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Revanth Reddy Addresses Bhupalpally Rally

Hyderabad, February 8, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy addressed a large public meeting in Bhupalpally, highlighting the historical, political, and cultural significance of the undivided Warangal district and strongly defending his government's policies while launching sharp attacks on the BRS and BJP.

The Chief Minister said the Warangal region has played a crucial role in shaping India and Telangana. He recalled that former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, who brought global recognition to India, hailed from this region. He also noted that Kakatiya and Osmania University students were at the forefront of both phases of the Telangana movement, with Kakatiya University students acting as the driving force behind the struggle. He paid tribute to Professor Jayashankar, calling him a key architect of the Telangana movement, and praised Singareni coal workers for being a national inspiration and active participants in the agitation.

Revanth Reddy dismissed rumours about the possible removal of Bhupalpally district, calling them false and



politically motivated. He clarified that the government has no plans to abolish or create districts and said any future decision on district reorganisation would be taken only after public opinion and legislative discussion. "Bhupalpally district is here to stay," he asserted.

Assuring justice to Singareni workers, the Chief Minister announced that the Medical Unfit Board would be abolished and promised a fair resolution to issues related to hereditary jobs and the reinstatement of 217 dismissed workers. He said the Congress gov-

ernment belongs to workers and would not take any decision that harms their interests.

On housing, Revanth Reddy accused the previous BRS government of neglecting the poor despite being in power for ten years. He announced that 3,500 Indiramma houses are being sanctioned for each constituency and that 4.5 lakh houses are being constructed statewide at a cost of 22,500 crore. He added that the second phase of Indiramma housing would be approved in the upcoming budget to ensure dignity and security for the poor, especially women.

The Chief Minister also outlined major development and tourism initiatives, including large-scale development of Medaram, Ramappa, and the Godavari river belt from Basara to Bhadrachalam ahead of the 2027 Godavari Pushkarams. He said thousands of

crores would be invested to transform the region into a major tourism hub.

Criticising former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Revanth Reddy alleged corruption, misuse of power, and failure to address grassroots issues. He accused the BRS and BJP of working together to undermine Congress and urged party workers to remain vigilant and aggressive in municipal elections.

Calling on people to support Congress candidates, he said voting for Congress means solving local problems, strengthening municipalities, and ensuring inclusive development. He concluded by asserting that with the blessings of women and the poor, no force could stop Congress from winning in Bhupalpally.

Congress Eyes Nizamabad Civic Body, Uttam Kumar Reddy Predicts Clear

Hyderabad, February 8, 2026 | TPN Bureau:

Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Saturday expressed confidence that the Congress Party is poised for a decisive comeback in the Nizamabad Municipal Corporation, predicting a victory in at least 40 of the 60 divisions and the capture of the mayor's chair. Addressing party workers and candidates, he said multiple surveys indicated a strong public desire for change and urged the cadre to intensify door-to-door outreach to convert momentum into victory.

Calling the civic polls in Nizamabad—Telangana's third-largest city—a prestigious and crucial contest, Uttam Kumar Reddy said the election would determine how effectively the city benefits from the state government's urban infrastructure push. "Strengthen our hands, and we will take Nizamabad to the next level of development," he assured, setting an aggressive tone for the campaign.

Nizamabad, one of the state's oldest municipal corporations with a history span-

ning nearly a century, presents a complex political and social landscape. The city's economy is anchored in agriculture and allied industries, including rice mills, sugar factories, and the turmeric trade, while its cultural ties with Maharashtra shape its social fabric. Minority communities constitute nearly one-third of the population and influence over 20 divisions, making inclusive outreach central to the Congress strategy.

The Congress has steadily improved its position in the city in recent years, particularly after Uttam Kumar Reddy took charge as district in-charge minister. Tasked with leading the campaign across municipalities in the Nizamabad parliamentary constituency, he has made the municipal corporation his primary target. Party leaders say Congress has been rebuilding its base division by division, seeking to emerge as a formidable force after years on the margins.

In contrast, the BJP currently holds the Nizamabad MP and MLA seats and claims to be strengthening its urban presence, while the BRS—once dominant in civic politics—has seen its influence decline. In the previ-

ous municipal elections, the BRS held the mayoral post, with BJP and AIMIM controlling select pockets, leaving Congress sidelined. "This time, the tide has turned," Uttam Kumar Reddy asserted.

Highlighting his development-focused record, the minister pointed to promises including new white ration cards, irrigation facilities for two lakh acres, and urban revival projects such as an airport for Nizamabad. He called on party workers to mobilize BCs, SCs, STs, and minority communities, and to expose what he termed as the BJP's failure to enhance civic infrastructure and the BRS's governance decline.

Over the past 24 hours, Uttam Kumar Reddy has conducted whistle-stop meetings and rallies across Korutla, Metpalli, Armoor, and Bheemgal, culminating in intensive campaigning across key divisions in Nizamabad city. As the campaign gathers pace, Congress views a win here as more than symbolic—seeing it as a signal of resurgence in Telangana's urban politics and a chance to translate development-first politics into a landmark municipal victory.



Bhatti Vikramarka Targets BRS at Wyra Rally

Hyderabad, February 8, 2026 | TPN Bureau:

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu on Saturday launched a sharp attack on the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) while addressing a massive public meeting held after a rally during the Municipal Elections in Wyra Municipality limits of Khammam district. He urged urban voters to question why they should vote for a party that, according to him, looted the state for ten years and pushed Telangana into deep debt.

For the main page, the Deputy Chief Minister posed a direct question to the public: should people vote for the BRS, which ruled the state for a decade without delivering justice to the poor? He alleged that during ten years of BRS rule, not a single house or house site was given to the poor. He asserted that the Congress government would account for every rupee and distribute it to the poor, spending whatever funds are required to protect their self-respect, and promised Indiramma Houses for all eligible poor.

Speaking at length, Bhatti Vikramarka said BRS leaders are now asking for votes in municipal elections, but people must think deeply before supporting them. He accused the previous government of mortgaging the future of the state and drowning it in debts amounting to 8 lakh crore. "Enough is



enough. Their rule has ended," he declared.

The Deputy Chief Minister expressed anguish that under the ten-year TRS/BRS regime, the poor did not receive housing support. He said only Congress governments had a history of building Indiramma houses and that after the return of the people's government, construction has resumed. He remarked that even a single brick of a poor person's house would testify to this truth.

Bhatti Vikramarka stated that while BRS came to power promising to use state resources for the people, it instead converted Telangana into a mountain of debt. In contrast, he said, the present Congress government understands the suffering of the poor and has taken up Indiramma housing on a massive scale. He explained that 5 lakh is be-

ing spent on each house, with 4.5 lakh houses taken up in the first phase at a cost of 22,500 crore, and assured that houses would be built for all eligible poor.

He also highlighted welfare initiatives such as sanctioning ration cards immediately after the Congress government came to power and supplying fine rice free of cost to 1.02 crore families out of 1.15 crore families in the state. He criticized the earlier government for distributing coarse rice unfit for consumption and said the present government is providing quality rice worth 50 per kg.

Referring to healthcare, he said free treatment up to 10 lakh is being provided under the Rajiv Aarogyasri scheme so that poor families are not forced to mortgage assets during medical emergencies. He reiterated that the govern-

ment would not hesitate to spend for the welfare of the poor.

The Deputy Chief Minister said women were being empowered through interest-free loans of 20,000 crore annually, and noted that 27,000 crore was already distributed to Self-Help Group women in the first year itself. He also highlighted free RTC bus travel for women and free electricity up to 200 units for the poor, with the government bearing the costs. On employment, Bhatti Vikramarka criticized the previous regime for failing to conduct Group-I examinations for ten years. He said that under the people's government, Group-I, II and III exams were conducted successfully and 70,000 government jobs were filled within two years, calling it a major achievement of the Congress-led administration.

Harish Rao Slams CM Revanth Reddy Over Bhupalpally Remarks

Sangareddy, February 8, 2026 | TPN Bureau:

Former Minister and BRS Deputy Floor Leader T. Harish Rao came down heavily on Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, accusing him of political deception, offensive language, and failure to fulfil electoral promises. Reacting sharply to the Chief Minister's recent remarks at a public meeting in Bhupalpally, Harish Rao said people clearly know "who is genuine and who is fake," asserting that it was Revanth Reddy who had betrayed public trust by evading his promises.

Addressing a massive roadshow in Sangareddy town as part of the municipal election campaign, Harish Rao drew huge crowds, with streets echoing slogans of "Jai Telangana" and "Jai KCR" amid a sea of pink BRS flags. People greeted him with traditional honours as he moved through the town, thanking citizens for their overwhelming support.

Speaking to the gathering, Harish Rao alleged that the Chief Minister's language was more offensive than the sewage flowing through city drains. He accused the Congress government of prioritising commissions and contractors over employees, pensioners, and the poor. "The government has money to issue tenders worth 95,000 crore and pay 40,000 crore to contractors, but claims it has



no funds to clear PRC, DA arrears, or pensions," he charged.

Harish Rao contrasted the Congress government with the previous BRS administration led by K. Chandrashekar Rao, stating that KCR delivered on promises such as Telangana statehood, 2,000 pensions, Kalyana Lakshmi assistance, and the KCR Kit scheme. He claimed that Sangareddy town witnessed major development only during the BRS regime, including drinking water supply to every household, road expansion, street lighting, and the sanctioning of medical and nursing colleges.

He criticised the Congress government for failing to initiate even a single major development work

in Sangareddy over the past two-and-a-half years, accusing it of misleading voters with symbolic inaugurations without tenders or budget allocations. He also dismissed claims of providing 8 crore per ward, questioning how a government that could not give "even eight rupees in two years" could now promise crores.

Harish Rao further alleged that several welfare schemes introduced by the BRS—such as sheep distribution, fish seed supply, and Ramzan Tofa—had been discontinued. He accused the Chief Minister of making unfulfilled promises related to 4,000 pensions, 2,500 Mahalakshmi assistance, unemployment allowance, and gold for women.

Asserting that public sentiment in the united Medak district strongly favoured the BRS, Harish Rao said municipalities including Sangareddy, Sadasivapet, Zaheerabad, Kohir, Narsapur, and Medak would see the victory of the car symbol. He warned against attempts to intimidate voters by claiming funds would be denied if Congress candidates lost, stating that municipal funds were a constitutional right.

Concluding his address, Harish Rao appealed to voters to defeat Congress candidates and ensure a decisive victory for the BRS in the municipal elections, promising continued development and accountability.

KTR Slams Congress Government at Hanumakonda Press Meet

Hanumakonda, February 8, 2026 | TPN Bureau:

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) launched a scathing attack on the Congress-led Telangana government during a press meet held at the BRS office in Hanumakonda. He accused Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy of misleading the people with false promises and failing to deliver on key assurances made before coming to power. KTR alleged that the

Congress government has been diverting public attention through political rhetoric while neglecting governance and development. He questioned the handling of several recent incidents, stating that the administration lacks transparency and accountability. According to him, the law-and-order situation in the state has deteriorated, and the government has failed to protect public institutions and democratic values. Highlighting municipal issues, KTR said that urban areas across Tel-



angana are suffering due to poor civic management. He claimed that basic services such as sanitation, drinking water supply, and infrastructure development have taken a back seat under the present regime. He urged voters to closely examine the performance of the Congress government ahead of the municipal elections and not be swayed by hollow assurances. The BRS leader also accused the ruling party of sidelining welfare schemes introduced during the previous BRS

government. He said that several programmes aimed at supporting farmers, women, the poor, and employees have either been diluted or completely ignored. KTR maintained that the Congress government has failed to allocate adequate funds for welfare while prioritising questionable contracts and expenditures. Reiterating the BRS commitment to Telangana's development, KTR asserted that the party remains the true representative of the

state's aspirations. He said the leadership of K. Chandrashekar Rao continues to inspire confidence among the people and that BRS will strongly contest the upcoming local body elections. Calling on party workers to stay united and vigilant, KTR appealed to the public to give BRS a decisive mandate in municipal bodies. He said strengthening BRS at the grassroots level is essential to safeguard Telangana's interests and restore accountable, people-centric governance.

Ministers Campaign for Congress Candidates in Vemulawada Municipal Elections



Rajanna Sircilla District | February 8 | TPN Bureau

Senior Congress leaders and state ministers Tummala Nageswara Rao and Ponnamp Prabhakar carried out an extensive election campaign in Vemulawada Municipality, urging voters to support Congress candidates in the upcoming municipal elections scheduled for February 11. The ministers sought votes for Congress nominees in several wards, including Sagaram Venkataswamy (Ward 8), Sirigiri Sangeetha (Ward 10), Neelam Mamatha (Ward 9), Namala Uma (Ward 23), and Ippupoola Mamatha (Ward 22).

Addressing the public, Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar appealed to voters to elect Congress candidates with a strong majority, stating that real

development is possible only when the ruling party is given a clear mandate at the local level. He recalled that during his tenure as a Member of Parliament, municipalities such as Vemulawada, Huzurabad, and Jammikunta were established, but alleged that no significant development took place over the past ten years.

Highlighting the achievements of the present Congress government, he said that ration cards were distributed to all eligible beneficiaries after a decade-long gap, fine rice was supplied through the public distribution system, and 200 units of free electricity were being provided. He noted that women had availed free bus travel worth nearly 10,000 crore, while 650 Indiram-

ma houses were sanctioned to Vemulawada town within a year. He also emphasized the government's support to women self-help groups through interest-free loans and reaffirmed the commitment to the development of the Vemulawada Rajanna Temple, which he claimed had been neglected earlier.

Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao praised Vemulawada MLA Aadi Srinivas, describing him as a leader who works inclusively and with integrity. He stressed that electing Congress councillors would strengthen the MLA's position to secure more funds and development projects from the Chief Minister. He assured that Vemulawada would be developed as "Dakshina Kashi," with temple development

works to be completed within three years.

The minister highlighted several welfare initiatives, including 21,000 crore farm loan waiver, loan waivers for handloom workers, allocation of 1,100 crore for the handloom sector, and large-scale procurement of textiles from weavers. He also pointed out that the government paid 9,600 crore to the RTC over two years, resulting in savings of 9,690 crore for women commuters through free travel schemes.

Both ministers urged voters to support the Congress party and its candidates, asserting that only with strong local representation can the benefits of welfare schemes and development programs reach the people effectively.



Environment Neglect Threatens Human Survival: Gutha Sukender Reddy

Anmasupally (Ranga Reddy District), February 8, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Legislative Council Chairman Gutha Sukender Reddy has warned that continued neglect of the environment could pose a serious threat to the very survival of the human race. He stressed that protecting traditional agricultural practices is essential not only for improving soil fertility and human health but also for ensuring long-term environmental conservation.

Addressing the valedictory session of the three-day Telangana Second Annual Seed Festival at the Earth Centre in Anmasupally village of Kadtal mandal, Ranga Reddy district, Sukender Reddy said humanity is facing dangerous consequences due to environmental indifference. The programme was jointly organised by the Council for Green Revolution and Bharat Bej Swaraj Manch. The concluding session was held under the chairmanship of former RTI Commissioner Dilip Reddy and was attended by several experts and activists.

