



**BUZZ POINTS**

**Illicit Liquor Seller Booked in Rajul Tanda, 115 Bottles Seized**



PAGE 05

**BUZZ POINTS**

**Centre's Financial Discrimination Against Telangana an Attack on Federalism: Tummala**

PAGE 02

**Case Registered Against Former MLA Jagga Reddy in Medak Municipal Polls**

PAGE 03

**Cyberabad CP Reviews Municipal Election Arrangements**

PAGE 04

**Grand Sevalal Maharaj Jayanti Celebrations Planned Across Adilabad District**

PAGE 05

## Kishan Reddy Slams Revanth Reddy Over Name Remarks

Hyderabad, February 10 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy has strongly criticised Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, accusing him of making inappropriate personal remarks during recent political speeches. The dispute escalated after the Chief Minister commented on Kishan Reddy's name in the context of wider political debates, prompting a sharp response from the senior BJP leader.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, Kishan Reddy expressed his dismay at Revanth Reddy's remarks, saying that it was inappropriate for the Chief Minister to suggest that his name be changed. "Who are you to change the name given to me by my mother?" Kishan Reddy asked rhetorically, underscoring that personal criticism should have no place in political discourse. He



reiterated that his identity and family name are rooted in personal heritage and cannot be altered at someone else's behest.

Kishan Reddy clarified that he is not anyone's adopted son and emphasised that he would not tolerate being dragged into intra-party or inter-party political exchanges over personal identifiers. He suggested that if anyone needed a name change for political purposes, then the Chief Minister himself could adopt a name like "Revanth Khan"—a sharp rebuttal meant to highlight the absurdity he saw in the remarks.

He also took issue with other comments attributed to the Chief Minister regarding political alliances, pointing out that the BJP has never formally joined hands with the BRS, unlike past collaborations between Congress and BRS in local elections. The Union Minister said that such statements only serve to confuse public understanding of political alignments and encouraged Revanth Reddy to clarify his position.

Kishan Reddy further challenged the Chief Minister regarding action against BRS patron K. Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR),

saying if the state wanted to arrest KCR, it could be done without interference—directly placing responsibility on the Telangana government rather than on him or the Central leadership. He urged the public to consider which leaders were genuinely committed to law and order.

The Minister also criticised the Congress government's performance, alleging that key promises made since coming to power had not been fulfilled even after two years. He referenced a recent municipal election incident and said that the BJP was confident of success in local polls, contrasting what he described as Congress's failures with expectations of better governance.

Kishan Reddy's remarks reflect the growing political tensions in Telangana ahead of upcoming elections, with personal and political criticism being traded between senior leaders.



## Hyderabad CP Warns Youth Against Dangerous Bike Stunts

Hyderabad, February 10 | TPN Bureau:

Hyderabad City Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar has issued a stern warning to youngsters indulging in dangerous bike stunts on public roads, cautioning that such reckless acts could result in fatal accidents and lifelong consequences. Responding to several videos circulating on social media that show youths performing risky manoeuvres, the Commissioner urged riders to act responsibly and follow traffic rules.

The CP said that while bike stunts may appear thrilling, they pose a serious threat to lives. He warned that even a minor mishap during such stunts could leave a person permanently disabled or bedridden. "These acts can ruin a hundred-year-old life in a matter of seconds," he

said, highlighting the grave risks involved.

Sajjanar emphasised that reckless riding not only endangers the individuals performing stunts but also puts other road users, including pedestrians and passengers, at risk. He noted that public roads are meant for safe commuting and not for showcasing dangerous behaviour for entertainment or online popularity.

Expressing concern over the growing influence of social media, the Commissioner cautioned youngsters against risking their future for likes, shares and views. He said temporary online attention is not worth the permanent damage that accidents can cause to one's health and family.

The CP also made it clear that performing bike stunts on public roads is a criminal offence under the law. He

warned that strict action would be taken against offenders, including registration of cases and other legal measures. Police have been instructed to keep a close watch on areas where such incidents are frequently reported.

Reinforcing his message through social media, Sajjanar appealed to youths to "drive responsibly" and avoid reckless behaviour. He urged parents to counsel their children and ensure that vehicles are used safely and lawfully.

Hyderabad police have stepped up enforcement to curb dangerous driving practices and ensure road safety. The Commissioner reiterated that responsible driving can save lives and that safety should always take priority over thrill-seeking on city roads.

## AP Illegally Diverting Krishna Waters, Telangana Government Silent: Harish Rao

Suryapet, February 10, 2026 | TPN Bureau:

Former minister and BRS senior leader Harish Rao on Monday launched a scathing attack on the Telangana government, accusing it of failing to protect the state's rightful share of Krishna river waters while Andhra Pradesh allegedly continues excessive and illegal diversion.

Addressing a media conference at Telangana Bhavan, Harish Rao said Andhra Pradesh had already utilised 664 TMCs of Krishna water by January 29, 2026, far exceeding its temporary allocation. As per the interim agreement, AP is entitled to only 66 per cent of the total share, but it has used nearly 80 per cent, he alleged. Rao said these figures were not political claims but were backed by official correspondence from the Telangana Irrigation Department to the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB).

He questioned the si-

lence of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and the Water Resources Minister, stating that while AP continues to draw about 1.5 TMCs of water per day from Srisailem and Nagarjuna Sagar, the Telangana government is merely writing letters without taking concrete action. "Is the government running the state or a circus?" he asked.

Harish Rao pointed out that on January 28, the Engineer-in-Chief (ENC) had written to KRMB warning that AP had crossed its agreed share and urging immediate intervention. However, the ENC retired on January 31, and the crucial post was left vacant for a week despite the ongoing water crisis. He alleged that the delay was deliberate and reflected the government's lack of seriousness about Telangana's interests.

He expressed concern that Telangana, which is entitled to use around 174 TMCs in this water year, has so far utilised only



about 20 per cent of its share. With summer approaching, Rao warned that farmers in districts like Mahabubnagar, Nalgonda and Ranga Reddy could face severe hardship due to water shortages affecting agriculture, drinking water supply and industrial needs.

Comparing the current situation with the previous BRS regime, Harish Rao said Krishna water utilisation was at an all-time low under the Congress government for two consecutive years. He accused Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of failing to convene an Apex Council

meeting and of surrendering Telangana's rights due to political understandings with Andhra Pradesh and the Centre.

Alleging collusion between the Congress and BJP, Rao said both parties were deliberately ignoring the injustice being done to Telangana. He demanded that AP's water diversion be stopped immediately, surplus water be retained at Srisailem under the carry-forward system, and warned that BRS would intensify its agitation, including protests at KRMB offices and raising the issue forcefully in Parliament.

## HYDRAA Reclaims Land Worth 1,511 Crore in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, February 10, 2026 | TPN Bureau:

In a major drive against land encroachment, the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) successfully reclaimed public lands valued at around 1,511 crore across multiple parts of the city on Tuesday. The action underscores the agency's intensified efforts to protect common spaces, lakes and parks from illegal occupation.

Officials said coordinated operations were conducted at four different locations in Hyderabad, where encroachments had taken place on government-owned land. Fencing was installed around these parcels to secure them against future illegal occupation, and signage declaring them as protected public property was erected.

A key focus of the drive was around Kon-



dapur, where HYDRAA intervened to save a 4-acre lake area from being filled and converted into private plots. The land, adjacent to a busy municipal road, is estimated to be worth roughly 700 crore and had recently been illegally levelled by encroachers who intended to sell it. Revenue officials have also initiated legal action against those responsible.

In the Alwal area of

Medchal-Malkajgiri district, encroachments on approximately 8 acres of Kotha Cheruvu lake land were removed. Local residents had complained that temporary sheds and waste activities were polluting the waterbody, prompting HYDRAA to dismantle all illegal structures within the full tank level zone and restore the land.

HYDRAA also moved to secure park lands in

residential colonies. In Jakkidi Nagar, a park area spanning 650 square yards that had been encroached upon was cleared and fenced for public use. Similarly, in Radhakrishna Nagar, a 450 square yard park gifted to the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation was freed from illegal occupation and restored. The agency's commissioner emphasised that protecting lakes, parks and other community assets is critical for sustainable urban development and environmental health.

Officials reiterated their commitment to continuing such actions across the city to deter future encroachments and ensure public spaces remain accessible to residents. This latest operation is part of a series of crackdowns by HYDRAA against unauthorized construction and illegal land occupation in Hyderabad, reflecting growing

## Vote-for-Note Case Documents Safe After Forensic Lab Fire: DGP

Hyderabad, February 10 | TPN Bureau:

Telangana Director General of Police B. Shivadhar Reddy has clarified that no crucial documents or evidence related to the 'vote-for-note' case were lost in the recent fire at the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) in Nampally. Addressing concerns and political speculation, the DGP said all sensitive case materials had already been submitted to the concerned court well before the incident.

The fire, which broke out on the first floor of the FSL building, caused damage to certain sections including parts of



the computer forensics wing and server-related

infrastructure. However, Shivadhar Reddy assert-

ed that claims linking the fire to the destruc-

tion of important evidence were baseless and

misleading.

He explained that documents and materials connected to the vote-for-note case were handed over to the judiciary in 2021, and therefore were not present at the laboratory at the time of the fire. Similarly, reports related to other high-profile cases had also been forwarded to the appropriate authorities as per procedure.

The DGP said efforts are underway to recover any digital data that may have been affected. Backup systems are being used to restore information, and technical teams are working to ensure continuity of forensic operations. He assured that the

functioning of the criminal justice system has not been compromised due to the incident. Shivadhar Reddy also addressed speculation surrounding the death of a BJP municipal election candidate, stating that no suicide note has been found so far. He said the investigation into the death is ongoing and police are examining all aspects to establish the facts. The forensic lab fire had triggered political reactions and raised questions about the safety of evidence in sensitive cases. In response, police officials have maintained that strict protocols are followed in handling and storing case material, and that

court-bound evidence is not kept at the laboratory. Authorities have initiated a detailed inquiry into the cause of the fire, with national-level expert teams assisting in the probe. The DGP reiterated that the findings of the investigation would be made public once the inquiry is completed.

He emphasised that transparency and accountability remain top priorities and urged the public not to believe rumours or unverified claims. The police, he said, are committed to ensuring that all investigations and legal proceedings continue without disruption and in accordance with the law.

# Centre's Financial Discrimination Against Telangana an Attack on Federalism: Tummala

Hyderabad, February 10 | TPN Bureau  
Telangana Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao on Monday strongly criticised the Union government, accusing it of financial discrimination against Telangana and other southern states, and termed the Centre's approach a direct attack on the principles of federalism.

Addressing the media, the Minister said southern states, which contribute a major share to the country's revenues, are being subjected to injustice due to politically motivated economic policies. He alleged that while the Centre repeatedly speaks about "Viksit Bharat," it continues to ignore and discriminate against states like Telangana that significantly strengthen the national economy.



Citing official data, Tummala stated that between 2018-19 and 2022-23, the Union government collected a total of 90.80 lakh crore in taxes across the country. Of this, more than 22.86 lakh crore—over one-fourth—came from southern states alone. Despite this substantial contribution, these

states received only 16.3 per cent of funds in return, which he said was completely against the spirit of fiscal federalism. The Minister highlighted the disparity in tax devolution, stating that southern states receive an average of only 30 paise for every rupee they contribute, while northern states such as Bihar and Uttar Pradesh receive nearly 4 per rupee. "This policy rewards low-performing states and penalises rev-

enue-generating ones, deepening regional imbalance and creating divisions between north and south," he warned. Referring specifically to Telangana, Tummala said that during 2024-25, the state contributed 1,33,208 crore to the Centre in the form of taxes. In return, Telangana received only 51,725 crore, which includes 27,050 crore as its share of central taxes, 7,913 crore as grants, and 16,762 crore through centrally spon-

sored schemes. "Even this amount includes scheme-based funds. The share of untied funds that the state can independently utilise is far less," he pointed out. The Minister also said GST reforms have caused Telangana an annual loss of nearly 8,000 crore. He criticised the discontinuation of revenue deficit grants recommended by the 15th Finance Commission and cautioned that further cuts in sector-specific and special grants

could lead to an additional loss of about 5,000 crore. Calling it a political decision rather than an economic necessity, Tummala alleged that the Centre is deliberately weakening financially strong states. He urged the Union government to respect federalism and ensure equitable treatment to all states, warning that without fairness, "Viksit Bharat" would remain only a slogan.

## Samakka-Saralamma Jatara Hundi Counting Continues, 12.64 Crore Collected in Six Days

Medaram/Hanamkonda | February 10, 2026  
The counting of offerings deposited by devotees during the Samakka-Saralamma Jatara-2026 is continuing smoothly at the TTD Kalyana Mandapam in Hanamkonda. Officials of the Endowments Department, along with members of the Seva Samithi, are supervising the process to ensure transparency and adherence to established norms.



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. All 828 hundis have now been opened and counted, yielding a total income of 12,64,67,051 over six days. The day-wise breakup of the collections is as follows: On February 5, counting of 125 hundis resulted in collections amounting to 2,49,65,000. On February 6, 160 hundis

were counted, generating 3,54,25,200, which included 63,436 obtained from the exchange of foreign currency. On February 7, 140 hundis yielded 2,01,21,440, including foreign currency worth 71,283. On February 8, counting of 200 hundis resulted in 2,64,75,757. On February 9, 163 hundis were counted with collections totalling 1,12,63,000. On February 10, the

counting of the remaining 40 hundis generated 80,81,935. Officials stated that the cash amount of 80,81,935 collected on February 10 was formally handed over to bank officials in the presence of authorised supervisory officers. Gold and silver offerings received from devotees have been segregated and safely stored in iron hundis. The

appraisal process to assess the value of these precious metal offerings is currently underway. Authorities also clarified that the counting of coins and e-hundi collections has not yet commenced and will be taken up in the next phase as per the prescribed procedure. Endowments Department officials reiterated that the entire hundi count-

ing process is being conducted in a peaceful, systematic, and fully transparent manner. They assured that all remaining procedures, including appraisal and accounting, will be completed strictly in accordance with established guidelines, maintaining the sanctity and public trust associated with the historic Samakka-Saralamma Jatara.

## Telangana Minister Predicts Big Wins for Congress in Municipal Elections

Khammam | February 10, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy has expressed strong confidence that the Congress party is poised for a resounding victory in the upcoming municipal and corporation elections scheduled across the State. Speaking to the media in Khammam on Tuesday, the minister outlined his expectations ahead of polling, set to take place on February 11.



Addressing reporters, Ponguleti highlighted the progress and development initiatives undertaken by the current Congress-led government, asserting that these efforts have earned widespread public support. He expressed the belief that voters will reward the party's performance at the grassroots level.

