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Chandrababu Naidu Highlights Welfare, Sanitation, and Development Initiatives

AMARAVATI, 21.02.2026 | TPN Bureau
Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has reiterated that the coalition government is firmly committed to enhancing the lives of the poor by increasing their incomes and ensuring comprehensive welfare across Andhra Pradesh. Addressing the public at the "Swachh Andhra-Swarna Andhra" program in Vinukonda, Palnadu district, the CM launched mobile solid waste collection vehicles and emphasized the importance of citizen participation to achieve 100% household waste collection across all panchayats by the end of March.

Naidu expressed satisfaction over the progress of the ongoing sanitation programs under the supervision of Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan and Minister Narayana, highlighting that cleanliness is not merely about sweeping roads but a part of citizens' daily lifestyle. He elaborated on the government's welfare schemes, including Super Six, Thalliki Vandana, Strishakti, Deepam 2.0, and Annadatta Sukhibhava, which provide financial, health, and educational support to underprivileged communities. Through collaboration with the Gates Foundation under the Sanjeevani Project,



the government aims to improve healthcare services for economically weaker sections, ensuring that financial hardship does not prevent access to medical care.

Addressing environmental concerns, Naidu highlighted that Andhra Pradesh faces an accumulated waste challenge of 108 lakh metric tons, posing a threat to groundwater quality. Currently, 97% of municipalities conduct household-level waste collection. He assured that the remaining panchayats would achieve full compliance by March-end and announced that waste-to-energy plants in Rajahmundry, Kurnool, Kadapa, and Nellore would be operational by March 15. The CM also encouraged citizens to adopt responsible hab-

its, citing Japan as an example where even a small paper on roads is unacceptable.

Naidu criticized the Congress party's conduct at the recent Delhi AI Summit, saying their behavior undermined youth interests and industrial development. He highlighted the coalition government's achievements, contrasting them with previous administrations that left industries struggling and state finances in disarray.

On development initiatives, Naidu mentioned the upcoming Google Data Center in Visakhapatnam and the Quantum Valley project in Amaravati, which will create over 15,600 jobs through Mega DSC programs. He also assured citizens that the 100-bed hospital in Vinu-

konda would be upgraded to a 1,000-bed facility, including trauma care and dialysis centers. Agricultural and veterinary colleges, modernized bus stands, and enhanced support for women entrepreneurs were also emphasized.

The event saw the participation of Ministers Narayana, G. Ravikumar, Swachh Andhra Chairman Patabhiram, and MLA G.V. Anjaneyulu, along with the recognition of sanitation workers and inspection of departmental stalls.

This initiative reflects the coalition government's commitment to welfare, sanitation, employment, and balanced development across Andhra Pradesh, positioning the state as a model in both governance and citizen-centric programs.

Jagan Criticized by Lokesh Over AI Summit Remarks

AMARAVATI, 21.02.2026 | TPN Bureau

YSR Congress President Jagan Mohan Reddy recently tweeted his concerns over the conduct of Youth Congress activists at the Delhi AI Impact Summit, describing their protest as "shameful" and urging political parties to uphold the nation's dignity in international forums. In his tweet, Jagan stated, "The behaviour of Youth Congress workers at the AI Summit is embarrassing and insulting to the nation's dignity. Regardless of political differences, the country's reputation must not be compromised. We must stand united for the nation."

Jagan's remarks drew a sharp response from Minister Nara Lokesh, who accused the Chief Minister of hypocrisy and questioned his credibility on matters of national reputation. Lokesh described Jagan's comments as ironic, highlighting that he had previously undermined India's investment environment is now pretending to sympathize. This is the height of hypocrisy," Lokesh remarked.

adversely impacted the state and national economy. Lokesh cited several examples from Jagan's tenure to underline his point. In 2017, the minister noted, Jagan's administration had disrupted an investment summit by staging protests at the airport. In 2019, the government reportedly cancelled key power agreements, while in 2020, Singapore-based investments intended for Amaravati were delayed due to policy decisions. In 2025, Jagan allegedly interfered with central financial regulations by writing to the RBI regarding the consolidation of government funds. Calling Jagan's recent expression of concern over the AI Summit protests "ridiculous," Lokesh criticized the Chief Minister for presenting a façade of empathy while allegedly having undermined investor confidence in the past. "The person who has most harmed India's investment environment is now pretending to sympathize. This is the height of hypocrisy," Lokesh remarked.

The AI Summit incident, where Youth Congress activists tore their shirts in protest, has generated national debate over the conduct of political parties in global forums. Lokesh emphasized that leaders who have historically acted against the state's development and investment prospects have no moral authority to lecture on national prestige. Lokesh's response reinforces the political friction between the ruling coalition in Andhra Pradesh and opposition parties, with debates over governance, development, and political accountability dominating public discourse. The exchange highlights the ongoing scrutiny of leadership decisions in the state, particularly regarding economic development and international engagement.

The controversy also underscores the sensitivity of political leaders to global representation, investment promotion, and public perception, especially when past administrative actions are brought into question.

Govt Responsible for Waste Management, Says CM Naidu

Vijayawada, Feb 21 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has asserted that waste management is fundamentally the responsibility of the government, emphasizing that civic authorities must ensure systematic garbage collection and sanitation across urban areas. Addressing a public programme on sanitation initiatives, the Chief Minister highlighted the progress made under the state's Swachh Andhra drive. He noted that door-to-door waste collection is now being carried out in about 97 percent of municipalities, marking a significant improvement in urban sanitation coverage. The government, he said, has been focusing on strengthening municipal systems, improving logistics, and deploying additional sanitation vehicles to ensure

that waste is collected efficiently from households.

Naidu stressed that maintaining cleanliness should not be viewed merely as a government scheme but as a shared responsibility between authorities and citizens. However, he underlined that the primary accountability lies with the government to create infrastructure, enforce regulations, and provide adequate resources for waste processing and disposal. He added that the administration is working toward scientific waste management through segregation, recycling, and waste-to-energy initiatives.

The Chief Minister also pointed out that several measures have been introduced to eliminate legacy garbage dumps and promote sustainable practices. These include expanding composting facilities, encouraging households to segregate wet and dry waste, and



strengthening municipal monitoring systems. He said the government's long-term goal is to make Andhra Pradesh cleaner and more environmentally sustainable while improving public health standards.

According to officials, the sanitation drive has already resulted in the removal of large quantities of accumulated waste and improved collection efficiency in urban local bodies. The state is also investing in modern equipment and technology to streamline operations and reduce environmental impact.

Municipal authorities have been directed to maintain strict oversight to ensure that the progress achieved so far is sustained.

Reiterating his commitment to cleanliness and urban development, Naidu said the government will continue to expand sanitation coverage until all towns and cities achieve full compliance with waste management norms. He urged citizens to cooperate with local bodies by following waste segregation guidelines and supporting community cleanliness initiatives.

Vasudeva Reddy Remanded in AP Liquor Scam Case

Vijayawada, 21.02.2026 | TPN Bureau

In a major development in the Andhra Pradesh liquor scam, Vasudeva Reddy, identified as the second accused (A2), was taken into custody by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the irregularities in the state's alcohol distribution system. He was produced before the Vijayawada ACB Court, which ordered his remand until February 27, following which he was shifted to Guntur district jail.

The SIT's remand report highlighted Vasudeva Reddy's central role in orchestrating the scam. According to the investigation, he manipulated the AP liquor sales system, switching official online processes to manual operations to facilitate fraudulent

activities. This intervention allowed unauthorized control over liquor sales, purchases, orders, and supplies across the state.

The report noted that technical evidence, forensic reports, and witness statements all point to Vasudeva Reddy's direct involvement. It revealed that he effectively ran a syndicate of officials and staff, directing them to execute illicit settlements and transactions. The SIT emphasized that his role was not peripheral; rather, he operated as the key architect behind the scam, coordinating closely with the first accused, Rajasekhara Reddy (A1), and his associates to execute settlements and profit from irregularities.

The investigation also found that APSB-CL activities, originally intended to be conducted through the



online system, were manipulated under Vasudeva Reddy's supervision, bypassing regulatory controls and internal checks. This manual override allowed him and his associates to control liquor allotments and authorize transactions that violated statutory norms.

Authorities emphasized that the SIT is actively pursuing all leads, including technical audits and witness testimonies, to unravel the full extent of the syndicate's operations.

Vasudeva Reddy's remand is expected to facilitate further interrogation and collection of evidence to strengthen the prosecution's case.

The court proceedings and SIT report underline the seriousness of the alleged fraud, highlighting systemic lapses exploited by high-ranking officials. This case continues to be a high-profile investigation in Andhra Pradesh, with significant implications for the state's governance and transparency in liquor distribution.

CBI Court Approves Final Report in Ayesha Meera Murder Case

Vijayawada, 21.02.2026 | TPN Bureau

In a significant development nearly 19 years after the brutal murder of BPharmacy student Ayesha Meera, a special CBI court in Vijayawada has approved the final investigation report submitted by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the longpending case.



The court has directed that the mortal remains of Ayesha Meera, recovered

and preserved by the investigative team, be handed over to her parents so that they

can perform the last rites, scheduled for February 27 in Tenali according to reli-

gious customs. The court also ordered that the entire ceremony should be held under government security and that the proceedings be videographed in the presence of officials from CBI, revenue, police, and clergy representatives.

As part of the CBI's probe, a second postmortem examination was conducted following opinions by doctors from Gandhi Hospital, after which the remains were presented before the court.

The tragic case dates back to December 27, 2007, when 17-year-old Ayesha Meera was found murdered inside the bathroom of her hostel at Ibrahimpatnam near Vijayawada. Despite early investigations and trial court conviction, the accused, Pithala Satyam Babu, was acquitted by the Telangana High Court in 2017 due to lack of evidence.

Following public outcry and legal battles by Ayesha's parents, the case was hand-

ed over to the CBI in 2018. After years of investigation and multiple petitions and interim hearings, the central agency has now completed its probe and submitted the final report to the court earlier this month.

The orders from the CBI court mark a crucial phase in the longdrawn legal and investigative process, bringing closure to procedural aspects of the case, even as questions about identifying the actual perpetrators re-

main sensitive and unresolved in public discourse. The family's long wait for official acknowledgment and formal rites has now reached a legally verified turning point with the court's directives.

This development comes as the judiciary attempts to balance legal process with respect for the family's emotional plea for closure while ensuring procedural rigor in presenting the CBI's findings before the trial court.

BC Janardhan Reddy Holds Public Grievance Meeting in Banaganapalle

Banaganapalle, 21.02.25 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Roads & Buildings, Investments, and Infrastructure, B.C. Janardhan Reddy, on Wednesday personally received public petitions at his camp office in Banaganapalle, urging officials to expedite solutions to citizens' grievances. The initiative aimed to bring the government's welfare and development programs closer to the people and ensure efficient governance at the grassroots level.

During the session, Minister Janardhan Reddy emphasized the need to make the government's welfare measures accessible to all citizens. He stated that resolving public grievances is a key objective of the coalition government and assured that complaints would be promptly forwarded to the relevant authorities for immediate action. For issues that were legally straightforward, the minister intervened directly by contacting officials over the phone to ensure timely resolution. The petitions primarily covered matters related to revenue disputes, financial assistance, employment, and job opportunities. The minister carefully noted each concern and instructed officials to address them without delay. Citizens from diverse communities expressed appreciation for the responsive approach, highlighting the effectiveness of direct interaction with the minister. The grievance reception program drew participants from across the district, including local leaders, coalition representatives, and community members. Minister Janardhan Reddy personally listened to the concerns, providing

clarifications and guidance on the procedural steps for addressing complex issues. His hands-on involvement in the process reinforced public confidence in the administration's commitment to welfare and transparent governance.



Officials present at the camp noted that the minister's proactive approach had created an encouraging environment for citizens to share their problems openly. By engaging directly with the public, the administration aimed to strengthen the relationship between the government and the people while accelerating development initiatives at the district level. The Ministry of Roads and Buildings, Investments, and Infrastructure, Amaravati, which organized the event, described the program as part of a wider effort to ensure that welfare schemes and infrastructure projects effectively reach the beneficiaries. Feedback from citizens and local representatives is expected to guide further improvements in service delivery. Minister Janardhan Reddy's public grievance session in Banaganapalle highlighted the administration's focus on inclusivity, prompt action, and proactive governance, ensuring that citizens' voices are heard and addressed efficiently.

Kollu Ravindra Slams YSRC Leaders Over Public Conduct

Machilipatnam, 21.02.2026 | TPN Bureau

Minister Kollu Ravindra strongly criticized YSRC leaders for their recent statements and behavior, urging them to come to the Assembly and speak responsibly rather than making misleading claims. Addressing the media, the minister said that despite clear public rejection of their misgovernance, YSRC leaders continue to spread confusion and provoke communities unnecessarily.

Ravindra highlighted that Perni Nani, who failed to contest elections confidently and was defeated by a huge margin, lacks the credibility to comment on leaders like Nara Lokesh and Nara Chandrababu Naidu. "Even stray dogs at Bandaruru would ignore Perni Nani. Yet, he makes baseless statements on social media to create unnecessary noise," the minister stated.

The minister defended Nara Lokesh's personal choices, including attending cricket events at his own expense, saying there is nothing wrong with it. He also lauded Lokesh's role in bringing Google to Andhra Pradesh, noting that personal attacks on such leaders are unjustified.



Ravindra strongly criticized YSRC Chief Jagan Mohan Reddy for misusing public funds, alleging that over the past five years, the government spent nearly 223 crores on personal foreign trips, including 112.50 crores on fixed-wing flights and 87.02 crores on helicopter rides. He pointed out the excessive use of public money for ceremonies, trips, and other activities, contrasting it with Nara Chandrababu Naidu's transparent and disciplined governance.

The minister also condemned YSRC leaders for misusing resources at Tirupati, including using 68 lakh kilograms of substandard ghee to make over 20 crore laddus, compromising the sanctity of Swamy's offerings. He accused the party of siphoning public funds into media advertisements and private companies while undermining heritage institutions and public accountability. Ravindra stressed that the coalition government is committed to equitable development across all regions, prioritizing public welfare and infrastructure over partisan politics.

He warned that YSRC leaders, who exploit caste and religion for political gains, have no moral authority to comment on revered institutions like Venkateswara Swamy Temple. In conclusion, the minister called on YSRC leaders to speak responsibly in the Assembly, refrain from misleading public discourse, and respect democratic processes. He emphasized that the coalition government remains focused on building a transparent, development-oriented, and inclusive Andhra Pradesh, countering misgovernance with action rather than rhetoric.

Gottipati Ravikumar Highlights Special Focus on Health and Education for the Poor in Addanki

Addanki, 21.02.2026 | TPN Bureau

In a strong endorsement of the coalition government's welfare initiatives, Energy Minister G. Ravikumar emphasized the administration's commitment to providing quality healthcare and education for the underprivileged. Speaking during his visit to Addanki, the minister noted that under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, the coalition government has prioritized inclusive welfare schemes that serve as a role model for the nation.

During the visit, Minister Ravikumar personally distributed CM Relief Fund (CMRF) cheques to 85 beneficiaries at the Putta Vari Palem guest house, aimed at supporting economically vulnerable families facing health or educational challenges. He stressed that the government is taking proactive steps to ensure that students in government schools receive quality education and that citizens from weaker sections have access to corpo-



rate-standard medical facilities without financial burden. Minister Ravikumar highlighted the government's emphasis on health security, explaining that the state administration prioritizes medical support to prevent financial hardships arising from unexpected medical emergencies. He reaffirmed that welfare programs like the CMRF play a critical role in providing a safety net for economically disadvantaged families. The minister also underscored Andhra Pradesh's pioneering role in implementing welfare programs effi-

ciently, stating that the state serves as a national benchmark for inclusive development and social security. By ensuring targeted support for education and healthcare, the government is actively bridging inequalities and improving the quality of life for vulnerable communities. Addressing political issues, Minister Ravikumar criticized the YSR Congress Party for allegedly exploiting religious sentiments for political gains. He noted that using deity images for political sloganeering in legislative assemblies is unprecedented and warned that

the public would not tolerate such acts. He accused certain YSR Congress leaders of engaging in unethical practices and emphasized that citizens are unwilling to bear the consequences of such actions. The minister also highlighted that coalition leaders have consistently worked to maintain transparency, accountability, and efficient delivery of welfare services. Several coalition representatives were present during the event, witnessing the distribution of aid and the minister's interactions with beneficiaries.

