



BUZZ POINTS

Nara Lokesh Hails Doctors for Saving Lives at AIIMS Mangalagiri



PAGE 03

TRUE POINT

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Madanapalle Tragedy: Women Ministers Respond to 7-Year-Old Girl's Murder

PAGE 03

Botsa Satyanarayana Questions Lack of Digital Attendance in Legislative

PAGE 03

Jana Sena MLAs Criticize Jagan Over AP Legislative Council Disruption



PAGE 03

YSRCP President Jagan Mohan Reddy Slams Chandrababu Naidu Govt in Sharp Political Attack

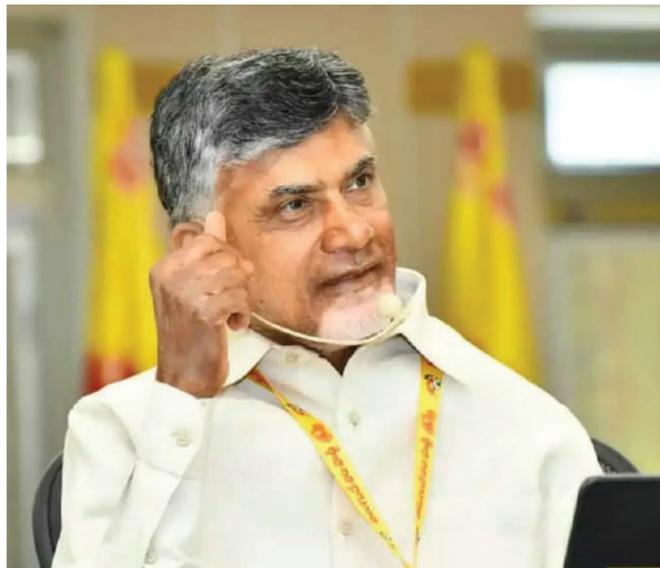


PAGE 05

Rayalaseema Emerges as a Green Energy Hub in Andhra Pradesh

Rayalaseema, Feb 17 | TPN Bureau

The Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh is rapidly transforming into a key centre for green energy development, as the state government promotes large-scale renewable projects and infrastructure to attract investment and boost local economies. Officials highlighted that the initiatives tap into the region's potential for solar, wind, waste-to-energy, and other sustainable power sources, positioning Rayalaseema as an important part of the state's clean energy roadmap.



Recent approvals include the establishment of waste-to-energy plants in multiple districts, which will process municipal solid waste into electricity. These facilities are expected to reduce landfill pressures while generating renewable energy for local consumption. The projects will also include biogas units to produce biogas for power generation and fuel needs, particularly in Kurnool and Kadapa districts.

Under broader state strategies, Rayalaseema is set to benefit from substantial renewable capacity expansions. The government aims

to attract significant investments in solar, wind, and green hydrogen production, creating thousands of jobs and fostering economic growth. Officials stressed that the region's climate and land availability make it ideal for large-scale renewable projects, including wind corridor locations and areas with high solar irradiance. The development of Rayalaseema as a green energy hub is also linked with industrial growth and improved supply chain infrastructure. Measures include better connectivity, land allocations for renewable facilities,

and support for investors, both domestic and international. This is expected to generate ancillary opportunities for local communities, providing employment, skills development, and improved environmental outcomes. Positioning Rayalaseema as a clean energy hub aligns with the state's broader goal of achieving renewable capacity targets while promoting sustainable development. Officials emphasized that this transformation will strengthen the region's economic resilience, create new livelihoods, and establish Rayalaseema as a model for renewable

energy-driven growth. The combination of policy support, investor interest, and natural advantages is enabling Rayalaseema to evolve from a historically underdeveloped region into a focal point for the state's future energy and economic strategy, demonstrating the potential for sustainable development to drive regional transformation. This shift reflects Andhra Pradesh's long-term vision of leveraging clean energy not only to meet environmental goals but also to stimulate economic growth and improve the quality of life for local communities.

Action Against Absent MLAs, Says Ayyanna Patrudu

Amaravati, Feb 17 | TPN Bureau

Ayyanna Patrudu, Speaker of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, on Tuesday warned that strict action would be taken against MLAs who fail to attend Assembly sessions, stressing that elected representatives must fulfill their responsibilities to the people.

Addressing the media after the House convened, the Speaker explained that the Assembly proceedings began about an hour late due to a software-related technical glitch. He said such issues can occur occasionally and are beyond immediate control, but officials acted promptly to restore normal functioning.

Ayyanna Patrudu also took a swipe at the opposition YSR Congress Party, accusing it of indulging in what he described as "backdoor politics." He remarked

that political discourse in the past used to be more direct, whereas now some leaders prefer indirect tactics and disruptions.

Commenting on the absence of several opposition members, the Speaker said legislators who stay away from the Assembly without valid reasons should face consequences. He underlined that drawing salaries and allowances without attending sessions is not appropriate and goes against the spirit of public service.

The Speaker further suggested that voters should have the power to recall elected representatives who fail to discharge their duties properly after winning elections. Drawing comparisons with practices in some other countries, he said accountability mechanisms are essential in a democracy to ensure representatives remain answerable to the public.

He also highlighted

the effectiveness of the Assembly's digital attendance system, stating that it accurately records not only the presence of members but also the duration of their participation in the House. According to him, the system brings greater transparency and helps monitor legislative performance more closely.

Reiterating his stance, Ayyanna Patrudu said the Assembly secretariat would examine attendance records and take appropriate steps if members continue to skip proceedings without justification. He emphasized that legislative business must not suffer due to absenteeism and called on all parties to cooperate for smooth functioning of the House.

The remarks have sparked political reactions, with the issue of accountability and attendance expected to remain a point of debate in the ongoing session.

President Droupadi Murmu Arrives in Visakhapatnam for International Fleet Review 2026

Visakhapatnam, Feb 17 | TPN Bureau

Droupadi Murmu arrived in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday evening to participate as the chief guest in the prestigious International Fleet Review-2026, marking a significant moment for the coastal city hosting a major global naval event.

The President landed at the naval air station INS Dega, where she was warmly received by Andhra Pradesh Governor Justice Abdul Nazeer, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, and state minister Dola Bala Veeranjaneeya Swamy, along with local dignitaries, public representatives, and senior officials. As the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, President Murmu will review the International Fleet Review scheduled to take place off the Visakhapatnam coast on



February 18. The event will feature participation from the Indian Navy along with several foreign warships, showcasing maritime cooperation and naval strength on a global stage. During her visit, the President will also attend multiple associated events. On February 19, she is slated to witness the Milan International City Parade, which celebrates naval camaraderie and cultural exchange among participating nations. She will later take part in the Conclave of Chiefs on

February 20, a high-level interaction involving naval leaders and defence officials.

Extensive security arrangements have been put in place across the city in view of the high-profile visit. Personnel from the police and defence forces have coordinated to ensure smooth conduct of all programmes, with heightened surveillance and traffic management measures in key areas.

Officials said the International Fleet Review and related events will highlight India's grow-

ing maritime capabilities and reinforce strategic ties with friendly nations. The visit is also expected to boost Visakhapatnam's profile as a major naval and diplomatic hub, drawing attention to its infrastructure and strategic importance along India's eastern seaboard.

The President's participation underscores the significance of the event, which not only demonstrates naval preparedness but also symbolizes international cooperation and goodwill at sea.

GO 117 Kept Poor Children Away from Govt Schools, Says Lokesh

Vijayawada, Feb 17 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Education, IT, and Electronics Minister Nara Lokesh on Tuesday stated in the Assembly that Government Order 117 introduced by the previous administration had adversely affected access to government schools for poor children. He explained that the order led to reduced enrolment and disengagement from public education. The minister added that the current government revoked the order soon after coming to power, fulfilling a key promise to strengthen the state's education system. During the Question Hour, Lokesh said that despite initiatives like the Nadu-Nedu programme, the previous government's policies had led to the closure of more than 200 schools. He emphasized that the One Class-One

Teacher model is critical for improving learning outcomes and restoring confidence in public schooling. Under the new administration, the model has expanded significantly, contributing to better examination results and improved classroom engagement.

Highlighting core infrastructure priorities, Lokesh outlined five areas of focus for government schools: leak-proof buildings, fresh painting, classroom benches, toilets, and safe drinking water. He noted that although schools have been graded based on existing facilities, none currently hold the highest five-star rating. Nearly 40 percent of schools fall into the one- or two-star categories, signalling the need for major improvements. The government aims to raise all schools to at least three- and four-star levels and ultimately achieve five-star standards across the



system.

On funding, the minister said the government has combined existing School Management Committee funds with additional budget allocations to create a nearly 1,000-core pool for urgent infrastructure work. He assured lawmakers that pending projects would be completed quickly and outstanding dues from previous years would be cleared to ensure uninterrupted progress.

The discussion also

touched on allegations of irregularities and unfinished works under the previous administration's programmes. Lokesh defended the reforms undertaken by the current government, saying that rising student enrolment reflects renewed trust in government schools. He reiterated the government's commitment to strengthening public education and ensuring that every child, regardless of background, has access to quality schooling. The Assembly session saw robust debate on education policy, with legislators from various parties raising questions about implementation, infrastructure gaps, and future reforms. Lokesh said that addressing these concerns remains a priority, and the government will continue efforts to enhance educational opportunities across the state.

IAS Officer Srilakshmi Faces Setback in Supreme Court

New Delhi, Feb 17 | TPN Bureau

Senior Indian Administrative Service officer Y. Srilakshmi suffered a significant legal setback on Tuesday when the Supreme Court of India rejected her plea to be discharged from the long-running Obulapuram Mining Company (OMC) scam case. The apex court upheld the earlier decision of the Telangana High Court, directing that the trial against her continue in the appropriate

court. Srilakshmi had moved the Supreme Court seeking to remove her name from the list of accused, arguing that there was insufficient evidence to warrant her continued involvement in the proceedings. However, the Supreme Court agreed with the prosecution that the allegations are serious enough to be examined at trial and cannot be dismissed at this stage. The bench noted that an earlier interim relief had been misused and chose to correct that by rejecting

her discharge plea. The case originates from alleged irregularities in the allocation of mining leases to the Obulapuram Mining Company in the former united Andhra Pradesh. Investigators have alleged that certain government orders issued during Srilakshmi's tenure as a senior official led to undue benefits for the company. Authorities have also claimed that decisions taken in the matter may have facilitated illegal gains and improperly favoured a private

mining entity. Over the years, multiple courts have examined various aspects of the OMC case, with several high-profile figures named as accused. In previous proceedings, some co-accused were convicted, while others, including Srilakshmi, had temporarily obtained relief from lower courts. In 2022, the Telangana High Court had earlier discharged her, but that decision has now been overturned by the Supreme Court. With the discharge plea dis-

missed, the Supreme Court has ordered that the trial in the OMC case proceed without further delay. The case will now resume in the trial court where witnesses, evidence, and legal arguments will be presented to determine the guilt or innocence of the accused. Legal experts say the decision underscores the judiciary's approach that serious allegations involving corruption and public office must be examined in full trial rather than dismissed at the preliminary stage.



This development marks a pivotal moment in a high-profile case that has drawn attention for more than a decade, reflecting ongoing efforts to address alleged corruption

and irregularities in mining allocations in the region. Investigations and proceedings are expected to continue into the coming months as the trial court takes up the matter.

Tirumala Laddu Adulteration Sparks Political Row in Andhra Pradesh

Amaravathi, 17-02-2026 | TPN Bureau

The controversy surrounding the alleged adulteration of Tirumala laddu prasadam has once again sparked intense political debate in Andhra Pradesh. Speaking in the Legislative Council on Tuesday, State Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu strongly criticized YSRCP MLAs and party leaders over their response to the issue. He said that instead of expressing remorse, YSRCP leaders were launching counterattacks against the coalition government to deflect responsibility. The minister pointed

out that the fact of adulteration in the Tirumala laddu had been acknowledged by the then TTD Chairman Y.V. Subba Reddy himself. "People will not forget that the former chairman admitted the lapse," Atchannaidu said, accusing the YSRCP of attempting to suppress this admission while making fresh allegations to divert public attention. He also condemned the allegations being made against Heritage Foods, stating that the company had no connection whatsoever with the alleged adulteration. Dragging an unrelated organization

into the controversy, he said, was a deliberate attempt to shift focus from the core issue. "Can they show even a single piece of evidence?" the minister asked, warning that baseless allegations would invite legal and moral consequences. Atchannaidu further questioned why YSRCP chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy does not submit the required declaration when visiting the Tirumala temple. He asserted that the party had no moral right to speak about Hindu traditions, alleging that the sentiments of Hindu devotees had been hurt under their tenure.

Emphasizing the sanctity of Tirumala laddu prasadam, the minister said it represents the faith of millions of devotees and any attempt to undermine that trust would not be tolerated. He accused the YSRCP of indulging in "conspiracy politics" to evade accountability even after admitting that adulteration had occurred. Atchannaidu made it clear that the truth cannot be hidden and that those responsible would face strict action. Amid the ongoing exchange of allegations and counter-allegations, the Tirumala laddu issue has emerged as a major po-



political flashpoint in the state. The minister reiterated that safeguarding the reputation of sacred institutions like Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams is a collective responsibility.

Rs. 1 Crore Allocated Per District Under APEPDCL to Prevent Electrical Accidents: Energy Minister Ravi Kumar

Amaravati, 17-02-2026 | TPN Bureau:

The Andhra Pradesh government has announced a major initiative to prevent electrical accidents, with Energy Minister Ravi Kumar confirming that Rs. 1 crore has been allocated for each district under the jurisdiction of the Andhra Pradesh Eastern Power Distribution Company Limited (APEPDCL). The announcement came during a Legislative Assembly session in response to a question raised by Nellikarla MLA Lokam Naga Madhavi concerning frequent accidents caused by high-tension power lines passing near or above residential houses. The Minister clarified that all electricity distribution lines are being installed strictly according to established rules and safety standards. He noted that most safety issues arise when houses are constructed beneath pre-existing power lines after their installation. Highlighting public awareness gaps and unauthorized construction as key contributors to electrical accidents, the Minister



emphasized the importance of community vigilance. To address this, electricity department officials are conducting awareness programs in villages and towns to educate residents about electrical safety. Citizens are urged to promptly report any hazardous or unstable power lines and poles to the concerned authorities. Additionally, if affected individuals submit requests for the relocation of lines or poles, the department will evaluate these applications and take necessary measures. The Minister cited Vizianagaram district as an example, where

several power line relocations have already been completed using Member of Parliament funds. Stressing the value of human life above all, Minister Ravi Kumar stated that preventing electrical accidents is a top priority for the government. He also drew attention to incidents occurring during the harvesting of palm oil plantations, noting that appropriate preventive measures are being implemented to safeguard agricultural workers. Furthermore, Panchayat and municipal authorities have been instructed not to approve construction permits beneath power

lines in the future. This proactive approach aims to reduce risks and reinforce compliance with safety regulations. The Energy Minister reaffirmed the administration's commitment to public safety, highlighting that these measures are part of a broader effort to prevent electrical accidents across the state. With a combination of strict adherence to safety norms, awareness campaigns, and timely interventions, the government aims to minimize hazards and ensure the well-being of residents living in areas served by APEPDCL.

Amaravati Development Faces Political Criticism Amid Bill Gates Visit: Minister Parthasarathi Speaks

Amaravati, 17-02-2026 | TPN Bureau:

Andhra Pradesh Minister Parthasarathi sharply criticized opposition parties, stating that their stance against the state's development has been reaffirmed once again. Speaking in the Legislative Assembly, the Minister expressed his displeasure over attempts to politicize the visit of Bill Gates, the Chairman of the Gates Foundation, to Amaravati (bill gates in andhra pradesh). He described the opposition's reaction as a deliberate effort to undermine the progress of the state.