"We are confident that the Congress will secure around 80 per cent of the seats in the 116 municipalities and seven corporation elections," Ponguleti stated, underscoring the strong showing he anticipates from Congress candidates. He attributed this confidence to the government's delivery on its promises over the past two years, saying that fulfilling welfare commitments and implementing development projects have resonated positively with the electorate. The minister's remarks came amid vigorous campaigning across Telangana as political parties ramp up efforts ahead of the civic polls. Ponguleti contrasted the current government's record with that of the previous administration, criticising the latter's shortcomings and asserting that voters are now prioritising performance and governance outcomes. In his comments, the

minister emphasised the role of welfare initiatives and infrastructure development in shaping public opinion. He maintained that the coalition government's focus on people-centric programmes, such as support for women, farmers and urban development, has strengthened the party's electoral prospects. Ponguleti also noted that Congress had demonstrated its organisational strength in earlier local and rural elections, and that momentum would carry forward into the municipal polls. His predictions reflect a broader narrative being promoted by senior state leaders, aiming to project confidence and galvanise party workers ahead of voting.

The municipal elections are widely viewed as a key test of voter sentiment ahead of future electoral contests. With heightened political activity across the State, opinion remains sharply divided among parties, each confident of making significant gains. Ponguleti's assertions signal an optimistic outlook from the Congress camp as polling nears. The minister's statements come against a backdrop of national and regional political developments, underscoring the importance of local elections in shaping broader political dynamics in Telangana through 2026 and beyond.

## Bandi Sanjay Urges CM Revanth Reddy to Clear Retired Employees' Dues



Hyderabad, February 10 | TPN Bureau  
Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar has strongly criticised the Telangana government for failing to clear retirement benefits of former employees and has urged Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to take immediate steps to release the long-pending dues. In a letter addressed to the Chief Minister, Bandi Sanjay questioned the government's commitment to the welfare of retired employees and termed the delay as inhuman and unjust. Raising serious concerns, the Union Minister said that retired employees, who should be spending their post-re-

tirement life in peace and dignity, are instead being subjected to severe mental distress due to the non-payment of their rightful benefits. He pointed out that in several cases, employees who retired nearly two years ago are still waiting for settlement of their dues, including gratuity, pension arrears and other retirement-related benefits. Bandi Sanjay alleged that the prolonged delay has pushed many retired employees into financial hardship at a time when they are dependent on savings and pensions for survival. He accused the state government of negligence and insensitivity, stating that such an ap-

proach was unacceptable and reflected poorly on governance. He further claimed that the mental agony caused by the delay had led to tragic consequences, alleging that as many as 61 retired employees had died while waiting for their benefits. In his letter, the Union Minister questioned whether the government viewed its own employees as a low-priority category and asked whether the administration had any sense of humanity towards those who had served the state for decades. He asserted that it was the moral and administrative responsibility of the government

to ensure that all retirement benefits are paid immediately upon an employee's superannuation and that retirees are treated with respect. Bandi Sanjay demanded that the state government clear all pending retirement dues without any further delay. He warned that if the government failed to respond, large-scale protests would be launched to press for justice. He also stated that he would not hesitate to organise protest programmes, including an indefinite sit-in at the heart of Hyderabad, until the government addressed the issue and released the pending payments. The issue of delayed retirement benefits has been a long-standing grievance among retired government employees in Telangana. With growing discontent among pensioners and employee unions, the demand for immediate intervention has gained momentum. Political observers note that the government's response to the issue could have wider implications, especially as pressure mounts from opposition leaders and employee associations demanding accountability and prompt action.

## National Agencies Probe Forensic Lab Fire in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, February 10 | TPN Bureau

National-level institutions have joined the investigation into the fire incident at the Telangana Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) in Hyderabad, underscoring the seriousness with which authorities are treating the case. Telangana Director General of Police has confirmed that expert teams from premier national institutions are assisting the state police in determining the exact cause of the fire and assessing the extent of damage. The fire broke out at the forensic laboratory located in the Nampally area, affecting sections of the first floor of the building. Portions of the computer forensics wing, a training hall and related infrastructure sustained damage in the incident. Firefighters managed to bring the blaze under control in time, and no casualties or injuries were reported.



Senior police officials stated that involving national institutions would ensure a transparent and technically sound investigation. Experts are examining electrical systems, fire safety mechanisms and structural conditions to ascertain whether the incident was accidental or caused by any other factors. A detailed forensic and fire safety audit of the premises is currently underway. Addressing public concerns and political allegations, the DGP categorically dismissed claims that evidence related to high-profile cases was destroyed in the fire. He clarified that materials connected to sensitive investigations had already been submitted to courts or relevant authorities and were not stored at the affected facility at the time of the incident. According to officials, standard protocols are followed for evidence preservation, and multiple backups exist for digital data. The Telangana police

have reiterated their commitment to full transparency in the probe and said the findings of the national expert teams will be made public once the investigation is completed. The final report is expected to provide clarity on the cause of the fire and recommend measures to prevent such incidents in the future. Meanwhile, security and safety reviews are being conducted at other key forensic and investigative facilities across the state as a precautionary step. Authorities emphasized that strengthening infrastructure and safeguarding evidence remain top priorities to maintain public confidence in the criminal justice system.

# Srihari Denies Allegations, Seeks Impartial Probe into BJP Candidate's Death

Makthal, February 10 | TPN Bureau  
 Telangana Minister for Sports and Animal Husbandry Vakiti Srihari on Tuesday strongly refuted allegations made by BJP leaders in connection with the death of Mahadevappa, the BJP candidate from Makthal Municipality's 6th ward, and termed the politicisation of the incident as "inhuman and unethical."  
 Addressing a media conference at his Makthal camp office, the Minister expressed deep condolences to the family of the deceased and assured them of all possible support, irre-

spective of party affiliations. "I convey my profound sympathy to Mahadevappa's family. Parties may be different, but I will stand by the family in all possible ways," Srihari said.  
 Reacting sharply to BJP leaders' claims that Mahadevappa was driven to death due to threats from Congress leaders, the Minister dismissed the allegations as baseless and painful. "In my 30 years of political life, I have never indulged in intimidation or violence. These accusations against me are extremely distressing," he stated.  
 Srihari said he had



directed the Superintendent of Police to conduct a fair and impartial investigation into the incident. "Truth is like fire; it will come out. Whoever is responsible for Mahadevappa's death

should not be spared, no matter who they are. Law is equal for everyone," he asserted.  
 The Minister recalled that similar allegations were made against him in the past, which were later proven false after investigation. He urged political parties not to indulge in what he described as "corpse politics" for electoral gains. "Trying to gain political benefit by exploiting a death is disgraceful. Blaming others without knowing the facts is unacceptable," he said.  
 He also said Makthal has always been a peaceful region where people live harmoni-

ously, even after elections. "People here are watching everything closely. Spreading false propaganda will not mislead them," he added, appealing to opposition parties to avoid unnecessary political confrontation.  
 Responding to statements made by senior BJP leaders, including N. Ramachandra Rao, Union Ministers G. Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay, and MPs D.K. Aruna and K. Laxman, Srihari said their comments reflected irresponsibility and a lack of sensitivity. "Using the suicide of a party worker for political mileage is not good for

democracy," he remarked.  
 The Minister categorically denied any involvement in Mahadevappa's death and said he was ready to face any consequences if his role was proven. "I believe in God and healthy politics. I have never even met Mahadevappa," he said.  
 Calling upon the media to report facts responsibly, Srihari reiterated that the government would ensure a transparent investigation into the case. "Instead of making allegations, it would be better to support the bereaved family," he concluded.

## Paid Holiday Declared for Telangana Municipal Polls on February 11

Hyderabad, February 10 | TPN Bureau  
 The Telangana government has declared a paid holiday on February 11 in view of the municipal elections scheduled to be held across the state. The decision has been taken to ensure maximum voter participation and to enable employees to exercise their democratic right without any work-related constraints.  
 According to official orders, the paid holiday will be applicable in all areas where polling is scheduled. It covers employees working in government offices, public sector undertakings, educational institutions, factories, shops, private establishments and industrial units falling within the poll-bound municipal limits. Managements have been directed to strictly implement the holiday and facilitate employees to cast their votes.  
 The municipal elections will be held in a large number of urban local bodies, including municipalities and municipal corporations. Polling will take place from morning to evening under tight security



arrangements. The State Election Commission has made elaborate preparations to ensure smooth conduct of the elections, including deployment of polling personnel, observers and security forces.  
 These civic polls are being viewed as politically significant, as they come at a crucial time and are expected to reflect public sentiment in urban areas. Major political parties have campaigned aggressively over the past few weeks, focusing on local governance, infrastructure development, civic amenities and welfare schemes. Door-to-door campaigns, roadshows and public

run-up to polling day. Election officials have stated that all necessary measures have been taken to ensure free and fair elections. Polling stations have been equipped with basic facilities for voters, including drinking water, ramps and medical assistance where required. Special arrangements have also been made to assist senior citizens and persons with disabilities.  
 Authorities have warned that denial of paid holiday to eligible employees on polling day would attract action under election and labour laws. Employees have been advised to report any violations to the concerned officials

or the election authorities. The counting of votes will take place on February 13, after which results will be officially announced. The outcome is expected to have a bearing on the political landscape of the state, particularly in urban regions, and may influence future policy and administrative priorities. With the declaration of a paid holiday, the government aims to reinforce the importance of voting and strengthen democratic participation at the grassroots level. Voters are being urged to come out in large numbers and make use of the opportunity to elect their local representatives.

## Case Registered Against Former MLA Jagga Reddy in Medak Municipal Polls

Medak, February 11 | TPN Bureau  
 A police case has been registered against senior Congress leader and former Sangareddy MLA T. Jagga Reddy in connection with alleged violations of the election model code of conduct during the ongoing municipal elections in Medak district. The action comes amid intensified scrutiny by law enforcement as election officials monitor compliance with poll regulations in the Sangareddy and Sadasivapet municipal areas.  
 Police said the case was filed after Jagga Reddy was seen distributing cash to voters at a public spot in Sadasivapet municipality, allegedly to influence their votes in favour of certain candidates. Officers intervened at the location after reports emerged that money was being handed out openly, raising serious concerns about the integrity of the electoral process.  
 According to the complaint, Jagga Reddy was stopped by local police personnel when he was allegedly giving cash to individuals at a tea stall in the municipality. Following this, a formal



case was registered under relevant sections for breach of the model code of conduct, which prohibits offering money or other inducements to voters during elections. Earlier in the campaign period, he was also reportedly seen distributing cash in other public places in a bid to garner voter support.  
 The filing of the case has triggered reactions from across the political spectrum. Opposition leaders and party officials have alleged that such practices undermine democratic norms and erode public trust in the electoral process. They have urged strict enforcement of election rules and prosecution of those found violating

regulations to ensure a level playing field for all candidates. Jagga Reddy, a veteran politician with significant influence in the region, has been active in municipal election campaigning and has been vocal on several local issues. His supporters, however, have dismissed the allegations as politically motivated, asserting that the distribution of money was part of routine outreach efforts to connect with voters. Election authorities are expected to investigate the matter further and take action based on the findings, which could include charges, fines or other penalties if violations are proven. Police have said that maintaining

the sanctity of the electoral process is of paramount importance and that no individual, regardless of stature, will be exempt from legal scrutiny. The case adds to growing concerns about electoral conduct in the region as authorities strive to uphold fair and transparent elections. With polling underway in several municipal bodies, law enforcement and election officials are on high alert to curb any activities that might compromise the fairness of the polls. The outcome of the investigation into the allegations against Jagga Reddy will be closely watched by political observers and the public alike.

## Telangana Jagruthi Chief Kavitha's Sharp Comments on Owaisi Brothers

Hyderabad, February 10 | TPN Bureau  
 Telangana Jagruthi president and political leader Kalvakuntla Kavitha has made pointed remarks about the Owaisi brothers, drawing attention ahead of the municipal elections and sparking fresh political debate in the state. Speaking at a media interaction in Hyderabad, Kavitha criticised the Owaisi siblings for what she described as their opportunistic political behaviour and shifting loyalties.  
 Kavitha alleged that the Owaisi brothers, who lead a prominent regional party, tend to align themselves with whichever political force appears to be dominant. She said that their support or proximity to power seemed driven by self-interest rather than consistent ideological commitment or concern for the issues faced by people. According to her, this tendency undermines public trust and blurs the lines of genuine political engagement.  
 In her comments, Kavitha also questioned the development work in key areas such as the Old City, suggesting that despite repeated promises, significant im-



provements have not been delivered. She challenged why the Owaisi leadership was not visibly addressing long-standing civic problems and why tangible progress in infrastructure and services remained limited. These remarks were framed as part of her broader critique of how political narratives are shaped during the election season, with attention often diverted from substantive public concerns.  
 Kavitha's remarks come amid a wider campaign phase in Telangana, where parties and leaders are articulating their positions on gov-

ernance, civic development, and political alliances. She called for voters to focus on real issues affecting their lives rather than on personality-driven politics or superficial rhetoric. Her comments also reflected her own party's attempt to position itself as a platform that challenges both established regional and national political players.  
 The reaction to Kavitha's statements varied across political circles, with supporters praising her outspokenness and critics dismissing the remarks as electioneering. The Owaisi leadership has yet to issue a

direct response to her comments, but political observers expect the debate to continue as election campaigns intensify. Observers note that remarks like those from Kavitha can influence the electoral discourse, especially in urban constituencies where voters are increasingly attentive to issues such as development, governance and political accountability. As the municipal elections draw closer, leaders from all parties are expected to ramp up their engagement with voters and refine their messaging on key local and state-level challenges.

## Ramchander Rao Seeks Justice in BJP Candidate Suicide Case

Hyderabad, February 11 | TPN Bureau  
 Telangana BJP state president N. Ramchander Rao has strongly reacted to the suicide of a BJP municipal election candidate, alleging that sustained harassment and political pressure forced the candidate to take the extreme step. The incident, which occurred in Makthal of Narayanpet district, has triggered widespread outrage within the party and intensified political tensions in the state.  
 Speaking to the media, Ramchander Rao expressed deep anguish over the tragic death and held political rivals responsible for creating a hostile environment during the election campaign. He alleged that the BJP candidate was subjected to repeated threats and intimidation, which caused severe mental distress. Such actions, he said, strike at the very root of democracy and expose the deteriorating law and order situation in the state.  
 The BJP state president demanded a thorough and impartial in-



vestigation into the incident and called for strict action against those responsible. He urged the police to act without political influence and ensure that justice is delivered to the victim's family. Ramchander Rao also sought the suspension and arrest of individuals allegedly involved in pressuring the candidate, stating that accountability is essential to prevent such incidents in the future.  
 Condemning what he described as a culture of political intimidation, Rao said elections should be conducted in a free and fair manner, without fear or coercion. He warned that if such incidents continue unchecked, public

confidence in the democratic process would be severely eroded. The BJP, he said, would not remain silent when its workers and candidates are targeted.  
 Following the incident, BJP leaders and cadres staged protests demanding justice and highlighting the alleged harassment faced by their candidate. Ramchander Rao stated that the party would intensify its agitation if the government failed to respond decisively. He reiterated that peaceful political competition must be ensured and that the safety of candidates should be treated as a priority.  
 Police officials have confirmed that a case

has been registered and that all aspects of the incident are being examined, including allegations of abetment. Investigators are reportedly collecting statements and evidence to establish the sequence of events that led to the suicide.  
 As municipal elections continue across Telangana, the incident has cast a shadow over the poll process. Political observers note that the manner in which authorities handle the case will be closely watched, as it could have wider implications for the political climate and public trust in governance during the election season.

