, even in remote areas.

Rajaka Community Demands Apology from YS Jagan and Jakkampudi Raja Over Offensive Remarks

Ramachandrapuram | February 6, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Rajaka community has expressed strong outrage over offensive remarks reportedly made by former YSR Congress MLA Jakkampudi Raja, targeting Guntur West MLA Galla Madhavini, a prominent leader from the community. The incident has prompted the Rajaka Chaitanya Seva Sangham, led by State President and TDP State Secretary Kakinda Rama Rao, to demand a formal apology from both YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, head of the YSR Congress Party, and Jakkampudi Raja.

Speaking at a media briefing at the Telugu Desam Party office in Ramachandrapuram on Friday evening, Kakinda Rama Rao condemned the remarks as deeply disrespectful. "It is shocking that a woman legislator and a respected member of the

Rajaka community was publicly humiliated in such a manner. These statements are not only offensive but reflect arrogance and disregard for community sentiments," he said.

Rama Rao criticized the YSR Congress leadership for tolerating such behavior and emphasized the need for collective action from Rajaka organizations across Andhra Pradesh to uphold the dignity of their community and its leaders. "Galla Madhavini, a dedicated woman MLA, deserves respect for her service. The language used by Jakkampudi Raja is unacceptable and must be addressed immediately," he stated.

The TDP leader further highlighted the community's concerns over similar instances where YSR Congress leaders, including Ambati Rambabu, publicly used abusive language against prominent figures, including former



Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. Rama Rao urged the party to revise its conduct and warned that repeated instances of such disrespect could lead to widespread protests.

The media briefing also saw the participation of several Rajaka community leaders, who voiced solidarity and underscored the

importance of protecting the reputation of community representatives. The Rajaka Chaitanya Seva Sangham demanded that YS Jagan and Jakkampudi Raja issue an unconditional apology to MLA Galla Madhavini for their offensive remarks.

The incident has intensified political tensions in the region,

highlighting ongoing concerns over the treatment of women leaders and minority communities in Andhra Pradesh politics. Community representatives emphasized that they will monitor the response closely and continue advocating for dignity, respect, and accountability from public figures.

YSRCP Spokesperson Shyamala Alleges False Propaganda and Political Harassment in Visakhapatnam

Visakhapatnam | February 6, 2026 | TPN Bureau

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) spokesperson and anchor Shyamala has alleged that political opponents in the state are conducting false propaganda and targeting party leaders and former ministers with intimidation. Speaking during a visit to Gajuwaka in Visakhapatnam, Shyamala highlighted instances of what she described as harassment of party members and former ministers' residences.

Shyamala recently met former minister Gudivada Amarnath in a cordial meeting, emphasizing that the opposition is attempting to politicize issues surrounding the Tirumala laddu controversy. She claimed that despite the Special Investigation Team (SIT) confirming that no fat adulterants were present in the laddu, opposition parties continue to spread misleading information to create political unrest.

According to her, this false narrative has been used as a pretext to launch attacks on the homes of former ministers.

The YSRCP spokesperson criticized the coalition government for its policies, alleging that citizens are observing a pattern of anti-public governance. She stated that attempts to divert public attention through propaganda and aggressive political actions are being closely noticed by the people of Andhra Pradesh.

Shyamala also addressed recent remarks by Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, noting that even statements made within his own compound are being scrutinized and politicized, and citizens are keeping track of all developments. She cited the instance of former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy visiting Ambati Rambabu's family, where local residents held demonstrations in support of party leaders, as evidence



of public awareness and active engagement.

Looking ahead to the 2029 elections, Shyamala expressed confidence that the electorate would hold the coalition government accountable and make decisions reflecting their preference for transparent governance. She stressed that the people of Andhra Pradesh desire continued leader-

ship under YSRCP and are attentive to the actions of all political parties.

The Visakhapatnam visit underscored the ongoing tension between YSRCP and the opposition, with political leaders from both sides exchanging sharp criticisms over governance, public welfare, and controversies like the Tirumala laddu case. YSRCP's leader-

ship is seeking to consolidate public support by highlighting what they describe as unfair targeting and misrepresentation by political rivals.

Shyamala concluded her visit by reiterating that citizens are closely monitoring the government's actions and that the people's will will ultimately determine the political future of the state.

Vangalapudi Anitha Slams YCP Leaders Over Tirumala Laddu Adulteration Row

Andhra Pradesh | February 6, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha has strongly criticized leaders of the YSR Congress Party (YCP), accusing them of defending alleged lapses related to ghee quality used in the preparation of sacred Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) laddus. Speaking at a press briefing held at the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) central office in Mangalagiri on Friday, Anitha accused the previous YCP government of allowing adulteration of ghee during laddu preparation and said it hurt the religious sentiments of devotees across the state.

Anitha emphasized that there is clear evidence supporting claims of ghee adulteration during the YCP's tenure. She cited multiple testing reports that allegedly confirmed the presence of palm oil and other non-ghee substances in the material used for sandalwood prasadam. According to the minister, these reports included findings from national laboratories and a Special Investigation Team (SIT) established under Supreme Court supervision. She expressed dismay that despite these findings, YCP leaders were criticizing the current inquiry and



reacting defensively.

The Home Minister also alleged that procurement procedures were deliberately weakened during the previous regime to benefit specific suppliers, resulting in a scam valued at around Rs. 254 crore. She pointed to the role of key officials, including the then TTD chairman, saying questions remain about how large quantities of sub-standard ghee entered the laddu supply chain without proper oversight.

In a broader political context, Anitha claimed that items prepared with adulterated ghee were even supplied for major religious events outside the state, further aggravating the emotional impact on devotees. She asserted that actions meant to protect sacred traditions were being undermined by those attempting to downplay the severity of the controversy.

Anitha warned that any unwarranted pressure on the public in the guise of an-

nual pilgrimages or other religious activities would be met with legal action. She stated that people had limited the YCP's electoral strength as a response to what she described as disrespect toward religious faith and temple traditions.

The ongoing Tirumala laddu controversy has become a significant political flashpoint in Andhra Pradesh, with the ruling coalition and the YCP trading accusations over responsibility for safeguarding the sanctity and quality of prasadam. The state government has taken multiple steps to investigate the issue, including forming special panels to review evidence and identify lapses.

With election preparations underway, the laddu adulteration row is shaping up to be a major theme in political campaigns, reflecting deeper concerns about governance, religious sentiments, and accountability in public institutions.

CM Chandrababu Naidu Highlights Land Rights and Governance in Kalugotla Address

Andhra Pradesh | February 7, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu delivered a detailed and strategic speech at a public event in Kalugotla village in Kurnool district, where he launched the distribution of Mee Bhoomi-Mee Haku pattadar passbooks, marking another phase of the government's efforts to strengthen land rights for farmers and landowners across the state.

The event, held in the Yemmiganur Assembly constituency, focused on the improved security features of the new land ownership documents and the government's commitment to protecting farmers' land rights. The Chief Minister emphasized the emotional and economic importance of land ownership in rural communities and reiterated the state's dedication to ensuring that land records are secure, tamper proof and free from fraudulent manipulation.

Naidu outlined the state government's plan to expand the issuance of land passbooks with advanced security features, including mechanisms to prevent illegal alterations. He noted that systematic village level surveys were being conducted to update records and issue new documents without bureaucratic hurdles. The initiative aims to complete distribution to all eligible beneficiaries by the end of 2027,



strengthening confidence among landholders and reducing disputes over property rights.

During his address, the Chief Minister also reiterated his administration's pledge to enhance agricultural productivity through assured irrigation, including expanding coverage in the western regions of Kurnool district. He underscored the government's focus on combining development with welfare, pushing forward major infrastructure projects such as Polavaram and Amaravati revitalization, along with industrial expansion throughout the state.

Naidu reiterated that transparent governance and swift decision making are central to his government's agenda, contrasting it with previous land policy frameworks that, according to him, had led to disputes and lapses in land record management. The repeal of the controversial Land Titling Act and new provisions to hold offenders accountable were highlighted as part of cor-

rective measures. Beyond land issues, the Chief Minister stressed the broader development strategy of his government, which includes modernizing agricultural practices, supporting farmers with technological tools and ensuring that welfare schemes are aligned with long term economic growth.

The Kalugotla event drew a large turnout of farmers, villagers and local leaders, reflecting broad public interest in land reform and rural development initiatives. Officials revealed that thousands of new passbooks have already been issued in recent weeks, with more planned in upcoming months as surveys continue across the region.

CM Naidu's speech in Kalugotla reaffirmed the state government's focus on strengthening property rights, improving agricultural infrastructure and ensuring transparent governance as foundational steps toward sustained economic development in Andhra Pradesh.

Supreme Court Ruling on Dearness Allowance Welcomed; AP Employees Seek Committee for Pending Dues

Amaravati, February 6, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Government Employees' Association (APGEA) has welcomed the recent Supreme Court judgment affirming that Dearness Allowance (DA) is a statutory right of employees and that states cannot evade constitutionally mandated payments citing financial constraints. The association demanded that the Andhra Pradesh government constitute a committee, on the lines of the West Bengal case, to ensure systematic payment of pending dues to employees, teachers, and pensioners.

Reacting to the Supreme Court's verdict delivered on February 5,

2026, in the West Bengal DA arrears case (SLP (C) Nos. 22628-22630 of 2022), APGEA State President K.R. Suryanarayana said the judgment is of great significance to Andhra Pradesh as well. He noted that the apex court upheld earlier Calcutta High Court findings that DA payments fall within the ambit of Article 21 of the Constitution, as timely payment is essential to ensure a dignified life for employees amid rising prices.

The association said the Supreme Court clearly ruled that governments cannot escape their constitutional and legal obligations by citing a shortage of funds. It reiterated that DA is



an integral part of salary meant to offset inflation, and any prolonged delay erodes the real value of wages, directly

affecting the livelihood of employees and pensioners.

Welcoming the judgment, APGEA pointed

out that in the West Bengal case, the Supreme Court ordered the state to constitute a monitoring committee under

the leadership of a retired Supreme Court judge, with a former High Court Chief Justice and a representative of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. The committee has been tasked with overseeing the payment of arrears amounting to approximately 41,770.95 crore, fixing a payment schedule, ensuring compliance, and filing an affidavit before the Supreme Court. The association termed this mechanism a "balanced and pragmatic approach" that protects employee rights while considering state finances.

Drawing parallels, APGEA demanded that the Andhra Pradesh government immediate-

ly appoint a similar committee to address the nearly 35,000 crore in accumulated dues payable to employees, teachers, and pensioners in the state. The association urged the government to announce a clear payment plan or timeline during the upcoming budget session or, at the very least, set up a commission under a retired High Court judge to examine alternative settlement proposals.

The association also recalled that several employee and pensioner bodies, including the CPS Employees' Association and Pensioners' Welfare Association, have already approached courts seeking payment of long-pend-

ing dues. It cited a recent case where the state was compelled to urgently release around 1,100 crore towards DA arrears following court directions, warning that continued delay could invite similar judicial intervention on a larger scale.

APGEA General Secretary M. Ramesh Kumar and State President K.R. Suryanarayana cautioned that ignoring the Supreme Court's guidance could eventually destabilize the state's budgetary planning. They urged the government to proactively resolve the issue in a transparent and lawful manner, in the interest of industrial harmony and constitutional propriety.

Muddada Ravichandra Assumes Charge as TTD Executive Officer

Tirumala | February 6, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Senior Indian Administrative Service officer Muddada Ravichandra has officially assumed charge as the new Executive Officer (EO) of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), the administrative body responsible for managing the famous Sri Venkateswara Temple in Tirumala. The leadership change marks a significant moment in temple administration and comes at a time when efficient governance and transparency are under close public scrutiny.

Ravichandra took over the responsibilities in a formal ceremony held within the temple premises. The proceedings began with traditional rituals, including prayers at the Sri Varaha Swamy temple, followed by his entry into the main shrine through the Vaikuntham queue complex. He then took the oath of office as Executive Officer and ex officio member of the TTD Board, in the presence of senior temple officials and religious leaders. Priests conducted traditional Vedic rituals to bless the new EO and the administration.

The change in leadership follows the transfer of the previous TTD Executive Officer, amid public attention on controversies surrounding the supply of ghee used in prasadam preparation. Muddada Ravichandra, a 1996 batch IAS officer, brings extensive administrative experience, having served as District Collector in multiple districts and in departments covering finance, health, social welfare, and tribal welfare. Prior to this appointment, he served as Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

As TTD EO, Ravichandra is expected to focus on improving temple administration, enhancing services for millions of devotees, and ensuring the transparent functioning of all operations. Officials emphasized that the new leadership would prioritize both the spiritual experience of pilgrims and the efficient management of temple resources.

Temple authorities highlighted the importance of coordination between the EO, the TTD Board, and staff to maintain the sanctity of the institution



while meeting growing administrative demands. Devotees and religious leaders expressed optimism that Ravichandra's experience and proactive approach would strengthen governance, improve logistics, and restore public confidence in TTD management.

Ravichandra's tenure begins at a crucial time for the TTD, with challenges that include maintaining high standards of temple service, managing large pilgrim volumes, and addressing operational issues. Observers believe that his leadership will be instrumental in balancing administrative efficiency with religious traditions, ensuring that the TTD continues to serve as a model for faith-based governance.

Ambati Rambabu Files Seven Quash Petitions in Andhra Pradesh High Court

Amaravati, February 6, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Amaravati: Senior YSR Congress Party leader and former Andhra Pradesh minister Ambati Rambabu has filed seven quash petitions in the Andhra Pradesh High Court seeking to cancel multiple criminal cases registered against him. The petitions come amid ongoing legal proceedings related to his alleged remarks against Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, which led to his arrest and remand.

Rambabu is currently in Rajamahendravaram Central Jail after being remanded by a Guntur court on charges of making allegedly obscene and defamatory statements. The seven quash petitions seek to invalidate proceedings in cases registered at various police stations, including Pattabhipuram, Mangalagiri, Nagarampalem, and Nallapadu.