Sukender Reddy cautioned that if livestock wealth is not preserved and strengthened, the country risks losing control over its land and agriculture

within the next five years. He urged people to become conscious of sustainable farming practices and the protection of native resources, stating that traditional systems offer a holistic solution to ecological imbalance, declining soil health, and growing health concerns.

Padma Shri awardee Chintala Venkat Reddy said that natural farming can also achieve high productivity through proper grading and use of indigenous seeds. He rejected the belief that only chemical-intensive farming can ensure yields and said native seeds, when managed scientifically, can deliver both quantity and quality while protecting nature.

Former Nalgonda MLA Nandyala Narasimha Reddy described indigenous seeds as a national asset and called for well-planned government policies to promote their widespread use. He emphasised that agricultural policies should be designed with farmer welfare and public interest as their core objectives. He added that adequate importance must be given to allied agricultural sectors to increase the adoption of natural farming methods.

AP MAS founder C.S. Reddy said that natural farming would

become truly viable only when there is a shift in government policies. He highlighted the crucial role of farmer producer organisations in strengthening the movement and said the perception that indigenous seeds result in lower yields is a myth. According to him, native seeds significantly benefit soil health and human well-being, and there is an urgent need to strengthen alternative seed systems aligned with natural farming.

Environmental expert Donthi Narasimha Reddy observed that the country is currently witnessing a conflict between hybrid and indigenous seed systems. He said farmers in several states are challenging corporate-driven seed models and experimenting with sustainable natural farming practices.

Council for Green Revolution President Leela Lakshma Reddy said the seed festival was successfully organised through coordination among farmers, scientists, policymakers, and voluntary organisations. She noted that while significant progress has been made, there is still a long journey ahead, and the organisation will move forward with a clearer and more focused action plan.

Indiramma Schemes Reflect Telangana's Progressive Spirit: Ponguleti

Bhupalpally District, February 8, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Revenue, Housing and Information Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said the joy seen on the faces of women wearing Indiramma sarees reflects the progressive spirit and developmental momentum of the state. He reaffirmed that there would be no compromise on the Indiramma housing scheme and assured a permanent resolution to long-pending land disputes across several survey numbers.

The Minister, along with Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, toured Bhupalpally district as part of the "Praja Palana Pragati Bata" programme. During the visit, they offered prayers at the Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple at Kodavancha in Regonda mandal, along with fellow ministers Duddilla Sridhar Babu and



Konda Surekha, MP Kadiyam Kavya, MLA Gandra Satyanarayana Rao, local public representatives, the District Collector, and senior officials. The leaders received temple honours and Vedic blessings before participating in the inauguration of guesthouse facilities and other development works initiated by the Chief Minister.

Later, addressing a large public meeting at Chellapur, Minister Ponguleti said the happiness of women attending the gathering in Indiramma sarees symbolised the tangible progress achieved under the present government. He stated that under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the people's government is working tirelessly to ensure welfare, security, and dignity for the poor. Schemes such as Indiramma houses, fine rice distri-

but ion, ration cards, and free electricity are being implemented alongside major development initiatives, he said.

Criticising the previous decade-long rule, the Minister alleged that earlier governments ignored the construction of houses, which he described as a symbol of self-respect for the poor. He said that within two years of coming to power, the present government has already provided 4.5 lakh Indiramma houses in the first phase. He announced that the second phase of house allotments would begin in April and assured that in three more phases, all eligible poor families would be provided permanent homes. Ponguleti reiterated that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has made it clear that there would be no reduction or dilution in the housing programme, and the govern-

ment is committed to achieving 100 percent coverage in both rural and urban areas. On land-related issues, the Minister noted that several districts and municipalities have been facing land disputes for decades due to the absence of proper documentation. He said landowners have been suffering due to unresolved survey number conflicts. To address this, the government has introduced the Bhu Bharati Act and appointed licensed surveyors, with surveys already underway. Ponguleti assured that the people's government would provide a permanent solution to land disputes in the near future.

He concluded by appealing to the public to continue blessing the government and support it in achieving greater successes for the welfare and development of Telangana.

Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy Hits Back at KTR Over Forensic Lab Fire

Bhuvanagiri, Feb 8, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy on Friday strongly criticised BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), accusing him of indulging in irresponsible and malicious propaganda against Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. Responding to KTR's remarks linking the recent fire accident at the Forensic Science Laboratory to the Chief Minister, Chamala said KTR had "stooped to a new low" and degraded his own political stature.

Speaking to the media, the MP said that instead of allowing a proper investigation into the forensic lab fire, KTR rushed to make baseless allegations against Revanth Reddy with the sole intention of gaining political mileage in the municipal elections. "KTR has realised that the people are ready to teach the BRS another lesson in the municipal

polls. Out of fear of defeat, he is resorting to cheap politics and poisonous propaganda," Chamala alleged.

Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy pointed out that crucial evidence related to the phoning case, including recordings and technical details, was stored at the forensic lab. He said it was natural to suspect a conspiracy behind the fire incident and claimed that the role of KTR himself should be investigated. "I strongly suspect that there could be a hand of KTR behind the forensic lab fire. That is why he came out in haste and started throwing allegations at the Chief Minister even before facts came out," he said.

Recalling past incidents, the MP alleged that immediately after the BRS lost the Assembly elections, CCTV cameras at the SIB office were switched off and sensitive equipment imported from Israel, along with impor-



tant files, were destroyed and allegedly dumped into the Musi river. "The people of Telangana have already seen your history. If there is any conspiracy behind the forensic lab incident, it will lead back to KTR and his associates," Chamala asserted.

He further alleged that KTR and his family would inevitably face investigation in the phone-tapping case. Accusing KTR and his relatives of misleading the public, Chamala said, "You, your brother-in-law, and your fam-

ily members hold multiple press meets every day—morning, afternoon, and evening—through press conferences, social media, and chit-chat programmes, only to cheat the people of Telangana."

Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy also accused the BRS regime of pushing Telangana into a debt trap during its tenure. He said the party had compromised the self-respect of the state by converting TRS into BRS for political convenience. "After burdening the

state with massive debts and betraying Telangana's aspirations, KTR and his family should apologise to the people. They should feel ashamed to once again seek votes from the same public they cheated," he said.

The MP concluded by asserting that the people of Telangana would not be misled again and would stand firmly with the Congress party in the municipal elections, rejecting what he termed as BRS's deceitful politics.

Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy Targets Kishan Reddy Over BJP-BRS Nexus



Bhuvanagiri, Feb 8, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy on Friday launched a sharp counterattack on Union Minister K. Kishan Reddy, accusing him of making politically motivated statements aimed at weakening the Congress in the ongoing municipal elections. Chamala alleged that Kishan Reddy was

openly hoping for the Congress party to secure fewer seats and was indirectly working to help the BRS.

Speaking to the media, Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy said that during the recent parliamentary elections, the BRS had effectively "donated its political support" to ensure the BJP's victory. He claimed that out of a sense of gratitude, Kis-

han Reddy was now trying to return the favour by helping the BRS in municipal elections wherever the BJP lacks strength. "Wherever BJP has no presence, Kishan Reddy is desperate to see BRS candidates win," he alleged.

Reacting to Kishan Reddy's demand that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy should resign if action is not

taken against former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), the MP questioned Kishan Reddy's silence over the past decade. He pointed out that Kishan Reddy has been a key leader at the Centre and a Union Minister for nearly ten years. "When the state was allegedly looted for ten years, why did Kishan Reddy remain silent?" he asked.

Chamala further questioned the role of central agencies such as the IT Department, CBI, and ED, which he described as "pocket institutions" of the BJP. He asked where these agencies were when, according to him, large-scale irregularities were taking place under the BRS government. "Had the BJP stopped the BRS plunder in time, Telangana would have remained prosperous and surplus. The state would not have suffered such injustice," he said.

The MP asserted that Kishan Reddy, despite being elected with the

votes of Telangana people, failed to stand up for the state's interests. "He is perhaps the only leader who reached the Union Cabinet without ever thinking seriously about Telangana," Chamala alleged. He added that if Kishan Reddy had truly fought for the state, people would have trusted him more.

Highlighting BJP's limited footprint in Telangana, Chamala said the party exists only in a few pockets and predicted that it would be restricted to single-digit seats in the municipal elections. He reiterated that Kishan Reddy's statements clearly indicate an undeclared understanding between the BJP and BRS.

Concluding his remarks, Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy said the people of Telangana were politically aware and would not be misled by what he termed as opportunistic alliances, asserting that voters would stand firmly with the Congress in the municipal polls.

Former MLC Karne Prabhakar Slams CM Revanth Reddy



Hyderabad, February 8 | TPN Bureau

Former Legislative Council Whip Karne Prabhakar launched a sharp attack on Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy during a press meet held at Telangana Bhavan on Saturday, accusing the Chief Minister of political intolerance, inappropriate language, and failure to deliver on the promises made by the Congress government.

Karne Prabhakar stated that the opposition only seeks development for the state and is responsibly questioning the Congress government on its pre-poll assurances. However, he alleged that whenever such questions are raised, the Chief Minister resorts to abusive language instead of giving clear answers. He claimed that even after more than 700 days in office, there has been no visible change in Revanth Reddy's conduct or leadership style.

The former MLC alleged that the Chief Minister derives satisfaction from verbally attacking opposition leaders and described his behavior as aggressive and

divisive. He accused Revanth Reddy of merely reading out a "script written by his political mentors" and warned that the Chief Minister was pushing Telangana towards instability rather than progress.

Karne Prabhakar urged senior Congress leaders such as Jana Reddy, Jeevan Reddy, and Hanumantha Rao to intervene and restrain the Chief Minister, claiming that Revanth Reddy's conduct was damaging the party's legacy. He went on to allege that the Chief Minister was behaving irresponsibly and claimed his statements reflected a disturbing mindset, calling upon Congress leaders to take corrective action.

He further alleged that whenever questions are raised about governance failures or unfulfilled promises, the Chief Minister diverts attention by repeatedly attacking former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) and the BRS party. Karne Prabhakar asserted that KCR had positioned Telangana as one of the leading states in the country and accused Revanth Reddy of undermining that legacy

through personal attacks.

Referring to remarks made at a public meeting in Miryalaguda, Karne Prabhakar condemned the Chief Minister for allegedly making derogatory comments about senior Congress leaders, stating that such remarks had pushed the Congress party "back by decades" in Telangana. He warned that Revanth Reddy's actions were eroding public trust and harming the party's future.

He also raised objections to the Chief Minister holding official government meetings that allegedly resemble election campaigns and demanded clarity from the State Election Commission on whether such gatherings should be treated as development meetings or political rallies.

Karne Prabhakar concluded by stating that the Chief Minister's language and conduct have reached a point where people are switching off televisions in frustration. BRS leader Bommera Ramamurthy was also present at the press meet.

Prove Strength in Municipal Elections: MP Chamala



Bhuvanagiri, February 8 | TPN Bureau

Bhuvanagiri Lok Sabha MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy called upon Congress workers and voters to demonstrate the party's strength in the upcoming municipal elections. He was speaking at a rally held in Bhuvanagiri Municipality, organized under the leadership of Bhuvanagiri MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy.

The rally was attended by Panchayat Raj Minister Seethakka as the chief guest, along with party leaders, activists, and supporters. Addressing the gathering, MP Chamala urged people to vote for Congress candidates, describing them as "winning horses" who would remain accessible

and responsive to public needs at all times.

He alleged that the BJP habitually incites caste and religious divisions during elections and said such politics was harmful to social harmony. Chamala also accused the previous BRS government of weakening democratic institutions during its tenure, adding that the Congress government is now working to restore and strengthen governance systems.

Highlighting welfare initiatives, the MP said the Congress government is taking concrete steps to empower women's self-help groups and improve their economic stability. He stated that the growing public support for the Congress party was making opposition

parties uneasy. Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy further criticized the Central government, blaming it for the steep rise in prices of essential commodities. He said that escalating costs had pushed items like gold and silver beyond the reach of common people, increasing the financial burden on households.

Minister Seethakka and local leaders also interacted with party workers during the rally, calling for unity and coordinated efforts to ensure a strong victory for Congress candidates in the municipal polls. The leaders expressed confidence that voters would support the Congress party for its welfare-driven agenda and commitment to inclusive development.

Srihari, John Wesley Campaign Jointly in Amarachinta

Amarachinta | February 8, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister Vakiti Srihari and CPM State Secretary John Wesley conducted an extensive joint election campaign in Wards 6 and 7 of Amarachinta Municipality on Saturday, seeking public support for Congress and CPM candidates in the upcoming municipal elections.

Addressing local residents, Minister Srihari explained that the two parties are contesting the elections in coordination, with CPM contesting in three wards and Congress in seven wards across the municipality. He appealed to voters to ensure the victory of candidates from both parties, stating that a united mandate was essential for the continued development of

Amarachinta.

The minister said that the government had already spent 180 crore on various development works in the municipality, leading to improvements in infrastructure and public amenities. He assured the people that he would work with commitment over the next three years to further accelerate Amarachinta's development. Warning voters against complacency, Srihari said that if candidates were defeated due to mistakes at the ward level, development activities could face serious setbacks.

Expressing confidence in the outcome, Minister Srihari declared that the Congress flag would be hoisted in Amarachinta Municipality after the elections, with the support of CPM. He emphasized



that the alliance would ensure a stable municipal administration focused on public welfare.

Highlighting the government's priorities, Srihari stated that the administration was working to ensure that welfare schemes reached every poor household. He recalled that there was a time

when Amarachinta had been neglected with no one to look after its needs, but the situation had changed under the present leadership.

The minister also noted that construction of Indiramma houses was already underway in Amarachinta mandal, reflecting the government's commitment to

providing housing for the underprivileged. CPM leader John Wesley also appealed to voters to strengthen the alliance by voting for Congress and CPM candidates, stating that it would help safeguard public interests and promote inclusive development in the municipality.

Call for Supreme Court Bench in Hyderabad

Nacharam, February 8 | TPN Bureau
Senior Supreme Court advocate and BJP Legal Cell national leader Pitta Srinivas Reddy has strongly advocated the establishment of a Supreme Court bench in Hyderabad, citing the urgent need to improve access to justice for people across southern India. In a formal representation submitted to the Chief Justice of India, Justice Surya Kant, he urged the judiciary to consider Hyderabad as a suitable and strategic location for a southern bench of the apex court.

