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Quantum Computers from Amaravati in Two Years: Chandrababu

Amaravati, February 9, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to ensure that government welfare schemes effectively reach even the most marginalized sections of society, while simultaneously positioning the state at the forefront of advanced technology and innovation. The Chief Minister made these remarks while chairing a comprehensive review meeting with ministers and secretaries of various departments at the State Secretariat. District Collectors and Superintendents of Police participated in the meeting virtually.

During the review, the Chief Minister assessed a wide range of critical issues, including the state's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) growth rate, the long-term goals outlined under the Swarna Andhra 2047 Vision, implementation of the Ten Principles, performance of revenue-generating departments, investments attracted by the state, and the progress of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects. He also reviewed the action plans for centrally sponsored schemes and emphasized the impor-



tance of coordinated execution at all levels.

The meeting featured detailed discussions on real-time governance, with a strong focus on the use of technology. Chandrababu Naidu highlighted the role of data-driven administration, awareness systems, prevention of data leaks, and the use of artificial intelligence tools in governance. Skill development for youth, the "One Family-One Entrepreneur" initiative, and strategies to create sustainable livelihoods were also taken up for review.

Addressing officials, the Chief Minister underlined the importance of regular monitoring and accountability. "Earlier, district collectors' conferences were not held frequently. Now, we are conducting them once every three months. Cabinet meetings are being held twice every month. Of-

ficials must also carry out monthly reviews," he said. He stressed that district collectors and in-charge ministers must work efficiently and in close coordination at the district level to ensure effective delivery of programmes. Speaking about future-oriented development, Chandrababu Naidu said the world is rapidly moving towards green energy and green hydrogen, and Andhra Pradesh must align itself with these global trends. He revealed that Amaravati has been chosen as a key hub for next-generation technologies. "We have laid the foundation for quantum computing with Amaravati as the centre. Within two years, quantum computers will be manufactured here. We will supply quantum computers to the world," the Chief Minister announced. He added that artifi-

cial intelligence, quantum computing, and data centres would bring transformative changes to governance, industry, and employment. These technologies, he said, would play a crucial role in shaping Andhra Pradesh as a knowledge-driven and innovation-led state.

Officials from various departments presented updates on their respective sectors and explained progress achieved so far. The Chief Minister instructed them to maintain momentum, adhere to timelines, and ensure that both development and welfare initiatives translate into visible benefits for the people.

The review meeting reinforced the government's dual focus on inclusive welfare and cutting-edge technological advancement, with Amaravati envisioned as a global hub for future technologies.



Pawan Kalyan Warns Officials Against Apathy

TPN Bureau | Amaravati, February 9, 2026 :

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has cautioned government officials against showing any form of apathy in the execution of their duties, stressing that accountability must be maintained at every level of administration. He asserted that from grassroots-level staff to top-ranking officers, everyone must discharge their responsibilities with commitment and integrity.

Pawan Kalyan was speaking during a high-level review meeting held at the Secretariat under the chairmanship of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. The meeting was attended by secretaries of various departments and focused on reviewing the progress of key government programmes and policy implementation.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the present leadership was not confined to working within "four walls" and was deeply connected to ground realities. While acknowledging that re-

ports may suggest everything is going well, he pointed out that gaps still exist in certain areas. He emphasized the need to identify and bridge these gaps to ensure that government initiatives deliver tangible benefits to the people.

Pawan Kalyan firmly stated that targets must be achieved within stipulated timelines. Delays, negligence, or a casual approach at any level would not be tolerated, he warned. He said the government was moving forward with a clear objective of effective policy implementation and urged officials to align their work with this vision.

Highlighting the scale of financial commitments made by the government, Pawan Kalyan said that 2,500 crore had been sanctioned for the "Palle Panduga" programme, aimed at rural development, and 1,005 crore for the "Adavi Thalli Baata" initiative. He further revealed that a total of 11,328 crore had been approved for various welfare and development schemes across departments.

The Deputy Chief Minister also spoke

about the Jal Jeevan Mission, stating that the government had successfully mobilized funds worth 25,000 crore for the programme. Of this, works worth nearly 10,000 crore have already commenced, reflecting the government's focus on providing safe drinking water to households and strengthening rural infrastructure.

Pawan Kalyan reiterated that efficient coordination between departments and proactive involvement of officials were crucial to achieving desired outcomes. He called upon senior officers to closely monitor field-level implementation and ensure that schemes reach the intended beneficiaries without leakages or delays.

Concluding his remarks, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the government's credibility depended on its ability to deliver results on the ground. He urged officials to shed any sense of complacency and work with a sense of purpose, reminding them that public service was a responsibility entrusted by the people.

State Releases Rankings for 175 Assembly Constituencies

Amaravati, February 09, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh government has released performance rankings for all 175 Assembly constituencies in the state, based on a comprehensive assessment of multiple development and governance indicators. The rankings aim to evaluate constituency-level performance across various parameters and encourage healthy competition among elected representatives to improve public service delivery.

According to official data, constituencies were graded into three categories based on the marks secured. Of the total 175 constituencies, 21 were placed in the prestigious A Plus grade, 153 constituencies received an A grade, and only one constituency was categorized under the B grade. Notably, 13 constituencies secured more than 90 percent marks, earning them A Plus status and highlighting their strong overall performance.

Vijayawada West constituency in NTR district emerged as the top performing constituency in the state, securing 93 percent marks and claiming the number one position. The constituency is represented by Sujana Chowdary. Officials said Vijayawada West

excelled in multiple indicators, including governance efficiency, infrastructure development, welfare scheme implementation, and public service delivery. Gajuwaka constituency in Visakhapatnam district secured the second rank with 92 percent marks. Known as a major industrial and urban hub, Gajuwaka's high ranking reflects improvements in civic administration, welfare outreach, and development initiatives. Kakinada City constituency stood third in the state rankings, followed closely by Vijayawada East, which secured the fourth position.

The rankings were prepared by taking into account a wide range of indicators covering governance, development works, implementation of government schemes, public satisfaction, and administrative efficiency. Officials stated that the objective of the exercise was not merely to rank constituencies, but to identify strengths, gaps, and areas requiring improvement at the grassroots level.

The government believes that such performance-based assessments will help strengthen accountability among public representatives and officials. It is also expected to motivate constituencies to adopt best practices from top-performing regions and work towards achieving higher stand-



ards of governance and development.

Sources indicated that the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister's constituencies also featured prominently in the rankings, reflecting focused monitoring and administrative coordination. The leadership has emphasized that the rankings should be viewed as a tool for continuous improvement rather than a one-time achievement. Senior officials said the rankings would be reviewed periodically, and constituencies would be guided with corrective measures wherever gaps are identified. The

government also plans to link future planning and monitoring mechanisms with these performance indicators to ensure sustained progress across all regions.

The release of constituency rankings has generated considerable interest among political circles and the public, with many viewing it as a transparent step toward data-driven governance. The initiative is expected to play a key role in shaping development priorities and improving governance standards across Andhra Pradesh in the coming years.

CM Chandrababu Reviews Health Department, Orders Strengthened Measures

TPN Bureau | Amaravati, February 9, 2026:

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu conducted a comprehensive review of the State Health Department at the Secretariat on Sunday, directing officials to ramp up public health initiatives and improve medical service delivery across the state. The meeting focused on addressing emerging health challenges, strengthening preventive care, and enhancing access to quality healthcare for all citizens.

During the high-level review, the Chief Minister examined key healthcare priorities, including seasonal diseases, emergency response readiness, hospital infrastructure, and the rollout of public health programmes. Officials briefed him on current health indicators, ongoing disease surveillance, and the status of critical medical services in various districts. CM Chandrababu underscored the importance of proactive health governance and reiterated that efficient health systems are vital for the state's overall development.

One of the significant topics discussed was the rising incidence of scrub typhus, which has affected several districts in recent months. The Chief Minister emphasised the need for greater public awareness about the disease and urged the Health Department to intensify outreach efforts, ensure early diagnosis, and provide prompt treatment to patients. He also asked health teams to work closely with community health workers and local authorities to prevent outbreaks and reduce disease transmission.

Chandrababu instructed officials to expand preventive health measures such as dengue and malaria control, regular



sanitation drives, and strengthened primary health centres. He highlighted how preventive healthcare initiatives can significantly reduce the burden on higher-level medical facilities and improve population health outcomes. The Chief Minister also called for improved coordination between state and district health authorities to monitor disease trends and respond quickly to health emergencies.

In addition to disease prevention, the review touched upon broader healthcare reforms. Chandrababu emphasised the need to increase the availability of essential medicines and medical equipment in government hospitals, as well as to bolster ambulance services and emergency care. Strengthening rural health infrastructure was another key focus, with directions to ensure that peripheral and community health centres are equipped to deliver quality services closer to people's homes.

Officials updated the Chief Minister on digital health initiatives, including efforts to create

comprehensive health profiles for residents and to implement health information systems that can support better planning and service delivery. Chandrababu encouraged full utilisation of technology to track health trends, manage patient care, and streamline service delivery across the network of public health facilities.

Towards the end of the review, the Chief Minister reiterated his commitment to making healthcare accessible and affordable for all, especially vulnerable populations. He directed strict monitoring of all public health programmes and said that accountability and responsiveness should be the hallmarks of the Health Department's work.

The meeting brought together senior health officials, department heads, and administrative staff, all of whom pledged to work in unison to meet the state's health goals and ensure that no community is left behind in accessing essential medical services.

Avian Influenza Brought Under Control: Atchannaidu

Amaravati, February 9 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh government has successfully brought the outbreak of Avian Influenza (bird flu) under control, and there is no need for the public to panic, said State Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu on Sunday.

The Minister stated that Avian Influenza cases were detected in Ammagaripalli and Puttavari villages of Sotam mandal in Anamayya district. He said the disease was officially confirmed on February 8 based on laboratory reports received from the National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIH-SAD), Bhopal, through the Government of India's Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD).

Immediately after confirmation, the state government deployed Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) in the affected areas and initiated strict culling operations in line with prescribed Standard Operating Procedures. Atchannaidu said these measures are being implemented effectively under the close supervision of district collectors, with coordinated efforts from the Animal Husbandry, Revenue, Police, Panchayat Raj,

and Health departments. To prevent further spread of the disease, surveillance has been significantly intensified not only in the affected villages but also in surrounding areas. The Minister informed that following reports of sudden bird deaths in Karvetinagaram mandal of Chittoor district, veterinary teams conducted field-level inspections and collected samples, which were sent to NIH-SAD, Bhopal, for testing. Farmers in the region were given clear guidance on biosecurity measures and precautionary steps to be followed.



Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu speaking at a press conference regarding the control of Avian Influenza.

He said culling operations were completed on Sunday in two poultry farms where Avian Influenza was confirmed. In addition, two more samples—one from Sotam mandal and another from Karvetinagaram mandal—have been sent to the NIH-SAD laboratory, and officials are currently awaiting the test results.

Atchannaidu also said that Animal Husbandry Department Director Damodar Naidu visited the poultry farm in the Karvetinagaram area and personally reviewed the situation. During the visit, he instructed staff and farmers on strict adherence to disease control protocols and biosecurity practices to ensure effective containment.

Reassuring the public, the Minister emphasized that there is no need for fear or misinformation. He clarified that Avian Influenza is a disease that affects birds and that consumption of properly cooked chicken meat and eggs is completely safe. The government, he said, is implementing all necessary preventive and control measures in a comprehensive and transparent manner.

The Minister advised poultry farmers to strictly follow biosecurity norms and immediately report any unusual bird deaths to nearby veterinary officials. He appealed to poultry farmers and the general public to extend full cooperation to the Animal Husbandry Department to help contain the disease effectively.

The state government remains fully vigilant and committed to protecting public health, safeguarding farmers' livelihoods, and ensuring stability in the poultry sector.

AP Agriculture Department Signs MoU with Wadhvani Foundation to Deploy AI in Farming

Velagapudi, February 9, 2026 | TPN Bureau:

In a significant step towards digital transformation in the agriculture sector, the Andhra Pradesh Department of Agriculture on Monday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with M/s Wadhvani Foundation, New Delhi, to leverage Artificial Intelligence (AI) for strengthening agricultural governance and farmer services.

The MoU was signed at the Secretariat in Velagapudi by Dr. Manazir Jeelani Samoon, IAS, Director of Agriculture, Andhra Pradesh, in the presence of the Executive Officer and Special

Chief Secretary (Agriculture & Cooperation) Sri Raja Sekhar, IAS (Retd). The agreement marks a major milestone in the State government's efforts to adopt advanced digital technologies for improving agricultural outcomes.

Under this collaboration, AI-driven tools will be deployed for real-time crop assessment, early warning systems for pest and disease outbreaks, and data-based advisory services for farmers. The initiative aims to provide timely, accurate, and actionable information to farmers, enabling them to make informed decisions throughout the crop cycle.



Officials from the Agriculture Department and Wadhvani Foundation holding the signed MoU document.

Officials stated that the integration of predictive analytics and intelligent decision-support systems would help enhance crop productivity, optimize resource utilization, and reduce losses caused by pests, diseases, and climatic uncertainties. By using AI-powered insights, the Department intends to strengthen evidence-based planning and ensure quicker response mechanisms at the field level.

The partnership also reflects the Department of Agriculture's commitment to building resilient and sustainable farming systems across Andhra Pradesh. By

placing technology at the core of service delivery, the initiative seeks to make agriculture more farmer-centric, efficient, and future-ready. The AI-based platforms are expected to support extension services, improve monitoring capabilities, and bridge information gaps between the government and the farming community.

Representing the Wadhvani Foundation, Sri J.P. Tripathi, Director, Agriculture Initiatives, participated in the MoU signing. He highlighted the Foundation's experience in deploying technology-led solutions and expressed confidence that the collaboration

would create scalable and impactful models for agricultural development. Senior officials noted that the use of AI in agriculture aligns with the State's broader vision of digital governance and innovation-driven growth. The Department plans to gradually expand AI applications to cover multiple crops and agro-climatic zones, ensuring inclusive benefits for farmers across the State.

The MoU was issued by the Media Section of the Office of the Department of Agriculture, Andhra Pradesh. Photographs related to the event were also released.

Vasamshetti Subhash Lays Foundation for Rural Roads



Ramachandrapuram / K. Gangavaram, Date | TPN Bureau

State Labour Minister Vasamshetti Subhash has taken decisive steps toward strengthening rural infrastructure in the Ramachandrapuram Assembly constituency by initiating the construction of cement concrete (CC) roads worth 41.50 lakh. The minister on Monday laid foundation stones for multiple road works across Ramachandrapuram and K. Gangavaram mandals, marking a significant push for grassroots-level development.

As part of the initiative, CC roads are being taken up in several villages to provide durable and permanent connectivity for rural residents. In Ramachandrapuram mandal, a cement road is being constructed in Aerupalli village at a cost of 13.50 lakh, while another CC road in Utrumilli village is being taken up with an expenditure of 12.50 lakh. These projects aim to address long-standing demands from villagers for all-weather road facilities.

In K. Gangavaram mandal, two CC roads are being constructed in Dangeeru village with an

estimated cost of 15.50 lakh. With a total outlay of 41.50 lakh, the works are expected to significantly improve transportation, ease daily commuting, and enhance access to essential services such as education, healthcare, and markets for the rural population.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Vasamshetti Subhash emphasized that rural development remains the top priority of the government. He stated that quality road infrastructure plays a crucial role in transforming living standards in villages by improving connectivity and boosting economic activity. The minister underlined that the coalition government is committed to ensuring basic infrastructure in every village and delivering better facilities to the people.

He instructed officials to ensure that the works are completed swiftly without compromising on quality. Stressing accountability, the minister said that development projects should be executed in a transparent and responsible manner so that public funds yield lasting benefits. He also assured villagers that more development initiatives would be taken up in the coming days to bridge

infrastructure gaps across the constituency.

The programme was attended by several officials and leaders, including Panchayat Raj Deputy Executive Engineer Srinivas, Assistant Engineer Yesu Ratnam, Jana Sena in-charge Poliseti Chandrasekhar, Kakinada Rural TDP president Kothapalli Seenu Babu, Kajuluru Mandal TDP president Chavvakula Narayanamurthy (Dr. Babu), and K. Gangavaram Mandal TDP president Medishetty Ravi Kumar. Swachha Andhra Director Saladi Ramesh, MPP Nagamani, society president Kota Tatabbai, Aerupalli sarpanch Venkanna Babu, AMC director Bhaskara Rao, Gopalakrishna, coalition party leaders, and party workers were also present.