# 1.83 crores Development Works Launched in Musheerabad Constituency

Hyderabad, February 10 | TPN Bureau

Several development projects worth 1.83 crore were inaugurated on Tuesday in the Musheerabad Assembly constituency, reinforcing the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation's (GHMC) continued focus on strengthening urban infrastructure and civic amenities across the city.

GHMC Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi formally laid the foundation stones for the works along with Musheerabad MLA Mutha

Gopal and Deputy Mayor Mothe Srilatha Shobhan Reddy. The projects are aimed at improving road connectivity and basic infrastructure in key residential colonies and bastis within the constituency.

As part of the initiative, development works worth 70 lakh were launched in Gangaputra Colony of Musheerabad ward. In Gandhinagar's Mala Basti, CC road construction works costing 42 lakh were taken up to enhance internal road infrastructure and ensure smoother transpor-



tation for residents. Similarly, CC road construction works worth 30 lakh were inaugurat-

ed in Advocate Colony of Kavadiguda ward, while another 41 lakh project was launched in Krishna Nagar Colony of Ramgopalpet ward.

Addressing the gathering, Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi said GHMC has been giving special priority to the development of colonies and bastis across Hyderabad over the past five years. She emphasized that improving basic amenities such as roads, drainage, and sanitation remains a core objective of the civic body. The Mayor instructed GHMC offi-

cial to ensure that all the inaugurated works are completed within the stipulated timeframe while strictly adhering to quality standards.

"The purpose of these development works is to provide lasting benefits to the public. Officials must monitor the execution closely so that residents get durable infrastructure without delays," she said.

Deputy Mayor Mothe Srilatha Shobhan Reddy stated that GHMC has accorded high importance to strengthening

civic facilities across its jurisdiction. She noted that continuous investments in road development and other infrastructure projects are essential to meet the growing needs of the city's population and to improve the overall quality of life.

Musheerabad MLA Mutha Gopal highlighted that the launched projects would address long-standing demands of local residents and contribute to better connectivity between neighborhoods. He assured that further devel-

opmental initiatives would be taken up in coordination with GHMC to ensure balanced growth across the constituency.

The event was attended by GHMC Zonal Commissioner Ravikiran, senior municipal officials, local representatives, and residents. The authorities expressed confidence that the projects would significantly enhance infrastructure and living conditions in the concerned wards once completed.

## Cyberabad CP Reviews Municipal Election Arrangements

Medchal | February 10, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Cyberabad Police Commissioner Ramesh conducted a comprehensive inspection of the arrangements made for municipal election polling in Yellampet Municipality, which comes under the Hyderabad Commissionerate limits in Medchal district. The visit was aimed at ensuring foolproof security, smooth polling operations, and strict adherence to election guidelines.

Accompanied by senior police officials of Medchal district, the Commissioner first inspected the ballot box and election material distribution centre set up at Bharat Bible College in Dubilpur. He carefully reviewed the procedures being followed for the distribution of ballot boxes, ballot papers, and other essential polling materials to election staff. He verified records, checked storage arrangements, and instructed officials to maintain proper documentation and accountability at every stage of the process.

The Cyberabad CP

later visited the counting centre, where he examined the security arrangements and logistical preparations being made ahead of the counting process. He interacted with officials to understand the layout of the counting halls, deployment of police personnel, CCTV surveillance, and access control measures. Emphasising the importance of transparency and discipline, he directed officers to ensure that only authorised personnel are allowed into sensitive areas and that all movements are monitored closely.

As part of his inspection, Commissioner Ramesh also visited a polling station in Dubilpur to assess on-ground polling arrangements. He enquired about voter turnout, queue management, and the availability of basic facilities for voters and polling staff. He stressed that elderly voters, women, and persons with disabilities should be provided all necessary assistance without causing inconvenience or delay.

The Commissioner

issued clear instructions to police personnel to remain alert and proactive throughout the polling process. He warned that even minor lapses in security could lead to law-and-order issues and asked officers to maintain constant coordination with election officials. Special emphasis was laid on preventing intimidation, unlawful gatherings, and any attempts to influence voters.

Municipal Commissioner Swami Naik, Medchal ACP Shankar Reddy, Circle Inspector Satyanarayana, DI Kiran, Sub-Inspectors Manmadh and Anita, along with other police officers and staff, accompanied the Commissioner during the inspection.

Concluding his visit, CP Ramesh stated that the Cyberabad Police are fully prepared to ensure free, fair, and peaceful elections. He reiterated that public safety and the integrity of the electoral process would be safeguarded through round-the-clock monitoring, increased patrolling, and strict enforcement of election-related laws.



## Clash Erupts During Minister Sridhar Babu's Uppal Visit

Uppal, Hyderabad | February 10 | TPN Bureau:

Tension prevailed in Uppal on Monday as a visit by Minister Sridhar Babu turned chaotic following a confrontation between leaders and supporters of the Congress and the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS). The incident, which unfolded in full public view, caused embarrassment to the ruling party and led to a police complaint.

The disturbance occurred at Uppal Bhagath, where Minister Sridhar Babu had arrived to lay the foundation stone for a development work. Even before the programme could proceed smoothly, a charged atmosphere developed with Congress and BRS workers raising slogans against each other. The situation escalated rapidly, resulting in physical alterca-



tions right in front of the minister.

According to BRS leaders, Uppal Assembly constituency Congress in-charge Mandamula Parameshwar Reddy allegedly pushed senior BRS leader Jitender Reddy during the event. The scuffle reportedly took place on the dais area as the minister was present, shocking party workers and local residents who had gathered for the programme.

Following the inci-

dent, Jitender Reddy lodged a formal complaint at the Uppal Police Station, accusing Parameshwar Reddy of assault and intimidation. In his complaint, Jitender Reddy alleged that he was forcefully pushed, verbally abused and threatened with dire consequences. He claimed that Parameshwar Reddy questioned his presence at the programme, threatened to "teach him a lesson," and shoved him to the

ground, causing injuries.

Soon after the complaint was filed, a large number of BRS leaders and activists gathered at the Uppal Police Station to express solidarity with Jitender Reddy and demand strict action against the Congress leader involved. The heavy presence of BRS workers led to heightened tension in the police station premises, prompting the police to step up security and appeal for calm. Speaking to the media, Jitender Reddy strongly condemned the incident and described it as an example of "Congress arrogance" in Uppal. He said such behaviour reflected the ruling party's intolerance towards opposition voices and alleged that political intimidation was becoming common under the Congress government. He urged the people of Uppal to

take note of what he termed as the "high-handedness and unruly conduct" of local Congress leaders. Jitender Reddy further appealed to the residents of Uppal to give a fitting response in the coming days, stating that democratic values were under threat when opposition leaders were attacked in public programmes. Police officials confirmed that a complaint had been received and said the matter was under investigation. They added that statements from witnesses would be recorded and appropriate action would be taken based on the findings. The incident has sparked political debate in Uppal, with both parties trading blame, even as the episode cast a shadow over what was intended to be a routine development programme.

## Panic as Earth Tremors Jolt Gajularamaram in Quthbullapur

Hyderabad | February 10 | TPN Bureau:

Panic gripped residents of Gajularamaram's Adarshanagar area in Quthbullapur mandal on Tuesday morning after brief earth tremors were reportedly felt for a few seconds. The sudden ground movement, experienced around 10 a.m., triggered fear among locals, forcing many to rush out of their homes in alarm.

Residents said they felt a sudden shaking accompanied by unusual sounds, creating confusion and anxiety across the neighbourhood. Several people gathered on the streets, fearing a possible earthquake. The incident led to momentary chaos, particularly in residential apartments and educational institutions in the area.

Videos related to the incident have gone viral on social media. One widely circulated video shows young schoolchildren running out of



classrooms in fear after sensing the tremors. Another CCTV clip from an apartment complex reportedly captured residents rushing outdoors following a loud noise and vibration, further intensifying public concern.

The tremors caused significant disturbance in nearby schools, where students and teachers rushed to open grounds as a precautionary measure. In some schools, managements reportedly declared a temporary holiday to ensure student safety and avoid panic. Parents also arrived hurriedly at schools after hearing about the incident through social media and local messaging

groups. Officials clarified that no loss of life or property damage has been reported so far. However, the exact cause of the tremors remains unclear. Experts are yet to confirm whether the incident was due to a minor earthquake recorded on the Richter scale or if



it resulted from other factors such as quarry blasting in nearby areas, underground water



movement, or construction-related vibrations.

Local residents have urged authorities to conduct a detailed investigation to determine the cause of the tremors and rule out future risks. They have specifically

(NGRI) to assess seismic activity in and around Quthbullapur. Meanwhile, officials have advised the public not to panic and to remain alert. Disaster management guidelines were also circulated informally through local channels, asking residents to follow safety protocols in case of further tremors.

The incident has once again raised concerns over unregulated quarry operations and rapid urban development in the outskirts of Hyderabad, with many locals demanding stricter monitoring to prevent such frightening episodes in densely populated areas.

# Jagadgirigutta Police Warns Anti-Social Elements

Quthbullapur | February 10 | TPN Bureau:

Jagadgirigutta Police have issued a stern warning to local rowdy-sheeters, urging them to mend their ways or face strict legal action. Officers are maintaining heightened vigilance over anti-social elements in the area to prevent disturbances and ensure public safety.

On Tuesday, police summoned several known rowdy-sheeters from the Jagadgirigutta jurisdiction to the station to review their recent

activities. Inspector Venkatesham emphasized that anyone causing inconvenience to the public, disturbing peace, or engaging in criminal acts will face strict action under the law.

"Anti-social elements must integrate into society through good conduct and lead peaceful lives. The law will take its course if they choose otherwise," Inspector Venkatesham said. Authorities reiterated that their focus remains on maintaining law and order, and no



illegal or violent activity will be tolerated in the area.

The police also clarified that continuous monitoring of potential troublemakers will continue to ensure community safety. Local residents have been urged to cooperate with law enforcement and report any suspicious activity to the authorities promptly.

This proactive approach is part of the Jagadgirigutta Police's ongoing efforts to curb crime, discourage intimidation tactics, and

promote a secure environment for all citizens. Officials reaffirmed that maintaining peace and protecting public order is a top priority and warned that repeat offenders will face the full force of the law without leniency. The police appeal serves both as a preventive measure and a clear statement that law enforcement will not compromise on public safety, aiming to foster a climate of responsible behavior among individuals with criminal records.

# Illicit Liquor Seller Booked in Rajul Tanda, 115 Bottles Seized

Adilabad District, February 10 | TPN Bureau

Excise officials booked a case against an individual for illegally selling country-made liquor during a raid conducted at Rajul Tanda village in Neradigonda mandal of Adilabad district. The operation was carried out as part of intensified checks to curb the illegal sale and transportation of liquor in rural and tribal areas.

According to officials, the raid led to the detection of unlawful liquor sales in the village. The accused was identified as Sabul Vighnan Singh, son of Rathan Singh, a native of Maharashtra. Acting on specific information, excise officials conducted searches and caught the accused red-handed while selling country liquor without authorization.

During the operation, the officials seized a total of 115 bottles of country-

made liquor, each with a capacity of 90 ml, from the possession of the accused. The seized liquor was reportedly intended for illegal sale in the village and nearby areas, posing risks to public health and safety.

Excise Inspector M.D. Zulfikar Ahmed stated that a case has been registered against the accused under the relevant provisions of the Excise Act. He said the department is maintaining strict vigilance against the illegal liquor trade, particularly in border and tribal regions where such activities are frequently reported.

"The sale of unauthorized liquor not only violates the law but also endangers the lives of people. We are conducting regular raids based on intelligence inputs to prevent such illegal activities," the Excise Inspector said. He added that further investiga-



tion is underway to determine the source of the seized liquor and whether the accused has links to a larger network involved in illicit liquor trade.

The raid was carried out with the participation of Trainee Sub-In-

spector V. Srinivas and excise staff members Karthik, Mohammed, Aruna, and Manjula. Officials appreciated the coordinated effort of the team, which ensured the successful seizure and arrest without any untoward incident.

Excise authorities issued a strong warning that stringent action will be taken against anyone found involved in the illegal possession, sale, or transportation of prohibited substances. They clarified that this includes not only country-made liquor but also ganja, jaggery, raw materials, and gudumba used in the preparation of illicit liquor. Officials urged the public to cooperate with the department by sharing information related to illegal liquor activities in their localities. They emphasized that public awareness and support are crucial in eliminating the menace of illicit liquor and safeguarding community health. The excise department reiterated its commitment to enforcing the law strictly and ensuring that those involved in illegal liquor trade are brought to justice.

# Ponnam Prabhakar Urges Urban Voters to Exercise Franchise, Backs Congress in Municipal Polls

Husnabad, February 10 | TPN Bureau

Transport and Backward Classes Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Tuesday called upon urban voters to actively participate in the forthcoming municipal elections, stating that the right to vote is the strongest weapon in a democracy. He appealed to citizens to respect democratic values and exercise their franchise in large numbers.

Addressing a media conference at the Husnabad MLA camp office, the Minister said rural voters have consistently demonstrated high democratic awareness, with nearly 90 per cent voter turnout. He expressed hope that urban voters would follow the same spirit as municipal elections are scheduled to be held on Wednesday.

"As a Congress leader and a Telangana Minister who respects Panchayat Raj and municipal laws, we are

developing urban areas with a planned and comprehensive approach," Ponnam Prabhakar said. He noted that the Telangana Praja Palana government is focusing holistically on improving living standards in towns by strengthening drinking water supply, drainage systems, street lighting, sanitation, and solid waste management.

