



BUZZ POINTS

Don't Fall for 'Colourful Scarf Politics': Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy Warns Voters

Revanth Reddy Lays Foundation for Rs. 600 Crore Young India Schools in Nizamabad

Five Arrested in Attempted Murder Case in Nacharam

Sammakka-Sarakka Jatara Donations Counting Continues on Second Day; ₹6.04 Crore Collected in Two Days

Congress Felicitates Booth In-Charges to Strengthen Grass-roots Network

Revanth Reddy Visits Nizamabad, Highlights Development and Welfare Initiatives



Nizamabad, February 6 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday visited Nizamabad district as part of his ongoing outreach programme ahead of the municipal elections, engaging with local residents and highlighting the state government's development and welfare initiatives. It was his first official visit to the district since assuming office, with significant preparations by local Congress leaders and party workers to ensure a smooth programme. The Chief Minister's itinerary included a major public meeting near Keshapur village in the Nizamabad Rural Assembly constituency.

The event aimed to strengthen grassroots support and directly address the people's concerns as municipal polls approach. During his visit, Revanth Reddy reiterated the government's commitment to comprehensive development across Telangana, citing ongoing projects and future plans to improve infrastructure, create employment opportunities, and support farmers. He highlighted the substantial funds allocated for district development and encouraged residents to participate actively in democratic processes. Officials accompanying the Chief Minister noted the importance of such visits in connecting government programmes with public expectations.

Revanth Reddy also emphasized the government's welfare agenda, stating that the state administration is focused on uplifting all segments of society, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas such as Nizamabad. He assured that pending development works would be expedited and additional resources allocated wherever necessary. The visit comes amid heightened political activity ahead of municipal elections, where several local bodies, including municipal councils and corporations, will be contested. Revanth Reddy's presence in Nizamabad was seen as part of a broader campaign strategy to energize party workers and mobilize voter support in key constituencies.

While addressing local issues, the Chief Minister engaged with community representatives, listening to civic concerns ranging from water supply and road improvements to agricultural support and public services. His interactions aimed to reinforce the government's accountability and responsiveness to public needs. Congress leaders and workers in Nizamabad expressed confidence that the Chief Minister's visit would boost morale and strengthen the party's prospects in the municipal polls. They said this outreach underscores the government's commitment to participatory governance and inclusive development throughout Telangana.



Vote for Car Symbol to Teach Revanth Reddy a Lesson: Harish Rao

Patancheru, February 6 | TPN Bureau:

Former Telangana Minister and BRS Deputy Floor Leader T. Harish Rao on Thursday launched a sharp attack on the Congress government, accusing it of betraying public trust and imposing additional financial burdens on people. Addressing residents during his visit to Jinnaram municipality in the Patancheru constituency, Harish Rao urged voters to support BRS candidates in the upcoming municipal elections by voting for the car symbol.

Harish Rao alleged that the Congress government converted Jinnaram into a municipality only to burden residents with higher taxes. He said the BRS government had earlier opposed municipal status for Jinnaram, fearing it would lead to increased taxes and hardships for common people. "The Congress government ignored public interest and imposed a municipality to extract more taxes from citi-

zens," he claimed. Highlighting welfare promises, Harish Rao contrasted the performance of the previous BRS government with that of the present Congress administration. He recalled that former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao had increased pensions from 200 to 2,000 within the first month of assuming office. In contrast, he alleged that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy failed to deliver on his promise of providing 4,000 pensions even after two years. Pointing to neighboring Andhra Pradesh, he said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu was successfully implementing a 4,000 pension scheme. The former minister also accused the Congress government of deceiving women under the Mahalakshmi scheme. He claimed that women were promised 2,500 per month, but the government failed to deliver, resulting in arrears of 60,000 per woman over the past 24 months. He further alleged that welfare traditions like

distributing sarees during Bathukamma, practiced during the BRS regime, had been discontinued. On agriculture, Harish Rao accused the Congress government of diluting the Rythu Bandhu scheme by providing assistance for only two crops instead of five and introducing restrictive conditions. He also alleged that crop loan waivers were not implemented despite repeated assurances, leaving many farmers without relief. Criticizing the government's conduct, Harish Rao claimed that Congress leaders responded arrogantly to public questions and failed to respect democratic accountability. He appealed to voters not to be influenced by cash-for-vote tactics and instead vote decisively for the BRS. He concluded by stating that voting for the car symbol would send a strong message to the Congress government and ensure restoration of welfare schemes, pensions, and support for women, farmers, and minorities.

20,000 Crore Boost for Hyderabad's Transformation: Bhatti Vikramarka

Hyderabad, February 6, 2026 | TPN Bureau:

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Friday announced that the People's Government has allocated a massive 20,000 crore for the development of Hyderabad city over a period of just two years, describing it as an unprecedented investment in the city's history. He said several projects under this allocation have already been completed, while many others are progressing at a fast pace.



Addressing the CRE-DAI Property Exhibition Show at the HITEX Exhibition Centre, the Deputy Chief Minister said the allocation reflects the government's strong commitment to making Hyderabad globally competitive in infrastructure, investments, and quality of life. He informed that 1,950.52 crore has been earmarked within the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) limits, 12,500 crore for the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB), and 4,365 crore for the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA). Bhatti Vikramarka said Hyderabad today is competing not only with major Indian cities but also with leading global cities in attracting investments, talent, and

opportunities. He described the merger of 27 surrounding municipalities into the GHMC as a historic decision that has enabled uniform civic services, integrated planning, and a unified development vision within the Outer Ring Road region. "Hyderabad is no longer growing in fragments. It is developing as a single, integrated metropolitan city," he said. Highlighting key infrastructure initiatives, the Deputy Chief Minister said projects worth over 7,032 crore are being implemented under the Hyderabad City Innovative and Transformative Infrastructure Programme (H-CITI). These include 45 major flyovers and underpasses and 10 road-widening projects across different parts of the city. Around KBR Park, works worth 1,090 crore are underway to

address traffic congestion. In the western corridor, multi-level flyovers at IIIT and Khajaguda built at a cost of 837 crore are strengthening the knowledge economy, while road-widening works worth 70 crore are in progress. In northern Hyderabad, alternative road networks near the Army Ordnance Centre are being developed at a cost of 960 crore to resolve decades-old traffic problems. In eastern Hyderabad, flyovers at TKR College, Gayatri Nagar, and Mandamallamma Junction costing 416 crore are improving connectivity, while in southern Hyderabad, road-widening projects worth 863 crore are supporting rapid urban expansion. "These investments are reducing travel time, improving logistics, boosting economic activity, and enhancing the

Gaddar Film Awards to Be a Historic Global Event: Bhatti Vikramarka



Hyderabad, February 6, 2026 | TPN Bureau:

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Friday said that the Gaddar Film Awards function, scheduled to be held on the auspicious day of Ugadi, will be organized in a truly historic manner, unlike anything seen in the past. He said the event will be designed to draw the attention of the global film industry towards Hyderabad, strengthening the city's position as an emerging international

cinema hub. The Deputy Chief Minister inaugurated the film screening programme of the Gaddar Film Awards at Prasad Labs in Hyderabad. Speaking on the occasion, he paid rich tributes to revolutionary poet and artist Gaddar, describing him as a visionary who used art, music, and cinema as tools for social transformation and dedicated his entire life to the people. Bhatti Vikramarka said the People's Government instituted the Gaddar Film Awards to

honour Gaddar's ideology and immense contribution to society. He noted that this year marks the second edition of the awards and assured that the presentation ceremony would be held in a grand and dignified manner befitting Gaddar's legacy. Recalling his personal association with Gaddar during his final days, the Deputy Chief Minister said Gaddar remained deeply committed to creativity and experimentation, spending long hours in recording studios even towards the end of his life.