Minister Parthasarathi emphasized that the contrast between the five-year rule of the YSRCP opposition and the coalition government's achievements was evident. "The opposition party's tenure was marked by destruction, whereas the current coalition government has focused on constructive development. Any thought of halting progress or dismantling projects reflects the inability to accept positive

change," he stated. The Minister remarked that while the construction of Amaravati continues steadily, certain political factions, particularly those aligned with the opposition, are unable to digest the development taking place. "They cannot tolerate the coalition government's efforts or the praise that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu receives for advancing Amaravati's infrastructure. The state's improvement does not align with their interests, which is why they are spreading negative propaganda about Gates' visit," he added. Minister Parthasarathi

also highlighted that no matter how much misinformation or negative campaigning is attempted, it cannot reverse the state's development trajectory. "Despite the rumors and political mudslinging, the growth and progress of Andhra Pradesh continue unabated. The Chief Minister and the government remain committed to building Amaravati as a modern and thriving capital," he said. Addressing the Legislative Assembly, he concluded with a pointed remark directed at detractors: "The people of Andhra Pradesh are discerning. They will recognize the difference

between obstructionist politics and genuine developmental initiatives. Ultimately, it is the citizens who will judge, and their wisdom will prevail over any attempts to derail progress. The Minister's statements underline the tension surrounding high-profile visits and developmental projects in the state. By linking the criticism of Bill Gates' Amaravati visit to broader political opposition, Parthasarathi stressed that the government sees such attacks as politically motivated rather than constructive feedback.

Chickpea Procurement Begins Across Andhra Pradesh from Today

Amaravati, February 17 | TPN Bureau:

Andhra Pradesh Minister for Agriculture, Kinjarapu Atchannaidu, has announced that chickpea procurement will commence across the state starting today. The initiative aims to ensure remunerative prices for farmers and provide timely financial support during the ongoing Rabi season. According to the Minister, the Government of India has taken a key decision to support farmers by approving procurement of chickpeas under the Price Support Scheme (PSS). With the approval of the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, procurement operations for the Rabi Marketing Season 2025-26 will be conducted through National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) and National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India (NCCF). A total of 94,500 metric tonnes of chickpeas will be procured in the state under this scheme. The Minister stated that formal orders from the central government were received on Tuesday, and necessary arrangements have been made



to begin procurement in all districts through the CM App. District Level Procurement Committees (DLPCs), chaired by the respective Joint Collectors, will supervise the process to ensure transparency and smooth implementation. Detailed guidelines have already been issued to the concerned officials. Procurement operations will be carried out at Rythu Seva Kendras (RSKs) with coordination among multiple departments, including Agriculture, Horticulture, Legal Me-

trollogy, Marketing, AP Markfed, and Civil Supplies. Trusted sub-agencies such as Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS), Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) will also be involved to facilitate efficient and transparent procurement. This season, chickpea cultivation in Andhra Pradesh has covered approximately 3.25 lakh hectares, with an estimated production of around 3.77 lakh metric tonnes. Farmers have been advised to

register their produce at the nearest RSKs. Procurement will be scheduled through the CM App to avoid inconvenience and ensure systematic operations. The procured chickpeas will be stored in warehouses managed by the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporation (SWC). Minister Atchannaidu assured that payments will be credited directly to farmers' bank accounts within 15 days of procurement, providing timely financial relief.

Pawan Kalyan Attends Ceremonial Dinner During International Fleet Review-2026

Amaravati, Feb 16, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Housing and Information & Public Relations Minister Kolu Parthasarathy on Monday made pointed political remarks comparing the leadership styles of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and former Chief Minister and YSRCP leader Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, triggering reactions across the state's political landscape.



Taking to social media, Parthasarathy posted two contrasting photographs to highlight what he described as the stark difference in the trajectory of the two leaders since the recent change of government. One of the images showed CM Chandrababu Naidu with global technology luminary Bill Gates during a high-profile meeting in Amaravati, while the other depicted Jagan Mohan Reddy leaving his home with several YSRCP leaders waiting outside.

With a dose of political satire, the minister wrote that "those who are with Chandrababu meet great personalities like Bill Gates, while those who trust Jagan are left standing outside the gates." The

post was interpreted as a criticism of Jagan's postoffice visibility compared to Naidu's engagements with global figures and dignitaries. Parthasarathy's remarks came against the backdrop of a recent high-profile visit to Amaravati by Bill Gates, during which the Microsoft cofounder and philanthropist praised Andhra Pradesh's use of technology in governance and development. The minister underlined this as evidence of the current government's growing stature on the national and international stage, attributing it to Naidu's

leadership. The comments also implicitly underscored political narratives about contrasting leadership styles — with Parthasarathy suggesting that Naidu's tenure attracts global attention and partnerships, whereas Jagan's tenure was represented as lacking similar visibility or influence. Political observers noted that such comparisons often surface in the runup to future elections, as parties seek to frame the discourse around governance credentials and public perception. Supporters of the ruling coalition welcomed the minister's post, view-

ing it as a reflection of confidence in the government's performance, while opposition circles criticized it as unnecessary political banter. Parthasarathy's remarks reflect the increasingly competitive nature of Andhra Pradesh politics, where leaders not only defend their records but also actively seek to shape narratives about leadership effectiveness, public engagement, and international recognition. The social media post has since drawn wide attention and commentary from political analysts and party workers alike.

Madanapalle Tragedy: Women Ministers Respond to 7-Year-Old Girl's Murder

Amaravati, Feb 17 | TPN Bureau

In a shocking incident in Madanapalle, the murder of a seven-year-old girl has drawn swift responses from women ministers in Andhra Pradesh. Home Minister Anitha Kumar personally contacted the child's parents over the phone, offering support and reassurance during this difficult time. She assured them that the state government would ensure the perpetrators face the strictest punishment and that justice would be served for the grieving family.

The Home Minister also directed officials, including the Superintendent of Police, to treat the case with the utmost seriousness and ensure that legal action is promptly initiated against the accused. Authorities have reportedly intensified the investigation to quickly



bring the perpetrators to justice.

Minister Sandhya Rani also expressed her outrage over the incident, emphasizing that the murder of a child is not just a criminal act but an affront to societal values. She de-

scribed the attack on the young girl as a direct assault on community dignity and stressed that no leniency should be shown to the culprits. The minister underscored that the government remains firmly commit-

ted to the safety and protection of women and children and vowed that the case would serve as a strong message to society that such crimes will be punished severely.

Police identified the girl's body on Monday

in the residence of a man named Kulavardhan, located near the area where she went missing. Preliminary investigations suggest that the suspect may have committed sexual assault before killing the child. Kulavardhan has been taken into custody and is being interrogated by the police to ascertain the circumstances of the crime.

The incident has sent shockwaves through the local community, prompting demands for stricter safety measures for children. Law enforcement agencies are coordinating closely with local authorities to ensure the case is thoroughly investigated and that justice is delivered swiftly. Ministers have reiterated that incidents of this nature will be addressed firmly, sending a clear signal that crimes against children will not be tolerated in the state.

Nara Lokesh Hails Doctors for Saving Lives at AIIMS Mangalagiri



Mangalagiri, Feb 17 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Education, IT and Electronics Minister Nara Lokesh has expressed deep respect and admiration for doctors, emphasizing that society holds them in the highest esteem not because of status or wealth but for their role in saving lives and serving humanity. The minister made these remarks while addressing the convocation ceremony at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Mangalagiri, highlighting the noble mission of the medical profession and encouraging young doctors to uphold compassion and professional integrity.

Lokesh pointed out that medical education is not merely a qualification but a continuous commitment to learning, stressing that a doctor's journey of service only begins after graduation. He underlined that in emergency wards, patients not only seek medicine but also hope, trust, and assurance brought by a healer's presence. This human touch, he

said, goes beyond what technology or artificial intelligence can offer and forms the essence of healthcare.

Recounting the sacrifices of medical professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic, Lokesh praised doctors for putting their lives on the line to treat patients while the world was under lockdown. He noted that this unwavering dedication is why doctors are often seen as second only to divine intervention in the eyes of society. The minister urged young doctors to adopt a mindset of service over profit, to treat patients with dignity regardless of their social or economic background, and to maintain the highest standards of ethics and empathy in their work.

Lokesh also highlighted the growth of AIIMS Mangalagiri, describing it as a symbol of regional development in medical education and healthcare delivery. From its beginnings to a comprehensive institution offering undergraduate, postgraduate, and superspecialty courses

with hundreds of beds and advanced surgical capabilities, the institute represents a major stride in medical services and education in the state. He encouraged students to contribute to its legacy by adding "trust" as a fourth pillar alongside clinical care, research, and teaching.

To the graduating doctors, Lokesh said, "You are the real heroes of this nation," urging them to embrace lifelong learning and compassion as they embark on their careers. He stressed that humility and humanity must guide their professional journey, and that every doctor should rise to the challenge of serving patients with dedication and kindness, whether in urban hospitals or remote tribal regions.

The convocation ceremony was attended by senior health officials, faculty members, graduating doctors, and their families, celebrating a milestone in the lives of new medical professionals who are poised to make a meaningful impact on society.

Botsa Satyanarayana Questions Lack of Digital Attendance in Legislative Council

Amaravati, Feb 17 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council, Botsa Satyanarayana, has raised serious concerns about the absence of a digital attendance system in the Council. Speaking to the media, he questioned why the state government has not yet introduced technology to record legislators' presence in real time, despite similar systems already being implemented in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly.

Botsa pointed out that in the Assembly, digital and AI-based attendance mechanisms ensure that legislators are not just marked present but are actively participating in proceedings. He emphasized that without such a system, monitoring actual participation in the Council remains challenging, and there is a risk of absenteeism undermining legislative accountability. He urged the government to provide a clear expla-

nation and to work on implementing a digital platform for the Council without further delay.

The opposition leader highlighted that introducing a digital attendance system is not merely a technical upgrade but a necessary step to enhance transparency and strengthen democratic practices. Such systems prevent situations where members may be marked present without being physically engaged in discussions and debates. Botsa underlined that in the modern era, legislative institutions must adopt technology to maintain credibility, ensure accountability, and uphold public trust.

He also noted that digital attendance would bring uniformity between the Assembly and the Council, making legislative practices consistent across the state. This, he argued, is particularly important at a time when public scrutiny of lawmakers' performance and participation is increasing. Botsa stressed that the government has a re-



sponsibility to create mechanisms that allow citizens to know whether elected representatives are actively fulfilling their duties.

In addition to addressing digital attendance, Botsa used the opportunity to reiterate the importance of legislative discipline and transparency in all matters of governance. He warned that failure to modernize processes could weaken institutional integrity and diminish public confi-

dence in parliamentary procedures.

Botsa's remarks have sparked discussions among lawmakers and experts about the broader need for technology-driven reforms in the state legislature. Advocates argue that digital systems could record attendance accurately, provide detailed reports on participation, and reduce procedural delays. Such reforms are seen as critical for creating an accountable and re-

sponsive legislative environment where elected representatives are held responsible for their presence and performance.

The demand for digital attendance in the Council reflects a growing awareness that modern governance requires technological integration, and that legislative institutions must evolve to meet the expectations of transparency, efficiency, and accountability in the 21st century.

YSRCP President Jagan Mohan Reddy Slams Chandrababu Naidu Govt in Sharp Political Attack



Amaravati, Feb 17 | TPN Bureau

YSRCP president and former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has launched a fierce political assault on the ruling Telugu Desam Party-led government, accusing Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and his administration of disrupting democratic processes and failing on multiple fronts.

Addressing party leaders and supporters, Jagan sharply criticised the coalition government for what he described as a pattern of governance failures and political suppression. He charged the government with undermining democratic norms, particularly in the way it has dealt with opposition leaders and dissenting voices in the state's political arena.

Jagan alleged that incidents of alleged violence and intimidation, including attacks on the residences of prominent opposition figures,

reflect a breakdown of law and order in the state. He warned that such actions amount to "anarchy" and a form of "jungle raj," asserting that the government's reliance on force and intimidation would ultimately backfire and erode its legitimacy.

In his critique, the YSRCP president also highlighted broader concerns about governance, pointing to what he claimed were weak economic decisions, stalled welfare programmes, and insufficient public engagement by the ruling coalition. He reiterated that the party's cadre and legislators should be prepared for persistent political struggle, focusing on real issues affecting farmers, youth, employees, and other sections of society.

Jagan emphasised the importance of maintaining pressure on the government both inside and outside the legislature. He urged YSRCP lawmakers to raise questions asser-

tively during sessions and to maintain a strong connection with the public on issues such as welfare scheme implementation, job creation, and protection of rights.

The former chief minister's comments come amid ongoing political tensions in Andhra Pradesh, where the opposition has been vocal about its opposition status and legislative rights. Jagan's criticism reflects deeper disagreements over policy direction, administrative priorities, and public accountability under the current regime.

By framing his remarks as a call to defend democratic values and the rights of citizens, Jagan sought to galvanise his party's base while keeping public focus on what he perceives as shortcomings of the Chandrababu Naidu government. His statements signal continued political rivalry and an intensified opposition strategy in the months ahead.

Jana Sena MLAs Criticize Jagan Over AP Legislative Council Disruption

Amaravati, Feb 17 | TPN Bureau

Jana Sena Party MLAs on Tuesday strongly condemned Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for the disruption in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council, accusing him of undermining the dignity of the House and derailing legislative business. The criticism came amid a heated session in the Council, where proceedings were repeatedly stalled, reportedly due to opposition walkouts and protest actions by YSRCP members.

According to Jana Sena legislators, the repeated interruption of the Council's work is a reflection of deteriorating legislative discipline and a lack of respect for democratic norms. They said that such behaviour by the ruling party's leadership, particularly the

Chief Minister, set a poor precedent and frustrated the legitimate functioning of the legislature.

Speaking to the media, Jana Sena MLAs argued that elected representatives have a duty to participate constructively in debates and discussions rather than resorting to disruptive tactics. They pointed out that citizens expect their lawmakers to focus on issues of public importance and governance rather than engage in theatrics that prevent legislative business from progressing.

The MLAs also highlighted that disruptions in the Council have hindered the passage of key bills and delayed important policy discussions. They urged the government to ensure that the Council operates smoothly and that members from all



parties engage in meaningful dialogue instead of creating avoidable tensions on the floor.

In their criticism, Jana Sena representatives said that frequent disruptions damage the image of the state legislature and weaken public confidence in democratic institutions. They called upon the Chief Minister to take personal responsibility for restoring order and ensuring that the Coun-

cil completes its business in a professional manner.

The party leaders also reiterated the need for bipartisan cooperation and stressed that differences of opinion should be expressed through debate rather than disruption. They appealed to all parties to uphold democratic values and work together for the welfare of the state. Jana Sena MLAs said that the repeated

interruptions were preventing the Council from addressing pressing issues such as development programmes, welfare schemes, and governance challenges faced by the people. They added that constructive engagement in the legislature is vital for effective policymaking and accountability.

The opposition's criticism reflects growing frustration over legislative gridlocks in Andhra Pradesh, with calls for restraint and adherence to parliamentary norms gaining traction among parties and civil society observers alike. The MLAs emphasised that preserving the sanctity of the legislature is essential to strengthening the state's democratic fabric and ensuring that the voice of the public is heard through responsible representation.



NTR District Jana Sena Chief Meets Nandigama PACS Chairman Kotte Harikrishna

Nandigama, Feb 17 | TPN Bureau
In a courtesy visit to express gratitude, Nandigama PACS Society Chairman Kotte Harikrishna (Badri) met with NTR District Jana Sena Party President Samineni Uday Bhanu following his appointment as chairman by the coalition government. The meeting highlighted mutual respect and appreciation between party leadership and local cooperative representatives.

During the event, Chairman Kotte Harikrishna personally thanked Samineni Uday Bhanu for his support and guidance. The interaction emphasized the commitment of local leaders to strengthen grassroots development and cooperative initiatives under the PACS framework.

Several prominent Jana Sena leaders and local representatives attended the meeting, including Jujuru PACS Chairman Shake Rahintulla, Nandigama Market Yard Director Sur Satyanarayana, Chandralapadu Mandal President Vaddelli Sudhakar, Chandralapadu Vice President Puramshetti Nagendra (Pavan Army Founder), Chintalapadu Gram President Thota Manikantha, and other local figures such as Kari Ramesh, Akula Venkat, Mellampudi Gopi, 19th Ward Jana Sena leaders Ramireddy Ramesh, Mellampudi Gopalakrishna, Puppala Bharat Sai, as well as Kanchal Jana Sena leaders Chalamala Purushottam, Perna Venkat, Deepu, Kedarnath, and family members including Veeramahila Kotte Venkat Narsamma.