Minister Ravikumar's visit reaffirmed the coalition government's commitment to social justice, inclusive welfare, and the well-being of the poor, with a special focus on accessible healthcare and quality education. Through initiatives like the CMRF, the government continues to strengthen its outreach and deliver tangible benefits to underprivileged communities across the state.

Kandula Durgesh Condemns Desecration of Lord Venkateswara Images in Assembly

Rajahmundry, 21.02.26 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Tourism, Culture, and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh strongly condemned the alleged desecration of Lord Venkateswara images by YSRCP members in the state legislative assembly. Speaking at a media briefing in Rajahmundry along with coalition leaders, Durgesh described the act as "extremely disgraceful and intolerable", warning that society would not forgive attacks on religious sentiments or faith.

The minister detailed that on Saturday, while a bill was being introduced by Deputy Chief Minister and Panchayat Raj Minister Pawan Kalyan, YSRCP members reportedly brought boots and shoes to the podium, mishandling the sacred images of the deity. "Throwing Lord Venkateswara's images into the air and discarding them carelessly is a deeply hurtful act for devotees," he said. He emphasized that the incident was not accidental but executed under the direction of Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, citing prior controversies, including issues with the TTD declaration and alleged ir-



regularities in prasadam preparation, as examples of the party's repeated disregard for religious tradition. Durgesh further criticized the ruling party for a pattern of undemocratic behavior, including harassment of dissenters, house arrests, and filing of baseless cases against political opponents. "From the past to the present, the YSRCP has continuously undermined democratic norms and shown no respect for opposition voices," he stated. Senior party leaders, such as Botsa Satyanarayana, were criticized for remaining silent despite clear evidence of misconduct in the assembly.

Highlighting the importance of religious and cultural harmony, Durgesh said that elected representatives sworn to uphold the constitution must respect all faiths. "The citizens are the ultimate authority in a democracy, and their mandate must be respected. Allowing such acts to go unchecked risks setting dangerous precedents for the future," he said. The minister announced that the opposition coalition would conduct a week-long public awareness campaign to educate citizens about YSRCP's alleged disregard for religious sentiments and democratic practices. He urged society to

unite against such actions and called upon the media, as the Fourth Estate, to report widely and bring the issue to public attention. The briefing was attended by East Godavari district MLAs, as well as leaders from TDP, Jana Sena, BJP, and coalition representatives, signaling a united front against what they termed the ruling party's religious intolerance and authoritarian tendencies. Durgesh concluded by urging citizens and political leaders alike to actively safeguard democratic values and religious respect, stressing that vigilance was necessary to prevent similar incidents in the future.

AP Handloom Cooperative Receives First TTD Order, Boosts Weaver Employment

Amaravati, 21.02.26 | TPN Bureau

In a historic milestone for the Andhra Pradesh handloom sector, the state-run handloom cooperative APCO has signed an agreement with the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) to supply devotional textiles to devotees visiting Lord Venkanna in Tirumala. This marks the first time in APCO's 51-year history that a TTD order has been placed with the cooperative.

The TTD marketing officials have issued an order for the supply of 3,000 handkerchiefs, 5,000 dupattas, 90,000 cotton uppers, and 75,000 cotton blouses for distribution to devotees, particularly during the Veda recitation ceremonies and VIP darshan sessions. All items will carry the inscription "Om Namo Venkatesaya" in Telugu and Sanskrit, as mandated by TTD. Historically, similar supplies were sourced from Co-Optex in Tamil Nadu. With the coalition government in power, the initiative to provide 365 days of employment to weavers—referred to locally as "Netanlu"—has now



brought this order to APCO, benefiting local handloom workers directly. Minister for Handlooms and Jowar Development, Savitha, lauded the agreement, saying it reflects the government's commitment to enhancing weaver welfare and ensuring financial security for artisans. "Since the formation of the coalition government, several agreements have been signed with APCO, Tata, Taneria, and Birla groups to provide continuous employment opportunities for handloom workers,"

she said. She described the TTD order as a blessing from Lord Venkanna for the state's weaving community. Minister Savitha also extended her thanks to TTD Chairman B.R. Naidu and the TTD Board for facilitating the order. She highlighted the government's goal of enabling a steady livelihood for handloom artisans throughout the year, ensuring economic stability and promoting traditional crafts. The order has been welcomed enthusiastically by handloom associations across the

state, who view it as a key step toward creating sustainable employment and supporting the local weaving industry. APCO now looks forward to fulfilling this landmark order and strengthening its presence in devotional textile supplies for one of the country's most visited pilgrimage centers. This initiative is part of the coalition government's broader strategy to empower artisans, preserve traditional crafts, and expand employment opportunities for local weavers in Andhra Pradesh.

APCC Chief Y.S. Sharmila Condemns Attacks on Congress Offices in AP

Vijayawada, 21.02.26 | TPN Bureau

Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) Chief Y.S. Sharmila Reddy on Wednesday strongly condemned the recent attacks on Congress offices in Andhra Pradesh, describing them as acts of violence orchestrated by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Speaking from Vijayawada, Sharmila questioned the state of democracy in the country, calling these incidents “a new name for violence” and a threat to political dissent.

Referring to recent events in Delhi, she asked whether disturbances in the national capital could justify assaults on party offices in Andhra Pradesh. “Is this democracy? Is this the justice that citizens expect?” she asked, highlighting that these



attacks represent the BJP’s continued use of intimidation and coercion against opposition parties. Sharmila said that the violent actions in the state reflect a deliberate attempt to undermine democratic principles and suppress legitimate political dissent.

She criticized the BJP for targeting Congress offices in what she described as “hooliganism and an organized assault on political opposition.” The APCC chief warned that such

acts would not go unchallenged and that the BJP would have to face consequences in the court of the people. She emphasized that attacks on opposition parties are not only a political crime but also a blow to the country’s reputation. “Assaulting political opponents damages the nation’s prestige and undermines the very foundation of democracy,” she said.

Sharmila also highlighted the issue of curbing dissent under

the influence of the ruling party and its ideological affiliates. “In India today, questioning the government has become a punishable act under the Modi administration influenced by the RSS,” she stated. She urged party cadres and supporters to remain steadfast and resist such intimidations peacefully and lawfully, asserting that freedom of expression and the right to political participation are non-negotiable.

The APCC chief also

addressed the misuse of religion and ideology to justify political violence, calling for these distortions to be countered firmly but through non-violent methods. She urged Congress workers and citizens to uphold democratic values and oppose attacks on political institutions and personnel through lawful channels.

Sharmila’s statement underlined the APCC’s commitment to protecting the rights of opposition parties, maintaining the rule of law, and ensuring that citizens’ voices are not silenced by threats or intimidation. She reiterated that the Congress party would take all necessary steps, including legal action and mobilizing public opinion, to safeguard democracy in Andhra Pradesh and ensure accountability for those responsible.

Youth Congress Urges Jagan Mohan Reddy to Uphold YSR Legacy

Indian Youth Congress @IYC - Follow

Dear Jagan,

Your father, our proud leader Late Shri Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy (YSR), dedicated his life to fighting communal, divisive & compromised forces.

We understand you are facing CBI/ED cases, but at the very least, do not let your father’s legacy down so openly.

YS Jagan Mohan Reddy @ysjagan

Yesterday at the AI Summit, the Youth Congress made us all feel ashamed. Where is our politics heading! No one should ever demean our country. Whatever our political differences may be, we should always present a united face to the world.

2:20 PM · Feb 21, 2026

Amara vati, 21.02.2026 | TPN Bureau

The Indian Youth Congress has strongly criticized YSR Congress Party chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, urging him not to let his father’s legacy be tarnished amid ongoing CBI and ED investigations. The youth wing expressed concern over Jagan’s recent comments on a protest by Youth Congress workers at the India AI Impact Summit in New Delhi, calling his stance “hypocritical” and inconsistent with the values associated with his late father, former Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy (YSR).

Jagan had condemned the protest in a social media post, describing the actions of the Youth Congress activists as shameful and emphasizing that political differences should never compromise India’s image on the global stage. He called for national unity and urged all political actors to maintain dignity while engaging in political discourse.

Jagan’s remarks highlighted his belief that even amid sharp political rivalries, the

country’s reputation must remain protected.

In response, the Youth Congress directly challenged Jagan, stating that while he is currently facing multiple investigations, he should not let his father’s values and political legacy suffer. They argued that YSR devoted his life to welfare-oriented governance, fighting communalism, and strengthening public institutions, and that these principles must be upheld regardless of present controversies. The youth wing accused Jagan of displaying hypocrisy by criticizing the Youth Congress while allegedly undermining the spirit of public service and governance through his past administrative decisions.

The Youth Congress’s statement also pointed out that political leaders with historic legacies bear a responsibility to uphold the standards and ideals established by their predecessors. By invoking YSR’s commitment to inclusive development, the youth wing emphasized that political conduct should re-

fect integrity, accountability, and respect for the party’s heritage. They urged Jagan to focus on constructive leadership rather than engaging in public disputes that may detract from his father’s achievements.

This exchange reflects the broader political tensions between regional leadership and national political discourse. It underscores the role of party youth wings in shaping narratives, defending legacies, and holding senior leaders accountable. The Youth Congress has made it clear that the preservation of YSR’s legacy remains a priority, and they expect Jagan and other leaders to act in a manner consistent with the welfare-focused, people-oriented values established during his father’s tenure.

The debate is likely to continue as Andhra Pradesh’s political environment heats up, with both governance and legacy under public scrutiny, highlighting the growing importance of ethical leadership and accountability in contemporary politics.

JC Prabhakar Reddy Slams Media for Misrepresenting Son’s Comments

Anantapur, 21.02.2026 | TPN Bureau

Tadipatri Municipal Chairman JC Prabhakar Reddy has strongly criticized media reports that he says misrepresented remarks made by his son, accusing some journalists of twisting the statements and altering their meaning. Speaking to reporters in Anantapur, Prabhakar Reddy clarified the situation and defended his family’s position, insisting that accurate reporting is essential for public understanding.

The controversy arose from comments made by his son, Asmitha Reddy, regarding the Andhra Pradesh government’s financial situation. Prabhakar Reddy stated that some media outlets distorted his son’s words, falsely suggesting that they criticized the state’s finances. He emphasized that the original intent of the remarks was misrepresented and urged the media to present context accurately.

Prabhakar Reddy also raised concerns about the YSRCP government under Chief Minister

Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, claiming that the state’s existing debts have been exacerbated under the current administration. He stressed that discussions on sensitive economic issues require careful and accurate reporting to avoid misleading the public.

Regarding development in Tadipatri, Prabhakar Reddy noted that progress and infrastructure achievements were being misunderstood or overlooked by certain sections of the press. He highlighted that significant development projects have been implemented in his constituency, and that coalition leaders, including Nara Lokesh, have actively worked to improve local amenities and services.

Prabhakar Reddy also praised Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, stating that their development initiatives in Tadipatri align with broader goals of state progress and public welfare. He emphasized that public discourse should focus on constructive dialogue rather than sensa-



tionalized headlines that distort facts.

He reaffirmed his commitment to securing projects that provide essential services to residents, including reliable electricity, underground drainage systems, and other civic infrastructure already operational in Tadipatri. He emphasized that the region’s development should be recognized based on facts rather than misleading narratives.

Prabhakar Reddy’s re-

marks reflect his broader concern about media integrity and the accurate representation of political statements, especially when statements involve public figures or their family members. He urged journalists to maintain accuracy and context in their reporting to uphold public trust.

Despite the controversy, Prabhakar Reddy remains focused on highlighting development initiatives and ensuring that the achievements

in Tadipatri are communicated clearly and fairly. His call for responsible reporting underscores the importance of truthfulness in media coverage to foster informed public discourse.

This article provides an overview of Prabhakar Reddy’s response and his continued commitment to regional development, governance, and public welfare, while urging accountability in media reporting.

BJP SC Morcha Holds State Office Bearers Meet in Vijayawada

Vijayawada, 21.02.26 | TPN Bureau

The BJP SC Morcha organized a state-level meeting of its office-bearers in Vijayawada, attended by senior leaders, including BJP Andhra Pradesh President P.V.N. Madhav, SC Morcha State President Konathala Suresh, and BJP National SC Morcha President Lal Singh Arya. The meeting focused on strengthening the party’s presence in Andhra Pradesh through active participation of Scheduled Caste leaders and members.

Addressing the gathering, P.V.N. Madhav extended his congratulations to the SC Morcha for its consistent efforts in empowering the community. He emphasized that the BJP’s growth in the state should be led through dedicated work by its cadres, particularly focusing on Scheduled Castes.

He also highlighted the inspiration of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, stating that the achievements and recognition given to SC communities today are rooted in Ambedkar’s vision. Madhav said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi often acknowledges Ambedkar’s influence in shaping his leader-

ship, reflecting the party’s commitment to the upliftment of marginalized communities.

State SC Morcha President Konathala Suresh was lauded for his courageous leadership and active involvement in several movements aimed at community welfare. He has been instrumental in organizing programs that highlight the contributions of Scheduled Castes and ensure their representation in state politics. Lal Singh Arya, National SC Morcha President, praised Andhra Pradesh for its strategic importance and expressed his appreciation for the state leaders’ commitment to SC empowerment.

Leaders emphasized that SC Morcha activities are distinct from general party programs, focusing on real recognition and empowerment of Scheduled Castes rather than symbolic gestures. They urged members to study Dr. B.R. Ambedkar’s ideals and vision, understanding the principles behind the community’s upliftment. Ministerial and party leaders stressed the importance of political participation beyond reserved con-

stituencies, encouraging SC leaders to contest elections in general constituencies to expand influence and representation.

The meeting also addressed organizational matters, noting that the SC Morcha currently has over 50 subcommittees. Plans were outlined to hold meetings with each subcommittee leader soon, with the aim of enhancing grassroots mobilization and outreach across the state. Leaders underscored the importance of preserving community identity and dignity while participating actively in democratic processes. They emphasized that Scheduled Castes should assert their political and social rights, ensuring they are not merely seen as a voting bloc but as empowered citizens with a voice in governance.

The event highlighted the BJP’s ongoing efforts to strengthen its Scheduled Caste wing in Andhra Pradesh, ensuring that grassroots activities align with the national leadership’s vision for inclusive development and empowerment of marginalized communities.

Former CBI Officer Lakshminarayana Faces Backlash Over Corporate Ties

Andhra Pradesh, 21.02.2026 | TPN Bureau

In a surprising turn of events, V.V.L. (V.V. Lakshminarayana) — the former CBI joint director once celebrated as an anticorruption crusader — has drawn sharp criticism for his recent association with a corporate conglomerate linked to controversial contracts and political bribery allegations.

Lakshminarayana, widely known as “JD Lakshminarayana” during his tenure in law enforcement, rose to prominence for his outspoken stance on corruption and integrity. After resigning from government service, he became a familiar figure delivering lectures to college students on ethics before entering electoral politics, where he floated his own party and later joined the Jana Sena Party. However, these

political ventures yielded limited success.

Critics are now questioning his credibility after reports emerged that he has taken a position with a corporate group known for controversial dealings and frequent short-term blacklisting over alleged poor execution of projects, yet somehow continuing to secure even larger government contracts.