During Thursday's hearing, the High Court took up one of the petitions connected to the Nallapadu Police Station case. The court instructed the police to submit a detailed counter-affidavit



and adjourned proceedings to February 11 for further arguments. Officials also asked the Mangalagiri police to ensure that the quash petitions were framed under the correct legal provisions.

Rambabu's legal team argues that the cases against him are politically motivated and constitute a misuse of legal provisions. They claim that the charges, which carry penalties of up to

seven years' imprisonment, are based on FIRs and remand orders that are legally unsound.

The filing of multiple petitions follows Rambabu's arrest for allegedly making abusive and defamatory public statements against the Chief Minister, which ignited political debate and legal scrutiny across the state. Separate hearings on related bail and remand cancellation petitions are

also ongoing in lower courts.

Political reactions have been sharply divided. The ruling Telugu Desam Party (TDP) welcomed judicial scrutiny, emphasizing the need for the legal process to run its course. Meanwhile, the YSRCP has described the actions against Rambabu as politically motivated, while opposition leaders argue the criminal cases are an at-

tempt to stifle dissent and political opposition.

The High Court's decision to adjourn the hearings highlights the complex legal battle ahead. Lawyers for Rambabu are preparing to present detailed arguments later this month, aiming to secure relief from the criminal cases that have dominated headlines and heightened political tensions in Andhra Pradesh.

SFI Protests Against High Fees at Mohan Babu University

Vijayawada, February 6, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada: The Students' Federation of India (SFI) staged a protest on Friday against exorbitant fees being collected by private universities, specifically targeting Mohan Babu University and Manchu Vishnu University. The demonstration took place in front of the SRR College campus, with district SFI secretary Venkateswara Rao leading the event.

Addressing the media, Rao said the state government has failed to monitor and regulate the high fees charged by private universities. He claimed that Mohan Babu University and Manchu Vishnu University, in particular, were exploiting students by charging excessively high tuition fees, making education unaffordable for many families.

Rao further alleged that SFI leaders who were actively campaigning against the fee hikes had been attacked and even kidnapped by goons

associated with Mohan Babu. "Our student leaders have faced brutal assaults for merely raising their voices against unfair fees. The government and officials are turning a blind eye while such incidents occur," he said.

The SFI leaders demanded that strict legal action be taken against those responsible for the attack and kidnapping. They also urged authorities to hold the university management accountable for charging illegal fees. Rao warned that if the government fails to act, the SFI would organize large-scale protests and agitations across the state in the coming days.

The protest highlighted the ongoing tension between private educational institutions and student organizations over fee structures. Across Andhra Pradesh, private universities have been repeatedly criticized for charging fees far above the state-mandated limits, leading to financial strain on students and their



families.

Rao accused the state government of giving tacit support to private universities while neglecting students' grievances. He emphasized that student rights to affordable education must be protected and that universities must adhere to regulations set by the authorities.

The SFI also vowed to continue its campaign until a concrete solution is reached, including reducing tuition fees and ensuring the safety of student leaders advocat-

ing for their rights. "We will not remain silent while private universities exploit students and attack those who raise legitimate concerns," Rao added.

The protest in Vijayawada drew a significant number of students and supporters, demonstrating the growing discontent over unchecked fee hikes. The SFI plans to escalate its actions if immediate steps are not taken to address the issue and ensure accountability for the attacks on student activists.

High Court Grants Interim Relief to YSRCP Leader Jogi Ramesh

Vijayawada, February 6, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Vijayawada: Senior YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leader and former minister Jogi Ramesh has received interim relief from the Andhra Pradesh High Court in connection with a criminal case registered against him, significantly easing pressure on the opposition politician amid escalating political tensions.

The High Court on Friday issued a crucial order directing the police not to take any coercive action against Jogi Ramesh until the next hearing in the matter, which is scheduled later this month. This interim order protects him from arrest or other forceful measures while his petition is under consideration, providing a legal safeguard as the case proceeds.

The relief comes in a case involving alleged comments made by Jogi Ramesh against a state minister. Ramesh had filed a petition challenging the police action, arguing that his public statements were part of his constitutional right to freedom of speech and expression, and did not warrant coercive action against him at this stage. The High Court agreed that, given the current legal context and the serious political implications, restraint should be exercised until a detailed hearing can be completed.



In its order, the court noted that the alleged offences carry a potential sentence of less than seven years and that there was no immediate necessity for custodial interrogation at this point. It further emphasized that the petitioner's fundamental rights need protection while the legal process continues, especially in politically charged cases where law enforcement actions could escalate tensions.

The interim protection marks a significant development for Jogi Ramesh, who has been at the centre of heightened political controversy in recent days. The case against him emerged amid broader political turmoil in Andhra Pradesh following attacks on sev-

eral YSRCP leaders' residences and aggressive exchanges between rival party supporters. Tensions peaked after Jogi Ramesh's remarks about a state minister triggered strong reactions, leading to police involvement and the registration of cases.

Political analysts note that the High Court's intervention highlights the judiciary's role in balancing law enforcement action with constitutional safeguards, particularly in politically sensitive matters. The order restraining police action also reflects caution in handling cases that could potentially inflame public sentiment or worsen political divisions.

Although the interim relief protects him for now, the final outcome will depend on the High Court's detailed review of the merits of Jogi Ramesh's petition. The next hearing, set for later this month, is expected to draw further attention from political observers and legal experts alike, as it could shape how similar cases are treated in the context of political speech and protest.

This development adds another layer to the charged political atmosphere in Andhra Pradesh, with legal battles and public discourse intensifying as parties continue to contest actions taken against their leaders.

2027 Godavari Pushkarams to Be Conducted Grandly Through Collective Efforts: Kandula Durgesh

Rajamahendravaram, February 6, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh government aims to conduct the 2027 Godavari Pushkarams in a grand, well-organised, and devotee-friendly manner through collective efforts of all departments, said State Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh. He emphasized that ensuring zero inconvenience to devotees is the foremost objective of the government.

The Minister chaired a comprehensive review meeting on Godavari Pushkaram preparedness at the Rajamahendravaram Collectorate

on Friday, along with public representatives and district officials. The 12-day religious event is scheduled to begin on June 26, 2027, and conclude on July 7, 2027.

Speaking on the occasion, Kandula Durgesh said the district-level review was a continuation of the Cabinet Sub-Committee meeting chaired by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu in Amaravati on January 23. He stressed the need for seamless coordination among key departments including Police, Revenue, Municipal Administration, Endowments, Tourism, Irrigation, Electricity, R&B, and Panchayat Raj to ensure successful con-



duct of the mega event. He added that a comprehensive action plan would soon be prepared in consultation with state-level officials and heads of departments.

To enhance pilgrim convenience, the Minister announced the introduction of special tem-

ple circuits, including Vaishnavite pilgrimage circuits such as Nava Narayana Kshetrams and Dwadasha Jyotirlinga circuits, along with customized tourism packages. Papikonadu tourism will also be integrated into the Pushkaram tourism plan.

importance to traditional 'manduva logillu' in the twin Godavari districts. The Minister also underlined the need to spread awareness among devotees that taking a holy dip at any identified ghat along the Godavari river yields equal spiritual merit. Prominent spiritual speakers such as Chaganti Koteswara Rao and Garikapati Narasimha Rao will be roped in for widespread awareness campaigns.

The Minister said works under the 97-crore Akhanda Godavari Tourism Project being implemented under the Central government's Swadesh Darshan (Shashki) scheme would be completed before the Pushkarams. He directed officials to expedite development works at Pushkar Ghats, modernization of Have-lock Bridge, Bridge Lanka water sports facilities, Kadiyam Experience Centre, Nidadavolu Kotasattemma temple, and Shettipeta boat tourism. Proposals exceeding 1,000 crore would be prepared for improving road connectivity with Central government support. He also instructed the SP to focus on security, parking management, and traffic control.

District Collector Keerthi Chekuri emphasized that all proposals must be realistic, goal-oriented, and aligned with available budgets. She called for clear, well-defined proposals to be forwarded to both state and Central governments for timely budget allocations.

Public representatives including MLC Somu Veeraj and several MLAs offered constituency-wise suggestions, stressing equal importance to all ghats, temple development, road expansion, and early commencement of works, as only about 15 months remain for the Pushkarams.

Senior officials, MLAs, MLCs, and departmental heads attended the meeting.

Kadiyam Nursery Sticker Scam Alleged in Eucalyptus Tenders

06-02-2026 | TPN Bureau, East Godavari

Kadiyam in East Godavari district has long been known as one of India's most prominent nursery hubs, supplying plants across the country. However, the reputation of Kadiyam Nursery is now under scrutiny following serious allegations of large-scale irregularities in the supply of eucalyptus saplings to government departments, resulting in alleged losses running into crores of rupees to the public exchequer.

According to sources, eucalyptus plants—currently in high demand for plantation and afforestation programmes—are at the centre of the controversy. While these saplings are reportedly procured from private nurseries in Karnataka at a market price of around 5 per plant, they are allegedly being relabelled with "Kadiyam Nursery" stickers and

shown as locally grown produce. These plants are then supplied to government departments such as ITDA and DRDA through tenders at highly inflated rates ranging from 40 to 45 per sapling.

Officials familiar with the procurement process claim that nursery operators anticipate annual tenders and stockpile lakhs of plants sourced cheaply from outside the state. By projecting them as Kadiyam-grown plants, they allegedly quote prices eight to nine times higher than the actual cost. Estimates suggest that an investment of around 10 lakh can allegedly generate bills exceeding 50 lakh within a single season, raising serious concerns over profiteering under the guise of nursery farming.

Under standard procedures, plant pricing should be regulated by the Horticulture Department based on size,



quality, and quantity. However, farmers and civil society groups allege that field-level verification and monitoring are either weak or completely absent. They argue that if the government were to procure directly from the source, the cost per sapling would not exceed 10, significantly reducing expenditure. Instead,

payments of 45–50 per plant are allegedly being made, leading to massive financial losses.

There are also allegations that the actual number of plants supplied is lower than what is shown in tender documents, while full payments are still claimed. The silence of officials from ITDA, DRDA, and the Horticulture Depart-

ment has raised further suspicion, with critics questioning whether negligence or collusion is at play.

Local residents say that under the banner of Kadiyam Nursery, a few large players are running an import-and-resale operation, adversely affecting genuine nursery farmers who depend on traditional cultivation for their livelihood. The controversy, they warn, risks tarnishing the legacy and credibility of Kadiyam's nursery sector.

Public organisations and activists are demanding immediate action, including a comprehensive audit of tender rates, verification of plant origins, strict supply inspections, and a probe by anti-corruption agencies. They stress that decisive steps are essential to protect public funds and preserve the integrity of the Kadiyam nursery ecosystem.

Tourism Push to Boost Jobs for Youth: Gottipati Ravi Kumar

Giddalur, February 6 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar on Friday said that focused development of the tourism sector would create large-scale employment and sustainable livelihood opportunities for local youth, particularly in backward regions. He made these remarks while launching the poster of the Pakala Beach Festival at Giddalur.

The two-day Pakala Beach Festival is scheduled to be held on February 14 and 15 at Pakala Beach in Prakasam district. The event is being organized jointly by the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Department and the AP Maritime Board, with the objective of promoting coastal tourism and showcasing the untapped potential of Pakala Beach.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister said that if Pakala Beach is developed on the lines of established tourist destinations such as Chirala and Suryalanka beaches, it could become a major growth engine for

Prakasam district. He noted that tourism has the capacity to transform local economies by generating direct and indirect employment across sectors such as hospitality, transport, food services, handicrafts, and small businesses.

"Tourism will soon emerge as one of the biggest employment-generating sectors. Local youth should prepare themselves to take advantage of the job and self-employment opportunities that will come with tourism development," the Minister said. He encouraged young people to explore opportunities such as homestays, beachside eateries, adventure activities, guiding services, and small-scale enterprises linked to tourism.

Minister Ravi Kumar also emphasized the role of local communities in promoting Pakala Beach as a tourist destination. He called upon residents of the erstwhile Prakasam district to actively participate in the development process and take pride in showcasing their region's

natural beauty. He urged families to visit Pakala Beach during the festival and experience the serene environment and planned cultural and recreational activities.

Highlighting existing infrastructure, the Minister said that around 1,100 rooms are currently available for tourists in and around Chirala and Suryalanka beaches. Similar facilities will be gradually developed at Pakala Beach to make it more accessible and tourist-friendly. He stressed that cooperation from local people would be crucial for ensuring sustainable and inclusive tourism development.

Appealing to all sections of society, Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar called for collective efforts to make the Pakala Beach Festival a grand success and place Pakala Beach firmly on the state's tourism map.

District Collector Rajababu, MLA Ashok Reddy, senior officials from the Tourism Department, and other dignitaries were present at the event.

No Power Tariff Hike, Assures Govt: Gottipati Ravi Kumar

Giddalur, February 6 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar on Friday asserted that the coalition government led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has not increased electricity charges by even a single rupee since coming to power and will not do so in the future as well. He said the government's focus is on providing uninterrupted, quality power to all sections without burdening consumers.

The Minister was on a tour of Giddalur constituency in Markapuram district, where he inaugurated a 33/11 KV sub-station constructed at a cost of 3.90 crore at Kasinapalli village in Komarolu mandal. Addressing the gathering, he said new sub-stations are being built specifically to resolve long-pending issues such as low voltage and frequent power interruptions, in line with the Chief Minister's directions. He informed that around 200 sub-stations are being constructed across the state.

Explaining the implementation of the Revamped Distribution

Sector Scheme (RDSS), the Minister said feeder-level bifurcation works are underway statewide. With RDSS, rural areas will receive 24-hour power supply, while farmers will be ensured nine hours of uninterrupted, quality electricity for agriculture. In the erstwhile Prakasam district alone, RDSS works worth 650 crore are in progress, with nearly 68 per cent already completed.

Acknowledging that some inconvenience may occur during execution of RDSS works, the Minister directed officials to clearly explain the long-term benefits of the scheme to the public. He said Giddalur constituency still requires five more sub-stations to fully address voltage-related issues, as highlighted by local MLA Ashok Reddy, and assured that they would be taken up in a phased manner based on financial feasibility.