Villagers from the concerned areas expressed happiness over the commencement of the long-pending road works. They noted that for years their villages lacked proper roads and said the new CC roads would bring lasting relief and contribute to overall development. The initiative has further reinforced confidence in the government's focus on rural infrastructure and inclusive growth.

AP Assembly to Offer Live Viewing Experience for Students

Amaravati, Date | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Assembly Speaker Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu has announced a new initiative to allow students to watch the Assembly proceedings live from within the legislature premises, aiming to bolster civic awareness and understanding of the democratic process among young citizens. Under this programme, school and college students will get the opportunity to witness Assembly sessions firsthand rather than just watching them on television. The initiative is being launched as part of efforts to promote parliamentary awareness and strengthen students' knowledge of legislative functions and governance.

According to the Speaker's office, interested schools and colleges must coordinate in advance by reaching out to the Assembly Secretariat through designated email contacts. Each group of up to 30 students will be

permitted to watch the live proceedings for a designated period of approximately 45 minutes during Assembly sittings. The officials said that the experience will allow students to see how the House functions, understand where the Chief Minister, ministers, legislators, opposition members, and the Speaker sit, and learn about the security and facilities available at the Assembly. The move, officials said, is designed to make the legislature more accessible to the public, especially young people who may have limited exposure to the workings of the state's highest law-making body. Observers noted that such initiatives can help bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge of democracy taught in classrooms and its practical reality in action. The announcement comes as the Assembly prepares to convene its session focused on the state budget and other legislative business. With debates on policy, govern-



The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly building, where the live viewing initiative will be implemented.

the Assembly Secretariat will manage logistics on the ground and ensure that student visits are orderly and conducted without disrupting the House's scheduled business. They noted that while students will be allowed inside designated galleries, arrangements will be made to brief them on the conduct expected in the legislative environment.

Educators and parents welcomed the decision, saying that it offers an invaluable window into governance and civic responsibility. Many expressed hope that the programme will help nurture a more informed and participative youth, equipped to contribute meaningfully to democratic discourse in the future.

By opening the doors of the Assembly to young observers, the Andhra Pradesh Legislature aims to deepen democratic engagement and make the workings of government more transparent and relatable to the next generation of citizens.

AP High Court Questions 35 FIRs Against Ambati Rambabu

Amaravati, 09 Feb 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh High Court has raised serious questions over the registration of 35 separate First Information Reports (FIRs) against YSR Congress Party leader and former minister Ambati Rambabu, while hearing quash petitions filed on his behalf. The developments come amid ongoing legal proceedings related to multiple cases registered against Rambabu across the state. The quash petitions were filed in the High Court seeking the dismissal of the numerous cases against him, which stem from various complaints lodged following political incidents and protests. Rambabu's legal team argued that several of the FIRs are redundant and

arise from the same alleged conduct, questioning the validity of multiple registrations on a single matter. The petitions contend that registering 35 FIRs on essentially the same issue amounts to misuse of the legal process and excessive legal harassment.

During the hearing, the High Court took a critical view of the state of affairs. The bench queried the very basis for lodging 35 separate FIRs stemming from similar allegations, asking why law enforcement had chosen to register multiple cases instead of consolidating them for proper investigation. The court also underscored procedural safeguards that must be followed by investigators, including compliance with applicable provisions of criminal procedure and

careful evaluation before registering multiple cases against the same individual.

Officials appearing for the state argued that the FIRs were filed based on complaints received from different areas, each reportedly alleging violations in their respective jurisdictions. They maintained that police were acting on complaints as received and followed required procedures under the law. However, the High Court expressed concern over the sheer number of FIRs and emphasized the need to prevent undue proliferation of cases where they may not be justified.

The court directed that investigation must proceed in accordance with legal norms, cautioning authorities against taking hasty action until the final order on

the quash petitions is delivered. It instructed that the procedures under relevant sections of the criminal code should be adhered to and that law enforcement officers must exercise discretion responsibly during the investigation.

Ambati Rambabu has been in judicial custody in connection with other matters, including a remand in a separate case involving alleged derogatory remarks against a political opponent. In one of those proceedings, a special court had ordered a 14-day judicial custody period, extending his time in jail while investigations continue.

The High Court has adjourned further hearings on the quash petitions to early March, providing both sides more time to present detailed arguments.

Ambati Rambabu Granted Bail in One Case, Continues to Remain in Jail

Amaravati, February 9 | TPN Bureau

Senior YSR Congress Party leader and former Andhra Pradesh minister Ambati Rambabu has been granted bail in one of the cases registered against him. However, despite this relief, he continues to remain in jail as he is facing judicial custody in another separate case.

The bail was granted by a special court in connection with a case related to controversial remarks allegedly made against Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. Following the court's order, there was speculation that Rambabu would be released from prison. However, his release has not materialised as he is still under remand in a different case registered earlier by the police.

According to official sources, Rambabu was produced before a magistrate in connection with another case linked to incidents that oc-

curred during a political protest held in November last year. In this matter, the court ordered him to be remanded to judicial custody for a stipulated period. As a result, even though bail was secured in one case, he cannot walk free unless he obtains bail in all pending cases against him.

Police had booked Ambati Rambabu and others on multiple charges, including unlawful assembly, criminal intimidation, and obstructing public servants from discharging their duties. The case pertains to allegations that a political rally was conducted without permission and that officials on duty were allegedly threatened during the protest. After hearing arguments, the magistrate sent him to judicial custody, citing the seriousness of the allegations and the need for further legal proceedings.

Legal experts point



out that it is common for accused persons facing multiple cases to remain in custody even after securing bail in one matter. Bail in an individual case does not automatically result in release if there are other active remand orders or pending cases. Rambabu's legal team is reportedly preparing to seek bail in the remaining cases to secure his release at the earliest. The develop-

ments have triggered sharp political reactions across Andhra Pradesh. Leaders of the YSR Congress Party have alleged political vendetta and claimed that the cases are being pursued with ulterior motives. On the other hand, ruling party leaders have maintained that the law is taking its own course and that no one is above legal scrutiny. Ambati Rambabu's continued incarceration

has become a subject of intense debate in political circles, with supporters staging protests and opponents insisting on strict adherence to the rule of law. As the legal process unfolds, all eyes are now on the upcoming court hearings that will determine whether the senior leader will secure relief in the remaining cases and be released from jail.

Chandrababu Naidu to Visit Delhi for Talks with Amit Shah

Amaravati / New Delhi, 09 FEB 2026 | TPN Bureau

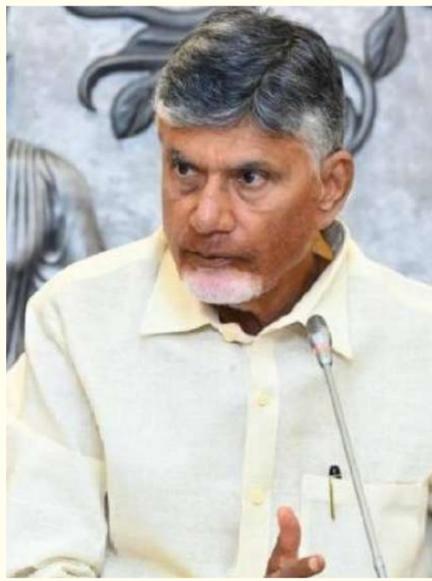
Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is scheduled to visit New Delhi tonight to hold crucial discussions with Union Home Minister Amit Shah as part of efforts to advance the state's key development priorities and pending issues with the Centre.

According to official sources, the Chief Minister will depart from Vijayawada this evening and reach the national capital later tonight. He is expected to stay overnight in Delhi and hold a series of high-level meetings with senior Union ministers on Tuesday. The visit is seen as significant in the context of strengthening coordination between the state and the Centre on major policy, financial, and infrastructure-related matters.

During his meeting

with Amit Shah, Chandrababu Naidu is likely to raise several issues of importance to Andhra Pradesh, including pending approvals, release of central funds, and matters related to internal security and administration. The Chief Minister is also expected to seek the Centre's support for accelerating key development projects and addressing long-standing demands of the state.

In addition to Amit Shah, Chandrababu Naidu is likely to meet Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and other senior ministers during his visit. Discussions are expected to focus on the release of funds allocated to Andhra Pradesh, financial support for ongoing and proposed infrastructure projects, and measures to strengthen the state's economic growth. Special emphasis is likely to be placed on irriga-



tion projects, capital city development, and investment-related initiatives.

Sources indicated that the Chief Minister will also discuss issues related to Public-Private Partnership projects, industrial investments, and technology-driven development plans. The state government has been pushing for faster clearances and finan-

cial assistance from the Centre to ensure timely execution of major projects and welfare programmes.

The Delhi visit comes at a time when the Andhra Pradesh government is intensifying efforts to revive growth, attract investments, and implement its long-term development vision. Chandrababu Naidu has repeatedly emphasized the importance of strong Centre-state cooperation to achieve these objectives and ensure that promised support to Andhra Pradesh is delivered without delay.

After completing his engagements in the national capital, the Chief Minister is expected to return to Vijayawada by Tuesday evening. Officials expressed hope that the visit would yield positive outcomes and help expedite decisions on several critical issues concerning the state's development and financial stability.

Pawan Kalyan Serious Over Delay in Arava Sridhar Probe

Amaravati, 09 feb 2026 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party chief Pawan Kalyan has expressed serious concern over the delay in the probe related to allegations against Jana Sena MLA Arava Sridhar, intensifying pressure on the party's internal inquiry mechanism. The prolonged investigation has sparked political debate and drawn criticism from various quarters, with demands growing for swift and transparent action.

The controversy surfaced after a woman, claiming to be a government employee, made public allegations against Arava Sridhar through video statements. The issue quickly gained attention across the state, prompting Pawan Kalyan to order an internal inquiry within the party to ascertain the facts. A three-member committee was constituted to investigate the matter and submit a de-

tailed report.

However, weeks after the committee was formed, the absence of a final report has raised questions about the pace of the investigation. Sources said Pawan Kalyan, during recent internal discussions, expressed dissatisfaction over the lack of progress and sought an explanation from party leaders and committee members. He reportedly stressed that delays in sensitive matters could damage the party's credibility and public trust.

Party insiders indicated that Pawan Kalyan made it clear that accountability and justice must not be compromised, irrespective of the individual involved. He is believed to have instructed the committee to expedite the inquiry and place all facts before the leadership at the earliest. The Deputy Chief Minister is said to have underlined that transparency is crucial, especially when allegations are serious and



have attracted public attention.

The delay has also provided ammunition to opposition parties, which have accused the ruling alliance and Jana Sena leadership of shielding the MLA. Opposition leaders have demanded immediate action and questioned the sincerity of the internal probe. They argue that prolonged silence and lack of clarity are fueling public suspicion and undermining confidence in the process.

Meanwhile, the woman at the centre of the controversy has continued to release video statements, reiterating

her demand for justice and urging the leadership to ensure a fair and unbiased inquiry. Her continued public appeals have kept the issue alive in the media and increased pressure on the party to act decisively.

Members of the inquiry committee have maintained that the investigation is ongoing and that they are gathering information from various sources to ensure a comprehensive assessment. They have indicated that due process is being followed and that the report will be submitted after examining all relevant aspects.

Political observers note that the episode has become a crucial test for Jana Sena's commitment to internal discipline and ethical standards. With Pawan Kalyan taking a firm stand on the issue, expectations are high that the inquiry will be concluded soon and appropriate action will follow based on its findings.

As the probe continues, all eyes remain on the party leadership and the steps it will take to address the controversy, restore confidence, and demonstrate its resolve to uphold accountability in public life.

Supreme Court Refuses Bail to Raj Kesireddy in Liquor Scam Case

New Delhi, 09 FEB 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Supreme Court has declined to intervene in the bail plea of Raj Kesireddy, the prime accused in the alleged Andhra Pradesh liquor scam that took place during the YSRCP regime. The apex court made it clear that it saw no grounds to interfere with the decision of the Andhra Pradesh High Court, which had earlier refused to grant him regular bail.

Raj Kesireddy approached the Supreme Court after the High Court rejected his plea for regular bail in connection with the high-profile liquor scam case. A three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice of India Justice Suryakant took up the matter for hearing. As soon as senior advocate Nagamuthu, appearing on behalf of Raj Kesireddy, began his arguments, the bench observed that there was no reason for the Supreme Court to step in at this stage. The bench remarked that Raj Kesireddy appeared to be the key conspirator in the case and questioned how regular bail could be granted to him under such circumstances. The judges noted that the High Court had thoroughly examined all aspects of the case before denying bail.

During the course of the hearing, the



bench made strong observations regarding Kesireddy's alleged role in the scam. "Prima facie, Raj Kesireddy appears to be the central figure in the main conspiracy. At this stage, we do not see any reason to interfere. Granting bail to him could seriously impact the case," the bench observed. The court further pointed out that, based on the findings so far, Kesireddy appeared to have direct links with shell companies that allegedly deposited around 750 crore as part of the scam.

When the defence counsel argued that Raj Kesireddy had already been in jail for the past nine months, the Supreme Court responded sharply. The bench remarked that spending nine months in custody was not excessive in a case involving alleged irregularities exceeding 700 crore. The observation underscored the gravity of the charges and the scale of the alleged financial

wrongdoing.

The defence sought additional time to place all relevant facts and arguments before the court. Accepting the request, the bench adjourned the matter for further hearing to Thursday.

The liquor scam case has drawn significant attention due to the alleged large-scale financial irregularities and the involvement of shell companies. Investigating agencies have maintained that Raj Kesireddy played a pivotal role in orchestrating the scam, a claim that has weighed heavily against him in bail proceedings so far.

With the Supreme Court declining to grant immediate relief, Raj Kesireddy will continue to remain in judicial custody. The next hearing is expected to further examine the arguments placed by the defence, though the court's strong remarks indicate a tough legal road ahead for the accused.

Election Buzz Returns as AP Prepares for Local Body Polls

Amaravati, 09 FEB 2026 | TPN Bureau

Election fervour is set to return to Andhra Pradesh as preparations for local body elections gain momentum across the state. With the tenure of several panchayats, municipalities and municipal corporations nearing completion, the State Election Commission has initiated the groundwork for conducting elections to local self-governing bodies.

As part of the preparatory process, the Andhra Pradesh State Election Commission has issued notifications to begin the revision of electoral rolls. District Collectors have been directed to immediately take up the preparation of updated voters' lists and ensure that the final electoral rolls, along with photographs, are published by March 9. State Election Commissioner Nilam Sawhney has emphasised that the process should be carried out in a transparent and time-bound manner to avoid discrepancies ahead of the polls.

The Election Commission has already collected Assembly constituency-wise voters' data from the Chief Electoral Officer's office and uploaded the information onto its servers. To facilitate further segregation, login credentials have been provided to Municipal Commissioners and District Panchayat Officers. Using these logins, officials have been instructed



to extract relevant data and prepare separate voters' lists for municipalities, municipal corporations and gram panchayats.

Officials clarified that the voters' list revision is a crucial pre-election exercise and is being undertaken well in advance to ensure smooth conduct of local body elections. January 1, 2026, has been fixed as the qualifying date for updating the electoral rolls, enabling the inclusion of eligible new voters and the removal of ineligible entries.

Meanwhile, speculation has intensified over the timing of the elections. Andhra Pradesh has a total of 123 urban local bodies. Of these, the tenure of 87 urban local bodies — including nagar panchayats, municipalities and municipal corporations — is set to end on March 17. In addition, elections could not be held in 36 urban local bodies earlier due to court cases and other administra-

tive reasons.

With the tenure ending and pending elections in several urban bodies, authorities are making arrangements to conduct polls across all 123 urban local bodies together. This move is expected to streamline the election process and restore elected local governance structures.

The renewed focus on local body elections has sparked political activity at the grassroots level, with parties beginning internal preparations and outreach efforts. Political observers believe the elections will serve as an important test of public sentiment and could significantly shape the state's political narrative in the coming months.

As the Election Commission accelerates its preparations, Andhra Pradesh appears poised for another round of electoral engagement, bringing governance and political debate back to the local level.

Justice Srinivas Offers Prayers at Kanaka Durga Temple

Vijayawada, February 9 | TPN Bureau
Honourable Andhra Pradesh High Court Judge Justice Utkuru Srinivas, accompanied by his wife and family members, offered special prayers at the renowned Sri Kanaka Durga Temple atop Indrakeeladri hill on Monday. The visit was marked by traditional temple rituals and a warm reception by the temple authorities.