Opposition voices have accused Lakshminarayana of abandoning his earlier image as a reformer to align with business interests and former bureaucrats implicated in political controversies. Some point to past episodes — such as his leadership of a CBI team that cleared officials from the then YSR government in a high-profile case involving Volkswagen India representatives despite apparent evidence of irregularities — as



indications of contradictory actions when compared to his anticorruption persona. Lakshminarayana’s critics also highlight his personal misfortunes, including the loss of Rs 2.58 crore by his wife to an online fraudster, as part of a complex narrative surrounding his public image. Despite these setbacks, his latest career shift into the corporate

sector has raised eyebrows among political observers and civil society commentators, who argue that a former anticorruption figurehead’s reputation could be compromised by ties to controversial corporate operations.

The debate reflects broader tensions in Andhra Pradesh’s political landscape, where past alliances, public roles, and postservice

careers of officials often come under scrutiny. Lakshminarayana’s journey — from high-profile CBI official to political hopeful and now corporate associate — underscores the challenges former bureaucrats face in maintaining public trust while navigating diverse roles after government service.

While supporters may argue that professionals have the right to pursue diverse careers after public service, detractors insist that those once identified with accountability and integrity should avoid entanglements that could dilute their legacy. Lakshminarayana’s evolving public perception has become a focal point of political commentary, prompting ongoing discussion about ethics, career transitions, and public expectations of former officials.

First Heart Transplant Success at Manipal Hospitals with CMRF Support

Amaravati, Feb 21, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Manipal Hospitals Vijayawada announced the successful completion of its first heart transplantation, marking a major milestone in advanced cardiac care in Andhra Pradesh. The hospital shared details of the complex procedure at a press conference on Friday, crediting multidisciplinary teamwork and financial assistance from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for making the life-saving surgery possible.

The recipient, K. Sathyavathi, a 21-year-old woman from Vizianagaram district, had

been suffering from Dilated Cardiomyopathy for several years. As her condition deteriorated into severe heart failure despite intensive treatment, she underwent a comprehensive transplant evaluation, including right heart catheterization and detailed clinical assessments. She was subsequently registered under the Jeevandan organ-sharing programme, through which a suitable donor heart became available.

Doctors said the transplant was performed successfully with support from both the state government's

relief fund and the Manipal Foundation, significantly easing the financial burden on the patient's family. Hospital officials confirmed that Sathyavathi is recovering well and remains under close post-operative monitoring.

Speaking at the press meet, the surgical team highlighted that heart transplantation requires advanced life-support systems such as ECMO and ventricular assist devices, along with meticulous coordination among cardiologists, surgeons, anaesthesiologists, and critical care specialists. They described the patient's stable recovery

as a reflection of seamless teamwork and the growing capabilities of tertiary care centres in the state.

Expressing gratitude, Sathyavathi said the transplant had given her a "second life," recalling years of breathlessness, weakness, and repeated hospitalisations. She acknowledged the government assistance and institutional support that enabled the surgery without financial strain on her family.

State Jeevandan officials noted that many patients in Andhra Pradesh continue to wait for organ transplants and stressed the



importance of donor awareness. Hospital Director J. Ramanjaneya Reddy said the achievement demonstrates the region's readiness to deliver world-class cardiac care locally, reduc-

ing the need for patients to travel to metropolitan cities for complex procedures. The hospital also emphasized its expanding capabilities, including minimally invasive and

robotic cardiac surgeries, and reiterated its commitment to strengthening transplant programmes and promoting organ donation awareness. The event concluded with

doctors underscoring that collaborative care and timely support systems are key to improving survival and quality of life for patients with advanced heart disease.

NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha Conducts Special Visit to Kanaka Durga

Vijayawada, 21.02.26 | TPN Bureau

Dr. G. Lakshmisha, IAS, the current Collector and District Magistrate of NTR District, visited the renowned Kanaka Durga Temple atop Indrakeeladri hill today as part of a special inspection and religious observance. The temple authorities extended a warm welcome to the Collector, marking the occasion with traditional honors.

During his visit, Dr. Lakshmisha performed special rituals and pujas dedicated to Goddess Kanaka Durga, seeking her blessings for the welfare of the district, smooth governance, and the prosperity of its residents. Emphasizing the cultural and religious significance of the temple, the Collector expressed his commitment to preserving its sanctity while ensuring that devotees have a safe and comfortable experience during their visit.



Following the religious observances, the Collector, accompanied by Executive Officer Seena Nayak and Special Grade Deputy Collector, conducted a detailed inspection of ongoing development works at the temple. The team reviewed the progress of infrastructure upgrades, including improvements to pilgrim amenities, safety measures, cleanliness, and accessibility along the hill pathway and within the temple premises. Dr. Lakshmisha specifically inquired about the facilities provided for devotees, highlighting the need to maintain both traditional practices and modern

conveniences to enhance the overall pilgrimage experience. Officials accompanying the Collector included the temple's Sthanacharyas (traditional caretakers) and other administrative staff, who briefed him on the status of ongoing projects, including the restoration of temple facilities, arrangements for large gatherings, and implementation of new amenities aimed at improving visitor comfort. The Collector inspected all areas thoroughly, ensuring that work is progressing according to schedule and that the temple administration adheres to quality and safety standards.

Dr. Lakshmisha emphasized that the administration is committed to supporting religious institutions and ensuring that prominent sites like Kanaka Durga Temple are maintained to the highest standards. He encouraged officials to prioritize the needs of pilgrims while safeguarding the temple's historical and cultural heritage. The visit also served to reinforce the district administration's proactive approach in monitoring the development of religious and public facilities, ensuring that all projects are executed efficiently and in a manner that benefits devotees and visitors alike. By combining spiritual observance with administrative oversight, the Collector's visit highlighted the district's commitment to both preserving heritage and improving public amenities, reflecting a balanced approach to governance and community service.

APCRDA Holds Weekly Grievance Day for Amaravati Residents

Amaravati, 21.02.26 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) held its weekly Grievance Day at the Head Office in Rayapudi, Amaravati, to address the concerns and issues of farmers, agricultural labourers, and residents of the Capital Region. The initiative was spearheaded by GRM Nodal Officer P. Jayashree, who personally received petitions and ensured that officials were committed to resolving them promptly.

During the session, residents raised grievances related to land pooling, building and layout permissions, re-allotment of returnable plots, annuity payments, and other civic and developmental matters. A total of 34 grievances were submitted, with 19 related to land, 6 to social development, 4 to planning, 3 to development promotion, 1 to estates, and 1 additional social development concern. GRM Nodal Officer Jayashree assured petitioners that all complaints would be addressed on a priority basis, and officials were instructed to avoid any delay or negligence in re-



solving public issues.

Several senior officials participated in the Grievance Day, including G. Panduranga Rao Ramakrishnan, Joint Director, Jubin Roy, Estates, Borra Srinivasa Rao, SD DLDO, K. Gopinadh, Zonal Deputy Director of Planning, and Special Deputy Collectors M. Seshireddy, K.S. Bhagya Rekha, Sai Srinivasa Nayak, and A.G. Chinnikrishna. Tahsildars, DCDO officials, and other administrative staff were also present to provide guidance, clarify processes, and ensure smooth handling of grievances.

APCRDA emphasized that the Grievance Day would continue every Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Head Of-

ice in Rayapudi. Additionally, to facilitate farmers and residents who cannot attend on Saturdays, petitions can be submitted during regular working hours on all weekdays, enabling wider access to authority officials and quicker resolution of pending issues.

This initiative reflects APCRDA's commitment to citizen-centric governance, transparency, and accountability. By addressing public grievances in a structured and timely manner, the authority aims to strengthen trust with residents and ensure that developmental projects in the Capital Region progress smoothly. Officials noted that prompt resolution of issues, especially those re-

lated to land and planning, is essential for the successful implementation of urban development schemes and equitable distribution of benefits to landowners and farmers.

The Commissioner's Office encouraged all residents, particularly farmers and agricultural workers, to actively participate in the Grievance Day program and submit their concerns. The authority reiterated that efficient grievance redressal is vital to inclusive growth and sustainable development in the Amaravati Capital Region, and citizens' participation is key to ensuring accountability and responsive governance.

APCRDA Issues Advisory Against Unauthorized Constructions in Amaravati



Amaravati, 21.02.26 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) has issued a strict public advisory warning against unauthorized constructions, encroachments, and any use of land or buildings that violate sanctioned development plans in the Capital City area. The Authority emphasized that all development activities must comply with statutory regulations to ensure orderly, planned, and sustainable urban growth.

Under the amended provisions of the APCRDA Act, 2014, any unauthorized development

will attract a penalty of 20% of the land value, as assessed by the Registration Department. Continued violations will result in a daily fine of up to 1% of the land value until full compliance is achieved. APCRDA has made it clear that strict enforcement measures will be implemented to prevent illegal constructions and maintain the integrity of the Capital City's master plan.

The advisory also specifically warned that containers, baddies, kiosks, temporary sheds, or other structures placed on government or APCRDA land, roads, open spaces, or public areas without prior per-



mission will be removed without notice. The cost of removal, transportation, storage, and any additional penalties will be recovered from the encroachers in accordance with the Act.

The Authority further cautioned that obstructing officials while performing their duties will invite legal action under the relevant provisions. Citizens, developers, and other stakeholders were urged to strictly follow planning norms and cooperate with APCRDA officials to safeguard the planned development vision of Amaravati.

This advisory comes as part of APCRDA's ongoing efforts to prevent

unauthorized urbanization and maintain the aesthetic, functional, and sustainable development standards of the Capital City. Officials stressed that maintaining compliance with approved plans is crucial not only for orderly urban growth but also to protect public infrastructure and amenities. The Commissioner's Office of APCRDA has reiterated that these measures are essential for ensuring long-term growth, civic safety, and sustainable development in Amaravati, urging residents and developers to act responsibly and adhere strictly to all statutory requirements.

Durga Malleswara Temple Strengthens Devotee Facilities and Security

Vijayawada, 21.02.26 | TPN Bureau

The Sri Durga Malleswara Swami Devasthanam at Indrakeeladri, Vijayawada has undertaken a comprehensive inspection and issued detailed directives to enhance devotee facilities, security, and overall temple management. The Executive Officer and temple officials conducted a review of infrastructure, parking, sanitation, crowd management, and information dissemination, emphasizing the need for timely completion and strict compliance.

Devotee Comfort and Facility Enhancements

To protect devotees from the sun, long-term shaded walkways will be established from Kanakadurga Nagar to the Mahamandapam. Floor mats will be installed from the goshaala shoe stand to the main hall for safety and convenience. At prasadam counters, seating arrangements, drinking water, lighting, and fans will be provided to accommodate waiting devotees. Existing sheds will be extended southward to withstand heavy rains and strong winds.

The elevated queue route will be repurposed



to create additional shop space, freeing ground-level areas for vehicle parking. Personal storage counters will be relocated to Kanakadurga Nagar. Parking areas at the hill base will be leveled, and directional boards will guide staff and devotees to maintain orderly parking.

Security and Crowd Management

Security instructions strictly prohibit all unauthorized vehicles, including two- and four-wheelers, from entering the Mahamandapam. Even protocol vehicles will be required to offload devotees at designated lifts

and exit immediately. Security personnel will manage parking systematically, ensuring vehicles are not parked randomly along the route. Three shifts of security staff will be deployed at the toll-free counter to assist drivers and maintain order.

Information Dissemination and Cleanliness

A 75-85 inch LED TV will be installed at the waiting area below the Mahamandapam to broadcast details about temple services, festivals, and donation opportunities. Areas under the steps will be cleaned immediately, with flex

banners and signage displaying information about temple activities.

Implementation and Reporting

The Executive Officer emphasized that all measures must begin immediately, coordinated across departments, and completed within seven days. Any negligence or delay will result in strict disciplinary action. These efforts aim to improve devotee comfort, maintain orderly crowds, and ensure a safe, secure, and organized environment at one of Vijayawada's most prominent religious sites.

BC Janardhan Reddy Inaugurates Groundnut Purchase Center in Banaganapalle

Banaganapalle, 21.02.26 | TPN Bureau
In a move aimed at boosting farmer welfare, Minister for Roads & Buildings, Investments, and Infrastructure, B.C. Janardhan Reddy, inaugurated a groundnut purchase center at the Banaganapalle Agricultural Market Yard on Wednesday. The minister also officially opened two newly constructed agricultural godowns built at a cost of 65 lakh, intended to support local

farmers and improve storage infrastructure. Addressing the gathering, Minister Janardhan Reddy emphasized the government's farmer-friendly approach, saying, "Our administration is committed to the welfare of farmers. These purchase centers have been established to ensure that cultivators do not suffer losses and receive fair prices for their crops." He extended gratitude on behalf of farmers to Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Agriculture Minister Achaiah Naidu for taking decisions that prioritize farmer interests. The minister recalled that the foundations of the two godowns were laid during his tenure as



Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Agriculture Minister Achaiah Naidu for taking decisions that prioritize farmer interests. The minister recalled that the foundations of the two godowns were laid during his tenure as

MLA a decade ago. "Nearly 50% of the construction was completed under my supervision. However, subsequent local political hurdles stalled the work," he said, adding that protests had been held in the past to expedite the completion. "Despite financial challenges, we have now completed these godowns to benefit the farmers, as private storage facilities often charge higher rates," he noted.

He urged farmers to register their crops under the CMAPP scheme at the farmer service centers to avail the minimum support price of 5,875 per quintal through A.P.MARKFED. The groundnut purchase is being conducted without any per-acre limit, ensuring farmers can sell up to 10 quintals per acre via e-crop registration. Minister Janardhan Reddy highlighted the scale of groundnut cultivation in the district, stating that a total of 1,52,742 acres were under groundnut cultivation, with 77,180 acres specifically in the Banaganapalle constituency. Accordingly, the government has sanctioned the procurement of 14,348 metric tonnes of groundnuts for the district. Farmers are advised to bring their produce to the Banaganapalle and Kovelakuntla market yards, where storage

will be managed through the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), Nandyal, and payments will be directly transferred to their Aadhaar-linked bank accounts. The inauguration was attended by local leaders, farmers, and agricultural officials, reflecting the administration's continued focus on empowering farmers, enhancing storage facilities, and ensuring timely procurement at fair prices.

Kollu Ravindra Inspects Machilipatnam Hospital Under Swarna-Andhra Cleanliness

Machilipatnam, 21.02.2026 | TPN Bureau

As part of the Swarna-Andhra Swachh Andhra initiative, Minister Kollu Ravindra conducted a detailed inspection of the Machilipatnam Government Hospital to evaluate healthcare services, sanitation, and biomedical waste management. The visit is part of the government's larger drive to improve public health infrastructure and ensure hospitals maintain high standards for patients and staff.



During the inspection, the minister reviewed the barcode-based biomedical waste tracking system installed in the hospital. He spoke with sanitation staff and other officials to understand current waste management practices and emphasized the importance of strict adherence to safety protocols. He instructed that biomedical waste should be collected, packaged, and processed under special procedures to prevent the spread of infections. Officials were urged to maintain vigilance and ensure compliance at all times.

Minister Ravindra personally visited each ward and interacted with patients to assess their experience with the hospital's facilities and cleanliness. He highlighted the importance of listening to patient feedback in improving service delivery. He also inspected the hospital's waste disposal, packaging, and processing units, ensuring that staff are properly equipped and trained to handle medical waste efficiently. A detailed meeting with doctors and hospital personnel followed the inspection. The minister encouraged staff to report any shortages in medical equipment or supplies, promising that required items would be provided promptly. He emphasized that modern healthcare requires well-maintained infrastructure, adequate staffing, and timely availability of medical tools, all critical to enhancing patient care and safety.

Reflecting on past deficiencies, the minister noted that over the last five years, hospital management and maintenance had often been inadequate, leading to inconvenience for patients. He reiterated that under the Swarna-Andhra Swachh Andhra program, the state government is committed to transforming hospitals into clean, efficient, and patient-friendly facilities. Special attention is being given to sanitation, waste management, patient amenities,

and overall hospital hygiene. Minister Ravindra also highlighted the broader vision of the state government to position Andhra Pradesh as a leader in healthcare and development by 2047. He assured that systematic inspections, improved facilities, and strict monitoring would continue across hospitals to achieve these objectives. The visit concluded with the minister directing officials to ensure prompt implementation of all recommendations, maintain strict adherence to hygiene standards, and report progress regularly. This inspection demonstrates the government's dedication to improving public healthcare infrastructure and ensuring citizens have access to safe, modern, and well-maintained hospital services. The Swarna-Andhra Swachh Andhra program continues to set benchmarks for public health and sanitation, reinforcing the state's commitment to holistic development, citizen welfare, and healthcare excellence.