The Minister highlighted several welfare and development initiatives implemented by the Congress government, stating that development and welfare are being pursued like "two eyes" working together. He said schemes such as Indiramma housing, ration cards, distribution of fine rice, 200 units of free electricity, free bus travel for women in RTC services, interest-free loans to women self-help groups, Rythu Bhara, and farm loan waivers are benefiting lakhs of families across the state.

Criticising the previous government, Ponnam Prabhakar said that not a single double-bedroom house was provided over the last ten years. "In contrast, we have sanctioned 3,500 Indiramma houses in this constituency alone, including 600 houses in Husnabad town," he said. He added that the Indiramma housing programme is also generating employment for masons, carpenters, and workers from various communities.

Claiming that the Congress government has achieved significant progress within two years, the Minister urged voters across Telangana to ensure the victory of Congress candidates in the municipal elections. "The mandate you give will further energise the state government to deliver more development," he said.

Referring to the previous parliamentary elections, he alleged that the



BRS and BJP worked together, which resulted in their electoral gains. He also pointed out that people have already supported Congress candidates in MLC elections, by-elections, and sarpanch polls.

Ponnam Prabhakar accused the BJP-led Central government of discriminating against Telangana by failing to allocate special funds to municipalities and delaying even the state's rightful share. He said the Chief Minister and state ministers have repeatedly met the Prime

Minister and Union Ministers seeking funds, but Telangana continues to face neglect in the Union Budget.

Stating that urban development now comes directly under the Chief Minister's leadership, the Minister assured that town-level issues would be resolved and infrastructure further strengthened. "Development in Husnabad is visible before your eyes. Give the ruling party an opportunity, and more progress will follow," he concluded.

# Grand Sevalal Maharaj Jayanti Celebrations Planned Across Adilabad District



Adilabad, February 10 | TPN Bureau

Adilabad District Collector Rajarshi Shah has directed officials to organise the birth anniversary celebrations of Sant Shri Sevalal Maharaj, the revered spiritual leader and patron deity of the Banjara community, in a grand and dignified manner across the district. He emphasised that the celebrations should be conducted with devotion, discipline, and proper coordination among all departments.

The Collector reviewed the arrangements for Sevalal Maharaj Jayanti during a meeting held on Tuesday at the Collectorate conference hall with officials from various departments. Addressing the gathering, Rajarshi Shah said Sant Sevalal Maharaj has played a vital role as a guiding force for the Banjara community and continues to inspire generations through his teachings and service to society. He stated that organising the jayanti celebrations respectfully is a col-

lective responsibility of the administration.

The Collector instructed that official Sevalal Maharaj Jayanti programmes should be held on February 18 at the district headquarters as well as at all mandal headquarters. Anticipating a large influx of devotees from tribal tandas, he asked officials to make advance arrangements to ensure the smooth conduct of the celebrations without any inconvenience to the public.

He directed departments to ensure the availability of essential facilities at the celebration venues, including safe drinking water, sanitation, toilets, and uninterrupted power supply. Stressing the importance of law and order, the Collector instructed the police department to deploy adequate security personnel and make necessary traffic diversions to prevent congestion. He also called for proper parking arrangements near the venues to facilitate easy move-

ment of devotees.

Keeping emergency situations in mind, Rajarshi Shah asked the health department to set up special medical camps at the venues and ensure the availability of ambulance services throughout the celebrations. He said medical preparedness is crucial, especially considering the expected large gatherings from rural and tribal areas.

The Collector also suggested organising cultural programmes to highlight the teachings, spiritual values, and social contributions of Sant Sevalal Maharaj. He said such programmes would help educate the youth about the saint's ideals and encourage them to follow his path of social harmony and service.

Following the review meeting, the District Collector formally unveiled the poster for Sevalal Maharaj Jayanti along with department officials, marking the official beginning of the celebrations' preparations.

# BJP Protests at DGP Office Over Candidate's Suicide



Hyderabad, February 10 | TPN Bureau

Tension gripped the area near the Director General of Police (DGP) office in Hyderabad on Tuesday as workers and leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) staged a protest over the alleged suicide of one of their municipal poll candidates. The demonstration, held amid the ongoing municipal election season in Telangana, turned confrontational when police tried to stop the protesters from entering the DGP office.

BJP cadres gathered in significant numbers, raising slogans and accusing political opponents of forcing their colleague to take extreme action. The protesters alleged that the BJP's candidate from Makthal municipality in Narayanpet district had been subjected to harassment and intimidation in the run-up to the polls. Their demand was for strict action against those they held responsible for the incident, and they sought accountability from both police and political leaders.

As the protesters attempted to march to-

ward the DGP office, law enforcement officers formed barricades to prevent them from advancing. A heated exchange ensued between the agitated crowd and police personnel, with some moments of physical scuffle reported. In the commotion, a senior police officer was seen falling, which briefly escalated the situation.

Police eventually managed to disperse the crowd and took several BJP workers and leaders into custody to restore order. Those detained were transported away from the protest site as authorities worked to bring the situation under control. The demonstration highlighted the deep political tensions in the state as local body elections approach, with opposition parties actively challenging the ruling government on various fronts.

BJP leaders reiterated their demand for a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding their candidate's death. They urged law enforcement to act without bias and punish anyone found cul-

pable. Party officials also criticised the state government for what they described as a hostile political climate that they believe contributed to the tragic incident.

The protest reflects rising political friction in Telangana, where municipal elections are being closely watched by all major parties. As the electoral process unfolds, law and order concerns are likely to stay in focus, with parties increasingly taking to the streets to voice grievances and pressure authorities.

Police have maintained that they are committed to ensuring peaceful conduct and adherence to the law during protests. They have urged demonstrators to follow lawful procedures and assured that any legitimate concerns will be addressed through appropriate channels.

The state's municipal polls are set to continue as scheduled, and authorities say they are monitoring the situation to prevent further incidents and ensure voter safety across all constituencies.

# Alleged Encroachment of Government Land Sparks Protest in Talamadri Village



Ichoda, Adilabad | February 10 | TPN Bureau:

Residents of Talamadri village in Ichoda mandal, Adilabad district, have raised serious concerns over the alleged illegal occupation of government land belonging to the village panchayat. Villagers submitted a formal complaint to the Mandal Parishad Development Officer (MPDO), seeking urgent intervention.

According to the villagers, two individuals, Chikram Nagorao and Dasari Bojanna, have reportedly encroached upon the panchayat premises and begun constructing a shed without any official approval. The complainants alleged that Nagorao's daughter



currently serves as the village sarpanch, while Bojanna's wife is the deputy sarpanch, and they are misusing their positions to carry out these unauthorized activities.

Villagers also claim that the encroachers removed the compound wall and several trees from government land without informing the panchayat or the village assembly. Additionally, it is alleged that sanitation workers were compelled to carry out personal tasks for the

encroachers.

The complaint highlighted disruptions caused to local services, including obstruction of waste collection. Villagers reported that the panchayat's tractor was loaded with cement bags and left near a private residence, blocking routine sanitation work. Trees along the R&B road were reportedly uprooted using the tractor, and even a large banyan tree in the village center was cut down, further alarming residents.

When questioned



about these actions, the accused allegedly responded aggressively, escalating tensions in the village. Villagers submitted photographic evidence to the MPDO to substantiate their claims and demanded a legal inquiry into the matter.

The residents have urged authorities to take strict action against those responsible, ensure restoration of the encroached land, and prevent misuse of power by elected representatives. The incident has raised broader concerns about accountability and governance in local bodies, with villagers emphasizing the need for strict adherence to

laws regarding public property.

The MPDO is expected to review the complaint and initiate an investigation to resolve the dispute and hold those responsible accountable. Villagers remain vigilant and hope for swift government intervention to safeguard public land and community interests.



# India's Oil Reality Check: Why Replacing Russian Crude Is Easier Said Than Done

Recent claims by former US President Donald Trump that India is ready to stop buying Russian oil and instead shift to supplies from the United States and Venezuela have sparked debate across diplomatic and economic circles. While such assertions make for dramatic political messaging, a closer look at the numbers tells a far more complex and grounded story. India's current dependence on Russian crude is deep, structural, and driven by economic realities that cannot be overturned overnight — or even in the near future.

At the heart of the issue lies a simple question: can India realistically replace Russian oil completely? The answer, based on trade volumes, refinery constraints, market dynamics, and geopolitical uncertainties, is a clear no.

## The Political Claim Versus India's Official Position

Trump's statement suggested that India had agreed to halt Russian oil purchases as part of broader trade negotiations and in response to US pressure. However, India has firmly rejected this narrative. New Delhi has reiterated that its energy policy is guided solely by national interest, with energy security for its 1.4 billion people as the top priority.

India has made it clear that it does not take energy decisions based on political pressure or external timelines. Instead, it follows a strategy of diversification — buying oil from multiple sources depending on price, availability, and logistical feasibility. This approach has become even more crucial as global energy markets remain volatile.

## The Scale of Russia's Role in India's Oil Basket

The biggest challenge to replacing Russian oil lies in sheer scale. In the most recent fiscal year, India imported close to 88 million tonnes of crude oil from Russia. This represents a dramatic rise



over the past few years and has made Russia India's single largest oil supplier.

By comparison, imports from the United States stood at just over 10 million tonnes, while Venezuela supplied less than 3 million tonnes. Combined, US and Venezuelan crude accounted for barely a sixth of what India sourced from Russia.

Even in a hypothetical scenario where India maximised imports from both countries, the gap would remain enormous. The numbers simply do not support the idea of a quick or complete replacement.

## Why Growth Rates Don't Solve the Problem

Supporters of the replacement theory often point to

high growth rates in imports from the US and Venezuela. While it is true that imports from these countries have increased sharply in percentage terms, percentages can be misleading when starting from a low base.

Even if imports from the US continue to grow at over 35 percent annually, it would take nearly five years just to reach current Russian supply levels — assuming Russian imports remain flat and no disruptions occur. Venezuelan crude, despite even higher growth rates, would take longer due to political instability and infrastructure limitations.

When combined, US and Venezuelan imports would still require more than five years of sustained, uninter-

rupted expansion to approach Russia's current contribution. Such assumptions ignore market shocks, geopolitical tensions, and logistical constraints that are almost guaranteed to arise.

## Economic Reality: Discounts and Refinery Compatibility

One of the main reasons Russian oil has become so central to India's energy strategy is pricing. Russian crude has been available at significant discounts, making it highly attractive to Indian refiners operating in a price-sensitive market.

Replacing discounted oil with more expensive alternatives would directly impact fuel prices, inflation, and overall economic stability.

For a fast-growing economy like India's, these costs are not politically or economically trivial.

Additionally, many Indian refineries are specifically configured to process the grade of crude supplied by Russia. Switching suppliers is not as simple as signing new contracts — it requires technical adjustments, higher processing costs, and sometimes even physical modifications to refinery infrastructure.

## Logistics and Supply Chain Constraints

Beyond price and refinery issues, logistics play a major role. Russian crude has been flowing steadily to India through well-established shipping and insurance ar-

rangements. Replacing this volume would require not just new suppliers, but also expanded shipping capacity, insurance coverage, and port handling capabilities.

The United States already exports crude to multiple global markets, and diverting large volumes exclusively to India would be difficult. Venezuela, on the other hand, faces ongoing political and economic challenges that limit its ability to scale up exports reliably.

These constraints mean that even if political intent existed, physical supply chains would struggle to keep pace.

## Geopolitics Versus Energy Security

India's position reflects a

broader reality in global energy politics: countries prioritise energy security over geopolitical alignment when vital economic interests are at stake. For India, ensuring uninterrupted, affordable oil supplies is non-negotiable.

This does not mean India is abandoning diversification. In fact, it continues to expand its supplier base across the Middle East, Africa, and the Americas. But diversification is a long-term strategy, not an emergency switch.

Abruptly cutting off Russian oil would expose India to price shocks and supply risks — outcomes that policymakers are keen to avoid.

## The Bigger Picture

Trump's claims, while politically charged, overlook the structural realities of India's energy system. Oil trade is governed by infrastructure, contracts, refinery compatibility, pricing, and logistics — not just diplomatic statements.

Even under the most optimistic assumptions, replacing Russian oil completely would take several years and require sustained global stability, massive investment, and cooperative market conditions. None of these can be guaranteed.

## Conclusion

The idea that India can simply replace Russian oil with US or Venezuelan supplies may sound appealing in political speeches, but the numbers tell a different story. Russia's dominance in India's oil imports is the result of economics, infrastructure, and strategic calculation — not convenience.

For now and the foreseeable future, Russian crude will remain a central pillar of India's energy security. Any transition away from it, if it happens at all, will be gradual, pragmatic, and driven by market realities rather than political pressure.

# China's 'Secret' Nuclear Test: Myth, Reality and What It Means for Global Security

In early February 2026, a new and contentious chapter opened in the discourse on global nuclear arms control. Senior United States officials publicly alleged that China conducted a covert nuclear explosive test in 2020 — a claim that, if true, would shake the foundations of decades-old norms against nuclear testing and raise troubling questions about transparency, restraint, and strategic stability among nuclear powers.

According to the U.S. assessment, China carried out a clandestine nuclear detonation on June 22, 2020, at its Lop Nur test site in the remote Xinjiang region. The alleged event was described as having a measurable explosive yield, meaning it was more than the low-key subcritical tests nuclear states sometimes conduct for weapons reliability research. Moreover, U.S. officials asserted that Chinese authorities employed sophisticated methods to blunt seismic signals and obscure the explosion from international monitoring systems. The timing — shortly after a deadly border clash between Indian and Chinese forces at Galwan Valley — added geopolitical weight to the accusation and underscored how nuclear issues intersect with broader strategic rivalries.

The U.S. disclosure comes at a pivotal moment. With the expiration of the New START treaty between the United States and Russia in February 2026, the last remaining bilateral constraint on the world's two largest nuclear arsenals has lapsed. In this environment, Washington wants to press not only Moscow but also Beijing into a new framework of arms control that reflects a multipolar nuclear landscape. Casting the spot-

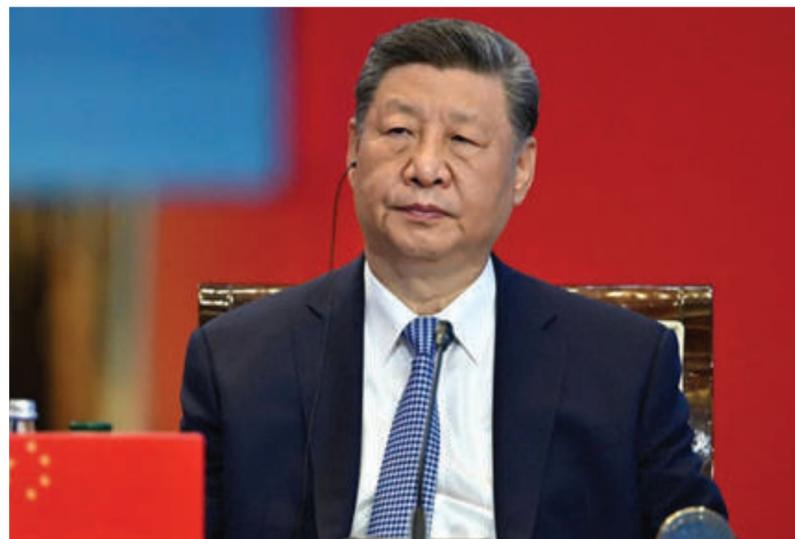
light on China's alleged past test serves that strategic aim by highlighting, from the U.S. perspective, the insufficiency of existing norms and the need for broader, more inclusive negotiations.