Addressing the media in Nacharam on Saturday, Pitta Srinivas Reddy said that setting up a Supreme Court bench in Hyderabad would greatly benefit litigants from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Kerala. He pointed out that Hyderabad is centrally located in the southern region, has robust infrastructure, and already functions as a major judicial and administrative hub, making it an ideal choice for such an important institution. He further proposed the establishment of additional High Court



benches to decentralize judicial access. According to his suggestion, High Court benches should be set up in Wa-

rangal and Nizamabad in Telangana, and in Visakhapatnam and Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh. This, he said, would re-

duce the burden on existing courts and ensure faster disposal of cases at regional levels. Pitta Srinivas Reddy

highlighted the difficulties faced by common citizens due to the Supreme Court being located only in New Delhi. With Delhi being nearly 2,000 kilometers away from many parts of southern India, litigants are forced to incur heavy travel, accommodation, and legal expenses. He noted that people involved in civil, criminal, service-related, constitutional, and inter-state disputes often have to undertake long journeys, spend several days away from work and family, and bear significant financial strain just to pursue

justice. "The high cost and effort involved in approaching the Supreme Court in Delhi discourages many deserving litigants from seeking justice," he said. "This situation disproportionately affects middle-class and poor citizens, for whom prolonged litigation and repeated travel are simply unaffordable." He emphasized that a Supreme Court bench in Hyderabad would not only ease this financial and physical burden but also ensure quicker hearings and speedier justice delivery. According to him, decentraliza-

tion of the apex court's functioning is essential in a large and diverse country like India, where geographical distance should not become a barrier to constitutional remedies. Pitta Srinivas Reddy expressed confidence that the Chief Justice of India would give serious consideration to the proposal in the larger interest of justice and public convenience. He reiterated that the move would strengthen the judicial system, enhance public trust, and bring the nation's highest court closer to the people of southern India.

MLA Vivekanand Attends Kattamaisamma Jatara in Suraram



Quthbullapur | February 8, 2026 | TPN Bureau
Quthbullapur MLA K.P. Vivekanand attended the Sri Kattamaisamma Thalli Jatara being held with devotion and religious fervour in the Suraram area on Saturday. The MLA offered special prayers and haratis to the deity, seeking blessings for the health, peace and overall development of the people of the Quthbullapur constituency. During his visit, Vivekanand reviewed the arrangements made for the jatara and appreciated the organizers for conducting the festival in an orderly manner. He instruct-

ed officials to ensure that devotees did not face any inconvenience and stressed the need to provide all necessary facilities. He directed special attention towards sanitation, drinking water and security arrangements for the convenience and safety of devotees. Addressing the gathering, the MLA said that traditions and culture give society a sense of self-respect and identity. He noted that such spiritual and religious events strengthen unity and promote social harmony among people. Several public representatives and local leaders participated in

the programme, including corporators Mantri Satyanarayana and Suresh Reddy, District Fisheries Chairman Manne Raju, Varala Vinod, Yadi Reddy, K. Srinivas Reddy, Raghav Reddy, Babu Goud, Sai Goud, Raj Kumar, Janaki Ram, Kola Srikanth, Ajay, Sampath and Dinesh. Division presidents Puppala Bhaskar and Pole Srikanth, senior leaders Bourampet Srinivas Reddy, Kunta Siddhi Ramulu, Sammaiah Netha, Gubbala Lakshminarayana, Sai Ram Reddy and Ghani were also present. Temple committee members, village elders and a large number of devotees attend-

AAP Demands CM Revanth Reddy's Resignation Over Nampally Lab Fire

Nampally, February 8 | TPN Bureau
The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Saturday strongly demanded the immediate resignation of Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, alleging that the recent fire incident at a laboratory in Nampally was not accidental but a politically motivated act aimed at destroying crucial evidence linked to the cash-for-vote case.

Addressing the media in Nampally, AAP leaders alleged that the laboratory which was gutted in the fire reportedly housed key forensic and documentary evidence related to the high-profile cash-for-vote case. The party claimed that the timing and target of the incident raise serious suspicions and point towards a deliberate conspiracy. According to AAP, the incident occurred with the intention of eliminating evidence that could potentially expose facts detrimental to the Chief Minister's political future. AAP leaders alleged that Chief Minister Re-



vanth Reddy orchestrated the incident out of fear that the truth in the cash-for-vote case would come to light. They described the lab fire as a direct assault on democratic values and the justice system, stating that any attempt to tamper with evidence undermines public trust in governance and law enforcement. The party expressed a lack of confidence in any investigation con-

ducted under the supervision of the state government. It alleged that the government is making efforts to suppress facts related to the incident, especially since the evidence has already been destroyed. AAP leaders stated that under such circumstances, justice cannot be ensured through a state-led probe. Demanding accountability, the Aam Aadmi Party called for an inde-

pendent and impartial investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into both the Nampally lab fire incident and all aspects of the cash-for-vote case. The party asserted that only a central agency can ensure transparency and fairness in uncovering the truth. AAP further alleged that the state government's reluctance to order a CBI inquiry itself raises serious doubts.

"If the government has nothing to hide, why is it afraid of a CBI investigation?" party leaders questioned, adding that such hesitation would clearly expose who the real culprits are before the public. The party leadership reiterated that no matter how hard the truth is concealed, it will eventually come out, and those responsible will not escape punishment. AAP State President Hema Sudarshan Jilloju stated that the Chief Minister must step down immediately to ensure a fair probe and uphold democratic principles. AAP leader Ramya Goud was also present during the programme and echoed similar concerns, asserting that the people of Telangana are closely watching the developments and will not tolerate any attempt to subvert justice. The party concluded by stating that it would continue to intensify its agitation until a CBI inquiry is ordered and the Chief Minister accepts moral responsibility by resigning from his post.

Residents Stage Innovative Protest Against Mosquito Menace

Uppal, February 8 | TPN Bureau
Residents of Uppal Ramanthapur on Saturday staged an innovative protest against the growing mosquito menace in the area, demanding immediate action from civic authorities. Unable to tolerate the persistent problem despite repeated complaints, locals took to the streets in a symbolic demonstration to draw the attention of officials. The protest rally was organized under the leadership of Errolla Srinivas, President of the Prajavani Voluntary Organization. Participants marched from the Bodrai junction on the main road in Ramanthapur to Hyderabad Public School, expressing their anger over the authorities' alleged apathy. What made the pro-



test unique was the use of PPE kits and mosquito bats, highlighting both health concerns and the seriousness of the issue. Addressing the gathering, Srinivas said that residents had raised the problem several times with officials, but no concrete steps had been taken to control mosquitoes. He alleged that authorities remember the public only during election periods and neglect basic civic responsibilities thereafter. "People are being forced to live with the threat of mosquito-borne diseases. Immediate measures must be taken to protect public health," he said. Protesters warned that the unchecked mosquito breeding could lead to the spread of diseases such as dengue, ma-

laria and viral fevers, posing a serious risk, especially to children and the elderly. They demanded regular fogging, proper sanitation, drainage maintenance and effective preventive measures in the locality. Several residents participated in the protest, including Raju Goud, Kumar Swamy, Suresh, Kiran Kumar, Srinivas, Mallesh, Krishna, Dan Bhikshapati, Abdul Mathin and Khan. They urged the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation to respond without further delay and ensure a mosquito-free environment. The demonstrators stated that if authorities continue to ignore the issue, they would intensify their agitation in the coming days.

HMT Nagar Pedda Cheruvu Beautification to Begin Soon: Corporator Shanti Saijan Shekhar

Nacharam, February 8 | TPN Bureau
Corporator Shanti Saijan Shekhar has announced that beautification works of HMT Nagar Pedda Cheruvu will begin shortly, with an estimated budget of 30 crore. The lake will be developed on the lines of Uppal Nallacheruvu, transforming it into a major recreational and environmental asset for local residents. Speaking on the occasion, the corporator said that the agency which secured the contract for the project has already begun survey work re-



lated to designs and drawings. As part of the initial phase, steps will be taken to prevent sewage water from entering the lake by constructing a diversion nala. This, he said, is crucial to ensure long-term protection and cleanliness of the water body. He further explained that the comprehensive beautification plan includes the development

of walking tracks, cycling tracks, green landscaping, open gyms, and other public amenities around the lake. An island in the middle of the lake is also part of the proposed design, aimed at enhancing the aesthetic appeal and ecological balance of the area. During the survey, Corporator Shanti Saijan Shekhar interacted with officials and emphasized the need to complete the project with quality standards and within the stipulated time. He stated that the objective is not only beautification but also

creating a healthy environment and leisure space for citizens. The program was attended by BRS party state leader Saijan Shekhar, HMT Nagar Welfare Association members Janardhan and Yadagiri Reddy, along with BRS leaders Katta Buchanna Goud, Chandrasekhar, and others. Residents expressed satisfaction over the proposed development and hoped that the project would significantly improve the surroundings and quality of life in HMT Nagar and nearby areas.

Uppal Press Club New Committee Felicitated

Uppal, February 8 | TPN Bureau
The newly formed Uppal Press Club (Print and Electronic Media) committee was felicitated in a grand manner on Sunday under the leadership of senior Congress leader Gaddam Ravikumar. The event was held at the office of Ramanthapur Congress Party In-charge Tavidaboyina Giribabu. On the occasion, Vadde Palli Kishore, who was recently elected as the President of the Uppal Press Club, along with other committee members, was honoured for



taking charge of the new body. Speaking at the programme, Gaddam Ravikumar congratulated the journalists and said the media plays a vital role in strengthening democra-

cy and highlighting public issues. He assured continued support to the press fraternity in their efforts to serve society with responsibility and integrity. Ramanthapur Congress

Party In-charge and contested corporator Tavidaboyina Giribabu also extended his congratulations to the newly elected Press Club team and emphasized the importance of ethical journalism in today's changing media landscape. The event was attended by Viswabrahmana Greater Hyderabad President Pabboju Bhikshapati Chary, along with several journalists and local leaders. The programme concluded with expressions of solidarity and best wishes to the Uppal Press Club for its future activities.

Harish Rao Slams Congress Promises as "Bogus" During Municipal Campaign

Chitkul, Isnapur Municipality, Feb 8, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister and BRS MLA T. Harish Rao on Friday launched a sharp attack on the Congress government, alleging that all its promises were "bogus" and accusing Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy of misleading the people. Addressing voters during the municipal election campaign in Chitkul village of Isnapur Municipality, Harish Rao appealed to people to support BRS candidates and ensure their victory.

Speaking to local residents, Harish Rao said voters clearly know whom to support. "Should people vote for KCR, who provided food and welfare, or for Revanth Reddy, who deceived people with false promises?" he asked. He alleged that Congress had failed to implement its major assurances, including 4,000 pensions, 2,500 financial assis-

stance for women, and the promise of providing two lakh jobs, branding all of them as fake.

Recalling welfare initiatives implemented during the BRS regime, Harish Rao said it was KCR who introduced schemes such as KCR Kits, Kalyana Lakshmi, and distribution of 10 kg rice per family during the COVID-19 crisis to support the poor. He accused Congress leaders of resorting to "cheap politics" by trying to divert people to temples on the day of his visit. "Whether you send people to Yadadri or Tirumala, it is the BRS that will win in Chitkul," he asserted.

Highlighting development works, Harish Rao said Chitkul lacked even basic roads before KCR came to power. Under the BRS government, proper roads were laid, and Mission Bhagiratha ensured drinking water supply to every household, he said. He claimed that development led to



a significant increase in land values in Chitkul, enhancing the dignity and economic status of local residents. According to him, development has stalled after Congress came to power.

The former minister alleged that local Congress leaders were inaccessible to the poor and were more focused on increasing their personal assets than addressing public issues. "Their wealth grew, but people's lives did not change," he remarked.

Questioning the Congress government's performance, he asked what tangible development work had been done in Isnapur over the last two years.

Harish Rao also highlighted BRS initiatives for minorities, stating that the KCR government allocated 4,000 crore for minority welfare, implemented the Shaadi Mubarak scheme, and established residential schools to educate minority children. He alleged that the

present Congress government had failed to take similar measures.

Concluding his speech, Harish Rao urged voters to elect BRS candidates contesting on the car symbol. He assured that he would take responsibility for the development of Chitkul and Isnapur. "Bless the councillors with your votes and support the BRS. KCR's government will return, and development will continue," he declared.

Ponnam Prabhakar Campaigns for Congress Candidates in Karimnagar Corporation



Karimnagar, Feb 7, 2026 | TPN Bureau

State Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Friday intensified the Congress party's municipal election campaign in Buttirajaram Colony under the Karimnagar Municipal Corporation, extending his support to Congress candidates contesting from multiple divisions. The minister campaigned in favour of Ganta Srinivas (25th Division), Vaidyula Anjan Kumar (26th Division), Moola Srujana (3rd Division), and

Kolagani Anil (2nd Division), urging voters to elect them with a huge majority.

Addressing residents during the campaign, Ponnam Prabhakar appealed to people to cast their votes for the Congress party's hand symbol and ensure the victory of its candidates. He said the candidates would remain accessible to the public at all times and stand by the people in resolving their civic and personal issues. The minister urged voters to bless the candidates

with their support, stating that their victory would accelerate development in the area.

The election campaign witnessed vibrant scenes as Ponnam Prabhakar boosted the morale of party workers by beating drums and energising cadres. He criticised both the BRS, which ruled the state between 2014 and 2023, and the BJP, which has been in power at the Centre for the last 12 years, questioning what tangible development they had delivered to the con-

stituency during their long tenures.

"We have achieved in just two years what they could not accomplish in ten years," the minister asserted. He said several basic infrastructure facilities were provided during earlier Congress regimes, but the last decade saw neglect and lack of focus on development. With the formation of the Praja Palana government, he said, Congress has once again begun implementing multiple welfare schemes and development programmes.

Highlighting welfare initiatives, Ponnam Prabhakar said the Congress government has sanctioned Indiramma houses and questioned whether the previous regime had even provided a single double-bedroom house or ration card over the past ten years. He stated that the Congress government is issuing ration cards to all eligible families and distributing fine rice, a scheme unmatched anywhere else in the country.

The minister also list-

ed key welfare measures such as 200 units of free electricity, gas subsidy, free bus travel for women, and interest-free loans to women self-help groups. He said these schemes reflect the Congress party's commitment to inclusive growth and social justice.

Referring to candidate Vaidyula Anjan Kumar, Ponnam Prabhakar said that as the city Congress president, Anjan Kumar has steadily risen in political life and, with people's blessings, would work tirelessly for development. He emphasised that real development in municipal corporations is possible only when the ruling party forms the local body as well.

Concluding his address, the minister called upon voters to support Congress candidates and ensure their victory, stating that a Congress mayor and councillors aligned with the state government would guarantee sustained development and effective implementation of welfare schemes in Karimnagar.

Srihari Campaigns Intensively in Makthal Municipal Wards

Makthal | February 8, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister Vakiti Srihari carried out an extensive election campaign in Makthal Municipality, focusing on Wards 9 and 10, as part of the ongoing local body elections. Moving door to door and interacting directly with residents, the minister urged voters to extend their full support to Congress candidates and ensure their victory in all wards for the overall development of Makthal town.

Addressing gatherings in different localities, Minister Srihari said that the people of Makthal were openly expressing their support for what he described as a "people-centric government." He stated that welfare-oriented schemes such as free travel for women in RTC

buses, a 500 gas subsidy, and free electricity up to 200 units had won the confidence of town voters, who were keen to see these initiatives continue.