Animini Ravi Naidu Launches SAAP State Chess League and Community Wellness Programme

Tirupati, 21.02.2026 | TPN Bureau

Tirupati witnessed a major initiative for grassroots sports and holistic wellness on Saturday as the SAAP Community Wellness Programme and the SAAP State Chess League were launched at the Sri Srinivasa Sports Complex. The events aim to promote physical and mental well-being while nurturing young sporting talent across Andhra Pradesh. The programme began with Yoga Andhra wellness activities, drawing enthusiastic participation from attendees and underlining the focus on overall health. Following the wellness sessions, the chess competition took centre stage, with 360 state-qualified players competing in the SAAP State Chess League. Participants were selected through rigorous district-level trials, which saw a total of 2,445 players from all 26 districts of Andhra Pradesh take part. The tournament features four age categories — Under-13, Under-15, Under-17, and Under-19 — and is being live-streamed on YouTube to allow wider public engagement.



Winners will be honoured at a medal ceremony. The event was inaugurated by former Union Minister Panabaka Lakshmi, in the presence of SAAP Chairman Animini Ravi Naidu, SAAP Vice-Chairperson and Managing Director S. Bharani, Tirupati Municipal Commissioner N. Mourya, IAS, and Olympian hockey player Rajani. Speaking at the inauguration, Ravi Naidu highlighted the significance of such initiatives in strengthening Andhra Pradesh's sports ecosystem and providing opportunities for young talent. He emphasized that wide participation across the state reflects the growing enthusiasm for structured sporting platforms. S. Bharani reiterated SAAP's commitment to creating transparent and inclusive avenues for identifying and nurturing sporting talent, ensuring that players from all backgrounds have opportunities to excel. Officials noted that the State Chess League exemplifies the state's emphasis on developing young minds through discipline, strategy, and sporting excellence. By combining wellness programmes with competitive sports, Andhra Pradesh aims to cultivate a generation that values both mental agility and physical fitness. The launch marks a step forward in SAAP's ongoing efforts to encourage youth participation in sports while promoting community wellness. The programme and league are expected to inspire similar initiatives across the state, fostering a culture of fitness, discipline, and excellence among Andhra Pradesh's younger population.

Pawan Kalyan Drives Major Development in Konidela Village

Nandikotkur, Nandyal District | 21.02.2026

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has spearheaded a comprehensive development initiative in Konidela village of Nandikotkur mandal, bringing transformative changes to the rural landscape. Fulfilling a commitment made during the 2019 elections, Pawan Kalyan has actively contributed both personally and through government schemes to enhance infrastructure, water supply, and public amenities in the village. As part of his personal contribution, Pawan Kalyan donated Rs. 50 lakh to construct a 90,000-liter overhead water tank, addressing the long-standing drinking water challenges faced by residents. The new tank is expected to provide safe drinking water to approximately 2,000 villagers. Authorities have been instructed to complete the construction before the summer season, ensuring uninterrupted water supply to the community. In addition to the personal contribution, government schemes have infused over Rs. 6 crore into village development. Under the 'Palle Panduga 1.0' initiative,



three internal roads were completed at a cost of Rs. 20 lakh, while 'Palle Panduga 2.0' is implementing seven CC roads with a funding of Rs. 45 lakh. Under the Rural Road Development Sub-Plan, a 5-kilometer BT road from the District School to Lakshmapuram is being constructed with Rs. 4 crore, and Rs. 45 lakh has been allocated for restoration of the connecting roads to the village. Public amenities have also been expanded. Based on villagers' requests, four cow sheds, 19 residential houses, and water troughs have been constructed. Under the Employment Guarantee Scheme, 49 feeder channels were upgraded for

farmers, along with the renovation of two minor canals and three community check dams. The development plan further covers road improvements, drainage systems, and housing projects, which are collectively reshaping the village infrastructure. Pawan Kalyan's office stated that every initiative is designed to fulfill electoral promises and ensure sustainable and inclusive growth in Konidela. The Deputy Chief Minister expressed satisfaction over the pace of work, particularly the water tank project, which addresses one of the village's most pressing issues. Authorities overseeing the projects were

commended for their efficiency and coordination, ensuring timely completion of all initiatives. Through these efforts, Konidela is emerging as a model village, demonstrating the impact of targeted infrastructure development, clean water access, and livelihood support. Pawan Kalyan's leadership continues to prioritize rural welfare, blending personal commitment with governmental support to provide long-term benefits to the community. The initiative reflects a broader vision of inclusive growth, aiming to elevate living standards and transform Konidela into a benchmark for rural development.

Key Update on National Highway 216E Boosts Connectivity in Konaseema District

Amalapuram, 21.02.2026 | TPN Bureau

A longcherished dream of residents in Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema district is moving closer to reality as authorities take significant steps toward the development of National Highway 216E, a major infrastructure project aimed at improving connectivity and spurring economic growth in the region. Officials from the Roads and Buildings Department have been directed to prepare detailed proposals to construct the proposed NH 216E as a four-lane highway with a minimum width of 27 metres. The highway is intended to run from Amalapuram to Ravulapalem, offering a direct and high-capacity route that will better serve local commuters, traders, farmers, and industries.



During a review meeting at the Amalapuram Collectorate, attended by Members of Parliament, state legislators, national highway engineers and senior revenue officials, the expansion proposals were discussed in depth. Stakeholders agreed that upgrading the road to four lanes will not only ease travel between key towns but also act as a catalyst for regional development by improving the flow of goods and services. Local leaders and officials noted that the current road capacity is insufficient to cater to rising traffic demand, especially with increasing commercial and agricultural activity in the Konaseema delta. Once completed, the widened highway is expected to significantly reduce travel time, enhance safety, and support economic integration within the district and beyond. Officials were also in-

structed to conduct comprehensive surveys for land acquisition, existing structure removal, and compensation. The directive aims to ensure that the expansion process is transparent and that affected landowners receive fair remuneration. Authorities have been advised to carry out the land acquisition process methodically to prevent delays and minimize inconvenience to residents. The expansion of NH 216E is seen as a key infrastructure boost for Konaseema, with potential benefits spanning improved passenger travel, better market access for local produce,

and strengthened linkage to larger national highway networks. Enhanced connectivity is expected to attract investments, support tourism, and create broader economic opportunities for communities along the route. Residents of Konaseema have welcomed the project, expressing optimism that the improved highway will usher in a new phase of development for the region. With preparatory work already underway, stakeholders are hopeful that construction will begin soon and bring long-term benefits to the district's economy and quality of life.

Why Donald Trump Softened Tariffs: The Real Story Behind the India–United States Deal

The recent shift in the United States' tariff stance toward India may appear sudden, but beneath the surface lies a carefully negotiated strategic recalibration. What seems like a legal and political setback for Donald Trump is, in reality, part of a broader geopolitical and economic bargain—one in which both India and the United States found strong reasons to adjust their positions.

A Legal Setback That Triggered a Policy Shift

The turning point came when the US Supreme Court curtailed the use of sweeping tariffs imposed under emergency powers. The ruling limited the executive branch's ability to unilaterally enforce such trade measures without legislative backing. While this appeared to weaken Trump's aggressive tariff strategy, it did not dismantle it entirely.

Instead, it forced a rethink. The administration quickly adapted, signaling that while the legal route had changed, the broader trade relationship with India would remain intact. This response revealed that the tariff policy was never just about law—it was deeply tied to negotiation strategy.

India's Growing Strategic Importance

India's role in this equation extends far beyond trade figures. In recent years, it has become a crucial partner for the United States in areas such as supply chain diversification, defense cooperation, and regional stability in Asia.

One of the most significant factors influencing the tariff rollback was India's willingness to respond to US geopolitical concerns. In particular, India adjusted its approach to energy sourcing in ways that aligned more closely with American expectations. This move carried weight because it addressed a major point of friction in bilateral relations.

By making calculated concessions in areas important to Washington, India strengthened its negotiating position. It became harder for the US to justify maintaining extremely high tariffs on a partner that was increasingly



aligning with its broader strategic goals.

Tariffs as a Tool of Pressure

Trump's use of tariffs has consistently been about leverage rather than purely economic protection. Tariffs were deployed to push countries into negotiations, often tied to issues beyond trade—such as defense purchases, market access, or geopolitical alignment. India experienced this pressure firsthand. At one stage, tariffs on Indian goods rose sharply, affecting exports and creating economic strain. However, instead of escalating the conflict, India chose a more measured response.

New Delhi focused on negotiation—offering selective concessions, reducing certain trade barriers, and increasing imports from the United States. This approach avoided a full-scale trade war while keeping diplomatic channels open.

Over time, this strategy proved

effective. By the time legal constraints emerged in the US, much of the actual bargaining had already taken place behind closed doors.

The Hidden Bargain

What appears as a sudden softening of tariffs is better understood as the outcome of a quiet, multi-layered agreement.

India made key adjustments, including:

- Lowering some trade restrictions
- Expanding imports from the US
- Aligning more closely with US geopolitical concerns
- In return, the United States:
 - Reduced tariff pressure
 - Maintained a stable trade framework
 - Reinforced strategic cooperation with India

Even after the legal setback, the US ensured that a more limited

tariff structure remained in place. This shows that the intention was not to abandon tariffs completely, but to recalibrate them in a way that balanced legal limits with strategic goals.

Why the US Couldn't Push Further

Timing played a critical role in shaping the outcome. The global economic environment has made strong partnerships more valuable than ever. India is not just a large market—it is also an emerging manufacturing hub and a key player in regional geopolitics.

Pushing India too hard risked unintended consequences. It could have driven New Delhi to deepen ties with other global partners, reducing American influence in the process.

India had already begun diversifying its trade relationships, strengthening its position in global markets. This reduced its vulnerability and gave it greater bar-

gaining power in negotiations with the US.

For Washington, maintaining a cooperative relationship became more important than sustaining maximum tariff pressure.

Bringing Stability Back to Trade For India, one of the biggest gains from this episode is increased predictability. Frequent tariff changes had created uncertainty for exporters and investors, making long-term planning difficult.

With stronger institutional checks in place, there is now greater confidence that US trade policy will be more stable and less subject to sudden shifts. This benefits businesses on both sides, encouraging investment and smoother trade flows.

Stability, in this context, is as valuable as tariff reductions.

A Tactical Adjustment, Not a Defeat

It would be misleading to interpret the shift as a clear defeat for

Trump. Instead, it represents a tactical adjustment to changing circumstances.

By scaling back tariffs, the United States achieved several objectives:

- Preserved its influence in negotiations
- Strengthened ties with a key partner
- Avoided economic disruption

At the same time, India secured meaningful relief without escalating tensions or entering a damaging trade conflict.

Both sides managed to protect their core interests, which is why the outcome can be seen as a mutual win.

The Road Ahead

The India–US trade relationship is now entering a more balanced phase. While disagreements will continue, they are likely to be managed through negotiation rather than confrontation.

Tariffs will remain a tool, but their use will be more measured and strategic. Legal constraints, economic realities, and geopolitical priorities will shape how both countries approach future disputes.

For India, this episode highlights the value of strategic patience and flexibility. For the United States, it underscores the limits of unilateral economic pressure in a complex global landscape.

Conclusion

The easing of tariff tensions was not simply the result of a court ruling or a sudden policy reversal. It was the outcome of careful negotiation, shifting geopolitical priorities, and mutual dependence.

Donald Trump did not simply retreat—he recalibrated. Faced with legal constraints and strategic realities, the United States adjusted its approach. At the same time, India leveraged its growing importance to secure a more favorable outcome.

This episode reflects a broader truth about global trade today: it is shaped not just by economics, but by diplomacy, strategy, and the need for balance.

AI and Power: How Technology Is Reshaping the Alliance Between State and Capital

The rapid rise of artificial intelligence is often discussed in terms of jobs, innovation, and economic growth. But a deeper and more consequential transformation is underway—one that is fundamentally altering the relationship between governments and big corporations. As political thinker Pratap Bhanu Mehta argues, AI is not just a technological shift; it is reorganising how power is structured between the state and capital.

Two Competing Explanations for Global Change

To understand this transformation, it is useful to begin with a broader question: why has globalisation faced such a strong backlash in recent years?

One common explanation focuses on inequality. According to this view, globalisation created wealth but distributed it unevenly. Job losses, wage stagnation, and social insecurity led to political discontent. The solution, therefore, lies in better redistribution and stronger welfare systems.

However, an alternative and more structural explanation points to changes within capitalism itself. Technological evolution—especially the rise of AI—has altered the incentives and behaviour of capital. This suggests that the global order is not just politically contested but economically transforming from within.

From Global Mobility to Territorial Anchoring

In the era of industrial globalisation, corporations benefited from mobility. They could shift production across countries, exploit wage differences, and maintain leverage over governments by threatening to relocate. This flexibility al-

lowed capital to operate relatively independently of the state.

AI is changing this dynamic. Unlike traditional industries, advanced AI systems require enormous infrastructure—data centres, semiconductor facilities, energy resources, and highly skilled talent. These are not easily movable assets.

As a result, major technology firms are becoming more territorially anchored. They depend on specific jurisdictions for resources, regulation, and security. This reduces their ability to “exit” and increases their reliance on the state.

In effect, capital is becoming less global and more tied to national systems.

The Rise of Infrastructure-Like Tech Giants

Another key shift lies in the nature of leading corporations. Technology companies are no longer “light” platforms operating in a borderless digital space. Instead, they increasingly resemble infrastructure monopolies of the early 20th century.

Their operations are vertically integrated and capital-intensive. They control not just software, but also hardware, data ecosystems, and energy consumption. This transformation brings them closer to sectors like utilities or transportation—areas historically intertwined with state power.

This convergence creates a new kind of partnership: one where governments and corporations depend on each other at a structural level.

Blurring the Line Between Markets and Control

AI is also reshaping how markets themselves function. Traditionally, markets relied



on decentralised decision-making, with prices acting as signals of supply and demand.

In an AI-driven system, this logic begins to change. Algorithms can predict behaviour, personalise pricing, and allocate resources in real time. Information itself becomes the basis of economic coordination.

But such systems cannot operate in a vacuum. They require access to vast amounts of data, legal permissions, and regulatory frameworks—all of which are controlled or influenced by the state.

This creates a powerful feedback loop:

- Corporations collect and process data
- Governments provide regulatory access and legitimacy
- Both gain increased capacity for monitoring

and control. The result is a merging of economic and political power in ways that were previously less visible.

Surveillance and the New Symbiosis

One of the most striking consequences of this transformation is the convergence of commercial and governmental surveillance.

Digital platforms already collect massive amounts of user data for commercial purposes. When aligned with state interests, this data can also enhance governance, security, and social control.

This does not necessarily imply overt authoritarianism, but it does signal a shift toward systems where control, monitoring, and influence become more central features of both economic and political life.

The relationship between state and capital is no longer

one of distance or tension—it is increasingly one of collaboration.

The Shift Toward Techno-Nationalism

AI is also redefining global competition. In the past, countries competed for market access and manufacturing dominance. Today, the focus has shifted to technological sovereignty.

Control over semiconductors, cloud infrastructure, rare earth resources, and advanced AI models has become strategically critical. Governments are investing heavily in these areas, often in partnership with major corporations.

This has given rise to what can be described as a techno-nationalist order—where national power is closely tied to technological capability.

Implications for Countries Like India

For countries such as India, this transformation presents both opportunities and challenges.

The key question is no longer just about regulation or market reform. It is about whether the state and domestic capital can work together effectively at scale.

Competing in the AI-driven global order requires:

- Strong state capacity
- Technological investment
- Coordination with large firms

Without this alignment, countries risk falling behind in a world where power is increasingly defined by control over technology.