Beijing has vehemently denied the allegations. Chinese officials labeled the U.S. claims as "groundless" and "outright lies," accusing Washington of inventing excuses to justify its own possible return to nuclear testing. China has asserted that it adheres to a moratorium on explosive nuclear tests and opposes any narrative that portrays its defence policy as clandestine or destabilising. From the Chinese standpoint, such accusations are less about verifiable facts than about geopolitical posturing by a rival power seeking to regain leverage in nuclear diplomacy.

This dichotomy — accusation on one side, denial on the other — reveals deep fissures in how the major nuclear powers view verification, compliance, and the very architecture of arms control in the 21st century.

## The Allegation: A New Challenge to the Test Ban Norm

The core of the U.S. allegation is straightforward: China conducted a nuclear explosive test that it did not disclose publicly or to international monitoring regimes. If true, this would contravene the spirit — though not the letter — of global test prohibition norms. China, like the United States and Russia, signed the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) in the 1990s. However, Beijing has never ratified the treaty, leaving its legal commitment in limbo. Without ratification, China is not legally bound by



the treaty's provisions, but it has publicly maintained a voluntary moratorium on explosive testing for decades.

The claim also alleges that China's approach was crafted to evade detection. By manipulating seismic signatures or using techniques that reduce the visibility of underground blasts, Beijing would, according to the U.S. assessment, have exploited verification blind spots. This allegation feeds into broader strategic concerns in Washington about opacity and competitive advantage, especially in areas where China seeks to modernise, expand, and diversify its nuclear arsenal.

China's nuclear force development over the past decade has been marked by rapid growth and modernisation. New missile silo fields, advanced delivery systems such as mobile intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) and hy-

person glide vehicles, and an expanding stockpile signal China's intent to bolster its second-strike capabilities.

From a U.S. strategic perspective, this modernisation is occurring without the same levels of transparency that characterised U.S.-Soviet relations during the Cold War. The alleged secret test, therefore, is cast not as an isolated event but as part of a pattern of behaviour that challenges existing arms control norms.

## The Denial: China's Counter-Narrative

China's reaction has been resolute. Beijing categorically rejects the notion that it has ever conducted a secret nuclear blast. Chinese officials argue that the U.S. narrative is a pretext for justifying renewed American nuclear testing and undermining China's international standing. In official statements, China has reiter-

ated its commitment to responsible behaviour on nuclear issues and accused Washington of attempting to distort facts for strategic gain.

This response plays into a broader narrative that China has promoted internationally: that it is a responsible nuclear power committed to restraint, and that U.S. efforts to castigate it are rooted in strategic anxiety rather than empirical evidence. From Beijing's viewpoint, highlighting alleged test activity without presenting transparent data or involving independent verification mechanisms undermines trust and erodes the prospects for constructive dialogue on arms control.

## Verification and Evidence: The Hard Truth

One of the most challenging aspects of this debate is that independent monitoring bodies have not publicly con-

firmed any event consistent with a full-scale nuclear explosion in China in 2020. Organisations tasked with global seismic and radionuclide monitoring have not reported evidence that proves or disproves the U.S. claim. In the realm of nuclear test monitoring, seismographs, infrasound detectors, and other technologies are extraordinarily sensitive; yet none have identified a blast of sufficient magnitude at the time and location cited.

This absence of confirmation deepens the uncertainty and reflects the difficulties inherent in verifying compliance in the absence of binding treaties. While underground nuclear tests are typically detectable through seismic waves akin to small earthquakes, certain techniques — such as decoupling an explosion within a large cavity — can reduce the signal strength and complicate detection. Whether such methods were used, and with what effect, remains subject to technical debate among experts and cannot be conclusively assessed in public forums.

## Implications for the Global Nuclear Order

Regardless of the ultimate truth of the alleged 2020 test, the political impact is already significant. The accusation underscores the fragility of the post-Cold War nuclear order and the challenges of forging new agreements in an increasingly multipolar world. With longstanding arms control treaties expiring and no clear successors in place, trust between nuclear powers is eroding, and strategic competition is intensifying.

For the United States, the allegation against China is part of a broader effort to galvanise support for a new era of trilateral

arms control that includes Beijing alongside Washington and Moscow. For China, the denial is part of a broader effort to resist what it sees as undue pressure and narrative framing by Western powers.

The broader international community watches these developments with concern. Nations outside the immediate nuclear club have limited influence over verification and compliance mechanisms, yet they have a deep stake in preventing nuclear proliferation and escalation. If nuclear weapon tests become shrouded in secrecy, and if major powers refuse to engage in transparent verification, the risk of mistrust and strategic miscalculation grows.

## Conclusion: Between Perception and Reality

The story of China's "secret" nuclear test — whether myth, misinterpretation or something in between — highlights the challenges facing the global non-proliferation and arms control architecture. Accusations and denials, made in the absence of transparent evidence, deepen mistrust at a time when cooperation is needed more than ever. Without robust verification mechanisms and renewed commitment to restraint, the world risks entering a new era where nuclear competition, rather than cooperation, sets the tone of global security.

The debate over whether the alleged test really happened tells us less about one isolated event and more about the state of international norms, power dynamics, and the future trajectory of nuclear diplomacy. The stakes are high: inaction or miscalculation could undermine decades of progress in keeping nuclear weapons from the brink.

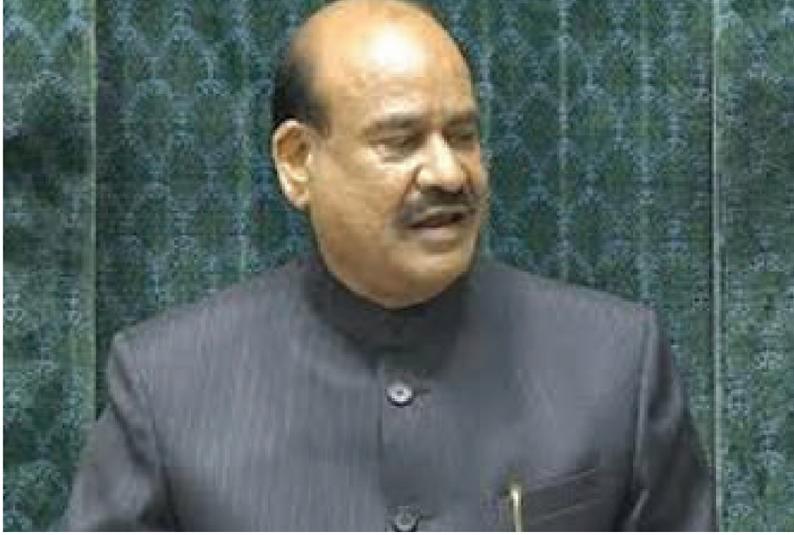
## Opposition Moves No-Confidence Motion Against Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla

Opposition parties in the Lok Sabha have formally submitted a no-confidence motion against Speaker Om Birla, escalating tensions in Parliament during the ongoing Budget session.

Leaders from multiple opposition parties handed over a notice seeking the Speaker's removal, accusing him of partisan conduct and alleging misuse of his constitutional position. The motion has been backed by more than a hundred Members of Parliament, meeting the procedural requirement to initiate the process.

The opposition has claimed that the Speaker has repeatedly denied fair opportunities to opposition members during key debates, curtailed speaking time, and allowed what they describe as uneven enforcement of parliamentary rules. They have also objected to the suspension of several opposition MPs, arguing that such actions have disrupted democratic functioning in the House.

The move comes amid frequent disruptions in the Lok Sabha, marked by heated exchanges between ruling party and opposition members. Opposition leaders say the decision to bring the motion reflects growing frustration over how proceedings are being



conducted and the shrinking space for dissent.

Under constitutional provisions, a Speaker can be removed through a resolution passed by a majority of the House, following a mandatory notice period. The notice submitted by the opposition will now be examined by the Lok Sabha Secretariat before further steps are taken.

The ruling party has rejected the allegations, maintain-

ing that the Speaker has acted strictly in accordance with parliamentary rules and conventions. Government leaders have accused the opposition of politicising the office of the Speaker and undermining parliamentary institutions for political gain.

Not all opposition parties are on the same page, with some allies yet to formally endorse the motion. This has highlighted internal differenc-

es even as the broader opposition seeks to project unity on issues of parliamentary procedure.

If the notice is admitted, the motion can be taken up for discussion and voting after the prescribed period. Until then, the development adds another layer of confrontation to an already contentious parliamentary session, with both sides preparing for a prolonged political and procedural battle.

## Kiren Rijiju Blasts Congress After Sharing Video of Lok Sabha Showdown

Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju has sharply criticised the Congress party and other opposition MPs after releasing video footage of a chaotic incident inside the Lok Sabha earlier this month, calling their conduct "the most degrading behaviour" seen in Parliament.

Rijiju shared the video showing scenes from the February 4 Budget session, when proceedings were disrupted just before Prime Minister Narendra Modi was scheduled to reply to the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. The footage depicts several opposition women MPs moving towards the treasury benches and standing near the Prime Minister's seat amidst a tense atmosphere, with some holding banners and refusing to step back despite repeated requests to do so.

In his public statements and social media posts accompanying the video, Rijiju accused the opposition of staging a deliberate confrontation that nearly forced a physical clash inside the chamber. He argued



that if ruling party MPs had not been restrained, the situation could have escalated into a serious altercation, compromising the dignity and sanctity of the House.

Rijiju's comments drew a clear contrast between what he described as orderly restraint by members of the ruling alliance and disruptive actions by opposition members. He said the ruling party chose to show maturity by avoiding escala-

tion, even as tensions rose. The minister's remarks also suggested broader political blame on the opposition for creating an environment where significant parliamentary business could not proceed smoothly.

The video release has intensified political confrontation in Parliament, coming amid other flashpoints during the Budget session, including a no-confidence motion against Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and

heated disputes between government and opposition benches over parliamentary conduct and procedural fairness.

Opposition leaders, meanwhile, have rejected Rijiju's account and defended their members' actions as legitimate protest within parliamentary norms, accusing the ruling side of overstatement and selective portrayal of events. They have argued that the disruption was rooted in deeper disagreements over legislative handling and alleged partiality.

The controversy highlights ongoing tensions inside the Lok Sabha, where political battles increasingly play out not only through speeches and motions but also through public dissemination of footage and narratives aimed at shaping perception beyond the parliamentary precincts. As both sides continue to trade accusations, the incident has become another flashpoint in the broader struggle over conduct, decorum and power in India's national legislature.

## From Chhattisgarh, Amit Shah Warns Naxals and Appeals to Women Cadres to Surrender

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has issued a strong warning to Maoist cadres operating across central and southern India, while also making a direct appeal to women involved in the insurgency to abandon violence and return to mainstream life.

Speaking at a public event in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region, Shah reiterated the government's commitment to ending left-wing extremism and said security forces would continue firm action against those who persist with armed activities. He indicated that Maoist groups may still be active in parts of Telangana and cautioned that there would be no leniency for those engaging in violence, including attacks on civilians and infrastructure.

At the same time, the Home Minister stressed that the government's fight is against extremism, not against people. He urged Maoist cadres, particularly women, to surrender and take advantage of rehabilitation and welfare schemes. Shah said many women had been drawn into the movement at a young age and deserved an opportunity to rebuild their lives with dignity and security.

He appealed to Maoist leadership to release women cadres and allow them to join rehabilitation programmes, highlighting that governments at both the Centre and state levels have introduced support measures such as fi-



nanial assistance, housing, education and skill training for those who give up arms.

Shah also underlined the government's broader strategy of combining security operations with development initiatives. He said efforts were underway to improve infrastructure, healthcare, education and employment opportunities in tribal and remote areas, particularly in Bastar, to address conditions that have historically allowed extremism to take root.

Reiterating a timeline for eliminating Naxal violence, Shah said the government is determined to restore peace and development in affected regions. His remarks reflected a dual approach of warning and outreach, signalling continued pressure on armed groups while keeping the door open for those willing to choose peace.

## Sunetra Pawar Takes Charge as Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister



Sunetra Pawar on Tuesday formally assumed charge as the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, marking a significant political transition in the state following the recent demise of her husband, senior leader Ajit Pawar.

She took charge at the Mantralaya in Mumbai and later attended her first cabinet meeting in her new role. Her elevation comes after she was unanimously elected leader of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) legislature group, a step that paved the way for her appointment to the post.

Sunetra Pawar, a Rajya Sabha member, has been entrusted with several key portfolios, including state excise, sports and youth welfare, and minority development. The finance and planning departments earlier handled by Ajit Pawar will remain with Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis.

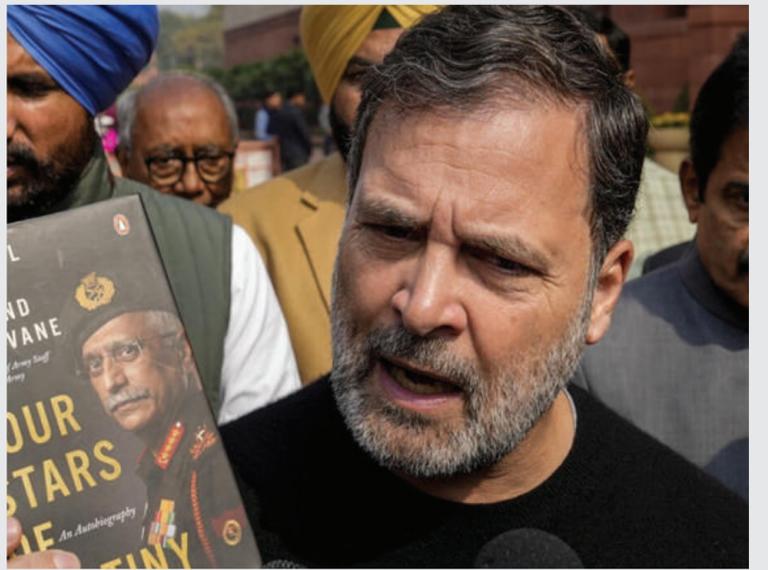
Her appointment is seen as an effort to ensure conti-

nunity and stability within the ruling coalition after a period of political uncertainty. Party leaders have described her elevation as a move to preserve organisational unity while respecting the legacy of Ajit Pawar, who was one of Maharashtra's most influential political figures.