He said awards would be presented across all departments of the Telugu film industry and emphasised that Hyderabad should evolve beyond being only a Telugu cinema centre into a hub for films in multiple Indian languages. The government, he said, is working with strong resolve to make Hyderabad a global film industry destination. Highlighting Hyderabad's strengths, Bhatti Vikramarka said the city offers a favourable climate, skilled professionals, strong infrastructure, and robust law and order, unmatched by many other cities. He added that cinema plays a vital role not only in social messaging but also in economic growth and global recognition. Assuring full government support, he said the Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, and the People's Government are always accessible to address the needs of the film fraternity. He appreciated Film Development Corporation Chairman Dil Raju for his commitment to the awards and urged Jury Chairman Mani Sharma and jury members to ensure a transparent and impartial selection process. The programme was attended by FDC Executive Director Kishore Babu and other industry representatives.

# Telangana Government Provides 1 Crore Assistance to Families of Late Constables Soumya and Pramod

Nizamabad, February 6 | TPN Bureau  
The Telangana government has extended financial assistance of 1 crore each to the families of two police constables, Soumya and Pramod Kumar, who recently lost their lives in the line of duty. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy personally handed over the ex-gratia cheques to the bereaved families in Nizamabad.

performing her duties. She had bravely attempted to apprehend a gang involved in illegal drug transportation in Nizamabad on January 23. During the operation, she was deliberately hit by the gang's vehicle, sustaining severe injuries. She was immediately admitted to NIMS Hospital in Hyderabad, where she later succumbed to her injuries. Similarly, Constable Pramod Kumar, who was on duty last year in



October, lost his life in a violent incident while confronting criminals armed with knives. In recognition of their bravery and ultimate sacrifice, the government sanctioned an ex-gratia amount of 1 crore each for the families, ensuring financial support during their time of need. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy personally visited the families and handed over the cheques, expressing deep condolences for

their loss. He praised the courage, dedication, and selflessness demonstrated by the constables, emphasizing that the state government remains committed to supporting the families of personnel who make the ultimate sacrifice in service of the public. The ex-gratia assistance is part of the government's continued efforts to acknowledge the risks faced by law enforcement officers and to provide timely support to their families in

case of untimely deaths. The Chief Minister reiterated that the state will continue to prioritize the welfare and security of its police personnel, ensuring their dedication and sacrifices are respected and recognized. This gesture underscores the Telangana government's commitment to honoring the memory of brave officers while offering tangible support to their grieving families.

## Vote for Development, Not Rhetoric: Ponnamp Prabhakar Appeals in Husnabad

Husnabad, February 6 | TPN Bureau  
Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar on Friday appealed to voters in Husnabad to support the Congress party in the upcoming municipal elections, stating that sustained development and growth are possible only when the ruling party is in power at the local level. Addressing a media conference in Husnabad, the Minister urged people to "vote after seeing development" and give strength to efforts aimed at transforming Husnabad into a major urban centre. The Minister said that under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, the Praja Palana government is implementing a range of welfare schemes and development programmes that are visible and beneficial to people across the state. He listed key initiatives such as 200

units of free electricity, distribution of fine rice, issuance of new ration cards, Indiramma housing for the poor, free bus travel for women in RTC services, interest-free loans to women self-help groups, Rythu Bharosa, farm loan waivers, and bonus for fine paddy. Stating that people across Telangana are standing firmly with the Congress, Ponnamp Prabhakar expressed confidence that the Congress flag would fly high in all municipalities. He said Husnabad's stature and self-respect would grow only if the town continues on the path of development, which requires the municipal administration to be aligned with the ruling party. "When a town grows, employment opportunities increase. Our goal is to transform Husnabad into a large and prosperous city," he said. The Minister outlined a clear development road-



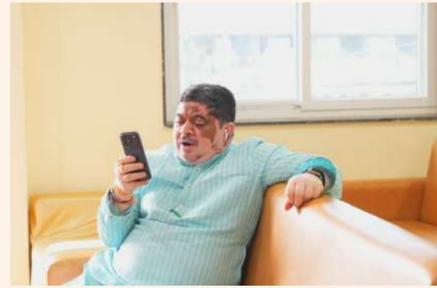
map for Husnabad, which includes completing the Gouravelli Project to make the region agriculturally prosperous, establishing an industrial park to generate jobs, and strengthening infrastructure in education, health care, and employment. He said special action plans are being implemented to promote industrialisation and create sustainable livelihoods for local youth. Appealing directly to voters, Ponnamp Prabhakar urged people to elect Congress candidates with a huge majority in all 20 wards of Husnabad

Municipality. He said a strong municipal council would help accelerate development works and ensure effective implementation of welfare schemes. On political issues, the Minister said that in a federal democratic system, anyone has the right to travel anywhere and participate in politics. However, he questioned the BJP's alliance with Jana Sena Party leader Pawan Kalyan, alleging that he had made remarks belittling Telangana and the Telangana movement. He said BJP leaders must clarify their stand on aligning with forces that previ-

ously criticised Telangana's formation and sentiments. Ponnamp Prabhakar further alleged that over the last two years, the Centre had not allocated even a single rupee for Telangana in the Union Budget. He warned that Telangana movement supporters, intellectuals, and democratic forces should closely observe political alliances that, in his view, undermine Telangana's self-respect. He asserted that the people of Telangana would continue to view such forces as anti-Telangana, irrespective of development claims.

## Ponnamp Prabhakar Reviews BC Gurukul Exam Preparedness Ahead of Board Exams

Hyderabad, February 6 | TPN Bureau  
With Intermediate and Class 10 board examinations approaching, Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar on Thursday conducted a detailed Zoom review meeting with officials, principals, and Hostel Welfare Officers of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule BC Gurukul schools and colleges to assess student preparedness and improve academic outcomes. The virtual meeting was attended by BC Welfare Secretary Sridhar, Gurukul Society Secretary Saidulu, principals, lecturers, Hostel Welfare Officers (HWOs), and other senior officials. Discussions focused on special academic action plans, revision strategies, student mentoring, and measures to enhance pass percentages in the upcoming examinations. The Minister directed teachers and administrators to work with clear goals to significantly improve results, especially in institutions that recorded lower pass percentages last year. He warned that any negligence in