Varla Devasthanam, V.K. Seena Naik. As per temple customs, the EO personally received the High Court judge and made elaborate arrangements to ensure a smooth and dignified darshan. Temple officials escorted Justice Srinivas and his family through the designated pathways to facilitate an uninterrupted visit to the sanctum sanctorum. The family had darshan of Goddess Kanaka Durga, who is revered as a powerful embodiment of Shakti and is one of the most prominent deities in Andhra Pradesh. The



visit drew the attention of devotees present at the temple, who expressed happiness at seeing the High Court judge seeking divine blessings. Following the darshan, Vedic scholars of the temple performed special rituals and recited Vedic mantras, invoking blessings for Justice Srinivas and his family. The chanting of sacred hymns added spiritual solemnity to the occasion and reflected the age-old traditions practiced at the Indrakeeladri shrine. Later, EO V.K. Seena Naik presented the judge with prasadam

and sacred offerings of the Goddess as a mark of respect and devotion. He also briefed Justice Srinivas about the ongoing temple activities, pilgrim facilities, and initiatives taken by the devasthanam to improve services for devotees. Speaking on the occasion, temple officials expressed gratitude for the visit and stated that the presence of dignitaries at the shrine reinforces public faith in spiritual traditions and cultural heritage. They highlighted that the Kanaka Durga Temple continues to attract devotees from across

the country throughout the year, especially during festivals such as Dasara and Navaratri. Justice Srinivas and his family spent some time at the temple premises, offering prayers for peace, prosperity, and the welfare of the people. The visit concluded peacefully, with temple authorities and staff extending courtesies as the High Court judge departed from Indrakeeladri. The visit underscored the enduring significance of the Kanaka Durga Temple as a spiritual and cultural landmark in the state.

AP Junior Athletes Shine at Asian Junior Soft Tennis Championship



Vijayawada, February 9 | TPN Bureau
Athletes from Andhra Pradesh delivered outstanding performances at the 2nd Asian Junior Soft Tennis Championship 2026, held from February 3 to 8 in Ludhiana, Punjab, bringing pride to the state. A.S. Vaishali won the gold medal in the Under-15 Girls Doubles category, while P.V. Chinhas secured a bronze in the Under-15 Boys Doubles. Additionally, M. Revanth clinched a bronze medal in the Under-18 Boys Doubles category, marking a successful campaign for the state's

young athletes. On Monday, the athletes paid a respectful visit to the headquarters of the Andhra Pradesh Sports Authority (SAP) in Vijayawada, where SAP Chairman Animini Ravi Naidu personally congratulated them. The chairman honored the players with shawls and praised their talent and dedication, encouraging them to achieve even greater success on international platforms in the future. "This is a proud moment for Andhra Pradesh. We hope our young athletes continue to excel and enhance

the state's reputation on the global stage," said Ravi Naidu. The event was also attended by the Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh Soft Tennis Association, Dararam Naveen Kumar, along with the athletes' parents, who expressed immense pride in the accomplishments of their children. The Asian Junior Soft Tennis Championship brought together some of the continent's best young talent, providing a platform for emerging athletes to compete at high levels. Andhra Pradesh's strong showing demonstrates the

state's growing emphasis on nurturing sports talent from a young age. With continued support from sports authorities and encouragement from officials, these junior athletes are expected to make further strides in national and international competitions, strengthening the state's sporting ecosystem. The achievements of Vaishali, Chinhas, and Revanth serve as an inspiration for aspiring athletes across Andhra Pradesh, highlighting the importance of dedication, training, and perseverance in competitive sports.

Maris Stella to Host All India Women's Netball Tournament

Vijayawada, 09 Feb 2026 | TPN Bureau
Maris Stella College will host the All India Women's Netball Tournament from February 14 to 18 under the auspices of Krishna University, according to Krishna University Vice-Chancellor Professor Ramji. The national-level sporting event is expected to bring together teams from across the country, highlighting the growing prominence of netball in India.



Addressing a press conference, Professor Ramji said the tournament is being organized with the objective of promoting netball at both competitive and grassroots levels. He noted that the Netball Federation of India has been consistently conducting national championships since 1978, starting with junior and senior categories, playing a key role in popularizing the sport nationwide. The upcoming tournament, he said, is part of that long-standing effort to strengthen the game's presence across states. The Vice-Chancellor informed that as many as 88 teams from various states will participate in the five-day event, mak-

ing it one of the largest women's netball tournaments hosted in the region. He described the opportunity to organize such a prestigious national tournament as a matter of pride for NTR District as well as Krishna University. According to him, hosting the event will not only encourage women athletes but also provide exposure to students and sports enthusiasts in the region. Professor Ramji emphasized that Krishna University is committed to organizing the tournament in a grand and disciplined manner. He urged volunteers, faculty members, organizing

committee members, team managers, and all those involved to take collective responsibility to ensure the smooth conduct and overall success of the event. He stressed that proper coordination, hospitality, and adherence to competition standards would be key to making the tournament memorable. He further noted that events of this scale help foster a sporting culture on campuses and inspire young students, particularly women, to take up sports professionally. The tournament is also expected to enhance the university's reputation at the national level and

strengthen inter-university sporting ties. The press meet was attended by Krishna University Rector Professor Basaveswara Rao, Krishna University Sports Board Committee Secretary Naveen Lavanya Latha, and Maris Stella College Principal Dr. Sister Inyamma. Organising committee members and conveners Dr. Gopi and Sunitha, along with other officials, were also present. The organizers expressed confidence that the tournament would be conducted successfully and would leave a lasting impact on the promotion of women's netball in the country.

YSRCP Leader Slams Celebrities for Silence on School Food Poisoning

Amaravati, 09 FEB 2026 | TPN Bureau
A prominent YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leader has strongly criticised celebrities and social media influencers for their perceived silence on the Devarapalli school food poisoning incident, accusing them of double standards in public advocacy. The remarks came after several influencers spoke passionately about animal welfare issues, particularly street dogs, but have not commented on the recent tragic event affecting children. The controversy erupted after large numbers of students at a government school in Devarapalli fell ill following consumption of mid-day meal food suspected to be contaminated. The incident triggered immediate medical attention, with affected children being rushed to nearby hospitals for treatment. Families and community members expressed shock and anger, demanding accountability from authorities responsible for food procurement and preparation. YSRCP leader Syamala took to social media to highlight the apparent discrepancy in responses from public figures. In her widely circulated post, she questioned



why those who actively campaign for animal rights and welfare have remained silent on a matter involving children's health and safety. She wrote that while concerns for street dogs are important, issues affecting human lives — especially school children — deserve equal attention and urgent public discourse. Syamala's comments quickly gained traction on social media, with many supporting her call for balanced advocacy. Supporters argued that child health and safety, particularly in government-run programmes like the mid-day meal scheme, should be a priority for everyone, including celebrities who influence public opinion. They said that speaking up about the Devarapalli food poisoning incident would help maintain focus on child welfare and com-

pel authorities to take necessary corrective action. Opposition leaders also jumped into the debate, accusing the ruling government of negligence in managing school food quality and oversight. They demanded a thorough investigation to determine how the contamination occurred and who should be held responsible. Some called for expanded food safety audits in all schools to prevent similar incidents in the future. Meanwhile, education department officials assured the public that preliminary inquiries are underway, and strict action would be taken against those found responsible for lapses in food preparation and distribution. Health teams have been deployed to monitor affected children, and precautionary measures have

been implemented in schools across the region to ensure safe food handling. The incident has renewed discussions about the effectiveness of the mid-day meal programme and food safety standards in government schools. While the programme is recognised nationally for improving nutrition and attendance, critics pointed out that oversight mechanisms must be strengthened to protect children from preventable illnesses. As the issue continues to attract public attention, voices from various sectors are urging a collective response to safeguard students' well-being. Many community leaders and parents have called for more transparency, regular inspections, and accountability in school food services to restore confidence among families and ensure children's safety. The debate spotlighted by Syamala's comments underscores broader expectations that influencers and public figures should use their platforms to raise awareness and advocate for issues that impact vulnerable populations, especially children.

Two Dead, Several Injured in Tragic Road Accident in Kadapa District

Kadapa, 09 FEB 2026 | TPN Bureau
A fatal road accident in Kadapa district claimed two lives and left several others injured on Saturday, police and local authorities confirmed. The collision occurred on a busy stretch of highway near Porumamilla, triggering a swift response from emergency services and law enforcement.



According to initial reports, a speeding passenger vehicle reportedly collided with a stationary goods truck that was parked along the roadside. The impact was so severe that the front portion of the car was completely crushed, trapping occupants inside. Local residents and passers-by rushed to the scene to assist before police and rescue teams arrived. By the time first responders reached the site, two people trapped in the car had succumbed to their injuries. Their bodies were shifted to the government hospital in Kadapa for post-mortem examination. Several other passengers, including men and women of various ages, sustained injuries ranging from serious to moderate. District medical teams were

immediately put on alert, and the injured were transported to nearby medical facilities for treatment. District Superintendent of Police (SP) and local traffic officers visited the accident spot to supervise rescue operations and assess the scene. The officials ordered immediate relief measures and arranged for additional ambulances to transfer the injured to hospitals. Police have also sealed off the accident site and diverted traffic to prevent further mishaps while investigations are underway. Preliminary inquiries suggest that excessive speed and possible driver fatigue may have contributed to the collision. Officials are examining

whether the truck was parked legally and if proper safety signage was in place at the location. Further investigations are expected to include a detailed examination of the vehicle conditions, driver statements, and eyewitness accounts. Locals expressed grief and anger over the tragic incident, with many calling for enhanced road safety measures along the highway. "This stretch has seen multiple accidents before," said one resident. "We need better lighting, road signage and stricter enforcement to prevent such tragedies." Authorities have assured the public that strict action will be taken if negligence is found to

have played a role in the crash. Traffic police are collecting evidence, including vehicle black box data where available, and registering a case under relevant sections of the motor vehicle regulations. Meanwhile, hospital sources reported that the injured are being stabilised, and critical cases are under close medical supervision. Family members of the victims have arrived at the hospitals in shock, seeking updates on the condition of their loved ones. The district administration has expressed condolences to the families of the deceased and urged motorists to drive cautiously, especially on highways with heavy traffic. Officials reminded drivers to obey speed limits, avoid overtaking in risky zones, and ensure proper rest before long journeys in order to reduce the risk of road accidents. As investigations continue, the community in Kadapa district remain mourning the loss of life and hoping for improved safety measures to prevent similar accidents in the future.

East Godavari Urged to Accelerate GSDP Growth, Achieve Swarnandhra 2047 Goals

East Godavari, February 9 | TPN Bureau

In a comprehensive review meeting at the Andhra Pradesh Secretariat, Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu provided strategic directions to district officials on accelerating GSDP growth and implementing the Swarnandhra 2047 vision. The review was part of the “Ministers-Officials Conference” assessing district-wise performance for the 2025-26 fiscal year.

East Godavari District Collector Keerthi Chekuri, SP D. Narasimha Kishore, Joint Collector Y. Megha Swaroop, RMC Commissioner Rahul Meena,

DRO T. Sitarama Murthy, and other senior district and field-level officials participated in the session.

During the meeting, Collector Chekuri highlighted that East Godavari contributes around 4% to the state’s GSDP, ranking 12th among districts, and emphasized the need for collective efforts to improve this position. He noted that the district’s GDDP for 2025-26 is projected to reach 70,512 crore, marking a growth rate of 10.24%, driven by combined contributions from agriculture, industry, and service sectors.

To secure a place among the state’s top 10 districts, Chekuri advised officials to focus on industrial expansion, investment attraction, and service sector development. He also underscored the importance of improving infrastructure, creating employment opportunities, and implementing coordinated development programs to strengthen the district’s economic base.



employment opportunities, and implementing coordinated development programs to strengthen the district’s economic base.

In the Agriculture & Allied sector, East Godavari achieved an ‘A’ grade with a score of 81, which is positive compared to the state average of 91 (A+), indicating clear potential for improvement. Despite currently ranking 18th

in overall performance, the district can enhance results in 10 key indicators, including value addition, allied sector coordination, and speed of farmer-centric services, Chekuri said.

The conference featured extensive discussions on state financial performance, social and physical infrastructure, investments, skill development, administrative reforms, and law and order. Officials were urged to focus on central-sponsored scheme implementation, revenue department performance, PPP projects, ease of doing business initiatives, and the use of AI and digital tools such as data lakes and real-time governance platforms for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

The Chief Minister’s directions aim to ensure East Godavari leverages its strengths to accelerate economic growth while contributing to the long-term vision of Swarnandhra 2047, combining sustainable development with enhanced quality of life for residents.

Vasamshetti Subhash Leads Ramachandrapuram to State’s 11th Rank

Ramachandrapuram, 09 FEB 2026 | TPN Bureau

Ramachandrapuram Assembly constituency has achieved a remarkable milestone by securing the 11th rank at the state level, drawing widespread praise for State Labour Minister Vasamshetti Subhash, who represents the constituency. The ranking was announced as part of the state government’s comprehensive evaluation of all 175 Assembly constituencies, based on governance and development performance.



assuming office, the minister has emphasized close coordination with government officials, regular monitoring of programmes, and responsiveness to public needs. These efforts, they say, have translated into measurable improvements reflected in the state rankings.

According to official data, only 21 constituencies in the state managed to secure the coveted A+ grade, while 153 constituencies were placed in the A grade category. Just one constituency fell under the B grade, highlighting the competitive nature of the assessment. Vijayawada West topped the rankings with 93 marks, taking first place, while Ramachandrapuram’s 11th rank underscores its strong

performance among the top constituencies.

The ranking has triggered an outpouring of congratulatory messages from party cadres, community leaders, and citizens, all lauding Vasamshetti Subhash for steering the constituency toward consistent progress. Residents note that improvements in public amenities, welfare outreach, and administrative responsiveness are increasingly visible on the ground.

Reacting to the achievement, Minister Vasamshetti Subhash said the recognition belonged to the people and the administrative machinery rather than to any individual. “This is the result of the blessings of the people, effective coordination among officials, and the sincere

implementation of government policies,” he stated. He added that the support of citizens and teamwork within the administration played a crucial role in attaining the high rank.

The minister further assured that the government would not rest on its laurels. “We will continue to work with greater commitment to take Ramachandrapuram to even higher levels and make it one of the leading constituencies in the state,” he said.

The 11th rank has strengthened public confidence in the current leadership and raised expectations for sustained development and improved governance in Ramachandrapuram in the years ahead.

Devotees Protest Amid Chaos at Srisailem Temple

Srisailem (Andhra Pradesh), 09 feb 2026 | TPN Bureau

As the annual Maha Shivaratri festival draws near, hundreds of Shiva devotees visiting the sacred temple town of Srisailem in Andhra Pradesh staged a protest over alleged mismanagement of queue arrangements and crowd control. The agitation unfolded amid a massive influx of pilgrims making their way to the revered Sri Bhramaramba Mallikarjuna Swamy Temple for the ongoing festivities.

Devotees, who had gathered in large numbers at the temple premises, expressed deep frustration with the long queues and confusion in darshan lines. Several pilgrims broke ranks and disrupted the queue system while shouting slogans demanding better facilities and justice for the hardships they faced. Some protesters appealed directly to district officials and temple authorities to address what they described as “chaotic” arrangements.

The demonstration highlighted mounting tensions among the crowd, many of whom expressed disappointment over inadequate management despite the expected surge in footfall during the festival period. While the temple authorities had planned special arrangements and deployed additional staff to handle the rush, the high volume of devotees overwhelmed certain points in



the darshan area, leading to delays and frustration among pilgrims.

Devotees also raised concerns about insufficient handling of crowd flow and the lack of clear instructions during peak hours. Some of those participating in the protest said that elderly pilgrims and families with children were forced to wait for extended periods under challenging conditions, which added to the growing discontent.

Temple officials, however, maintained that extensive preparations had been made to facilitate the large number of visitors arriving for Maha Shivaratri celebrations, including organising priority darshan for those

holding paid tokens and trying to streamline the free darshan queues. They reiterated that efforts were underway to improve queue management and reduce inconvenience to devotees.

Srisailem, a major pilgrimage centre located on the Nallamala hills, attracts devotees from across Andhra Pradesh and neighbouring states during the Shivaratri season. The Brahmotsavams, conducted annually around this time, historically draw especially large crowds who come to offer prayers, perform rituals, and seek blessings from Lord Shiva and Goddess Bhramaramba.

Despite authorities’ as-

surances and pre-festival arrangements, the protest underscored ongoing challenges in managing the sheer volume of pilgrims during major religious events. The authorities have been urged to review crowd control measures and enhance coordination among staff to prevent similar unrest in the coming days. The administration is reported to be working on better signage, routing systems, and additional support staff deployment to ease the flow of devotees. Meanwhile, pilgrims continued to stream into the temple town, hopeful that remaining days of the celebrations will proceed more smoothly.