Earlier in the day, Sunetra Pawar paid visits to prominent religious and memorial sites before beginning her official duties, underscoring the solemn backdrop against which she has taken office.

As she assumes responsibility, Sunetra Pawar has said her focus will be on governance and public welfare, signalling her intent to carry forward development initiatives while navigating the complex political landscape of the state. Her appointment also marks a notable moment in Maharashtra politics, reflecting the growing role of women in senior leadership positions.

## Political Row Erupts Over General Naravane's Unpublished Memoir After Rahul Gandhi's Accusations



A political controversy has erupted in New Delhi over an unpublished memoir by former Indian Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane, titled 'Four Stars of Destiny', after Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, challenged the official account of the book's status.

The dispute came to the forefront during the ongoing Budget session, when Rahul Gandhi attempted to refer to passages from the memoir in Parliament as part of his criticism of the government's handling of the 2020 India-China standoff. Parliament's Speaker ruled that he could not quote from the book because it has not been officially published, prompting a sharp backlash from the opposition.

The issue escalated further when the book's publisher issued a statement saying that it holds exclusive publishing rights to 'Four Stars of Destiny' and that the memoir has not yet

been published in any form — neither in print nor digitally. The publisher also warned that any copies circulating online or elsewhere without authorisation could constitute copyright infringement.

In response, Rahul Gandhi held up what he said was a copy of the book outside Parliament and accused the publisher of lying. He cited an earlier social media post attributed to General Naravane promoting the book and argued that either the former Army chief's own statements were untrue or the publisher's denial was false. Gandhi insisted he believed the Army chief over the publisher and raised questions about why the book has been delayed or blocked from release.

The disagreement over the memoir has spilled into the streets of Indian politics, with opposition leaders arguing that the book contains important perspectives on national security that should be openly discussed. The situation trig-

gered disruptions in Lok Sabha proceedings, and several MPs were suspended from the session in the ensuing clash over parliamentary speech and privilege.

Separately, police have registered a case to investigate reports of an unauthorised circulation of portions of the manuscript, including a purported digital copy circulating on social media. Authorities are examining whether security protocols were breached in the distribution of material from a book that has yet to receive official publication clearance.

The controversy has drawn attention to the broader issue of how sensitive material involving national defence is handled in public discourse and the rules governing what can be cited in Parliament. As the episode continues to unfold, political leaders from multiple parties are using it to bolster their competing narratives about transparency, defence policy and parliamentary procedure.

## Chidambaram Slams Budget as "Cautious, Forgettable" and Says Reform Agenda Is Stuck



In a sharply worded critique during the Rajya Sabha discussion on the Union Budget 2026-27, senior Congress leader and former finance minister P. Chidambaram described the government's financial plan as "cautious," "parsimonious" and "forgettable," while asserting that the much-touted reform agenda has lost momentum.

Opening the debate in the Upper House, Chidambaram criticised key aspects of the Budget, saying that public, private and foreign investment in India remains weak, and that capital expenditure was cut significantly in the current fiscal year, contrary to what he believes the economy needs. He questioned whether the government had truly engaged with the findings and warnings contained in the latest Economic Survey.

Chidambaram argued

that gross capital formation has been stagnant at around 30% of GDP for over a decade, and pointed to a sharp drop in net foreign direct investment and a lacklustre performance by private investors. He also echoed broader concerns about slowing growth, noting that nominal GDP growth has eased over recent years.

The Congress leader dismissed the slogan that the "reform express is well on its way," saying instead that the reform engine is stuck — not derailed, but not moving forward either. He also raised concerns about fiscal consolidation, suggesting that at the current pace it would take about a decade for India to achieve its own fiscal deficit target.

Chidambaram's attack reflected wider opposition unease with what many see as insufficient focus on job creation, investment incen-

tives, and real-world challenges facing farmers, youth and the unorganised sector. He said the government's high-level announcements too often lack meaningful budgetary backing, and warned that reductions in allocations for key ministries could hurt development outcomes.

Other opposition MPs also voiced criticism, with some alleging that non-ruling states were being sidelined in budget priorities. In contrast, government supporters defended the Budget as balanced and growth-oriented, arguing that it strengthens macroeconomic fundamentals and enhances India's global standing.

The debate on the Budget will continue, with divisions over economic strategy and fiscal priorities setting the tone for a broader political contest in Parliament.

## Inside the India-US Trade Deal: What Trump's 'Zero-Tariff' Claim Really Means

India and the United States have unveiled what both sides are calling a historic trade framework, aimed at easing long-standing trade tensions and significantly expanding bilateral commerce. The announcement gained global attention after former US President Donald Trump claimed the deal would move towards "zero tariffs." However, a closer look at the agreement shows that while tariff reductions are central to the framework, the reality is more nuanced than a complete elimination of duties.

### Tariff Cuts, Not a Blanket Zero

At the core of the deal is a commitment by the United States to substantially lower tariffs on a wide range of Indian exports. These reductions are designed to improve market access for Indian goods such as textiles, pharmaceuticals, engineering products, and select manufactured items. In some product categories, duties may be reduced to zero, but this will apply selectively rather than across all goods.

On the Indian side, New Delhi has agreed to reduce or eliminate tariffs on several US exports, particularly in agriculture and industrial goods. These include products such as pulses, edible oils, nuts, alcoholic beverages, and certain industrial inputs. India has also committed to easing non-tariff barriers that have historically restricted US companies' access to the Indian market.

### Major Purchase Commitments

A headline feature of the framework is India's pledge to significantly increase purchases of US goods and services.



These purchases span multiple sectors, including energy, agriculture, defence-related manufacturing, and advanced technology. While a large aggregate figure has been mentioned publicly, officials on both sides have indicated that these purchases will be phased over time and subject to commercial viability.

### Digital Trade and Regulatory Cooperation

The agreement also addresses digital trade, a key area of friction in recent years. India has agreed to roll back certain digital services taxes and work towards a more predictable regulatory environment for US technology firms. Both countries have committed to closer cooperation on digital trade rules, data flows, and emerging technologies.

Additionally, the deal outlines plans for stronger coordination on customs procedures, standards, and rules of origin.

This is intended to ensure that tariff benefits apply only to goods genuinely produced in each country and to prevent misuse of trade preferences.

### Strategic and Supply Chain Focus

Beyond tariffs, the framework places strong emphasis on supply-chain resilience and strategic cooperation. India and the US aim to reduce dependence on single-country supply chains by encouraging joint manufacturing, technology partnerships, and investment flows. Cooperation in critical sectors such as semiconductors, clean energy, and advanced manufacturing forms an important part of the broader vision.

### Clarifying the 'Zero-Tariff' Narrative

While Trump's "zero-tariff" claim has dominated headlines, officials have clarified that this phrase reflects the di-

rection and ambition of the relationship rather than an immediate policy outcome. The agreement is best understood as a step toward progressively lower trade barriers rather than a sudden shift to duty-free trade across the board.

### What Comes Next

The current framework is an interim arrangement, with both countries planning further negotiations toward a comprehensive trade agreement. Future talks are expected to cover services, investment protection, labour mobility, and deeper regulatory alignment.

Overall, the India-US trade deal marks a significant reset in economic relations. While it stops short of delivering universal zero tariffs, it lays the groundwork for expanded trade, reduced friction, and closer strategic alignment between the two economies.

## As Starmer Faces Mounting Pressure, Is Shabana Mahmood Emerging as a UK Leadership Contender?



British Prime Minister Keir Starmer is under increasing political pressure amid controversy linked to the handling of issues connected to Jeffrey Epstein-era associations within diplomatic and political circles. The row has sparked criticism across party lines and intensified scrutiny of Starmer's leadership, triggering speculation about possible successors should the crisis deepen.

While Starmer has rejected calls to step aside and insists he retains the confidence of his party, the controversy has exposed internal unease within Labour. Senior figures have voiced concerns over judgement and political optics, and the episode has reignited debate about leadership accountability at the top of government.

Against this backdrop, attention has turned to Shabana Mahmood, one of the most senior figures in the current cabinet, whose profile has risen steadily over recent years. A seasoned politician with a strong legal background, Mahmood is widely regarded as a capable administrator and a firm communicator, qualities

that have gained prominence amid the present turbulence.

Mahmood represents Birmingham Ladywood and has served in Parliament since 2010. Over the years, she has held several senior roles, building experience across justice, home affairs, and internal security. Her current position places her at the centre of some of the government's most sensitive policy areas, including policing, immigration, and national security — giving her visibility and authority unmatched by many of her peers.

Supporters argue that Mahmood's calm, disciplined approach contrasts with the uncertainty surrounding the prime minister. They point to her ability to manage complex portfolios and defend government policy under pressure as signs she could command confidence within the party if a leadership transition were to occur.

However, political analysts caution that talk of succession remains speculative. In the UK system, a sitting prime minister can only be replaced through internal party processes that re-

quire substantial backing from MPs. At present, Starmer still controls the party machinery, and no formal challenge has been initiated.

Mahmood herself has not indicated any ambition to replace the prime minister, and close allies say she remains focused on her current responsibilities. Nevertheless, her emergence in public discussion reflects broader uncertainty within Labour as it seeks to contain political damage and maintain stability.

If circumstances were to shift dramatically, Mahmood's elevation would mark a historic moment in British politics, underscoring the changing face of leadership in the UK. For now, though, her potential rise serves more as a symbol of contingency planning within the party rather than an imminent change at the top.

As the controversy continues to unfold, much will depend on whether Starmer can regain political momentum — or whether internal pressure forces Labour to consider alternative leadership options sooner than expected.

## Russia Accuses US of Pushing India Toward Costlier Energy as Tensions Over Oil Policy Escalate

Russia has strongly criticised recent actions by the United States that it says are aimed at limiting India's ability to buy inexpensive Russian energy, accusing Washington of trying to force New Delhi and other countries into purchasing more expensive American liquefied natural gas (LNG) and energy supplies.

The comments from Russian officials came after assertions by the US government in connection with a broader trade and energy policy push that reportedly seeks to encourage countries to reduce their reliance on Russian oil. Moscow has dismissed these actions as coercive and contrary to fair competition, arguing that the measures effectively penalise countries that engage in energy trade with Russia while promoting American exports.

According to Russian statements, the United States is deploying a combination of tariffs, sanctions and other restrictions that amount to an attempt to block access to Russian oil — which has been



widely discounted on global markets — and steer buyers toward US energy products, including LNG at higher prices. Russian officials also characterised such moves as part of a broader effort by the US to exert control over global energy supply routes and assert economic dominance.

The criticism highlighted concerns about what Moscow calls a "war" against energy tankers and trade flows, which it claims violates international norms and undermines the

rights of sovereign states to choose their energy sources. Russian leaders emphasised that major emerging economies such as India, China, Indonesia and Brazil should remain free to engage in energy cooperation with all trading partners, including Russia, without artificial obstacles being created by third parties.

India has responded separately to US comments about its oil import policy by reaffirming that its energy procurement decisions are guided

by national interest and market conditions. New Delhi has emphasised that as a major importer of crude oil, it must prioritise adequate availability, fair pricing and reliable supply for its large and growing economy.

New Delhi's position has been consistent: India will continue to diversify its energy sources and engage with multiple partners to meet its needs, and it has not publicly confirmed any policy shift to stop buying Russian oil solely at the behest of another country.

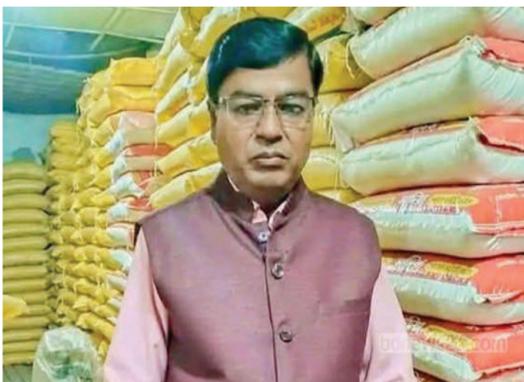
The broader debate over energy purchases, trade measures and geopolitical pressure underscores the complex intersection of economic interests, strategic alliances and global energy security — particularly as countries navigate shifting patterns of supply, sanctions and international competition. The tensions illustrate how energy policy remains deeply entwined with broader diplomatic and economic negotiations involving major powers and emerging markets alike.

## Hindu Businessman Killed in Bangladesh Days Ahead of National Elections

A Hindu businessman was brutally killed in Bangladesh just days before the country's national elections, triggering fear and concern among minority communities and raising fresh questions about security ahead of the polls.

The victim, a 62-year-old trader, was attacked late at night inside his shop in the Mymensingh region. According to local accounts, unidentified assailants entered the premises and assaulted him with sharp weapons. He was found critically injured and covered in blood by family members and neighbours, and was rushed to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

The businessman was a well-known figure in the local market and earned his livelihood through a small trading enterprise. Residents described him as a quiet and hardworking individual with no known disputes, making the attack all the more shocking for the community.



The killing has taken place just days before Bangladesh goes to the polls, intensifying anxiety over law and order during a politically sensitive period. Minority groups, particularly Hindus, have expressed concern about their safety, noting that incidents of violence and intimidation tend to rise around election time.

Police have launched an investigation and said they are examining the crime scene, questioning witnesses and reviewing any available surveillance footage. Officials have stated that efforts are underway to identify and apprehend those responsible, though no arrests have been announced so far. Authorities have not yet confirmed whether the mur-

der was targeted due to religious identity, business rivalry, or other motives.

Community leaders have condemned the killing and urged the government to ensure the safety of minorities and traders, especially in the lead-up to voting. Some local residents have called for increased police patrolling and stronger security measures in market areas and residential neighbourhoods.

The incident has added to broader concerns about stability and public confidence during the election period. Observers say such acts of violence, regardless of motive, risk undermining trust in the electoral environment and heightening social tensions.

As Bangladesh prepares to vote, the killing has cast a shadow over the campaign atmosphere, underscoring the challenges authorities face in maintaining security and reassuring citizens during a crucial democratic exercise.

## Iranian Man's Final Video Appeals Against Talks With Tehran Before Death



An Iranian man has drawn international attention after posting a video message urging former US President Donald Trump and Western leaders not to negotiate with Iran's ruling establishment, shortly before his death by suicide. The video has circulated widely on social media, sparking debate over Iran's internal situation and international policy toward Tehran.

In the recorded message, the man, identified as Pouria Hamidi, speaks directly to global leaders in English, stating at the outset that the video was meant to be watched after his death. He describes conditions inside Iran as deeply oppressive and accuses the authorities of violently suppressing dissent and protests.