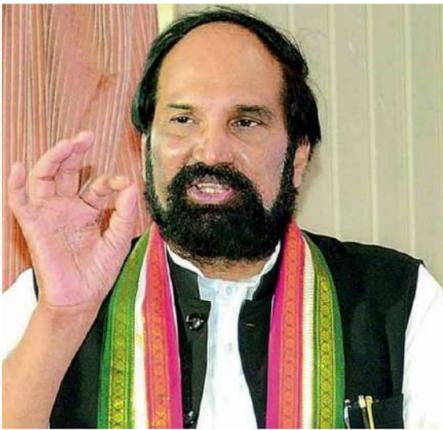


student preparation, examinations, or results would invite strict action. Emphasising accountability, he said education departments must treat board examinations as a top priority. Providing an overview, officials said that in the current academic year, 19,255 students from 294 BC Gurukul schools will appear for SSC examinations, while 26,812 students from 261 Gurukul junior colleges are appearing for Intermediate exams. Among them, 3,142 SSC students and 2,021 Intermediate students have been identified as slow learners. The Minister instructed that such students be grouped separately and provided special classes, extended study hours, and focused

guidance. Ponnamp Prabhakar stressed that students should not rely on rote learning alone. He said teachers must ensure strong conceptual understanding of subjects, along with systematic revision of the entire syllabus. He also advised teachers to motivate students by clearly explaining parental expectations, government commitment to education, and the importance of academic success for their future. The Minister suggested adopting slow learners by subject teachers, lecturers, HWOs, and tutors for personalised mentoring. Pairing bright and weak students in batches, using specially designed question papers, and providing chapter-wise impor-

tant questions and scoring tips were also recommended. Regular practice of previous years' descriptive and objective questions, along with frequent feedback sessions, was stressed. Equal importance was given to student health and well-being. The Minister directed staff nurses to monitor hostel students' health daily and ensure medical check-ups every 15 days through health officials. To reduce exam stress, motivational classes should be conducted regularly by teachers and principals. He also instructed that special nutritious food be provided in schools and hostels until the completion of board examinations. Referring to last year's performance, officials said BC Gurukul institutions achieved strong results, with 147 schools and several junior colleges recording 100 percent pass rates. The Minister expressed confidence that BC Gurukuls would continue to excel and remain at the forefront of academic performance among residential institutions.

## Uttam Kumar Reddy Assures Full Support to Real Estate Sector, Calls CREDAI 'Partners in Progress'



Hyderabad, February 6 | TPN Bureau  
Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Thursday reaffirmed the Telangana government's strong commitment to accelerating Hyderabad's real estate growth through investor-friendly policies, infrastructure expansion, and streamlined approvals. Addressing developers, builders, homebuyers, and industry leaders at the CREDAI Hyderabad Property Show 2026 held at the HITEX Exhibition Centre, the Minister assured the realty sector of full backing from the Congress

government. The event was formally inaugurated by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka. Speaking on the occasion, Uttam Kumar Reddy described the real estate sector as true "partners in progress" and said the government views CREDAI as a key stakeholder in Hyderabad's transformation into a global city. Highlighting the government's priorities, the Minister said steps are being taken to simplify approval processes and resolve long-pending permission issues, including irrigation-related No Objection Certifi-

cates (NOCs). He noted that massive infrastructure investments are underway to strengthen Hyderabad's position as one of India's fastest-growing metropolitan cities. Sharing a personal connection with the city, Uttam Kumar Reddy, a native Hyderabadi, recalled that his father once owned agricultural land in areas that are now bustling localities such as Sri Nagar Colony and Panjagutta. "Hyderabad is our life," he said, underlining the emotional, cultural, and historical bond people share with the city. The Minister assured CREDAI members of unwavering support under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, whom he described as dynamic and easily accessible. He invited industry representatives to offer suggestions and feedback, stressing that the government is open to course correction wherever required. "We are willing to correct our steps to ensure Hyderabad becomes a truly global destination," he said. Uttam Kumar Reddy

also praised the efforts of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Industries and IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu in attracting major investments across IT, industry, hospitality, and tourism sectors, which continue to drive the city's expansion. He said the government's objective is to make Hyderabad more livable, affordable, and supported by world-class infrastructure. Referring to earlier Congress governments in the united Andhra Pradesh, the Minister credited them for laying strong foundations such as the international airport, Outer Ring Road, and major drinking water projects from the Godavari and Krishna rivers. He reiterated assurances of robust law and order, a business-friendly ecosystem for real estate, and protection of Hyderabad's cosmopolitan heritage. Responding to developers' concerns, particularly regarding irrigation approvals, Uttam Kumar Reddy announced that proactive reforms would be initiated within the next 10 days to make processes more transparent, online, and less burdensome.

## Don't Fall for 'Colourful Scarf Politics': Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy Warns Voters

Palvancha, February 6 | TPN Bureau  
Telangana Revenue, Housing and Information Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy on Friday launched a scathing attack on opposition parties, urging people not to fall for what he termed "colourful scarf politics" and false promises made during elections. Addressing a roadshow at Palvancha as part of the Kothagudem Corporation election campaign, the Minister accused former ruling parties of deceiving the poor for a decade and now resurfacing only to seek votes. "During elections, they come like long-lost relatives, changing scarves and narrating fairy tales. Those who ruled for ten years without even thinking of giving ration cards to the poor are now asking for votes. With what face are they approaching people?" Ponguleti asked, drawing loud applause from the gathering. He asserted that Telangana currently has a "people's government" under Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and said development is possible only when the ruling party has power at both the state and local lev-



els. "You cannot give the sword to someone else and expect me to fight the battle. Authority must be with us to deliver development. If you vote for those without power, progress will be stalled," he said, appealing to voters to support the Congress symbol. The Minister said the previous government failed to address critical infrastructure issues, leaving behind incomplete bridges, damaged roads, and unresolved land disputes. He specifically referred to the Survey Number 727 land issue, questioning why it was ignored for years.

"As the elder son of this region, I take responsibility to permanently resolve this issue and ensure land titles for every poor family cultivating land," he assured. Ponguleti also highlighted the long wait faced by poor women for housing. "For ten years, my poor sisters waited endlessly for Indiramma houses. Those who neglected them then are now making hollow promises," he said. He announced that from April, the second phase of Indiramma housing would be implemented. Calling for an end to what he described as a decade of injustice,

the Minister said voters must teach a lesson to leaders who frequently switch political colours. He stressed that Palvancha had suffered due to the absence of elections for nearly 25 years and required a steady flow of funds for development. "To ensure development, housing pattas, and solutions to long-pending problems, Congress and its ally CPM candidates must be elected with a massive majority," Ponguleti appealed, reiterating that only a Congress-led local body could guarantee sustained growth and welfare for the people of Palvancha.

# Chanagani Dayakar Slams BRS Leaders Over 'Decorum' Remarks

Hyderabad, February 6 | TPN Bureau

TPCC General Secretary Chanagani Dayakar on Thursday strongly criticised BRS leaders Harish Rao and K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), questioning their moral authority to speak about language, culture, and decorum. Reacting to recent comments made by BRS leaders, Dayakar said it was ironic for them to lecture others on "samskaram" (decency) when, according to him, political discourse deteriorated only after the formation of the BRS party.

Dayakar said Chief Minister A. Revanth

Reddy demonstrated political maturity and decorum by courteously enquiring about former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao. "It is because Revanth Reddy has values and political culture that he showed concern. Speaking respectfully even towards political opponents reflects the Congress party's longstanding traditions," he said.