The minister highlighted his development record, stating that after being elected as MLA, he worked to bring projects worth 1,035 crore to Makthal, significantly improving infrastructure and public facilities. Recalling past difficulties, Srihari said that residents once faced severe hardships due to the absence of a local court. With the establishment of a court in Makthal, he noted, people are now able to resolve their legal issues within the town itself.

Srihari also cautioned voters against what he termed as "divisive forces" allegedly conspiring to defeat Congress candi-



dates in the municipal wards. He asserted that, as a minister, he has the capacity and experience to mobilize thousands of crores in funds to accelerate Makthal's development and take the town forward on a strong

growth path. Calling on voters to deliver a decisive verdict, the minister appealed to the people of Makthal to give a fitting response to political opponents by ensuring a clear victory for Congress candidates

across all wards. He emphasized that such a mandate would strengthen development efforts and help realize the vision of a progressive and prosperous Makthal.

All-Party Meet Calls for United Fight on Boduppall Waqf Board Issue



Boduppall, February 8 | TPN Bureau

An all-party meeting was held on Sunday at the Bolligudem Balaji Nagar Colony Welfare Association building in Boduppall to deliberate on the long-pending Waqf Board land issue that has put the future of nearly 10,000 families at stake. The meeting focused on finding a permanent and collective solution to the problem, which affects around 300 acres of land across multiple residential colonies in the Boduppall area.

Representatives of the Registration Restoration Struggle Committee, along with presidents and members of various colony associations, participated in the extensive discussions. Speakers stressed that the issue should not be confined to a single locality or community and resolved that it must be addressed beyond political affiliations. Participants unanimously agreed on the need for unity to safeguard the rights and livelihoods of thousands of affected families.

One of the key reso-

lutions adopted during the meeting was to press the government to immediately restore and resume the stalled property registration process. Members expressed concern that the prolonged delay has created uncertainty, financial hardship, and mental stress among residents who have invested their life savings in their homes. They emphasized that the issue has far-reaching social and economic consequences if left unresolved. While acknowledging the importance of legal remedies, the participants strongly felt that public mobilisation is equally necessary to draw the attention of the authorities. They opined that a people-driven movement would be the most effective way to ensure that the voices of the affected families are heard at the highest levels of government.

As part of the action plan, the meeting unanimously decided to organize a massive 'Maha Dharna' in Boduppall on February 22. The protest aims to highlight the gravity of the issue

and demand immediate intervention from the government. A call was given to all affected families and colony associations to participate in large numbers to make the protest a success and protect their legal and constitutional rights.

Several prominent representatives attended the meeting, including Balaji Nagar President Venkatesh Paltia, Sri Sai Nagar President Kantha Reddy, and Komurayya from Rajalingam Colony Phase-2. Members of the Registration Restoration Struggle Committee, including Pramod Kumar, Santosh, Srinivas, and Dattatreya Sastry, were also present.

In addition, colony representatives and residents such as J. Rajanna, Venkatesh Yadav B., Y. Siddulu, Ramana Reddy, Manibabu, Srinivas Naik, Ravi, and Ram Mohan participated in large numbers, reflecting the growing public concern. The meeting concluded with a strong resolve to continue the united struggle until a fair and permanent solution is achieved.

Medaram Jatara Hundi Counting Reaches Day Four

Hanumakonda, February 8 | TPN Bureau

The counting of hundi offerings collected during the Sannamakka-Saralama Jatara-2026 continued for the fourth consecutive day at the TTD Kalyana Mandapam in Hanumakonda. The process is being carried out under tight supervision by officials of the Endowments Department along with members of the Seva Samithi.

According to officials, a total of 828 hundis were installed during the mega tribal festival. These included 780 iron hundis, 45 cloth hundis, and three rice hundis. As part of the fourth day's exercise, 200 hundis were opened and counted, yielding an income of 2,64,75,757.

Officials provided a detailed breakup of collections from the previous days as well. On February 5, counting of 125 hundis re-

sulted in an income of 2,49,65,000. On February 6, 160 hundis were counted, generating 3,54,25,200, along with an additional 63,436 obtained through the exchange of foreign currency. On February 7, 140 hundis were opened, accounting for 2,01,21,440, with foreign currency exchange adding another 71,283 to the total.

With the completion of the fourth day's counting, a total of 625 hundis have been opened so far. The cumulative income generated over these four days has reached 10,71,22,116, officials confirmed. The substantial offerings reflect the deep faith of devotees who attended the biennial Sannamakka-Saralama Jatara, one of the largest tribal festivals in Asia. Authorities stated that the cash amount of 2,64,75,757 collected on the fourth day was formally handed over to bank officials in the

presence of designated supervisory officers, ensuring transparency in the process. Gold and silver offerings received from devotees have been segregated and securely stored in separate iron hundis, which have been sealed and locked as per prescribed procedures. Officials also clarified that the counting of coins has not yet commenced and will be taken up in the next phase after the completion of currency note verification. The hundi counting process is expected to continue for the next few days until all remaining hundis are opened and accounted for. The Endowments Department reiterated its commitment to maintaining strict accountability and security throughout the counting process, adding that detailed reports will be prepared once the entire exercise is completed.



Why an Attack on Iran Would Put Trump in a Strategic and Political Bind

As tensions between the United States and Iran have intensified, speculation about a possible US military strike has grown. While headlines often focus on the threat of war, what gets less attention is how difficult such a campaign would be for the US — especially under President Donald Trump's leadership. The argument that the US could easily dominate Iran militarily overlooks a range of political, strategic, and diplomatic hurdles. In reality, if the Trump administration were to pursue a strike — whether limited or more expansive — it would confront two serious sets of challenges: domestic political constraints and complex international dynamics that could undercut America's objectives and cost dearly in blood, treasure, and influence.

The Options on the Table

Before examining the core problems, it's important to clarify the military options available to the US. Broadly speaking, there are two plausible approaches:

1. **A Limited Strike:** This would consist of targeted air attacks designed to weaken specific Iranian capabilities — for example, hitting nuclear facilities, leadership targets, or sections of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). A limited strike could be executed without deploying large numbers of American troops and might not require prior authorization from Congress.
2. **A Sustained Ground Campaign:** This would involve sending US forces into Iran to dismantle the regime, eradicate its nuclear program, and potentially install a pro-Western government. Such a campaign would be far larger in scale and carry much greater political and

logistical weight. At first glance, a limited strike appears more feasible and attractive. America's advanced air and naval power makes quick, high-impact operations possible without extensive boots on the ground. Indeed, previous US strikes in mid-2025 showed how powerful air assets can be in degrading Iranian military infrastructure and nuclear sites. However, the immediate tactical success of such strikes obscures their limitations — and the deeper difficulties that arise once the bombs stop falling.

Domestic Roadblocks: Congress and Partisan Politics

Any sustained military operation against Iran would run headlong into American politics. Unlike conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, public support for major foreign entanglements has dwindled. There is a rare bipartisan consensus in Congress against protracted military interventions, motivated by decades of costly wars abroad and the rising political costs of overseas deployments. Lawmakers from both parties fear the United States repeating the mistakes of the past — engaging in a long, uncertain conflict that drains resources and distracts from domestic priorities.

This reluctance is not just rhetorical. In late 2025, Congress repealed some of the broad legal authorities that had previously allowed presidents to use military force overseas without specific new approval. The repeal of the Iraq Authorisation for Use of Military Force (AUMF), for example, reflects lawmakers' discomfort with unchecked executive power to wage war. Similar skepticism was evident earlier in the year when members of Congress opposed the administration's use of force in Venezuela. These developments signal that lawmakers are prepared to assert themselves if the president seeks to escalate militarily in Iran.



Moreover, the calendar matters. With the 2026 mid-term elections approaching, political leaders on Capitol Hill are acutely sensitive to public opinion. Imagining US casualties, higher fuel prices, or broader instability in the Middle East could all prove damaging for incumbents. Members of Congress know that supporting an open-ended war is often a political liability. As a result, any plan that moves beyond a narrowly defined airstrike could quickly lose legislative backing, cutting off funding or restricting the duration and scope of operations.

Even if the Trump administration tried to proceed without congressional approval, budgetary control resides with Congress. In negotiations over the federal budget and related appropriations, lawmakers could slip in provisions that limit or prohibit funding for military campaigns in Iran. That would constrain not only operations but also the adminis-

tration's ability to sustain long-term engagement.

The Challenges With International Support

Even if domestic political obstacles could be managed, the Trump administration's difficulties would not end there. The United States' ability to wage war effectively depends heavily on international cooperation. But on this front, the picture is mixed at best.

On one hand, certain partners might be supportive — or at least willing to assist defensively. Israel, for instance, shares America's concerns about Iran's nuclear ambitions and has been an active partner in regional security operations. Some Kurdish forces and other regional actors might also align with American efforts under specific conditions.

However, much of America's international coalition scene is far more complicated. Several key regional states — including Qatar,

Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia — have publicly refused to offer airspace for US attacks on Iran. These countries are wary of a broader conflict that could destabilize the region and backfire economically and politically. They oppose regime change in Tehran not because they support Iran's policies, but because they fear what comes after a US strike: retaliation, refugee flows, sectarian strife, and greater Iranian influence among neighbouring proxies.

European allies and treaty partners also have reservations. Traditions of cooperation in Iraq and Afghanistan do not necessarily translate into enthusiasm for a new, unbounded conflict in Iran. Many NATO members are reluctant to put troops into another Middle East theatre, especially when relations with the US have shown strains in recent years. Events like the fallout over Greenland — where transat-

lantic trust took a hit — illustrate how fractured allied confidence in Washington has become.

Japan and Australia, while treaty partners, face their own strategic dilemmas. Both are constrained by geography and domestic opinion from committing forces far from home, particularly when doing so might entangle them in a prolonged conflict with uncertain outcomes. China's increasing assertiveness in Asia further limits Tokyo's strategic bandwidth.

Post-Strike Realities: What Happens After the Guns Fall Silent?

Beyond the political and diplomatic hurdles, there is the fundamental problem of objectives. Suppose the United States manages to conduct a limited strike that degrades Iran's nuclear facilities. What then?

These kinds of operations have a track record of short-term tactical success but long-term strategic complication. Limited strikes do not eliminate the underlying drivers of conflict. Iran's leadership, deeply embedded in revolutionary ideology and national pride, would likely view such attacks as existential threats. This could provoke asymmetric retaliation through proxies such as Hezbollah, Houthi rebels, and other aligned militias across the Middle East. It could also accelerate Tehran's pursuit of nuclear capabilities underground or dispersed — harder to locate and target.

A sustained campaign aiming not only to degrade capabilities but to replace the Iranian regime would multiply these problems many times over. Without ground forces to secure territory and manage political transition, a power vacuum could open. In Iraq and Afghanistan, the absence of a clear post-combat strategy allowed insurgencies and instability to flourish. Iran — with its larger population, complex internal

politics, and powerful security apparatus — could produce an even more volatile aftermath.

And yet deploying ground forces would exacerbate domestic opposition in the US and likely erode whatever international support America might cobble together. The political and human costs of such a campaign would be staggering, not just in terms of finances but in lives and long-term regional influence.

Conclusion: War from a Position of Discomfort

If the Trump administration does decide to resort to military force, it will almost certainly do so from a position of discomfort rather than strength. The structural constraints of American politics, the fragility of international coalitions, and the hard realities of modern warfare make a clean, successful intervention in Iran unlikely. For all the talk of decisive, powerful action, the practical barriers — both at home and abroad — are formidable.

In the face of these challenges, diplomatic avenues cannot be dismissed. Even as Trump threatens further action, talks between US and Iranian officials continue intermittently, offering a potential path to de-escalation and compromise. While nuclear negotiations are far from resolved, the complexities of war make diplomacy not just preferable but politically expedient for an administration already stretched thin on multiple fronts.

In short, striking Iran is not merely a question of military capability. It is a strategic dilemma with deep roots in American political realities and the unstable fabric of Middle Eastern geopolitics. Attempts to force a swift, decisive outcome through force alone risk entangling the United States in a much more prolonged, costly conflict — one that neither Washington nor its partners are truly prepared to win.

Pakistan's Mineral Wealth Is Real — So Are the Risks Scaring Foreign Investors

Pakistan sits on some of the most promising mineral deposits in South Asia, including copper, gold, and critical minerals that are increasingly vital to the global economy. On paper, these resources could help stabilise the country's finances, attract billions in foreign investment, and integrate Pakistan into global supply chains for clean energy and advanced technology. Yet despite renewed international interest, foreign investors are growing uneasy. The reason is not a lack of minerals, but the difficult realities surrounding their extraction.

The gap between promise and practice has become increasingly obvious. While Islamabad highlights mineral wealth as a future economic pillar, investors see a sector weighed down by security threats, governance weaknesses, infrastructure gaps, and political uncertainty. Together, these factors are turning what should be a long-term opportunity into a high-risk gamble.

Why Pakistan's Minerals Matter Globally

Global demand for minerals such as copper, gold, lithium, and rare earth elements has surged as countries race to build electric vehicles, renewable energy systems, and defence technologies. Pakistan's mineral-rich regions, especially in Balochistan, have therefore attracted attention from major international players. Projects like the Reko Diq copper-gold deposit are often described as world-class assets capable of generating revenue for decades.

For foreign investors, these minerals represent more than profit. They are strategic assets in an era where supply

chains are being reshaped by geopolitical competition. Diversifying mineral sources away from over-reliance on a few countries is now a priority for many governments and corporations. In theory, Pakistan fits neatly into this emerging strategy.

However, large-scale mining is not driven by geology alone. Investors must be confident that they can operate safely, predictably, and profitably over long periods. It is on these fronts that concerns begin to multiply.

Security Concerns in Mineral-Rich Regions

The most immediate worry for investors is security, particularly in Balochistan. The province has faced decades of insurgency, with militant groups targeting state institutions, infrastructure, and foreign-linked projects. For these groups, mining projects symbolise exploitation and central control rather than local development.

Attacks near transport routes and project sites have heightened fears about supply chain disruptions and the safety of personnel. Even when the state deploys additional security forces, the cost of protecting remote mining operations remains high. For investors, security risks translate directly into higher insurance costs, operational delays, and reputational concerns.

Crucially, security is not just about physical protection. Persistent instability creates uncertainty, and uncertainty discourages long-term investment. Mining projects often require decades to recover costs and generate profits. Few companies are willing to make such commitments in regions



where conditions can deteriorate quickly.

Governance and Policy Uncertainty

Beyond security, governance issues loom large. Mining projects demand clear legal frameworks, stable contracts, and reliable dispute resolution mechanisms. Pakistan's track record in this regard has made investors cautious.

Regulatory authority over minerals is divided between federal and provincial governments, often leading to confusion over licensing, taxation, and revenue sharing. Policy reversals, bureaucratic delays, and inconsistent enforcement add to the perception that the rules of the game can change mid-stream.

Past disputes between the state and foreign companies have also left a mark. Investors remember lengthy legal battles and abrupt policy shifts, which undermine confidence in long-

term commitments. Even when reforms are announced, investors often wait to see whether they are implemented consistently over time.