Hamidi argues that diplomatic engagement with Iran's leadership would

only strengthen those in power while betraying ordinary citizens who, he claims, have suffered under state crackdowns. He urges Western governments to abandon negotiations and instead adopt a far more confrontational approach, claiming that Iranians are unable to challenge the country's powerful security apparatus on their own.

During the video, he appeals directly to Trump, asking him not to pursue agreements with Tehran and to consider stronger measures. He also expresses support for Iranian opposition figures abroad and calls for unity among those opposed to the current leadership.

Toward the end of the recording, Hamidi switches from English to Persian, addressing fellow Iranians. He encourages solidarity, urges people not to lose

hope, and speaks emotionally about the desire for a different future for the country.

Reports indicate that Hamidi died shortly after posting the video, although independent verification of the exact circumstances remains limited. His death has underscored the depth of anger, despair and political frustration felt by some Iranians, particularly amid ongoing repression and uncertainty about Iran's relations with the West.

The incident has reignited international discussion over how foreign governments should engage with Iran, balancing diplomatic efforts with concerns over human rights and internal unrest. It also highlights the intense personal toll political conflict and repression can take on individuals living under prolonged pressure.

## Auto Stocks Extend Rally as Trade Deal Lifts Prospects for Indian Auto Parts Exporters



Indian auto and auto ancillary stocks continued their upward momentum for a second straight session, driven by optimism surrounding a new trade framework between India and the United States. The rally reflects expectations that Indian auto parts manufacturers will gain improved access to the US market, boosting exports and long-term growth prospects.

The Nifty Auto index rose for the second consecutive day, outperforming several other sectoral indices. Buying interest was particularly strong in auto component manufacturers, as investors factored in the benefits of reduced tariffs and improved trade terms under the new agreement. The broader market's positive tone also supported the sector's gains.

According to market analysts, the trade framework offers preferential tariff treatment for Indian auto parts entering the US, with several categories expected to attract zero or significantly lower import duties. This change enhances the price

competitiveness of Indian suppliers, allowing them to compete more effectively with global peers and potentially increase their market share in one of the world's largest automotive markets.

Indian auto parts exporters already have an established presence in the US, supplying components across passenger vehicles, commercial vehicles and electric mobility segments. The improved trade terms are likely to strengthen India's position within global automotive supply chains, encouraging US manufacturers to source more components from Indian companies.

Another supportive factor is currency dynamics. A relatively weaker rupee improves export realizations for Indian manufacturers, further enhancing margins and earnings visibility. Combined with tariff relief, this creates a favourable operating environment for export-oriented auto ancillary firms.

Stock prices of several leading auto and component companies moved higher during

the session, reflecting investor confidence in the sector's improved outlook. Market participants believe that companies with existing US exposure and diversified product portfolios are best placed to benefit from the evolving trade environment.

Beyond near-term gains, the development signals deeper economic engagement between India and the US in manufacturing and industrial sectors. Analysts note that sustained policy support and stable trade relations could encourage fresh investments, technology partnerships and capacity expansion within India's auto components industry.

Overall, the auto sector's continued rally highlights how trade policy developments can directly influence market sentiment. With improved access to the US market and strengthening global demand, Indian auto parts exporters appear well-positioned to capture new growth opportunities in the coming years, supporting the sector's positive momentum.

## SEBI Halts NCDEX and MSE Plans to Enter Equity Options Market



India's market regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), has put on hold the plans of the National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) and the Metropolitan Stock Exchange (MSE) to enter the equity options market. The move reflects SEBI's cautious stance on the rapid expansion of derivatives trading and its emphasis on ensuring market stability and investor protection.

Both exchanges had sought regulatory approval to expand their operations into the equity cash and derivatives segments. NCDEX, which is primarily focused on agricultural commodity futures, and MSE, which has largely operated in currency derivatives and select market segments, were looking to diversify their offerings and tap into the fast-growing equity derivatives space.

According to regulatory assessments, SEBI wants exchanges to first establish a strong and

liquid cash equity market before being allowed to launch complex derivative products such as options. The regulator believes that a well-functioning underlying cash market is essential for effective price discovery and risk management in derivatives trading.

The decision also comes amid concerns over the disproportionate growth of options trading compared with cash market activity in India. Equity options volumes have surged in recent years, raising regulatory worries about excessive speculation, concentration of risk and potential systemic vulnerabilities. SEBI has been taking steps to tighten oversight and ensure that derivatives growth is aligned with the depth and maturity of the underlying market.

While both NCDEX and MSE have invested in upgrading technology and strengthening infrastructure, SEBI has indicated that technical preparedness alone is not

sufficient. Exchanges must demonstrate sustained liquidity, broad participation and stable operations in the cash market before they can be considered for entry into equity derivatives.

The move effectively maintains the dominance of established exchanges in the equity options segment for now, while signalling the regulatory challenges faced by smaller or specialised exchanges seeking to expand. For NCDEX and MSE, the focus is likely to shift towards building scale in cash equities, enhancing market participation and meeting regulatory expectations.

Overall, SEBI's decision underscores its priority of market integrity and risk control over rapid expansion. While competition and innovation remain important, the regulator appears determined to ensure that any expansion into derivatives is backed by a strong market foundation and safeguards for investors.

# Why the Sell-Off in Data and Information Companies Is Misplaced and Overdone

A growing downturn in the share prices of business-to-business (B2B) data and information companies has sparked widespread concern in financial markets. Many investors are interpreting recent declines as evidence that artificial intelligence (AI) will rapidly make traditional information providers obsolete. However, this narrative oversimplifies the value these companies offer and misunderstands how technological change actually affects them.

The current sell-off, which has hit firms whose business models are based on providing high-quality data, analytics, and workflow support to enterprises, is rooted in fears that AI platforms will supplant their services. Investors worry that intelligent tools capable of aggregating and interpreting information will render traditional paid data feeds and professional services redundant. But these fears reflect surface-level thinking rather than a grounded view of industry fundamentals.

The underlying logic of the pessimism is that AI can perform many tasks that historically required specialised data providers. While AI models have indeed become more capable at processing and summarising information, they still rely heavily on structured, authoritative data from established companies. AI tools excel when they are built on robust datasets and deeply



embedded in professional workflows — the very strengths that legacy data companies have developed over decades.

Moreover, data and information providers are deeply integrated into critical business processes such as financial compliance, risk assessment, regulatory reporting, and specialised research. These are areas where accuracy, provenance, and domain expertise are vital — not easily replicated by generic AI offerings. In many cases, these firms have longstanding client relationships and mission-critical contracts that provide recurring revenue and resilience against short-term market sentiment.

History also offers valu-

able perspective. Previous technological disruptions — including the rise of the internet and cloud-based software — were expected to kill off established players but often created opportunities for them instead. Many incumbents embraced change, integrating new technologies into their offerings and expanding their value proposition rather than being displaced by it. The same dynamic is likely to play out with AI, where companies that embed cutting-edge tools into their platforms can strengthen customer lock-in and expand their addressable market.

In this context, the recent drop in valuations among data companies presents a potential buy-

ing opportunity for long-term investors. The downturn appears driven more by fear and narrative-driven selling than by fundamental deterioration in business models or competitive positioning. Many of these firms continue to generate strong cash flows, maintain profitable operations, and serve indispensable roles in the functioning of capital markets, legal compliance, and business intelligence.

The panic selling also fails to recognise the role AI can play as an enabler rather than a disintermediator. When used effectively, AI augments human decision-making and can deepen the value of curated datasets by making them more accessible

and actionable. This is particularly true in specialised sectors where domain expertise and data quality cannot be easily substituted.

In summary, the so-called "meltdown" in data and information stocks overstates the threat posed by AI and underestimates the enduring strengths of these businesses. Rather than assuming they will be rendered irrelevant, it's more realistic to view AI as enhancing their capabilities and expanding demand for high-integrity data. For investors who focus on fundamentals rather than headlines, the recent correction may offer an attractive entry point into companies with long-term competitive advantages.

## Indian Family Businesses Buck Global Uncertainty, But Internal Gaps Could Limit Future Growth

Indian family-owned enterprises are displaying remarkable confidence and growth ambition compared with their global counterparts, according to a recent PwC survey. While external global shocks such as inflation, supply-chain disruption or geopolitical risks have had relatively limited impact on Indian family firms, internal challenges around governance, technology adoption and succession planning are emerging as key constraints for long-term competitiveness.

The survey — part of PwC's 12th Global Family Business Survey — highlights a striking contrast between Indian family businesses and their worldwide peers. Only about four in ten Indian businesses reported being significantly affected by major global risks, compared with a higher share globally. Issues such as labour shortages, technological disruption including AI, and climate pressure were felt less acutely among Indian respondents than elsewhere. This relative insulation has helped fuel optimism about growth prospects. A very large majority of Indian firms expect to expand in the next two



years, and more than half are targeting aggressive growth strategies, far outpacing global averages.

This upbeat outlook reflects several structural strengths. India's large and growing domestic market, young workforce and entrepreneurial culture have contributed to resilience amid global volatility. Many firms continue to explore new verticals, adjacent markets, and even international markets, demonstrating a risk appetite that contrasts with more cautious peers abroad, who have prioritised stability over expansion.

However, the survey also reveals important internal challenges that could temper this optimism. Indian family businesses report greater difficulty when it comes to succession planning and governance structures. A significant number lack clear leadership transition plans, and resistance from senior generations is often cited as a barrier to preparing the next generation of leaders. In addition, boards are often composed predominantly of family members, with limited external or diverse perspectives, which can constrain strategic decision-making at scale.

Technology adoption is another area of concern. While many Indian family firms express strong intent to embrace digital transformation and view technology as a key driver of competitiveness, only a small share are early adopters. A larger proportion adopt a cautious or selective approach, which could slow their progress relative to global peers who are investing more aggressively in innovation, AI and advanced analytics.

Experts argue that bridging these internal gaps — by strengthening governance, formalising succession pathways and accelerating strategic technology integration — will be critical for sustaining long-term growth as Indian family businesses scale and enter more competitive global arenas.

In summary, Indian family businesses are riding a wave of confidence and outward ambition, buoyed by domestic strengths and lower exposure to global shocks. But structural gaps within organisation, leadership and technology readiness remain key areas that could shape their future trajectory.

## Indian Markets Extend Rally for Third Day; Sensex Gains 208 Points, Nifty Tops 25,900

Indian equity markets continued their upward momentum for the third consecutive session, ending the day firmly in positive territory as investor sentiment remained supportive. Benchmark indices posted moderate gains, aided by buying interest in select heavyweight stocks and improving confidence around domestic and global cues.

The BSE Sensex closed 208 points higher, while the Nifty 50 reclaimed the crucial 25,900 mark, signalling sustained optimism among market participants. The steady rise over the past three sessions reflects a gradual recovery after recent consolidation, with investors selectively adding to positions rather than engaging in broad-based risk-taking.

A key driver of the rally was the return of foreign institutional investor (FII) inflows, which provided much-needed support to the market. Foreign investors were net buyers during the session, reversing the cautious stance seen in previous weeks. Their participation helped stabi-



lise sentiment and reinforced confidence in India's medium-term growth outlook.

Sectoral performance was mixed, though the overall bias remained positive. Auto and metal stocks emerged as notable gainers, benefiting from expectations of improving demand and firm global commodity prices. Select banking and financial stocks also contributed to the benchmarks' gains, offsetting weakness in a

few defensive pockets of the market.

The broader market mirrored the positive trend, with midcap and smallcap stocks also ending higher. This indicated improving market breadth and suggested that the rally was not confined only to index heavyweights. Analysts noted that such participation across segments often signals strengthening underlying sentiment.

Global cues remained supportive as Asian markets traded with a positive bias, which helped boost risk appetite among domestic investors. Stability in overseas markets, coupled with easing concerns over global monetary conditions, encouraged investors to maintain a constructive stance on equities.

Market experts, however, advised caution near higher levels. The 26,000 level on the Nifty is seen as an important psychological and technical resistance. A sustained move above this zone could open the door for further upside, while failure to hold gains may lead to near-term consolidation.

Overall, the third straight day of gains reflects renewed confidence driven by foreign inflows, selective sectoral strength, and supportive global cues. While the trend remains positive, investors are expected to stay stock-specific and closely monitor upcoming macroeconomic data and global developments for further direction.

## Family Making Sandwiches on Train Triggers Online Debate on Public Etiquette



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

In his Instagram caption, Vikas

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

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

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

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

## Bengaluru House Help's Thoughtful Anniversary Gesture Wins Hearts Online



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# How Suryakumar Yadav Fought His Slump by Slowing Down and Finding Balance

Suryakumar Yadav, one of India's most dynamic white-ball batters, recently went through a rare and testing phase in his career — a prolonged slump that forced him to reassess not just his technique, but also his mindset.

Known for his fearless strokeplay and ability to score all around the wicket, Suryakumar found himself struggling for runs over several matches. The timing that once made his shots look effortless seemed to disappear, and with expectations mounting, the pressure began to take a toll. For a player accustomed to success, the lean patch was both frustrating and mentally draining.

Rather than forcing his way out of trouble, Suryakumar made an unusual but deliberate choice: he stepped away from the game for a short period. He decided to put his cricket kit aside, distance himself from the daily grind of practice and matches, and allow his mind to reset. This break, he later acknowledged, was essential.

During this phase, he also made small but mean-



ingful changes to his routine. High-energy music gave way to devotional songs, helping him slow down and find calm amid the noise of elite sport. The shift was less about superstition and more about restoring emotional balance — something he felt had been missing during the slump.

Technically, opponents had begun targeting him early, denying him the

freedom he usually enjoys. But the bigger challenge was mental. By taking time off, Suryakumar stopped chasing form and instead focused on clarity and confidence, trusting that the runs would eventually follow.

When he returned, the difference was visible. His movements at the crease looked more composed, his shot selection more measured. Instead of rush-

ing into risky strokes, he showed patience, built partnerships and allowed his natural flair to resurface gradually.

A crucial innings in the T20 World Cup showcased this renewed balance. It wasn't just about the runs he scored, but the way he scored them — adapting to conditions, reading the game situation and blending caution with aggression. The knock signalled

not just a return to form, but a player who had grown through adversity.

As India's campaign progresses, Suryakumar's journey serves as a reminder that even the most gifted players go through difficult phases. Sometimes, the way forward isn't more practice or harder effort — but stepping back, regaining perspective and trusting the process.

## Pakistan's U-Turn on India Match Averts Huge Revenue Hit at T20 World Cup

Pakistan's decision to reverse its earlier stance and agree to play India in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 has prevented a massive financial setback for the tournament organisers and cricket's global governing body.