At the same time, this model raises concerns about inequality and concentration of power. If a small number of firms dominate critical infrastructure, and if they are closely aligned with the state, the potential for imbalance increases.

An Uncertain Future

Despite these trends, the transformation is not absolute. Traditional markets, labour dynamics, and global interdependence still matter. The world is not moving toward a single, uniform system.

However, the direction of change is clear. The boundaries between public and private power are becoming more blurred. National interests are shaping economic decisions more directly. And technology is at the centre of this shift.

Conclusion

Artificial intelligence is not just a tool of innovation—it is a force that is reshaping the foundations of political economy. It is changing how corporations operate, how governments exert power, and how the two interact.

The emerging order is neither purely market-driven nor fully state-controlled. Instead, it represents a hybrid system where state and capital are increasingly intertwined.

As we focus on the possibilities of AI, it is crucial to recognise this deeper transformation. The real story is not just about smarter machines, but about a reconfiguration of power—one that will define the future of economies and societies alike.

Demand for Accountability Intensifies After Ajit Pawar Plane Crash

Political tensions in Maharashtra have escalated after Rohit Pawar demanded the resignation of the Union Civil Aviation Minister following the fatal plane crash that claimed the life of his uncle, Ajit Pawar.

Rohit Pawar has raised serious concerns about the integrity of the ongoing investigation, suggesting that the probe may not be fully impartial. He has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to step in and ensure that an independent and transparent inquiry is conducted.

Concerns Over Investigation Process

At the core of the controversy are questions surrounding the credibility and independence of the agencies involved in the probe. Rohit Pawar has pointed out possible conflicts of interest and questioned whether the investigators have the necessary expertise to thoroughly examine all aspects of the crash.

He also highlighted issues related to key evidence, particularly the cockpit voice recorder, which reportedly suffered damage during the incident. According to him, incomplete or compromised data could hinder efforts to uncover the true cause of the crash.

Call for Ministerial Resignation

In a significant political move, Rohit Pawar has called for the Civil Aviation Minister to step down while the investigation is underway. He argued that such a step would help maintain public confidence and eliminate any perception of bias in the inquiry process.



He has also formally appealed for a fresh, independent probe, stressing that transparency is crucial given the high-profile nature of the tragedy. Additionally, he hinted at the possibility of deeper issues, including potential links between the aircraft operator and influential individuals.

The Tragic Incident

The crash occurred in January 2026 near Baramati in Maharashtra, when a chartered aircraft carrying Ajit Pawar went down during landing. The plane reportedly lost control before bursting into flames, resulting in the deaths of all onboard.

Ajit Pawar, a prominent political leader, was traveling to attend official engagements at the time. His sudden demise sent shockwaves across the state and created a significant

void in Maharashtra's political landscape.

Growing Political Pressure

Since the accident, demands for a more detailed and transparent investigation have been growing. Several leaders and observers have raised concerns about aircraft maintenance, safety checks, and pilot credentials.

Rohit Pawar has been among the most vocal, insisting that all angles must be thoroughly examined. His statements reflect a broader sense of unease within political circles and the public regarding the official handling of the case.

Debate on Accountability and Transparency

The issue has now evolved into a wider debate about accountability in aviation safety and governance. Critics argue

that investigations into such incidents must be free from any influence, especially when they involve prominent figures.

By demanding a minister's resignation, Rohit Pawar has elevated the matter to a national level, emphasizing the importance of maintaining trust in institutional processes.

What Comes Next
As the investigation continues, pressure is mounting on authorities to ensure a fair and comprehensive probe. The coming weeks are expected to be crucial in determining whether further action will be taken.

For now, the tragedy remains both a personal loss and a politically sensitive issue, with its outcome likely to have lasting implications for governance and public confidence.

Political Storm Around Vijay Deepens Amid CBI Probe and BJP Rebuttal

A fresh political controversy has emerged in Tamil Nadu as actor-turned-politician Vijay finds himself at the center of a debate involving allegations of political pressure and an ongoing probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation.

The issue gained momentum after Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), Vijay's political party, claimed that the investigation was being used as a tool to exert pressure on its leader. The party hinted that the timing and nature of the probe raised concerns about possible political motives behind the move.

Allegations of Political Targeting

Leaders within TVK suggested that the probe was not merely a routine investigation but could be an attempt to influence Vijay's growing political presence. As a relatively new entrant in politics, Vijay has been attracting attention across Tamil Nadu, and his party has been positioning itself as an alternative force in the state.

The allegations reflect a broader concern often raised by opposition parties—that



central agencies are being used selectively against political figures who challenge the ruling establishment.

BJP Rejects Claims

Responding strongly, the Bharatiya Janata Party dismissed the accusations as baseless. Party leaders questioned how such claims could be made without evidence, asserting that investigative agencies operate independently and follow due legal processes.

The BJP maintained that linking the probe to political

pressure was an attempt to create unnecessary controversy and divert attention from the facts of the case. According to the party, no individual is above the law, and any investigation should be allowed to proceed without interference or speculation.

Rising Political Stakes

The controversy comes at a time when Vijay's political journey is being closely watched. His entry into politics has generated significant interest, particularly among younger voters, and has the

potential to reshape political dynamics in Tamil Nadu.

With this backdrop, any legal or investigative action involving him is likely to attract heightened scrutiny and trigger political reactions.

Debate Over Agencies and Politics

The episode has once again sparked debate over the role and independence of central investigative agencies in India. Critics argue that such probes can sometimes be perceived as politically influenced, while supporters insist that institutions must be allowed to function without being drawn into political narratives.

What Lies Ahead

As the investigation continues, the situation remains fluid. The outcome of the probe and the responses from political stakeholders will play a crucial role in shaping public perception.

For now, the issue highlights the intersection of politics and law enforcement, with both sides firmly holding their ground in a rapidly intensifying political landscape.

Rahul Gandhi Appears in Bhiwandi Court in RSS Defamation Case, Submits Fresh Bail Bond

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi appeared before a court in Bhiwandi, Maharashtra, in connection with a defamation case linked to his alleged remarks about the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). During the hearing, Gandhi submitted a fresh bail bond along with a new guarantor, ensuring compliance with legal requirements in the ongoing proceedings.

The case stems from comments Gandhi reportedly made several years ago, which were interpreted as defamatory towards the RSS. The complaint was filed by a local party worker, leading to legal action and subsequent court appearances. Over time, the matter has seen multiple hearings, procedural delays, and legal formalities, reflecting the complexity often associated with defamation cases involving political figures.

Gandhi's latest court visit was primarily procedural. His



legal team informed the court about the need to submit a new bail bond, replacing the earlier one due to technical reasons. A new guarantor was also presented to satisfy the court's conditions. The court accepted the submissions, allowing the case to proceed without disruption.

The Congress leader has consistently denied any

wrongdoing, maintaining that his statements were either misinterpreted or taken out of context. His lawyers have argued that the remarks fall within the ambit of political speech and should not be treated as criminal defamation. They have also emphasized the importance of safeguarding freedom of expression, particularly in

political discourse.

On the other hand, the complainant has insisted that Gandhi's statements were damaging to the reputation of the RSS and warranted legal scrutiny. The case thus continues to highlight the ongoing tension between free speech and defamation laws in India's political landscape.

Gandhi's appearance drew attention from party workers and media, though the proceedings themselves remained routine. Security was maintained in and around the court premises as a precautionary measure.

The court has scheduled the next hearing for further proceedings, where arguments and evidence may be examined in greater detail. As the case moves forward, it is expected to remain under public and political scrutiny, given the high-profile nature of the individuals and organizations involved.

AI Summit Protest Sparks Political Row, Youth Congress Workers Sent to Police Custody

A political controversy erupted in New Delhi after a dramatic protest by members of the Indian Youth Congress disrupted a major AI summit, leading to arrests and a court-ordered police custody.

Four workers were detained following their shirtless demonstration at the India AI Impact Summit, a high-profile event attended by global leaders in technology and policy.

Court Grants Police Custody

The accused were produced before a Delhi court, which granted the police five days of custody for further investigation. Authorities argued that custodial interrogation was necessary to reconstruct the sequence of events, examine digital evidence, and determine whether the protest was coordinated.

Police officials indicated that participants from multiple states appeared to have acted in a synchronized manner, raising suspicions about a larger organized effort behind the disruption.

Police Allege 'Larger Conspiracy'

During the hearing, investigators claimed the protest was not spontaneous but part of a broader conspiracy aimed at tarnishing India's image on an international platform. Authorities are focusing on recovering mobile phones and analyzing communication records to identify possible links, coordination, or funding sources.

Officials also alleged that provocative slogans were raised during the protest and that three police personnel sustained injuries while trying to control the situation.



Comparison with Nepal's Gen-Z Protests

Investigators pointed to similarities between the demonstration and recent youth-led protests in Nepal, often described as Gen-Z movements. These protests gained attention for their intensity and organized mobilization through digital platforms.

Authorities suggested that the methods used in the AI summit protest may have been influenced by such movements, particularly in terms of coordination and symbolic demonstration tactics.

Defence Calls Case 'Political Witch Hunt'

Lawyers representing the accused rejected the allegations, describing the case as politically motivated. They argued that the protest was peaceful and protected under the constitutional right to freedom of expression.

The defence also dismissed claims of violence and conspiracy, stating that there was no credible evidence to support the charges put forward by the police.

Background of the Protest

The disruption occurred during a globally significant summit where India was highlighting its advancements and ambitions in artificial intelligence. The unex-

pected protest drew widespread attention and triggered sharp reactions.

While critics argued that such actions could harm India's international reputation, supporters maintained that dissent—even at high-profile global events—is an essential part of a democratic system.

Political Reactions Intensify

The incident has sparked a broader political debate. The ruling side criticized the protest as irresponsible and damaging to the country's image, while opposition voices defended it as a legitimate expression of public concern.

The episode reflects deeper political tensions and disagreements over governance, policy direction, and the space for protest in India.

What Lies Ahead

With police custody granted, the investigation is expected to focus on uncovering the planning and coordination behind the protest. Digital evidence and communication trails are likely to play a key role.

The case also raises important questions about the limits of protest, the balance between dissent and public order, and how demonstrations are handled at major international events.

ED Tightens Noose in PNB Scam, Chargesheet Likely Against Rohan Choksi



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Trump's Tariff Retreat: Courtroom Blow Forces Policy Reset



In a significant shift in U.S. trade policy, President Donald Trump has scaled back tariffs on several countries, including India, following a major legal setback in the United States. The move, which reduces tariffs on Indian goods to 10 percent, comes after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against the administration's sweeping tariff powers—forcing a rethink of an aggressive economic strategy that had defined Trump's second term.

At the heart of this reversal lies a landmark judgment in *Learning Resources, Inc. v. Trump*, where the court determined that the president does not have unilateral authority to impose tariffs under emergency economic laws. The ruling effectively dismantled the legal foundation of several tariffs that had been imposed on trading partners, including India, over the past year.

From Confrontation to Compromise

The tariff reduction marks a notable de-escalation in trade tensions between the United States and India. Just months earlier, relations had been strained by steep duties imposed by Washington, which at one point pushed total tariffs on Indian exports as high as 50 percent. These measures had triggered sharp criticism from New Delhi and raised concerns about a broader diplomatic fallout.

Now, under the revised framework, India faces a standardised 10 percent tariff—aligned with a broader global rate introduced by the Trump administration. This represents a significant drop from earlier levels and offers relief to Indian exporters who had been grappling with

uncertainty and rising costs.

The shift reflects not just a policy adjustment, but also a recognition of legal and institutional limits. The Supreme Court's decision clarified that trade tariffs cannot be imposed solely through executive authority under emergency provisions, a stance that has far-reaching implications for how future trade disputes will be handled.

Legal Setback with Global Impact

The court's ruling has been widely interpreted as a major check on presidential power. By rejecting the use of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act as a basis for tariffs, the judgment underscores the role of Congress in shaping trade policy.

For the Trump administration, this represents both a political and strategic challenge. Tariffs had been a cornerstone of Trump's economic agenda, used not only to protect domestic industries but also as leverage in international negotiations. The inability to deploy them freely weakens a key tool in his policy arsenal.

At the same time, the administration has sought to frame the new 10 percent tariff as part of a broader, simplified global system rather than a retreat. Trump has maintained that the revised approach still serves American interests while ensuring consistency across trading partners.

India's Position Strengthens

For India, the development is a welcome easing of pressure. The earlier tariff regime had raised fears of long-term damage to bilateral trade and strategic ties. By lowering duties, the United States has signaled a

willingness to stabilise relations, even if underlying differences remain.

The reduction also enhances India's competitiveness in the U.S. market, particularly in sectors such as textiles, engineering goods, and pharmaceuticals. Exporters who had been hit hard by the previous tariff structure are likely to benefit from improved access and reduced cost burdens.

However, the broader context remains complex. Trade relations between the two countries have been shaped by multiple factors, including geopolitical considerations, energy policies, and differing economic priorities. While the tariff cut is a positive step, it does not fully resolve these underlying tensions.

A Shift in Strategy

The introduction of a uniform 10 percent tariff across countries reflects an attempt to recalibrate U.S. trade policy in the wake of legal constraints. Instead of targeted, country-specific measures, the administration appears to be moving toward a more standardised approach.

This shift could reduce friction in some areas while creating new challenges in others. A uniform tariff may be easier to defend legally, but it also limits flexibility in addressing specific trade imbalances or negotiating concessions.

For global markets, the move brings a degree of predictability after months of uncertainty. Businesses and investors, who had been navigating a rapidly changing tariff landscape, may now find it easier to plan and adapt.

Political and Economic Implications

Domestically, the development has sparked debate over the balance of power between the executive branch and the judiciary. Supporters of the ruling argue that it reinforces constitutional limits and prevents overreach, while critics see it as a constraint on the president's ability to act decisively in economic matters.

Economically, the rollback could have mixed effects. While lower tariffs may reduce costs for importers and consumers, they could also weaken protections for certain domestic industries. The long-term impact will depend on how the administration adjusts its broader economic strategy in response to the ruling.

Looking Ahead

The reduction of tariffs on India to 10 percent marks a turning point in U.S. trade policy under Trump's second term. It highlights the interplay between legal authority, economic strategy, and international diplomacy.

While the immediate outcome is a de-escalation of tensions and a more predictable trade environment, the episode also raises important questions about the future of U.S. trade policy. With the Supreme Court setting clear limits on executive power, future decisions are likely to involve greater coordination with Congress and a more structured approach to global trade.

For India and other trading partners, the message is clear: while the era of aggressive, unilateral tariff actions may be waning, the dynamics of global trade remain complex and subject to both legal and political shifts.

India Watches Closely as US Court Strikes Down Donald Trump Tariffs

India has adopted a cautious and measured stance following a major ruling by the US Supreme Court that struck down key elements of former President Donald Trump's global tariff policy. The verdict, seen as a significant setback to Trump's trade strategy, is being closely studied in New Delhi for its broader economic and diplomatic implications.

Government officials have indicated that there will be no immediate reaction. Instead, relevant ministries are examining the ruling in detail to understand its potential impact on India's trade interests, especially exports to the United States. The focus is on assessing both short-term and long-term consequences before deciding on a formal response.

At the core of the issue is the court's decision to invalidate large parts of Trump's sweeping tariff programme. The ruling found that the administration had exceeded its authority by imposing wide-ranging tariffs under emergency powers, reinforcing the idea that such measures require clearer legislative backing. This judgment not only weakens a major pillar of Trump's economic approach but also introduces fresh uncertainty into global trade dynamics.

For India, the implications extend beyond the immediate rollback of tariffs. The decision is being seen as an opportunity to restore predictability in US trade policy. Over the past year,



India-US trade ties had come under strain due to aggressive tariff measures imposed by Washington. At one stage, duties on Indian goods rose sharply, disrupting exports and creating friction between the two nations.