The Minister said the government has launched power infrastructure works worth nearly 7,000 crore across the state, including 132, 220 and 400 KV sub-stations and transmission lines, without



increasing tariffs. He revealed that RDSS works worth 90 crore are being executed in Giddalur constituency alone, of which 70 crore have already been completed.

Highlighting reforms, Gottipati Ravi Kumar said the government reduced the "true down" by 13 paise and completely nullified the 40 paise "true up" imposed earlier, working towards reducing power tariffs by 1.19 per unit in the coming days. He alleged that the previous YSRCP government purchased power at higher prices, imposing a burden of 30,000 crore on the public and in-

creasing tariffs nine times.

The Minister also urged people to avail benefits under the PM Surya Ghar scheme, which provides up to 78,000 subsidy for rooftop solar installations, with free implementation for SC and ST households. He said the scheme offers benefits for up to 30 years, with additional income through surplus power generation.

Earlier, the Minister inspected the 132/33 KV sub-station at Giddalur and directed officials to prepare DPRs for a proposed 220 KV sub-station and a divisional office in the region.

MLA Vijay Kumar Inspires Students During Gurukul School Inspection

Yelamanchili, February 6 | TPN Bureau

Yelamanchili MLA Sundarapu Vijay Kumar on Friday conducted an inspection of the Kokkirapalli Gurukul Government Schools in Yelamanchili constituency of Anakapalli district, where he interacted closely with students and offered motivational guidance on academics, social responsibility, and examination preparation.

During his visit, the MLA inspected classrooms and ensured that teaching standards were being maintained. He interacted directly with students in the absence of teachers to independently assess their learning levels. He evaluated the students' reading methods, subject-wise understanding, and overall grasp of lessons, while also observing their attentiveness and confidence. Addressing the students, Sundarapu Vijay Kumar emphasized that responsibilities towards society, the nation, and one's own future should be cultivated from the student stage itself. He encouraged students to actively engage in classroom learning by listening carefully to lessons and developing questions not only on academic subjects but also on social issues. He advised them to discuss these questions with teachers to improve both knowledge and analytical thinking. The MLA also highlighted the importance of good handwriting, stating that neat and clear handwriting can significantly help students score better marks in examinations. He urged students to consciously



work on improving their handwriting as part of their daily study routine. Special advice was given to Class 10 students, as their board examinations are approaching. He asked them to remain disciplined, focused, and calm, and to utilize the remaining time effectively for revision and practice. Apart from academics, the MLA inspected the implementation of the Mid-Day Meal Scheme in the schools. He reviewed the quality and quantity of food being served and interacted with students regarding the meals. He instructed school authorities to ensure that nutritious and hygienic food is provided strictly according to the pre-

scribed menu, keeping students' health as a priority.

Officials present informed the MLA about the functioning of the schools and ongoing academic activities. He expressed satisfaction over the students' enthusiasm and advised teachers and administrators to continue working with dedication to provide quality education and a supportive learning environment.

The inspection program was attended by Mandal Education Officers (MEOs), headmasters, teaching staff, and students. The visit was seen as a morale booster for students, who welcomed the MLA's encouragement and guidance with enthusiasm.

Trust on Trial: What the India-US Trade Deal Really Means

The recently concluded India-US trade deal marks a crucial moment in the evolving relationship between the world's two largest democracies. While the agreement appears, on the surface, to be a pragmatic resolution of tariff disputes, its deeper significance lies in what it reveals about trust, power, and strategic calculation in a rapidly changing global order. This is not merely a commercial arrangement; it is a political and strategic signal sent at a time when global trade is becoming increasingly fragmented and transactional.

For years, India and the United States have spoken the language of partnership. Defense cooperation has expanded, technology ties have deepened, and diplomatic coordination has grown stronger, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region. Trade, however, has often been the most contentious pillar of this relationship. The latest deal reflects both the strain that has accumulated over recent years and the recognition on both sides that prolonged confrontation would be mutually damaging.

From Strategic Convergence to Economic Friction

The trajectory of India-US ties over the last decade has largely been positive. Shared concerns over regional security, a common interest in bal-

ancing China's growing influence, and people-to-people connections created a sense of natural alignment. Yet economic relations never fully escaped friction. Differences over market access, tariffs, and regulatory barriers simmered beneath the surface even as political rhetoric emphasized partnership.

These tensions became more pronounced as the United States adopted a more protectionist approach to trade. Tariffs were increasingly used not just as economic tools, but as instruments of leverage. India, despite being viewed as a strategic partner, found itself treated little differently from other trading nations when disputes arose. This was a sobering reminder that strategic goodwill does not automatically translate into economic leniency.

The resulting uncertainty affected exporters, investors, and policymakers alike. For India, the challenge was twofold: protecting domestic industries while maintaining access to one of its most important export markets. For the United States, the task was to balance domestic political pressures with the strategic importance of India in a volatile geopolitical environment.

What the Deal Achieves

At its core, the trade deal aims to restore predictability. By settling on a more stable tariff framework, it removes

the immediate threat of sudden escalations that had unsettled businesses on both sides. Indian exporters, particularly those in labor-intensive sectors, gain breathing room to plan production and investment without constantly factoring in the risk of punitive trade action.

Beyond the immediate economic relief, the agreement serves a symbolic function. It signals that despite sharp disagreements, both governments are willing to negotiate rather than escalate. In an era where trade disputes often spiral into long-term confrontations, this willingness to compromise matters.

However, the deal is not a sweeping free-trade agreement, nor does it resolve all outstanding issues. Many structural concerns — such as non-tariff barriers, regulatory standards, and digital trade rules — remain untouched. In that sense, the agreement should be seen as a stabilizing measure rather than a transformative one.

Trust, but With Caution

Perhaps the most important takeaway from this episode is the recalibration of trust. India entered the negotiations with the assumption that its strategic value would translate into economic consideration. The experience has shown that while strategic alignment matters, it does not override domestic political calculations in

Washington.

This realization may ultimately lead to a more mature relationship. Trust, after all, does not mean the absence of disagreement; it means the ability to manage disagreements without allowing them to derail the broader partnership. The deal suggests that both sides recognize the costs of letting economic friction undermine strategic cooperation.

At the same time, the episode has reinforced the need for India to diversify its trade relationships and strengthen its domestic economic base. Over-reliance on any single market carries risks, particularly in a global environment where trade rules are increasingly shaped by politics rather than economics alone.

The Global Context

The timing of the deal is significant. Global trade is undergoing a period of profound disruption. Supply chains are being reconfigured, economic nationalism is on the rise, and geopolitical rivalries are reshaping commercial relationships. In this context, even long-standing partnerships are subject to stress.

For India, the challenge is to position itself as a reliable and competitive participant in global value chains while retaining policy space to support domestic development. The trade deal with the United States fits into this broader

strategy by preserving access to a critical market without forcing major concessions in sensitive sectors.

For the United States, the agreement reflects an acknowledgment that alienating key partners could weaken its broader strategic objectives. As competition intensifies in the Indo-Pacific, maintaining functional economic ties with India becomes increasingly important.

Domestic Political Balancing Acts

Trade agreements are never negotiated in a political vacuum, and this one is no exception. In India, concerns persist about the potential impact on vulnerable sectors such as agriculture and small-scale manufacturing. The government has emphasized that core domestic interests have been protected, but skepticism remains among critics who fear incremental concessions over time.

In the United States, trade policy continues to be shaped by domestic narratives around jobs, fairness, and reciprocity. Any agreement with a major trading partner must be defensible to domestic audiences, particularly in an environment where skepticism toward globalization runs deep.

The deal reflects these political constraints. It avoids dramatic liberalization while offering enough progress for



both sides to claim success. This careful balancing underscores how trade policy has become as much about domestic legitimacy as international cooperation.

What Comes Next

Implementation will determine whether the agreement delivers on its promise. Clear rules, transparent processes, and effective dispute-resolution mechanisms will be essential to prevent future misunderstandings. Both sides will also need to address unresolved issues if they hope to move toward a more comprehensive economic partnership.

More broadly, the deal invites a reassessment of how India and the United States approach economic cooperation. Rather than assuming automatic convergence, both sides may need to invest more in sustained dialogue, institu-

tionistic mechanisms, and realistic expectations. **A Relationship Tested, Not Broken**

In the final analysis, the India-US trade deal represents a relationship tested, not transformed. It highlights the limits of trust, but also its resilience. The agreement does not mark the beginning of a new golden age in trade relations, nor does it signal a breakdown. Instead, it reflects a pragmatic recognition that cooperation, even when imperfect, is preferable to confrontation.

As global uncertainty deepens, such pragmatism may prove invaluable. The real signal sent by the deal is not about tariffs alone, but about the willingness of two major powers to step back from the brink and preserve a partnership that extends far beyond trade.

Why a US Military Attack on Iran Would Be Far More Complicated Than It Sounds

As tensions escalate between Washington and Tehran, speculation has grown about the possibility of a direct military strike by the United States against Iran. While some political figures in the US have hinted at the use of force to curb Iran's nuclear ambitions and confront its regional influence, the reality on the ground is that such action would present extremely difficult challenges. Any decision to launch a military assault on Iran would not only face operational obstacles but also major political and diplomatic barriers — both domestically within the United States and internationally.

Understanding the Military Options

At the outset, it's important to recognize that there are two very different approaches the US might take if it were to contemplate military action: a limited strike or a sustained, broader campaign. Each comes with its own set of limitations and complications.

A limited strike would likely consist of air and missile attacks targeting specific Iranian military and nuclear infrastructure. Such a mission might aim to degrade Iran's nuclear capability or disrupt key command structures, such as the leadership of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). Compared with a full-scale invasion, this type of operation could be executed relatively quickly, would not require large numbers of US troops on the ground, and might be framed as a tactical "surgical" strike.

This option is appealing in theory because it conceivably avoids a prolonged ground war and reduces immediate casualties among US forces. It also might not require formal approval from the US Congress, which is important because the executive branch typically has greater leeway in conducting quick, limited military actions.

But even this limited option carries serious risks. For starters, striking Iran's nuclear facilities or leadership could provoke a strong and unpredictable response from Tehran. Iran has repeatedly warned that any attack on its territory would not only trigger retaliation but could also escalate into a wider regional conflict. Tehran possesses a substantial arsenal of ballistic missiles, a large conventional army, and numerous proxy forces across the Middle East. A limited strike that fails to achieve broad strategic goals could simply enrage Iran and strengthen hard-line elements within its government, making future diplomacy far more difficult.

Furthermore, destroying Iran's nuclear infrastructure without accompanying political change within the country would almost certainly embolden Iran to rebuild its capabilities. Without regime-level change — something the United States has neither the political will nor the capability to enforce without a large occupation force — limited strikes could set the stage for repeated cycles of escalation and retaliation.

Political and Congressional Constraints

This brings us to the second option: a sustained, long-term military campaign aimed at not just degrading Iran's nuclear program but overthrowing its current



government and fundamentally reshaping its political landscape. Such a campaign would almost certainly involve deploying large numbers of ground troops, establishing occupation zones, and engaging in nation-building — tasks that have historically proven extremely difficult and costly in the Middle East.

Here, the principal constraints are political rather than purely military. In the United States, there is widespread bipartisan skepticism about entering another prolonged conflict in the region. Both Democratic and Republican members of Congress have historically expressed serious reservations about authorizing extended military engagements unless there is a clear and compelling national interest at stake. Many lawmakers fear that a long-term war with Iran would mirror the quagmires of Iraq and Afghanistan, consuming vast resources, costing thousands of lives, and producing uncertain results.

Moreover, in recent years Congress has moved to reassert its authority over declarations of war and the use of force. Repealing outdated authorizations and demanding clearer justifications for new military engagements has become a priority for many legislators. This means that any effort by the administration to launch a comprehensive military campaign would face intense scrutiny, possible legal challenges, and likely restrictions on funding.

Timing also matters. With critical elections on the horizon, including the midterm elections later this year, politicians on both sides of the aisle are cautious about supporting measures that could result in American casualties or disruption to the economy. An extended conflict — particularly one that expands into multiple fronts — could undermine public support for political leaders and fuel domestic divisions.

International and Regional Challenges

Domestic politics in the United States is only half the story. Any military action against Iran would occur within a complex international environment where allies and regional partners may not align with Washington's strategic goals.

Some US allies in the Middle East, particularly Israel, might support strong action against Iran due to long-standing security concerns and ideological opposition to Tehran's influence. Indeed, Israel has already taken unilateral military steps against Iranian targets in the past. However, even among traditional partners, support is far from universal. Several important regional states — including Qatar, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq,

and Saudi Arabia — have publicly resisted being drawn into a conflict with Iran. These countries fear that a major confrontation would destabilize the region, harm their economies, and create humanitarian crises on their borders.

Additionally, global powers such as China and Russia, which have strategic relationships with Iran, would likely condemn or actively oppose any US military action. Their involvement — whether through economic support, diplomatic backing, or indirect military cooperation — could further complicate the situation and heighten the risk of wider confrontation.

European allies are likewise cautious. While many support diplomatic efforts to restrain Iran's nuclear program, a full-scale military assault is not broadly popular among European governments, which are wary of reigniting large-scale conflict in the Middle East.

The Broader Strategic Impact

An attack on Iran would have repercussions far beyond the battlefield. The global economy — particularly energy markets — could be severely disrupted. Iran controls strategic chokepoints for oil shipments, and threats to close or disrupt these routes would send shockwaves through international markets. Rising oil prices, supply chain disruptions, and increased regional instability could have widespread economic consequences.

Diplomatically, military action could freeze or derail ongoing negotiations aimed at reducing tensions and establishing a negotiated framework for Iran's nuclear activities. Rather than bringing Iran to the negotiating table, such action could drive Tehran further into the arms of rival powers and reinforce its narrative of Western hostility.

Finally, the humanitarian cost of conflict should not be underestimated. Civilians in Iran and throughout the region would inevitably suffer, and regional displacement, refugee flows, and societal disruption could follow.