The gathering provided an opportunity to discuss cooperative society initiatives, local development programs, and the role of the Jana Sena Party in facilitating community welfare projects. Leaders emphasized collaboration between elected officials, cooperative institutions, and political organizations to ensure efficient delivery of services and support to the people.

Kotte Harikrishna expressed optimism that his tenure as PACS chairman would enhance development in Nandigama and surrounding areas, particularly in strengthening financial and social initiatives aimed at farmers and small-scale entrepreneurs. He reiterated his commitment to working in coordination with party representatives to achieve these goals.

The event underscored the importance of cooperation between political leadership and local governance institutions in advancing social and economic development. It also demonstrated Jana Sena Party's continued engagement with community stakeholders to foster transparency, accountability, and sustainable progress at the grassroots level.

Leaders concluded the meeting by reaffirming their collective dedication to public service, cooperative growth, and strengthening the social and economic fabric of the NTR district.

Vijayawada: Tension Prevails After Rowdy Sheeter's Funeral Rally Creates Ruckus

Vijayawada, 17-02-2026 | TPN Bureau
Tension gripped parts of Vijayawada after a large group of alleged rowdy sheeters created a disturbance during the funeral procession of a local history-sheeter. The incident has sparked concern among residents and prompted swift police action. The deceased, identified as Pandu alias Pavuram, a rowdy sheeter from Krishnalanka, died in a road accident while reportedly driving an auto-rickshaw under the limits of the Suryaraopet Police Station. Following his death, his supporters organized a massive funeral procession that moved from the Government General Hospital in Vijayawada to a burial ground in Bhavanipuram. Hundreds of followers allegedly took part in the procession, turning it into a show of strength on city roads. According to police sources, members of certain local groups, including those reportedly linked to ganja and blade-related offenses, were suspected to have participated in the rally. Individuals from areas such as Singh Nagar, Patel Nagar, and Jakkampudi were also identified as being part of the gathering. Videos of the procession soon surfaced on social media platforms and went viral, drawing widespread criticism and raising questions about public safety. The visuals reportedly showed participants riding in large numbers, playing loud music through DJ vehicles, and causing inconvenience to commuters and residents along the route. Taking serious note of the situation, city police registered cases against several individuals for organizing and participating in an unlawful public rally that allegedly disturbed peace and order. So far, police have arrested a few suspects and seized one DJ vehicle along with around 20 two-wheelers that were part of the procession. Authorities confirmed that cases have been registered against individuals including Naveen Sai of Krishnalanka and Surya Kodi, along with others involved. Police officials stated that further investigation is underway and that additional arrests may follow based on CCTV footage and digital evidence collected from social media. Senior police officers have issued a stern warning, stating that any attempt to disrupt law and order in Vijayawada will not be tolerated, irrespective of the individuals involved.

Large graphic with portraits of officials and Telugu text. Text includes: 'నందిగామ సాసైటీ PACS చైర్మన్ గా నాకు అవకాశం కల్పించిన ప్రతి ఒక్కరికీ నా హృదయపూర్వక కృతజ్ఞతలు'. It lists several officials and their names in Telugu, such as 'భారత దేశానికి శక్తివంతమైన నాయకత్వం అందిస్తున్న ప్రధాని శ్రీ నరేంద్ర మోదీ గారికి' and 'రాష్ట్ర అభివృద్ధి పథంలో ముందుకు నడిపిస్తున్న ముఖ్యమంత్రి శ్రీ నారా చంద్రబాబు నాయుడు గారికి'.

Vijayawada: Officials Call for Collective Action to Build a Drug-Free Society

Vijayawada, 17-02-2026 | TPN Bureau
Vijayawada District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha has called upon all departments to work in coordination to ensure the creation of a drug-free society. She directed officials to widely promote the helpline number 1972 and encourage the public to report any information related to drug activities. The Collector emphasized that public participation is crucial in eliminating the menace of narcotics and instructed authorities to create extensive awareness about the toll-free number across the district. The directions were issued during a review meeting held on Tuesday at the Sri Pingali Venkayya Meeting Hall in the Collectorate. The meeting was conducted under the District-Level Narco Coordination Centre as part of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan program. Police Commissioner S.V. Rajasekhar Babu, DLSA Secretary K. Ramakrishnaiah, and officials from various departments attended the session. During the meeting, officials reviewed ongoing measures for drug control, awareness initiatives, enforcement drives, counseling services, and coordination between departments. The Collector stated that under the leadership of EAGLE teams, 133 awareness programs have been conducted across colleges, higher secondary schools, and other public places in the district. These programs focused on educating youth and the general public about the harmful physical, psychological, and social consequences of drug abuse. Dr. Lakshmisha also stressed the need for constant surveillance in the 150 identified hotspot areas in the district. She instructed police and concerned departments to maintain strict monitoring and conduct regular inspections to curb the supply and consumption of narcotic substances. Highlighting enforcement efforts, she noted that last year EAGLE teams registered 27 cases and arrested 71 individuals in connection with drug-related offenses. The Collector further emphasized rehabilitation as a key component of drug control. Individuals addicted to narcotics should be provided proper counseling and detoxification services through de-addiction centers. After recovery, they should be offered skill development training and livelihood opportunities to help them restart their lives with dignity. She also suggested involving voluntary organizations to strengthen rehabilitation efforts. Additionally, she directed that EAGLE Clubs in all educational institutions must function actively to promote continuous awareness among students. Officials reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening enforcement, prevention, and rehabilitation measures to ensure Vijayawada steadily progresses toward becoming a drug-free district.

Crores Misused in "Fish Andhra"?...

Amaravati, Feb 17 | TPN Bureau

Serious financial irregularities have emerged in the implementation of the Fish Andhra scheme, raising concerns about the use of Central and State government funds allocated for the welfare of fishermen. An audit conducted by the Accountant General of India (AG) reportedly uncovered multiple lapses, including deviations from scheme guidelines, fund diversion, and weak internal financial controls.

The period under familiar with the audit, a substantial portion of the funds released for the scheme was allegedly not used for the intended beneficiaries. Expenditure reportedly deviated from prescribed guidelines, while financial discipline and internal control mechanisms were reportedly inadequate. The audit further flagged lapses in documentation, accounting practices, and oversight during the tenure of certain senior officials responsible for monitoring the scheme.

scrutiny reportedly includes: Dr. S. Anjali, Additional Director (FAC), Dr. V.V. Venkateswara Rao, Joint Director before retirement, and Certain Joint Directors and Assistant Directors of Fisheries (ADF) at the Commissionerate headquarters. Fresh allegations have also surfaced against the current Additional Director of Fisheries, A. Chandrasekhar Reddy, suggesting attempts to suppress earlier audit objections. Sources claim that approximately 50,000 were allegedly being collected

from each District Fisheries Officer (DFO) to influence audit outcomes and regularize objections related to prior irregularities. If substantiated, these actions could constitute both financial misconduct and interference with statutory audit mechanisms. Repeated efforts to obtain official responses from the concerned authorities reportedly did not yield clarification at the time of reporting. Observers warn that the implications of the irregularities go beyond procedural laps-

es. Misuse or diversion of funds meant for fishermen directly impacts vulnerable coastal and inland communities. Additionally, any attempt to interfere with an audit threatens the credibility of institutional oversight and public accountability. Civil society and stakeholders are demanding a comprehensive independent inquiry into all financial transactions under the Fish Andhra scheme. They call for accountability for past and present officials found responsible for



irregularities and strict legal action if misuse of public funds is confirmed. Immediate vigilance inquiries into attempts to influence audit proceedings have also been urged.

Transparency, including the public release of full audit find-

ings, and adherence to due process are seen as essential steps to restore confidence in the scheme. Ensuring that funds reach the intended beneficiaries and safeguarding the integrity of institutional oversight will be critical for the welfare of Andhra Pradesh's fishing communities. This investigation highlights the urgent need for financial accountability and vigilant monitoring in government welfare schemes, particularly those serving vulnerable populations.

Kandula Durgesh Calls for Cultural Revival Across the State

Vijayawada, 17-02-2026 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Minister for Culture Kandula Durgesh has emphasized the government's commitment to reviving and promoting the state's cultural heritage, integrating tourism and film sectors under the concept of an "Orange Economy." Speaking at a detailed review meeting at Ghantasala Government College of Music in Vijayawada, Durgesh highlighted plans to organize a special workshop in June or July to boost the state's cultural brand through the "Orange Revolution."



The minister assured officials that artists, poets, and performers would receive the highest recognition under the coalition government. He instructed that the Cultural Department remain active 365 days a year, focusing on the welfare of artists and providing them with regular performance opportunities at temples and local platforms, including initiatives like "Happy Sunday" programs. Durgesh emphasized transforming art into a sustaina-

ble economic resource rather than limiting it to performances alone. Ahead of the upcoming Ugadi awards, he instructed officials to select genuine talent at the grassroots level, without political or personal recommendations. The final list of awardees will be announced after thorough evaluation of nominations. Officials requested the revival of the Kuchipudi Dance Teacher Scheme, previously benefiting 190 instructors before being suspended in 2019. Durgesh

expressed optimism that reinstating the program would provide employment to artists and promote the global reach of Andhra Pradesh's classical dance heritage. He also supported issuing ID cards to all artists for formal recognition. The minister further proposed a dedicated course for Telugu poetic theatre, with weekly classes conducted by visiting instructors starting from Ugadi. Discussions were held regarding special grants for theatre councils and the establishment of a National School of Dra-

ma branch in Rajahmundry, supported by Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. Budgetary allocations for cultural programs were discussed, including pending Rs. 3.64 crore funds for the South Culture Zone, and the allocation of government buildings for private music colleges in Kurnool, Guntur, and Nellore, aiming to ensure each district has a music college. Durgesh also directed officials to organize a "Girijan Utsav" to celebrate the culture of tribal regions and com-

mended efforts to give official recognition to the Konaseema Prabhakar Teertha, aiming for a grander celebration next year. He stated that the Cultural Department would play a central role in upcoming Godavari and Krishna Pushkarams, coordinating with Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan.

Earlier, Durgesh personally visited classrooms at Ghantasala Music College, interacting with students and reviewing teaching methods. The meeting included participation from Cultural Department Director Regadi Mallikarjuna Rao, Theatre Academy Chairman Gummadi Gopal Krishna, Creative and Cultural Committee Chair Podapati Tejaswi, Folk Arts Academy Chairman Vampuru Ganguly, Manager Srinivas, and other senior officials. The minister's address reinforced the government's pledge to restore cultural vibrancy, honour artists, and strengthen Andhra Pradesh's artistic legacy.

Chandrababu Naidu Condoles Family of Madanapalle Murder Victim

Madanapalle, Feb 17 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday expressed profound condolences to the family of the seven-year-old girl who was brutally murdered in Madanapalle, describing the incident as deeply shocking and tragic. The young girl's death has stirred outrage across the state, with widespread calls for swift justice and enhanced child safety. In a heartfelt message, the Chief Minister conveyed his sympathies to the grieving parents and vowed that the state government would ensure a thorough investigation and strict legal action against those found responsible. He said the heinous nature of the crime had caused immense pain to citizens, and the government stands with the family during this difficult time. Chandrababu Naidu said that such violence against a child is unacceptable and strikes at the very conscience of society. He assured the family that the government would provide all necessary support to them and that every effort would be made to expedite the legal process. The Chief



Minister emphasized that the safety and security of children is of paramount importance and reiterated the government's commitment to upholding law and order. Officials confirmed that the suspect in the case has been taken into custody and is being questioned as part of the ongoing investigation. As the probe continues, authorities said forensic and legal teams are working to gather all relevant evidence to ensure justice is served. The Chief Minister's message comes amid growing public demand for accountability and a sustained effort to strengthen protective measures for women and children. Several local leaders and community members have also condemned the crime, urging authorities to take decisive action. Naidu's expression of sympathy reflects the government's attempt to reach out to the bereaved family and reas-

sure the public that such tragic incidents are being treated with the seriousness they deserve. He reiterated that the state would leave no stone unturned in ensuring that the perpetrator is brought to justice and that child safety remains a priority in administrative measures. The tragic murder has sparked discussions on the need for comprehensive child protection strategies, with advocates calling for stronger preventive mechanisms and community vigilance to safeguard vulnerable children. The government's response and the broader social dialogue underline the urgency to address such crimes and prevent their recurrence. Chandrababu Naidu's condolence message aims to convey solidarity with the family while reinforcing the state's commitment to justice and safety for all citizens.

Burglary at MLA Dulipalla Narendra Kumar's Family Residence Creates Stir

Ponnur, Feb 17 | TPN Bureau

A major burglary at the family residence of Dhulipalla Narendra Kumar in Ponnur has triggered concern among local residents after unidentified thieves allegedly broke into the house and stole valuables while it was unoccupied.



The incident reportedly took place at the MLA's ancestral home, where his mother stays. Family members discovered the theft after noticing signs of forced entry and alerted the police. Preliminary information suggests that gold ornaments, silver articles, and cash were stolen from the house, making it one of the significant burglary cases reported in the area in recent months.

Police officials rushed to the spot soon after receiving the complaint and began an investigation. Forensic personnel examined the premises, collected fingerprints, and documented evidence to help trace the culprits. Authorities are also reviewing CCTV footage from nearby streets and establishments to identify suspicious movements around the time of the incident. Investigators believe

the burglars may have conducted prior reconnaissance before executing the theft, as they appeared to target specific storage areas within the house. However, officials said all angles, including the possibility of insider information, are being examined as part of the probe. Senior police officers stated that special teams have been formed to track down the suspects and recover the stolen property. Local informants have been alerted, and patrols in surrounding neighbourhoods have been intensified to prevent similar

incidents. Officers expressed confidence that progress would be made soon as technical and field investigations continue simultaneously. The burglary has caused anxiety among residents in the locality, many of whom expressed shock that such a crime could occur at a high-profile residence. Community members have urged authorities to enhance surveillance and night patrolling to ensure safety. Political circles have also taken note of the incident, with party leaders calling for swift ac-

Emergency Quota Restored in Vande Bharat Sleeper and Amrit Bharat Trains



New Delhi, Feb 17 | TPN Bureau

Indian Railways has reinstated the emergency quota in Vande Bharat Sleeper and Amrit Bharat services, aiming to facilitate passengers who need to travel at short notice due to urgent circumstances. The move comes after reviewing passenger requirements, berth availability, and operational considerations. Until now, these trains had reserved quotas primarily for specific categories such as women, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and duty pass holders. With the latest decision, the railway

authorities have directed all zones to ensure the emergency quota is made available in a structured manner and issued detailed guidelines for its implementation. According to the revised norms, Amrit Bharat trains with seven or more sleeper coaches must mandatorily earmark 24 berths under the emergency quota. In Vande Bharat Sleeper trains, the allocation varies by coach class and demand patterns. In First AC coaches, four berths will be set aside on normal days and six on weekends. In Second AC coaches, 24 berths will

be available on weekdays and 30 on weekends. Similarly, Third AC coaches will have 24 berths reserved on regular days and 42 berths during weekends under the emergency category. The quota is intended strictly for genuine urgent travel needs. It can be utilized in cases such as medical emergencies, unforeseen official duties, or pressing family situations. While the facility is often used by officials, ordinary passengers can also avail themselves of the quota provided they submit valid supporting documents. Railway officials clar-

ified that emergency quota berths cannot be booked through regular online channels. Passengers must submit a request to the concerned authorities at least one day prior to travel. Approval will be granted only after verification of the urgency and relevant documentation. The restoration of this quota is expected to offer flexibility and relief to passengers facing unexpected travel needs, while also helping railway authorities manage last-minute demand more efficiently without disrupting regular reservations.

Bangladesh's Digital Battlefield: How Social Media Became a Weapon in Political Warfare

In Bangladesh's recent general elections, social media did not merely supplement political campaigning—it reshaped it. Platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube became battlegrounds where narratives were built, distorted, and weaponised. What unfolded was not just a contest of votes, but a contest of perception. In a country with high mobile penetration and a digitally active youth population, online spaces turned into arenas of cognitive warfare, where influence operations, misinformation, and coordinated propaganda flourished.

The Rise of Organised Digital Campaigning

Unlike previous elections, political actors this time invested heavily in social media outreach. Major opposition groups and religious political organisations deployed hundreds of pages and accounts to expand their reach. These were not casual supporter pages; many were professionally managed networks pushing targeted content, sponsored advertisements, and highly emotive messaging.