More recently, efforts to stabilise trade relations had begun to show progress. However, the court ruling has altered the landscape once again. In response, the US has introduced a revised tariff structure, bringing duties down to around 10 percent for several trading partners, including India. While this reduction offers some relief, it also resets earlier negotiations and may complicate ongoing discussions.

Indian policymakers are therefore approaching the situation with caution. Rather than viewing the development purely

as a benefit, they are analysing how it reshapes the broader trade environment. Sudden policy shifts—especially those driven by legal decisions—raise concerns about consistency. For exporters and businesses, stability is often just as important as the tariff rates themselves.

The ruling also carries wider diplomatic significance. Countries around the world are assessing its impact, highlighting how interconnected modern trade systems have become. Any major policy change in the United States tends to create ripple effects across global markets, influencing decisions far beyond its borders.

India's response so far reflects strategic restraint. By avoiding immediate public statements, New Delhi is keeping its options open while monitoring how the situation evolves. A key ques-

tion is whether the United States will attempt to reintroduce tariffs through alternative legal routes or move toward more negotiated, stable trade arrangements.

Another important factor is the future of India-US trade talks. Both countries have been working to strengthen economic ties, and any disruption in tariff policy could affect the pace of progress. While the recent reduction in tariffs provides temporary relief, it does not fully resolve underlying trade differences.

From a broader perspective, the episode underscores the role of institutional checks in shaping economic policy. The court's intervention signals that trade decisions in the United States are subject to legal scrutiny, adding another layer of complexity for global partners.

Ultimately, India's approach will depend on how developments unfold. Policymakers are expected to balance opportunities with caution, ensuring that economic interests are protected while maintaining constructive engagement with the United States.

For now, businesses and exporters in India are watching closely. Lower tariffs may offer short-term gains, but uncertainty about future policy directions remains. As the situation evolves, adaptability and strategic planning will be key to navigating this shifting global trade landscape.

Canada's New Express Entry Rule: Why 2026 Could Bring Lower CRS Scores



Canada is set to reshape its immigration landscape in 2026 with a key change to its Express Entry system—one that could significantly alter applicants' chances of securing permanent residency. At the heart of this shift is a revised work experience requirement that is expected to influence Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS) cut-off scores and overall competition.

A Major Policy Shift in Work Experience Requirements

The most notable reform is the increase in the minimum work experience requirement for category-based Express Entry draws. Candidates will now need at least 12 months of relevant work experience, up from the earlier threshold of six months. This experience can be gained either in Canada or abroad within a recent time frame.

This adjustment is part of Canada's broader effort to refine its immigration intake by prioritizing candidates who bring more substantial professional exposure. The government's move aligns with its economic goals—ensuring that incoming immigrants are better prepared to integrate into the labour market and contribute effectively from day one.

Why CRS Scores May Drop

At first glance, raising eligibility criteria might seem like it would make immigration more difficult. However, the opposite effect is expected in terms of CRS cut-offs.

By increasing the work experience requirement, the pool of eligible candidates for category-based draws is likely to shrink. With fewer candidates meeting the stricter criteria, competition within these specific categories could decrease. If the number of invitations issued remains steady, this reduced competition could push CRS cut-off scores lower.

In simple terms, fewer qualified applicants competing for the same number of spots may improve the chances of those who do qualify.

The Growing Role of Category-Based Selection

On the other hand,

Another important aspect of Canada's immigration strategy is the continued emphasis on category-based draws. Unlike general draws, these target candidates with specific skills, language abilities, or work experience that align with Canada's economic priorities.

For example, candidates may be selected based on their occupation, such as healthcare or education, or their proficiency in a particular language like French. This approach allows the government to address labour shortages more directly and tailor immigration to national needs.

Because category-based draws focus on narrower groups, CRS cut-offs in these rounds are often lower than in general draws. In 2026, this trend is expected to continue, especially as the new work experience rule reshapes eligibility.

Recent Trends Point to Easing Competition

Early data from 2026 suggests that CRS scores are already showing signs of softening in certain draws. For instance, Canadian Experience Class draws have seen cut-offs decline compared to previous months, reflecting a gradual easing in competition.

This trend is partly due to large numbers of invitations being issued, which reduces the number of high-scoring candidates remaining in the pool. As more top candidates receive invitations, the overall score distribution shifts downward, benefiting those with slightly lower scores.

Such developments indicate that Canada is actively managing its immigration system to maintain a steady intake while ensuring broader access across different applicant groups.

What This Means for Applicants

For prospective immigrants, the new rules present both opportunities and challenges.

On one hand, candidates who already have at least one year of relevant work experience may find themselves in a stronger position, especially within targeted categories. Lower CRS cut-offs in these draws could improve their chances of receiving an invitation to apply for permanent residency.

On the other hand,

those with less than 12 months of experience may now find themselves excluded from category-based draws altogether. This makes it more important than ever for applicants to build sufficient work experience before entering the Express Entry pool.

Strategic Planning Becomes Crucial

The evolving system underscores the need for careful planning. Applicants must not only aim for higher CRS scores but also align their profiles with categories that Canada prioritizes.

Gaining additional work experience, improving language proficiency, or targeting in-demand occupations can make a significant difference. As category-based selection becomes more prominent, simply having a competitive CRS score may not be enough—eligibility for the right category could be equally important.

A System Designed for Economic Needs

Canada's immigration reforms reflect a broader shift toward a more targeted and flexible system. Rather than relying solely on overall rankings, the country is increasingly focusing on specific economic needs and workforce gaps.

By tightening eligibility requirements while maintaining or increasing invitation numbers, the system aims to balance quality and accessibility. The expected drop in CRS scores is not a sign of lowered standards, but rather a recalibration of how candidates are selected.

Looking Ahead to 2026

As the new rules take effect, 2026 could become a pivotal year for Express Entry applicants. The combination of stricter eligibility criteria and potentially lower CRS cut-offs creates a unique window of opportunity—particularly for those who meet the updated requirements.

While uncertainties remain, one thing is clear: Canada's immigration system is evolving to become more strategic, targeted, and responsive to labour market demands.

For applicants, staying informed and adapting to these changes will be key to success in an increasingly competitive yet opportunity-rich environment.

Tariff Relief with a Twist: Why US Policy Shift May Rekindle Trade Uncertainty

The recent rollback of tariffs in the United States has been welcomed by global markets as a positive development, offering temporary relief to businesses and trade partners. Lower tariffs typically encourage smoother trade flows, reduce input costs, and help ease inflationary pressures. However, beneath this optimism lies a deeper concern: the unpredictability of trade policy that could once again unsettle global markets.

At first glance, the easing of tariffs signals a more open and cooperative trade stance. It can boost exports, especially for emerging economies that rely on access to large consumer markets. Reduced trade barriers also benefit companies by lowering costs associated with cross-border commerce, improving margins and competitiveness. For consumers, it may translate into lower prices and greater availability of goods.

Yet, the broader issue is not just the tariff reduction itself, but the inconsistency in policy direction. Frequent shifts—imposing tariffs and then reversing them—create an unstable environment for global trade. Businesses depend on predictability to plan investments, manage supply chains, and expand operations. When policies change abruptly, it becomes difficult for companies to make long-term decisions with confidence.



This uncertainty can have a chilling effect on global investment. Firms may delay expansion plans or reconsider sourcing strategies, fearing sudden regulatory changes. Supply chains, already strained by geopolitical tensions and past disruptions, remain vulnerable to such policy swings. Even a positive move like tariff reduction can carry unintended consequences if it signals a lack of long-term clarity.

For countries like India, the development presents both opportunity and caution. On one hand, reduced tariffs in the US market can enhance export prospects for Indian industries, particularly in sectors such as manufacturing and services. On the other hand, the volatile nature of trade policy means that these advantages may not be sustained. Indian exporters could find themselves benefiting one moment and facing new barriers the next.

The global trade environment continues to be shaped by a mix of economic priorities and political considera-

tions. While the rollback may ease immediate tensions, it does not eliminate the underlying trend of protectionism that has influenced policy decisions in recent years. This duality—liberalization on the surface and caution beneath—defines the current trade landscape.

Ultimately, the tariff reversal highlights a key reality: stability matters as much as policy direction. Markets and businesses respond not only to favorable decisions but also to the consistency of those decisions over time. Without a clear and steady framework, even positive measures can fail to inspire lasting confidence.

In conclusion, while the reduction in US tariffs provides a short-term boost to global trade sentiment, it also underscores the ongoing challenge of policy unpredictability. For businesses and economies alike, navigating this uncertain terrain will require adaptability, resilience, and a keen awareness of shifting global dynamics.

Markets Edge Higher Amid Volatility as IT Stocks Drag for Third Week



Indian equity markets ended the week with modest gains despite heightened volatility and continued weakness in the IT sector. The overall sentiment remained cautious, with investors navigating a mix of global uncertainties and sector-specific pressures.

Benchmark indices managed to stay in positive territory. The BSE Sensex rose slightly, while the Nifty 50 also posted mild gains over the week. Although the increase was not substantial, it reflected the market's ability to hold steady in a challenging environment.

Volatility Keeps Investors on Edge

Market movements throughout the week were marked by sharp fluctuations. Sudden declines during trading sessions were followed by partial recoveries, indicating uncertainty among investors. This lack of clear direction highlighted the fragile nature of current

market sentiment.

Global factors played a major role in driving this volatility. Rising geopolitical tensions and increasing crude oil prices created concerns about inflation and economic stability. For India, higher oil prices can directly impact costs and weigh on overall growth prospects.

IT Sector Remains a Key Drag

The IT sector continued to underperform, extending its losing streak for the third consecutive week. Concerns over slowing global demand, especially from major overseas markets, have affected investor confidence in technology stocks.

As IT companies hold significant weight in benchmark indices, their consistent decline has had a noticeable impact on overall market performance. Uncertainty around future earnings and client spending has further contributed to the sector's weakness.

Foreign Investor Selling Continues

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) remained net sellers during the week, adding pressure on the market. Sustained outflows from foreign investors often signal cautious global sentiment and can limit upward momentum in equities.

However, domestic institutional investors provided some support, helping to offset the impact of foreign selling. Their participation played a crucial role in stabilizing the market and preventing sharp declines.

Sectoral Divergence Visible

While IT stocks struggled, other sectors such as banking and energy showed relative strength. These sectors helped support the indices and limited overall losses.

This divergence indicates a shift in investor focus, with money moving away from weaker sectors toward those perceived as

more stable or promising. Such sector rotation is common during periods of uncertainty.

Broader Market Shows Mixed Trends

The broader market presented a mixed picture. Mid-cap stocks recorded slight gains, while small-cap stocks faced some pressure. This suggests that investors are becoming more selective, preferring relatively safer segments over riskier bets.

The cautious approach indicates that while there is no widespread panic, confidence remains limited.

Outlook Remains Uncertain

Looking ahead, market direction will depend on several key factors. Global developments, especially geopolitical tensions and oil price movements, will continue to influence sentiment. Any escalation in risks could lead to further volatility.

Domestically, corporate

earnings, inflation trends, and policy signals will play an important role. Additionally, a recovery in the IT sector could significantly improve overall market performance.

A Phase of Consolidation

Despite ongoing challenges, the market's ability to post gains reflects underlying resilience. Investors appear to be balancing caution with selective optimism.

The current phase suggests consolidation rather than a strong upward or downward trend. While volatility may persist, the market is showing signs of stability.

In conclusion, the week highlighted the delicate balance between global pressures and domestic support. Even as IT stocks continue to weigh on sentiment, the broader market has managed to stay afloat, signaling cautious but steady confidence among investors.

Small-Cap Stocks Slip Amid Volatility Even as Select Shares Surge



Indian equity markets experienced a volatile phase, with small-cap stocks emerging as the weakest segment despite strong gains in a few individual counters. While headline indices showed resilience, the broader market painted a more cautious picture.

The BSE Sensex and Nifty 50 ended the week with modest gains, supported largely by strength in large-cap stocks. However, this stability did not extend to the broader market. The BSE Smallcap Index declined, indicating pressure on smaller companies. Meanwhile, mid-cap stocks performed relatively better, reflecting a shift in investor preference toward safer segments.

Volatility Creates Uneven Trends

Market sentiment remained uncertain throughout the week, with sharp swings driven by global and domestic factors. Rising crude oil prices, geopolitical concerns, and continued foreign investor outflows contributed to the instability.

Small-cap stocks, which are typically more sensitive to risk, were hit harder during this phase. Investors appeared to move away from riskier bets, favoring large-cap stocks that

offer relatively greater stability during uncertain times.

Sectoral Performance Remains Mixed

Different sectors showed varied performance. Banking and energy stocks provided support to the market, helping benchmark indices stay in positive territory. On the other hand, IT and auto stocks faced selling pressure, adding to the cautious mood.

This divergence reflects ongoing sector rotation, where investors are reallocating funds based on changing economic expectations and global trends.

Select Stocks Deliver Strong Gains

Despite the overall decline in the small-cap segment, several individual stocks recorded sharp gains during the week, with some rising as much as 25-30 percent. These gains highlight the stock-specific nature of the current market environment.

Investors are increasingly focusing on companies with strong fundamentals or positive news triggers, rather than chasing broad market rallies. As a result, while some stocks surged, many others remained under pressure.

Foreign Selling Weighs

on Market

Foreign Institutional Investors continued to remain net sellers, contributing to the volatility. Persistent outflows from foreign investors have been a key factor limiting market upside.

However, domestic institutional investors stepped in to provide support, helping cushion the impact of foreign selling and preventing deeper declines in the broader market.

Outlook: Cautious and Selective

Looking ahead, markets are expected to remain range-bound with continued volatility. Global cues, including oil price movements and geopolitical developments, will play a crucial role in shaping sentiment.

Domestically, corporate earnings and economic indicators will also influence market direction. Investors are likely to remain selective, focusing on quality stocks rather than broad-based buying.

A Market Defined by Divergence

The week's performance highlights a key trend—divergence within the market. While large-cap stocks continue to provide stability, small-cap stocks are facing pressure amid rising risk aversion.

In conclusion, the decline in small-cap indices alongside sharp gains in select stocks reflects a market that is both cautious and opportunity-driven. Investors are becoming more discerning, signaling a shift from widespread optimism to a more measured and selective approach.

Wall Street Climbs After Court Setback to Trump Tariffs Eases Uncertainty

U.S. stock markets closed higher as investor sentiment improved following a major legal setback to Donald Trump's tariff policy. The ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court reduced uncertainty around global trade, offering relief to markets that had been grappling with policy-related concerns.

Markets Recover After Early Volatility

Trading during the session was initially uneven, with investors cautious amid worries about slowing economic growth and persistent inflation. However, sentiment shifted positively after the court's decision, pushing major indices into the green by the close.

The S&P 500, Nasdaq Composite, and Dow Jones Industrial Average all recorded gains, reflecting a broad-based recovery across sectors.

Legal Clarity Boosts Investor Confidence

The rally was largely driven by the court's decision to strike down tariffs that had been imposed under emergency economic powers. The judgment clarified limits on presidential authority in trade matters, removing a layer of unpredictability that had been affecting global markets.

Tariffs had raised costs for businesses, disrupted supply chains, and contributed to trade tensions. With the ruling, investors saw a more stable outlook for international trade, which helped improve



confidence.

Technology Stocks Lead Gains

Technology companies played a central role in lifting the markets. Major firms such as Apple, Amazon, and Alphabet saw their shares rise, driving much of the upward momentum.

These companies tend to benefit from smoother global trade conditions due to their international operations. Their strong performance helped offset earlier weakness and supported the broader rally.

Possibility of New Tariffs

Despite the court ruling, Trump indicated that tariffs may not be completely off the table. He

suggested a new, more moderate tariff plan could be introduced using a different legal framework.

However, investors appeared reassured by the prospect of a less aggressive approach. The expectation of lower tariff intensity helped calm fears of escalating trade conflicts.

Economic Concerns Remain

Even with the positive market reaction, underlying economic concerns persist. Recent indicators point to slower economic growth, while inflation continues to remain a challenge.