A Fraught Decision with No Easy Path

In summary, while the United States technically has the military capability to strike Iran, doing so would confront a series of profound strategic, political, and diplomatic constraints. Limited air strikes might achieve short-term tactical goals but are unlikely to secure long-term strategic success without triggering retaliation or renewed nuclear ambitions. A broader campaign aimed at regime change would face intense resistance at home and abroad, potentially drawing the US into a prolonged conflict with unpredictable consequences.

In this context, the conversation about military options underscores why diplomacy, restraint, and international cooperation remain central to efforts to resolve the standoff with Iran. Even as military assets are positioned and rhetoric heats up, the challenges inherent in any attack make it clear that such a course would be fraught with risk and uncertainty — and that any action taken would almost certainly be from a position of discomfort rather than confidence.

Two Great Men with One Direction

Our Bharat is not a single-pillar building. In every era, many great personalities have been born. In the lives and life-messages of some of them, we can see many similarities. Let us learn about two such great men.

The founder of the RSS, Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar (Doctorji), was born on Ugadi day in 1889 (1 April) at Nagpur.

Sri Duggirala Gopalakrishnayya was born on 2 July 1889 at Penuganchipolu in the then Guntur-Krishna district. Both belonged to middle-class families.

From a young age, both lost their parents. Gopalakrishnayya lost his mother on the third day after his birth and his father at the age of three.

Keshav lost both his parents on the same day in February 1903, when he was 14 years old, due to the plague.

Education and Early Life

Both Keshav and Gopalakrishnayya were fiery and passionate by nature from childhood.

Both were pioneers in the freedom movement.

In 1905, the British government partitioned Bengal. In protest, the slogan "Vande Mataram" spread from Bengal to the entire country.

Keshav was a student of Neel's High School, Nagpur. The British government issued the Risleys Circular banning the singing of "Vande Mataram." In 1908, when the school inspector visited, students of all classes welcomed the British officer by singing "Vande Mataram." The authorities could not identify who was behind the movement. After the school was closed for six months, Keshav was expelled from Neel's High School. Even in childhood, Keshav displayed extraordinary leadership qualities.

After completing higher studies abroad, Duggirala joined as a lecturer at the Government Metcalfe Hostel, Rajahmundry. His speeches that ignited patriotism among students displeased the British authorities. During the hostel's annual function, the tricolour flag was hoisted. The result: the British government removed Duggirala from service.

Keshav participated in and led freedom movements even as a high-school student. In the name of higher studies, he went to Calcutta and obtained a medical degree. There, he actively participated in the revolutionary organization Anushilan Samiti.

Duggirala pursued higher education at the University of Edinburgh, England (M.A.), where the seeds of the freedom movement took strong root in him.

In the Freedom Movement

After completing studies in Calcutta, Doctorji returned to Nagpur in 1916 and actively participated in all forms of the freedom struggle. He served as a member of the Central Provinces Congress Committee and supervised arrangements for the Nagpur Congress Session in December 1920.

He was imprisoned twice, in 1921 and 1930. Remaining a lifelong brahmachari, he dedicated his entire life to the nation. He supported everyone who worked for independence, regardless of the method they adopted.

Duggirala was married at the age of 14. He worked for some time as a lecturer in colleges at Rajahmundry and Machilipatnam. Being an excellent orator, his teaching style that aroused passion and patriotism among students did not please the authorities, so he left teaching.

He led the Chirala-Perala movement in 1921 and participated in the Vijayawada Congress

Session of 1921. Impressed and alarmed by his speeches, the British government sentenced him to one year of imprisonment. In 1922, he served a one-year jail term at Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu.

In 1920, he established Vidyakshmi for Indian education; donors provided 22 acres of land.

At the 1923 Nagpur Congress Session, Duggirala was elected General Secretary.

RSS and Ramadandu

In 1920, Duggirala Gopalakrishnayya founded an organization called Ramadandu, with ten objectives including eradication of untouchability and village self-governance. The organization's flag was saffron, bearing Hanuman. Ramadandu played an excellent role in organizing the 1921 Vijayawada Congress Session, earning great recognition. Duggirala came to be known as "Ramadasu."

In 1925, on Vijayadashami, Doctorji founded the RSS. Its goals were complete independence of India and overall national development, with Hindu unity as the means. The saffron flag became the Guru of RSS swayamsevaks. While dedicating his life to strengthening the RSS, Doctorji also participated in the freedom struggle. Both were staunch proponents of Hindu ideology.

Social Vision

Both desired Hindu unity and the eradication of caste inequality and untouchability.

After his release from prison, on 4 October 1922, at a felicitation meeting held at Soundarya Hall, Madras, Duggirala delivered a detailed speech demanding the abolition of caste discrimination and untouchability, and called for a new Smriti appropriate to the times.

In 1927, he expressed his desire to build a Ram temple at Chirala. Many promised financial support, but when he announced that Scheduled Castes would also be allowed entry, donors withdrew. Selling his wife's jewellery, he started the temple in a small hut at Ramnagar. Shortly thereafter, on 10 January 1928, he passed away due to tuberculosis. His wish remains unfulfilled even today.

The RSS works with the objective that all Hindus are brothers and that untouchability must be eradicated. On 17 September 1933, the Sangh supported Gandhiji's nine-month Harijan Yatra launched from Wardha Ram Mandir for the eradication of untouchability. In December 1934, Gandhiji visited the RSS camp at Wardha. In May 1939, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar visited the RSS camp at Pune. Both leaders appreciated work that transcended caste and rejected untouchability.

On 21 June 1940, Doctorji passed away.

Who Will Carry Forward Their Ideals?

Doctorji's greatness lies in preparing a cadre of workers to carry forward his life's mission after him. The RSS has completed a hundred years and continues to move toward its ultimate goal through the nationwide network of its workers.

As for Andhra Ratna Duggirala Gopalakrishnayya's ideals — the construction of a Ram temple at Chirala open to all, and the creation and implementation of a new Smriti that ensures equality for everyone — who will fulfil them?

Dr. Daggupati Venkatshwara Rao, Former Minister of AP, Syam prasad, National Convener Samajika samarasata Hyderabad

Amit Shah Arrives in Jammu to Review Border Security and Development

Union Home Minister Amit Shah arrived in Jammu on a two-day visit on Friday aimed at reviewing security measures, particularly along the border, and assessing development and welfare initiatives in the region.

Shah landed in Jammu late on Thursday night and was welcomed by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, and other senior officials. During his visit, he is scheduled to inspect forward border outposts, meet security personnel, and hold high-level meetings with top civil and police leadership.

On Friday morning, the Home Minister visited border outposts in the Hiranagar sector of the Kathua district. At these posts, he interacted with personnel from the Border Security Force (BSF) tasked with guarding the frontier and countering infiltration attempts. Shah also inaugurated and laid the foundation for multiple welfare schemes for BSF personnel, underscoring a focus on both security and the welfare of forces deployed along sensitive areas.

As part of his visit, Shah is chairing a detailed security review meeting in Lok Bhavan,



Jammu, where officials are briefing him on ongoing counter-terror operations and measures being taken to strengthen border management. Discussions are expected to cover progress in combating infiltration and smuggling activities, as well as broader efforts to ensure peace and stability across the Union Territory.

In addition to security reviews, Shah will hold develop-

ment-focused meetings with the Lieutenant Governor and Chief Minister to assess progress on key infrastructure projects and public welfare initiatives aimed at accelerating growth in the region. He is also expected to meet families of security personnel and distribute compassionate appointment letters as part of welfare measures for victims of terror attacks.

The visit comes at a time of

heightened emphasis on border security and counter-terror efforts in Jammu and Kashmir, with authorities pushing to enhance coordination between central and local security agencies. Shah's engagements over the next two days reflect a blend of operational oversight, strategic guidance, and policy focus on both security and development priorities for the Union Territory.

Omar Abdullah Says He Will Thank Centre for Good Work Even if Allies Are Upset

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said he will openly acknowledge and thank the central government whenever it delivers work that benefits the Union Territory, even if such praise causes discomfort among his political allies.

Speaking in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly ahead of the presentation of the upcoming budget, Abdullah stressed that recognising positive actions by the Centre should not be viewed through a partisan lens. He said he would not hesitate to express gratitude to the Prime Minister, Home Minister, or Finance Minister if their decisions or initiatives help the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Abdullah acknowledged that such statements may upset sections of the opposition



or alliance partners, particularly the Congress, but maintained that governance should take precedence over political sensitivities. According to him, constructive engagement and fair recognition of good work are essential for delivering results on the ground.

The Chief Minister's remarks come as he prepares to present his second budget since assuming office. The budget is expected to focus on key areas such as support for daily wage workers, strengthening the tourism sector, and boosting industrial activity in the region. Abdullah, who

also holds the finance portfolio, had presented his first budget last year after his government took office in October 2024.

His comments underline a pragmatic approach to politics, suggesting a willingness to work with the Centre when necessary, regardless of political differences. The stance has sparked discussion within political circles, highlighting ongoing debates about cooperation, accountability, and credit-sharing between the Centre and regional governments.

As the budget session continues, Abdullah's statement is being seen as an attempt to emphasise governance and development over party politics, at a time when the Union Territory remains a focus of both political and administrative attention.

Congress to Fight All 294 Seats Alone in West Bengal Assembly Elections



In a significant political development ahead of the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections, the Indian National Congress has announced that it will contest all 294 seats in the state on its own, without entering into any electoral alliance with other parties.

The decision was taken at a high-level meeting of the party's leadership in New Delhi, where national and state Congress leaders discussed the strategy for the upcoming polls. The leadership decided that the party would not pursue seat-sharing arrangements with the Left Front, led by the Communist Party of India (Marxist), or with any other political formation. This marks a clear departure from past elections where Congress had collaborated with other parties in West Bengal.

According to party officials, the move reflects a desire to strengthen the Congress's organisational presence at the grassroots level and to offer voters an independent secular option in the state's political landscape. Leaders involved in the decision said that previous alliances had failed to yield electoral success and had, at times, demoralised

party workers on the ground.

Congress state in-charge and senior leaders conveyed that the party will begin preparations immediately on the basis of contesting all seats independently. Party strategists emphasised that this would allow the Congress to rebuild its identity and connect more directly with voters without being constrained by coalition politics.

The announcement effectively ends any long-standing alliance with the Left in West Bengal, a partnership that existed in earlier election cycles. It also sets the stage for a multi-cornered contest in the state, with the Congress now positioning itself as a standalone alternative to the two major contenders — the ruling Trinamool Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party.

The Assembly elections are expected to be held in April-May 2026, and the state's political dynamics will now be closely watched as parties finalise their candidates and campaign strategies ahead of the polls. The Congress's decision to go solo could reshape electoral equations and voter alignments in the run-up to the elections.

Madras High Court Dismisses Vijay's Plea, Upholds Rs 1.5 Crore Income Tax Penalty



Actor-turned-politician Joseph Vijay has suffered a legal setback after the Madras High Court upheld a ₹1.5 crore income tax penalty imposed on him by the Income Tax Department. The court dismissed his appeal, meaning he will now have to pay the penalty unless he pursues further legal options.

The penalty stems from the 2015-16 financial year, when tax authorities said Vijay failed to fully disclose additional income. During a tax raid at his premises in 2015, officials reportedly found documents suggesting that a portion of his earnings from a film project were not properly declared at the time. Based on these findings, the tax department imposed a financial penalty for non-disclosure.

Vijay challenged the penalty in the Madras High Court, arguing that the penalty proceedings were flawed and that the notice should not have been issued after long delays. He also contended that the tax authorities had not followed proper timelines under the law. However, after reviewing the case, the court found no procedural or legal grounds to overturn the penalty order and upheld the tax depart-

ment's actions.

Justice Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy, presiding over the case, ruled that the penalty was imposed within the permitted period and that there was no infirmity in how the tax authorities had proceeded. With his writ petition dismissed, Vijay may now consider approaching the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal or other higher forums if he chooses to continue contesting the matter.

The ruling comes at a politically sensitive time as Vijay — who leads the regional party Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) — pursues his political ambitions in Tamil Nadu. Legal experts say the case highlights the importance of compliance with income disclosure laws for public figures and sets a precedent for similar cases involving high-profile individuals.

At present, Vijay has not made a detailed public statement on the court's decision. Observers note that the judgment reinforces the authority of tax authorities to enforce penalties when income is not properly declared and signals that courts may be reluctant to overturn such orders absent clear procedural errors.

Indian Army Launches 'Friends for Life' Platform to Strengthen Military Ties with Nearly 100 Countries



The Indian Army has launched a new initiative called "Friends for Life" aimed at deepening defence cooperation and military relationships with countries across the world. The platform is designed to enhance collaboration, promote joint training and exchanges, and foster stronger bonds with nearly 100 friendly nations.

The initiative was unveiled by senior military leadership at an event attended by foreign delegates, defence officials and representatives from partner militaries. It reflects India's growing emphasis on defence diplomacy as a tool to build mutual trust, share best practices, and address common security challenges.

"Friends for Life" is expected to serve as a multifaceted engagement platform that goes beyond traditional bilateral military exercises. It will focus on capacity building, professional military education, joint humanitarian missions, and defence innovation cooperation. The platform will also facilitate officer exchanges, workshops and seminars, allow-

ing defence personnel from different countries to learn from each other's experiences and strengthen interoperability.

In his remarks, the Army chief highlighted the importance of defence partnerships in a changing global security environment. He underscored that in an era marked by complex threats — ranging from conventional border tensions to terrorism, cyber challenges and climate-related crises — strong military ties can contribute to regional stability and collective security.

The Indian Army already engages with many nations through bilateral training exercises, international military seminars, and peacekeeping cooperation under the United Nations. The new platform aims to build on these existing relationships and bring a more structured and sustained framework to collaborative efforts.

The "Friends for Life" initiative is also seen as part of India's broader diplomatic outreach, complementing its strategic engagement with global and regional bodies. It aligns with efforts to strengthen

partnerships with countries across Africa, Asia, Europe, the Americas and the Pacific.

Defence analysts note that expanding military cooperation helps India project its role as a responsible security partner while enhancing its capacity to contribute to shared stability and crisis response. The platform's focus on long-term engagement signals a commitment to maintaining strong defence relationships well into the future.