Taking a dig at the BRS leadership, the TPCC General Secretary alleged that abusive and crude political language became common only after the emergence of the BRS. "Before that, Telanga-



na politics had dignity. After the BRS was formed, we started seeing vulgar language and irresponsible statements becoming the

norm," he alleged.

Dayakar reiterated that the Congress party has always believed in democratic values, cooperation, and inclusive governance. "Congress ideology is clear—whether in power or in opposition, all parties should work together for the development of the people. That spirit is missing in BRS politics," he said.

He further claimed that since the Congress government came to power in Telangana, people have been living with greater freedom and confidence. "There is no fear among the public today. Govern-

ance has become people-centric, and voices are not being suppressed," he added.

Targeting KTR and Harish Rao, Dayakar said their frequent attacks on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy stem from insecurity and fear. "They are afraid because they know that as long as Revanth Reddy is the Chief Minister, their old ways of politics will not work. That fear is the reason behind daily dramas and poisonous propaganda by the 'brother-in-law duo'," he remarked.

He questioned how leaders who allegedly indulged in personal at-

tacks and derogatory language could now speak about political etiquette. "Do KTR and Harish Rao really have the credibility to talk about language and culture?" he asked.

Dayakar asserted that the Congress government would continue to focus on welfare, development, and transparent governance, undeterred by what he described as baseless criticism and negative campaigns by the opposition. He said the people of Telangana were watching closely and would respond appropriately to politics driven by hatred and misinformation.

## BJP Releases Manifesto Ahead of Telangana Municipal Elections

Hyderabad, February 6 | TPN Bureau

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday unveiled its manifesto for the upcoming Telangana municipal and corporation elections, scheduled for February 11, signaling an intensified campaign across urban local bodies. The manifesto was released by Telangana BJP President N. Ramchander Rao and lays out a range of promises focused on urban development and citizen-centric governance.

Titled "Vikasit Telangana - BJP Sankalp Patra 2026," the document pledges initiatives aimed at improving municipal administration and public services. Among the key commitments are assurances that there will be no increase in municipal taxes, including property tax, and that house-building permits will be processed quickly through an online single-window system, streamlining bureaucratic procedures for residents.

The manifesto also



emphasises strengthening healthcare infrastructure, with promises to establish Basti Dawkhanas in every ward and division and ensure the availability of affordable medicines. The BJP has committed to seeking Smart City status for eligible municipalities and corporations, supporting modern, sustainable urban development. Plans to implement Clean Cities and Green Towns initiatives are also highlighted, aiming to enhance sanitation and environmental quality across urban areas.

Other pledges include measures to im-

prove public safety, waste management, and basic infrastructure. The party has also stressed transparent use of Finance Commission funds and a zero-tolerance approach toward corruption as central to its governance strategy.

Speaking at the release event, Rao expressed confidence in the BJP's prospects in the municipal elections, stating that the party would contest all wards and divisions independently with the goal of securing a significant number of seats across the state. He added that the elections are not merely lo-

cal contests but an opportunity for the BJP to demonstrate its ability to deliver effective urban governance.

The BJP's manifesto release adds momentum to an already heated election atmosphere in Telangana, where major parties, including the ruling Congress and Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), are actively campaigning for control of urban bodies across the state. The party's focus on citizen-focused reforms, tax relief, and urban infrastructure development is aimed at appealing to voters and strengthening its position in municipal governance.

## Supreme Court Adjudges Telangana MLAs' Disqualification Case, Gives Three-Week Deadline

Hyderabad, February 6 | TPN Bureau

The Supreme Court of India on Friday adjudged the hearing on the high-profile disqualification petitions involving several Telangana MLAs, setting a three-week deadline for the Speaker of the Telangana Legislative Assembly to decide the pending matters. The development comes amid growing political tensions over alleged defections of legislators from the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) to the ruling Congress party.

The case concerns MLAs who were elected on BRS tickets but later aligned themselves with the Congress, prompting petitions questioning whether they had voluntarily given up membership of their original party—a key ground for disqualification under the anti-defection law. The Supreme Court has repeatedly urged the Assembly Speaker to resolve these petitions, emphasizing that delays undermine the constitutional purpose of the law.

During Friday's proceedings, senior advo-



icates for both sides updated the court on the status of the cases. While one petition has been decided, several others remain pending. The Supreme Court granted the Speaker three weeks to conclude decisions on all outstanding disqualification matters and warned that failure to act within this timeframe could lead to contempt proceedings against the Speaker for disregarding prior directions.

This latest move follows previous attempts by the top court to expedite the process. The Supreme Court had earlier

issued strict timelines, including a three-month deadline, which elapsed without completion of the cases. The court emphasized that the Speaker, while part of the legislature, functions as a quasi-judicial authority in disqualification matters under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution and must act promptly.

Political observers note that the case carries significant implications for Telangana's legislative stability and reflects ongoing tensions between major parties over anti-defection enforcement. With

municipal elections underway in the state, the stakes are higher, as each party seeks to maintain its public image and influence political outcomes.

The Supreme Court is scheduled to revisit the matter after three weeks, and attention now turns to whether the Speaker will comply with the court's deadline. The coming weeks are expected to be crucial in determining both the legal and political ramifications of the disqualification petitions, which could affect the balance of power in the state assembly.

## Revanth Reddy Lays Foundation for Rs. 600 Crore Young India Schools in Nizamabad

Nizamabad, February 6 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister Shri A. Revanth Reddy on Friday laid the foundation for the construction of Young India Integrated Residential Schools in Nizamabad district, with a total investment of Rs. 600 crore. Each school in the Assembly constituencies of Armur, Bodhan, and Nizamabad Rural will receive Rs. 200 crore for development. Alongside the schools, the Chief Minister also inaugurated several other developmental projects across the district.

As part of the "Prajapalan - Pragati Baat" initiative, CM Revanth Reddy addressed a public gathering at Bardipur village in Dichpalli Mandal after inaugurating the development projects. He urged citizens to actively support the welfare programs being implemented by the state government to propel Telangana on the path of growth. During the event, bank linkage cheques worth Rs. 200 crore were distributed to 1,614 self-help groups under the Induru District Women's Federation.

Highlighting the district's agricultural significance, the Chief



Minister said, "Nizamabad is a model for agriculture in the country. I will continue to strive to complete projects here and allocate additional funds wherever necessary. I am committed to giving my hundred percent for the district's development."

Key projects inaugurated by CM Revanth Reddy include:

- Construction of SC boys' and girls' hostels in Dichpalli under Telangana University with an investment of Rs. 20 crore.
- Tribal Welfare Department projects including Ekalavya Model Residential School and staff quarters in Indalvai.

- Girls' hostel construction at Telangana University costing Rs. 8.60 crore.

- Indoor stadium construction at Telangana University with a budget of Rs. 1.36 crore.

- Expansion of auditorium, administrative building, and CSE department buildings at Telangana University with an estimated cost of Rs. 43 crore.

- Inauguration of the University Science Lab with an investment of Rs. 18 crore.

- Distribution of bank linkage cheques worth Rs. 200 crore to self-help groups.