Infrastructure and Cost Challenges

Extracting minerals from remote regions is expensive even under ideal conditions. In Pakistan, infrastructure constraints significantly raise costs. Many mineral deposits are located far from ports, refineries, and industrial hubs. Roads, railways, power supply, and water infrastructure are often inadequate or unreliable.

Energy costs pose a particular problem. Mining is energy-intensive, and high electricity tariffs reduce competitiveness compared to other mineral-producing countries. Without affordable and reliable power, even rich deposits can become commercially unattractive.

Logistics challenges also

limit Pakistan's ability to move up the value chain. Instead of processing minerals domestically and exporting higher-value products, the country risks remaining a raw material supplier — reducing potential economic benefits and weakening the case for large-scale foreign investment.

Local Discontent and the Social Licence to Operate

Another major concern is local acceptance. In mineral-rich areas, communities often feel excluded from decision-making and see little direct benefit from resource extraction. This fuels resentment and strengthens narratives used by insurgent groups.

For investors, local opposition can be as damaging as armed conflict. Protests, legal challenges, and community resistance can delay projects and increase costs. In today's global business environment, companies are also under

pressure to meet environmental, social, and governance standards. Operating in areas where local populations feel marginalised exposes firms to reputational risks.

Without credible mechanisms to share benefits, create local jobs, and invest in community development, mining projects struggle to gain the social licence needed for long-term success.

Geopolitical and Market Uncertainty

Geopolitics adds another layer of complexity. Pakistan's mineral sector has attracted interest from multiple global powers, each with its own strategic priorities. While this creates opportunities, it also complicates decision-making. Competing interests, shifting alliances, and regional tensions can affect project timelines and investor confidence.

At the same time, global

commodity markets are volatile. Prices for metals can swing sharply based on economic cycles, technological shifts, and policy changes. In a stable environment, companies can manage these risks. In a high-risk country setting, volatility further weakens the investment case.

A Promise That Remains Unfulfilled

Pakistan's mineral wealth is undeniable. With the right policies, it could contribute significantly to economic recovery and long-term growth. But minerals alone do not guarantee success. What investors seek is a predictable environment where risks are manageable and rewards are fairly distributed.

For now, many foreign investors remain cautious. Security concerns, governance weaknesses, infrastructure gaps, and social tensions combine to create a landscape where potential rewards are offset by substantial risks. Announcements and agreements may generate optimism, but confidence will depend on consistent action rather than promises.

If Pakistan wants to convert its mineral potential into sustained investment, it must address these structural challenges head-on. Stability, transparency, local inclusion, and infrastructure development are not optional — they are prerequisites. Until then, foreign investors are likely to tread carefully, watching closely but committing slowly, aware that beneath Pakistan's mineral riches lies a complex and uncertain reality.

Himanta Biswa Sarma Escalates Allegations Against Gaurav Gogoi Over 'Pakistan Links'; Opposition Denounces Claims



Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has once again targeted Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi, this time alleging serious "Pakistan links" involving Gogoi and his family — claims that have sharply intensified the political confrontation in the state ahead of elections.

Sarma, addressing a press conference in Guwahati, said the matter is too serious to be dealt with by the state alone and should be handed over to a central agency for investigation due to its national security implications. He explained that a Special Investigation Team (SIT) set up by the Assam government had submitted its report to the state cabinet, and based on its findings, the cabinet decided to seek involvement from the

Union Ministry of Home Affairs. According to the Chief Minister, the SIT report points to troubling associations that merit deeper scrutiny by national security authorities.

At the centre of Sarma's allegations is the claim that Gogoi's British wife shared confidential information with Pakistan interests during her time in Islamabad, and that Gogoi's own interactions warranted examination. Sarma also accused Gogoi of making visits to Pakistan under circumstances that require explanation and suggested that these visits and connections could indicate a broader conspiracy. The chief minister stressed that the Assam government lacks the jurisdiction to access certain classified records, further

justifying the need for central investigation.

Gogoi has forcefully rejected all accusations, dismissing Sarma's briefing as baseless and politically motivated. He labelled the press conference a "superflop" and criticised the chief minister for failing to address substantive governance issues in Assam. Gogoi accused Sarma of attempting to divert public attention from serious matters such as land and administrative concerns, and he insisted that the allegations lack credible evidence.

The Congress MP's response highlighted the deepening distrust between the state's ruling party and the opposition. Gogoi's camp described the allegations as part of a broader political strategy at a time when the battle for political

influence in Assam is intensifying ahead of state polls, and called on Sarma to produce evidence rather than rhetoric.

The situation has become a prominent political flashpoint in Assam, drawing nationwide attention as both leaders stick to sharply contrasting narratives. While Sarma frames the issue as one of national interest and security, Gogoi and his supporters argue that the accusations are politically driven and lack substantiation.

As the controversy develops, calls for a transparent and impartial probe — possibly involving central investigative agencies — are mounting from multiple quarters, reflecting the high stakes and deep divisions in Assam's political landscape.

BJP MLA Devyani Rana Criticises J&K Budget, Wins Praise Even from Ruling Party Members

In an unusual moment in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, BJP MLA Devyani Rana delivered a sharp critique of the Union Territory's budget while earning appreciation from legislators belonging to the ruling National Conference (NC), including supporters of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

Rana, a first-time MLA, was making her maiden budget speech in the House after winning a by-election from the Nagrota constituency. Before she began speaking, the Speaker urged members to give her a fair hearing. What followed was a detailed and forceful intervention that cut across party lines.

During her address, Rana raised serious concerns over cuts in key budget allocations, particularly in the area of disaster management and relief. She pointed out that funding for disaster response had been reduced significantly despite Jammu and Kashmir witnessing frequent floods, landslides and extreme weather events.



She argued that lowering allocations at such a time was both impractical and risky, especially for vulnerable rural regions.

Rana also criticised the reduction in education spending, warning that lower allocations could lead to the closure or merger of schools, adversely affecting students from economically weaker backgrounds. She stressed that edu-

cation should remain a priority sector and cautioned against decisions that could weaken the region's learning infrastructure.

In addition, the BJP legislator questioned the implementation of welfare schemes, highlighting gaps between policy announcements and ground-level execution. She cited examples of public transport facilities meant for per-

sons with disabilities, noting that many services lacked basic accessibility features despite being promoted as inclusive initiatives.

Despite her strong criticism of the budget presented by the ruling party, Rana's remarks were met with desk-thumping applause from both opposition and treasury benches. Several NC legislators were seen acknowledging her points, and members from across party lines later congratulated her for a well-argued speech.

Political observers noted that such bipartisan appreciation is rare during budget debates, which are typically marked by sharp confrontations. Rana's measured tone, focus on public issues, and emphasis on development over politics were seen as reasons behind the unexpected support.

Her speech stood out as a reminder that constructive criticism, when rooted in public interest, can momentarily bridge political divides in an otherwise polarised assembly.

Centre Blocks Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann's Europe Visit Again; AAP Calls It Political Targeting

The Union government has denied political clearance for Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's proposed official visit to the Czech Republic and the Netherlands, forcing the cancellation of the trip. This marks the third time in recent months that the Centre has blocked the chief minister's overseas travel plans.

The visit was intended to promote Punjab as an investment destination and to hold meetings with potential investors and global stakeholders ahead of the state's upcoming Investors Summit. As per protocol, chief ministers require political clearance from the Ministry of External Affairs for official foreign visits. In this case, the required approval was not granted, leaving the delegation unable to proceed.

Earlier, Mann's planned visits to the United Kingdom and Israel were also denied clearance. Previous travel plans to France had met a similar fate, making this the third consecutive instance of the Punjab chief minister's



foreign tour being halted. The repeated refusals have drawn sharp political reactions from the state's ruling party.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has strongly criticised the Centre's decision, alleging discriminatory treatment toward opposition-ruled states. Party leaders said blocking the chief minister's international engagements hampers Punjab's ability to

attract foreign investment, build economic partnerships, and engage with the Indian diaspora at a crucial time.

According to Punjab government officials, preparations for the Europe visit had been completed well in advance, including securing visas and finalising meetings with potential investors and institutions. However, without political clearance,

the trip had to be cancelled at the last minute, causing disruption to the planned outreach.

AAP leaders argued that several other state chief ministers have undertaken foreign visits with Centre approval and questioned why Punjab is being singled out. They demanded transparency and consistency in the clearance process, asserting that international engagement is essential for economic growth and should not be politicised.

The Centre traditionally does not publicly disclose reasons for granting or withholding political clearance, citing diplomatic protocol and national considerations. In this case, the lack of explanation has further fuelled the political controversy.

The episode has once again highlighted strained relations between the Punjab government and the Centre, and is expected to remain a point of political debate as the state prepares for major economic initiatives in the coming months.

RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat Says Marriage Is a Social Duty, Advocates Three-Child Family Philosophy



Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday made a range of comments on India's demographic situation, societal responsibilities and the role of citizens in national well-being during a public address.

Bhagwat said that marriage should be viewed not merely as a matter of personal consent but as a social duty with implications for society at large. He linked this to his broader commentary on population trends, suggesting that traditional values and social responsibility play a significant role in maintaining demographic balance.

On the sensitive issue of population, Bhagwat reiterated his long-standing view that families should ideally have three children to ensure societal stability and demographic balance. He referred to both traditional scriptures and medical perspectives to back his argument, saying that societies with too few children risk long-term imbalance and decline. He noted that while India's official policy refer-

ence point is a fertility rate of 2.1, in practical terms this translates to three children per family. According to him, three children, if spaced appropriately, foster social and familial stability.

Bhagwat also voiced concerns about population shifts being influenced by factors beyond birth rates alone. He highlighted religious conversion and illegal infiltration as contributing elements to demographic change. In this context, he urged citizens to serve as the "eyes and ears" of the state and report instances of suspected infiltration to law enforcement authorities, stressing that societal alertness is vital for national security and social cohesion.

Moving beyond population, Bhagwat offered his perspective on economic measures like Gross Domestic Product (GDP), arguing that GDP figures alone do not fully capture the health of India's economy. He encouraged a broader focus on quality alongside quantity in economic output, suggesting that a holistic approach to growth would yield a

more resilient financial future and strengthen the Indian Rupee.

Addressing concerns about the RSS's relationship with the government, Bhagwat clarified that the organisation does not operate from behind the scenes. He stressed that government decisions are made by those in office, and the RSS stands ready to support national progress without engaging in "back-seat driving."

Bhagwat also touched on security, referencing recent incidents by saying that while government intelligence is vital, a vigilant and engaged citizenry ultimately strengthens community safety. He further extended his remarks internationally, urging global cooperation and unity among Hindus worldwide to advocate for rights and justice.

In closing, Bhagwat reaffirmed that the RSS remains open to people of all castes and backgrounds, maintains a zero-tolerance stance toward corruption, and that his own commitment to serving the nation will continue even after retirement.

Sanjay Raut Questions Salman Khan's Presence at RSS Event, Asks 'Coercion or Conviction?'



Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut has raised questions over Bollywood actor Salman Khan's presence at a Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) event held in Mumbai, triggering political debate over the symbolism and intent behind the appearance.

Speaking to the media, Raut asked whether Salman Khan attended the event out of personal conviction or due to some form of pressure. He questioned the RSS's motive in inviting the actor, asking whether the move was meant to draw public attention, increase crowd appeal, or project an image of inclusivity by showcasing a prominent Muslim personality at a major organisational event.

Raut urged RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat to clarify the intent behind Salman Khan's participation, suggesting that such appearances carry political and social messaging beyond the event itself. He said pub-

lic figures of Salman Khan's stature naturally influence public perception, making their presence at ideologically driven events significant.

The event in question was part of the RSS's centenary celebrations and was organised as a two-day lecture series titled "100 Years of Sangh Journey: New Horizons" at a prominent auditorium in Mumbai. Several invited guests from different fields attended the programme, but Salman Khan's presence drew particular attention due to his celebrity status and the ideological nature of the organisation.

Visuals from the event showed the actor seated among attendees and listening to speeches by RSS leaders. While Salman Khan did not make any public statement during or after the event, his attendance quickly became a topic of political commentary and social media discussion.

Political observers note that such appearances by film personalities often carry layered interpretations. Supporters of the RSS see the presence of celebrities as part of broader social outreach during milestone celebrations, while critics argue that these gestures are designed to send political signals or reshape public narratives.

Raut's remarks also come amid ongoing political churn in Maharashtra, where symbolism and optics play a key role in shaping alliances and voter perception. His comments reflect wider debates about the intersection of celebrity culture, ideology and politics in contemporary India.

The episode highlights how public appearances by high-profile figures can quickly become political flashpoints, even in the absence of explicit statements, underscoring the influence celebrities hold in shaping public discourse.

Japan Goes to Polls as PM Sanae Takaichi Seeks Strong Mandate, Vows to Quit if Ruling Bloc Loses

Japan has gone to the polls in a snap general election, with Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi seeking a decisive mandate to strengthen her leadership and push forward her policy agenda. Voting began nationwide amid challenging winter conditions in several regions, making the election a crucial test of her political standing.

Takaichi, Japan's first woman prime minister, called the early election just months after taking office, aiming to convert her government's narrow majority into a more stable and commanding one. She has made a dramatic public pledge, stating that she will step down as prime minister if her ruling coalition fails to secure a majority in the powerful Lower House of Parliament.

The election campaign was notably brief, lasting just over two weeks, following the dissolution of the Lower House. This made it one of the shortest election campaigns in Japan's post-war history, forcing political parties to campaign intensely in a limited time frame.

The prime minister has campaigned on a conservative platform, emphasising economic reforms, national security, and stronger defence policies. She has advocated measures to boost Japan's defence capabilities and review long-standing restrictions on weapons ex-



ports. On the economic front, Takaichi promised temporary tax relief on food items to ease the burden of rising living costs on households.

Opinion surveys conducted before voting suggested that the ruling party and its coalition partners were well positioned to retain power, potentially with an expanded majority. A strong win would give Takaichi greater authority within her party and allow her to pursue more ambitious

reforms.

Opposition parties, however, have criticised the government for prioritising security and ideological issues over everyday economic concerns such as inflation, wage growth, and social welfare. They have sought to frame the election as a referendum on cost-of-living pressures and governance rather than ideology.

The election has also been shaped by severe winter weather, with heavy snowfall in parts

of the country raising concerns about voter turnout. Despite the conditions, authorities expect sufficient participation to reflect public opinion.

As counting begins, all eyes are on whether Takaichi's political gamble will succeed. A victory would consolidate her position and provide stability, while a loss could trigger her resignation and usher in a period of political uncertainty in Japan.

Washington Post Publisher Will Lewis Steps Down Days After Major Staff Layoffs

Will Lewis, the publisher and chief executive of The Washington Post, has announced his decision to step down, just days after the newspaper carried out large-scale layoffs that significantly reduced its workforce. The move comes at a turbulent moment for one of the world's most influential news organisations.