Officials said that in the coming months, the Indian Army will roll out a calendar of activities under the "Friends for Life" banner, including exchanges, training events and multinational interactions. Invitations are expected to be extended to partner militaries to participate in collaborative programmes hosted in India and abroad.

By formalising and broadening military ties through this platform, the Indian Army aims to create lasting defence partnerships that support both national interests and shared security goals with friendly countries around the world.

Nearly 23,000 Indians Deported Worldwide in 2025; Gulf Nations Account for Majority



Around 22,900 Indian nationals were deported from different countries across the world in 2025 after being found in violation of immigration rules, according to official data shared by the Indian government. The deportations were carried out for reasons such as visa overstays, lack of valid work permits, or other documentation-related issues.

Contrary to popular perception, the highest number of deportations did not come from the United States. Instead, Saudi Arabia emerged as the largest source of deportations, followed by the United Arab Emirates. The Gulf region, which hosts a large Indian migrant workforce, saw increased enforcement of labour and residency regulations, leading to a rise in removals of undocumented or non-compliant workers.

The United States ranked lower on the list, with a comparatively smaller number of Indian nationals deported during the year. Deportations from the US were largely linked to visa violations, overstays, or failure to meet legal residency requirements.

Other countries that deported Indian citizens included nations in Southeast Asia and Europe, such as Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, and the Maldives. While the numbers from these countries were smaller, they collectively contributed to the overall total.

Many of those deported were reportedly young individuals from states such as Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh, who had travelled abroad in search of employment opportunities. In several cases, mi-

grants relied on unauthorised agents or irregular routes, leaving them vulnerable to legal action once detected by local authorities.

The Indian government has acknowledged concerns over the scale of deportations and said it continues to engage with foreign governments to ensure that deportation processes are conducted humanely. Authorities have also stressed the need to curb illegal recruitment networks and promote awareness about safe and legal migration channels.

The figures highlight the challenges faced by Indian migrants overseas and underline the importance of proper documentation, legal employment pathways, and stronger safeguards to protect citizens working and living abroad.

With New START Treaty Expiring, the US–Russia Nuclear Balance Enters Uncharted Territory



The expiration of the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) marks a turning point in global nuclear arms control. For the first time in decades, there are no legally binding limits on the nuclear arsenals of the United States and Russia — the two countries that together possess the vast majority of the world's nuclear weapons. The lapse of the treaty raises serious questions about strategic stability, future arms races, and the broader implications for global security, including for countries like India.

What Was New START?

New START was signed in 2010 with the aim of reducing and capping the number of deployed strategic nuclear weapons held by Washington and Moscow. It limited both sides to a fixed number of nuclear warheads and delivery systems such as intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine-launched missiles, and strategic bombers. Just as importantly, it established verification mechanisms, including inspections and data exchanges, which helped reduce mistrust and the risk of miscalculation. The treaty was extended once, but no follow-up agreement was concluded before its expiry. As a result, the guardrails that once governed the

world's most powerful nuclear arsenals have now been removed.

Why the Treaty's Expiry Matters

With New START no longer in force, both the US and Russia are technically free to expand their nuclear forces without legal restraint. While neither side has immediately announced large-scale expansion plans, the absence of binding limits increases uncertainty and weakens transparency. Without inspections and data sharing, each side must rely more heavily on intelligence assessments, which can heighten suspicion and worst-case planning.

This environment increases the risk of an arms race, not necessarily through dramatic announcements but through gradual upgrades, deployment of new delivery systems, and expansion of stockpiles over time.

Challenges to a New Agreement

Negotiating a replacement treaty is proving far more complex than earlier arms control efforts. Relations between the US and Russia are deeply strained, limiting diplomatic trust. Additionally, the global nuclear landscape has changed. China's growing nuclear capabilities have altered strategic calculations,

leading some policymakers to argue that any future agreement should be multilateral rather than bilateral.

However, bringing more countries into arms control negotiations complicates matters further, as nuclear powers have vastly different arsenal sizes, doctrines, and security concerns. This makes reaching consensus far more difficult than during the Cold War era.

Impact on Global Security

The collapse of formal arms control frameworks could weaken global norms around nuclear restraint. Other nuclear-armed states may feel less pressure to adhere to informal limits if the largest powers are no longer bound by treaties. This erosion of trust could ripple across regions already marked by tension.

For countries like India, the consequences are indirect but significant. A renewed arms race among major powers could destabilise the global strategic environment, influence regional deterrence dynamics, and increase uncertainty in Asia, where multiple nuclear-armed states already operate in close proximity.

What Happens Next?

Despite the expiry of New START, both Washington and Moscow have acknowledged the importance of preventing

uncontrolled nuclear escalation. Diplomatic and military-level communications continue, and there is broad recognition that some form of framework is needed to manage nuclear risks.

Whether this leads to a new treaty, a series of informal agreements, or a prolonged period without constraints remains uncertain. What is clear is that the end of New START marks the close of an era when nuclear competition was governed by clearly defined rules.

A More Uncertain Nuclear Future

The expiration of the New START treaty does not mean an immediate crisis, but it does signal a move into a less predictable phase of global nuclear politics. Without binding limits and verification mechanisms, trust becomes harder to maintain and misjudgments more likely.

In a world already facing geopolitical fragmentation and rising security tensions, the absence of structured arms control between the largest nuclear powers adds another layer of risk. How the US and Russia manage this transition — and whether they can rebuild a framework for restraint — will have lasting consequences for international stability and the future of nuclear governance.

Deadly Explosion at Islamabad Mosque Leaves Several Killed, Dozens Injured

A powerful explosion struck a mosque on the outskirts of Islamabad during Friday prayers, killing several people and injuring many others, according to Pakistani security officials. The blast caused panic among worshippers and triggered a major emergency response as rescue teams rushed to the scene.

The explosion occurred while the mosque was crowded with people attending weekly congregational prayers. Eyewitnesses described scenes of chaos, with debris scattered across the prayer hall and injured worshippers lying on the ground awaiting medical help. Ambulances and emergency responders arrived quickly, transporting the wounded to nearby hospitals.

Authorities said the death toll is expected to rise, as several of those injured are in critical condition. Hospitals in Islamabad and surrounding areas have been placed on high alert to handle the influx of casualties. Medical teams are working to provide urgent care, while families of worshippers gathered outside hospitals seeking information about their loved ones.

Initial investigations suggest the explosion may have been caused by a suicide attacker, though officials cautioned that the exact nature of the blast is still being examined. Security forces have cordoned off the area and launched a detailed probe to determine how the attacker gained access to the mosque and whether any security lapses occurred.



Islamabad is generally considered one of Pakistan's more secure cities due to its heavy security presence. However, the country has faced periodic attacks linked to militant and extremist

groups, including incidents targeting religious sites. Sectarian violence has also posed a recurring challenge, with places of worship sometimes becoming targets during major prayer gatherings.

Senior government officials have condemned the attack, calling it a brutal act of violence against innocent civilians. They have vowed to bring those responsible to justice

and to strengthen security at sensitive locations, particularly religious sites, in the coming days.

As investigations continue, authorities have urged the public to remain calm and vigilant. The attack has once again raised concerns about internal security and the safety of public spaces in Pakistan, especially during large religious gatherings.

US Urges Its Citizens to Leave Iran Immediately Amid Rising Military Tensions



The United States has issued an urgent warning advising all American citizens currently in Iran to leave the country without delay, citing heightened security risks amid escalating tensions between Washington and Tehran.

In its advisory, the US government said Americans should be prepared to depart without relying on official assistance, warning that the situation could worsen rapidly. It highlighted the possibility of travel disruptions, including flight cancellations and communication outages, and advised citizens to consider overland exits to neighbouring countries if air travel becomes unavailable.

Escalating Rhetoric and Security Concerns

The warning comes against the backdrop of sharp rhetoric from US President Donald Trump, who has repeatedly threatened military action against Iran. The tensions are closely linked to long-standing disputes over Iran's nuclear programme and broader regional security concerns.

Recent statements from Washington have intensified fears that the standoff could move from diplomatic pressure to direct confrontation.

Iranian officials have responded forcefully, warning that any attack would trigger a wider regional conflict. The exchange of threats has raised alarm across the Middle East, where even limited military action could have far-reaching consequences.

Limited Support for Americans in Iran

The advisory underscored that US diplomatic support inside Iran is extremely limited, as the two countries do not maintain formal diplomatic relations. There is no US embassy in Tehran, and consular assistance for American citizens is minimal. Dual nationals face particular risks, including the possibility of questioning, detention, or travel restrictions.

Americans who cannot leave immediately have been advised to stay in secure locations, avoid large gatherings and protests, keep es-

sential supplies on hand, and maintain alternative communication methods in case of internet or mobile network disruptions.

Regional Implications

The warning reflects growing concern within the US administration about the stability of the region. Increased military deployments and heightened alert levels have added to fears of miscalculation or escalation. Several regional and international actors have urged restraint, warning that conflict between the US and Iran could destabilise already fragile parts of the Middle East.

Uncertain Path Ahead

While the advisory does not confirm that military action is imminent, it signals a serious deterioration in the security environment. Diplomatic efforts to ease tensions are continuing, but deep disagreements remain. As uncertainty grows, the US has prioritised the safety of its citizens, urging them to remove themselves from potential danger zones as quickly as possible.

India Eyes Gulf as a Major Growth Market: Mega Free Trade Deal Talks Underway

India is moving forward with plans to negotiate a major free trade agreement (FTA) with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — a six-nation bloc in the Middle East that includes Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain. This development marks an important strategic shift in India's trade policy and could significantly deepen economic and investment ties between New Delhi and one of its largest regional partners. Such an agreement would go beyond existing bilateral deals and unlock wider opportunities across a vast, fast-growing market.

FTA Talks Begin With Formal Steps

India and the GCC have officially signed the Terms of Reference (ToR) to formally launch negotiations for a comprehensive free trade pact. These Terms of Reference set out the framework and scope of discussions, paving the way for detailed talks on tariff reductions, services access, investment protection and other key trade-related issues. The signing took place in New Delhi, with India's Commerce and Industry Minister leading the Indian side. This marks a long-anticipated revival of trade talks that were previously held in the mid-2000s but did not progress to conclusion. The current move reflects renewed momentum and shared interest in boosting economic engagement.

The Gulf bloc is already one of India's most important economic partners, with combined bilateral trade approaching nearly \$180 billion in the 2024–25 financial year. This level of exchange makes the GCC a larger trading partner for India than most other major regional blocs or individual countries, underlining the importance of launching a formal agreement.

Economic Significance of the Gulf Market

The Gulf region plays a



key role in India's energy security, with Gulf nations supplying a large share of India's crude oil and natural gas imports. Beyond energy, India exports a wide range of manufactured and semi-manufactured goods to the region, including metals, chemicals, machinery, pearls and precious stones. Indian services, especially in technology, logistics and professional services, also have growing traction in Gulf markets.

Importantly, about 10 million Indians live and work in GCC countries, contributing substantially to remittances and people-to-people ties. An FTA could enhance opportunities for Indian professionals and service providers while deepening commercial integration.

How an FTA Could Help India

A comprehensive FTA with the GCC could remove or significantly reduce tariffs and non-tariff barriers on a broad set of goods and services, making Indian products more competitive in the Gulf markets. It could also provide clearer and more predictable rules for investors and traders, encouraging greater foreign direct investment from the Gulf into India and vice versa. Key sectors that could benefit include food processing, petrochemicals, information and communication technology, infrastructure, and industrial equipment.

For Indian companies, expanded market access would mean not just higher export volumes but also opportunities to integrate into regional value chains, participate in infrastructure development projects, and attract investment for

joint ventures.

Strategic Importance

The FTA negotiations come at a time when India is pursuing trade diversification amid global tariff tensions and shifting patterns of global commerce. Having recently completed trade agreements with other major regions, such as the European Union and United States, India sees the Gulf as the next frontier to expand its trade footprint.

Beyond economics, stronger trade ties with the GCC can reinforce strategic relationships in a region of growing geopolitical significance. Expanded cooperation could extend into energy collaboration, logistics and supply chain connectivity, and technology partnerships.

Challenges and Outlook

Negotiating a comprehensive FTA with six diverse economies won't be simple. Differences in economic structures, tariff sensitivities and regulatory systems will need careful handling. India will have to balance protecting its domestic industries while securing meaningful market access for exporters.

Still, the commencement of formal talks signals a shared commitment by both India and the Gulf nations to deepen economic ties and build a mutually beneficial trade regime. If successfully concluded, this mega trade deal could mark a significant step in redefining India's trade landscape and positioning it as a central economic partner in the broader Middle East region.

Late Buying Lifts Markets: Sensex Gains 266 Points, Nifty Ends Near 25,700



Indian equity markets closed higher after a volatile trading session, supported by strong buying interest in the final hour of trade. Benchmark indices recovered from early weakness to finish in positive territory, with consumer-focused stocks leading the gains and helping markets end near the day's highs.

The Sensex advanced 266 points to close at 83,580, while the Nifty 50 rose about 51 points to settle near 25,700. Both indices opened on a cautious note amid mixed global cues and spent much of the day trading in a narrow range before witnessing a sharp recovery toward the close.

Volatile Start, Strong Finish

Markets began the session under pressure, with the Nifty slipping below the 25,500 mark in early trade as investors remained cautious. Weak sentiment in select global markets and profit-taking in technology stocks weighed on early momentum. However, steady buying during the afternoon session gradually lifted sentiment, setting the stage for a strong last-hour rally.

The late surge was driven by value buying in heavyweight stocks, particularly in the FMCG and financial sectors. This helped benchmark indices reverse losses and close firmly in the green, reflecting resilience despite intraday volatility.

Sectoral Performance

Among sectoral indices, FMCG stocks outperformed, with the sector rising over 2 percent as investors rotated into defensive names amid broader uncertainty. Stocks from the oil and gas, real estate, consumer durables, and private banking spaces also ended higher, contributing to the overall market strength.

On the downside, IT and pharmaceutical stocks underperformed, facing selling pressure throughout the session. Auto and PSU bank stocks also traded with a negative bias, limiting broader market participation in the rally.