Some political formations reportedly controlled over 200 affiliated pages each, accounting for a significant share of total online political advertising during the campaign. This systematic digital mobilisation suggests a deliberate strategy to dominate online discourse. While social media allows for direct engagement with voters, the scale and coordination of these campaigns blurred the line between legitimate political communication and orchestrated influence operations.

More concerning was the discovery that certain high-speeding "news" pages were not independent media platforms at all. Instead, they functioned as political mouthpieces masquerading as neutral news outlets. By present-

ing partisan narratives under the guise of journalism, these pages gained credibility among unsuspecting audiences and amplified targeted messaging far beyond traditional party channels.

Deepfakes and the Spread of Deception

The election period also witnessed a surge in technologically sophisticated misinformation. Deepfake videos, doctored images, fabricated quotes, and manipulated graphics circulated widely. Artificially generated news anchors delivered inflammatory statements. Uniformed officials appeared in edited clips endorsing controversial claims. Photocards bearing fake headlines mimicked the style of established media houses.

Such tactics made fact-checking more difficult and allowed false content to travel quickly before being debunked. In many cases, the emotional charge of the content ensured that corrections reached far fewer people than the original misleading posts.

This was not just random misinformation. The patterns suggested coordination. Narratives were repeated across multiple pages simultaneously. Hashtags trended with synchronised timing. Identical talking points appeared across accounts that presented themselves as unrelated individuals.

The use of digital deception marked a shift from traditional rumour-mongering to technologically advanced narrative manipulation. It demonstrated how easily modern tools can be weaponised to influence public opinion at scale.

Impostors and External Influence

Adding another layer of complexity were accounts suspected of operating from outside Bangladesh while posing as local citizens. These impostor profiles injected po-



larising narratives into domestic debates, often amplifying anti-India sentiment or exploiting sensitive cultural and political issues.

By blending into local conversations, these actors were able to inflame nationalist emotions and deepen divisions. Whether state-backed or privately organised, such interventions illustrate how social media erases geographical boundaries in political discourse. Domestic elections can now attract foreign narrative players seeking to shape outcomes or destabilise relationships.

This phenomenon mirrors global trends in digital interference, where political discourse is influenced by actors who may have little direct stake in the democratic process but substantial interest in its consequences.

Post-Election Disinformation and Public Distrust

The spread of misinformation did not end when voting concluded. In fact, the post-election period saw an even more intense wave of claims and counterclaims. False allegations circulated online

suggesting widespread rigging, fabricated seat margins, and systematic exclusion of certain parties from victory.

Some viral posts asserted that specific political groups had narrowly lost dozens of constituencies by implausibly small margins. Subsequent verification showed that only a small fraction of seats had genuinely close contests. Yet by the time corrections emerged, distrust had already taken root among sections of the electorate.

The speed at which such narratives spread demonstrates the fragility of public confidence in the digital age. Even unverified claims can fuel anger, protests, and long-term skepticism toward democratic institutions.

Media Imitation and the Crisis of Credibility

Another troubling trend was the imitation of mainstream media brands. Fake pages mimicked logos, typography, and layouts of established news organisations. Fabricated headlines were designed to look authentic at a glance. In an environment where many users scroll quickly and rely on visual

cues rather than detailed verification, such mimicry proved highly effective.

This phenomenon undermines public trust in journalism. When audiences repeatedly encounter fake headlines attributed to real media houses, confidence in all news sources declines. The erosion of credibility benefits propagandists, as citizens become unsure whom to believe.

The crisis is not confined to fringe platforms. Even widely used networks struggled to contain the rapid dissemination of false content, particularly when it was shared through private groups and encrypted messaging channels.

The Broader Democratic Implications

The digital turbulence surrounding Bangladesh's elections reflects a broader global challenge. Social media offers unprecedented opportunities for engagement, but it also enables manipulation at scale. When coordinated networks flood platforms with misleading information, genuine civic debate is drowned out.

The consequences extend

beyond election results. Persistent misinformation can foster political apathy, polarisation, and social unrest. Communities targeted by false campaigns may face harassment or real-world hostility. Rumours amplified online have, in some cases, contributed to violence and mob mobilisation.

For a democracy to function effectively, citizens must share a basic understanding of reality. When that shared foundation fractures, the political system becomes vulnerable to instability.

Regulation Versus Free Expression

The response to digital misinformation is complex. Government regulation risks overreach and potential misuse against dissenting voices. Yet the absence of oversight allows harmful content to proliferate unchecked.

Authorities have introduced guidelines aimed at curbing online misconduct during election periods. However, enforcement remains challenging, particularly given the speed and anonymity of digital platforms. Civil society groups advocate for stronger fact-checking networks and enhanced digital literacy education, arguing that long-term resilience depends on informed users rather than heavy-handed censorship.

Technology companies also bear responsibility. Algorithms that prioritise engagement often amplify sensational or emotionally charged content—precisely the type most likely to mislead. Greater transparency in advertising, clearer labelling of political content, and stronger detection of coordinated inauthentic behaviour are frequently cited as necessary reforms.

Building Digital Resilience

Ultimately, Bangladesh's experience underscores the urgent need for digital resil-

ience. This involves multiple layers: transparent political communication, responsible platform governance, independent journalism, and an informed public capable of critical thinking.

Media literacy campaigns can help users recognise common manipulation tactics—such as emotionally loaded language, suspicious page histories, and inconsistencies in visual content. Fact-checking initiatives must be strengthened and supported. Political parties themselves must commit to ethical digital conduct if democratic norms are to be preserved.

The country stands at a crossroads where technological advancement intersects with democratic vulnerability. Social media is not inherently destabilising; it can empower citizens and broaden participation. But without safeguards, it can also distort reality and inflame division.

A Digital Turning Point

Bangladesh's recent electoral cycle may well be remembered as a turning point in its political communication landscape. The events highlighted how deeply online narratives can shape offline outcomes. They revealed the scale of coordinated digital campaigning and the sophistication of modern misinformation techniques.

As political contests increasingly migrate to digital platforms, the battle for hearts and minds will continue to unfold in timelines and comment threads. The challenge now is to ensure that these spaces foster informed debate rather than manipulated outrage.

In the end, democracy depends not only on ballots cast but on the integrity of the information environment in which citizens make their choices. Safeguarding that environment is one of the defining tasks of our time.

Inside Congress's Dual Strategy: How 'Team Rahul' and 'Team Priyanka' Are Shaping the Party's Election Plans in Kerala and Assam



The Indian National Congress is gearing up for a series of crucial state elections across the country, and two figures loom large in the party's strategy: Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. Publicly, there is no official "Team Rahul" or "Team Priyanka" within the party—only one unified Congress working towards the same goals. But in practice, there is a visible difference in how the siblings are leading and influencing the party's preparation and campaign efforts, especially in Kerala and Assam, two very different political battlegrounds.

As the Congress approaches assembly elections in multiple states—West Bengal, Kerala, Assam, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry—the internal dynamics of leadership and organisational focus are playing out in real time. The outcomes in Kerala and Assam are especially significant because they represent very different electoral terrains for the party: one promising, and one much more challenging.

The Dynamics of Leadership: Siblings on the Same Page, But Different Roads

At the outset, it's important to recognise that neither Rahul nor Priyanka Gandhi represents an institutional faction within the Congress. They do not head rival camps competing for control. Instead, what observers and internal strategists note is that each sibling brings a slightly different style and emphasis to leadership. Whether in approach to organisational discipline, public outreach, or strategic priorities, Rahul and Priyanka each have a distinct way of operating. This reality has led commentators and party watchers to talk in terms of informal "teams" around each of them—but always under the single umbrella of the Congress.

Rahul Gandhi, with his long tenure in frontline politics and his role as Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, has been central to shaping the party's overall narrative and electoral strategy. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, meanwhile, occupies a more organisational and on-the-ground role, especially in contexts where the party is under pressure or needs a strong campaign push. Their different roles reflect not

internal rivalry so much as complementary operational focus.

Priyanka Gandhi's Leadership Role in Assam

In Assam, Priyanka Gandhi has taken a leading role in the Congress's election preparations. She was appointed chairperson of the panel responsible for screening Congress's candidates for the upcoming state election, placing her at the heart of one of the most important parts of the campaign—the selection of candidates who can win seats. This responsibility is significant because Assam is a difficult political environment for the Congress; it is currently governed by the rival BJP, led by strong state leadership, and the party's prospects of reclaiming power are uncertain.

Priyanka's leadership in Assam reflects the party high command's belief that her involvement can galvanise workers and candidates and boost morale. Her work includes holding meetings with local leaders, coordinating with screening committees, and engaging in strategy deliberations with the state unit. Congress publicly projects her role as central to strengthening organisational unity and positioning the party as a formidable challenger to the ruling establishment in the north-eastern state.

While Assam's political landscape poses challenges, Priyanka's strategic involvement also signals that the Congress is not writing off the state. Her presence aims to send a message of seriousness and commitment—to local party workers, potential voters, and allies—that the party is engaging deeply with the unique

socio-political dynamics of Assam.

Rahul Gandhi and the Strategy in Kerala

In Kerala, a different picture emerges. Rahul Gandhi is seen as the primary architect of the Congress's approach to the state's elections. The party's internal messaging emphasises unity and discipline, cohesive action among the Kerala leadership. Rahul's involvement is more visible in public statements and strategic directives aimed at consolidating the party's base and ensuring that organisational disagreements do not derail electoral efforts.

Historically, Kerala has been a strong state for the Congress and allied parties. The organisation there enjoys deep roots and experienced leadership, but it is not without internal tensions. The party has had to balance the ambitions and influence of senior leaders, such as Shashi Tharoor and others, with the need to present a united front to voters. Rahul's leadership in Kerala emphasises unity and clarity of purpose, urging leaders and workers to avoid actions or rhetoric that could undermine collective strength.

Rahul's team in Kerala also includes experienced organisers and influential voices who bring local knowledge and strategic insight. The focus is on harnessing the state's traditional support base, consolidating alliances, and presenting a credible alternative to rival parties. In doing so, Rahul's directive style aims to combine organisational discipline with local adaptability, allowing Kerala Congress leaders to craft campaign messages that reflect both national priorities and regional concerns.

Contrasting Challenges: Kerala's Promise vs Assam's Complexity

The contrast between Kerala and Assam underscores why the Congress is deploying different leadership energies in each.

In Kerala, the party remains competitive and has a real chance of winning power. The political landscape is relatively favourable, and the electorate has historically demonstrated openness to alternating government power. Consolidating the party's organisational structure, avoiding public factionalism, and unifying leadership around a common platform are seen as key to transforming potential into electoral success.

Assam, by contrast, is a more uncertain environment. The BJP has a strong foothold, and communal and regional issues play a significant role in political mobilisation. Here, the Congress faces the dual task of rebuilding its organisational strength while also offering voters a compelling counter-narrative to the ruling party's messaging. Priyanka's active leadership is designed to reinforce the party's internal discipline and electoral readiness and to convey seriousness of intent to both supporters and undecided voters.

Internal Party Reactions and Public Perception

Within the Congress, reactions to these leadership assignments have been mixed. Many workers appreciate the elevated role that Priyanka Gandhi has assumed in Assam, viewing it as a demonstration of the party's commitment to turning around its fortunes in the state. They see her as bringing energy and focus at a critical juncture.

In Kerala, the emphasis on unity under Rahul's guidance has been widely welcomed as a stabilising force, especially where local leadership has experienced factional tensions in the past. Rahul's focus on message control and organisational cohesion resonates with those who believe that Kerala remains winnable if internal discipline can be maintained.

However, outside observers and political rivals have sometimes interpreted these moves differently, suggesting that the visible division of responsibilities amounts to a factional divide within the Congress. Party leaders dismiss such interpretations as speculative and argue that the division of roles is simply strategic allocation of responsibilities based on individual strengths and the specific needs of different states.

What the Elections Could Mean for Congress's Future

The outcomes in Kerala and Assam will have profound implications for the Congress. A victory in Kerala could strengthen the party's narrative that it remains a credible and electorally viable force in Indian politics. It would reinforce the idea that disciplined organisational work and cohesive leadership can translate into voter support.

In Assam, any improvement in performance—even if not a full win—could signal that the party's investment in leadership and candidate selection is paying off. It would offer hope that the Congress can make inroads into regions where it has struggled, provided its leadership remains engaged, strategic and responsive to local issues.

Both roles also have implications for Rahul and Priyanka

Gandhi's standing within the party. Strong performance in either state could boost their influence and credibility as key leaders capable of navigating India's complex political terrain. Conversely, poor results could spur internal criticism and calls for strategic reassessment.

Conclusion: A Unified Party with Dual Leaders on the Ground

The Congress's approach to Kerala and Assam demonstrates how the party is trying to marshal its leadership strengths in state-specific ways. Rahul Gandhi's emphasis on unity and tactical clarity in Kerala complements Priyanka Gandhi's hands-on engagement and organisational supervision in Assam. Though there is no formal "split" within the party, the perception of different leadership emphases reflects the practical realities of electioneering in diverse political contexts.

These strategies also reflect a broader recognition within the Congress: winning elections in India today requires more than ideology and legacy. It demands organisational coherence, strategic leadership, adaptive campaigning, and a deep understanding of local sentiments. In deploying its senior leaders where they are believed to be most effective, the party is making its play for relevance in an increasingly competitive political environment.

Only time will tell whether these strategies succeed, but what is clear is that the Congress is striving to leverage its leadership in ways that maximise its chances in both a promising terrain like Kerala and a challenging one like Assam.

Supreme Court Flags Risks of Using AI to Draft Legal Petitions, Urges Caution

The Supreme Court of India has raised significant concerns about the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in drafting legal documents, warning that unchecked reliance on such tools could pose serious risks to justice and the legal process. In a recent hearing, the top court highlighted the need for caution, especially in matters involving constitutional rights and legal interpretations.

Judges Warn Against Uncritical AI Dependence

During proceedings, the bench expressed unease over petitions and affidavits prepared largely with the assistance of AI tools. The court noted that while AI can be a useful research and drafting aid, it may not always grasp the nuanced legal principles and factual complexities inherent in judicial matters. There were pointed remarks about how over-reliance on AI outputs without proper verification could lead to flawed arguments, inaccuracies, or even misrepresentation of legal positions.

The judges underscored that human oversight, legal expertise, and ethical judgment remain indispensable in the judicial process. They emphasised that lawyers and litigants cannot simply delegate the intellectual responsibility of framing legal issues to AI systems, which may not fully under-



stand subtleties of law or context specific implications.

AI vs. Human Judgment: A Central Concern

A key point made by the court was that artificial intelligence, designed to generate responses based on data patterns, does not possess conscience, empathy, or moral judgment. In matters involving human rights, liberties, or constitutional protections, the Supreme Court stressed that decisions and arguments must be rooted in human understanding and legal philosophy rather than automated outputs.

The bench remarked that treating AI as a substitute for trained legal reasoning could reduce the quality of legal submissions and potentially undermine the integrity of judicial scrutiny. This warning reflects broader global discussions on how to regulate AI use in professional and high stakes

domains.

Court's Call for Responsible Use

While cautioning against blind trust in AI, the Supreme Court did not dismiss the technology entirely. Instead, it urged lawyers and courts to adopt a balanced approach — using AI for preliminary research or drafting assistance but ensuring that all content is rigorously reviewed and validated by qualified legal professionals before submission.

The judges emphasised that ensuring accuracy, adherence to legal standards, and protection of litigants' rights should always take precedence over convenience or speed offered by automated tools.

Implications for Legal Practice in India

The court's remarks could have a wide impact on the Indian legal ecosystem, where AI

tools are increasingly accessible and used for drafting, research, and case preparation. Legal experts say that the Supreme Court's guidance may lead to new norms or policies regarding AI deployment in courts, promoting transparency and accountability in how tech tools are used in legal settings.

Law firms and practitioners may need to reassess their use of AI platforms to ensure compliance with ethical and professional standards, especially when preparing petitions, affidavits, and submissions that could influence judicial outcomes.

The Broader Debate on AI Use in Justice

The Supreme Court's intervention comes at a time when courts around the world are grappling with how to integrate AI responsibly into legal systems. Issues such as bias in AI outputs, accountability for errors, and transparency in decision making are part of a global conversation on technology governance.