CBI Report Confirms Tirupati Laddu Adulteration: Srinivasananda Saraswati

Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), 09 feb 2026 | TPN Bureau

A senior religious leader has alleged that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has confirmed adulteration in the sacred Tirupati Srivari laddu, escalating a controversy that has gripped devotees and political circles across Andhra Pradesh.

Andhra Pradesh Sadhu Parishad president Srinivasananda Saraswati held a press meet in Visakhapatnam and claimed that the CBI’s findings show that laddus worth 20 crore were adulterated with impure substances, including adulterated ghee. He said that a “food mafia” was involved in supplying the low-quality ghee used in the preparation of the consecrated sweet, raising serious concerns over food safety and the sanctity of the prasadam.

Srinivasananda expressed deep alarm that devotees who consumed the laddus might fall ill because of chemicals and impure ingredients allegedly found in the sweetmeat.

He urged the Andhra Pradesh government and relevant authorities to take immediate action based on the CBI report and warned that those responsible for the alleged wrongdoing would not escape divine justice.

His accusations have sparked widespread reactions. Devotees and Hindu organisations in certain areas have staged protests, demanding accountability and calling for a transparent investigation into how the adulterated ingredients entered the supply chain for the revered prasadam. Some demonstrators have also protested at public locations, demanding justice and reaffirming the need to protect religious sentiments.

The Tirupati laddu, also known as Srivari laddu, is a sacred offering made at the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Tirupati and distributed to millions of devotees each year. It holds immense religious significance for Hindus, and any allegation questioning its purity has stirred deep emotions among devotees.



The controversy first gained prominence following claims from political leaders about the quality of ghee used in the laddu. These allegations have been contested by various groups and have led to political friction, with parties trading accusations over motives and responsibility. Responding to the issue, some political parties have sought to defend the sanctity of the temple prasadam and protest what they view as politicisation of a sacred matter. Meanwhile, others have pressed for legal and administrative action to ensure rigorous scrutiny and accountability. The CBI’s in-

volvement has added a legal dimension to the affair, though official agency statements detailing the exact findings have not yet been made public. The investigation is expected to proceed in coordination with temple authorities and state agencies entrusted with overseeing food quality and public safety. As debate continues, devotees are watching closely, with many demanding that the integrity of the sacred laddu be upheld and those found responsible for any malpractice held to account. The controversy has highlighted broader concerns about food quality standards and govern-

Bird Flu Outbreak Kills Thousands of Chickens in Annamayya District

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West Bengal Budget 2026–27: A Budget of Substance Over Hype – A 1000-Word Analysis

When a state government presents its budget, it's often accompanied by political grandstanding, sensational headlines, and a barrage of criticisms and counter-arguments. But every so often, a budget emerges that quietly tells a powerful story — not through noise, but through measurable impact. That is precisely the case with the West Bengal Budget for 2026–27, which stands out not for its hype, but for its substance.

In a political landscape where much attention is given to national budgets and economic politics in Delhi, the West Bengal government's fiscal strategy has opted for quiet efficacy over dramatic rhetoric. This budget achieves that by highlighting substantive achievements, sustained investment in welfare and infrastructure, and a continued focus on improving the quality of life for ordinary citizens.

A Strong Economic Narrative: Growth and Stability

West Bengal's economic journey over the past 15 years has been noteworthy. The state's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) has grown almost five-fold over this period, reflecting broad-based economic expansion across agriculture, industry, and services. Such growth is not accidental; it comes from steady investment in infrastructure, human capital, and targeted social schemes that work in tandem to expand opportunities.

Alongside this growth, the state has also managed to reduce unemployment significantly. Using data on labor force participation, the state reports that unemployment among those aged 15 and above has fallen by nearly half over the last eight years, a testament to job-creation efforts across both formal and informal sectors. Millions of

employment opportunities have arisen not only in government and public sector roles but also through private enterprise and self-employment initiatives — collectively amounting to an estimated 2.5 crore jobs.

In contrast to other regions where jobless growth remains a persistent challenge, West Bengal's approach underscores that economic expansion and employment generation can be mutually reinforcing. This integration of growth with livelihood opportunities forms the backbone of the state's budgetary strategy.

Direct Citizen Impact: Welfare and Inclusion

A standout feature of the budget is its focus on direct welfare transfers and citizen-centric schemes. Among these, the "Banglar Yuba Sathi" programme is particularly significant: it provides monthly direct cash transfers of ₹1,500 to unemployed youth between the ages of 21 and 40 until they secure employment. Unlike many central schemes that often struggle with low utilization rates, this scheme has shown consistent implementation, offering a practical financial cushion that helps young adults transition into employment without undue hardship.

Similarly, women's welfare initiatives have been prioritized. The "Lakshmi Bhandar" programme, which offers direct monthly financial assistance to women, has seen its grant increased, empowering women with greater financial independence and support for household expenses. Such initiatives translate into real changes in the lives of millions — whether it's helping a young graduate make ends meet or enabling a homemaker to contribute more robustly to her family's livelihood.

It's not just cash transfers that make a difference. The



"Kanyashree" programme, focused on girls' education, has provided financial support to over a crore girl students, encouraging them to continue their studies and break social barriers. Coupled with the "Sabooj Sathi" initiative, which has provided bicycles to 1.5 crore students to ensure easier access to schools, these programmes reflect a sustained effort to remove obstacles to education, especially in rural areas.

Healthcare and food security are two areas where the state's long-standing initiatives have made a marked difference. The "Swasthya Sathi" health insurance scheme, launched before similar national programmes,

Welfare at Scale: Health and Food Security

now covers over 2.45 crore families, with more than one crore beneficiaries having utilised health services under the scheme. What makes it notable is the inclusive design: health cards are issued in the name of the woman head of the family, a move that reinforces gender equity and decision-making within households.

Food security has also been bolstered through subsidised foodgrain programmes that extend coverage to approximately nine crore people — a substantial proportion of the state's population. These measures ensure that basic nutritional needs are met, forming a critical safety net for vulnerable communities, especially during economic downturns or agricultural uncertainties.

While welfare schemes often dominate headlines, the budget also signals serious investment in infrastructure and long-term economic capacity. The 2026–27 plan allocates significant funds to sectors like rural development, transport, water supply, sanitation, education, and health.

Almost half of the total budgetary expenditure is earmarked for social welfare priorities — an embodiment of the state's philosophy of inclusive growth.

Infrastructure and Long-Term Growth

Under these provisions, rural areas will see continued expansion of roads, bridges, and essential civic services — crucial factors that connect villages to markets, education centers, and healthcare facilities. Urban

planning is also part of the development blueprint with envisaged smart city initiatives aimed at tier-II cities to enhance infrastructure, digital connectivity, and quality of life. These projects are designed not just to create physical assets but also to lay the groundwork for sustainable growth and employment generation.

On the economic front, West Bengal has one of the highest numbers of MSMEs in India, with a particularly strong share of women-led enterprises. This base is vital for broadening entrepreneurship, fostering innovation, and creating jobs. Complementary efforts to develop industrial parks and global trade hubs further position the state as a potential gateway for commerce, especially with neighboring Asian markets.

Education, Skill Development, and Future-Ready Workforce

Beyond direct welfare, the budget underscores the importance of education and skill development in shaping West Bengal's future workforce. By facilitating access to schooling, supporting girls' education, and integrating vocational programs, the government is not only opening doors to immediate support but is also nurturing the next generation of professionals, entrepreneurs, and skilled workers.

Efforts to enhance technical education and ensure that gig and frontline workers are covered under social security frameworks indicate a forward-looking approach. These moves aim to bring informal sector workers — a sizable portion of the workforce — into the ambit of structured benefits and long-term security, which is essential for socio-economic resilience in a rapidly changing job market.

Balancing Budgets: Fiscal Discipline Meets People's Needs

A robust budget is more than just a list of schemes; it reflects fiscal prudence and responsible governance. West Bengal's budget shows signs of measured financial management. State revenues, including tax collections, are projected to grow steadily, providing a strong base for government expenditure. Allocations have been balanced between revenue needs and capital expenditure — with infrastructure and asset creation receiving significant attention.

This balanced approach has helped reduce revenue deficits in recent years while allowing strategic investment in social welfare and growth drivers. The government's ability to manage these competing priorities — welfare, infrastructure, employment, and fiscal health — illustrates a nuanced stewardship of public funds.

Conclusion: A Budget That Talks to the Citizen, Not Just to Headlines

The West Bengal Budget 2026–27 is not about flashy announcements or political highs. Instead, it is a document rooted in evidence, aimed at producing measurable results. It stands for a simple but powerful principle: economic policy should touch lives meaningfully — whether through secure jobs, better health, stronger education, or safer streets.

This budget is proof that effective governance doesn't always need the loudest megaphone; sometimes the most impactful measures are those that quietly change lives, uplift communities, and forge a path for sustained, inclusive growth. In that sense, West Bengal's fiscal blueprint remains true to its promise: substance over hype.

How Tech Professionals Can Survive and Thrive in the Age of AI

Artificial Intelligence is no longer a distant possibility — it is here, reshaping the very nature of how software is built and how technology work gets done. What was once an incremental change has suddenly become seismic. Tools that once only assisted developers now perform complex tasks that used to require teams of engineers. Automation isn't just helping programmers write better code — in many cases, it can write entire sections of software by itself.

For years, the tech industry was largely dominated by human developers churning out code, services and solutions that powered businesses across the world. Today, that model is being disrupted. Cutting-edge AI models can analyze, create, edit and organize code, automate business functions, and even handle tasks across legal, analytical and customer-facing domains. With this shift comes both disruption and opportunity. The question for tech professionals isn't whether AI will transform the industry — it's how individuals can prepare themselves so they remain relevant, employable and indispensable.

AI Is Changing the Rules — Not Just the Players

In the early days of computing, mainframes gave way to personal computers and then to internet-based applications. Each shift changed job roles and workflows, requiring professionals to adapt and evolve. The current AI revolution is similar in spirit, but its scale is broader and the pace is exponential. Where once mastering programming languages and frameworks guaranteed job security, that is no longer sufficient. Today's AI-augmented tools can complete many of the routine coding tasks that were once entry points into the industry.

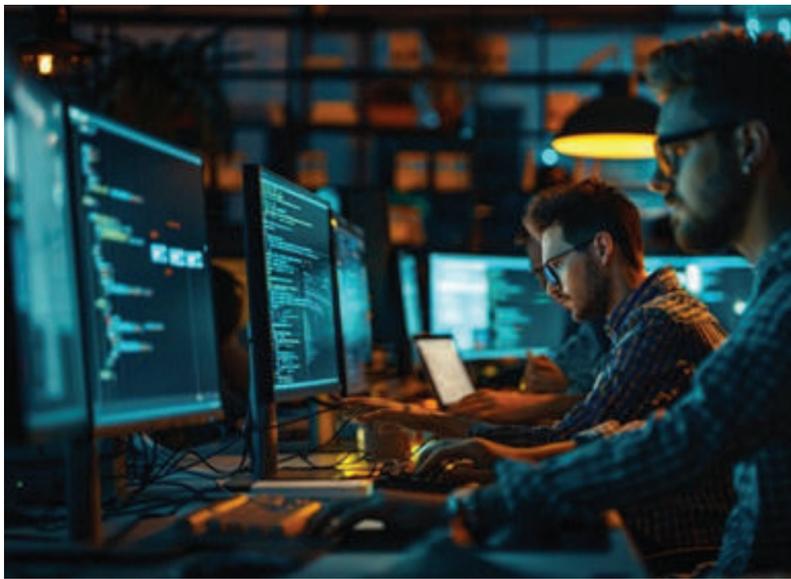
This transformation has major implications: companies may hire fewer people for traditional coding tasks, and competition for technical roles is intensifying. Developers and engineers who only write code quickly find that machines can now do much of that work faster and with fewer errors. As a result, organizations are increasingly looking for skills that machines cannot replicate easily — creativity, deep systems thinking, problem formulation, and a nuanced understanding of complex requirements.

Rather than fearing this shift, tech professionals should see it as a wake-up call: the future of technology work will reward those who can collaborate with AI rather than compete with it.

Master the Fundamentals — But Go Beyond Them

Strong technical fundamentals — such as data structures, algorithms, and system design — remain essential. But they now serve as the baseline rather than the pinnacle. To stay ahead, techies must also embrace skills that complement AI capabilities. These include:

- **Prompt Engineering:** Understanding how to interact with AI systems — how to frame questions, control outputs, and guide models toward useful results.
- **AI-Integrated Development:** Ability to integrate AI tools into development workflows, making them part of daily engineering tasks rather than separate utilities.
- **Complex Problem Solving:** Focusing on higher-order tasks, such as designing scalable architectures, optimizing systems for performance and reliability,



and addressing novel edge cases that require human insight.

- **Cloud and AI Operations:** Expertise in cloud platforms, infrastructure deployment, model lifecycle management and cost optimization.

Tech workers of tomorrow will likely need to blend traditional engineering with AI fluency — essentially becoming hybrid professionals who can navigate a world where human intellect and machine intelligence work together.

Reframe Your Role — From Creator to Creator

If you view your job as "writing code," you risk being replaced by tools that can automate that very task. Instead, think in terms of value creation. What unique contribution do you bring that no tool can replicate? It is this reframing from task performer to do-

main expert that will safeguard relevance.

For example, instead of simply implementing a feature that a product manager describes, begin with deep problem framing: Why is this feature needed? What's the user behaviour driving it? What are the performance trade-offs? Then use AI tools to prototype, test and validate your ideas. In this model, the developer becomes a thinker and a strategist — someone who partners with AI, rather than one who is replaced by it.

Creative work — product visioning, interface design, empathy-driven feature decisions, business logic — remains firmly in the realm of human expertise. Machines may assist, but humans still make the calls.

Develop Soft Skills That Machines Can't Replicate

AI models are incredibly ca-

pable at crunching data and generating outputs, but they lack emotional intelligence, judgment, persuasion skills and leadership — qualities that remain uniquely human. Technical professionals who cultivate strong communication, teamwork, and leadership skills will be better positioned to work in collaborative environments where AI is another tool in the toolbox.

In addition, understanding user needs and translating them into technical solutions requires empathy and contextual understanding — neither of which can be automated. These "soft" competencies often differentiate a good engineer from a great one.

Build a Personal Brand and Network

In an age of automation, reputation and visibility can become valuable assets. Tech professionals should think be-

yond resumes and traditional credentials. Building a personal brand — through blogs, open-source contributions, speaking engagements, or community leadership — can amplify your visibility in ways that a job description never can.

Networking remains critical, too. Connections with peers, mentors and industry leaders can lead to opportunities that may not be advertised publicly — and they provide a support system for navigating career transitions in a time of rapid change.

Embrace Lifelong Learning
Tech has always required continuous learning, but the pace has never been this fast. Continuous education — through online courses, specialized certifications, workshops, and real-world projects — is no longer optional. Learning should not be seen as a task to complete, but as an ongoing mindset.

Focus on areas that are likely to grow alongside AI: system security, ethical AI, data governance, machine learning operations, and AI strategy. These are fields that require deep human judgment and critical thinking, making them resilient to automation.

Collaborate With AI, Don't Fight It

Ultimately, the best way to protect your career is to become adept at using the very technology that feels threatening. AI should be viewed as a partner that can accelerate innovation and boost productivity. Professionals who understand how to leverage AI to automate mundane tasks, while focusing their energy on human-centric challenges, will be the ones most in demand.

Instead of resisting AI, embrace it — experiment with its capabilities, critique its limitations, and find ways to make it

an asset in your own workflow. Those who approach AI with curiosity, rather than fear, are more likely to shape the future of work rather than be displaced by it.

Look Ahead — New Opportunities Are Emerging

AI may eliminate some traditional roles, particularly those based on repetitive tasks, but it is also creating new ones. Jobs in AI ethics, model evaluation, data strategy, human-AI interaction design, and explainable AI are all growing fields. Similarly, industries like healthcare, education, and climate tech are being reshaped by intelligent systems, opening up entirely new pathways for technologists.

If you focus solely on protecting your existing role, you may miss the chance to build something new. It's better to position yourself not as someone who is surviving the AI age, but as someone who is leading it.

Conclusion: Adapt, Evolve, and Lead

The rise of AI in technology work is real and significant. But it does not have to be a harbinger of job loss. Instead, it can be a catalyst for redefining what it means to be a tech professional. Those who learn to work with AI, rather than against it, will find themselves in roles that demand creativity, judgment and strategic thinking. The future belongs to those who can adapt, evolve and lead — individuals who understand that AI is not an adversary, but a tool that, when harnessed wisely, can empower them to accomplish far greater things than they ever could alone. In this new era, the most successful tech professionals won't be those who cling to the past — they'll be the ones who reinvent themselves for what comes next.