These factors are influencing expectations around monetary policy, particularly decisions by

the Federal Reserve. Investors are closely watching for any signals regarding potential interest rate changes in the coming months.

A Cautious but Positive Outlook

Market reaction to the ruling was measured rather than dramatic, suggesting that investors had partly anticipated such a development. The overall tone remained cautiously optimistic, balancing relief with awareness of ongoing risks.

Looking Ahead

Future market direction will depend on how trade policy evolves and how economic conditions unfold. Investors will continue to monitor policy sig-

nals, corporate earnings, and global developments.

Technology stocks and sectors sensitive to global trade are likely to remain in focus. Any clarity on tariffs or economic policy could have a significant impact on market trends.

Stability Through Clarity

The day's gains highlight the importance of clarity in economic policy. By removing a major source of uncertainty, the court's decision allowed investors to reassess risks with greater confidence.

While challenges remain, Wall Street's rise reflects a market that is responsive to stability and reassured by clearer rules governing trade and policy.

House Hunting in Delhi: When Finding a Home Feels Harder Than Building a Startup



In a city known for ambition, opportunity, and relentless hustle, one woman's candid reflection has struck a chord with many urban professionals. Her experience highlights a surprising reality: in Delhi, securing a place to live can be more challenging than running a startup.

The story emerged from a woman entrepreneur who shared that despite navigating the complex world of business—raising funds, managing teams, and scaling operations—the most exhausting hurdle she faced was finding a home in the national capital. Her account sheds light on a deeper, often overlooked issue in metropolitan life: the emotional and practical toll of house hunting.

At first glance, the process of renting a home might seem straightforward. But for many, especially single women, it quickly turns into a frustrating and, at times, disheartening experience. The entrepreneur described how landlords often impose rigid and intrusive conditions on potential tenants. These range from questions about personal lifestyle choices to preferences based on gender, marital status, and even profession.

In her case, being a startup founder did not simplify matters. Instead, it added another layer of uncertainty in the eyes of landlords. Unlike salaried employees with predictable incomes, entrepreneurs are often viewed as financially unstable—even if their ventures are successful. This perception can lead to hesitation or outright rejection from property owners.

Another major challenge she highlighted was the lack of transparency in rental agreements. Sudden rent increases, unclear terms, and arbitrary rules often leave tenants feeling powerless. In some cases, tenants are expected to comply with restrictions that go far beyond reasonable boundaries, affecting their sense of independence and comfort.

The emotional strain of repeated rejections and negotiations can be overwhelming. For someone already juggling the pressures of running a business, this additional stress becomes particularly burdensome. The entrepreneur noted that while professional challenges can be anticipated and managed, the unpredictability of house hunting makes it uniquely draining.

Her experience also underscores the gendered dimension of the issue. Single women frequently face heightened scrutiny when searching for accommodation. Questions about their daily routines, visitors, and personal lives are not uncommon. In some instances, landlords prefer families or male tenants, assuming they are less "complicated" or more reliable.

This bias not only limits housing options but also reinforces broader societal inequalities. It sends a message that independence—especially for

women—comes with added hurdles. For many, the search for a home becomes not just a logistical task but a negotiation of identity and autonomy.

The situation is further complicated by the fast-paced nature of city life. With high demand for housing and limited supply in desirable areas, tenants often feel pressured to make quick decisions. This urgency can lead to compromises, whether in terms of budget, location, or living conditions.

Technology and online platforms have, to some extent, streamlined the search process. However, they have not eliminated the underlying issues. Listings may look appealing on the surface, but the reality often differs when tenants engage with landlords or brokers. Misleading information, hidden costs, and last-minute changes remain common complaints.

What makes this narrative particularly striking is the contrast it draws between professional and personal challenges. Building a startup is widely regarded as one of the toughest career paths, requiring resilience, innovation, and constant problem-solving. Yet, for this entrepreneur, the unpredictability and subjectivity of the rental market proved even more taxing.

Her story resonates with a broader audience because it reflects a shared experience among urban dwellers. Many people, regardless of their profession, encounter similar obstacles when trying to secure housing in major cities. The issue is not confined to Delhi; it is a recurring theme in urban centers across the country.

At its core, the problem points to a need for greater accountability and standardization in the rental market. Clearer regulations, fair practices, and increased awareness could go a long way in addressing these challenges. For tenants, especially those navigating the process alone, a more transparent system would provide much-needed relief.

The entrepreneur's reflection also serves as a reminder that success in one area of life does not shield individuals from difficulties in another. It highlights the importance of looking beyond conventional markers of achievement to understand the everyday struggles people face.

Ultimately, her experience is not just about house hunting—it is about the broader realities of urban living. It captures the tension between aspiration and practicality, independence and constraint, progress and persistence.

In a city that thrives on ambition, the journey to find a place to call home should not feel like an uphill battle. Yet, for many, it does. And until systemic changes are made, stories like this will continue to echo the same sentiment: sometimes, the hardest part of building a life is simply finding a place to live.

Nine Months in Bengaluru: A City Where Traffic Redefines Daily Life



Life in Bengaluru, often celebrated as India's technology capital, can quickly turn into a test of patience—especially when it comes to navigating its roads. For one resident who spent nine months in the city, the most defining aspect of the experience wasn't the vibrant startup culture or pleasant weather, but the relentless and exhausting traffic.

The individual shared how daily commuting in Bengaluru feels less like a routine and more like a battle. Even relatively short distances can stretch into long, unpredictable journeys. A trip that should ideally take 20 minutes often balloons into an hour or more, depending on the time of day, weather, or sheer congestion. The unpredictability be-

comes a constant source of stress, making it nearly impossible to plan schedules with confidence.

What makes the situation particularly frustrating is the frequency of gridlocks. Key roads are often choked with vehicles, and bottlenecks appear without warning. Office hours, in particular, transform the city into a maze of immobile cars, buses, and two-wheelers. For many, commuting becomes the most draining part of the day, overshadowing work and personal time.

The resident described how this daily ordeal slowly chips away at one's energy and mental well-being. Spending hours stuck in traffic leads to fatigue even before the workday begins. Over time, this re-

petitive strain can impact productivity, mood, and overall quality of life. The frustration is compounded by noise, pollution, and the constant stop-and-go movement that defines Bengaluru's roads.

Infrastructure challenges play a significant role in the problem. While the city has expanded rapidly as a hub for technology and business, its road network has struggled to keep pace with the growing number of vehicles. Narrow roads, ongoing construction, and frequent diversions further complicate movement. Although public transport options exist, they are often insufficient to meet the city's massive demand.

Projects like the Namma Metro aim to ease congestion, but their benefits

are still unfolding gradually. Many areas remain underserved, forcing residents to rely heavily on personal vehicles or ride-hailing services. This dependence adds to the already overwhelming traffic load.

Another striking aspect of the experience is how commuting time eats into personal life. Hours lost on the road mean less time for family, hobbies, or rest. Over nine months, the resident found that a significant portion of each day was consumed by simply getting from one place to another. This imbalance can make even an otherwise exciting city feel exhausting.

Despite these challenges, Bengaluru continues to attract people from across the country due to its op-

portunities and lifestyle. However, the traffic situation stands out as a major drawback—one that newcomers often underestimate. The resident's experience serves as a reminder that adjusting to life in the city requires not just professional readiness, but also mental resilience to handle its infrastructural limitations.

In the end, the story reflects a broader reality shared by millions living in Bengaluru. Traffic is not just an inconvenience; it shapes daily routines, influences decisions, and affects overall well-being. Until long-term solutions significantly improve mobility, surviving—and adapting to—the city's roads remains an essential part of the Bengaluru experience.

Gurugram Man's ₹2.44 Lakh Monthly Expenses Spark Debate on Urban Living Costs

A corporate employee from Gurugram has gone viral after sharing a detailed breakdown of his monthly expenses, totaling a staggering ₹2.44 lakh. His candid disclosure has triggered widespread reactions online, with many users expressing disbelief and comparing the amount to their yearly earnings.

The expense breakdown, shared through a video, offers a glimpse into the high cost of maintaining a comfortable lifestyle in one of India's fastest-growing corporate hubs. While some viewers were shocked, others saw it as a realistic reflection of urban living in metropolitan regions.

Where the Money Goes

A major portion of the man's monthly spending is allocated to rent, which forms the largest chunk of his expenses. Living in a premium apartment in Gurugram comes at a steep price, reflecting the city's reputation as a high-cost urban center driven by corporate demand and luxury housing.

Beyond rent, his expenses include groceries, which cover daily essentials and food supplies. He also spends significantly on maintaining a healthy lifestyle, including gym memberships and fitness-related costs.

Another notable category is subscriptions—ranging from streaming platforms to various digital services. These recurring payments, though individually small, add up substantially over time.

Additionally, the man has invested in home setup and maintenance, indicating that he prioritizes comfort and aesthetics in



his living space. This includes furnishings, appliances, and other lifestyle upgrades that contribute to a higher monthly outflow.

A Lifestyle Choice or Necessity?

The viral post has sparked a broader conversation about whether such expenses are necessary or simply a matter of personal choice. While some argue that the spending reflects an aspirational lifestyle, others point out that living in cities like Gurugram often comes with unavoidable costs.

Urban professionals working in corporate sectors frequently face high rents, transportation costs, and lifestyle expectations. In such environments, maintaining a certain standard of living can become both a social and professional necessity.

However, critics suggest that many of these expenses—especially subscriptions and premium services—can be reduced with better financial planning. The debate high-

lights the fine line between needs and wants in modern urban life.

Internet Reacts with Shock and Humor

Social media users were quick to respond to the expense breakdown, with many expressing astonishment. A common reaction was that the monthly expenditure exceeded their annual income, underscoring the vast income disparities in the country.

Some users reacted humorously, turning the situation into memes and jokes. Others used the opportunity to discuss their own financial habits, comparing expenses and sharing tips on saving money.

At the same time, a section of users defended the man, arguing that his spending is justified given his income level and lifestyle preferences. They emphasized that financial decisions are subjective and should be viewed in the context of individual earnings.

The Bigger Picture: Rising Urban Costs

The viral story sheds light on a larger issue—the rising cost of living in urban India. Cities like Gurugram have seen rapid development, attracting professionals with high-paying jobs. However, this growth has also led to increased housing costs, expensive services, and a general rise in living expenses.

For many young professionals, balancing income and expenditure has become increasingly challenging. While higher salaries offer greater purchasing power, they are often offset by equally high costs.

The situation also reflects changing lifestyle trends, where convenience, comfort, and experiences are prioritized. From food delivery to fitness memberships, modern urban living often comes with added expenses that previous generations did not face.

A Reflection of Modern Aspirations

Ultimately, the Gurugram man's expense breakdown is more than just a viral moment—it is a reflection of evolving aspirations and economic realities. It highlights how urban professionals navigate their finances in a rapidly changing environment.

For some, the ₹2.44 lakh monthly spending may seem excessive. For others, it represents a standard they aspire to achieve. The differing reactions underline the diversity of financial situations and perspectives in India.

As cities continue to grow and lifestyles evolve, such discussions are likely to become more common. They serve as a reminder of the importance of financial awareness, planning, and making choices that align with one's priorities and income.

In the end, the viral post has sparked not just curiosity, but also an important conversation about money, lifestyle, and the true cost of living in modern urban India.

England vs Sri Lanka: Form, History and Key Factors Ahead of Super 8 Showdown



The Super 8 clash between the England cricket team and the Sri Lanka cricket team in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 sets the stage for a compelling contest between a dominant force and an unpredictable challenger.

England Hold Clear Edge in Head-to-Head

Historically, England have enjoyed a strong record against Sri Lanka in T20 internationals. They have won a significant majority of their encounters, establishing a clear psychological advantage. This dominance extends to World Cup meetings as well, where England have consistently outperformed Sri Lanka in high-pressure situations.

Recent Form Favors England

England enter the match with impressive recent form, showcasing consistency and depth

across both batting and bowling departments. Their aggressive approach, combined with a balanced squad, has made them one of the most formidable teams in the tournament.

Sri Lanka, in contrast, have struggled to maintain consistency. While they have shown flashes of brilliance, their performances have often been uneven. This inconsistency has made it difficult for them to build momentum, especially against top-tier opposition.

Strength in Batting Lineups

England's batting unit remains one of their biggest strengths. With explosive hitters and adaptable players throughout the order, they are capable of both setting and chasing big targets with ease. Their aggressive mindset allows them to dominate bowlers from the outset.

Sri Lanka rely more heavily on a few key batters to anchor their innings. While these players have delivered strong performances at times, the team has occasionally faced collapses under pressure. Building partnerships and maintaining stability will be crucial for them in this match.

Bowling: Depth vs Potential

England's bowling attack is well-rounded, combining pace and spin effectively. Their ability to take wickets at crucial moments and control the flow of runs gives them a significant edge.

Sri Lanka's bowling unit, though talented, has been inconsistent. They possess match-winners who can change the game, but their overall performance has lacked reliability. If their bowlers can execute disciplined plans, they have the potential to challenge

England's strong batting lineup.

Key Factors That Could Decide the Match

The outcome of this contest will likely depend on how well Sri Lanka handle pressure. England's experience in big matches gives them an advantage, but T20 cricket often rewards teams that seize key moments.

Fielding could also play a decisive role. Both teams are capable of producing game-changing efforts in the field, and small margins can make a big difference in a high-stakes match.

Additionally, the pitch conditions and match situation will influence strategies. A batting-friendly surface would suit England's aggressive style, while a slower pitch could bring Sri Lanka's bowlers into the game.

What Lies Ahead

England will look to

continue their strong run and reinforce their status as title contenders. A win here would further strengthen their position in the Super 8 stage.

Sri Lanka, on the other hand, face a must-perform scenario. A victory against a strong opponent like England could revive their campaign and boost team confidence.

Final Outlook

While England enter the match as clear favorites based on form and past record, Sri Lanka cannot be underestimated. Their ability to produce unexpected performances makes them a dangerous opponent.

In the end, this clash is likely to be a test of consistency versus unpredictability. If England play to their strengths, they should have the upper hand—but if Sri Lanka rise to the occasion, an upset could be on the cards.

India vs South Africa: High-Stakes Clash in T20 World Cup Super 8

As India prepare to face South Africa in the Super 8 stage of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, the contest promises to be a tightly fought battle between two of cricket's most competitive sides. With both teams carrying strong momentum and a history of intense encounters, this fixture could play a crucial role in shaping the semifinal race.

India enter the match on the back of an unbeaten run in the group stage. However, despite winning all their matches, their performances have not been entirely convincing. Questions remain about the consistency of their batting lineup, which has yet to deliver a complete performance across all departments. While the bowling unit has looked disciplined and effective, the batting order will need to step up against a formidable South African attack.

South Africa, on the other hand, have shown flashes of brilliance and remain a dangerous opponent. Known for their pace-heavy bowling attack and explosive batting, they have the ability to challenge even the strongest teams. Their performances in recent matches suggest a side that can adapt quickly to pressure situations, making them a serious threat in knockout-style games.

Historically, the rivalry between India and South Africa has been closely contested, particularly in the T20 for-

mat. In head-to-head encounters, India hold a slight edge, having won more matches than South Africa in T20 internationals. Overall, India have won around 18 matches compared to South Africa's 12 in their meetings, reflecting a competitive but India-leaning record.

This rivalry has often produced thrilling finishes, with both teams showcasing contrasting strengths. India's depth in batting and spin options often counters South Africa's reliance on pace and power-hitting. The balance between these styles makes their clashes unpredictable and entertaining.

Recent form further adds intrigue to this encounter. India's unbeaten streak highlights their resilience, but also exposes areas that need improvement. Their middle order has occasionally struggled to accelerate, and early wickets could put them under pressure. South Africa, meanwhile, have demonstrated the ability to bounce back from setbacks and capitalize on key moments in matches.

Another important factor will be the performance of all-rounders. In T20 cricket, players who contribute with both bat and ball often make the difference in tight games. India will rely on their all-round options to provide balance, while South Africa's multi-skilled players could be crucial in shifting momentum during critical phases.