In India, a country with a vast and complex legal landscape, the court's emphasis on human expertise, especially in matters where fundamental rights and legal interpretations are at stake.

India and France Elevate Ties to "Special Global Strategic Partnership"



During his visit to India, French President Emmanuel Macron and Prime Minister Narendra Modi jointly announced that India and France have upgraded their long-standing bilateral relationship to a Special Global Strategic Partnership. The leaders described this as a milestone that deepens cooperation across defence, technology, innovation, and global strategic coordination.

Prime Minister Modi highlighted that this partnership is rooted in mutual trust and shared values, and called France one of India's most significant strategic partners in Europe. He emphasised that in a turbulent global environment, the India-France relationship contributes to global stability and peace.

Key Areas of Cooperation Under the New Partnership

The upgraded partnership signals expanded collaboration in several critical domains:

- Defence and Security: Both nations reaf-

firmed strong defence ties, building on past cooperation in areas like fighter aircraft and naval systems. Discussions included strategies to enhance joint defence production and technology sharing.

- Artificial Intelligence and Technology: India and France will cooperate closely on responsible AI development and innovation, with joint initiatives and research programs aimed at shaping global AI standards and ethical technology use.

- Innovation and Industry: The two countries are promoting expanded industrial and technological partnerships, including manufacturing, research, and development in advanced sectors.

The special strategic partnership builds on years of evolving cooperation in energy, defence, space, and connectivity, and reinforces mu-

tual ambitions to address global challenges collectively.

Strategic and Global Impact

Leaders noted that the upgraded partnership goes beyond bilateral ties — it reflects a shared vision for a stable, rules-based international order and enhanced cooperation in areas such as regional security, climate action, and emerging technologies. Talks also touched on cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and global forums.

The announcement came during a high-level joint press event, where both Modi and Macron reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining strong diplomatic and people-to-people ties between India and France.

Overall, the declaration of a Special Global Strategic Partnership signals a new chapter in India-France relations, widening the scope of cooperation and elevating both nations' roles as influential global partners.

Supreme Court Asks to Modify Plea on Hate Speech by BJP Chief Ministers in Selective Hearing

The Supreme Court of India has asked petitioners to modify their plea concerning alleged hate speech by several BJP ruled chief ministers, after initially characterising the original filing as selective in its scope. The top court has not yet ruled on the merits of the accusations but has given the petitioners an opportunity to refine their submission.

The case centres on claims that certain statements made by sitting chief ministers amount to hate speech — language or rhetoric that could incite division, hostility or discrimination against specific communities. The petitioners had urged the Supreme Court to direct authorities to take action against such remarks and to outline legal standards for identifying and penalising hate actors.

During initial hearings, the bench indicated concerns that the plea focused narrowly on leaders from one political party — raising questions about



whether it was framed in a fair and comprehensive way. The court observed that for constitutional scrutiny, a petition needs to address the broader issue of hate speech standards rather than appear to single out specific individuals or political actors.

In response, the Supreme Court instructed the petitioners to modify their plea to set out clearer legal grounds for hate speech standards that ap-

ply uniformly — irrespective of political affiliation. The court emphasised the need to address the underlying constitutional principles, including freedom of speech, equality before the law, and prevention of discrimination or violence.

While the matter is procedural at this stage, the court's direction signals that justices want to engage with the legal framework of hate speech rather than immediately as-

sess individual remarks. The petitioners will now have the opportunity to re draft their plea in a more general form that focuses on defining hate speech under Indian law and establishing objective criteria for enforcement.

No final hearing date has been scheduled yet. The Supreme Court's request for modification reflects judicial caution in cases that touch on sensitive political speech and constitutional rights. Once a revised plea is submitted, the court will decide on admissibility and possibly proceed to a fuller hearing.

The episode has already drawn public attention, illustrating broader national debates about political rhetoric, social harmony, and the limits of free expression. Legal experts say that how the Supreme Court ultimately frames hate speech standards could have wider implications for political discourse and constitutional rights in India.

India to Attract Over \$200 Billion in AI Investment in Next Two Years, Says Ashwini Vaishnaw at AI Summit



At the ongoing India AI Impact Summit 2026 in New Delhi, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced that India is expected to attract more than USD 200 billion in Artificial Intelligence related investments over the next two years, reflecting strong global interest in the country's emerging tech ecosystem.

Addressing attendees — including policymakers, business leaders, and innovators — Vaishnaw highlighted that the investment momentum spans across major layers of the AI ecosystem, such as infrastructure, deep tech startups, applications and models, and venture funding. He emphasised that India's digital public infrastructure and proactive policy framework have created an enabling environment that is drawing attention from global investors and tech companies.

According to the minister, global CEOs and venture capital firms are showing keen interest in deep tech and AI opportunities in India, beyond just conventional technology sectors. This includes funding for startups, AI infrastructure

projects, and innovation platforms that are geared toward both commercial growth and social impact.

The announcement comes as part of broader discussions at the summit about India's role in shaping global AI standards, fostering ethical use of technology, and building consensus among nations on how AI can be harnessed for public good. Vaishnaw also underscored the importance of creating an inclusive AI ecosystem — one that balances innovation with safeguards against misuse and harmful outcomes.

In addition to investment figures, government plans unveiled at the event include significant expansions in compute capacity and GPU resources that will support research and development across the country. These efforts are intended to help India consolidate its position as a key player in the global AI landscape while unlocking economic growth, job creation, and technological self reliance.

The summit, which brings together international delegates, technology leaders, and AI experts, aims to serve as a platform for dialogue on adoption driven artificial intelligence. With such ambitious investment projections, India is positioning itself as a major hub for AI innovation and deployment in the years ahead.

Supreme Court Defers Hearing on CBI Appeal Against Lalu Prasad Yadav's Bail in Deoghar Fodder Scam

The Supreme Court of India has adjourned until April 22, 2026 its hearing on an appeal filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) challenging the bail granted to Lalu Prasad Yadav in connection with the Deoghar treasury fodder scam.

The CBI's appeal seeks to overturn an earlier order by the Jharkhand High Court that suspended Lalu Prasad Yadav's sentence and granted him bail. The agency argues that the High Court's decision was legally incorrect and that the sentence should not have been suspended, particularly given the nature of the offences and the evidence in the prosecution's favour.

A bench of Justices M.M. Sundresh and N. Kotiswar Singh observed during proceedings that many of the accused in the case — including Yadav — are senior citizens, with ages ranging into their 60s, 70s, and even 80s. The bench noted that some accused have since died and that not all legal pleadings in the matter are complete, prompting the decision to defer the hearing to allow parties to address outstanding issues.

During arguments, the CBI's counsel contended that the High Court's suspension of Yadav's sentence was a violation of settled legal



principles and should be revisited by the apex court. In response, senior counsel for Yadav maintained that not all respondents in the appeal had been served or filed replies yet, making immediate resolution premature.

Lalu Prasad Yadav, former Chief Minister of Bihar and national political figure, was convicted in the Deoghar fodder scam — part of a larger scandal involving the alleged misappropriation of public funds from the Deoghar treasury in the early 1990s. A special CBI court had sentenced him to imprisonment, and the Jharkhand High Court later granted him bail pending broader legal proceedings.

The Supreme Court's adjournment underscores the complexity of the legal battle and the need for complete documentation and responses from all parties before a final decision is reached. The April hearing will be closely watched for further developments in this long running and high profile case.

Tina Ambani Skips ED Summons Again, Avoids Appearance for Second Time in Two Weeks



Tina Ambani, a prominent businesswoman and member of the Anil Ambani family, has skipped her scheduled appearance before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for the second time in as many weeks, according to law enforcement sources. The repeated absence has added another twist to the ongoing probe in which she is reportedly involved.

Background of the Case

The Enforcement Directorate, India's key financial crimes investigation agency, is conducting inquiries related to alleged financial irregularities and money laundering aspects in a case that has drawn significant attention due to the high profile of those involved. Tina Ambani's name has surfaced during the probe, and the ED had issued multiple summonses seeking her cooperation and testimony.

Second Missed Appearance

Officials say this is the second time in a short span that Tina Ambani has chosen not to comply with a summons from the ED. The

first instance occurred recently when she failed to appear on a scheduled date, citing unspecified reasons. This latest absence comes despite the agency providing adequate notice and pursuing her compliance through formal notice procedures.

Representatives close to the matter have not confirmed a precise reason for her continued non appearance. It remains unclear whether formal medical grounds, prior commitments, or legal strategy are driving the decision to skip the summons.

Enforcement Directorate's Response

Investigators are reportedly displeased with the repeated non compliance. The Enforcement Directorate unit handling the case is said to be considering its next course of action, which could include issuing a fresh summons with stricter compliance conditions or exploring legal remedies to secure her presence. In serious cases, the ED can seek court orders to compel appearance, though the specifics remain in early discussion.

Officials emphasise that cooperation with investiga-

tive agencies is a legal responsibility, especially when one is directly named in notices related to sensitive financial investigations. Non appearance without acceptable justification could invite further scrutiny or trigger additional legal steps.

What Lies Ahead

At this stage, the probe is ongoing, and law enforcement sources insist that the investigation's priority remains establishing facts and gathering evidence. Whether Tina Ambani will eventually cooperate or if the ED will pursue stronger legal measures remains to be seen.

Observers note that high profile summonses — particularly when repeatedly avoided — can amplify public interest in elite accountability and the functioning of investigative institutions.

For now, authorities are continuing with their inquiries, and the next developments are expected to unfold as the Enforcement Directorate assesses its legal options in response to the non appearance of a key person sought for questioning.

Bangladesh's Opposition Floats "Shadow Cabinet" Idea After New Government Takes Oath

Following the formation of Bangladesh's new government after the recent parliamentary elections, a fresh political idea is gaining attention — the creation of a "shadow cabinet" by opposition parties.

A shadow cabinet is a feature commonly seen in parliamentary democracies such as the United Kingdom and Australia. It consists of senior opposition leaders who are assigned portfolios that mirror those of the ruling government's ministers. Each shadow minister is responsible for scrutinising the work of their corresponding cabinet counterpart and presenting alternative policies. The concept is designed to promote structured accountability and informed debate within parliament.

In Bangladesh, leaders from smaller opposition groups have expressed interest in adopting this model. They argue that a shadow cabinet could function as a watchdog, ensuring transparency and keeping the government's decisions under close review. Supporters believe this would allow for more organised and issue-based criticism rather than general opposition rhetoric.

Some political figures have suggested that structured engagement between the cabinet and a shadow cabinet could strengthen democratic prac-



tices. By closely tracking government ministries such as finance, foreign affairs, health, and education, opposition lawmakers could contribute more substantively to policy discussions and legislative oversight.

However, the idea is still at a preliminary stage. Bangladesh has never formally implemented a shadow cabinet system before. The country's parliamentary framework does not currently provide specific provisions for such a structure. Political observers note that introducing the concept would require strong coordi-

nation within opposition ranks and possibly adjustments to parliamentary conventions.

The proposal comes at a time when Bangladesh's political landscape is undergoing transition after the swearing-in of the new administration. In the past, opposition politics in the country has often been marked by protests and boycotts rather than sustained parliamentary engagement. Advocates of the shadow cabinet model see it as an opportunity to shift toward a more institutionalised and policy-driven approach.

Whether the idea materialises into a formal mechanism remains uncertain. Its success would depend on political consensus, organisational capacity within opposition parties, and willingness from both sides of the aisle to engage constructively.

If implemented, a shadow cabinet could mark a significant evolution in Bangladesh's parliamentary culture — moving from confrontation to structured oversight and potentially deepening democratic accountability in the process.

Imran Khan's Eyesight Reportedly Improving in Jail, Concerns Over Medical Access Persist

Former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan, currently lodged in Adiala Jail, is reportedly showing signs of improvement in his eyesight following a recent medical evaluation. However, concerns from his family and personal doctors regarding access to independent medical care continue to generate debate.

A medical board conducted a detailed eye examination inside the jail after Khan complained of serious vision problems, particularly in his right eye. According to findings presented during court proceedings, there has been noticeable improvement compared to earlier assessments. Doctors reported partial restoration of vision in his right eye, while his left eye was found to be relatively stable with corrective support. The board also noted reduced retinal swelling and recommended continued medication along with further specialised tests to monitor his recovery.

Despite these reported improvements, Khan's personal physician has stated that he has not been granted permission to examine him directly. As a result, he says he cannot independently verify the progress described in official reports. He has expressed hope that the reported improvement is accurate but maintains that a direct medical evaluation is essential for confirmation.

Family members and political allies have also raised concerns about the adequacy of medical arrangements within the prison. They argue that Khan should be allowed access to his chosen medical specialists or be shifted to a hospital setting for



comprehensive treatment. His supporters contend that independent medical oversight would ensure transparency and eliminate doubts surrounding his health condition.

The matter has become politically sensitive, with opposition figures alleging that delays or limitations in medical access could have aggravated his condition. They have called for greater transparency in the medical process and regular updates verified by independent professionals.

Earlier reports had suggested significant deterior-

ation in Khan's right eye, prompting legal intervention and the formation of a medical board to assess his condition. While the latest examination indicates improvement, the broader issue of access to trusted doctors remains unresolved.

As discussions continue, attention remains focused not only on the extent of his recovery but also on whether authorities will permit expanded medical access. The situation underscores the intersection of health, legal processes, and political tension in Pakistan's evolving political landscape.

US-Iran Nuclear Talks Resume Amid Sharp Rhetoric from Khamenei

Indirect nuclear negotiations between the United States and Iran have resumed, even as tensions escalate following strong remarks from Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The talks, aimed at addressing concerns over Iran's nuclear programme, are being conducted through intermediaries. Both sides are attempting to revive diplomacy after previous efforts stalled amid growing regional strain and mutual distrust.

However, the renewed diplomatic push has been overshadowed by Khamenei's sharp warnings directed at US President Donald Trump. In a forceful statement, Iran's Supreme Leader asserted that American warships operating near Iranian waters "can be sunk," signalling Tehran's readiness to counter any military threats. His comments were widely interpreted as a direct response to the continued presence of



US naval forces in the region, including aircraft carriers deployed in strategic waters.

Khamenei criticised what he described as American pressure tactics, stating that Iran would not yield to coercion. He emphasised that Tehran's military capabilities are sufficient to respond to any aggression, while reiterating Iran's longstanding position that its nu-

clear activities are peaceful in nature.

The United States, meanwhile, has maintained that any potential agreement must place meaningful limits on Iran's nuclear enrichment and related activities. President Trump has indicated that while he supports negotiations, Washington will not accept a deal that fails to ade-

quately address security concerns.

The backdrop to these talks includes heightened military activity in the region. US naval deployments and Iranian military exercises have added to the atmosphere of caution and strategic posturing. The Strait of Hormuz — a critical global oil transit route — remains a focal point of geopolitical sensitivity.

Analysts note that the parallel tracks of diplomacy and military signalling highlight the fragile nature of the current moment. While both sides appear willing to explore dialogue, the rhetoric suggests deep mistrust remains.

The outcome of the renewed negotiations could significantly influence regional stability and global energy markets. For now, the situation remains delicate, with diplomatic engagement proceeding alongside stern warnings and strategic manoeuvring.

Emmanuel Macron's India Visit: AI Summit, Rafale Talks and Strategic Ties in Focus



French President Emmanuel Macron is on a three-day official visit to India, with discussions centred on defence cooperation, artificial intelligence, innovation, and broader strategic ties. The visit reflects the growing depth of the India-France partnership across both traditional and emerging sectors.

During his trip, President Macron is scheduled to hold detailed bilateral talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The leaders are expected to review progress in defence collaboration, trade, climate action, and Indo-Pacific strategy, while also exploring new avenues for cooperation in advanced technologies.

A major highlight of the visit is Macron's participation in the India AI Impact Summit 2026 in New Delhi. The summit brings together global leaders, policymakers, and technology experts to discuss responsible development and deployment of artificial intelligence. India and France have been strengthening collaboration in AI research, innovation ecosystems, and ethical frameworks, making the summit a key pillar of this visit.