Supreme Court Hears Mamata Banerjee's Challenge to Voter List Revision in West Bengal



The Supreme Court on Monday took up the petition filed by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee challenging the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls being conducted in the state ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections. The hearing has assumed major political and constitutional significance, as it deals with the balance of power between the Election Commission of India and an elected state government.

A three-judge bench heard arguments from both sides, focusing on whether the voter list revision process could potentially disenfranchise large sections of the electorate. The court made it clear that while it would examine concerns raised by the petitioners, it would not permit any disruption to the constitutional process of electoral roll revision.

What Is the Dispute About?
The Special Intensive Revision is a comprehensive exercise undertaken by the Election Commission to update voter rolls by identifying duplicate entries, correcting errors, and removing ineligible names. The Election Commission maintains that the process is routine and legally mandated, particularly before major elections.

However, Mamata Banerjee has questioned both the timing and execution of the exercise

in West Bengal. In her petition, she argued that the SIR could lead to arbitrary deletion of genuine voters, especially women, migrant workers, minorities, and economically weaker sections. According to her submission, minor discrepancies such as spelling variations, address changes, or documentation gaps are being flagged as "logical discrepancies," placing lakhs of voters at risk of being excluded.

Concerns Raised By The State

The chief minister alleged that the scale of discrepancies identified during the SIR was unusually high and that the process lacked adequate safeguards. She expressed concern that married women and elderly voters were being disproportionately affected due to name changes or documentation mismatches.

Another major point of contention was the deployment of micro-observers and external officials. The state government argued that their role was unclear and that they were functioning beyond their prescribed authority, creating confusion at the grassroots level.

Election Commission's Stand

The Election Commission defended the SIR, stating that

the exercise was being conducted strictly according to established rules and guidelines. It told the court that the revision was necessary to ensure free and fair elections and to prevent impersonation, duplication, and bogus entries.

The Commission also raised concerns about delays in administrative cooperation from the state government, including the late submission of names of officials required to assist with the revision process. It further pointed out that some field officials conducting hearings faced logistical challenges and security concerns in certain areas.

Supreme Court's Observations

During the hearing, the Supreme Court sent a clear message that it would not allow any obstruction to the voter list revision process. The bench stressed that updating electoral rolls is a constitutional responsibility of the Election Commission and must proceed without interference.

At the same time, the court acknowledged that voter disenfranchisement is a serious issue and indicated that it would closely examine whether adequate procedural safeguards were in place. To accommodate ongoing legal scrutiny, the court allowed a limited extension in the SIR timeline.

Wider Political Implications

The case has intensified political tensions in West Bengal, with the ruling party portraying the SIR as an attempt to manipulate voter lists, while opposition parties accuse the state government of trying to delay a legitimate electoral exercise.

Multiple petitions related to the SIR are currently before the Supreme Court, making the issue larger than a single state government's challenge. Legal experts believe the court's final ruling could set an important precedent on how voter list revisions are conducted nationwide, especially close to elections.

What Lies Ahead

The Supreme Court will continue hearing arguments from all parties in the coming days. Its decision is expected to clarify the extent of the Election Commission's powers, the responsibilities of state governments, and the protections available to citizens against wrongful exclusion from voter rolls.

As West Bengal moves closer to elections, the outcome of this case could have a lasting impact on the state's political landscape and on the broader framework governing India's electoral process.

Maoist Issue in Chhattisgarh 'Not Due to Underdevelopment,' Amit Shah Reiterates March Deadline to End Naxalism



Union Home Minister Amit Shah has once again underlined the government's determination to eliminate Maoist insurgency in Chhattisgarh and across India by March 31, 2026, asserting that the root of the problem is ideological, not a lack of development or poor law and order.

Speaking at an event in Raipur, Shah rejected the idea that Naxalism has taken hold because of economic backwardness in tribal areas. He said that if underdevelopment were the main cause, the insurgency would have spread more evenly in other underdeveloped regions decades ago. Instead, he argued that the movement's persistence stems from a destructive Communist ideology, which posits that change must come through armed struggle rather than democratic processes.

Shah emphasised that correctly identifying the cause of left-wing extremism is crucial; misunder-

standing it as merely a development issue or law and order failure would undermine efforts to combat it effectively. He challenged critics to explain why the movement itself is named after an ideology — "Maoism" — that promotes conflict over constitutional engagement.

The home minister reiterated that the insurgency has been vastly reduced and that a coordinated security strategy, combined with infrastructure development, disruption of extremists' financial networks and a surrender policy, has brought India closer to removing the threat. He urged remaining Maoist cadres to lay down their arms and return to the mainstream, with assurances of rehabilitation for those willing to abandon violence.

Shah also pointed out that the government's counter-insurgency efforts are yielding results, highlighting significant progress in areas like Bastar, once considered

the heartland of Maoist activity. He reiterated confidence that Chhattisgarh — and the country at large — will be free of left-wing extremist violence by the government's March deadline.

Addressing critics, he said ideological solutions must be part of any strategy to tackle the insurgency and that attributing the problem solely to economic or social factors would be misleading. He said that where extremists have operated, their ideology has led to destruction of institutions like schools and health centres, blocking development rather than enabling it.

Shah's remarks came during a high-level review meeting involving central and state security officials, underlining the government's multi-pronged approach to addressing Maoist influence. His reiterated march deadline highlights a firm timeline for ending one of India's longest-standing internal security challenges.

Naveen Patnaik Flags "Systemic Exploitation" of Farmers at Odisha Mandis



Former Odisha Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition Naveen Patnaik has accused the state government of failing to protect farmers during the ongoing paddy procurement season, alleging systemic exploitation at mandis across the state. In a letter addressed to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Patnaik said that farmers are facing severe hardship despite assurances of smooth and transparent procurement.

Patnaik described the current procurement season as a period of deep distress for cultivators, stating that promises of hassle-free procurement have not translated into reality on the ground. According to him, many farmers are being forced to accept unfair deductions from their produce, reducing their earnings and pushing them into financial uncertainty.

Allegations of Unfair Deductions

A key concern raised in the letter is the practice known as Katni-Chhatni, where a portion of paddy is deducted at mandis on grounds such as moisture levels or grain quality. Patnaik alleged that farmers are losing five to seven kilograms per quintal through such deductions, often without transparent justification. He claimed this practice benefits middlemen and millers at the expense of cul-

tivators, while enforcement mechanisms remain weak.

The opposition leader argued that these deductions directly violate assurances made to farmers and undermine the purpose of minimum support price procurement, which is meant to provide income security to growers.

Questions Over Government Promises

Patnaik also questioned the government's implementation of its election commitments. He pointed out that assurances were given to increase support for paddy farmers and eliminate unfair deductions, but the situation at procurement centres suggests otherwise. He criticised the decision to cap input subsidies at 150 quintals per farmer, saying it contradicts earlier promises and penalises farmers with higher output.

According to him, such policy decisions have disproportionately affected hardworking cultivators who depend entirely on paddy sales for their livelihood.

Delays and Operational Issues

Beyond deductions, Patnaik highlighted several operational failures at mandis. These include delays in lifting procured paddy, malfunctioning token systems, inadequate facilities at procurement centres, and prolonged delays in payments.

He noted that farmers were promised quick payments through direct bank transfers, but many are still waiting weeks after selling their produce.

These delays, he warned, are forcing farmers to resort to distress sales at prices below the minimum support price to meet urgent household expenses.

Call for Immediate Action

The former chief minister urged the state government to take immediate corrective measures. His suggestions include deploying special monitoring teams at mandis to prevent illegal deductions, removing the cap on input subsidies, ensuring timely payment to farmers, and guaranteeing swift lifting of paddy after procurement.

Patnaik cautioned that continued neglect of these issues could lead to growing dissatisfaction and unrest among farmers across rural Odisha.

Emphasis on Farmer Dignity

Concluding his appeal, Patnaik stressed that farmers are not seeking handouts but fair compensation and dignity for their labour. He said agriculture remains the backbone of Odisha's economy and that restoring trust in the procurement system is essential to safeguard the welfare of the farming community.

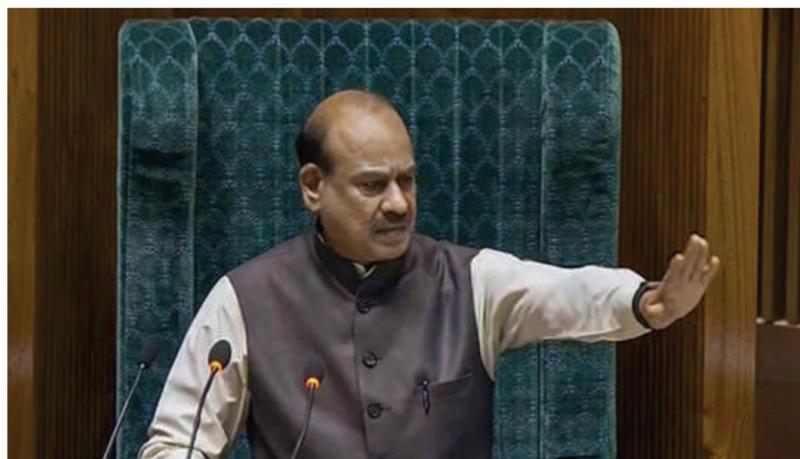
INDIA Bloc Unites to Move No-Confidence Motion Against Lok Sabha Speaker

Opposition parties under the INDIA bloc have decided to move a no-confidence motion against Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, escalating tensions in Parliament following his controversial remarks about Opposition MPs. The decision reflects rare unity among Opposition parties and signals a strong protest against what they describe as bias and misuse of authority by the Speaker.

The move follows comments made by the Speaker during a recent Lok Sabha session, where he claimed to have received information suggesting that certain Congress MPs might create an unusual or disruptive incident during proceedings. Opposition members strongly objected to the remarks, saying they were made without evidence and cast unwarranted suspicion on elected representatives.

Congress MP S. Jothimani emerged as one of the strongest voices against the statement, calling it baseless and defamatory. She argued that it was inappropriate for the Speaker, who is expected to remain neutral and protect the dignity of the House, to publicly make such allegations against Opposition MPs. According to her, the comments undermined trust in parliamentary functioning and damaged the reputation of those targeted.

Several Opposition MPs, including women parliamentar-



ians, expressed particular concern over the remarks. They said the comments unfairly questioned their conduct and integrity, and highlighted the additional challenges faced by women representatives in politics. In written representations, they conveyed that such statements from the chair weaken democratic norms and discourage meaningful participation in parliamentary debate.

Confirming the Opposition's collective stand, leaders said that all parties within the INDIA bloc have agreed to support the no-confidence motion. They stressed that the move is not directed by any single party but repre-

sents a shared concern over the manner in which parliamentary proceedings are being conducted. The motion aims to formally register the Opposition's lack of confidence in the Speaker's ability to preside over the House impartially.

The controversy comes amid ongoing friction in the Lok Sabha over disruptions, suspensions and complaints from Opposition parties about inadequate opportunities to speak on key national issues. Opposition leaders have repeatedly accused the government and the chair of curtailing dissenting voices during important discussions.

While no-confidence motions against the Speaker are rare, Opposition leaders maintain that the step is constitutionally valid and necessary to defend parliamentary democracy. They argue that the Speaker's role demands strict neutrality and that any perceived departure from this principle must be challenged through established parliamentary mechanisms.

The proposed motion is expected to further intensify political confrontation in Parliament. Whether it is admitted for discussion and how the ruling side responds could have significant implications for the functioning of the House in the days ahead.

Bangladesh Election 2026: A Contested Vote, Haunted by Memories of Violence and 2014 Turmoil

Bangladesh is gearing up for its general election on February 12, 2026, a vote seen as one of the most significant in the nation's history. This election marks the first competitive national poll since widespread political upheaval led to the ouster and exile of long-time leader Sheikh Hasina, and comes amid deep tensions, lingering fears of violence and complex political realignments.

Legacy of Past Bloodshed

Bangladesh's modern electoral history has often been marked by intense conflict. One of the most controversial elections — in 2014 — was marred by a mass opposition boycott, low voter turnout, and widespread violence. Clashes between political groups and security forces saw scores killed as the ruling party pushed forward with the vote despite shutdowns and opposition refusal to participate. The absence of credible competition in that poll left a lasting scar on public trust in the democratic process and set a backdrop of fear and mistrust that still resonates today.

Analysts say past elections across Bangladesh have rarely been free from lethal clashes, arson attacks, arrests and political intimidation — a pattern that has deep roots in the country's political culture.

A New Political Landscape

This year's election, however, is unfolding in very different circumstances. The Awami League, historically the dominant political force and led for years by Sheikh Hasina, is barred from contesting. Hasina, now in exile, was convicted in a court trial and handed a



sentence in absentia linked to actions taken during political unrest. Many senior figures from her inner circle are also facing legal proceedings, signalling a dramatic shift in the political order.

In their absence, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and allied parties — including Jamaat-e-Islami — are fighting for dominance. Polling suggests the BNP could secure a significant share of votes, with its leader returning from exile to take a central role in the campaign.

This election is widely viewed as a rare open contest after years of political domination by a single party, and many young voters, especially those born after 2000, are seen as pivotal to shaping the outcome.

Tensions, Violence and Security Concerns

Despite hopes for a peaceful vote, reports indicate that elec-

tion campaigning has already seen a spike in violence, including clashes between rival party supporters and attacks on candidates. Various groups have filed complaints about threats to personal safety, prompting worries about poll-time security across constituencies. Such tensions revive memories of past polls where political violence shaped voter behaviour and election credibility.

Security forces have been deployed in large numbers to safeguard polling centres and manage potential conflict zones. Authorities stress their commitment to a safe and orderly election, but rights observers warn that acts of intimidation and violence could still undermine confidence in the process.

Minority Communities and Societal Strains

Concerns over the safety of minority communities, par-

ticularly Hindus, have also risen as the election nears. There are fears that communal tensions — sometimes stoked by political narratives — could deepen during the campaign, adding another layer of societal anxiety.

What's at Stake

For Bangladesh, the 2026 election represents both a break from an era of entrenched political control and a test of whether a more open, competitive democratic process can take root. The poll is being closely watched not just domestically but regionally, as it may influence Bangladesh's future governance, social harmony and its role on the South Asian stage.

As voters prepare to go to the polls on February 12, the nation contends with the shadows of its electoral past even as it looks toward a potentially transformative moment in its democratic journey.

Iran's Supreme Leader Breaks 37-Year Tradition Amid Rising US-Iran Tensions



In a move that has drawn global attention, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei skipped a key annual military event for the first time in 37 years, breaking a long-standing tradition he had followed since assuming office in 1989.

The event, held every year on February 8, marks the historic pledge of loyalty by Iran's air force officers to the leadership of the Islamic Revolution. For decades, Khamenei personally addressed the gathering, even during periods of intense domestic or international crisis, making his absence this year particularly significant.

Instead, the meeting was led by senior military leadership, with top air force and air defence commanders in attendance. No official explanation was offered for Khamenei's absence, which has fueled specula-

tion both within Iran and internationally.

The development comes amid heightened tensions between Iran and the United States. Washington has increased its military presence in the region, deploying additional naval and air assets as disagreements over Iran's nuclear programme and regional activities continue. Recent statements from US leadership have further escalated concerns about potential military action, adding to the already volatile situation.

Analysts view the annual ceremony as more than symbolic. It traditionally serves as a public reaffirmation of the Supreme Leader's authority over the armed forces and highlights ideological unity within Iran's military establishment. Breaking from this ritual, therefore, is being interpreted by observers as a possible signal of

increased caution or heightened security concerns.

Some experts suggest that the decision may reflect a strategic shift, prioritising safety and discretion over ceremonial appearances during a period of uncertainty. Others believe it underscores the seriousness with which Iranian leadership is viewing the current geopolitical environment.

While Iranian state messaging around the event focused on military preparedness and deterrence, Khamenei's absence has inevitably raised questions about how Iran is navigating external pressure. Whether this move marks a temporary precaution or a deeper change in approach, it stands out as a rare departure from nearly four decades of established practice — and a sign of the tense moment unfolding in the region.

Ajit Doval's Canada Visit Signals Reset in Relations, Sends Strong Message on Extremism

India's National Security Adviser Ajit Doval has concluded a two-day visit to Canada, a move widely seen as an important step toward easing strained relations between the two countries. The visit comes after months of diplomatic tension and is being viewed as a signal of renewed engagement focused on security cooperation and mutual interests.