Fielding standards are also expected to play a significant role. Both teams are known for their athleticism, and in a format where small margins matter, a brilliant catch or run-out could change the course of the match.

The pitch and conditions will further influence team strategies. If the surface offers assistance to bowlers, it could bring South Africa's pace attack into play. Conversely, a batting-friendly pitch would suit India's lineup, allowing their top order to dominate.

With the Super 8 stage intensifying the competition, every match carries added pressure. A win here would not only boost confidence but also strengthen the chances of progressing to the semifinals. Both teams are aware of the stakes and will be eager to deliver their best performance.

Ultimately, this clash is expected to be a contest of fine margins. India's consistency will be tested against South Africa's unpredictability, making it a game that could go either way. Fans can expect a high-quality encounter filled with drama, skill, and moments of brilliance as two cricketing giants battle for supremacy.

Suryakumar Yadav Backs Abhishek Sharma, Dismisses Form Concerns Ahead of South Africa Clash

India captain Suryakumar Yadav has firmly defended young opener Abhishek Sharma amid growing criticism over his poor run in the ongoing T20 World Cup, making it clear that the team management remains confident in the batter's abilities.

As India prepares for a crucial Super 8 encounter against South Africa national cricket team, Abhishek's form has become a major talking point. The left-handed opener has endured a difficult start to the tournament, registering three consecutive ducks in the matches he has played so far. His struggles have raised questions among fans and analysts about whether India should consider changes at the top of the order.

However, Suryakumar has brushed aside these concerns with a strong and somewhat witty response. Addressing the media ahead of the high-stakes clash, he remarked that he is more worried about those who are overly concerned about Abhishek's form than the player himself. He suggested that such reactions are premature and unnecessary, especially considering Abhishek's proven match-winning potential.

The Indian skipper emphasized that the team is backing the young batter fully and is not reading too much into his recent failures. He pointed out that lean patches are a natural part of a cricketer's journey, particularly in a fast-paced format like T20 cricket, where fortunes can change quickly. According to him, Abhishek's current run of low scores does not diminish his ability or importance to the team.

Suryakumar also highlighted the team's



collective approach, noting that players support each other during challenging phases. He recalled how Abhishek had previously delivered impactful performances and contributed significantly to the team's success. Now, he said, it is the team's turn to stand by him and ensure he regains confidence.

India's campaign so far has been strong despite Abhishek's struggles. The team has managed to secure victories and maintain momentum heading into the Super 8 stage. This, the captain suggested, reflects the depth and balance within the squad, where different players have stepped up when required.

Abhishek's rough patch has also been compounded by health issues earlier in the tournament, which briefly disrupted his rhythm. Despite these setbacks, the team management believes that he remains a key player capable of turning games around. His aggressive batting style and ability to dominate bowlers make him a valuable asset, particularly in high-pressure matches.

Suryakumar's comments also send a broader message about the team's stability and confidence. By ruling out any immediate changes to the playing XI, he has indicated that India is unlikely to make reactionary decisions based on short-term form. Instead, the focus remains

on maintaining continuity and trusting players to deliver when it matters most.

The upcoming clash against South Africa is expected to be a stern test for India. Both teams have performed well in the tournament and will be aiming to carry their momentum into the knockout stages. In such a scenario, the performance of top-order batters, including Abhishek, could prove crucial.

Despite the external noise, the Indian camp appears calm and focused. Suryakumar's backing of Abhishek reflects a leadership style that prioritizes confidence and long-term thinking over knee-jerk reactions. It also underscores the importance of mental resilience in international cricket, where scrutiny and expectations are always high.

Ultimately, all eyes will be on Abhishek Sharma as he takes the field in the Super 8 stage. While his recent scores may not inspire confidence, the faith shown by his captain and teammates could play a significant role in helping him rediscover his form. If he manages to bounce back, it could not only silence critics but also strengthen India's chances in the tournament.

For now, the message from the Indian dressing room is clear: there is no panic, no loss of trust—only belief that a talented player is just one innings away from turning things around.

Jemimah Rodrigues Scripts History with Landmark 2,500 T20I Runs

Indian batter Jemimah Rodrigues has added another impressive chapter to her growing career, achieving a significant milestone in women's T20 International cricket. During a crucial match against Australia, the 24-year-old reached 2,500 runs in T20 Internationals, becoming only the fourth Indian woman to do so. The landmark came in a high-pressure setting, underlining Rodrigues' consistency and importance to the Indian middle order. Entering the match just a few runs short of the milestone, she wasted little time in getting there, bringing up the achievement early in her innings with a confident boundary.

This feat places her among an elite group of Indian women cricketers who have crossed the 2,500-run mark in T20Is. It is a testament to her longevity, adaptability, and steady performances since making her debut as a teenager.

Rodrigues' innings was not just about personal achievement. She played a key role in stabilizing India's batting after an early setback, building a strong partnership with senior players to guide the team to a competitive total. Her knock combined composure with controlled aggression, reflecting the maturity she has developed over the years.

Since bursting onto the international scene in 2018, Rodrigues has been regarded as one of India's most promising talents. Known for her elegant stroke play and ability to rotate strike efficiently, she has consistently delivered in the shortest format. Over time, she has transformed from a young prospect into a dependable performer in the In-

dian lineup.

Her journey has been marked by steady improvement rather than sudden spikes. While she may not always grab headlines with explosive innings, her reliability and ability to anchor the innings have made her invaluable. This milestone is a reflection of that sustained excellence.

The 2,500-run mark is also significant because of the evolving nature of women's cricket, where scoring consistently across formats requires adaptability. Rodrigues has shown she can handle different match situations—whether rebuilding after early wickets or accelerating when needed.

Beyond numbers, her presence brings balance to the team. She often plays the role of a stabilizer, allowing more aggressive batters to play freely around her. This ability to complement her teammates has been crucial to India's success in T20 cricket.

Her achievement comes at a time when Indian women's cricket is gaining momentum globally. With increasing competitiveness and exposure, milestones like these highlight the progress of players who have been part of this transformation.

Rodrigues' milestone also reflects her resilience. Over the years, she has faced form fluctuations and competition for places but has continued to evolve her game. Her improved shot selection, better game awareness, and ability to handle pressure situations are evident in her recent performances.

As she joins the elite list of Indian batters with 2,500 T20I runs, the focus will now shift to

what lies ahead. Given her age and experience, she is well-positioned to climb even higher in the record books and play a pivotal role in India's future campaigns.

With many years of cricket still ahead of her, this milestone may just be a stepping stone toward even greater achievements. For now, it stands as a well-earned recognition of her consistency, skill, and contribution to Indian cricket.

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Nabha Natesh Gears Up for a Big Summer with Two Pan-India Releases

Actress Nabha Natesh is all set for a major career milestone this summer as she prepares to entertain audiences with two prestigious pan-India films — Swayambhu and Nagabandham. Both big-budget projects are gearing up for grand releases, positioning the actress for what could be one of the most defining phases of her career.

Known for her energetic screen presence and versatility, Nabha will be seen portraying two completely contrasting characters in the films. In “Nagabandham,” she plays Parvati, a role said to be rooted in a mystical narrative, while “Swayambhu” features her as Sundaravalli, a young princess set against a grand historical backdrop. The dual releases are expected to highlight her range as a performer and reinforce her standing among the new-age leading actresses in the industry.

Industry buzz suggests that both films are mounted on a lavish scale with strong technical backing and visually rich storytelling. The projects have already generated significant curiosity among moviegoers, especially after the teasers received an encouraging response across digital platforms. Fans and trade analysts alike are watching closely, as simultaneous high-profile releases are relatively rare for a young actress.

With “Swayambhu” and “Nagabandham,” Nabha Natesh has built a solid lineup that reflects careful script selection and a focus on diverse roles. The actress has ex-



pressed confidence about the films, believing their content and emotional depth will resonate with audiences across languages.

Trade experts note that if the films click at the box office, the summer could mark a turning point, potentially elevating her to the next league of leading stars. The combination of scale, genre diversity, and pan-India reach is

expected to broaden her appeal beyond regional markets.

As anticipation builds, the coming months promise to be crucial for Nabha Natesh. With two ambitious projects arriving in the same season, the actress stands at an exciting juncture, ready to make a strong impression and further cement her place in the evolving landscape of Indian cinema.

Strong Word of Mouth Keeps “Couple Friendly” Going Steady

The romantic entertainer “Couple Friendly” continues its impressive theatrical run, entering its second week with steady box-office collections and growing audience appreciation. Starring Santosh Soban and Manasa Varanasi in the lead roles, the film has emerged as a crowd favorite, drawing strong footfalls across key centres in Telugu states.

The film received a major boost after Prabhas interacted with the team in a recent interview that quickly went viral online. During the interaction, the star shared his thoughts on the film’s performances, music, and youthful appeal, sparking widespread conversations on social media. Industry observers note that the buzz generated from the interaction translated directly into increased ticket sales, especially over the weekend.

Trade circles report that bookings surged significantly following the viral clips, with the film trending on ticketing platforms such as BookMyShow. With positive word of mouth continuing to spread, exhibitors are optimistic that the film will maintain momentum through its second week and beyond.

Presented by UV Creations and produced under the UV Concepts banner, “Couple Friendly”

blends romance and light-hearted humor, appealing strongly to youth and family audiences alike. Co-producer Ajay Kumar Raju P supported the project’s production, while director Ashwin Chandrasekhar has been widely praised for his fresh narrative treatment and engaging screenplay.

The film’s theatrical release across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana was handled by producer-distributor Dheeraj Mogilineni, whose distribution strategy ensured wide reach in both urban multiplexes and single screens.

Alongside the lead pair, the supporting cast has also been appreciated for adding depth and humor to the storyline. Technically, the film benefits from vibrant production design by Michael BFA, slick editing by Ganesh Shiva, and polished cinematography by Dinesh Purushothaman. Composer Aditya Ravindran’s music has further contributed to the film’s popularity, with several tracks gaining traction online.

As “Couple Friendly” settles into its second week, trade analysts believe its consistent occupancy and strong youth pull could help it sustain a profitable theatrical run. With positive audience feedback still pouring in



and digital buzz remaining high, the film appears set to continue its successful streak at the box office in the days ahead.

Anil Ravipudi Launches “Killer” Teaser, Praises Sci-Fi Thriller’s Vision



Blockbuster filmmaker Anil Ravipudi has officially unveiled the teaser of the upcoming science-fiction thriller Killer, giving the film a strong boost ahead of its theatrical release. The teaser launch created buzz within industry circles, especially after the director praised the film’s scale, concept, and execution. “Killer” features Jyoti

Poorvaaj and Poorvaaj in the lead roles, alongside Manish Gilada, Chandrakant Kollu, Vishal Raj, Archana Ananth, and Gautham Chakradhar Koppishetty in pivotal characters. The film is produced under the banners of Think Cinema and AU & I Studios by Poorvaaj and Padmanabha Reddy A., with Urveesh Poorvaaj present-

ing the project. Directed by Poorvaaj, the film is gearing up for a grand theatrical release soon.

Interestingly, the teaser was originally scheduled for release a day later, but Anil Ravipudi chose to launch it earlier after watching it and being impressed by the film’s content. Speaking at the event, he lauded Poorvaaj for simultane-

ously producing, directing, and acting in the project — calling it a commendable effort. He noted that the film’s blend of science fiction and thriller elements feels refreshing and that the overall presentation appears grand and distinctive.

Ravipudi also highlighted Jyoti Poorvaaj’s transformation, saying

audiences familiar with her television work will be surprised by her intense action performance in the film. He added that it will be interesting to watch the real-life couple share screen space in such a genre-driven narrative and urged audiences to support the film when it hits theatres.

Expressing gratitude, Jyoti Poorvaaj thanked the director for taking time out of his busy schedule to release the teaser and for consistently encouraging smaller films. Director Poorvaaj echoed the sentiment, sharing that Ravipudi insisted on releasing the teaser immediately to spread positivity and support new talent, a gesture the team deeply appreciated.

With a unique premise and a strong technical team — including cinematography by Jagadeesh Bommisetty and music by Aashirvad and Suman Jeeva — “Killer” is positioned as a genre experiment aiming to offer a fresh cinematic experience. As anticipation builds following the teaser launch, the film is expected to attract attention for its ambitious storytelling and sci-fi backdrop when it arrives in theatres soon.

“Aakarshitha” Launched with Traditional Pooja, Shooting to Begin Soon



The upcoming film Aakarshitha, starring Thirugun in the lead role, was officially launched with a grand pooja ceremony on Saturday, marking the beginning of Production No.1 under the Lucky Entertainments banner. The project is jointly produced by Kore Sandeep Yadav and Srikanth Battu, with shooting scheduled to commence soon.

Directed by debutant Surishetty Kishore, the film features Padine Kumar as the female lead. The ensemble cast includes Raj Kumar Kasireddy, Adhurs Raghu, Satyam Rajesh, Ravi Varma, Priya and others, promising a blend of performances across varied characters.

The launch event was attended by several prominent guests from the industry. Noted producer C. Kalyan sounded the clap for the

muhurtham shot, while astrologer Venu Swamy handed over the script. The camera was switched on by Baby Aashka and Keerthana, and actress Priya unveiled the film’s title. Producer-distributor Vamsi Nandipati and producer Damodara Prasad were among those who graced the ceremony.

Speaking at the event, Thirugun expressed his excitement about collaborating with a new team and described the film as a project with a strong and refreshing storyline. He thanked the guests for their support and confirmed that the shooting will begin shortly, with more updates to follow.

Actor Raj Kumar Kasireddy revealed that he first heard the story two years ago and was impressed by its uniqueness, stating that the film carries all the elements of a commercial enter-

tainer. Ravi Varma, who is working with Thirugun for the eighth time, expressed confidence that the film will resonate with audiences.

Director Surishetty Kishore said “Aakarshitha” aims to present something new and engaging, thanking the media for their support. Producer Sandeep Yadav also expressed gratitude to the guests and media, promising regular updates as the project progresses.

With cinematography by Shaik Hazrathaiiah (Vali) and music by Rohith Babu, the film is expected to combine strong technical craftsmanship with a compelling narrative. As the team prepares to move into production, “Aakarshitha” has already generated positive buzz, setting the stage for what the makers hope will be an exciting cinematic journey.

Rajinikanth–Kamal Haasan Reunion Film Promo Sparks Massive Buzz

Indian cinema icons Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan have officially set the stage for a historic cinematic reunion, as the promo of their much-anticipated project — tentatively titled KH x RK — was unveiled today. The film, backed by Red Giant Movies and directed by Nelson Dilipkumar, marks the legendary duo’s on-screen collaboration after nearly 47 years.

The announcement has generated immense excitement among fans and industry circles alike, as audiences have long hoped to see the two stalwarts share screen space again. Positioned as a massive pan-world entertainer, the project is already being described as one of the most ambitious collaborations in recent Indian cinema.

The newly released promo offers a playful glimpse into the film’s

tone. It features Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan preparing for their roles in a competitive yet humorous manner. In a light-hearted sequence, one dismisses the suit selected by the other, while the other rejects the chosen shoes, creating a fun and engaging dynamic that reflects their charismatic personalities. The promo concludes with both legends humorously questioning the director about who the real hero of the film is, leaving viewers intrigued and entertained.

Adding to the excitement is the energetic background score by Anirudh Ravichander, whose music amplifies the promo’s stylish presentation. Both actors appear in striking looks, underscoring the film’s grand scale and contemporary appeal.

Industry observers believe the collaboration

brings together not just two of the biggest stars in Indian cinema, but also a powerful creative team capable of delivering a global-scale spectacle. With Nelson Dilipkumar known for blending commercial storytelling with quirky humor, expectations are high for a film that balances mass appeal with fresh narrative elements.

While the makers have kept the storyline and additional cast details under wraps, they have confirmed that more updates will be revealed in the coming months. As anticipation builds, the promo has already ignited widespread conversations online, with fans celebrating the reunion of two cinematic legends and eagerly awaiting further announcements about what promises to be a landmark film event.