Stock Movers

Heavyweight stocks from the FMCG and banking sectors played a key role in lifting the indices. Select telecom and financial stocks also supported the late rebound. Meanwhile,

weakness in technology majors and a few consumer discretionary stocks capped gains and kept overall market breadth mixed.

Broader Market Trends

Despite the positive close for frontline indices, broader markets showed limited participation. Midcap stocks ended largely flat, while smallcap shares slipped marginally, indicating that the rally was largely confined to large-cap names. Several stocks continued to hover near their yearly lows, highlighting ongoing stock-specific volatility.

Market Outlook

Market participants believe that holding above key support levels will be crucial for sustaining momentum in the near term. The strong recovery from intraday lows suggests buying interest at lower levels, though cautious sentiment persists amid global uncertainties.

Overall, the session highlighted the market's ability to rebound despite early pressure, with late-hour buying helping benchmarks end the day on a positive note.

Why the RBI's Decision to Pause Signals Stability, Not Inaction



The Reserve Bank of India's latest monetary policy decision delivered no surprises — and that, in itself, was the message. By keeping interest rates unchanged and maintaining a neutral stance, the central bank signalled continuity, caution, and confidence in the broader economic trajectory. At a time when global uncertainty remains elevated, the RBI's steady approach reflects a belief that stability is currently more valuable than aggressive policy shifts.

Rather than chasing short-term stimulus, the RBI appears focused on preserving its hard-earned inflation credibility while allowing earlier policy actions to fully work their way through the economy. Monetary policy operates with long lags, and the rate cuts already delivered over the past year are still influencing borrowing costs, credit growth, and consumption decisions. A pause allows policymakers to assess these effects before committing to further action.

A Balanced Economic Backdrop

India's economic fundamentals remain relatively strong. Domestic demand continues to be supported by public infrastructure spending and improving private investment. Growth indicators point to resilience rather than overheating, while inflation has stayed largely within the central bank's comfort zone. In such an environment, an aggressive rate cut could introduce unnecessary risks, including asset price distortions or renewed inflationary pressures.

The RBI's decision reflects an understanding that easing policy further, without a clear slowdown or stress signal, could weaken the effectiveness of future interventions. By holding rates steady, the central bank retains the flexibility to respond swiftly should conditions change.

Liquidity and

Operational Considerations

Another important factor shaping the RBI's stance is liquidity management. Foreign exchange operations and capital flow volatility have made system liquidity harder to predict. Injecting large amounts of durable liquidity at this stage could complicate monetary transmission and amplify market volatility rather than ease it.

A pause allows the RBI to fine-tune liquidity through targeted measures rather than broad, blunt tools. This calibrated approach helps ensure that financial conditions remain supportive without creating excesses that might later need correction.

What It Means for Markets

While markets often anticipate decisive moves, stability can be just as constructive. A predictable interest rate environment supports bond markets by anchoring yield expectations

and provides equity investors with greater visibility on the cost of capital. Over time, steady policy can help lower volatility and encourage longer-term investment decisions.

The neutral stance also reassures markets that the RBI is not locked into a predetermined path. Instead, it retains the ability to move in either direction depending on inflation trends, growth momentum, and global developments. This optionality is particularly valuable in an uncertain global environment.

Global Uncertainty Calls for Prudence

International conditions remain fluid, with shifting commodity prices, geopolitical tensions, and uneven global growth. In such a setting, committing prematurely to additional easing could limit policy space if external shocks materialise. The RBI's pause reflects a recognition that preserving room to manoeuvre may be more im-

portant than providing incremental stimulus.

At the same time, moderating global inflation pressures and stable domestic conditions allow the central bank to focus on internal dynamics rather than reacting defensively to external risks.

A Steady Hand on the Till

Ultimately, the RBI's latest policy decision underscores a broader philosophy: monetary policy does not need to be dramatic to be effective. By choosing patience over haste, the central bank signals confidence in the economy's underlying strength and its own policy framework.

For borrowers, investors, and businesses, the message is clear — interest rates are unlikely to swing sharply in the near term, and policy will remain guided by data rather than headlines. In a world marked by volatility, the RBI's steady hand may prove to be its most valuable asset.

Eight Companies Clear SEBI Hurdle as India's IPO Pipeline Strengthens



Eight firms have recently received regulatory clearance from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to move forward with plans for initial public offerings (IPOs), marking a notable uptick in primary market activity. With the capital markets regulator issuing observations on their draft papers, these companies are now positioned to prepare final offer documents and formally launch their public fundraising plans.

Among the companies that have secured SEBI's nod are Elevate Campuses, InCred Holdings, and Aarvee Engineering Consultants. These firms received observation letters on their draft filings earlier this month, allowing them to proceed toward finalising their IPO preparations.

In addition to these, Laser Power and Infra, Armee Infotech, Ardee Industries, Shankesh Jewellers, and SEDEMAC Mechatronics

have also been cleared by SEBI to pursue their listings. These approvals reflect a diverse mix of businesses spanning sectors such as education-linked real estate, financial services, engineering consulting, technology, manufacturing and specialty retail. One company that had filed for a public issue, Mann Fleet Partners, has decided to withdraw its IPO application at this stage.

Receiving an observation letter from SEBI is a key milestone in the IPO process. It indicates that the regulator has reviewed the company's draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) and found it compliant with disclosure requirements. With this clearance, companies can now begin preparing their final prospectus, decide on pricing and share allocation, and set timelines for investor subscription.

The growing list of issuers moving toward public offerings suggests strengthening

confidence among businesses in tapping capital markets for growth, expansion and broader strategic objectives. Companies often pursue IPOs to fund expansion plans, reduce debt, provide liquidity to early investors, or elevate their profile in the marketplace.

Investors can now look forward to a pipeline of new issues coming to the market in the near term as these firms finalise their pricing strategies and subscription dates. The diverse nature of the businesses planning to list highlights broader market interest across multiple sectors, offering potential opportunities for both institutional and retail participation.

In summary, with eight companies now cleared to float IPOs and additional firms expected to follow, India's primary market appears poised for renewed momentum, signalling robust activity ahead for public offerings and investor engagement.

SEBI Clears Eight Firms to Launch IPOs as Market Primary Activity Picks Up

The Indian capital market is gearing up for a busy IPO season after the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) approved draft papers of eight companies, allowing them to proceed with plans to raise funds through initial public offerings. This marks a significant push in primary market activity, bringing companies from diverse sectors — including campus real estate, engineering consulting, technology services and specialty manufacturing — closer to listing on stock exchanges.

SEBI's clearance comes in the form of observation letters on the companies' Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) filings. Receiving this regulatory nod means these firms can now move ahead with filing their final prospectus and set the stage for inviting public investment.

Companies Set to Enter Public Markets

Among the eight companies that received SEBI approval are:

- Elevate Campuses – A key player in campus housing and education infrastructure that is looking to institutionalise student accommodations



- InCred Holdings – A financial services and fintech group positioning itself for public capital raising as part of its growth strategy.
- Aarvee Engineering Consultants – An established infrastructure consultancy providing multidisciplinary engineering services.
- Laser Power and Infra – A manufacturer and EPC solutions provider in the power trans-

- mission and cable segment.
- Armee Infotech – An IT systems integration and managed services firm with a growing focus on digital infrastructure.
- Shankesh Jewellers – A retail jeweller planning to expand its footprint.
- SEDEMAC Mechatronics – A technology-driven manufacturer focused on control systems and components for automotive and EV segments.

- Ardee Industries – Another company cleared to pursue its IPO process.

With these approvals, all eight are now in the pipeline to finalise their IPO launches in the coming months.

What SEBI Approval Means

When SEBI issues an observation letter on a company's DRHP, it indicates regulatory compliance with disclosure norms and the go-ahead to prepare the final offer documents. Companies typically use this period to set pricing, allocation quotas

and timetable details for their IPO. This process must be completed within a stipulated timeframe, or the approval may lapse.

One company that had also filed IPO paperwork but has stepped back this week is Mann Fleet Partners, which chose to withdraw its IPO plans at this stage.

Outlook for the IPO Market

The regulator's recent approvals reflect a strong IPO pipeline and growing confidence among issuers. Multiple sectors are represented, from infrastructure and engineering to fintech, specialty technology, education-linked real estate and luxury retail services. This diversity suggests that Indian primary markets are becoming attractive to companies seeking to tap public capital for expansion, debt reduction, or broader strategic goals.

Investors can now expect these upcoming IPOs to debut over the next several months as companies finalise their offering sizes, price bands, and subscription timelines. This activity signals an active phase ahead for India's equity capital markets, with new opportunities for institutional and retail participation.

French Hospital Evacuated After WWII Artillery Shell Found in Man's Rectum



A truly unusual and alarming discovery in France led to the evacuation of a hospital this week after surgeons preparing to operate found a World War I artillery shell lodged in a man's body. The bizarre case highlights both the long shadow of century-old battlefields and the extraordinary situations modern doctors sometimes face.

The incident began when a man was brought to a hospital in northern France with severe abdominal pain and rectal discomfort. Medical staff prepared to carry out routine examinations and possible surgery, but imaging scans revealed something nobody expected — a large, cylindrical metallic object deep inside the patient's lower intestine.

Further review showed that the object was not a typical foreign body but a military ordnance piece, later confirmed by experts to be an artillery shell dating back to the First World War. Authorities believe the shell was likely a remnant from battles fought in the region more than a century ago, when huge numbers of munitions were fired and many unexploded shells remained buried in the soil.

Because of the volatile nature of the device, the hospital was immediately evacuated as a precaution. Staff and patients were moved out of the building while bomb disposal experts were called in to assess the situation. Military technicians with experience handling old ordnance arrived shortly afterward and carefully secured the device, ensuring that it posed no risk of explosion.

The discovery stunned both medical and defence personnel, as well as the local community. It is extremely rare for relics of historical warfare — particularly explosive shells — to appear in medical cases, let alone inside a person's body. How the shell came to be

ingested or inserted remains unclear, with investigators looking into the circumstances that led to its presence there.

Local officials pointed out that areas of northern France still occasionally yield unexploded ordnance from the First World War, a conflict that devastated large swaths of the countryside and left behind millions of shells, many of which were never detonated. Farmers and construction workers sometimes uncover these remnants while ploughing fields or digging foundations, but they are usually detected and removed safely before causing harm.

Doctors who treated the patient described the situation as "one of the most unusual" cases they have encountered. While they could not comment on the exact medical circumstances out of respect for the patient's privacy, they emphasised the importance of imaging scans before any surgical procedure — a decision that in this case likely prevented a catastrophic outcome.

The evacuation and controlled removal of the shell attracted local media attention and renewed conversations about the legacy of past wars and the surprising ways remnants of conflict can affect the present. People in the area expressed relief that no one was hurt during the incident, and praised the rapid and professional response by medical and bomb-disposal teams.

As for the patient, he remains under medical care, with doctors expected to address any health issues arising from this extraordinary situation once the immediate danger has passed. The case serves as a rare reminder that history can sometimes linger in the most unexpected places — even inside the human body.

This Bengaluru Dog's LinkedIn Profile Has Gone Viral — and the Internet Can't Get Enough



Drogo Mohanty · 3rd

Top Dog at thePack.in

Bengaluru, Karnataka, India · [Contact info](#)

LinkedIn, a platform best known for job updates and professional milestones, recently saw an unexpected star rise from Bengaluru — a dog. A cocker spaniel named Drogo has captured the internet's attention after his LinkedIn profile went viral, delighting users with its humour, creativity, and wholesome charm.

The profile was created by Drogo's owner, an entrepreneur who works in the pet care space. Instead of a traditional résumé filled with corporate achievements, the account presents Drogo as the "top dog" at a pet-focused community. Complete with a cheerful profile photo and playful descriptions, the page stands out sharply from the platform's usual formal tone.

What makes Drogo's LinkedIn presence special is how effortlessly it blends humour with personality. The bio, written from the dog's point of view, describes his "role" in a light-hearted way that pokes fun at corporate jargon while still fitting naturally into the LinkedIn ecosystem. For many users scrolling through routine professional posts, the sight of a dog's profile was an unexpected and refreshing surprise.

The response online was swift and overwhelmingly positive. Users shared the profile widely, leaving comments praising its creativity and calling it the most enjoyable thing they had seen

on the platform in a long time. Some joked about sending connection requests, while others said Drogo had already achieved more visibility than many professionals trying to build their personal brand.

The viral moment also reflects a broader cultural shift in how people view pets — not just as animals, but as family members and emotional companions. In recent years, workplaces and online spaces alike have become more pet-friendly, recognising the positive impact animals can have on stress, morale, and overall wellbeing. Drogo's popularity taps into this sentiment, offering a small but powerful reminder of the joy pets bring into everyday life.

Beyond LinkedIn, Drogo is also active on social media, where glimpses of his daily life further showcase his playful and affectionate nature. These posts help bridge the gap between the online persona and the real-life dog behind the profile, making the story even more endearing to followers.

Ultimately, Drogo's viral LinkedIn profile succeeds because it breaks expectations. In a space often dominated by polished success stories and professional pressure, a dog's playful presence feels humanising. It reminds users that creativity, humour, and warmth still have a place — even in the most serious of digital spaces.

"Money Can't Buy Happiness?" Elon Musk's Remark Ignites a Lively Online Debate



A brief social media post by Elon Musk has triggered a global debate on one of life's oldest questions: can money really buy happiness? The billionaire entrepreneur, known for leading companies such as Tesla, SpaceX, and X, shared a reflective comment suggesting that the popular saying "money can't buy happiness" may hold more truth than people assume. Coming from one of the world's wealthiest individuals, the remark instantly grabbed

attention and sparked widespread reactions online.

Musk's statement struck a nerve because it appeared to challenge the assumption that immense wealth automatically guarantees a fulfilling life. While he did not elaborate on what prompted the comment, its timing and tone invited both serious reflection and light-hearted scepticism. Many users interpreted it as an expression of the emotional complexities that can ex-

ist even at the highest levels of success and privilege.