During his stay in Ottawa, Doval held meetings with senior Canadian officials responsible for national security, intelligence and public safety. The discussions were aimed at rebuilding trust and re-establishing structured dialogue between the two sides, with an emphasis on practical cooperation rather than political rhetoric.

A key outcome of the visit was an agreement to strengthen collaboration on national security and law enforcement. Both countries agreed to develop a joint work plan that in-



cludes the appointment of liaison officers in each other's capitals. These officers are expected to improve coordination, facilitate faster information sharing and address issues such as organised crime, drug trafficking, cyber threats and illegal migration.

The talks also covered cooperation in cybersecurity, intelligence sharing and measures to counter financial fraud. Of-

ficials from both sides highlighted the importance of institutional mechanisms to ensure consistent communication and effective responses to emerging threats.

Doval's visit also carried a clear message regarding concerns over extremist activities. India has repeatedly raised issues related to radical groups operating abroad, and the discussions underscored

the need for stronger action against networks that promote violence and threaten national security. The focus on countering extremism was seen as a central theme of the engagement.

Relations between India and Canada had been under significant strain following a major diplomatic fallout in 2023, leading to a sharp reduction in high-level interactions. Against this backdrop, the tone and substance of the latest talks suggest an attempt by both sides to move toward a more stable and constructive relationship.

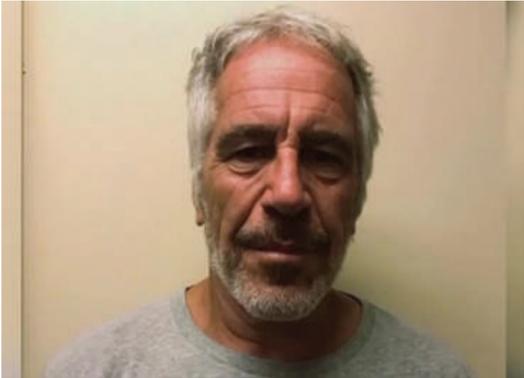
Observers believe the visit may pave the way for further diplomatic engagement, including potential high-level political exchanges in the future. While challenges remain, the emphasis on cooperation, security and dialogue indicates a cautious but meaningful effort to reset ties between New Delhi and Ottawa.

Epstein Death Announcement Dated a Day Before He Was Found Dead, New Files Reveal

Newly released legal documents have ignited fresh controversy over the death of Jeffrey Epstein, the convicted sex offender who died in a New York federal jail in August 2019 while awaiting trial on sex trafficking charges. Among the trove of records made public are draft statements from federal prosecutors that appear to have been prepared a full day before Epstein was actually found dead.

According to these disclosures, one of the draft statements attributed to the U.S. Attorney's Office in Manhattan bears a date of August 9, 2019 — even though Epstein's body was not discovered until the morning of August 10. That draft, intended to announce his death, describes him as being found unresponsive in his cell and later pronounced dead. The existence of such a document has raised eyebrows because it seems to predate the official discovery and public confirmation of his death.

The documents include multiple slightly different versions of the prosecutor's state-



ment, with some pages redacted differently than others. The variations suggest these were internal drafts rather than final public releases. Nevertheless, the dating discrepancy has sparked questions about the timeline of events around Epstein's final hours.

Epstein's death was officially ruled a suicide by hanging, but it has long been the subject of public scrutiny and con-

spiracy theories. Critics have repeatedly questioned how a high-profile inmate awaiting trial on serious charges could die in custody under circumstances involving reported failures in supervision and monitoring. The apparent pre-dating of a death announcement has added another twist to the debate over what truly happened inside the Metropolitan Correctional Center that night.

In addition to the draft statements, other newly released records — including surveillance reports and internal agency communications — are continuing to draw attention. Some reviewers have highlighted unusual details in the footage from the night before Epstein was found, deepening calls for a more thorough examination of the case.

At the same time, legal experts caution that draft documents can sometimes be prepared ahead of time as administrative convenience, and a dated draft may not necessarily prove anything unusual on its own. Still, critics argue that the precise dating and content — written as though Epstein had already died — are bound to fuel further speculation about the accuracy of the official narrative.

As investigators and journalists continue to analyze the enormous volume of newly disclosed material, the controversy around Epstein's death remains a topic of intense public interest.

Epstein Files Reveal Attempts to Connect with Putin, But No Proof of Meeting



Newly released documents from the U.S. Department of Justice have thrust fresh light on the late financier Jeffrey Epstein's global contacts — including his efforts to connect with Russia's leadership and high-ranking officials over many years.

Connections with Other Russian Figures

Aside from attempts to reach Putin, the files outline Epstein's interactions with other individuals linked to Russia. For example, the former Russian ambassador to the United Nations was a regular contact until his death in 2017, and Epstein even offered help to the ambassador's son in securing employment in the United States. The records also show Epstein communicating with Russian foreign officials through mutual associates, including discussions about Moscow visits and official meetings.

Repeated Efforts to Establish Contact

The documents show that Epstein expressed a desire to meet Putin on multiple occasions, often discussing this with intermediaries. A Norwegian politician who served as secretary general of the Council of Europe appears in the correspondence as someone Epstein hoped could help facilitate such meetings. In one exchange, Epstein suggested to this intermediary that Putin's foreign minister might help arrange a conversation. At times, Epstein framed these approaches as part of efforts to tap into Russian investment opportunities or to discuss economic cooperation.

Despite his repeated attempts over the years — par-

ticularly from the early 2010s through 2018 — no direct meeting with Putin is documented. Emails and messages reflect Epstein's eagerness to leverage contacts to secure high-level introductions, but the records do not show concrete outcomes from these efforts.

What the Files Do — and Don't — Show

Overall, the newly released Epstein files paint a picture of a man who actively sought connections with powerful individuals around the world, including those in Russia. While they show persistent attempts to connect with President Putin and other officials, they do not provide proof of an actual meeting or a formal relationship.

The documents also highlight the complexity of Epstein's international network — one that intersected with politicians, diplomats and business figures from multiple countries. As legal and investigative teams continue to sift through the archive, more details about these connections may emerge. However, for now, the files raise questions without definitive evidence of direct ties between Epstein and Russia's president.

International Reactions and Investigations

The revelations have drawn attention beyond the United States. Leaders in European countries, including Poland, have announced plans to investigate possible

Sensex Soars 500 Points, Nifty Above 25,850 as India-US Trade Deal Lifts Markets



Indian equity markets opened the week on a strong note, with benchmark indices climbing sharply amid optimism over a fresh trade agreement between India and the United States. On Monday, Dalal Street saw broad-based buying that sent both the BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty 50 index higher, reflecting improved investor sentiment.

The Sensex surged about 485 points, while the Nifty crossed the 25,850 level, marking a solid start to the week for equities. This up-move follows sustained positive cues from global markets as well as optimism around economic cooperation between New Delhi and Washington. Investors reacted enthusiastically to indications that the two countries are close to finalising a trade framework that could lower tariffs and enhance market access for exporters on both sides.

The sentiment boost was reinforced by ro-

bust corporate results from major listed firms. In particular, strong quarterly earnings from India's largest public sector bank helped support financial stocks, which along with broader buying interest contributed to the rally. Banking, financial services, mid-cap and small-cap segments also saw gains, suggesting broad participation across market segments rather than a narrow surge in select stocks.

Market participants pointed out that the trade deal narrative has been a key driver. Shares of export-oriented sectors responded positively, as reduced tariffs would improve competitiveness and potentially increase overseas demand for Indian goods. Meanwhile, positive feedback from global equities, including gains in Asian markets and recovery on Wall Street, helped fuel confidence among domestic investors.

Some heavyweight stocks — including

names from banking, finance, industrial and consumer sectors — were among the top gainers, reflecting wide market support for the rally. This lifted overall market breadth, with a majority of stocks trading in the green during the session.

Currency markets also registered strength, with the rupee seeing supportive momentum, which further bolstered risk appetite among equity investors. Analysts noted that the interim trade framework between India and the US has removed a significant overhang that had previously weighed on sentiment, allowing foreign and domestic investors to return to risk assets with confidence.

While investors remain cautious as the details of the trade pact continue to evolve, Monday's strong performance suggests optimism is high for further economic cooperation and potential upside for Indian markets in the near term.

SEBI Considers Tighter Rules on IPO Fund Tracking Amid Rapid Public Offering Boom

India's markets regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), is evaluating stricter oversight of how companies use the funds they raise from initial public offerings (IPOs), rights issues and other equity fund-raising routes. The move comes as the pace and volume of public offerings — especially from small and medium enterprises — swell, raising concerns about investor protection and transparency.

At the centre of SEBI's deliberations is a proposal to strengthen the monitoring framework that tracks how companies deploy the capital they collect from the public. Currently, listed companies that exceed certain thresholds must appoint independent monitoring agencies to report periodically on the use of issue proceeds. These monitors are intended to ensure that funds are spent in line with the objectives set out in the IPO prospectus and disclosed to investors.

However, SEBI has observed ongoing delays and gaps in reporting, along with instances where funds were diverted or misused shortly after listing. In several small SME issues, investigations uncovered that significant amounts were siphoned off or used in ways that did not match the stated purpose of the IPO, prompting calls for tighter controls.

To address these con-



cerns, SEBI is considering several enhancements to the existing rules:

- **Mandatory Direct Reporting to Exchanges:** Monitoring agencies — including credit rating firms — could be required to submit utilisation reports directly to stock exchanges within a fixed deadline after each quarter, improving timeliness and transparency of disclosures.
- **Stricter Compliance Timelines:** Reports might need to be submitted with-

in a set number of days from the end of a reporting period, ensuring that regulators and investors get up-to-date information on fund usage.

• **Penalties for Non-Cooperation:** Companies that delay or fail to cooperate with monitoring agents could face formal flagging and possible penalties. This could include situations where issuers withhold data, miss deadlines, or fail to pay monitoring fees — actions currently treated as

non-cooperation.

• **Broader Monitoring Requirements:** SEBI is also exploring whether to remove the current minimum issue size thresholds that determine when a monitoring agency must be appointed, effectively extending the requirement to a larger set of IPOs.

These reforms, if adopted, would empower monitoring agencies to play a more proactive and transparent role in protecting investor interests. The aim is to reduce misuse of public

funds and ensure that capital raised through the primary markets is used efficiently for growth, expansion and other stated corporate objectives.

SEBI's push for stronger fund utilisation norms reflects wider efforts to build investor confidence and uphold market integrity at a time when the IPO market is booming and retail participation remains high. It underscores the regulator's focus on balancing capital-raising momentum with robust safeguards against financial misreporting and misuse.

Vodafone Idea Shares Jump After Birla Increases Stake; Brokerages Turn Bullish



Shares of Vodafone Idea rallied sharply in market trading after news emerged that promoter Kumar Mangalam Birla bought additional shares of the debt-laden telecom company, sparking renewed investor interest. The stock climbed nearly 5%, marking one of its strongest sessions in recent weeks.

The sharp upside in the stock came after data showed Birla had purchased additional shares from the open market over multiple sessions, increasing his personal holding in Vodafone Idea. Although his overall stake remains relatively small as a percentage of the company, his continued purchases have been seen by investors as a sign of confidence in the business outlook.

Adding to the positive sentiment, domestic brokerage Emkay Global upgraded its rating on Vodafone Idea shares from a "Sell" to an "Add." At the same time, the firm doubled its target price to 12 per share from an earlier target of

6. This upgrade highlights an improved view of the telecom operator's prospects and contributed to the buying momentum in the stock.

Emkay's reassessment was based not only on the promoter's increased stake but also on recent regulatory developments that have eased Vodafone Idea's financial burdens. One of the key supportive factors cited by the brokerage is the government-approved moratorium on the company's adjusted gross revenue (AGR) liabilities, which allows minimal annual payments over an extended period. This moratorium reduces the immediate cash flow pressure and is seen as a potential lifeline, improving short-term survival prospects.

The brokerage also pointed out that easing these historical liabilities could help Vodafone Idea access additional bank funding, which is crucial as it seeks to expand its 4G network and roll out 5G services. A stronger network and improved capital posi-

tion would be key to arresting subscriber churn and enhancing competitiveness with larger rivals.

Despite the optimism, analysts caution that significant risks remain. Vodafone Idea still faces challenges in expanding its subscriber base, increasing average revenue per user (ARPU), and moving more customers onto newer 4G and 5G networks. These operational hurdles will need to be addressed for a sustainable turnaround.

Still, Monday's trading session reflected a clear shift in market sentiment. The stock's breakout from a short losing streak coupled with a positive brokerage stance and promoter interest suggests that investors are increasingly willing to bet on a recovery narrative. With renewed confidence in the telecom operator's strategic direction, Vodafone Idea's shares have found firmer footing, offering a more constructive outlook for traders and long-term holders alike.

Gems and Jewellery Stocks Rally as India-US Trade Framework Signals Tariff Relief

Shares of several gems and jewellery companies surged sharply in early trade after optimism grew around an interim India-US trade framework that signals the removal of reciprocal tariffs on Indian exports of gems and diamonds. The announcement triggered strong buying interest in export-oriented stocks, pushing some counters up by as much as 17 percent.

Goldiam International emerged as the top gainer in the segment, with its stock jumping nearly 18 percent during the session. Investors reacted positively to the possibility that Indian diamond and jewellery exporters may soon regain cost competitiveness in the crucial US market, which remains one of the largest destinations for India's gems and jewellery exports.

Other stocks in the sector also posted solid gains. Kalyan Jewellers, Tribhovandas Bhimji Zaveri, Senco Gold, and Thangamayil Jewellery traded higher on strong volumes. Rajesh Exports hit the upper circuit in early



trade, while Titan Company also saw upward momentum, reflecting broad-based optimism across the jewellery space.

The rally followed the release of details from the interim trade framework between India and the United States, which outlines steps to deepen bilateral trade ties. A key highlight of the framework is the proposal to eliminate

reciprocal tariffs imposed by the US on several Indian export categories, including gems and diamonds. While the removal is subject to finalisation of the agreement, markets have already priced in the potential benefits.

The gems and jewellery sector had been under pressure in recent months due to higher tariffs, which impacted export vol-

umes and margins. Increased duties had made Indian products less competitive in the US market, leading to reduced orders and cautious outlooks from exporters. The prospect of tariff removal has therefore been seen as a major relief for the industry.

Market participants believe that easing trade barriers could revive demand from international buyers and improve earnings visibility for exporters over the coming quarters. Given the labour-intensive nature of the gems and jewellery industry, improved exports could also have a positive ripple effect across the supply chain.

Overall, the sharp rally in jewellery stocks reflects growing confidence that improved trade relations between India and the US may translate into tangible gains for export-driven sectors. Investors will now closely watch further announcements and clarity on the implementation timeline of the proposed tariff changes.

Bank Nifty Nears 61,000 as SBI Shares Surge on Strong Q3 Performance

Banking stocks witnessed strong buying interest, pushing the Bank Nifty index close to the 61,000 mark, as investors reacted positively to robust quarterly earnings from major lenders, led by State Bank of India (SBI). The rally highlighted renewed confidence in the banking sector's earnings outlook.

The Bank Nifty advanced sharply during the session, moving past key technical levels and trading near 60,800-61,000, supported by heavy volumes in frontline banking stocks. Analysts noted that the index has managed to hold above crucial support zones, reinforcing a positive near-term trend.

SBI Leads the Rally

SBI emerged as the top performer in the banking space, with its shares jumping nearly 7 percent to hit fresh 52-week highs. The surge followed the lender's strong third-quarter results, in which it reported its highest ever quarterly profit. Growth in net interest income, steady credit expansion, and improved asset qual-



ity boosted investor sentiment.

Market participants welcomed the bank's consistent earnings delivery, with optimism growing around its ability to sustain profitability amid stable margins and healthy loan demand. SBI's performance also lifted other public sector banks, contributing significantly to the Bank Nifty's upward momentum.

Broad-Based Strength Across Banks

The rally was not limited to SBI alone. Several other banking stocks, including private and public sector lenders, traded higher during the session. Gains were seen across large private banks, mid-sized lenders, and select small finance banks, indicating broad participation in the secto-

ral upmove.

Improving macroeconomic conditions, strong credit growth and stable interest rate expectations have helped support banking stocks in recent weeks. Institutional buying further added to the positive sentiment.

Key Technical Levels to Watch

From a technical perspective, analysts identified 59,800 as a key support level for Bank Nifty, while 60,500 and 61,000 remain immediate resistance zones. A decisive move above these levels could open the door for further upside, while a breach below support may lead to short-term consolidation.

Outlook

The banking index's strength reflects growing confidence in the sector's fundamentals, particularly after strong earnings from a key heavyweight like SBI. With loan growth holding firm and asset quality remaining stable, investors remain optimistic about the sector's medium-term prospects.