Lewis informed employees of his resignation through an internal message, stating that after overseeing a period of major transformation at the newspaper, he believed it was the right time to step aside. His departure follows deep staff cuts that affected hundreds of employees across multiple departments.

The layoffs, among the most extensive in the paper's recent history, led to reductions in foreign reporting, local coverage, sports journalism, and visual storytelling teams. The cuts were part of broader cost-cut-



ting efforts as the organisation faces ongoing financial pressure from declining digital subscriptions and advertising revenue.

Lewis had been appointed to the role in early 2024 and was tasked with stabilising the newspaper's finances while reshaping its business strategy. However, his tenure drew criticism from staff members and

industry observers, particularly over the handling of newsroom restructuring and the timing of leadership decisions.

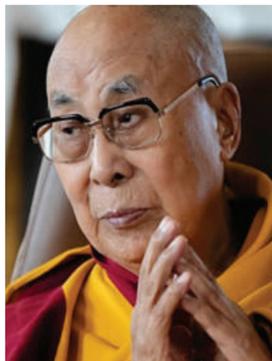
Employee representatives voiced strong opposition to the layoffs, arguing that the cuts weakened the newsroom's ability to deliver high-quality journalism. Lewis's resignation has been viewed by some with-

in the organisation as a response to growing internal dissent and morale concerns.

Following his departure, the company's chief financial officer has been named acting publisher and CEO, taking charge during a period of uncertainty. Leadership has acknowledged the challenges facing the media industry and emphasised the need to balance financial sustainability with editorial strength.

The resignation underscores the broader crisis confronting traditional media outlets as they struggle to adapt to shifting consumer habits, rising costs, and intense competition in the digital space. As The Washington Post enters a new chapter, attention will be focused on whether its next leadership can restore stability, rebuild trust within the newsroom, and chart a sustainable path forward.

Dalai Lama Denies Any Association with Jeffrey Epstein After Name Appears in Released Files



The Office of the Dalai Lama has firmly denied any connection between the Tibetan spiritual leader and disgraced financier Jeffrey Epstein, after reports surfaced that his name appeared in recently released Epstein-related documents. According to an official statement issued from Dharamsala, the Dalai Lama has never met, communicated with, or had any form of association with Epstein. The office clarified that the spiritual leader did not authorise any meeting, nor did he have any personal or institutional interaction with Epstein at any point in time. The clarification came after media reports highlighted that the Dalai Lama's name appeared multiple times in the documents made public as part of the Epstein files. His office emphasised that mere mentions in documents do

not indicate contact, involvement, or endorsement, and that the references were either incidental or speculative in nature.

Officials explained that some mentions stemmed from third-party communications or hypothetical plans in which Epstein had expressed interest in attending events where the Dalai Lama might be present. However, the statement made it clear that no such meetings ever took place, and there is no photographic, financial, or travel-related evidence linking the two.

The office also rejected online speculation and social media claims suggesting otherwise, describing them as misleading and unfounded. It stressed that the Dalai Lama's engagements and meetings are carefully documented and transparent, and no record exists of any interaction with Epstein.

The statement reiterated that the Dalai Lama remains committed to his spiritual mission of promoting peace, compassion, and interfaith harmony, and urged the public to avoid drawing conclusions based solely on unverified references in large document releases.

As the global scrutiny surrounding the Epstein files continues, the Dalai Lama's office underlined that being named in documents does not imply wrongdoing, and called for responsible reporting and interpretation of the information contained in the files.

Former French Minister Jack Lang Resigns Following Fallout from Epstein Files

Veteran French politician Jack Lang has resigned from his position as president of the Arab World Institute in Paris after his name surfaced in documents linked to the late financier Jeffrey Epstein. The resignation follows mounting public and political pressure in France after the release of the Epstein-related files by U.S. authorities.

Lang, who has served as France's culture minister and education minister in the past, stepped down from the prestigious cultural role amid growing scrutiny over his past associations. The documents revealed that Lang's name appeared multiple times in communications connected to Epstein, triggering controversy and calls for accountability.

Following the disclosures, French authorities initiated a preliminary financial investigation involving Lang and his daughter to examine potential irregularities related to offshore arrangements. While no formal charges have been announced, the development significantly intensified pressure on the former minister and the institution he headed.

Lang has denied any wrongdoing, stating that he had no knowledge of Epstein's criminal activities at the time of their interactions. He has main-



tained that any contact was limited and related to cultural or academic initiatives. Despite these assertions, criticism continued to grow, with questions raised over judgment and transparency.

Officials overseeing the Arab World Institute expressed concern that the controversy could damage the institution's credibility and global standing. In this context, Lang chose to step aside, saying his resignation was intended to protect the organisation and allow investigations to proceed without distraction.

Lang's departure is being viewed as one of the most significant political consequences in Europe so far stemming from the Epstein file revelations. It reflects the broader impact of the disclosures, which have led to resignations, investigations, and public apologies across multiple countries.

As inquiries continue, the episode has reignited debate in France and beyond about ethical standards, elite networks, and accountability in public life. Further developments are expected as authorities examine the implications of the newly released documents.

Epstein Files Spark Political Turmoil Across Europe, Trigger Resignations and Investigations



The release of documents linked to disgraced financier Jeffrey Epstein has unleashed a wave of political fallout across several European countries, exposing connections between Epstein and prominent political, diplomatic, and royal figures. While the revelations have caused limited immediate disruption in the United States, their impact in Europe has been swift and significant.

In Norway, the disclosures have prompted authorities to examine past interactions between Epstein and senior political figures. Investigative agencies have initiated inquiries into whether any improper influence or misconduct took place, leading to growing demands for transparency and accountability. The controversy has intensified public debate around elite privilege and ethical conduct in public life.

The United Kingdom has also witnessed political repercussions. Senior political figures with historical associations to Epstein have faced renewed scruti-

ny, resulting in resignations and calls for formal reviews of past relationships and decisions. The episode has revived uncomfortable questions about how Epstein was able to gain access to influential circles despite his known criminal background.

In France, the fallout extended beyond politics into cultural institutions. High-profile resignations followed revelations that senior public figures had longstanding associations with Epstein. Authorities have launched financial and administrative reviews to determine whether any legal violations occurred, while public trust in elite institutions has been shaken.

Elsewhere in Europe, including parts of Central and Eastern Europe, political aides and national security officials stepped down after their names surfaced in the documents. Even when no direct wrongdoing was alleged, the appearance of close contact with Epstein proved politically damaging, reflecting a zero-tolerance public mood toward ethical lapses among leaders.

The controversy has also reached European royal circles. In a rare public admission, a senior royal figure acknowledged maintaining contact with Epstein in the past and apologised, describing the association as a serious lapse in judgment. The apology was widely seen as an attempt to contain reputational damage amid rising public anger.

Political analysts note that Europe's strong reaction reflects a broader cultural expectation of accountability from public officials. The rapid resignations contrast sharply with the United States, where figures named in the documents have largely avoided immediate political consequences.

As investigations continue, the Epstein files have become a catalyst for deeper conversations across Europe about power, influence, and transparency. The unfolding developments suggest that the scandal's long shadow is far from fading — and that its consequences for European politics may continue to surface in the months ahead.

Man Drives into Pedestrians at California Grocery Store; Multiple People Injured



A man intentionally drove his vehicle into pedestrians outside a grocery store in a California mountain community, injuring several people before fleeing the scene, authorities have confirmed. The attack occurred in broad daylight, leaving local residents shocked and prompting a swift response from law enforcement and emergency medical teams.

The incident took place outside a busy grocery store when the driver suddenly accelerated toward a group of people who were walking near the entrance. Multiple pedestrians were struck, with some suffering serious injuries. Emergency services were immediately called, and injured victims were transported to nearby hospitals for treatment. The extent of their injuries varied, with some described as severe.

Eyewitnesses at the scene described chaos and confusion as bystanders tried to

avoid the oncoming vehicle and assist victims who were lying on the pavement. Shoppers and staff at the grocery store rushed to help those who had been struck, providing first aid and calling for ambulances. Many witnesses expressed disbelief at the suddenness of the attack in what is usually considered a quiet, close-knit mountain town.

Local law enforcement officers quickly cordoned off the area and began searching for the suspect, who had fled the scene in the same vehicle used in the attack. Police urged residents to avoid the area while the search was underway and said they were working to determine the motive behind the incident. No immediate claim of responsibility or motive has been publicly disclosed.

Officials also asked anyone with information or video footage from the scene to come forward to assist in the investigation. Nearby

schools and businesses were placed on alert as authorities increased their presence in the area to ensure public safety and reassure residents.

The grocery store, a central hub for the small mountain community, was temporarily closed following the incident, and counseling services were offered to those affected by the traumatic event.

Authorities have not yet released the identity of the suspect or confirmed whether any arrests have been made. The incident remains under active investigation as police continue to piece together what led to the bizarre and violent act.

The community has reacted with shock and concern, as residents grapple with the sudden attack in their otherwise peaceful town. Local officials expressed sympathy for the victims and emphasised that ensuring public safety is a top priority.

SEBI Listing Norms on Corporate Governance to Override RBI Rules for Listed Banks



The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has clarified that its listing regulations on corporate governance will take precedence over the Reserve Bank of India's governance norms in the case of listed banks. This clarification brings much-needed regulatory clarity for banks that are subject to oversight by both market and banking regulators.

The issue arose due to overlapping governance frameworks issued by SEBI and the RBI, which at times created confusion for listed banks, particularly public sector lenders. While the RBI's governance directions allow certain responsibilities to be delegated to board-level committees, SEBI's Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements (LODR) regulations prescribe stricter disclosure and board-level oversight norms for listed entities.

SEBI clarified its position through an informal guidance issued in response to a query from a public sector bank. The bank had sought clarity on whether

the review of quarterly corporate governance compliance reports could be delegated to a board committee, as permitted under RBI guidelines. SEBI categorically stated that such delegation is not permitted under its listing regulations.

According to SEBI, quarterly corporate governance compliance reports must be placed before the full board of directors of a listed bank. Merely placing the report before a committee of the board, even if allowed under RBI norms, does not meet the requirements of SEBI's LODR framework. The regulator also emphasised that listed entities must disclose not only the fact that the report was placed before the board, but also any observations or directions issued by the board.

SEBI underlined that its listing regulations and related circulars are independent of RBI's governance directions and cannot be diluted or substituted by compliance under another regulatory framework. In essence, banks must

comply with RBI norms as regulated entities and with SEBI norms as listed companies, even if that results in additional compliance obligations.

The market regulator also clarified that the informal guidance reflects its interpretation based on the specific facts presented and does not amount to a binding order. However, it serves as a strong indicator of SEBI's regulatory intent and is expected to guide other listed banks facing similar questions.

This clarification is particularly relevant for public sector banks and financial institutions listed on stock exchanges, which often operate under multiple regulatory regimes. It reinforces SEBI's focus on strong board-level oversight, transparency, and accountability in listed entities.

Overall, the move establishes a clear hierarchy in governance compliance for listed banks and signals that market disclosure and corporate governance standards will not be compromised, even in the presence of parallel regulatory requirements.

The Big Reset: Decoding Budget 2026 and the New Market Momentum

The Union Budget 2026 has been shaken off, and the Dalal Street response would suggest that we are in a Big Reset. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has established a clear direction towards Viksit Bharat 2047 by focusing on the long term structural strength as opposed to short term populist relief.

The following is the in-depth discussion of the Budget and its far reaching implications on the financial markets.

1. The Fiscal Tightrope: Growth or Gimmicks.

The 4.3% fiscal deficit target in FY27 is the number that has made the heads of global analysts smile. The government has been able to convey a strong message to the sovereign rating agencies and foreign investors through its persistence in fiscal discipline even as global headwinds blow, India values its macro-stability and it is not negotiable.

In the case of the stock market, it implies a stable Rupee and a predictable environment of interest rates- the foundation of any long-term bull market.

2. The Strategic Pillars: Where the Money is Flowing.

The Budget was not a blanket-size paper, but a scalpel attack on certain high growth areas:

- **Semiconductors & AI (ISM 2.0):** India invests 40,000 crore in changing its focus on assembling and manufacturing. With the introduction of the Bharat Vistar (AI in agriculture), the government can be seen as being serious in bringing high-tech to the grassroots.
- **Biopharma Shakti:** A ₹10,000 crore push to turn India into a global biologics hub is a massive upgrade

from the traditional "pharmacy of the world" (generics) tag.

- **The Green Frontier:** There is an emphasis on the Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) and Carbon Capture (CCUS) programs worth 20,000 crore, which makes India one of the pioneers of the unavoidable Net-Zero shift.
- **Energy Change:** The Nuclear and Solar Push.

The budget 2026 is the historic move towards nuclear energy.

Nuclear Energy Mission: 20,000 crores on Small Modular Reactors (SMRs).

Rooftop Solar: 22,000 crore to be used to serve one crore households by March 2027, which is a huge order book to solar panel manufacturers.

3. Market Performance: The Post-budget Winners.

The Nifty went down to below 25,000 on Budget Day and many retail investors panicked. It is however, historical that Budget Day is more usually noisy. The actual trend is experienced next week. The increase in Securities Transaction Tax (STT) on F&O is a bitter pill, but it is meant to clear over-speculation and redirect the retail capital on long-term equity delivery and into the Mutual Funds.

It is now becoming a change of direction towards high-flying, speculative 1/meme stocks to "Quality Value", which are companies that have a high order book and whose performance is directly correlated with government spending.

4. The Market Pulse: The Nifty 50 and Sensex Analysis.

The response of the market was the story of a shock to be followed by a measured recovery. The

occasion of the special Sunday trading on February 1, 2026, has been among the most turbulent trading days in recent years.

- **Pre-Budget Sentiment:** The indices opened optimistically. Before the speech, the Sensex soared by almost 0.5 per cent to an intra-day high of 82,726.65 and the Nifty 50 by slightly above 25,440.90, almost.
- **The Budget Day Crash:** The introduction of a drastic increase in Securities Transaction Tax (STT) which was to be increased to 0.05 on Futures and 0.15 on Options created a sudden sell-off. Mumbai Sensex index fell by 1546.84 points (1.88) to 80,722.94 and the Nifty 50 index lost 495.20 (1.96) points to close at 24,825.45. Almost 10 lakh crore investor wealth was lost in one session.
- **Post-Budget Recovery:** The contentious tax increase came to a quiet by Monday, February 2, and investors paid attention to the huge 12.22 lakh crore capital expenditure (effective capex at 4.4% of GDP). Sensex had soared by 944 to be quoted at 81,666 and Nifty had also gone back to 25,000 to close by 1.06 at 25,088.40.

Best of the Best: Stocks and Sectors to follow.

Following the 2026 Budgetary Allocations.

1. The Infrastructure and Railway Giants.

At 2.7 lakh crore Railways and a mammoth initiative underway to make 7 high-speed corridors, these stocks are still in the buy on dips category:

- Larsen and Toubro



(L&T): The Indian capex and nuclear power, which is undisputed king.