- Road widening projects totaling Rs. 21

crore, including Gandhinagar to Binola road (0/0 km to 5/8 km) and PD Road & JNN Road to Nizampur via Sirenpalli (0/0 km to 8/2 km).

The public gathering was attended by ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy and Tummala Nagaswara Rao, government advisors Sudarshan Reddy and Mohammed Ali Shabbir, along with elected representatives from the joint district.

The Chief Minister emphasized that these initiatives aim to enhance education, infrastructure, and community welfare, marking a significant step toward the holistic development of Nizamabad district.

## Kavitha Criticizes BRS Leadership Amid Rising Internal Tensions

Hyderabad, February 6 | TPN Bureau

Telangana political leader and Telangana Jagruthi president K. Kavitha has once again publicly criticized the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) and its leadership, highlighting growing internal tensions within the party. Her remarks, made during a recent interview and public statement, reflect a deepening rift with the party's top echelons.

Kavitha specifically condemned statements made by BRS working president K. T. Rama Rao, describing them as dictatorial and out of touch with public sentiment. She argued that leadership decisions within the party have often overlooked the concerns of ordinary citizens, and that dissenting voices are frequently met with hostility rather than constructive engagement. Her comments signal an ongoing struggle between the party leadership and senior members seeking greater inclusivity in decision-making processes.

The criticism also comes in the context of



recent electoral setbacks for the BRS, including the Jubilee Hills by-election defeat. Kavitha attributed these outcomes to internal conspiracies and strategic mismanagement, suggesting that lapses in leadership planning and coordination contributed to the party's declining performance in key constituencies. She emphasized the importance of addressing grassroots issues and maintaining transparency in party operations to rebuild voter confidence.

Kavitha has consistently argued that political leadership should remain accountable and respon-

sive to both party members and the public. In her latest statements, she called for a more participatory approach within the BRS, urging senior leaders to listen to diverse viewpoints rather than relying on hierarchical directives. She warned that ignoring dissent and criticism could further weaken the party's standing in upcoming elections.

While Kavitha's remarks have sparked a backlash from some party officials, who have defended the leadership and dismissed her claims, the exchange underscores the internal challenges faced by the BRS as it navigates a competi-

tive political environment in Telangana. Analysts note that such public disagreements may influence voter perception and affect the party's cohesion in the lead-up to municipal and state-level polls.

As Telangana politics heats up, the evolving dynamics between Kavitha and the BRS leadership are expected to shape both the party's strategic decisions and broader discussions about governance, accountability, and internal democracy. Observers will be closely watching whether these tensions are resolved internally or escalate further in the public domain.

# Foundation Laid for CC Roads and Development Projects in Mallapur

Mallapur, February 6 | TPN Bureau  
Mallapur Division witnessed the foundation laying ceremony for concrete roads, drainage works, and several other development projects worth approximately 4 crore, led by MLA Bandari Lakshmareddy along with local corporator Pannal Devender Reddy. The event saw the participation of GHMC officials and local leaders. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Bandari

Lakshmareddy emphasized that the development of the Uppal constituency is his top priority. He assured residents that he is committed to doing everything possible to ensure their welfare and improve infrastructure in the region. Highlighting his proactive stance against irregularities, the MLA stated that local BJP leaders engaging in illegal activities would be reported directly to the



party headquarters, underlining his commitment to transparency and accountability. Corporator Pannal Devender Reddy added that in the coming days, the Congress party's influence would strengthen further in both Mallapur divisions. He pledged to continue working alongside the MLA to ensure that development projects are implemented efficiently, benefiting all residents. The foundation laying

ceremony marks the first step in a series of initiatives aimed at enhancing the civic infrastructure and overall quality of life in the Mallapur Division. The projects include constructing durable CC roads, improving drainage systems, and implementing other essential development works that will significantly improve local amenities and accessibility. Officials from GHMC attended the event to oversee the

planning and ensure smooth execution of the projects. The initiative is expected to accelerate urban development and address long-standing civic issues in the area. Through this collaborative effort between elected representatives and municipal authorities, the Mallapur Division aims to set a benchmark for urban development in the Uppal constituency, emphasizing both progress and accountability.

## Five Arrested in Attempted Murder Case in Nacharam

Nacharam, February 6 | TPN Bureau  
Nacharam police have successfully cracked an attempted murder case that took place two days ago, arresting five accused and sending them on remand, confirmed Nacharam Inspector K. Dhanunjay. According to Inspector Dhanunjay, the case dates back to February 3, when Pandala Ravikanth and his brother Nikhil, residents of Mallapur, were allegedly attacked by a group of individuals in the Nacharam police station jurisdiction. Following the incident, Ravikanth filed a formal complaint, prompting a thorough investigation by the police. While the initial attack created tension in the area, the situation escalated again due to previous enmities. On Wednesday evening, near the Janshi School in Nacharam, the accused allegedly targeted Nikhil once more, this time assaulting

him with a hammer. The attack was serious, and it drew immediate attention from the police, who intensified their investigation to bring the perpetrators to justice. During the course of the investigation, police identified the five main suspects involved in the hammer attack. The accused have been named as Sonu Singh, Arjun Singh, Mohammad Yakub, Pathlavath Prakash, and Sabawat Narender Nayak. Acting swiftly, the Nacharam police arrested all five individuals on Thursday and placed them under remand for further legal proceedings. Inspector Dhanunjay stated that the arrests were made after collecting sufficient evidence linking the accused to the attack and confirmed that the police are committed to ensuring justice for the victims. The authorities are continuing their investigation to determine the full scope of the incident, including any possible

motives and connections to prior disputes between the parties involved. The police have also assured the public that safety measures in the area will be strengthened to prevent similar incidents in the future. Residents of Nacharam and surrounding neighborhoods have expressed relief over the prompt action taken by the police, emphasizing the importance of law enforcement in maintaining peace and security. This case highlights the proactive approach of the Nacharam police in handling violent crimes and ensuring that the accused face legal consequences for their actions. The arrested individuals are now in judicial custody, and the investigation remains ongoing to bring the case to its lawful conclusion. The police have appealed to the public to cooperate with authorities and report any suspicious activity to ensure a safe and se-



## Illegal Belt Shops Flourish in Quthbullapur Amid Excise Lapses

Quthbullapur, February 6 | TPN Bureau – Residents of Quthbullapur are raising serious concerns over the apparent inaction of the Excise Department as illegal belt shops operate openly across the constituency, selling alcohol day and night without any enforcement intervention. Despite numerous media reports highlighting the proliferation of these illicit establishments, locals say no raids, seizures, or legal actions have been reported so far. This has sparked widespread criticism of the Excise authorities' performance, with many questioning whether officials are deliberately turning a blind eye. "These shops operate in the middle of colonies, slums, and residential areas, yet it seems authorities don't even notice them," said a concerned resident. The



lack of action has led to suspicions among the public that tacit support or negligence may be enabling these illegal operations. The unchecked sale of alcohol through these belt shops has raised social concerns as well. Reports indicate that youth in the area are increasingly falling prey

to alcoholism, contributing to family disputes, street quarrels, and other antisocial activities. Women and senior citizens have also expressed fear for their safety, further emphasizing the impact of the Excise Department's inaction on community well-being. Residents are now demanding immediate in-

tervention from senior Excise officials to launch special drives against these illegal belt shops. There is a strong call for accountability against local officers who have failed to perform their duties despite repeated warnings and public complaints. "The repeated negligence could lead to public outrage turning into organized protests if corrective measures are not taken soon," warned a local community leader. The situation highlights a broader concern about law enforcement and public safety in Quthbullapur, with authorities facing mounting pressure to respond effectively. As of now, it remains unclear whether the Excise Department will take decisive action to curb the rampant illegal alcohol trade in the constituency. Citizens continue to watch closely, hoping for immediate



raids, stringent enforcement, and transparent accountability from officials responsible for maintaining law and order. The coming weeks are likely to be critical in determining whether administrative inaction will persist or if Quthbullapur will finally witness strict enforcement against illegal belt shops.