Family Making Sandwiches on Train Triggers Online Debate on Public Etiquette



A short video showing a family preparing sandwiches inside an Indian Railways train compartment has gone viral on social media, sparking a heated debate about civic sense and appropriate behaviour in public spaces. What seemed like a harmless travel moment to some quickly turned into a larger discussion on etiquette, shared spaces, and personal responsibility.

The video shows several members of a family seated on their train berths during a journey. They are seen opening packets of bread, spreading chutney, cutting vegetables, and assembling sandwiches on their seats. The relaxed, casual activity appeared routine to many viewers, but it did not sit well with everyone online.

Critics of the video argued that a train coach is a shared public space and not the right place to prepare food from scratch. Many social media users described the act as inconsiderate, saying it could inconvenience fellow passengers through food smells, clutter, or hygiene concerns. Some commented that travellers should either carry ready-to-eat food or depend on railway catering services rather than turning a seat into a makeshift kitchen.

Others widened the discussion to civic behaviour in general, saying such actions reflect a lack of awareness about how individual comfort can affect others in confined spaces. A few users suggested that stricter enforcement of rules related to cleanliness and public conduct on trains is necessary, arguing that guidelines often exist but are rarely followed.

On the other side of the debate, many people defended the family, stating that there was nothing wrong with preparing simple food as long as no mess was created and co-passengers were not disturbed. Supporters pointed out that assembling sandwiches does not involve cooking or the use of any appliances, making it far less intrusive than people claimed.

Several users also highlighted that homemade food is often healthier, more affordable, and more hygienic than outside meals, especially during long train journeys. They questioned why such a basic activity was being treated as a serious offence and accused critics of overreacting to a harmless situation.

Some defenders added that context matters — whether the family cleaned up afterward, whether the compartment was fully occupied by them, and whether anyone nearby objected. Without that information, they argued, judging the family harshly was unfair.

The viral clip has ultimately ignited a broader conversation about how people perceive personal freedom in shared spaces. While opinions remain divided, the incident underlines how everyday actions can quickly become internet flashpoints, reflecting changing expectations around public behaviour and coexistence during travel.

Husband, Wife and Career Clash: Viral Divorce Case Sparks Debate on Roles and Expectations

A social media post about a couple's divorce has ignited widespread discussion online, centering on modern marriage, career aspirations and traditional family expectations. The story, shared on the microblogging platform X, describes a tech couple — both engineers — whose marriage reportedly ended after the wife refused to quit her job to care full-time for her ailing mother-in-law.

According to the account that went viral, the couple were school sweethearts who built a successful life together. They married, had two children, and were financially self-sufficient. The wife was described as hardworking and committed to her profession, even working until late in her pregnancies and returning to a better-paying role after maternity breaks. Despite this, tension arose when the husband's mother fell ill and he expected his wife to leave her career to become her full-time caregiver.

The woman reportedly offered alternatives: she proposed that she continue working to provide financial support while the husband took a career break, offered help around the home, and even suggested that her own mother could assist with child-



care. However, these suggestions were allegedly dismissed, with the couple's family insisting that the daughter-in-law's primary duty was to care for the mother-in-law. As disagreements intensified, emotional strain mounted, and the wife eventually moved back to her parents' home with their children.

The narrative claims that the husband later sent a legal notice threatening divorce. Feeling that her autonomy and professional identity were being undermined, the wife filed for divorce herself. The couple reportedly parted ways, with the

woman asserting her right to make decisions about her own life and career.

The story quickly drew reactions from users on social media, sparking a heated debate. Many people expressed support for the wife's decision, arguing that in a modern, egalitarian society, both partners should be able to pursue their careers without being pressured into traditional caregiving roles. Commenters criticised the notion that women should automatically be expected to give up their professional ambitions for family obligations, particularly when

both partners are capable of sharing responsibilities or hiring professional care for elderly relatives.

Some users also questioned why alternatives weren't more seriously considered, such as professional caregiving services, and emphasised that responsibility for one's parents should not be shifted solely onto a spouse. Others pointed out that resentment and ego could also play a role when traditional expectations clash with changing realities of dual-career households.

Critics of the couple's split noted that relationships require communica-

tion and compromise, while supporters of the woman's choice highlighted the importance of autonomy and equality in marriage. The online debate reflects broader societal tensions in India and beyond about gender roles, career priorities, and the evolving nature of family responsibilities.

The viral post resonated widely, as many people saw in this case a larger conversation about how careers, caregiving duties and personal ambitions intersect within modern relationships — and how far cultural norms will adapt in the face of shifting expectations.

Kanpur Lamborghini Crash Brings '4018' Number into Spotlight, Sparks Online Curiosity

A high-speed accident involving a luxury Lamborghini in Kanpur has not only raised concerns about road safety but has also triggered intense curiosity on social media over a four-digit number seen on the car's licence plate — 4018. In the days following the crash, the number has become a talking point online, with users speculating about its significance and repeated appearance.

The incident took place on a busy stretch of road in Kanpur when a Lamborghini reportedly being driven at a very high speed lost control and rammed into multiple vehicles and pedestrians. Several people were injured in the accident, creating panic among bystanders. Police quickly reached the scene, seized the vehicle and launched an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the crash.

The supercar involved in the accident was a Lamborghini Revuelto, one of the most expensive and

rare models seen on Indian roads, with a price tag running into several crores. While the car's luxury and power drew attention, what truly caught the internet's imagination was its registration number — 4018 — which soon began trending across social media platforms.

Online users noticed that the same number reportedly appears on multiple high-end vehicles linked to the owner's family. This repetition sparked speculation, with some suggesting the number might hold personal or symbolic importance. Others took the discussion further, linking the number to numerology and attaching various interpretations to the digits, even though such beliefs have no scientific basis.

Eyewitness accounts of the crash added to the intensity of the discussion. According to those present, the speeding car first hit an autorickshaw, then struck a parked motorcycle before crashing into a



roadside structure. The force of the collision reportedly threw the motorcyclist several feet away. Locals quickly gathered at the scene, and the situation became tense before authorities intervened.

The driver, identified as the son of a well-known businessman, was taken into custody for questioning and medical examination. Police have stated

that a detailed investigation is underway to determine whether overspeeding, negligence or other factors played a role in the accident.

As the legal process continues, online attention has drifted from the accident itself to the symbolism surrounding the number 4018. While some see it as mere coincidence, others view it as a reflection

of how sensational incidents involving luxury, wealth and power often take on a life of their own on the internet.

Ultimately, the focus on a licence plate number highlights how quickly public discourse can shift in the age of social media — turning a serious road accident into a mix of safety concerns, speculation and viral curiosity.

Pune Man's Matrimony Tracker Excel Sheet Goes Viral, Sparking Mixed Reactions



A creative take on the age-old tradition of arranged marriage has recently taken social media by storm. A young data analyst from Pune shared an Excel spreadsheet he made to organize and track all the potential partners suggested to him during his arranged-marriage search — and the idea quickly went viral with thousands of views and likes.

The man, who goes by Vikas on Instagram, explained that he built the spreadsheet to manage the constant stream of matches his parents were proposing and to provide them with regular updates. As he scrolled through biodata, conversations and decisions, he realized he needed a structured way to keep everything in order. So, like any organised data professional would, he turned to his trusted spreadsheet tool and built what he jokingly calls his "Weekend Tracker."

On the spreadsheet, Vikas lists the first names of each prospective bride along with key details about the interactions. Multiple columns capture feedback from both sides — his impressions, their responses, and notes such as "good conversation," "no vibe," "no follow-up" or "values aligned." In some cases, he even tracks follow-up call dates and the overall status of the match. The template became not just a tool for him, but something he shared with friends who were going through similar matchmaking journeys.

In his Instagram caption, Vikas

wrote a light-hearted line that resonated with many: "When life gives you arranged marriage, build a tracker." The simple phrase struck a chord online, with many users finding the organised approach amusing, clever and highly relatable.

Comments under his post ranged from laughter to earnest engagement. Some people joked about the likelihood of "dashboard review meetings" with parents and relatives to discuss match progress. Others shared stories from their own experiences with arranged marriage, with one person noting how their own Excel sheet had grown to include hundreds of names and helped them reflect on what went well or didn't in past conversations.

Not all reactions were just about humour. Many users pointed out how challenging the modern arranged-marriage process can be, especially when balancing work, family expectations and personal preferences. For those navigating multiple profiles and conversations at the same time, a structured tracker clearly seemed like a sensible idea.

What started as a practical exercise for one person has now turned into a viral moment capturing the quirks, frustrations and occasional humour of arranged marriage in contemporary India. Whether viewed as a fun idea or a functional tool, the spreadsheet-based approach has definitely struck a nerve among people wrestling with the matchmaking maze.

Bengaluru House Help's Thoughtful Anniversary Gesture Wins Hearts Online



A simple yet deeply touching moment from Bengaluru has captured the internet's attention, proving once again that kindness does not need grandeur to leave a lasting impact. A video showing a house help surprising the

couple she works for on their wedding anniversary has gone viral, winning hearts across social media platforms.

The video, shared by the couple themselves, shows the house help standing shyly with a rose and a

chocolate, ready to surprise them. Earlier, during a casual conversation, she had learned that it was their wedding anniversary. Without being asked or prompted, she decided to mark the special day in her own heartfelt way.

What makes the moment especially touching is the thought behind the gesture. The woman reportedly asked her husband to arrange the rose and chocolate through a delivery service so that everything would be ready on time. Her effort reflected genuine affection rather than obligation, turning a small act into a meaningful celebration.

The couple's reaction added warmth to the moment. Visibly moved, they thanked her sincerely and expressed their appreciation with affection and respect. In a touching exchange, the couple even bent down to touch her feet, requesting her continued blessings — a gesture that resonated strongly with viewers and highlighted mutual respect beyond social roles.

Social media users were quick to respond with praise and admiration. Many described the moment as "pure," "wholesome," and "emotionally

uplifting." Viewers appreciated both the house help's kindness and the couple's humble response, noting how rare and refreshing such genuine interactions are in an age dominated by curated and flashy content.

Several commenters pointed out that the video stood out precisely because it showcased simple human values — gratitude, care and emotional connection. Others remarked that respect and warmth in everyday relationships matter far more than expensive gifts or grand celebrations.

The viral clip has since become a reminder of how small, sincere gestures can create powerful emotional moments. In a digital world often filled with negativity and excess, this quiet act of kindness from a Bengaluru home offered a refreshing pause — reminding people that empathy and thoughtfulness still thrive in everyday life.

Who Is Dhakshineswar Suresh? Meet India's New 6-Foot-5 Davis Cup Star

Indian tennis has found a new hero in Dhakshineswar Suresh, a towering 6-foot-5 player whose breakthrough performance in the Davis Cup has captured national attention. With nerves of steel and an imposing presence on court, Suresh played a decisive role in India's memorable victory in the Davis Cup qualifiers, announcing himself as a major prospect for the future.

Early Life and Background

Dhakshineswar Suresh hails from Madurai, Tamil Nadu, where his journey in tennis began at a young age. Known for his athletic build and powerful game, he quickly stood out in junior circuits. His height and reach gave him a natural advantage, especially on faster courts, but it was his discipline and work ethic that set him apart.

To further develop his game, Suresh moved to the United States, where he competed in college tennis, a phase that proved crucial in shaping his professional mindset. Playing against strong international competition helped him refine his technique, fitness and match temperament.

Breakthrough in the Davis Cup

Suresh's defining moment came during India's recent Davis Cup tie, where he delivered a per-



formance that exceeded expectations. Making just his second appearance in the prestigious team competition, he shouldered responsibility in a high-pressure situation and delivered when it mattered most.

He won both his singles matches, including the decisive rubber that sealed India's victory. In addition, he contributed in doubles, showcasing versatility and stamina across formats. Such an all-round contribution in a single tie is rare and underlined his importance to the team.

The performance played a major role in helping India progress in the Davis

Cup qualifiers, sparking optimism among fans and experts about the country's prospects in international tennis.

Playing Style and Strengths

Standing at 6-foot-5, Suresh possesses a powerful serve, long reach and strong baseline game. His ability to dominate service games and dictate points early gives him an edge against opponents. Despite his height, he moves well across the court and shows composure during extended rallies.

Coaches have praised his mental strength and calmness under pressure

— traits that are essential in team events like the Davis Cup. His willingness to take responsibility in crunch moments has quickly earned him the trust of the Indian camp.

Professional Journey So Far

Although still climbing the professional rankings, Suresh has already shown he can compete with higher-ranked players. His recent victories have highlighted that rankings do not always reflect true potential. With continued exposure and consistency, he is expected to make steady progress on the professional circuit.

A Promising Future for Indian Tennis

Dhakshineswar Suresh's rise comes at a time when Indian men's tennis is searching for new faces capable of carrying the baton forward. His combination of physical strength, competitive spirit and recent big-match performances has positioned him as one of the most exciting talents in the country.

As he builds on this momentum, Indian tennis fans will be watching closely. If his Davis Cup heroics are any indication, Suresh could play a significant role in shaping India's future on the global tennis stage.

BWF Revamps World Tour: India Open Retains Status, Syed Modi International Downgraded

The Badminton World Federation has announced a major restructuring of its World Tour calendar for the 2027-2030 cycle, bringing mixed news for Indian badminton.

India Open Retains Elite Status

The India Open has retained its Super 750 status under the revamped structure. This ensures that the New Delhi tournament will continue to be one of the premier events on the global badminton circuit, attracting top-ranked players and offering high ranking points and prize money.

Despite organisational challenges during recent editions, the tournament's continued inclusion at the Super 750 level underlines its importance in the international calendar and secures India's place among the top-tier hosts in world badminton.

Syed Modi International Faces Downgrade

In contrast, the Syed Modi International tournament in Lucknow has been downgraded from a Super 300 event to a Super



100 tournament. This change significantly reduces its standing within the World Tour hierarchy and may affect the quality of international participation and ranking points available to players.

The tournament, which began in 2009 and was upgraded to Super 300 status in 2018, has played a key role in providing competitive exposure to emerging players. While it will continue to be part of the tour, the downgrade represents a setback for the event's global profile.

Reduced Indian Presence on the World Tour

Under the new structure, India's representation on the BWF World Tour has been reduced from four tournaments to two. In addition to the downgrade of the Syed Modi International, two Super 100 events previously held in Guwahati and Odisha have been removed from the official tour calendar.

This reduction is expected to limit domestic opportunities for Indian players to earn ranking points at

home and could impact the development pathway for young shuttlers aiming to progress on the international stage.

Key Changes in the New World Tour Structure

The revised BWF World Tour will feature 36 tournaments across six tiers, including the World Tour Finals, Super 1000, Super 750, Super 500, Super 300 and Super 100 events. For the first time, Super 100 tournaments will be fully integrated into the main tour structure.

The new cycle will also see an increase in the number of Super 1000 events, along with enhanced prize money and adjustments to tournament formats. These changes are intended to strengthen the global appeal of badminton and provide a more competitive and commercially viable tour.

What the Changes Mean for India

India Open will continue as a top-tier Super 750 event.

Syed Modi International will remain on the tour but at a lower Super 100 level.

Two other Indian tournaments will no longer feature in the World Tour calendar.

While retaining the India Open's elite status is a positive outcome, the overall reduction in India's tournament footprint reflects a broader recalibration of the international badminton landscape. Organisers and stakeholders will now focus on strengthening existing events and working toward regaining higher-tier status in future cycles.

Dimarco Stars as Inter Milan Extend Serie A Lead, Juventus Drop Points

Inter Milan strengthened their grip on the Serie A title race with a dominant performance that pushed them eight points clear at the top of the Italian league standings.

In a commanding 5-0 victory at Sassuolo, Inter showcased clinical attacking play and defensive solidity. Federico Dimarco was outstanding, creating three goals with assists and contributing all over the pitch. He also made a key defensive intervention by clearing a shot off the line and came close to scoring himself with a powerful free-kick that struck the woodwork. Inter's tall defenders and attackers got on the scoresheet — with goals from Yann Bisseck, Marcus Thuram, Lautaro Martinez and Manuel Akanji, capped by Luis Henrique's first goal for the club — sealing the emphatic win and extending their unbeaten run to 12



matches.

The result left Inter well ahead of city rivals AC Milan and the rest of the pack, marking a strong statement in their bid for the Serie A title.

Juventus Struggle in the Race for Europe

Meanwhile, Juventus failed to capitalise on Inter's slip in the title fight after being held to a dramatic 2-2 draw at home against

Lazio. The Old Lady fell two goals behind, but fought back through scores from Weston McKennie and a late equaliser by Pierre Kalulu, rescuing a point in the dying moments of the match. However, dropping points at this stage of the season could prove costly in their quest for a Champions League qualification spot.