- **RVNL / IRFC:** explicit beneficiaries of the mega modernization of the railways and Kavach upgrading.

2. The Frontier of Tech and Semiconductor.

- **Dixon Technologies:** A major bet on the Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme.
- **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS):** With the government urging towards AI-powered Viksit Bharat, TCS is the biggest provider of the digital form of the public infrastructure in India.

3. The New Age Picks (Biopharma and Critical Minerals).

- **Biocon:** Well-placed to take advantage of the BioPharma Shakti incentives.
- **Hindustan Copper / Vedanta:** These are the mining giants on the EV and the defense supply chain as India establishes its "Rare Earth Corridors" to date.

4. The "Green & Power" Movers

- **Adani Green Energy:** Climbed 3.8% after budget. The fact that the custom duty on sodium antimonate (solar glass) has been exempted directly reduces the costs of

inputs of the Khavda solar park, which is enormous.

- **Waaree Energies:** The shares experienced a tremendous 12 percent growth (soaring to 3,125). Other than the budget, an indication of a historic India-US trade deal that came with the budget cut tariffs on Indian solar exports by 25% to 18%, making Waaree an ideal beneficiary.
- **Premier Energies:** Trailed close behind with 9.3 percent growth, which was carried on the rooftop solar budget allocations and competitiveness in exports.

5. Defense & Electronics

- **Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL) & BEL:** Both stocks saw "buy-on-dips" action as the government increased defense modernization spends and pushed for indigenous C4ISR systems

The Final Word

Budget 2026 is a Foundational Budget. It disregards the lure of short-term increases in consumption in favor of construction of the factories, chips, and tracks of 2047. To the retail investor it is a very simple strategy: Forget the volatility, follow the Capex.

Ch.Sarath
CEO & Co-founder
The Rupee Company

IT Stocks Hit Hardest in Four Months as AI Fears Trigger Heavy Sell-Off



Indian information technology (IT) stocks suffered their worst weekly performance in more than four months, as renewed concerns about the disruptive potential of artificial intelligence (AI) triggered a broad market sell-off. Major IT firms saw sharp share price declines, erasing trillions of rupees from market capitalisation and raising questions about the sector's near-term growth prospects.

During the week, the Nifty IT index fell around 6.4 per cent, marking its steepest weekly drop since late 2025. On Friday, the index closed down about 1.5 per cent, capping off a difficult week for investors. The sell-off wiped out roughly ₹6.4 trillion in combined market value from Indian IT stocks, highlighting how sensitive the sector has become to shifts in global technology sentiment. All constituents of the Nifty IT index ended the week in negative territory. Infosys recorded the largest weekly drop, sliding more than 8 per cent, while Tech Mahindra

also posted notable losses of over 7 per cent.

The renewed pressure on IT shares followed fresh announcements from US-based AI developer Anthropic. The company unveiled an upgraded version of its "Claude" AI model, dubbed Claude Opus 4.6, which is capable of performing detailed financial research and analysis in hours what traditionally takes analysts days. In addition, Anthropic introduced a set of new AI plug-ins designed to automate workflows across legal, sales, marketing and data analysis functions—areas that form key revenue streams for many Indian IT service providers.

Investors interpreted these advancements as a signal that AI could increasingly displace human-led services, thereby threatening the business model of labour-intensive IT outsourcing firms. This fear has been compounded by already modest revenue growth across the sector in recent quarters, which has left valuations vulnerable to negative

sentiment.

Market watchers noted that Wednesday's fall in the Nifty IT index—nearly 5.9 per cent in a single day—was the sharpest intraday drop since March 2020, underscoring the intensity of the sell-off. The rout in Indian IT stocks also mirrored broader weakness in global software and technology names, where investors have been reassessing the impact of rapid automation on traditional services.

Some analysts described the current downturn as an overreaction, arguing that Indian IT firms are also integrating AI into their own offerings to improve productivity and competitiveness. They suggest that while AI presents long-term challenges, it may also create new opportunities if adopted and monetised effectively.

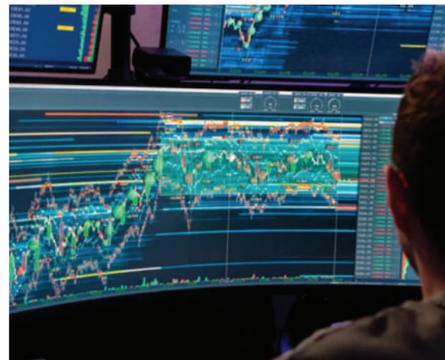
Despite the IT sector's weak performance, broader Indian benchmark indices still managed to post gains for the week, buoyed by other sectors and positive macro developments.

Uncertainty Fades as Markets Enter an Execution-Driven Phase

Indian markets are entering a decisive new phase—one that signals the end of prolonged uncertainty and the beginning of an execution-driven cycle. Over the past year, investors were weighed down by policy ambiguity, global trade concerns, and unclear economic signals. That phase now appears to be behind us, with greater clarity emerging on both domestic and global fronts.

Several recent developments have helped stabilise the macro environment. Policy measures aimed at easing cost pressures, progress on global trade agreements, and a clear long-term manufacturing focus outlined by the government have collectively reduced uncertainty. Trade frameworks that were earlier clouded by tariff fears are now better defined, even if not perfect. What matters most for markets is not whether outcomes are ideal, but whether they are predictable—and that predictability has now improved significantly.

Markets typically struggle more with uncertainty than with negative news. Over the past year, uncertainty dominated investor behaviour. As that fog clears, sentiment has improved and confidence has returned. However, history shows that sentiment alone cannot sustain rallies indefinitely. With benchmark



indices already trading near record levels, the market's next leg will depend less on optimism and more on actual performance and delivery.

Much of the policy-led optimism is already reflected in stock prices. This means future returns are unlikely to come from valuation expansion alone. Instead, markets will increasingly reward companies that can deliver consistent earnings growth, protect margins, allocate capital efficiently, and convert growth into cash flows. Businesses with strong balance sheets, operational scale, and pricing power are better positioned to outperform in this phase.

The market is now entering a filtering process. Companies that execute well will stand out, while those that rely on narratives without delivery may struggle. Corrections, if they occur, are

likely to be company-specific rather than driven by macro shocks. This places greater importance on stock selection rather than broad market bets.

For investors, this phase calls for discipline and patience. Frequent trading based on headlines may give way to longer-term positioning in businesses aligned with structural trends such as manufacturing, exports, and productivity-driven growth. The focus is shifting from growth at any cost to quality growth with sustainability.

In essence, the market has transitioned from a macro-driven uncertainty cycle to a micro-driven execution cycle. As stability improves at the top, attention moves to delivery at the bottom. In this environment, execution is no longer optional—it is the defining factor for success.

Three IPOs Worth ₹3,871 Crore to Open for Subscription Next Week

India's primary market is set for an active week ahead as three public issues collectively worth ₹3,871 crore are scheduled to open for subscription. The upcoming IPO pipeline reflects sustained investor interest across both the mainboard and SME segments.

The IPO window will open on February 9 and continue through February 16, featuring two mainboard offerings and one SME issue. Market participants will be closely tracking these issues, especially in light of strong anchor investor participation and steady demand for quality listings.

The largest offering of the week comes from Fractal Analytics, a company focused on artificial intelligence and data-driven solutions. The company plans to raise ₹2,834 crore through its initial public offering, which includes a mix of fresh equity issuance and an offer for sale by existing shareholders. The IPO has been priced in the range of ₹857 to ₹900 per share, with the issue opening on February 9 and closing on February 11. Fractal Analytics is expected to make its stock market debut on February 16.

Another major issue lined up is Aye Finance, a non-banking financial company specialising in lending to micro and small enterprises. The company aims to raise ₹1,010 crore through its IPO, which also combines



a fresh issue with an offer for sale. The Aye Finance IPO will open on February 9 and close on February 11, placing it alongside Fractal Analytics as a key mainboard offering for the week.

Completing the trio is Marushika Technology, an SME segment company set to open its IPO on February 12 and close on February 16. The company plans to raise around ₹27 crore, with shares priced between ₹111 and ₹117. This issue is expected to attract investors looking for smaller, high-growth opportunities in the SME space.

In addition to these new issues, the market will also witness several SME listings during the week, as companies that recently completed their public offerings make their debut on the exchanges. These listings add to the overall activity and vibrancy in the primary market.

With multiple sectors represented and strong pre-issue interest, the coming week highlights continued momentum in India's IPO market. Investors will be watching subscription trends, valuations, and listing performance closely as the primary market remains a key area of focus.

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 inju-

ries, 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.

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.

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 un-



ploded 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.

"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 exist 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 em-

pathy 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, make-

shift 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.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Earns ICC Team of the Tournament Honour After Explosive U-19 World Cup

India's sensational young batter Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has been named in the ICC's Team of the Tournament following his remarkable performance at the Under-19 World Cup, where India clinched their sixth title. Sooryavanshi's inclusion in the elite XI underlines just how dominant he was throughout the competition and highlights his emergence as one of the brightest batting talents in world youth cricket.

Sooryavanshi lit up the tournament with a string of powerful innings, most notably an unforgettable 175-run knock in the final, which played a pivotal role in India's overwhelming victory. His ability to score quickly, find gaps with precision, and clear the boundary ropes with ease made him a standout performer across all matches. At just 14 years old, his maturity under pressure and flair with the bat captured the attention of fans, pundits and selectors alike.

The ICC's Team of the



Tournament recognises the best performers from across all participating nations, and Sooryavanshi's inclusion is a testament to his consistency and impact on the world stage. He was one of the highest run-scorers of the competition, with his batting contributing significantly to India's unbeaten run. His inclusion alongside other top performers high-

lights how influential his contributions were in shaping the outcome of key games.

India's overall success at the U-19 World Cup was powered by strong batting displays, disciplined bowling, and excellent fielding. However, Sooryavanshi's performances stood out even in a star-studded Indian line-up, drawing comparisons to some of the

great youth prodigies of the past. His ability to accelerate the scoring while anchoring the innings under pressure was a major factor in India posting challenging totals and successfully defending them.

The ICC's selection panel also praised other players in the Team of the Tournament for their exceptional contributions, but Sooryavanshi received

special mention due to the sheer scale of his final-match performance. His knock was lauded for its timing, power, and tactical acumen, and it was instrumental in securing the title for India in convincing fashion.

Cricket analysts have noted that performances like Sooryavanshi's at a global event bode well for the future of Indian cricket, as they demonstrate depth in batting talent and the ability of young players to thrive under pressure. Many see his inclusion in the ICC's team as a stepping stone towards greater opportunities in domestic and international cricket.

For Sooryavanshi, the honour of being named in the Team of the Tournament is a milestone achievement at an early stage of his career. It not only celebrates his remarkable tournament but also sets the stage for what many hope will be a long and successful journey in the sport.

Three Nepal Fans Travel Over 30 Hours by Train to Chase T20 World Cup Dream in Mumbai



Three passionate cricket fans from Nepal embarked on an extraordinary journey to watch India play in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, travelling more than 30 hours by train to reach Mumbai for the big match.

The trio — friends who grew up watching cricket together and sharing dreams of attending a major tournament — decided to make the long and challenging ride after securing tickets for the India game. With limited financial resources and tight schedules, they chose to take a series of slow trains that would ultimately amount to over a day of continuous travel.

Their odyssey began from their hometown shortly after planning the trip, as they boarded trains through mountainous terrain and busy plains, switching connections and enduring cramped conditions. Despite the physical toll and exhausting itinerary, the friends say they never lost their excitement or focus on their goal.

"We told ourselves it would be worth it no matter how long it took," one of them said upon arriving in Mumbai. "We've always dreamed of being here for a World Cup match. When you love cricket, you'll go to great lengths for it." Their dedication highlights the emotional pull and uniting power of sport, especially cricket in South Asia, where rivalries and supporters often cross borders.

Upon reaching Mumbai, they

made their way straight to the stadium district, eager to soak in the pre-match atmosphere and watch their cricketing heroes in action. Fans in the city greeted them warmly, and locals were impressed by their perseverance and spirit.

The three friends said they had planned their trip months in advance, saving money and arranging leave from work. Despite the fatigue from the long journey, they appeared in high spirits, matching chants and songs with other supporters as they prepared to enter the arena.

Their story quickly caught the attention of fellow fans and local media, who praised their dedication and resilience. For many observers, the friends' journey is a reminder of the deep emotional connection that sport fosters — a passion strong enough to inspire remarkable effort and cross-border travel.

As they finally watched the match unfold amid cheering crowds, the Nepal supporters said their hard-earned trip was already worth it. "This is a memory we'll carry for life," one said, smiling under the floodlights. For them, it wasn't just about the result; it was about being part of something much bigger: the shared joy and drama of a global sporting moment.

"Overconfidence Hurt Us": S. Ramesh Critiques India's Batting After USA Match

Former India cricketer Srinath Ramesh has criticised India's batting performance in their T20 World Cup match against the United States, saying that overconfidence and a slow start left the team in trouble before Suryakumar Yadav's match-winning innings rescued the side.

Ramesh pointed out that India's top and middle order failed to adapt early in the innings, allowing the USA bowlers to seize momentum. He felt that the team appeared to be complacent after winning the toss and choosing to bat, which resulted in a collapse to 77 for 6 and put undue pressure on the middle order. According to him, even strong sides can falter when they underestimate disciplined bowling or delay positive intent at the start of an innings.

While praising Suryaku-

mar Yadav's unbeaten 84, Ramesh emphasised that India cannot rely on individual heroics throughout the tournament. He highlighted that most of India's top batters fell cheaply, and insisted that a collective effort is essential in high-stakes matches. Ramesh noted that early breakthroughs by the USA bowlers were a consequence of poor shot selection and tentative batting from India's top order.

Ramesh also commented on the team's approach, suggesting that players must balance caution with aggression from the outset rather than waiting for a rescue act later in the innings. He stressed that in T20 cricket, momentum shifts quickly, and slow scoring early can change the complexion of a match even when defending champions are involved.

In his analysis, Ramesh



said the fielding and bowling were mostly disciplined and helped India secure the win, but batting frailties exposed during this match could be exploited by stronger opponents later in the tournament. He encouraged the Indian team to use this

match as a wake-up call to tighten up their technique and strategy, rather than become complacent with a victory that ultimately came comfortably.

Ramesh's critique reflects a broader concern among cricket analysts that elite teams must

maintain intensity and focus from the first ball, irrespective of the opposition's ranking. He suggested that lessons from this match should be acted upon quickly to ensure consistent performance in India's title defence.

India-Pakistan T20 World Cup Clash Faces Uncertainty Amid Boycott Threat



The highly anticipated India vs Pakistan match at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 has come under a cloud after the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) indicated that it may boycott the fixture, triggering urgent talks with the International Cricket Council (ICC).

Pakistan has clarified that it intends to participate in the tournament but has raised objections specifically over playing India. The PCB said its position is influenced by guidance from the Pakistan government, citing broader political considerations. This development has placed one of world cricket's most valuable and closely watched fixtures in jeopardy.