Supporters of Musk's view argued that happiness is shaped by factors far beyond financial status. They pointed out that meaningful relationships, mental health, purpose, and inner peace play a far greater role in long-term contentment than material possessions. According to this perspective, money can offer comfort and convenience, but it cannot prevent loneliness, anxiety,

or dissatisfaction.

Others, however, responded with humour and irony. Social media users jokingly challenged Musk to share his wealth so they could personally test the theory. Comments like "give me a billion first and then we'll talk" flooded timelines, reflecting a common belief that financial struggles often make philosophical reflections on happiness feel distant or unrealistic. For those grappling with rising living costs and economic

uncertainty, money still appears closely tied to peace of mind.

Several voices took a more balanced stance, suggesting that money may not create happiness directly but can remove many barriers to it. Financial stability can reduce stress related to healthcare, housing, education, and daily survival, allowing people the freedom to pursue passions, relationships, and personal growth. In this sense, money may not buy happiness outright, but it can create conditions where happiness becomes easier to achieve.

The conversation also highlighted a broader social divide. People with basic financial security may see happiness as an emotional or philosophical pursuit, while those struggling financially often view money as a gateway to dignity and stability. This contrast explains why reactions to Musk's remark varied so sharply.

Ultimately, Musk's comment served as a reminder that happiness is deeply subjective. Wealth may shape life's possibilities, but it does not automatically define fulfilment. The debate it sparked shows that the relationship between money and happiness remains as complex — and as personal — as ever.

Mumbai Police Officer's Kind Act for a Homeless Mother and Baby Wins Hearts Online

A simple act of compassion by a Mumbai police officer has struck an emotional chord on social media, reminding people that humanity often shines brightest in the smallest gestures. A short video showing the officer helping a homeless mother and her infant has gone viral, drawing widespread praise for its empathy and quiet dignity.

The incident took place late one evening when the officer was returning home after completing his duty. As he walked along a pavement, his attention was drawn to a young mother and her baby sleeping beside the road. What particularly concerned him was the infant resting in a fragile, makeshift wooden cradle that appeared unsafe and exposed to the elements.

Instead of walking past, the officer chose to act. The video captures him carefully removing the improvised cradle and replacing it with a proper, sturdy one, ensuring that

the baby had a safer and more comfortable place to sleep. The mother, visibly emotional, watches as he sets up the cradle beside her, offering reassurance through action rather than words.

The clip was later shared online and quickly gained millions of views. Social media users flooded the comments with messages of appreciation, calling the gesture heartwarming and deeply moving. Many said the moment restored their faith in everyday kindness, especially at a time when negative news often dominates public discourse.

What stood out for viewers was not just the help itself, but the manner in which it was offered — with respect and sensitivity. The officer did not treat the mother as a problem to be managed, but as a human being deserving care and dignity. For many, this distinction made the act even more powerful.

The video also sparked



conversations about the role of police officers beyond enforcing law and order. Commenters noted that while policing is often associated with authority and discipline, moments like these reveal the compassionate side of those in uniform.

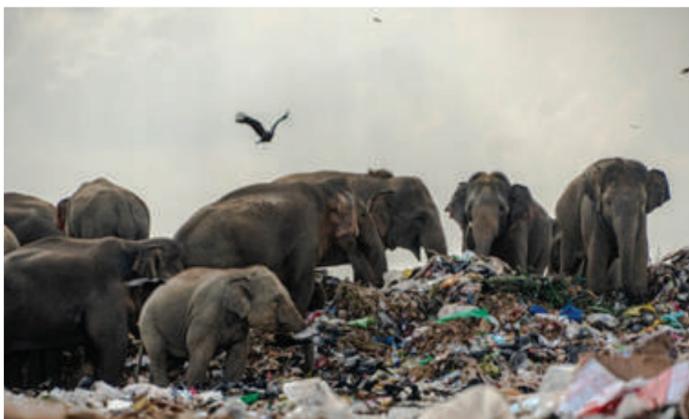
Several people praised the officer for using his position not just to maintain public safety, but to

bring comfort to someone living on the margins of society.

In a city as fast-paced and unforgiving as Mumbai, stories like this resonate strongly. They highlight the daily struggles of the homeless while also showing how individual choices can make a meaningful difference, even without grand gestures or official programmes.

At its core, the viral moment is a reminder that kindness does not require power, wealth, or recognition — only awareness and empathy. One officer's decision to stop, notice, and care turned an ordinary night into a moment of hope, inspiring thousands to believe in the quiet power of human compassion.

Plastic Found in Elephant Dung Sparks Alarm Over Pollution in Forest Areas



A disturbing discovery inside a forest has reignited concerns about the growing reach of plastic pollution into natural habitats. A recent video showing plastic embedded in elephant dung has gone viral on social media, shocking viewers and highlighting how human waste is affecting wildlife far beyond urban areas.

The footage was recorded in a forested region in southern India and shows a pile of elephant dung containing a visible piece of plastic, believed to be part of a discarded food packet. The sight is unsettling, particularly because the location is far from dense human settlements, reinforcing fears that plastic waste has penetrated

even remote ecosystems.

The person who recorded the video described the scene as deeply troubling, pointing out that elephants are meant to forage on natural vegetation, not ingest synthetic materials. The presence of plastic in the dung suggests that the animal unknowingly consumed waste left behind in the forest, likely

mixed with grass or other edible plants.

Wildlife experts note that elephants, as large grazing animals, are especially vulnerable to plastic pollution. When plastic waste is scattered along forest fringes, roads, or trekking routes, animals may ingest it accidentally while feeding. While some plastic may pass through their digestive system, it can also cause internal injuries, blockages, or long-term health issues.

The video triggered strong reactions online, with many users expressing sadness and anger over human carelessness. Several commenters called it a wake-up call, urging people to be more responsible with waste disposal, especially in and around forests. Others pointed out that plastic pollution is no longer an abstract environmental issue but a direct threat to wildlife survival.

Conservationists warn that this is not an isolated

incident. Similar cases of plastic found in animal droppings have been reported across different regions, suggesting a widespread problem. Once plastic enters an ecosystem, it can remain for decades, affecting animals, soil, and water sources. The incident underscores the urgent need for better waste management practices and stricter enforcement of anti-littering rules. Reducing single-use plastic, improving recycling systems, and increasing public awareness are seen as crucial steps to prevent further damage. For many viewers, the image of plastic in elephant dung serves as a powerful reminder of how deeply human behaviour impacts nature. It is a stark signal that environmental responsibility cannot be limited to cities alone — protecting wildlife begins with everyday choices made far beyond the forest.

RCB Create History With Landmark Achievement After WPL 2026 Title Triumph



Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) etched their name into the history books after winning the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2026 title, becoming the first franchise to hold both the men's and women's Indian T20 league trophies at the same time.

RCB's WPL victory came on the back of a thrilling final in which they successfully chased down a massive target, producing one of the most memorable matches in league history. The win followed the franchise's earlier success in the men's competition, completing an unprecedented double and marking a de-

fining moment for the Bengaluru-based outfit.

Record-Breaking Final Performance

Batting first in the final, Delhi Capitals posted a formidable total of over 200 runs, putting RCB under significant pressure. However, RCB responded with composure and attacking intent. Captain Smriti Mandhana led from the front with a commanding innings, anchoring the chase and keeping the required run rate under control.

A crucial partnership in the middle overs shifted momentum firmly in RCB's favour, as the batters displayed a blend of

power and smart shot selection. RCB eventually reached the target with wickets and balls to spare, completing the highest successful run chase ever seen in a WPL final.

A Historic Franchise Milestone

The WPL title added another major trophy to RCB's cabinet and elevated the franchise to a unique position in Indian cricket. With titles now secured in both the men's and women's leagues, RCB became the first team to achieve this feat simultaneously, highlighting the organisation's strength across formats and squads.

For a franchise that endured years of near misses, the twin titles represent a dramatic turnaround and a reward for long-term investment in talent, leadership, and team culture.

Mandhana's Impactful Season

Smriti Mandhana's contribution extended far beyond the final. She enjoyed an outstanding tournament, consistently delivering at the top of the order and setting the tone for RCB's batting performances throughout the season. Her leadership and consistency played a central role in guiding the team through high-pressure matches.

Celebrations and What Lies Ahead

The historic triumph sparked celebrations among players, support staff, and fans, with RCB supporters hailing the achievement as a breakthrough moment for the franchise. The dual success has set a new benchmark for excellence in Indian franchise cricket and raised expectations for future seasons.

As the dust settles on WPL 2026, RCB's achievement stands out as a landmark chapter in the evolution of women's cricket and the broader franchise landscape in India.

Pakistan's T20 World Cup Qualification Hopes Hang in Balance After India Match Boycott

Pakistan's chances of progressing beyond the group stage of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 have come under serious pressure following the decision not to play their scheduled group match against India. The forfeiture has complicated Pakistan's qualification path, leaving the team with little margin for error in the remainder of the tournament.

Pakistan and India were set to face each other in a highly anticipated Group A encounter, but Pakistan's withdrawal from the fixture has resulted in an automatic loss, handing India two points. Under tournament rules, a team that does not take the field forfeits the match, significantly impacting its points tally and net run rate.

Group A also includes the United States, the Netherlands, and Namibia, with the top two teams advancing to the next round. With one match already lost by default, Pakistan must now rely on strong performances in

their remaining three group games to stay in contention.

To qualify, Pakistan will likely need to win all three of their remaining matches. Any loss or abandoned game could almost certainly result in elimination, given the competitive nature of the group and the advantage gained by teams playing a full schedule. Even with three wins, Pakistan's progression will depend on results involving other teams and net run rate calculations.

Net run rate is expected to play a decisive role, particularly if teams finish level on points. Pakistan's inability to play the India match also deprives them of an opportunity to improve their net run rate, placing added importance on winning their remaining matches by convincing margins.

Weather conditions could further complicate the situation. With matches scheduled in Sri Lanka, the possibility of rain interruptions cannot be ruled out. Any washed-out



game would reduce Pakistan's chances, as they already trail other teams in terms of potential points.

Pakistan's team management has indicated that the players are focused on the matches ahead, despite the challenging circumstances. The squad features a mix of experienced campaign-

ers and younger players, and the team will be under pressure to deliver consistent performances throughout the group stage.

The situation has added an unusual layer of uncertainty to Pakistan's T20 World Cup campaign. While qualification remains mathematically

possible, the team now faces a demanding task that requires near-perfect execution and favourable results elsewhere.

As the group stage progresses, Pakistan's remaining matches will be closely watched, with their World Cup future hanging on each performance.

Mohammed Siraj Replaces Injured Harshit Rana in India's T20 World Cup Squad



India have made a late change to their squad for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, with fast bowler

Mohammed Siraj named as a replacement for Harshit Rana, who has been ruled out due to injury.

Rana sustained the injury during a warm-up match, where he was forced to leave the field af-

ter experiencing discomfort. Following medical assessments, the team management concluded that the young pacer would not recover in time to be fit for the tournament, prompting the selectors to seek a replacement.

Siraj's inclusion has been approved by the tournament authorities, and the experienced fast bowler is expected to join the squad immediately. His return adds depth and experience to India's pace attack at a crucial stage of the competition.

The 30-year-old Siraj has been a regular member of India's national set-up across formats and brings valuable international experience to the squad. Known for his ability to generate pace and

movement, he offers flexibility to the team's bowling combinations as India prepare for a demanding group stage.

Rana's injury comes as a setback, as the young bowler was seen as a promising option in India's pace department. However, team officials have expressed confidence that Siraj's experience will help maintain balance and stability in the bowling unit.

India are set to begin their T20 World Cup campaign shortly, and the team management will now focus on integrating Siraj into their plans. With preparations entering the final phase, the revised squad will aim to adapt quickly and build momentum as the tournament gets underway.

Sri Lanka Urges Pakistan to Reconsider T20 World Cup Boycott, Recalls 2009 Lahore Attack



Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), co-hosts of the ongoing ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, has formally written to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) urging Pakistan to rethink its decision to boycott the scheduled group-stage match against India in Colombo on February 15. The appeal underscores both the financial and sporting implications of Pakistan's stance and evokes past cricketing ties between the two nations.

Pakistan had announced that while its team would participate in the tournament, it would not take the field against India, signalling a boycott linked to broader geopolitical tensions. This has ignited debate within the cricketing world and placed pressure on tournament organisers and the PCB alike.

In its letter to the PCB, Sri Lanka emphasised the extensive preparations already completed for the World Cup matches on the island, including security arrangements, hospitality planning and ticketing. The board noted that the India-Pakistan fixture is among the most lucrative in world cricket and expressed concern that cancelling it would lead to substantial revenue losses — affecting ticket sales, broadcasters and tourism inflows that many stakeholders had counted on.

A striking element of SLC's communication was its reference to the 2009 terrorist attack on the Sri Lankan team in Lahore. In that incident, gunmen opened fire on the na-

tional team's bus while it was en route to a Test match, resulting in injuries and prompting a long absence of international cricket in Pakistan. Sri Lanka highlighted that despite the security risks and emotional toll from that attack, it honoured its commitment to tour Pakistan and play matches when many other teams were reluctant to visit. The board suggested that this history of solidarity and mutual support within the cricketing fraternity should be remembered as Pakistan considers its current stand.

Sri Lanka's appeal also carried a plea for the spirit of the game and international cooperation, urging Pakistan to honour its original fixture against India. The board expressed hope that Pakistan would take into account the broader interests of the tournament, the economic stakes for stakeholders, and the longstanding relationship between the two cricketing boards.

The T20 World Cup match between India and Pakistan is widely seen as the marquee contest of the competition, drawing massive global viewership and commercial interest. With Pakistan's boycott decision placing that fixture in jeopardy, SLC's letter reflects both financial concerns and a desire to see cricket played without the disruption of political tensions. Meanwhile, discussions continue among cricket authorities and teams as the tournament progresses.

Ex-England Captain Nasser Hussain Included in T20 World Cup Commentary Panel Despite Controversy



Former England captain Nasser Hussain has been named as part of the international commentary team for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, sparking discussion among cricket fans and media circles.