## Fire Breaks Out at Scrap Shop in Suchitra Center, Quthbullapur

Quthbullapur, February 6 | TPN Bureau – A sudden fire broke out at a scrap shop in Suchitra Center on Thursday, causing significant property damage. The incident occurred within the jurisdiction of Peth Basheerabad Police Station, in the Meenakshi Estate Colony area. According to eyewitnesses, flames erupted unexpectedly at the scrap yard, prompting immediate concern among locals. Quick to respond, residents alerted the fire department, which dispatched a fire engine to the scene. Firefighters, along with Hyderabad personnel, worked swiftly to bring the blaze under control. Preliminary reports

suggest extensive damage to the shop and its inventory, though no casualties have been reported. Authorities confirmed that the fire engulfed much of the premises before the fire brigade could contain it, highlighting the challenges faced in densely packed commercial areas with combustible materials. Peth Basheerabad police have registered a case in connection with the incident and have launched an investigation to determine the cause of the fire. Officials are exploring multiple possibilities, including electrical faults or the improper storage of flammable scrap materials, which may have triggered the blaze. Local residents ex-

pressed concern over fire safety measures in commercial zones like Suchitra Center. "The shop caught fire suddenly, and we were all worried about nearby buildings. It could have been much worse," said one neighbor who witnessed the incident. Authorities have assured the public that a detailed probe is underway to prevent similar incidents in the future. Fire safety officials also emphasized the importance of proper storage and regular safety inspections in areas housing scrap and combustible materials. They have urged shop owners in the vicinity to adhere strictly to safety protocols to mitigate the risk of such incidents. This incident adds to a



growing list of fire accidents in densely populated commercial areas, underscoring the need for stringent monitoring and preparedness. While the immediate threat has been neutralized, the focus now remains on assessing the full extent of the damage and preventing future hazards.

The Peth Basheerabad police, along with fire department officials, are expected to release a report detailing the findings of the investigation in the coming days. Meanwhile, residents have been advised to remain vigilant and report any potential fire hazards promptly.

# Kodandaram Opposes Calling KCR the "Father of Telangana"

Hyderabad, February 6 | TPN Bureau  
Telangana Jana Samithi (TJS) president Prof. M. Kodandaram has strongly opposed referring to former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekharao (KCR) as the "father of Telangana," stating that such titles should be earned through public recognition, not politically assigned. Speaking on the media on Friday, Kodandaram criticized BRS leaders for overemphasizing KCR's role in the statehood movement, arguing that the creation of Telangana was the

result of collective effort by numerous leaders, activists, and ordinary citizens. He said elevating a single individual diminishes the contributions and sacrifices of those who worked tirelessly at the grassroots level. Kodandaram further noted that during KCR's decade-long tenure in power, many of the activists who played crucial roles in the Telangana agitation did not receive adequate acknowledgment or support. He stressed that the struggle for a separate state was a



shared endeavor and should be remembered as such. The debate over KCR's legacy has intensified following remarks from both the Congress-led state government and BRS leaders. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy criticized the "father of Telangana" tag, arguing that true recognition should align with historical contributions rather than contemporary political narratives. He highlighted the sacrifices of earlier leaders, including Prof. Jayashankar, as more fitting representations of the

state's founding spirit. BRS leader Harish Rao responded by defending KCR's leadership, questioning whether the Chief Minister fully understands the significance of such a title. Rao argued that KCR's role in mobilizing the movement and steering the political process justified the recognition, setting the stage for a heated debate over Telangana's history and political legacy. The controversy reflects ongoing tensions in Telangana politics regarding how the state's formation

should be commemorated. While KCR supporters highlight his leadership during the Telangana movement, critics like Kodandaram and some Congress leaders maintain that multiple contributors have been overshadowed in public discourse. As discussions continue, public opinion remains divided over whether KCR deserves singular recognition as the "father of Telangana," highlighting broader questions about history, leadership, and political memory in the state.

# Ponnam Prabhakar Leads Congress Campaign in Husnabad Municipality

Husnabad, February 6 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Friday intensified election campaigning in Husnabad Municipality, leading a door-to-door outreach programme in support of Congress party candidates. The Minister campaigned extensively in Ward No. 10, seeking votes for Congress candidate Savula Manjula as part of the ongoing municipal election campaign.

Accompanied by party leaders, workers, and a large number of women supporters, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar participated in a massive rally that passed through residential localities. During the door-to-door campaign, he interacted with residents and explained the welfare schemes and development programmes being implemented by the Praja Palana government.

He appealed to voters to support the Congress party to ensure the continuation of welfare-oriented governance at the local level.

Addressing the public, the Minister highlighted a wide range of schemes launched by the Congress government, stating that these initiatives have directly benefited common people, farmers, and women. He said the government has implemented Indiramma housing for the poor, issued new ration cards, ensured distribution of fine rice through the public distribution system, and provided 200 units of free electricity to households. He also referred to the 500 LPG cylinder scheme and free bus travel for women in RTC services as landmark steps for women's empowerment.

Ponnam Prabhakar further said that the government is extending bo-



nuses for fine paddy, implementing Rythu Bharosa, and waiving farm loans to support farmers. Women, he added, are being provided interest-free loans to encourage self-employment and financial independence. He urged voters to elect Congress candidates with a huge majority in the municipal elections to strengthen the government's hands in implementing these welfare programmes more effectively.

The Minister also outlined an ambitious development vision for Husnabad Municipality. He said major infrastructure and institutional projects are being planned or implemented, including a 250-bed hospital, a Satavahana University Engineering College, improved road connectivity, drainage networks, and a strengthened drinking water system. He mentioned the beautification of Ellamma Cheruvu, development of New Cheruvu

and Palle Cheruvu, temple development works, and the establishment of an Urban Forest Park.

Additional initiatives include the development of junctions and the bus station, enhanced bus connectivity to villages, skill training for women through SETWIN, establishment of an industrial park, and setting up a Young India Integrated Residential School. The Minister also assured improved road connectivity between Husnabad and surrounding district headquarters.

Energising party cadres, Ponnam Prabhakar expressed confidence that the Congress party would secure a majority of seats in Husnabad Municipality, aiming to win up to 20 seats. He said people's support for welfare and development-focused governance would reflect clearly in the municipal election results.