The ICC has since stepped in to defuse the situation, holding discussions with PCB officials to prevent a withdrawal from the marquee match. The governing body is keen to ensure that the group-stage encounter proceeds as scheduled, given its massive global audience and commercial significance.

PCB officials have linked the issue to long-standing concerns surround-

ing India-Pakistan bilateral cricket, which has been suspended for several years. They argue that unresolved structural and political issues continue to affect participation in multi-nation tournaments, and have urged broader dialogue to address these concerns.

Despite the initial hardline stance, there is growing optimism that a resolution may be reached. Ongoing discussions suggest that Pakistan could still agree to play the match, avoiding a scenario that could lead to forfeiture of points, financial penalties, and reputational damage.

From the ICC's perspective, a boycott would have major implications — not only competitive, but also commercial — as the India-Pakistan rivalry remains the tournament's biggest draw for fans, broadcasters, and sponsors worldwide.

For now, the match remains on the schedule as negotiations continue behind the scenes. Cricket followers across the globe are watching closely, hoping diplomacy prevails to keep one of the sport's most iconic rivalries alive on the world stage.

India Overcome Early Jolt Against USA in T20 World Cup as Suryakumar Yadav Shines



India began their T20 World Cup campaign with a hard-fought win over the United States, overcoming an early batting collapse thanks to a superb innings from captain Suryakumar Yadav. Despite moments of pressure, India managed to secure a comfortable margin in the end and start the tournament on a winning note.

India found themselves in serious trouble after losing wickets in quick succession, slipping to 77 for 6 and staring at the prospect of a modest total. At that stage, Suryakumar Yadav held his nerve and produced a captain's knock, anchoring the innings with calm and authority. He remained unbeaten on 84, combining smart strike rotation with aggressive shot-making to lift India to a competitive 161 for 9.

Suryakumar's innings stood out not just for the runs, but for the control he displayed under pressure. His ability to find gaps behind the wicket and counter the bowling attack drew praise from former India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, who pointed out that this aspect of

Suryakumar's game had returned at the right time after a difficult phase.

Chasing the target, the USA put up a spirited performance and showed why they are no longer pushovers in international cricket. Their batters fought hard in the middle overs, but India's bowlers struck at crucial moments to keep the chase under control. Early breakthroughs and disciplined bowling ensured the USA were restricted to 132 for 8, falling short of the target.

While the final margin suggested a comfortable win, the match exposed some areas of concern for India, particularly their top-order batting and fielding lapses. However, the bowling unit held its composure, and Suryakumar's innings proved decisive.

The victory provided India with valuable momentum early in the tournament, while also serving as a reminder of the fine margins in T20 cricket. As the competition progresses, India will look to tighten their batting approach, but the captain's return to form will be a major positive heading into tougher fixtures.

Virat Kohli, Gautam Gambhir Lead Tributes After India Win Record Sixth U-19 World Cup



India's record-extending sixth ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup victory has sparked a wave of admiration and congratulations from across the cricketing world, with senior Indian cricket figures like Virat Kohli and Gautam Gambhir leading the tributes to the young champions.

The Indian Under-19 team produced a commanding performance in the final, defeating England by a huge margin to clinch the title once again. A key highlight of the match was a breathtaking innings by 14-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, who smashed a remarkable 175 runs in just 80 balls. His explosive knock powered India to a massive total, virtually putting the result beyond doubt and showcasing the depth of emerging talent in Indian cricket.

Reflecting on the team's success, former India captain Virat Kohli extended heartfelt congratulations to the young squad and their support staff. Kohli, who himself led India to U-19 World Cup glory in 2008, praised the team's performance and highlighted India's continued dominance in age-group cricket. He stressed that the victory was a testament to the commitment, talent and competitive spirit of India's young cricketers.

Senior men's team head coach Gautam Gambhir echoed similar

sentiments, celebrating the team's achievement and expressing confidence about the future of Indian cricket. He said the winning side had shown remarkable skill and fearlessness throughout the tournament, underlining the bright prospects ahead for these young athletes.

The triumph has also drawn widespread acclaim from other cricketing personalities and fans, many of whom took to social media to express their admiration for the team's aggressive approach, powerful batting display and overall consistency. Many highlighted that the team's undefeated run throughout the competition reflected exceptional preparation and mental strength.

In addition to individual accolades, the victory carries symbolic importance for Indian cricket, reaffirming the country's strong pipeline of talent and its ability to nurture future stars. Analysts noted that performances like Sooryavanshi's and the collective dominance exhibited in the final may well serve as early indicators of players who could feature on the world stage in senior cricket in the years ahead.

As celebrations continue, the U-19 World Cup win is being seen not just as another title but as a moment that reinforces the health and promise of Indian cricket's future gen-

“What’s Up Naresh” Unveils First Look

Rising star Kavya Kalyanram, who won hearts with Balagam, is set to charm audiences once again as she teams up with Kotha Poradu fame Anvesh Michael in the upcoming pleasant love story What’s Up Naresh. Written and directed by CV Vishal and produced by Bhagya Laxmi Chinta under the CVV Cinema banner, the film officially began its promotional journey with the release of its first look poster and an engaging first glimpse.

The title What’s Up Naresh itself sparks curiosity and hints at a contemporary, relatable narrative. The first-look poster carries a warm, breezy, feel-good vibe that instantly sets the tone. Anvesh Michael, playing Naresh, appears grounded and effortlessly charming, while Kavya Kalyanram as Sarika looks calm, cheerful, and emotionally expressive. Their subtle body language and expressions suggest a heartfelt slice-of-life romance at the film’s core.

The first glimpse opens on a humorous yet rooted situation involving marriage talks at home. In a light-hearted exchange, Naresh’s parents discuss dowry, revealing that the bride’s family is willing to offer ₹80 lakh but wants the wedding after summer. Naresh’s unexpected response adds instant humor—he cheekily demands ₹8 crore and confidently says he is ready to wait as long as it takes. This playful setup establishes the tone of the film, blending comedy with realism.

The glimpse then of-



fers a peek into Naresh’s everyday life, showcasing his routine and personality in a relatable manner. The sequence concludes on a refreshing note at the beach, where Sarika greets Naresh, visually hinting at the emotional journey ahead. The makers have announced that the second glimpse will be released on Valentine’s Day, further building anticipation.

Adding to the film’s appeal is a road-trip narrative to Gokarna, promising scenic visuals and breezy romance. Music by the in-form Smaran Sai plays a key role in enhancing the mood, while cinematographer Vedara-

man Sankaran captures the story with a vibrant, contemporary visual style. Editor Viprav Nyshadam ensures a smooth and youthful flow that aligns with the film’s urban sensibility.

With a strong supporting cast including K Sai Santosh, Ushashree Murali, Santhosh Nandivada, Priyanka Raviru, Maala Parvathi and others, What’s Up Naresh aims to be a pleasant rom-com that resonates with today’s audience. Positioned as a feel-good love story rooted in everyday emotions, the film is shaping up to be one of the most awaited romantic entertainers of the year.

“Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu” Heads to ZEE5

After creating a massive impact at the box office during Sankranti, the Telugu blockbuster Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu is all set for its grand digital premiere. The Chiranjeevi-Nayanthara starrer will begin streaming on ZEE5 from February 11, marking its much-awaited OTT debut. The platform has acquired exclusive digital rights to the film, which emerged as one of the biggest commercial successes of the festive season.

As announced during its theatrical campaign, Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu will be available across multiple languages on ZEE5, including Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, Hindi, Marathi, and Bengali. This multilingual release ensures a wide reach among audiences across India and the global Telugu and South Asian diaspora.

Written and directed by Anil Ravipudi, the film features Megastar Chiranjeevi in a powerful yet emotionally rich role. He is joined by an impressive ensemble cast that includes Nayanthara, Venkatesh Daggubati, and Catherine Tresa. Known for his flair for family entertainers, Anil Ravipudi blends humour, emotion, action, and drama into a narrative that appeals to viewers of all ages.

At its core, Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu is a story about relationships, responsibility, and redemption. Chiranjeevi

plays a national security officer who is forced to confront his past and protect his estranged family, leading to an emotional journey filled with humour, action-packed moments, and heartfelt drama. The film struck a strong chord with theatrical audiences, thanks to its engaging screenplay, mass appeal, and the star power of its lead actors.

Speaking about the digital premiere, Chiranjeevi shared that the film celebrates family values and resilience, and expressed happiness that it will now reach a wider audience through ZEE5. Nayanthara echoed similar sentiments, highlighting the film’s emotional depth and balance of entertainment elements, and said she was excited for audiences to experience it at home.

Venkatesh Daggubati described the film as a blend of large-scale entertainment and heartfelt relationships, adding that working with Chiranjeevi for the first time made the project even more special. Director Anil Ravipudi stated that the strong theatrical response reaffirmed his belief in family-centric stories and expressed confidence that the film would connect equally well with OTT audiences.

With its successful theatrical run and strong emotional core, Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu is poised to find a second wave of appreciation as it streams exclusively on ZEE5 from February 11.



Allu Arjun Fans Pledge Social Responsibility



Hyderabad witnessed an extensive and well-organized meeting of the Allu Arjun Fans Association (AAFA), bringing together key committee members from both Telugu states. Held under the inspiring slogan “One Good Deed Every Year,” the meeting highlighted a renewed focus on social responsibility, unity, and structured growth with-

in the fan association. The session lasted nearly four to five hours, reflecting the seriousness and commitment of the members involved.

The meeting was presided over by Andhra Pradesh State President Mr. Shiva Shankar and Telangana State President Mr. Anji Yadav. Leaders and representatives from various re-

gions participated, discussing future plans and strategies to strengthen the association. One of the major outcomes of the meeting was the initiation of preparatory plans for forming district-level, mandal-level, and town-level committees across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in the coming days.

During the session, se-

lected representatives were clearly briefed on their roles and responsibilities. Detailed discussions were held on the structure and functioning of State, District, and Town Level committees to ensure that the activities of the Allu Arjun Fans Association are carried out in a more systematic, transparent, and effective manner. The leadership emphasized that proper organization would help streamline initiatives and enhance coordination among fans.

Association leaders stated that these newly formed committees would play a crucial role in strengthening the foundation of AAFA and expanding its reach. By establishing a clear hierarchy and defined responsibilities, the association aims to function not just as a fan group, but as a disciplined and socially conscious organization.

A key highlight of the meeting was the emphasis on social service activities. Leaders an-

nounced that the association will actively engage in welfare programs and initiatives that contribute positively to society. The slogan “One Good Deed Every Year” is intended to motivate fans to participate in meaningful acts of service, reinforcing the idea that fandom should extend beyond celebrations and events.

The leadership also stressed that all activities of the association should reflect the values associated with Icon Star Allu Arjun—talent, discipline, humility, and dedication. By promoting unity among fans and encouraging responsible conduct, the Allu Arjun Fans Association aims to set an example of how fan communities can contribute constructively to society.

The meeting concluded on a confident note, with members expressing enthusiasm about the association’s future direction and its commitment to blending fandom with social responsibility.

“Sumathi Sathakam” Celebrates Grand Success



The clean family entertainer Sumathi Sathakam has emerged as a pleasant surprise at the box office, winning appreciation from audiences across age groups. Produced by Sai Sudhakar Kommalapati under the Vision Movie Makers banner and directed by M.M. Naidu, the film was released worldwide on February 6 through Mythri Movie Makers. With its strong content-driven appeal, the film has been receiving encouraging responses, prompting the team to meet in a celebratory atmosphere.

Starring Amardeep Chowdary and Shailli Chowdary in the lead roles, Sumathi Sathakam also features a talented supporting cast including Mahesh Vitta, Malakpet Shailajamma, Tasty Teja, JDV Prasad, Karan Vijay, Mirchi Kiran and Akella Gopal Krishna. The film’s music, composed by Subhash Anand, and the visuals captured by cinematographer Halesh have been widely appreciated for comple-

menting the narrative.

At the success meet, senior actress Malakpet Shailajamma expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the audience for embracing the film. She said the success of Sumathi Sathakam reaffirmed that viewers always support meaningful and clean entertainment, adding that the film stands out as a perfect family watch.

Music director Subhash Anand shared his joy over the positive reception and thanked the producer, director and lead actor Amardeep for their constant encouragement. He also acknowledged Aditya Music for extending strong support to the project. Writer Bandaru Naidu noted that the appreciation for the film’s dialogues on social media was especially satisfying, as it reflected the audience’s connection with the story and characters.

Actor Mahesh Vitta highlighted that good writing, direction and production values are crucial for any performer, and said he was fortu-

nate that all these elements aligned for him in this film. He also pointed out that the film receiving censor certification without any cuts or omutes after nearly 15 years was a testament to the strength of its content.

Director M.M. Naidu thanked the audience, media and the entire cast and crew for their support. He praised Amardeep’s commitment and lauded Shailli for learning Telugu and delivering a sincere performance despite language challenges.

Producer Sai Sudhakar Kommalapati said the film began as a small project with new talent and grew into a successful venture. He reiterated Vision Movie Makers’ commitment to supporting deserving artists. Lead actress Shailli Chowdary credited the popularity of the “Sumathi” song for boosting the film’s reach, while hero Amardeep concluded by thanking the audience and promising to return with more meaningful cinema.

Soggade Chinni Nayana Franchise Set to Return for Sankranti 2027

The popular Soggade Chinni Nayana franchise is gearing up for a grand comeback, with its next sequel officially planned for a Sankranti 2027 release. The announcement has generated strong excitement among fans, as the series has earned a special place in Telugu cinema with its unique blend of family emotions, folklore, humour, and mass entertainment.

The original Soggade Chinni Nayana, starring Akkineni Nagarjuna in a dual role, became a major blockbuster and a festive favourite. Its spiritual successor Bangaraju further expanded the franchise’s universe, striking a chord with audiences through its rooted storytelling, strong cultural flavour, and emotional depth. With both films enjoying repeat value on television and digital platforms, expectations are naturally high for the next installment.

The upcoming sequel is expected to continue the

franchise’s signature style—combining tradition with contemporary storytelling while offering wholesome entertainment for family audiences. Sources indicate that the makers are keen on preserving the soul of the earlier films, focusing on strong characters, emotional connections, and a festive narrative that aligns perfectly with the Sankranti season.

Director Kalyan Krishna, who helmed the previous films, is likely to return to steer the project, ensuring continuity in tone and storytelling. While official details about the cast and storyline are being kept under wraps, the film is expected to feature familiar characters from the franchise’s universe, along with new additions that will add freshness and scale to the narrative.

Choosing Sankranti 2027 for the release is a strategic move, as the festival season has traditionally been favourable



for big-ticket Telugu entertainers. The franchise already enjoys a strong association with the festive period, and the makers are confident that the new sequel will recreate the magic and festive fervour of its predecessors.

With pre-production activities expected to be-

gin soon, the announcement alone has been enough to spark widespread buzz across fan circles and industry watchers. As anticipation builds, audiences are eagerly waiting for more updates on casting, music, and the story direction.