Elsewhere in Serie A, Cremonese's match was overshadowed by fan misconduct, although Inter still managed to secure a 2-0 win, further solidifying their advantage atop the table.

Inter's commanding form, combined with Juventus' dropped points, has reshaped the title and European qualification landscape. With an extended lead and momentum on their side, Inter looked poised to push toward another league triumph, while Juventus face mounting pressure to find consistency if they are to secure top-four football.

Pakistan's Three Demands to End T20 World Cup 2026 Boycott Deadlock



Cricket's governing council and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) are locked in intense talks over Pakistan's planned boycott of its T20 World Cup 2026 match against India. The dispute emerged after Bangladesh were removed from the tournament and Pakistan announced it would not take the field against India in Colombo on February 15, 2026.

In an effort to break the impasse, the PCB has tabled three key demands to the International Cricket Council (ICC) as conditions for ending its boycott stance and agreeing to play the India fixture. These demands represent broader concerns involving Bangladesh's ouster and Pakistan's role in the global event.

1. Increased Compensation for Bangladesh

The PCB insists that the ICC provide larger financial compensation for Bangladesh following its expulsion from the World Cup. Pakistan argues that Bangladesh — a full member of international cricket — should be financially supported after suffering an early and controversial exit from the tournament. This demand reflects Pakistan's solidarity with Bangladesh and its claim that the decision to remove them was unfair and damaging.

2. Guaranteed Participation Fee for Bangladesh

Alongside compensation, the PCB wants the ICC to guarantee a participation fee for Bangladesh despite their early exit. Participation fees are typically paid to member boards for taking part in ICC events. Pakistan's position is that Bangla-

desh deserves this fee as a baseline financial reassurance, given the investment they made in preparing for the tournament and the abrupt nature of their removal.

3. Hosting Rights for a Future ICC Event

The third demand seeks hosting rights for Bangladesh in a future ICC event. Pakistan is pushing for an assurance that Bangladesh will be allocated rights to host a major ICC tournament down the line. This demand is aimed at strengthening Bangladesh's cricket infrastructure and giving the country a chance to showcase itself on the global stage after the setback in 2026.

Context of the Dispute

Pakistan's boycott threat is linked to Bangladesh's removal from the event after the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) sought to relocate its World Cup matches out of India on security grounds. The ICC rejected that request, and Bangladesh were replaced by Scotland. Pakistan publicly backed Bangladesh before its own boycott announcement.

The ICC has responded cautiously, asking Pakistan to justify its stance and warning of possible financial and sporting consequences if it fails to fulfill its fixture obligations. The board has also engaged in structured dialogue to explore pathways toward resolution.

The demands tabled by Pakistan underscore a mix of financial, legal and diplomatic concerns, and show how deeply geopolitical sentiments have intersected with global sport in this marquee tournament.

Pakistan, Bangladesh Push for 2031 World Cup Hybrid Model Amid ICC Boycott Talks



Negotiations between the International Cricket Council (ICC), Pakistan and Bangladesh have taken a new turn as both South Asian boards have raised a fresh demand linked to the 2031 Cricket World Cup, even as talks continue over Pakistan's proposed boycott of its T20 World Cup 2026 match against India.

According to sources familiar with the discussions, Pakistan and Bangladesh have jointly asked the ICC to extend the existing "hybrid model" arrangement until the 2031 World Cup cycle, instead of allowing it to expire after 2027. The hybrid model allows teams unwilling to travel to certain countries due to political or security concerns to play their matches at neutral venues.

This demand is being viewed as part of a broader negotiation strategy as the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) considers reversing its decision to boycott the high-profile India-Pakistan match scheduled for February 15, 2026. Pakistan had earlier announced it would not play the fixture in protest over Bangladesh's removal from the tournament.

Bangladesh was dropped from the T20 World Cup after its cricket board requested that its matches be shifted out of India, citing security concerns. When the ICC declined the request, Bangladesh was replaced by another team, triggering strong reactions from both Dhaka and Islamabad. Pakistan publicly backed Bangladesh, calling the decision unfair and announcing its intention to boycott the India clash.

As discussions progressed, Pakistan and Bangladesh expanded their demands beyond immediate compensation and participation

guarantees. Their latest proposal focuses on long-term certainty, particularly with India and Bangladesh set to co-host the 2031 Cricket World Cup.

Under the proposed extension, Pakistan would not be required to play matches in India during future ICC events, including games against India. Instead, matches could be hosted in Bangladesh or at neutral venues agreed upon in advance. The move is aimed at preventing recurring disputes and last-minute stand-offs ahead of major tournaments.

Officials involved in the talks say the hybrid model extension is being positioned as a way to protect tournament stability while accommodating geopolitical realities. Both boards argue that predictable arrangements would help avoid future boycott threats and ensure smoother planning for broadcasters, sponsors and fans.

Meanwhile, the ICC has reportedly urged Pakistan to honour its commitments for the 2026 tournament, warning that failure to do so could lead to financial penalties and disciplinary action. However, the governing body is also said to be weighing the long-term implications of rejecting the hybrid model proposal.

The negotiations underline how deeply politics and security considerations have become intertwined with international cricket. While no final decision has been announced, the outcome is expected to shape not only the India-Pakistan fixture in 2026 but also the structure of global tournaments in the coming decade.

For now, all sides remain engaged in talks, with the future of one of cricket's most watched rivalries hanging in the balance.

Motherly Emotion Redefines Horror in Erra Cheera



The makers of Erra Cheera - The Beginning hosted a vibrant Thanks Meet on Sunday, celebrating the film's strong box office run and the birthday of lead actress Karunya Chowdhary, popularly known as the "Acting Queen." Released on February 6, the film has struck a chord with audiences across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh by offering a refreshing take on the horror genre, blending suspense with a powerful mother sentiment inspired by true events.

Directed by Suman Babu, Erra Cheera - The Beginning moves away from the conventional revenge-ghost template and instead focuses on emotional depth, especially the unconditional love of a mother. Presented by Baby Damari and produced by NVV Subba Reddy and Suman Babu under Sri Padmayala Entertainment and Sri Suman Venkatadri Productions, the film features Baby Sai Tejaswini—granddaughter of veteran actor Rajendra Prasad—in a key role. Suman Babu also appears in an

important character, adding another dimension to the narrative.

The Thanks Meet reflected the celebratory mood seen in theatres. Suman Babu and Karunya Chowdhary delighted fans by dancing to the popular "Muddu" song, recreating the energetic atmosphere reported from cinema halls, where audiences have been seen clapping and dancing during key moments.

Distributor Dronadula Venkatrao of Jayalakshmi Films expressed confidence in the film's success. He recalled predicting before release that Erra Cheera would emerge as the strongest performer among the February 6 releases, a claim he said has now been proven. He highlighted the film's appeal to family audiences and its particularly strong response in B and C centres.

Karunya Chowdhary shared her happiness over the emotional reactions from viewers, especially women, during the climax. Speaking about her role as Parvathi, she

said the character was deeply fulfilling and carried a strong message that a mother's love is the greatest force of all.

Director-producer Suman Babu revealed that the film is currently running successfully in more than 250 theatres. With Maha Shivaratri approaching, the team plans to add over 100 more screens, citing the spiritual connection of the climax to Lord Shiva. He also announced that the Kannada version of the film is scheduled for release on March 19.

The event concluded with a grand birthday celebration for Karunya Chowdhary, marked by a cake-cutting ceremony. Suman Babu personally greeted her and hinted at casting her in a significant role in his next project, while Karunya expressed gratitude for the director's support and care for his artists.

Blending horror, emotion, and action, Erra Cheera - The Beginning continues to gain momentum, standing out as a family-friendly success with a strong emotional core.

Hemanth Kumar Promises "Entertainment Worth Every Rupee" at Alpha Trailer Launch

The trailer launch of the upcoming action-packed entertainer Alpha (sub-title: Men Love Vengeance) took place recently, creating a buzz among cinegoers. Produced under LA Productions, the film stars Hemanth Kumar, Ayana, and Gopika Suresh in lead roles. Directed by Vijay N and co-produced by Hemanth Kumar and Anand Kumar, Alpha is slated for release on February 20, with the Telugu version being distributed by Ravishankar and Manjunath. The event was graced by noted director Samudra as the chief guest.

The trailer sets the tone with intense dialogues, including: "If everything happens by God's grace... then what about the demons?" It features high-voltage action sequences, mafia backdrops, and mass hero moments, such as the dialogue "I entered the arena... not for the game." Audiences are also treated to romantic sequences, strong father sentiment through "My past, present, and future... is my father," and a shirtless six-pack reveal, appealing to mass viewers. Overall, the trailer promises a balanced mix of action, emotion, romance, and family drama.

Hemanth Kumar, addressing the media, said:

"I love Telugu cinema, and watching Telugu films helped me learn the language. Thanks to director Samudra garu for supporting us. Ravishankar sir liked our content after watching



the Kannada version and is releasing it widely in Telugu. It feels great when newcomers like us are encouraged. We have made this film very honestly and promise entertainment worth every rupee audiences spend. The response in Kannada has been amazing, and we hope Telugu audiences love it too."

Director Samudra praised the film, saying, "The Alpha trailer is excellent, and the hero looks very handsome. Many Kannada heroes are succeeding in Telugu cinema. I hope Hemanth achieves big success like Yash and Rishab Shetty. The lead pair performed

brilliantly, and I hope audiences support Alpha just as they did with KGF and Kantara."

Ayana, who plays a police officer, remarked, "It was a challenging role, and the film has come out wonderfully. Audiences will enjoy it." Gopika Suresh, portraying Akanksha, added, "Women will especially like my beauty-with-brains character. Please watch and support our film on February 20."

Distributor Ravishankar said he was impressed by Hemanth's performance and praised the teaser, trailer, and songs. He revealed plans for

large-scale promotions ahead of the release. Sponsor Royal Ridge Srinivas also lauded the hero's performance, wishing the film success.

Alpha promises a thrilling cinematic experience with action, emotion, and romance, marking Hemanth Kumar's growing presence in Telugu cinema.

Cast & Crew:

Hemanth Kumar, Ayana, Gopika Suresh, Achyuth Kumar, Balu Nagendra; Director: Vijay N; Producers: Hemanth Kumar, Anand Kumar; Music: J Anoop Seelin; DOP: Karthik S; Editor: Deepu S Kumar.

"Yama Yamma" Adds Mass Energy to FUNKY



The makers of actor Vishwak Sen's upcoming entertainer FUNKY have

raised the excitement levels with the release of the film's third single, "Yama

Yamma...", a high-voltage mass number that promises to become a crowd favourite. With pulsating beats, vibrant visuals, and electrifying performances, the song has further amplified the buzz surrounding the film.

Penned by Dev Pawar, "Yama Yamma" is sung with infectious energy by Bheems Ceciroleo and Rohini Sorrat. Music director Bheems Ceciroleo once again proves his mettle by delivering a foot-tapping composition that blends raw mass appeal with contemporary sound. The song features Vishwak Sen alongside Kayadu Lohar, whose chemistry and spirited dance moves add to the track's visual charm. Choreographed by popular dance master Aata Sandeep, the number is packed with dynamic steps and celebratory vibes, making it a complete treat for fans of mass entertainers.

With the first two sin-

gles from the FUNKY album already becoming chart-toppers, "Yama Yamma" takes the musical momentum to the next level. The song reinforces the film's energetic tone and strengthens its appeal among younger audiences and mass viewers alike. Music lovers and fans have been praising the track for its catchy rhythm and repeat value.

Adding to the growing anticipation, the recently released trailer of FUNKY has been receiving a blockbuster response. Audiences have particularly appreciated director KV Anudeep's trademark brand of comedy and Vishwak Sen's impeccable comic timing. Known for delivering the cult hit Jathi Ratalu, KV Anudeep returns with his signature quirky storytelling, promising an even louder, funnier, and more entertaining cinematic ride.

Produced by S Naga

Vamsi and Sai Soujanya, FUNKY is being made under the prestigious banners of Sithara Entertainment, Fortune Four Cinemas, and Sri-kara Studios. These production houses are known for their rich production values and stylish presentation, and FUNKY is expected to continue that legacy with high-quality visuals and slick execution.

With a power-packed combination of comedy, music, and mass elements, FUNKY is gearing up to be a complete entertainer. The release of "Yama Yamma" has further heightened expectations, positioning the film as one of the most awaited releases of the season.

FUNKY is slated for a grand theatrical release on February 13, 2026, perfectly timed to entertain audiences during the Valentine's Day weekend, promising unlimited fun and laughter on the big screen.

Sumanth's Mahendragiri Varahi Set for Theatrical Release Soon



The upcoming film Mahendragiri Varahi, starring Sumanth, is gearing up for a theatrical release under the prestigious Rashyamala banner. Directed by Santosh Jagarlapudi and produced by Madhu Kalipu, the film is generating excitement with its unique storyline and dynamic visuals.

The narrative is inspired by the legendary Varahi temple located in Mahendragiri, weaving a tale around the mystical and supernatural elements associated with the sacred site. Director Santosh Jagarlapudi has carefully crafted the story to blend socio-fantasy elements with a strong cultural backdrop.

On the occasion of Sumanth's birthday, the film unit released new glims and a poster, high-

lighting the actor's intense and dynamic look. The visuals have received a superb response on social media, with fans praising Sumanth's powerful presence.

The movie features two pivotal characters played by a leading hero and heroine, whose details will be announced soon by the production team. The ensemble cast also includes Meenakshi Gosami, Brahmaandam, Venneela Kishore, Rajeev Kanakala, Kamal Kamaraju, Satyasai Srinivas, Vamsi Chaganti, and Manju Bhargavi, promising a mix of strong performances and engaging characters.

Anup Rubens has composed the music, while Murali has penned the story, setting the stage for a cinematic experience

that balances supernatural thrills with mass appeal.

Director Santosh Jagarlapudi expressed his confidence in the film, stating that Sumanth's role will be a milestone in his career and is designed to captivate audiences of all age groups. Producer Madhu Kalipu added that the character and storyline have been specially crafted to offer something new and refreshing, combining supernatural elements with socio-fantasy themes.

With its intriguing premise, star-studded cast, and a blend of fantasy and cultural storytelling, Mahendragiri Varahi is shaping up to be a significant release for Sumanth, promising a memorable cinematic experience for moviegoers.

'Viplava Veerudu' Shoot Launched with Grand Pooja

The shooting of Viplava Veerudu, a historical drama highlighting the heroic role of common people in India's freedom struggle, officially began with a grand pooja ceremony held at the Filmnagar Temple in Hyderabad. The event marked the formal launch of the film and was attended by the core team and well-wishers from the industry.

Directed by S. Nagaraj Rao, Viplava Veerudu features renowned actress Indira in a pivotal role, while Jaiswar and Sonali Shetty play the lead pair. The film is being produced by AV Jayaram under the banner of AVJR Productions. Veteran writer Paruchuri Gopalakrishna gave the first clap for the muhurat shot on Indira, symbolically inaugurating the shoot.

Speaking at the launch, Indira said the film offers a realistic and emotionally powerful portrayal of the freedom movement. She explained that the story fo-

cus on how ordinary citizens actively participated in the struggle against British rule. "This narrative shows the transformation of a common man into a revolutionary hero who fights fearlessly for the nation's freedom. I will be seen as Rani Bhavani Devi, a character with great depth and significance. Producer Jayaram is making a meaningful film with a strong message, and I seek everyone's blessings," she said.

Lead actor Jaiswar expressed deep confidence in the project, stating that his role as "Viplava Veerudu" is very special to him. He added that he believes the film will leave a lasting impression on audiences and hold an important place in cinematic history.

Heroine Sonali Shetty shared her excitement, calling the film a major milestone in her career. "This is my debut film, and I am extremely



thankful for this opportunity. I humbly seek the support and blessings of everyone," she said.

Director S. Nagaraj Rao described Viplava Veerudu as his dream project. He noted that the film is set in the British era and presents a powerful historical story. He also emphasized that Indira's role is central to the narrative and will be

one of the film's highlights.

Producer AV Jayaram revealed that the story is set during the period of Tipu Sultan and explores how the British exploited India under the pretext of trade, along with the consequences that followed. "This will be a film with a strong message and historical relevance," he said.

Actor Patel Ashok Reddy added that the freedom enjoyed today is the result of immense sacrifices by countless unsung warriors, and the film aims to bring their stories to the silver screen.

With a strong cast, historical backdrop, and a socially relevant theme, Viplava Veerudu has begun its journey with high expectations.