# BRS Alleges Obstruction to Harish Rao's Campaign in Chennur

Chennur, February 6 | TPN Bureau

Tension prevailed in Chennur constituency on Friday after officials and police allegedly obstructed election campaign preparations of former minister and senior BRS leader T. Harish Rao at Chelapur (Kathenapalli) Municipality. The Bharatiya Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leaders accused the authorities of deliberately creating hurdles under the pretext of lack of permissions.

According to BRS representatives, arrangements made for Harish Rao's campaign programme were stopped by officials, who cited procedural issues and permissions. Party leaders alleged that such actions were politically motivated and aimed at preventing the opposition from reaching out to voters during the crucial election period.

Condemning the incident, BRS leaders said the obstruction was not an isolated administrative action but part of a larger conspiracy driven by political pressure. They alleged that the officials were acting on the directions of Minister Vivek, and claimed that the ruling party was misusing government machinery to suppress opposition voices.

"The authorities



are deliberately targeting our party's campaign while allowing the ruling party to conduct programmes without hindrance. This is nothing but political vendetta," a senior BRS leader said. He added that preventing an opposition leader from campaigning amounts to a direct attack on democratic rights. BRS leaders further alleged that the police and municipal officials were violating the basic principles of democracy by curbing the right to campaign and communicate with the public. They accused the government of indulging in abuse of power and attempting to intimidate opposition cadres ahead of elections. The party leaders warned that such actions would only strengthen pub-

lic resentment against the ruling dispensation. "People are watching everything. Attempts to silence the opposition will not succeed. Democracy cannot be strangled by administrative pressure," they asserted. They demanded that the Election Commission and higher authorities intervene immediately to ensure a level playing field for all political parties. The BRS also cautioned that if such obstructions continue, the party would launch statewide protests against what it termed as "authoritarian conduct" by the government. Meanwhile, no official response was issued by the district administration or police regarding the allegations at the time of filing this report.

# Congress Felicitates Booth In-Charges to Strengthen Grassroots Network

Adilabad, February 6 | TPN Bureau

In a significant effort to reinforce the Congress Party's presence at the village level, a grand felicitation ceremony was held on Friday at Ade Gajender residence in Neradigonda Mandal, Adilabad district. The event, organized under the Congress Party's banner, honored booth in-charges and local leaders for their dedicated service and commitment to strengthening the party's grassroots machinery.

During the ceremony, the booth in-charges were felicitated by Mandal Congress Party Convener Jalkhe Pandurang, along with senior party leaders and sarpanches from various villages. The program also marked the official felicitation of Pandurang himself, who was recently appointed as the Mandal Congress Party Convener of Bazar Hatnur.

Shawls were presented to him in recognition of his leadership and contributions, accompanied by warm greetings from party colleagues.

Party leaders emphasized that the ceremony was not merely a formal recognition but a statement of the Congress Party's focus on empowering its workers and leaders to strengthen public outreach at the grassroots. They stressed that the people's trust in the Congress Party has been steadily increasing, which serves as an encouraging sign of the party's growing influence in rural areas. Leaders further highlighted that the Congress Party is working proactively to address public grievances and implement solutions that directly benefit the people.

Speaking at the event, leaders reiterated that the hard work of party workers and coordinated efforts by leaders

form the backbone of the party's success. "The people are the strength of the Congress Party, and its workers are the instruments through which public welfare is achieved. Serving the community remains the core objective of our political vision," they said. Before the main felicitation, sarpanches and ward members from different villages of the mandal were also honored with shawls for their dedicated service to the party and local governance initiatives.

The program saw active participation from a large number of Congress leaders, mandal-level functionaries, and grassroots workers, reflecting the party's commitment to building a strong, united, and effective network across villages. Leaders stressed that empowering booth in-charges and local representatives is crucial for sustaining the party's influ-



ence, mobilizing communities, and ensuring that public welfare initiatives reach every corner of the constituency.

The ceremony underscored the Congress Party's long-term strategy to enhance its organizational structure, reinforce village-level leadership, and

strengthen public engagement ahead of upcoming political and electoral activities in Adilabad. It also highlighted the importance of unity, coordination, and dedicated service by party functionaries in ensuring the party's continued growth and effectiveness at the grassroots level.

# Congress Promises Comprehensive Urban Development in Telangana - Sridhar Babu



Chevella, February 6 | TPN Bureau

Telangana IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu emphasized that comprehensive urban development in the state's towns and cities is possible only under the Congress Party. Speaking during an extensive election campaign across Tandur, Vikarabad, and Chevella municipalities in Chevella Lok Sabha constituency on Friday, the Minister urged voters to ensure a massive victory for Congress candidates in the upcoming municipal elections and bless the Revanth Reddy-led People's Government.

Minister Sridhar Babu highlighted that under previous BRS rule, municipal corporations and municipalities were neglected, leaving their infrastructure and planning in disarray. "Our government is committed to transforming the shape and framework of these urban local bodies, improving living standards, and implementing welfare schemes, executing all election

said. He stressed that the government's approach is not merely rhetorical but practical, ensuring development, empowerment, and social welfare are delivered effectively to all sections of society—including farmers, women, and youth.

The Minister detailed that the Congress government has already filled over 70,000 government jobs across Group 1, 2, 3, and 4 services, providing appointment orders to selected candidates, thereby enabling Telangana youth to participate actively in the state's growth under the 'Telangana Rising' vision. He emphasized skill development, reskilling, and upskilling initiatives to prepare a "ready-to-work" workforce, positioning the state as a model for human resource development nationally.

Sridhar Babu assured that the government continues to balance fiscal prudence with strategic investments in urban development projects and welfare schemes, executing all election

promises methodically. He also addressed ongoing criticisms from opposition parties, stating that their negative campaigning is politically motivated and aimed solely at protecting their own interests, while the Congress government remains focused on delivering results.

The Minister noted strong public support during the campaign, expressing confidence that the Congress flag will rise across all municipal corporations and municipalities in Telangana. Ahead of the elections, Sridhar Babu also reviewed arrangements for the public outreach program 'Prajapalan - Pragati Baata' scheduled for Saturday.

The campaign event saw the participation of key leaders including MLAs T. Rammoan Reddy, B. Manohar Reddy, DCC Presidents Challa Narasimha Reddy, Dharasingh, and other senior party functionaries, signaling a unified effort to strengthen Congress's urban governance and development agenda.

# Sammakka-Sarakka Jatara Donations Counting Continues on Second Day; ₹6.04 Crore Collected in Two Days

Medaram/Hanamkonda, February 6 | TPN Bureau

The counting of donation hoopees at the Sammakka-Sarakka Jatara-2026 continued smoothly for the second day at the TTD Kalyana Mandap in Hanamkonda. The process is being conducted under the strict supervision of Endowments Department officials and Seva Samiti members to ensure transparency.

A total of 828 donation hoopees were installed for this year's jatara, comprising 780 iron hoopees, 45 cloth hoopees, and 3 rice hoopees. On the second day, authorities opened and counted 160 hoopees, which yielded 3,54,25,200 in cash donations. Additionally, contributions received in foreign currency amounted to 63,436.

On the first day of counting (February 5, 2026), 125 hoopees were tallied, collecting 2,49,65,000. Combined over the two days, 285 hoopees have been counted so far, bringing the total collected amount to 6,04,53,636.