Defence cooperation is another significant focus area. India and

France are engaged in discussions regarding a potential large-scale procurement of Rafale fighter jets. The proposal reportedly includes provisions for domestic manufacturing under India's "Make in India" initiative, which would deepen industrial collaboration between the two countries. If finalised, the agreement could become one of India's largest defence acquisitions and further solidify France's position as a key defence partner.

Beyond defence and AI, the two leaders are set to inaugurate the India-France Year of Innovation 2026. This initiative aims to strengthen ties between startups, research institutions, and businesses in both countries. It is expected to promote joint research projects, technology exchanges, and partnerships in emerging sectors such as clean energy, digital infrastructure, and advanced manufacturing.

Strategic issues are also likely to feature prominently in discussions. Both countries share concerns regarding developments in the Indo-Pacific region and have emphasised the importance of maritime security, supply chain resilience, and multilateral cooperation.

Overall, President Macron's visit underscores the comprehensive nature of the India-France strategic partnership. From defence deals and artificial intelligence collaboration to innovation and global diplomacy, the agenda reflects a forward-looking relationship aimed at long-term cooperation and shared global influence.

Indian National Detained in New Jersey on Multiple Charges Including Alleged Child Sexual Assault

An Indian man has been taken into custody by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in New Jersey, facing several serious criminal allegations, including the sexual assault of a minor, authorities say.

According to immigration officials, the man has been identified as Vedula Yashaswi Kottapalli, an Indian national who was reportedly living in the United States without legal status. ICE announced that he is accused of sexually assaulting a child under the age of 13 in New Jersey and that he also faces additional charges related to shoplifting and public disorder.

In a post on the social platform X, the immigration agency described Kottapalli as "a criminal illegal alien from India" and said that he will be kept in custody while removal (deportation) proceedings are initiated under US immigration law. These legal proceedings will determine whether he should be deported after the criminal case runs its course.

ICE has shared a photograph of Kottapalli alongside its announcement, and emphasised that he will remain in detention during the ongoing legal process. No spe-



cific details about the alleged incidents, such as when the alleged offences occurred or any court dates, have been released by the authorities so far.

The detention comes amid a broader emphasis by US immigration enforcement on detaining and processing individuals in the country without proper documentation, particularly if they are accused of serious crimes. Removal proceedings are standard in cases where non-citizens face criminal charges and immigration violations.

At this stage, the accusations against Kottapalli remain allegations, and he has not been convicted in court. The criminal justice process will proceed through the appropriate legal system, with Kottapalli given opportunities to respond to the charges.

The case has drawn attention as part of ongoing discussions about immigration enforcement in the United States and how authorities handle non-citizens accused of criminal conduct.

Rev. Jesse Jackson, Pioneering US Civil Rights Leader, Dies at 84



Reverend Jesse Jackson has died at the age of 84, bringing to a close a decades-long career at the forefront of the American civil rights movement. His family confirmed that he passed away peacefully, surrounded by loved ones.

Born in Greenville, South Carolina, Jackson rose from the segregated American South to become one of the most recognisable and influential voices for racial equality in the United States. Early in his career, he worked closely with Martin Luther King Jr., participating in marches and campaigns that challenged systemic discrimination. After King's assassination in 1968, Jackson continued advocating for civil rights, emerging as a prominent national leader in his own right.

Champion of Equality and Opportunity

Over the decades, Jackson became known for his powerful oratory and grassroots organising. He founded Operation PUSH, later expanded into the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, to promote economic empowerment, educational access, and political participation for

marginalised communities. Through these efforts, he mobilised voters, encouraged corporate diversity, and pushed for policy reforms aimed at reducing inequality.

Jackson's activism extended beyond US borders. He engaged in diplomatic efforts abroad, advocating for human rights and negotiating the release of prisoners in international conflicts. His work made him a global figure associated with justice and reconciliation.

Historic Presidential Campaigns

In the 1980s, Jackson broke new ground in American politics. He ran for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1984 and 1988, becoming one of the first African American candidates to mount a serious national campaign. Though he did not secure the nomination, his candidacies expanded political participation and inspired millions, especially young voters and communities of colour.

In recognition of his lifelong contributions, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honour in the

United States. **Health Challenges and Final Years**

In later years, Jackson faced significant health issues, including Parkinson's disease and progressive supranuclear palsy, a rare neurological disorder. Despite declining health, he remained engaged in public life and continued to speak on civil rights and social justice issues whenever possible.

Enduring Legacy

Jackson is survived by his wife Jacqueline and their children. His family described him as a leader driven by faith, courage, and an unwavering commitment to equality.

Rev. Jesse Jackson's life was defined by tireless advocacy for fairness and dignity. From marching in the streets to running for the highest office in the land, he helped reshape the conversation around race, justice, and opportunity in America. His passing marks the end of an era, but his legacy continues to influence movements for civil rights and social change across the United States and beyond.

SRF Shares Slide ~4% as Promoter Kama Holdings Plans Sale of 3% Stake



Shares of SRF declined by around 4 per cent in trading today following news that its promoter Kama Holdings intends to sell a portion of its stake in the open market. The planned sale triggered profit-taking among investors and weighed on the stock's price performance.

Promoter Share Sale Announcement

Kama Holdings, which holds a significant shareholding in SRF, has reportedly communicated its intention to offload up to 3 per cent of the company's equity via open market transactions. The sale is being interpreted by market participants as a promoter reduction of stake, which often leads to uncertainty among investors, especially when it comes to future leadership confidence and share price outlook.

The planned divestment comes at a time when SRF's stock had delivered strong returns in recent months, attracting attention

from both retail and institutional investors. With promoters now looking to pare down their holding, some traders moved to book profits, contributing to the sharp uptick in selling pressure.

Market Reaction and Stock Performance

As the promoter stakeholder prepares to sell shares, SRF's stock witnessed increased volatility and fell by roughly 4 per cent in early trade. The broader markets were relatively stable during the session, indicating that the drop in SRF was largely stock-specific rather than part of a general market correction.

Analysts note that promoter share sales can sometimes be misconstrued by the market as a sign that insiders lack conviction in the company's future prospects. However, such sales can also be motivated by portfolio rebalancing, regulatory requirements, or personal financial planning by the shareholders

Investor Sentiment and Outlook

Investors reacted cautiously, with some viewing the development as a reason to reassess their positions, especially in the near term. Others pointed out that promoter stake sales do not necessarily reflect the operational performance or long-term fundamentals of the business.

SRF remains a key player in chemicals, technical textiles, and packaging films, with diversified revenue streams and exposure to both domestic and export markets. Its long-term prospects continue to be evaluated based on earnings growth, industry demand, and broader economic conditions.

For now, the stock's weakness reflects sentiment linked to shareholding changes, and market watchers will closely monitor subsequent trading sessions to see if buying interest re-emerges once the initial uncertainty dissipates.

Maruti Suzuki Launches First Electric SUV e Vitara in India; Shares Rise After Battery Rental Plan



Maruti Suzuki India has officially launched its first battery-electric vehicle (BEV) in the domestic market — the e Vitara SUV — marking a major step into the electric vehicle segment for the country's largest carmaker. The debut comes with an innovative Battery-as-a-Service (BaaS) model designed to lower upfront costs for buyers.

The e Vitara has begun sales in India with an introductory price of ₹10.99 lakh under the BaaS scheme. Under this plan, customers pay separately for the battery through a rental arrangement rather than purchasing it outright, with the battery usage charged at ₹3.99 per kilometre. This approach helps reduce the vehicle's initial cost and makes EV ownership more accessible to a broader range of buyers.

The company is also offering a complimentary home charger and installation worth ₹50,000 along with free charging

for one year for early buyers. In addition, the electric SUV comes with an eight-year battery warranty and a three-year warranty on the vehicle, which can be extended further at extra cost.

Customers can pre-book the e Vitara with a token amount of ₹21,000 at authorised NEXA showrooms or via the official Nexa website. The SUV incorporates modern features and safety technology, including Advanced Driver Assistance System (ADAS Level 2), adaptive cruise control, lane keep assist, adaptive high beam system, and blind-spot monitoring.

The vehicle was developed under a global partnership between Maruti Suzuki and Toyota, with production already underway in India and significant export volumes shipped to multiple international markets. In 2025 alone, around 13,000 units were exported to 28 countries, underscoring the brand's global EV ambitions.

Following the announcement of the e Vitara launch and the BaaS model, Maruti Suzuki's share price rose by about 1 per cent, reflecting positive investor sentiment toward the company's entry into the electric vehicle space.

The e Vitara joins a growing list of electric SUVs in India, competing with offerings from other manufacturers and contributing to the expanding adoption of EVs in the country. With its competitive pricing strategy and innovative battery rental scheme, Maruti Suzuki aims to attract both first-time EV buyers and customers looking for cost-effective alternatives to conventional internal combustion vehicles.

This launch represents a strategic move by Maruti Suzuki as it steps into India's evolving EV market, combining affordability, convenience, and advanced technology to appeal to a wider range of consumers.

Fractal Analytics Shares Rebound After Sluggish Market Debut; Brokerage Sees Nearly 50% Upside

Shares of Fractal Analytics, a recently listed Indian enterprise AI and analytics firm, gained strong momentum in trading on Tuesday, jumping more than 7 per cent a day after a lacklustre stock market debut. The uptick has attracted fresh attention from analysts, with at least one brokerage predicting significant further gains for the stock.

Fractal's shares had opened on the stock exchanges at a discount to the IPO price, reflecting cautious sentiment among investors on launch day. After listing at around ₹876, which was below the ₹900 issue price, the stock ended its first session lower, underscoring subdued demand despite strong participation among institutional bidders in the primary offering.

However, the market's response shifted quickly. On the following trading day, the share price climbed by over 7 per cent,



trading near ₹910 on the National Stock Exchange. The rebound was driven in part by fresh coverage from brokerage Prabhudas Lilladher, which initiated research coverage on the stock with a 'Buy' rating.

The brokerage also set a target price of ₹1,260, sug-

gesting that the stock could still have up to 49 per cent upside from recent closing levels. Analysts cited several strengths supporting their bullish stance, including Fractal's consistent revenue performance, strong client retention over many years, and its position in

the growing enterprise AI and advanced analytics space.

Fractal provides AI-led solutions to help large companies improve decision-making and performance, with a majority of its revenue derived from global clients. The firm has demonstrated solid

growth trends and a high retention rate among its customer base, factors that analysts believe could support further earnings expansion.

Despite the near-term rebound and optimistic target, some investors remain cautious due to the stock's muted listing performance and broader market scepticism around AI valuations. Still, the recent uptick and positive brokerage outlook have helped restore some confidence in the stock, pointing to potential interest from long-term investors who are focusing on structural growth opportunities in AI and analytics.

Overall, the early trading pattern highlights how investor sentiment can shift rapidly in the aftermath of an IPO, especially in sectors like tech and AI where growth prospects often lure long-term capital even when early performance is subdued.

Hazoor Multi Projects Shares Rise After Winning New NHAI Toll Contract



Shares of Hazoor Multi Projects advanced in trading on Tuesday after the company secured a new contract from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for toll-related work, boosting investor interest.

The firm announced that it has been awarded a contract worth around 44.23 crore to act as the

user fee collection agency at the Balenahalli fee plaza on the four-lane section of NH-150A in the state of Karnataka. Under the deal, Hazoor Multi Projects will be responsible for collecting toll fees and maintaining roadside facilities, including upkeep of adjacent toilet blocks and replenishment of consumable items. The work

is expected to be completed over a one-year execution period. The project was awarded through competitive bidding and does not involve any related-party transaction with the awarding authority. This latest contract expands the company's order book in the infrastructure services space, reinforcing its

presence in highway operations and maintenance.

As a result of the positive development, the company's stock traded higher. On the National Stock Exchange, the share price was up modestly, reflecting renewed buying interest among traders and investors following the announcement.

Financially, Hazoor Multi Projects also reported strong profitability growth in its recent quarterly results. The company posted a consolidated net profit of 6.45 crore, more than doubling from the previous year's corresponding figure, even as revenue from operations showed a decline. The profit growth underscores improving operational efficiency.

The combination of a fresh NHAI contract and improved profitability helped support the stock's uptick. Investors often view new government or infrastructure contracts

as positive indicators of future revenue visibility, especially for companies involved in highway services and project execution. The market reaction suggests optimism that such contract wins could underpin the company's performance in the near term.

Hazoor Multi Projects operates across infrastructure and real estate domains, with a focus on toll operations, construction, and related services. Securing recurring or new government projects is critical for firms in this sector, as it contributes to a steady pipeline of work and potential earnings growth.

Overall, the recent NHAI contract win and consequent share price movement highlight how tangible business developments can translate into improved investor sentiment and stock performance in the Indian markets.

Overall, the recent NHAI contract win and consequent share price movement highlight how tangible business developments can translate into improved investor sentiment and stock performance in the Indian markets.

US Markets and Economy Facing Unprecedented Combination of Conditions



Financial markets and the broader US economy are entering a phase that many analysts say has no clear historical precedent — a mix of strong growth, potential monetary easing, and a weakening currency.

The US economy is currently displaying robust expansion, with overall output growing at rates not seen in many years outside of the post-pandemic period. Despite this strength, there are signs that monetary policy could be shifting. The Federal Reserve — which typically cuts interest rates when the economy weakens — may consider rate reductions even as growth remains solid. Such a move, against the backdrop of a depreciating dollar, would mark a departure from the conventional policy responses seen in recent decades.

Ordinarily, a strong economy and robust labour market would discourage rate cuts, but current conditions appear unusual enough to challenge that historical pattern. At the same time, the dollar has been on a downward trend, declining significantly over the past year. A combination of rate cuts alongside a weaker currency represents a combination rarely seen in modern economic history.

Market observers caution that this environment — strong growth, pro-

spective interest rate easing, and a softer dollar — places investors in unfamiliar territory. Such conditions can complicate the investment landscape, as traditional playbooks for economic cycles may not apply.

One implication of this shift is the potential for portfolio strategies to adapt to changing conditions. For example, assets that benefit from global diversification, such as international equities, might attract more attention as investors think beyond US-centric allocations. Similarly, dividend-paying stocks with sustainable cash flows could offer useful balance in uncertain markets.

However, risks still loom. Inflationary pressures from supply-chain changes and rising costs in certain sectors remain a concern, meaning that any easing from the Fed could coincide with price pressures that complicate the economic outlook.

In sum, the intersection of strong growth, possible rate cuts, and a weakening dollar means markets and economic policy are navigating conditions that lack clear historical parallels. The resulting uncertainty demands flexibility from investors and policymakers alike as they adjust to a landscape that traditional models do not readily explain.

Indian Stock Markets Extend Gains; Nifty Ends Above 25,700, Sensex Rises 174 Points

Indian equity markets closed higher for the second consecutive session, with benchmark indices extending their gains amid sustained buying in key sectors. The Nifty 50 ended above the 25,700 mark, while the BSE Sensex climbed 174 points, reflecting steady investor confidence.

After opening on a cautious note, markets witnessed gradual buying through the session. Strong participation in frontline stocks helped lift sentiment, pushing the Nifty to an intraday high near 25,764. By the close, the Sensex settled around 83,450, while the Nifty finished just above 25,725, maintaining positive momentum.

Sectoral Highlights

Gains were broad-based, with Information Technology (IT) stocks emerging as key contributors to the rally. Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) banks also saw notable buying interest, supporting the overall uptrend. Additionally, FMCG, media, and auto stocks ended in positive territory, further strengthening market breadth.

However, some sectors faced mild profit booking. Metal and realty stocks witnessed limited selling pressure, which capped sharper gains in the indices.

The broader market mirrored the positive sentiment. Midcap and smallcap



indices ended higher, indicating wider participation beyond large-cap stocks.

Technical Outlook

Market analysts observed that the Nifty found support near crucial technical levels before rebounding. As long as the index holds above the 25,600 support zone, the bullish sentiment is expected to remain intact. A decisive move beyond the 25,800-26,000 range could potentially trigger further upside in the near term.

Investor Sentiment

The sustained rally suggests improving confidence among investors despite intermittent volatility. Strong sectoral rotation and consistent buying in heavyweight stocks have helped maintain upward momentum.

Overall, the market's ability to close firmly above the 25,700 level signals resilience and optimism. If global cues remain stable and domestic factors continue to support sentiment, the indices may look to test higher resistance levels in the coming sessions.