Hussain, who has become widely recognised for his insightful and often outspoken cricket analysis, will join the broadcast team covering the marquee global tournament. His appointment comes despite a backdrop of recent comments in which he publicly questioned aspects of the International Cricket Council's decision-making and raised pointed observations about India's role in shaping the modern game.

The inclusion of Hussain in the commentary panel reflects broadcasters' emphasis on combining experienced voices with technical expertise to provide viewers with high-quality analysis throughout the World Cup. Known for his tactical understanding and clear commentary style, he is expected to bring a blend of strategic insight and candid opinion to the broadcast, particularly during key matches involving top teams.

Although some fans have debated the decision to include a figure who has openly critiqued cricketing authorities and prominent nations,

others welcomed the appointment, citing Hussain's deep knowledge of the sport and ability to break down complex moments for viewers. His presence is likely to draw interest, especially during high-profile games, where teams' tactical shifts and matchups will be dissected in real time.

Hussain's role in the commentary team also highlights broader trends in World Cup broadcasting, where networks aim to balance technical expertise with personalities who can engage audiences across diverse markets. With multiple broadcasters covering the tournament globally, the commentary lineup has become an important element of fan experience.

The T20 World Cup commentary panel will feature a mix of former international players, coaches, and well-known cricket analysts, offering a wide range of perspectives on the action. Hussain's inclusion adds further star power to the coverage, reinforcing efforts to make the tournament accessible and engaging for fans around the world.

As the World Cup unfolds, Hussain and his fellow commentators will be tasked with capturing the drama and excitement of the competition, while helping audiences understand the tactical nuances that define modern T20 cricket.

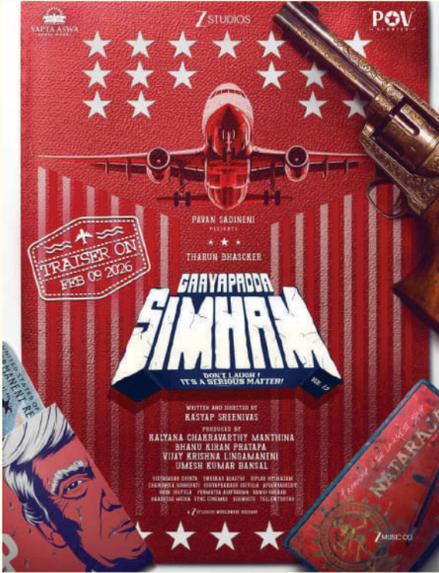
Tharun Bhascker's New Film GPS Gets First Look Poster; Trailer Soon

Telugu filmmaker and actor Tharun Bhascker is all set to make a return to the big screen with his upcoming film titled Gaayapadda Simham (GPS). The first look title poster has already generated significant excitement among fans and industry insiders, promising a fresh and quirky cinematic experience.

The poster features a bold design with red and white stripes, stars, and aircraft motifs reminiscent of a retro passport stamp. It also includes a classic compass box, a pointed revolver, and a caricature of a well-known political figure, hinting at a satirical and adventurous narrative. The tagline, "Don't Laugh! It's a Serious Matter!", suggests a blend of humour, political commentary, and thoughtful storytelling, signaling that the film will mix entertainment with meaningful undertones.

GPS is written and directed by Kasyap Sreenivas and produced under the banners of Saptaswa Media Works, POV Stories, and Zee Studios, with Pavan Sadineni presenting the project. The production is in its final stages, with the team having completed most of the shooting, including major sequences and songs, as they prepare for promotional campaigns.

Actresses Faria Abdullah and Maanasa Choudhary have been signed as the female



leads opposite Tharun Bhascker. The technical crew includes cinematographer Vidya Sagar Chinta and music composer Sweekar Agasthi, whose contributions are expected to enhance the film's visual style and auditory appeal.

The filmmakers have announced that the trailer, referred to as a "traiser," will be released on February 9, giving audiences a first glimpse of the story. The plot reportedly follows the protagonist's pursuit of the "American dream" while facing an invisible yet formidable system, indicating a narrative that will resonate with young and urban viewers.

Industry observers note that GPS marks a bold departure from Tharun Bhascker's earlier work, blending satire, socio-political themes, and unconventional humour. The film is being anticipated for its unique narrative style and experimental approach to storytelling.

With its intriguing poster, inventive storyline, and upcoming trailer, Gaayapadda Simham is poised to be one of the most talked-about Telugu releases this year. Fans are eagerly waiting to see how Tharun balances humour, satire, and social commentary in this fresh cinematic venture.

'Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu' Set for Grand OTT Premiere on ZEE5 from February 11

After a sensational run at the box office during the Sankranti season, the blockbuster Telugu entertainer Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu is gearing up for its much-awaited digital debut. The Chiranjeevi-Nayanthara starrer will begin streaming exclusively on ZEE5 from February 11, marking its arrival on OTT following a highly successful theatrical journey.

ZEE5 has acquired the exclusive digital rights to the film, which emerged as one of the biggest crowd-pullers of the festive season. As announced during the film's Sankranti promotions, Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu will stream across multiple languages on the platform, ensuring wide accessibility and global reach. The film will be available in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, Hindi, Marathi, and Bengali, catering to audiences across regions and languages.

Written and directed by Anil Ravipudi, the film features Megastar Chiranjeevi in a powerful yet endearing role, supported by an ensemble cast that includes Venkatesh Daggubati, Nayanthara, and Catherine Tresa. Known for his mastery in crafting family entertainers, Ravipudi once again delivers a film that balances emotion, humour, action, and drama in equal measure.

Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu follows the journey of a national security officer, por-

trayed by Chiranjeevi, who is drawn into an intense personal battle as he strives to protect his estranged family. Along the way, the story explores themes of love, responsibility, reconciliation, and redemption. The film's emotional depth, combined with high-energy entertainment and situational comedy, struck a strong chord with family audiences during its theatrical run.

Speaking about the digital premiere, Chiranjeevi expressed happiness over the film reaching a wider audience through ZEE5, calling it a celebration of family values and resilience. He shared that the overwhelming love from theatre-goers made the journey special and that the OTT release would allow the story to enter homes across countries and cultures.

Nayanthara highlighted the film's emotional core and its seamless blend of humour and action, stating that the balance is what makes the film stand out. Venkatesh Daggubati described the project as a heartfelt entertainer and noted that sharing screen space with Chiranjeevi for the first time made the experience particularly memorable.

Director Anil Ravipudi added that the film was conceived as a complete family entertainer and that the positive theatrical response reinforced his belief that the story would connect even more strongly on OTT. With its multi-language release on ZEE5,



Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu is now poised to reach a much broader audience. Audiences can relive the

blockbuster magic when Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu begins streaming from February 11, exclusively on ZEE5.

₹120 Crore AP-TG Deal: Yash & KVN's Toxic Seals Historic Acquisition with Dil Raju's SVC



Rocking Star Yash's upcoming film Toxic: A Fairytale for Grown-Ups has rewritten the rules of pan-Indian cinema even before hitting theatres. In a landmark pre-release deal, leading Telugu production and distribution

house Sri Venkateswara Creations (SVC), headed by Dil Raju, has acquired the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana distribution rights for a massive ₹120 crore on an advance commission basis. This officially marks the biggest-

ever AP-TG acquisition for a non-Telugu origin film, sending strong ripples across the Indian film industry.

The historic deal between the makers of Toxic—KVN Productions and Monster Mind Creations—and SVC further cements the film's position as one of the most anticipated cinematic spectacles in recent times. Trade circles reveal that three major players were aggressively competing for the AP-TG rights, underlining the extraordinary confidence distributors have in the film's scale, content, and box-office potential. SVC eventually emerged victorious, sealing what is now being hailed as one of the most defining distribution deals in contemporary Indian cinema.

Toxic stands as a powerful testament to Rocking Star Yash's unparalleled pan-Indian appeal. Post the blockbuster success of KGF Chapter 2,

Yash's stardom has transcended linguistic and regional boundaries. The anticipation for his next has only grown stronger over the past four years, with massive fan excitement evident across cities, states, and even international markets. In the Telugu states in particular, Yash enjoys a rare level of acceptance, being embraced as one of their own—an enthusiasm that is now clearly reflected in the record-breaking AP-TG deal.

Speaking about the acquisition, Dil Raju stated that Yash is a formidable force in Indian cinema and that his market has expanded significantly after KGF 2. He noted that the long wait for Yash's next film has only amplified expectations, adding that SVC is proud to associate with such a prestigious project and looks forward to future collaborations with the star.

Directed by Geetu Mohandas and co-written by

Yash and Geetu Mohandas, Toxic: A Fairytale for Grown-Ups has been simultaneously shot in Kannada and English, with dubbed versions planned in Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam, and other languages, highlighting its global ambition. The film boasts an elite technical team, including cinematographer Rajeev Ravi, music composer Ravi Basrur, editor Ujwal Kulkarni, and production designer TP Abid. High-octane action sequences are choreographed by Hollywood action director JJ Perry, alongside Anbari and Kecha Khampakdee.

Produced by Venkat K. Narayana and Yash under KVN Productions and Monster Mind Creations, Toxic is slated for a worldwide theatrical release on March 19, 2026, strategically coinciding with Eid, Ugadi, and Gudi Padwa—positioning it as one of the biggest cinematic events of the year.

Suresh Babu Unveils Title Poster and First Look of Venkatramaiah Gari Taluka



Renowned producer and President of the Telugu Film Chamber, Dagubati Suresh Babu, officially launched the title poster and first look of the upcoming Telugu film Venkatramaiah Gari Taluka, marking an important milestone for the makers. The launch event was attended by the film's cast and crew, creating a warm and celebratory atmosphere around the rural family drama.

Venkatramaiah Gari Taluka stars veteran actors Muralidhar Goud and Sudha in pivotal roles, while Dinesh Kumar, known for his acclaimed performance in Jayamma Panchayathi, and Divija Prabhakar, daughter of popular television personality ETV Prabhakar, play the lead pair. The film is directed by Satish Avala and produced by Komali Mahender Thotte and Soames Saripalli under the Komali Creations banner.

Set against a rustic village backdrop, the film promises to be a heart-touching family entertainer that explores the emotional bond between parents and children. Blending a tender village

love story with strong father-son sentiment, the narrative focuses on parental sacrifices, generational responsibilities, and the evolving dynamics within traditional families. The makers describe the film as a wholesome cinematic experience aimed at audiences of all age groups.

Speaking at the launch, Suresh Babu appreciated the title and concept of the film and expressed confidence that Venkatramaiah Gari Taluka would strike a chord with viewers. Lead actor Muralidhar Goud, who plays the titular character Venkatramaiah, shared that the role is very close to his heart. He stated that the film reflects deep emotions surrounding parental struggles and the duties of children, making it a meaningful project in his career.

Director Satish Avala revealed that the film draws inspiration from soul-stirring family dramas such as Sathamam Bhavati, Balagam, and Aa Nalaguru. He emphasized that the movie is crafted to deliver strong emotions while remaining relatable and rooted in rural sensibilities. Producer Komali

Mahender Thotte, who transitioned from a singer to a film producer, announced that the team is planning a festive release during Ugadi and requested the continued support of the Telugu audience.

Adding to the film's appeal, actress Satya Sri of Jabardasth fame noted that she will be seen in a performance-driven emotional role, a departure from her usual comic characters. Mirchi Madhavi highlighted the importance of her role as the hero's mother, stating that it plays a key part in the film's emotional twists.

The film also features a strong supporting cast including Kasi Viswanath, Mirchi Madhavi, Satya Sri, Iqbal, Jeevanapriya, Gouri Naidu, Harish Tekkali, Santhu Munjeti, and Hasini Yamini. Music is composed by Charan Arjun, cinematography is handled by B. Anil Kumar, editing by Marthand K. Venkatesh, and choreography by Sagar Master. With its emotional core and rural flavor, Venkatramaiah Gari Taluka is gearing up to be a touching family drama on the big screen.

PM Narendra Modi Biopic Maa Vande Wraps First Schedule in Hyderabad; Kashmir Schedule Next

The makers of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi biopic Maa Vande, starring Unni Mukundan in the lead role, have successfully completed the film's first shooting schedule in Hyderabad. The announcement was officially made by the production team through the release of behind-the-scenes (BTS) photographs from the sets, giving audiences an early glimpse into the making of the ambitious biographical drama.

The Hyderabad schedule commenced on an auspicious note with a traditional pooja ceremony, setting a positive tone for the project. Following the launch, several key sequences were filmed during this phase, laying the foundation for the narrative. The BTS images shared by the team captured candid moments from the sets, including director Kranthi Kumar C.H. discussing scenes with Unni Mukundan, as well as snapshots highlighting

the scale and detailing of the production.

With the successful wrap of the first schedule, the makers are now gearing up to begin the next major leg of filming in Kashmir. The upcoming schedule is expected to be crucial, with visually striking locations that will add depth and authenticity to the storytelling. The team expressed confidence that the Kashmir shoot will further elevate the film's cinematic appeal.

Titled Maa Vande, the film is a biographical drama inspired by the life journey of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Rather than functioning as a conventional political narrative, the film aims to trace a story deeply rooted in values, purpose, resilience, and transformation. The project seeks to explore formative phases of Modi's life, highlighting the experiences and ideals that shaped his path, while presenting them in a cinematic and emotion-



ally engaging manner.

The film was officially announced in September on the occasion of the Prime Minister's birthday, immediately drawing attention for its scale and intent. Produced by Veer Reddy M. and written and directed by Kranthi Kumar C.H., Maa Vande is being mounted on a grand canvas with international production standards and strong technical values.

One of the major high-

lights of the project is its powerhouse technical crew. The film brings together action director King Solomon, production designer Sabu Cyril, editor Sreekar Prasad, cinematographer K.K. Senthil Kumar, and music composer Ravi Basrur. Collectively, the team boasts an impressive portfolio that includes landmark films such as Baahubali and Salaar, while Ravi Basrur's music has left a

lasting impact through the KGF franchise.

With a celebrated technical team, a committed lead performance by Unni Mukundan, and a subject of national significance, Maa Vande is shaping up as a high-profile biographical drama. As the production moves into its Kashmir schedule, anticipation continues to build around the film's progress and its eventual release.