Officials stated that 3,54,88,636 in cash from the counted hoopees has been deposited with bank authorities in the presence of supervising officers. Gold and silver dona-

I. Hundi Details		Particulars of Hundies		No. of Hundies
Sl. No.				
1.	Iron Hundies			780
	Sammakka (309) Sarakka (309) Govindaraju (81) Papadiddaraju (81)			
2.	Cloth Hundies			45
3.	Rice Hundies			03
	<b>TOTAL:</b>			<b>828</b>

II. Hundi Counting Details					
Sl. No.	Date	No. of Hundi Opened	Amount Derived	Gold	Silver
1.	05-02-2026	125	Rs.2,49,65,000/-		Kept in iron hundi separately duly locked in presence of Supervising Officers
		160	Rs.3,54,25,200/-		
2.	06-02-2026	-	Rs. 63,436/-		Foreign Currency Exchange on 05.02.2026
<b>Total:</b>		<b>285</b>	<b>Rs.6,04,53,636/-</b>		

Today the counting process is peaceful. The counting of coins not started.

Further it is submitted that an amount of Rs.3,54,88,636/- (Rupees Three crores fifty four lakhs eighty eight thousand six hundred and thirty six only) has been handed over to Bank Authorities which counted on 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2026 in the presence of Supervising Officer, counting process is going on.

This is submitted for kind information.

Yours faithfully,  
  
 Executive Officer  
 Sri Sammakka Sarakka Jatara,  
 Medaram.

tions have been separately secured in the iron hoopees with locks for safekeeping. The process of counting coins has not yet commenced.

Authorities confirmed that the hoopee counting process has been proceeding peacefully and systematically. The remaining hoopees will be counted in phases to ensure accuracy and transparency.

The Endowments Department emphasized that all procedures are being carried out meticulously, maintaining full accountability for the substantial donations contributed by devotees from across the state and beyond. The smooth conduct of the counting process reflects the department's commitment to preserving the integrity of this historic festival.

The Sammakka-Sarakka Jatara continues to attract large numbers of devotees, with donations playing a key role in supporting temple activities and religious services. Officials assured that the counting and management of contributions will continue in an organized manner until all hoopees have been accounted for.

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

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

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

## From Strategic Convergence to Economic Friction

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

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

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

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

## What the Deal Achieves

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

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

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

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

## Trust, but With Caution

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

Washington.

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

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

## The Global Context

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

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

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

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

## Domestic Political Balancing Acts

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

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

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



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

## What Comes Next

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Understanding the Military Options

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

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

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

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

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

### Political and Congressional Constraints

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



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

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

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

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

### International and Regional Challenges

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

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

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

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

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

### The Broader Strategic Impact

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

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

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

### A Fraught Decision with No Easy Path

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

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

## Two Great Men with One Direction

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

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

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

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

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

### Education and Early Life

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

Both were pioneers in the freedom movement.

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

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

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

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

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

### In the Freedom Movement

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### RSS and Ramadandu

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

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

### Social Vision

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

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

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

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

On 21 June 1940, Doctorji passed away.

### Who Will Carry Forward Their Ideals?

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

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

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

## Amit Shah Arrives in Jammu to Review Border Security and Development

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

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

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

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



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

In addition to security reviews, Shah will hold develop-

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

The visit comes at a time of

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

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

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

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

Abdullah acknowledged that such statements may upset sections of the opposition



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

party workers on the ground.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

ment's actions.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

### What Was New START?

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

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

### Why the Treaty's Expiry Matters

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

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

### Challenges to a New Agreement

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

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

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

### Impact on Global Security

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

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

### What Happens Next?

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

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

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

### A More Uncertain Nuclear Future

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

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

# Deadly Explosion at Islamabad Mosque Leaves Several Killed, Dozens Injured

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

### Escalating Rhetoric and Security Concerns

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

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

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

### Limited Support for Americans in Iran

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

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

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

### Regional Implications

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

### Uncertain Path Ahead

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

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



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

### FTA Talks Begin With Formal Steps

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

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

### Economic Significance of the Gulf Market

The Gulf region plays a

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

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

### How an FTA Could Help India

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

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

joint ventures.

### Strategic Importance

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

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

### Challenges and Outlook

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

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

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



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

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

### Volatile Start, Strong Finish

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

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

### Sectoral Performance

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

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

### Stock Movers

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

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

### Broader Market Trends

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

### Market Outlook

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

The growing list of issuers moving toward public offerings suggests strengthening

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

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

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

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



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

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

### A Balanced Economic Backdrop

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

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

### Liquidity and

### Operational Considerations

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

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

### What It Means for Markets

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

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

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

### Global Uncertainty Calls for Prudence

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

portant than providing incremental stimulus.

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

### A Steady Hand on the Till

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

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

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

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

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

### Companies Set to Enter Public Markets

Among the eight companies that received SEBI approval are:

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



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

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

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

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

### What SEBI Approval Means

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

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

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

### Outlook for the IPO Market

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



**Drogo Mohanty** · 3rd  
Top Dog at thePack.in  
Bengaluru, Karnataka, India · [Contact info](#)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

attention and sparked widespread reactions online.

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

ist even at the highest levels of success and privilege.

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

or dissatisfaction.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The video also sparked



conversations about the role of police officers beyond enforcing law and order. Commenters noted that while policing is often associated with authority and discipline, moments like these reveal the compassionate side of those in uniform. Several people praised the officer for using his position not just to maintain public safety, but to

bring comfort to someone living on the margins of society.

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

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

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



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

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

even remote ecosystems.

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

mixed with grass or other edible plants.

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

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

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

## RCB Create History With Landmark Achievement After WPL 2026 Title Triumph



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

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

fining moment for the Bengaluru-based outfit.

### Record-Breaking Final Performance

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

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

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

### A Historic Franchise Milestone

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

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

### Mandhana's Impactful Season

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

### Celebrations and What Lies Ahead

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

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

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

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

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

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

their remaining three group games to stay in contention.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

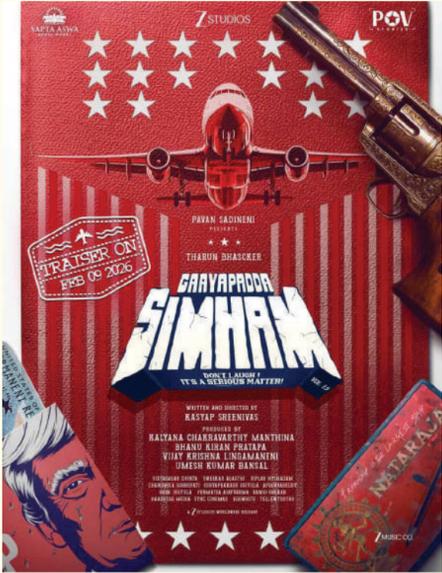
## Tharun Bhascker's New Film GPS Gets First Look Poster; Trailer Soon

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Directed by Geetu Mohandas and co-written by

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

the scale and detailing of the production.

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

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



ally engaging manner.

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

One of the major high-

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

lasting impact through the KGF franchise.

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