Barack Obama's Viral NBA All-Star Moment Steals the Spotlight



Former U.S. President Barack Obama became an unexpected highlight of the 2026 NBA All-Star Game over the weekend, captivating fans around the world with a spontaneous and light-hearted moment that quickly went viral online.

The All-Star Game — held at the Intuit Dome in California — featured some of the world's top basketball talent in an exhibition matchup. Celebrity attendees and former players brought plenty of excitement, but it was Obama's unplanned courtside play that grabbed headlines. Sitting alongside his wife, Michelle Obama, the former president made a surprise splash when a loose basketball came flying toward the spectator area during the game. Without hesitation, Obama reached out from his courtside seat and caught the ball, preventing it from reaching the crowd. He then handed it back to player Devin Booker, drawing laughter and applause from fans nearby.

The moment was captured on camera and widely shared across social media, quickly gaining millions of views and sparking a wave of admiration from viewers who praised Obama's quick reflexes and casual charm. Many commentators joked that it was one of the most memorable parts of the night — even in a game filled with star athletes.

In addition to his spontaneous catch, Obama also took part in an on-court

interview with former NBA sharpshooter Reggie Miller, where the two discussed basketball memories and shared a light-hearted banter about the 1990s era of the sport. Their exchange offered fans a glimpse of Obama's deep roots in basketball culture and his easy rapport with the game's legends.

The Obamas' presence at the event was not just about the on-court action. They were seen enjoying the atmosphere, interacting with other celebrities, and soaking up the energy of one of basketball's brightest moments of the year. The former president, long known for his love of the sport and especially the Chicago Bulls, seemed right at home among the hoops culture and fans.

Footage of the catch quickly became a trending topic across video platforms, with netizens sharing clips, memes, and playful commentary about Obama showing he's "still got game" even off the court. For many, the clip served as a delightful reminder of the former president's affable personality and wide appeal, bridging the worlds of sports and pop culture.

What began as a simple night enjoying one of basketball's marquee events turned into a viral highlight reel moment — showing that even in a world of elite athleticism, sometimes all it takes is a former leader's quick reflexes and warm presence to steal the show.

Logan Paul's Rare Pikachu Card Sells for Record-Breaking \$16.5 Million



Internet personality and WWE star Logan Paul has once again made headlines — this time for selling one of the rarest Pokémon trading cards in existence for a staggering \$16.5 million. The sale has set a new world record for the most expensive trading card ever sold. The prized collectible is the ultra-rare Pokémon Trading Card Game "Pikachu Illustrator" card, widely considered the holy grail among Pokémon collectors. Only a handful of these cards are known to exist, making them extraordinarily valuable. Paul's copy was graded a perfect PSA 10, indicating pristine condition — a key factor behind its enormous price tag.

Paul originally purchased the card in 2021 for approximately \$5.275 million, which at the time also set a record for the most expensive Pokémon card ever bought. He famously showcased the card in a custom case and even wore it around his neck during his appearance at WrestleMania 38, turning the collectible into a pop culture moment.

The recent sale followed intense bidding, with collectors from around the world competing for ownership. The final price of \$16.5 million represents a massive jump in value, highlighting the explosive growth of the rare collectibles market in recent years. After factoring in his original purchase price, Paul is believed to have made a

substantial profit from the deal.

The Pikachu Illustrator card holds special significance in the Pokémon universe. It was originally awarded to winners of an illustration contest in Japan in the late 1990s, making it far rarer than standard Pokémon cards that were widely distributed. Its limited availability and historical importance have cemented its status as one of the most coveted items in the trading card world.

The sale also reflects the broader boom in nostalgia-driven collectibles. Over the past few years, trading cards, comic books, and vintage memorabilia have increasingly been viewed as alternative investment assets. What once began as childhood hobbies have transformed into high-value markets attracting serious investors.

For Pokémon fans, the record-breaking sale underscores the record how powerful the franchise's legacy remains decades after its launch. For collectors, it signals that rare items in flawless condition can command extraordinary prices.

Logan Paul's headline-making transaction not only sets a financial milestone but also highlights how pop culture, nostalgia, and investment have merged in today's collectibles market — turning a small illustrated card into a multi-million-dollar treasure.

GPS Gone Wrong: Amazon Delivery Van Ends Up Stranded in Tidal Waters in Britain

In a bizarre incident highlighting the risks of overreliance on digital navigation systems, an Amazon delivery driver in Britain found themselves in trouble after their GPS directed them onto a dangerous tidal pathway, leaving their van stranded in rising waters.

The incident took place on February 15 as the driver attempted to complete a delivery to Foulness Island in Essex. While following satnav instructions, the vehicle was guided onto The Broomway — a historic six-mile track stretching across mudflats in the Thames Estuary. Unbeknownst to the driver, the route is notoriously hazardous and unsuitable for motor vehicles.

The Broomway, believed to be around 600 years old, was once the only access route to Foulness Island before a bridge was constructed. Over centuries, it has developed a grim reputation due to fast-moving tides, shifting sands, and poor visibility during bad weather. Historical accounts suggest that around 100 people have lost their lives along the path. Today, it is considered one of Britain's most dangerous routes and is typically navigated only on foot, and even then with extreme caution and local knowledge.

As the Amazon van proceeded along the mudflat track, the soft terrain and incoming tide quickly cre-



ated a perilous situation. The vehicle became stuck, and water levels began to rise. Fortunately, the driver managed to exit the van safely before conditions worsened.

Emergency services were alerted, and rescue teams arrived at the scene to assess the situation. By the time authorities reached the area, the driver had already abandoned the vehicle. Ensuring the driver's safety was the primary concern, and no in-

juries were reported.

Later, arrangements were made to recover the stranded van. A local farmer assisted in towing the vehicle out of the mud once conditions allowed. Officials also ensured that there was no environmental damage caused by the incident.

Authorities reiterated that The Broomway is not designed for vehicles and carries clear warnings about its dangers. Rapidly changing tides

can submerge large sections of the path within minutes, making it treacherous even for experienced walkers.

The unusual episode quickly gained attention online, sparking discussion about the limitations of GPS technology.

While navigation apps are widely used and generally reliable, this incident serves as a reminder that digital directions are not foolproof—especially in remote or his-

torically sensitive areas.

Amazon has confirmed it is reviewing the incident to understand how the navigation error occurred and to help prevent similar situations in the future.

The mishap underscores an important lesson: technology can guide us, but it cannot replace awareness, caution, and common sense—particularly when nature is involved.

SZA Stuns Fans With Surprise Appearance at Mahashivratri Celebration in Tamil Nadu



Grammy-winning American singer SZA left fans both surprised and delighted after she made an unexpected appearance at a grand Mahashivratri celebration in India. Videos of the singer participating in the spiritual event quickly went viral, with social media users joking that she seemed "more Indian than me" as they reacted to her enthu-

siastic involvement.

SZA was spotted at the Isha Yoga Centre in Coimbatore, where thousands had gathered for the annual Mahashivratri festivities. The night-long celebration, dedicated to Shiva, is marked by meditation, devotional music, chanting, and spiritual practices that continue until dawn.

Dressed in a traditional

saree, SZA blended seamlessly into the vibrant atmosphere. She attended the event with her mother and appeared fully immersed in the spiritual energy of the night. In a moment that caught fans off guard, the singer even took to the stage, greeting the crowd warmly and wishing everyone a happy Mahashivratri.

Clips circulating online

show her leading chants of "Shiv Shambhu" and encouraging the crowd to join in the devotional spirit. Her confident participation and respectful engagement with the traditions impressed many attendees. Far from being a passive observer, she appeared genuinely moved by the experience, interacting warmly with the audience.

During her time on stage, SZA expressed gratitude to Sadhguru, founder of the Isha Foundation, for inviting her to the celebration. She also introduced her mother to the audience, sharing a heartfelt moment that resonated with those present.

The unexpected crossover between global pop culture and ancient Indian spirituality sparked widespread reactions online. Fans praised her openness to embracing different cultures, while others playfully remarked that her enthusiasm made her seem more connected

to the traditions than some locals themselves.

Mahashivratri at the Isha Yoga Centre is known for drawing participants from around the world, including artists, spiritual seekers, and public figures. However, seeing an international music icon like SZA fully participate in the chanting and devotional activities added a fresh layer of global attention to the event.

The singer's appearance highlights how spiritual and cultural celebrations in India continue to attract interest beyond borders. For many fans, it was both an unexpected and inspiring sight — a reminder that music, spirituality, and shared human experiences often transcend geography and background.

What began as a quiet visit turned into a viral moment, with SZA's presence symbolising a beautiful cultural exchange that resonated far beyond the festival grounds.

Footpath Classroom in Delhi: Viral Video of Man Teaching Homeless Children Inspires Millions

A touching video from Delhi has captured widespread attention on social media, showing a man turning a simple footpath into a classroom for homeless children. The clip, filmed in Sheikh Sarai, has resonated with viewers for its powerful reminder that compassion and commitment to education can flourish even in the most modest surroundings.

In the video, the man is seen sitting on the pavement with a small group of children gathered around him. With no formal infrastructure—no desks, no blackboard, and no school building—he patiently explains lessons while the children follow along using notebooks placed on their laps. Despite the busy city environment surrounding them, the focus and seriousness with which the children listen stand out.

The video was shared with a caption highlight-

ing how, amid the rush of everyday life, some individuals choose to pause and make a difference. It quickly went viral, garnering over a million views and thousands of likes. Social media users flooded the comments section with praise, calling the act inspiring and heart-warming.

The teacher was later identified as Krishan Kumar, who responded to the viral attention with a simple yet powerful message: "Education is everyone's right." His statement reflected the motivation behind his efforts—to ensure that children who may not have access to formal schooling still get an opportunity to learn.

Several viewers claimed they recognised him as their former teacher, describing him as someone who had always been dedicated to his students. These testimonials added another layer of depth to the story, suggesting that



his commitment to education extends beyond this single viral moment.

The scene struck a chord because it highlighted a larger reality—many children living on the streets or in vulnerable conditions struggle to access consistent schooling. In this context, the teacher's initiative symbolised hope and the belief that change often begins with individual effort rather than institutional

support.

Comments online praised his humility and selflessness. Many users described the act as proof that kindness still exists in society. Others expressed that small gestures like this can create lasting impact, especially when directed toward children who need guidance and opportunity.

In a city as vast and fast-paced as Delhi, the sight of a footpath transform-

ing into a learning space offered a powerful contrast. It served as a reminder that meaningful change does not always require grand gestures—sometimes, it simply requires dedication, empathy, and a willingness to help.

What began as a short video has now become a symbol of quiet generosity, proving that even amid urban chaos, humanity continues to shine.

Ishan Kishan's Brutal Innings in India vs Pakistan Came from Intent and Clarity, Says Sanjay Bangar

India's explosive batter Ishan Kishan turned heads with a devastating batting display in the high-voltage match against India national cricket team's arch-rivals Pakistan national cricket team at the T20 World Cup, showcasing a brutal combination of power, precision and fearless intent that swung the game decisively in India's favour.

Kishan's innings was remarkable not just for the sheer number of runs scored but for the way he approached each phase of the chase. Rather than letting the moment overwhelm him, he played with calculated aggression and impeccable timing, striking boundaries with ease and rotating the strike to keep the scoreboard moving. His ability to negotiate quality bowling and immediately punish anything loose put Pakistan's bowlers under constant pressure.

Former India batting coach Sanjay Bangar, analysing the performance, said Kishan's success came from a strong mental approach rather than just natural talent. Ac-



According to him, Ishan got his basics right — watching the ball early, choosing the right deliveries to attack, and not letting situation-driven nerves affect his execution. Bangar emphasised that Kishan's clarity of role and pre-game preparation were key factors in surmounting the initiative to the opposition so early.

Bangar also highlighted how Kishan's footwork and balance helped him dominate the spin bowlers, who tried to drag him into mistakes. Instead of

playing those deliveries defensively, Kishan countered quickly, turning good balls into scoring opportunities. This aggression was backed by proper judgement — he knew when to accelerate and when to advance cautiously, an advanced skill in pressure games.

The crowd erupted with every big hit, but behind the fireworks was a methodical batter who knew exactly what he wanted to achieve. Bangar pointed out that such innings don't happen by

accident; they are often the result of hours of practice, mental conditioning, and learning from past innings. For Kishan, turning pressure into opportunity has been a hallmark of his recent form.

Beyond personal achievement, the psychological boost of such a dominant knock against Pakistan was significant for the Indian team. Matches between India and Pakistan carry enormous emotional weight and millions of eyeballs

worldwide. A commanding performance like Kishan's not only contributed key runs but also swung momentum and confidence decisively toward India.

Fans and pundits alike lauded the innings as one of the most memorable T20 knocks in recent India-Pakistan clashes, and Bangar's praise underscored how the temperament to perform under pressure separates good batters from great ones. Kishan's combination of controlled aggression, smart shot selection and temperament was a textbook example of modern T20 batting executed to near perfection.

In the end, it was not just power hitting that defined his innings but intention backed by technique and match awareness — a blend that turned a fiery start into a game-winning performance. As Kishan continues to evolve as a key member of India's batting lineup, the knock will be remembered as one that not only thrilled fans but also demonstrated the maturity and skill essential at the highest level of the sport.

T20 World Cup Highlight: Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra Star as New Zealand Crush Canada



In a dominant performance at the T20 World Cup, New Zealand showcased their batting firepower to overwhelm Canada, with key contributions from Glenn Phillips and Rachin Ravindra propelling the Black Caps to a commanding victory.

New Zealand's batting unit took full control from the outset, putting up a strong total that put immense pressure on the Canadian bowlers. Glenn Phillips led the charge with an aggressive innings, dispatching deliveries to all parts of the ground and scoring at a rapid rate. His attacking approach gave New Zealand early momentum and laid the foundation for a big score.

Supporting Phillips was Rachin Ravindra, whose composed yet fluent batting helped keep the scoreboard ticking. Ravindra's innings combined patience with calculated aggression, adding vital runs that steadied the innings after early breakthroughs. Their partnership ensured New Zealand posted a competitive total that proved beyond Canada's reach.

Canada, making their World Cup appearance against a high-calibre team, struggled to contain New Zealand's batting depth. The Canadian bowling attack was unable to strike early or stifle the flow of runs, conceding boundaries regularly. In response, Canada's batting faltered under pressure, with only a handful of players able to make noteworthy contributions before the innings

folded well short of the target.

New Zealand's bowlers complemented the batting performance by maintaining disciplined lines and lengths, restricting Canada's scoring opportunities and taking timely wickets. The combination of clinical bowling and fielding pressure made it difficult for Canada to mount any serious comeback.

The result underlined New Zealand's status as a strong contender in this year's T20 World Cup, showcasing both explosive batting and controlled bowling. For Canada, the match offered valuable experience on the global stage, though the gulf in quality was evident against a top-ranked side.

Phillips's aggressive knock and Ravindra's measured innings were the standout performances of the game, drawing praise from fans and analysts alike. Their contributions underscored New Zealand's balanced batting lineup and signalled their intent as they progress in the tournament.

Overall, the match highlighted the difference in experience and depth between the two teams, with New Zealand's professionalism and international pedigree shining through. As the World Cup continues, New Zealand will look to build on this performance and maintain their momentum, while Canada will regroup and aim to learn from the challenge of facing a top team on cricket's biggest limited-overs stage.

Magnus Carlsen's Freestyle Chess World Championship Thrills Fans, Blurs Boundaries of Human and Machine Play



World Chess Champion Magnus Carlsen is generating excitement in the global chess community with the launch of the Freestyle Chess World Championship, a novel event that blends human skill with artificial intelligence to create a new competitive frontier.

Traditionally, chess championships focus on human-only competition or, in a separate sphere, machine-only contests between computer programs. The freestyle format, by contrast, allows players to use AI tools during play, placing a premium not just on classical chess understanding but on a player's ability to lev-

erage AI engines, manage databases and execute strategy in partnership with machines.

Carlsen's involvement has added credibility and attention to the event. Known for his deep calculation, creativity and competitive dominance across formats, he is seen as uniquely positioned to excel in this hybrid tournament. Many fans and commentators have praised the idea as a way of modernising competitive chess and reflecting how players increasingly prepare and practise with AI assistance.

The Freestyle Chess World Championship permits participants to con-

sult any digital resource — from strong chess engines to extensive opening databases — while competing. This resembles how grandmasters currently train and prepare outside formal tournaments but for the first time institutionalises that approach in a championship setting. Carlsen has described the format as an "exciting evolution" that challenges players to make the best possible decisions in a machine-augmented environment.

Critics of computer-assisted play argue that it risks diminishing traditional elements of the game, such as intuition and individual calcula-

tion. However, supporters counter that strategic use of AI reflects real-world preparation and rewards players who combine deep chess understanding with intelligent use of tools. In this view, freestyle chess doesn't replace classical formats but complements them by exploring a different set of skills relevant to the digital age.

The event has attracted participants from around the world, including established grandmasters, aspiring stars and tech-savvy players who see the contest as an opportunity to showcase their ability to harness AI effectively under pressure. The global chess audience, from casual fans to analytical purists, is tuning in to see how this balance of human ingenuity and machine precision plays out in competitive settings.

Beyond competition, the championship highlights broader debates about the role of AI in creative and intellectual pursuits. In many fields — from writing and music to strategic games — the question of how humans and artificial intelligence should interact remains open. Chess, with its long history as a test of pure intellect, has become a com-

petitive arena to explore these questions.

For Carlsen, the freestyle format offers yet another proving ground. His career has been defined by adaptability: excelling in classical matches, rapid and blitz formats, and even high-stakes online competitions. This new hybrid championship allows him to extend that legacy into a space where humans and machines collaborate and compete side-by-side.

Fans and analysts believe that if Carlsen performs well, it could further legitimise the format and inspire more tournaments that integrate AI. Regardless of the final outcome, the Freestyle Chess World Championship is already reshaping how players and audiences think about the future of competitive chess — one where human creativity and artificial intelligence converge on the board.

Whether this hybrid form becomes a mainstay of professional chess or remains a compelling side experiment, it underscores the dynamic evolution of the game in the 21st century. Carlsen's leadership in embracing and promoting the format has helped ignite that conversation on a global stage.

Cricket Legends Urge Pakistan Government to Ensure Proper Medical Care for Imran Khan

A group of former Indian cricket captains, including Sunil Gavaskar and Kapil Dev, along with several other ex-national leaders, have publicly appealed to the Pakistan government to ensure that former prime minister Imran Khan receives proper and timely medical treatment while in custody.

The appeal comes amid ongoing concerns over Khan's health, particularly relating to his eyesight and overall well-being since his imprisonment. The veteran cricketers, respected across the region for their contributions to the sport, have called for humanitarian and dignified treatment, stressing that access to qualified medical professionals should not be restricted.

In their joint statement, the former captains emphasised that regardless of political divisions, health and human rights

must be protected. They urged Pakistani authorities to allow Khan's personal physicians to examine him and treat any health issues without unnecessary limitations.

The appeal highlights the deep concern shared by parts of the international community over Khan's medical care, especially following reports that he has been dealing with significant medical challenges while detained. By publicly voicing their appeal, the cricketers aim to transcend political allegiances and focus on a basic human issue — access to proper healthcare.

While the statement does not engage in political debate, it reflects rising unease among observers who believe that medical care and legal due process should be upheld irrespective of an individual's political standing.



The cricketers' message called for transparency and compassion, underlining that ensuring fair treatment and medical access is a matter of fundamental rights.

The appeal from these veterans of the game resonates particularly strongly in South Asia, where cricket figures often hold



social influence that extends beyond sport. Their collective voice reinforces wider calls for humanitarian concern and prioritising health in challenging circumstances — especially for individuals facing serious medical conditions.

As the situation continues to unfold, supporters



of Imran Khan and observers around the world will be watching closely to see how Pakistan's government responds to such high-profile appeals. In the meantime, the focus remains on ensuring that medical needs are met with professionalism, dignity and due regard for human rights.

Australia Shockingly Eliminated from T20 World Cup 2026 After Group-Stage Defeat to Zimbabwe



In one of the biggest upsets of the T20 World Cup 2026, Australia has been knocked out in the group stage after a stunning loss to Zimbabwe, sending shockwaves through the cricketing world and ending the defending champions' title defence prematurely.

Australia went into the match expecting to progress comfortably, buoyed by a strong cricketing history and a squad filled with experienced T20 players. However, Zimbabwe produced one of the most memorable performances of the tournament, combining disciplined bowling, clever tactics and a fearless batting display to outplay the Australians on the day.

Zimbabwe's Incredible Win
Zimbabwe's bowlers put Australia under early pressure, executing tight lines and lengths that restricted scoring and drew crucial wickets at key moments. Their disciplined performance continually forced Australia to rebuild, disrupting their usual rhythm and balance.

In response, Zimbabwe's batsmen approached the chase with confidence and clarity, pacing their innings astutely to remain ahead of the required run rate throughout. Key contributions from middle-order batsmen ensured that Zimbabwe maintained momentum, and they ultimately crossed the finish line, celebrating a historic victory long after the last ball was bowled.

Australia's Unexpected Exit
Australia's elimination marks one of the most dramatic downfalls in recent T20 World Cup history, given the team's status as one of the world's premier limited-overs sides. Known for their powerful batting, sharp bowling and ruthless mindset in ICC events, the Aussies had been expected to at least qualify for the knockout rounds.

Instead, a combination of uncharacteristic batting collapses at critical junctures and an inability to

deal with Zimbabwe's inspired gameplay led to their downfall. Australia's losses earlier in the group stage compounded the pressure, leaving no room for recovery after the defeat to Zimbabwe.

Reactions from Fans and Experts

Cricketers fans around the globe were left stunned as the news spread, with many expressing disbelief over Twitter and other platforms. Analysts described the result as a "massive upset," a "nightmare campaign," and a reminder that T20 cricket is unpredictable and unforgiving — where even the strongest teams can fall on a single bad day.

Zimbabwe's victory was widely hailed as one of the greatest in the nation's cricketing history. For a team that has battled inconsistency in major tournaments, the win represents a milestone and a huge confidence boost for players and supporters alike.

Looking Ahead
With Australia's early exit confirmed, other teams in the group have seen their fates shift dramatically. The result opens up qualification pathways for sides that had been underdogs, breathing new life into the competition and underscoring the broadening competitiveness of international T20 cricket.

For Australia, the focus will now shift to reflection and rebuilding. The squad's campaign will be analysed in detail by coaches and selectors as they prepare for upcoming bilateral series and the next ICC events.

For Zimbabwe, the morale boost from knocking out a heavyweight like Australia could be transformative — both in this World Cup and for cricket's development back home. Their fans will be celebrating long into the night, as the victory goes down as a defining moment in the sport's evolving global landscape.

Nithya Menen Turns Producer, Launches Keyuri Productions



Hyderabad, Feb 17: National Award-winning actress Nithya Menen has taken a significant step in her creative journey by announcing her foray into film production. The acclaimed performer, known for her work across Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, and Kannada cinema, revealed on Tuesday that she has launched her own production banner, Keyuri Productions.

Sharing the news on social media, Nithya posted a video introducing the banner and spoke about her deeper connection with cinema. She described filmmaking as a transformative process that goes beyond storytelling, saying her aim has always been to connect with audiences on a profound emotional level. According to the actress, cinema has the power to spark inner change — both for the creator and the viewer — and that philosophy will continue to guide her as she steps into

production.

Through her message, Nithya emphasized that her creative intention remains rooted in exploring human emotions and experiences. She described the act of creating films as a way of touching what is “human and unguarded,” adding that this belief has shaped her journey since her acting debut and will now define her approach as a producer as well. The newly unveiled Keyuri Productions, she noted, represents this vision of storytelling that is fluid, expressive, and deeply personal.

Earlier this year, the actress had also reflected on a major milestone in her career — the 15th anniversary of her breakthrough Telugu film Ala Modalaindi. In a heartfelt note, she reminisced about the early days of the project, recalling how the team worked with complete creative freedom, often improvising scenes and rewriting moments just before filming.

She remembered the simplicity of those times, when the cast and crew would unwind after shoots and focus purely on the joy of making a film without expectations or pressure.

Nithya shared that the film marked a turning point in her life, transforming her from a relatively unknown actor into a widely recognized face. Looking back, she described the journey as unexpected yet meaningful, noting how the success of the film changed her career trajectory and opened doors across industries.

With the launch of Keyuri Productions, Nithya Menen now embarks on a new chapter, expanding her role in cinema from performer to creator-producer. Industry observers see this move as a natural progression for the versatile actress, who has consistently chosen content-driven projects and carved a unique space for herself in Indian cinema.

Paathirathri Heads to OTT After Theatrical Run



The Malayalam mystery thriller Paathirathri is all set to make its digital debut, giving audiences another chance to experience the suspense-driven drama after its run in theatres. With its gripping narrative and atmospheric storytelling, the film has already attracted attention among fans of investigative thrillers and is now expected to reach a wider viewership through streaming.

Featuring Soubin Shahir and Navya Nair in prominent roles, the film revolves around a complex crime investigation that unfolds over a tense and emotionally layered narrative. The title, which translates to “midnight,” reflects the dark and mysterious tone of the story, where secrets gradually surface through unexpected twists. Viewers and critics have noted the film’s moody visuals and engag-

ing screenplay as key strengths that sustain intrigue throughout its runtime.

Following the typical post-theatrical window observed by many regional films, the makers have opted for a digital release to expand the film’s reach beyond cinema halls. The move is expected to introduce Paathirathri to audiences who prefer watching thrillers on streaming platforms, a segment that has been steadily growing in recent years. Malayalam cinema, in particular, has seen strong reception on OTT services due to its realistic narratives and performance-driven storytelling, and this film is likely to benefit from that trend.

The presence of seasoned performers adds further depth to the film’s appeal. Soubin Shahir, known for his versatile roles, brings intensity to the narrative, while Na-

vy Nair’s performance lends emotional weight to the story. Their on-screen presence has been cited as a major factor in keeping viewers invested in the unfolding mystery.

The OTT premiere also highlights the evolving distribution pattern in regional cinema, where digital platforms provide films with a second life and the opportunity to connect with audiences across languages and geographies. For viewers who missed the theatrical release, the streaming debut offers a convenient way to catch up on the film’s suspenseful storyline.

With its intriguing premise, strong performances, and growing anticipation surrounding its online release, Paathirathri is poised to find a fresh wave of appreciation in the digital space, reinforcing the popularity of Malayalam thrillers among home audiences.

Couple Friendly Off to a Strong Start with ₹5.42 Crore Worldwide

The romantic drama Couple Friendly is enjoying a solid run at the box office, collecting ₹5.42 crore gross worldwide within just three days of its theatrical release. The film has been witnessing steady footfalls, particularly among youth and family audiences, with positive word-of-mouth driving its early success. Trade circles describe the opening as encouraging for a mid-budget romantic entertainer, noting that the film has managed to hold consistent occupancy across key centers.

Headlined by Santosh Soban and Manasa Varanasi, the film presents a heartfelt love story that explores contemporary relationship dynamics with a blend of humor and emotion. Viewers have responded warmly to the chemistry between the lead pair, as well as the film’s relatable narrative that reflects modern urban romance while retaining a strong emotional core. The performances of the leads are being widely appreciated, contributing significantly to the film’s positive reception.

Adding to the momentum, the film has garnered appreciation from popular stars such as Prabhakar and Siddhu Jonnalagadda, whose supportive comments have amplified buzz on social platforms. Their endorsements

have helped bring additional attention to the film, encouraging more audiences to check it out in theatres. Meanwhile, the promotional tour undertaken by the cast and crew across major cities has further strengthened visibility and audience engagement.

Couple Friendly is presented by UV Creations and produced under the UV Concepts banner, with Ajay Kumar Raju P. serving as co-producer. The film is written and directed by Ashwin Chandrasekhar, who has crafted a youthful narrative that balances romance with light-hearted moments. Distributor Dheeraj Mogilineni has released the movie across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, ensuring a wide reach in crucial markets.

Technically, the film benefits from polished production values, appealing visuals, and a melodious soundtrack that complements the story’s mood. These elements, combined with the film’s emotional connect, have helped it maintain steady collections through its opening weekend.

With encouraging box-office numbers and strong audience feedback, Couple Friendly appears well positioned to continue its positive run in the coming days. If the current momentum



holds, trade analysts believe the film could emerge as a successful romantic entertainer of the season, reaffirming the audience’s appetite for feel-good love stories on the big screen.

Hey Balwanth — “I Was Waiting for a Film Like This,” Says Suhas



Actor Suhas says he has been eagerly waiting for a film like Hey Balwanth, calling it a perfect blend of entertainment

and emotion that connected with him instantly. The upcoming full-length entertainer, produced by the success-

ful duo Bunny Vaas and Vamsi Nandipati, is gearing up for its theatrical release on February 20. The film is backed by

Nandipati Entertainment and Bunny Vaas Works, with B. Narendra Reddy producing under the Trishul Visionary Studios banner and Gopi Achhar directing.

Speaking to the media, Suhas shared that the film’s title was changed from Hey Bhagwan to Hey Balwanth following suggestions from the censor board, as the original title carried religious connotations. The makers also modified a character’s name, ensuring the film aligned with the board’s guidelines while retaining its core concept.

In the film, Suhas plays a youngster who dreams of becoming a businessman from childhood and aims to take over his father’s enterprise. The story revolves around the challenges he faces and the surprising reality behind the family business. According to the actor, the role allowed him to explore a lighter, entertaining side while still delivering emotional depth.

Suhas revealed that Hey Balwanth is one of the fastest projects he has completed, from finalization to release. Despite the quick turnaround, he emphasized that the film maintains strong produc-

tion quality and has turned out far better than the team initially expected. He said he accepted the project immediately after hearing the story, as it offered both entertainment and a strong emotional connection.

The actor expressed confidence that the film will mark a positive phase in his career, especially after a brief break he took to carefully choose scripts. He noted that the entire team shares strong belief in the film, adding that early reactions from those who watched it, including his family, have been very encouraging.

Alongside Hey Balwanth, Suhas also spoke about his Tamil film Mandadi, where he plays a main antagonist, calling it a different look and character he had long been waiting to portray. He added that he is currently working on another project under director Karthik Subbaraj’s banner while listening to new Telugu scripts.

With growing anticipation and positive internal buzz, Hey Balwanth is set to hit theatres with expectations of delivering a fun, crowd-pleasing entertainer.

Seyon Teaser Buzz on Sivakarthikeyan’s Birthday

The makers of Seyon, the upcoming Tamil entertainer starring Sivakarthikeyan, unveiled a special celebration video on the actor’s birthday, setting social media abuzz and raising anticipation for the film’s release later this year. The video, designed as a tribute to the star, offers a lively glimpse into the film’s tone and scale while giving fans a reason to celebrate both the occasion and the project.

Packed with energetic visuals and stylish shots, the birthday special showcases Sivakarthikeyan in a vibrant avatar, hinting at a character that blends action, humor, and emotional depth. The clip also features behind-the-scenes moments from the sets, reflecting the film’s grand production values and the camaraderie among the cast and crew. With hours of its release, the video garnered

strong engagement online, with fans praising the actor’s look and expressing excitement for the film.

Although the makers have kept the storyline under wraps, industry buzz suggests that Seyon will present Sivakarthikeyan in a fresh role that balances mass appeal with an engaging narrative. The film is expected to feature a mix of high-energy sequences and emotionally driven moments, a combination that has worked well for the actor’s recent projects. Observers note that the early promotional material indicates a film designed to cater to both youth and family audiences.

The production team has officially announced that Seyon will hit theatres in October, targeting the festive season — a period known for strong box-office turnout. Trade analysts believe the timing could give the film a



significant advantage, as holiday releases often attract wider audiences and sustained theatrical runs. With promotional activities now underway, more updates, including teasers and songs, are expected in the coming months.

For Sivakarthikeyan, the project represents another important mile-

stone as he continues to expand his filmography with diverse roles and larger-scale productions. The actor has steadily built a strong fan base across markets, and the enthusiastic response to the birthday video underscores the high expectations surrounding the film.

With its festive release

window, growing buzz, and a star-driven promotional campaign, Seyon is shaping up to be one of the notable Tamil releases to watch out for this year. As the marketing campaign gathers pace, fans are eagerly awaiting the next glimpse of what promises to be an entertaining big-screen spectacle.