The proposed boycott of the India fixture — one of the most commercially valuable matches in world sport — had threatened to disrupt key revenue streams tied to broadcasters, sponsorships, advertising and hospitality. Industry estimates suggested that cancelling the India-Pakistan clash could have cost hundreds of millions of dollars in total commercial value, with losses stemming not only from broadcast rights but also from associated advertising and matchday revenues. A boycott would likely have triggered contract penalties and rebates under existing media and sponsorship deals, further amplifying the financial



fallout.

After several days of intense negotiations involving the International Cricket Council (ICC), the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and other cricket boards, Pakistan agreed to field its team for the scheduled February 15 match in Colombo. Reports indicate

that this U-turn saved an estimated ₹1,460 crore (around \$174 million) that might otherwise have been lost if the fixture had been dropped. This figure includes potential losses from broadcasters, sponsors and other commercial partners who depend on the India-Pakistan

match's enormous global viewership and advertising pull.

The fixture is widely regarded as the marquee game of the tournament — drawing peak audiences across television, digital platforms and social media — and is central to the financial health of the

World Cup cycle. Its reinstatement ensures that contractual obligations with major rights holders remain intact and that the tournament's broader economic model stays on track.

Pakistan's reversal also eased pressure on the ICC's broader commercial framework, which relies heavily on marquee matchups to sustain high-value deals. For smaller cricket boards that depend on revenue distributions from global events, preserving the full schedule of high-profile matches is critical for financial stability and long-term development.

Overall, the decision by Pakistan to honour the India fixture not only upheld the integrity of the World Cup schedule but also safeguarded a significant portion of the tournament's projected revenue — a financial outcome that resonates far beyond the match itself.

## India Frustrated With World Cup Pitch in Match Against USA

The Indian cricket team has reportedly expressed displeasure with the pitch used in their T20 World Cup 2026 match against the United States of America, with sources saying team management felt the surface did not play in line with their expectations. India's opener was held to a competitive but modest total and the unfamiliar behaviour of the pitch became a talking point after the match.

India's campaign got off to a challenging start in their opening World Cup fixture, where they posted a score that was below their usual expectations at a venue traditionally seen as batting-friendly. What made the game tougher was a surface that offered assistance to bowlers and variable bounce, making run-scoring more difficult than anticipated. This prompted the team's support staff to raise concerns with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) about the nature of the wicket.

Usually, Indian batting lineups relish flat, high-scoring wickets where batsmen can play freely. In this encounter, however, the unexpected grip



and turn on the surface required the players to alter their customary approach, forcing more cautious and adaptive batting than initially planned. This adjustment was highlighted by the early collapse and the need for a strong recovery from middle-order batters.

Despite the tricky wicket, India managed to recover and secure a victory over the USA, thanks to key contributions from senior players who adapted to the conditions. But within the dressing room and among team strategists, there was a sense that the pitch did not suit India's preferred style of play — especially in a match they would typically expect to dominate comfortably.

Analysts suggest that

while pitch conditions are always part of international cricket and teams must adjust, the specific behaviour of this surface caught them off guard. The Indian management's feedback to the board appears to reflect a desire for more predictable or standard conditions for future matches in the tournament.

As the World Cup progresses, India will be looking for surfaces that better align with their aggressive batting strengths, while continuing to prepare strategies for varying pitches. In the meantime, the team's response to unfamiliar conditions — and its ability to adapt successfully — will remain key talking points in their quest for T20 World Cup glory.

## Buttler Says Cricket Trails Other Sports as England Uses Walkie-Talkies in T20 World Cup

England's senior batter Jos Buttler has playfully acknowledged that cricket is still catching up with other sports in how teams communicate with players on the field, after a notable moment in the ongoing T20 World Cup 2026.

During England's match against Nepal, head coach Brendon McCullum was seen using a walkie-talkie to send messages to captain Harry Brook during a drinks break, drawing plenty of attention from fans and commentators. Buttler commented on the incident, suggesting that cricket as a sport hasn't traditionally adopted real-time coaching communication to the same extent as some other major sports.

Buttler pointed out that in sports like Formula 1, teams regularly relay technical and strategic information directly to drivers via radio, and in games such as football and rugby, managers can communicate with players in real time from the sidelines. In contrast, cricket has typically kept on-field communication between players themselves, with coaches having limited direct influence once a match begins.



The England batter also defended McCullum's approach and described the practice as part of evolving tactics in the modern game. He emphasised that McCullum, despite a relaxed outward demeanour, is a very sharp coach who remains deeply engaged in match strategy, and the walkie-talkie exchange was simply a way to relay helpful information in a tightly contested game.

Buttler reflected that as cricket continues to adapt with technology and strategic innovation — such as seen in franchise T20 leagues — more direct forms of communication between coaching staff and players could become more common in the future.

Overall, his remarks suggest a view that cricket, while rich in tradition, is gradually embracing new methods to keep pace with other professional sports in how tactical insights and decisions are communicated during high-pressure matches.

## Pakistan's T20 World Cup U-Turn Sparks Meme Frenzy Across Social Media



Pakistan's sudden reversal on playing India at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 has triggered a wave of memes and online jokes, with social media users seizing on what they see as a dramatic flip-flop by the Pakistan Cricket Board.

The controversy began after Pakistan signalled that it might boycott its high-profile World Cup match against India, citing broader political and security concerns linked to regional developments. The possibility of Pakistan pulling out of the marquee clash — one of the most watched and commercially valuable fixtures in world cricket — immediately drew global attention.

However, within days, Pakistan backed down from its earlier stance and confirmed that it would play the match as scheduled at a neutral venue. The reversal ended the uncertainty surrounding the game but opened the floodgates for online ridicule.

As soon as the decision was announced, social media platforms were flooded with memes, sarcastic posts and humorous videos mocking Pakistan's change of position. Many users portrayed the move as a reluctant surrender to cricketing and financial realities, while others joked about the contrast between

initial tough talk and the eventual agreement to play.

Indian fans, in particular, were quick to join the meme fest, sharing pop-culture references, movie clips and tongue-in-cheek captions highlighting the sudden U-turn. Several former cricketers and well-known online personalities also weighed in with playful jabs, further amplifying the viral moment.

The memes ranged from light-hearted rivalry humour to sharp satire aimed at cricket administration and decision-making. While some posts focused purely on entertainment, others pointed out how difficult it is for any team to walk away from an India-Pakistan match given its massive global audience and commercial significance.

Despite the online trolling, the resolution ensures that fans will once again witness one of cricket's most intense rivalries on the world stage. With the match now confirmed, attention is shifting back to on-field action — even as the memes continue to circulate.

The episode once again underlines how cricket decisions in the subcontinent rarely stay confined to boardrooms, quickly spilling into politics, public debate and, inevitably, the internet's humour machine.

## Why Mohammed Shami and Sarfaraz Khan Were Left Out of BCCI Central Contracts



The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) recently announced its central contract list for the 2025-26 season, and among the notable absentees were fast bowler Mohammed Shami and batsman Sarfaraz Khan, along with a few other familiar names. Their omission has sparked discussion among fans and pundits about the reasons behind the decision.

### Main Reason: Lack of International Appearances

The primary reason both Shami and Sarfaraz were excluded from this contract cycle is straightforward: neither player featured in an international match during the relevant evaluation period. The BCCI's contract policy heavily factors in a player's recent participation and performance across formats. Since both Shami and Sarfaraz did not play internationally in the past cycle, they did not meet the criteria for retainership.

Shami, a veteran pacer who was previously part of India's senior setup and played a key role in earlier campaigns, has been absent from national selection since the 2025 Champions Trophy. Injuries and lack of fitness opportunities at the highest level kept him out of the team, and without recent international appearances, he was not included in the central contracts list.

Similarly, Sarfaraz Khan — despite showing promise and earning selection in past squads — did not play a match for India in the period under review. Although he was part

of the touring squad for Australia, he did not get game time, and this absence from match participation ultimately affected his eligibility for a contract.

### Contract List Overhaul and Selection Focus

The latest central contract list also saw structural changes, including the removal of the top-tier category and a trimming of the overall retained player list. This has put greater emphasis on current availability, playing time and performance in international fixtures as key determinants for contract awards.

Under the updated structure, players who have maintained consistent involvement across formats and recent matches were prioritized, while those without appearances — regardless of their past achievements — were omitted. This explains why figures like Shami and Sarfaraz, both of whom have long-standing reputations, missed out this time.

### Looking Ahead

Being left out of the central contracts does not permanently rule out a player's return. Continued strong performances in domestic cricket or a return to international duty could prompt future reconsideration. But for this particular contract cycle, availability and active participation in India's international schedule were decisive factors in determining who made the cut — and who didn't.

## Nikhil Siddhartha's Swayambhu Explores the Ancient Legacy of the Sengol



Actor Nikhil Siddhartha has shared intriguing insights about his upcoming period drama Swayambhu, revealing that the film's core narrative revolves around the Sengol, a powerful symbol deeply rooted in Indian history and mythology. The actor said the story draws inspiration from the Sengol's rich legacy, which traces back to Lord Ram and represents righteous rule, justice, and dharma.

Speaking about the film, Nikhil explained that while the Sengol has recently come into public discussion, its origins are far more ancient and significant. According to traditional lore, the Sengol was first associated with Lord Ram and later passed down through generations as a symbol of moral governance. Over time, it became an important emblem in powerful dynasties, especially during the Chola reign, signifying authority balanced with responsibility and fairness. Swayambhu uses this historical and cultural foundation to build a fictional yet emotionally

grounded cinematic narrative. Directed by Bharat Krishnamachari, Swayambhu is being mounted on a grand scale and is designed as a high-budget period action drama with strong mythological and historical undertones. The film aims to blend intense drama, action, and emotion while staying rooted in Indian cultural values. Nikhil stated that the story is not just about power or warfare but about the philosophy behind leadership and the consequences of deviating from righteousness.

The film is produced by Bhuvan and Shreekar under the Pixel Studios banner and is planned as a pan-India release, reflecting the universal appeal of its theme. The makers are leaving no stone unturned in recreating the period authentically, with detailed production design, costumes, and large-scale visuals playing a crucial role in the storytelling. The technical team is said to be working extensively to ensure that the world of Swayambhu feels immersive and visually striking.

Adding to the excitement, the makers have announced a grand teaser launch event scheduled for February 11, to be held simultaneously in two major cities. This unique promotional strategy underlines the confidence the team has in the film and its content. The teaser is expected to offer a glimpse into the film's epic scale, intense conflicts, and the central role played by the Sengol in shaping the narrative.

With a planned worldwide theatrical release on April 10, 2026, Swayambhu is emerging as one of Nikhil Siddhartha's most ambitious projects to date. Given the actor's track record of choosing distinctive scripts and the film's strong historical foundation, expectations are high.

As audiences show growing interest in stories rooted in Indian history and mythology, Swayambhu promises to deliver a powerful cinematic experience that combines spectacle with substance, anchored by the timeless symbolism of the Sengol.

## Santosh Soban Promises an Engaging Romantic Journey with Couple Friendly

Actor Santosh Soban expressed strong confidence in his upcoming romantic musical Couple Friendly, calling it an engaging and emotionally rich journey of its lead characters, Shiva and Mitra. Speaking at the film's pre-release press meet held in Hyderabad, the actor said audiences would connect deeply with the story once they experience it on the big screen.

Couple Friendly stars Santosh Soban and Manasa Varanasi in the lead roles and is directed by Ashwin Chandrasekhar. The film is produced under the banner of UV Concepts and presented by the prestigious UV Creations, with Ajay Kumar Raju P. serving as co-producer. The film is set for a grand bilingual release in Telugu and Tamil on February 14, coinciding with Valentine's Day. Producer and distributor Dheeraj Mogilineni is releasing the film across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Addressing media queries, Dheeraj Mogilineni clarified the controversy surrounding the film's title and certification. He explained that while the censor board suggested a title change, the team decided to retain Couple Friendly as all promotions were already completed. This resulted in an A certificate in Telugu, though the Tamil version received a UA certificate. Dheeraj strongly dismissed rumours of adult content, stating that the film is



a clean love story rooted in family values. He added that the narrative features strong family characters and can be enjoyed by audiences of all age groups. Expressing confidence in the lead pair, he said the film would mark a major turning point in Santosh Soban's career and praised Manasa Varanasi for her committed performance. He also revealed that special premieres are planned in major cities a day ahead of release.

Manasa Varanasi shared her excitement over the positive response to the trailer and spoke about the effort that went into

adapting the Tamil script into Telugu without losing its rhythm. She highlighted the strong sense of teamwork on the project and said the film taught her the true meaning of collaborative filmmaking. She urged audiences to watch the film in theatres and witness the sincerity behind the performances.

Santosh Soban noted the overwhelming support the film has received during promotions and said the story's emotional core has been intentionally kept under wraps. He described Couple Friendly as a journey

that explores how Shiva's life transforms after meeting Mitra and the extent to which he goes for love. Calling the title perfectly suited to the story, he said the film's true essence can only be experienced in theatres. He also expressed gratitude to Prabhas for sharing the trailer, calling it a gesture of pure encouragement.

With music by Aditya Ravindran and cinematography by Dinesh Purushothaman, Couple Friendly is positioned as a heartfelt romantic entertainer aimed at Valentine's Day audiences.

## "Nawab Cafe" Set for February 20 Release, Team Expresses Confidence



The upcoming Telugu film Nawab Cafe is gearing up for its theatrical release on February 20, with the makers expressing strong confidence

that the film will strike an emotional chord with audiences. A grand press meet was held recently, where the cast and crew interacted with the me-

dia and shared insights into the journey behind the film.

Nawab Cafe stars Shiva Kandukuri, Rajeev Kanakala, and Teju Ashwini in lead roles. The film is produced under the Harshika Productions banner by Radha V Papudippu, with Venkat R Papadippu serving as co-producer. Written and directed by Pramod Harsha, the film promises a heartfelt narrative rooted in sincerity and real-life emotions.

Speaking at the event, hero Shiva Kandukuri revealed that the film was initially titled Chai Wala. He explained that while the team worked extensively under the original title, they later decided to rename the film Nawab Cafe in adherence to censor guidelines. Interestingly, Shiva shared that director Pramod Harsha had always envisioned Nawab Cafe as the story's true title, even from the scripting stage. Calling it a matter of destiny, Shiva

said the final title perfectly reflects the soul and essence of the film.

Shiva emphasized that despite facing challenges related to the title change and censor concerns, the producers never compromised on their vision. He described Nawab Cafe as a film made with honesty and emotional depth, expressing confidence that it would resonate with audiences across all sections. "After watching this film, people will feel the urge to call their fathers and share their emotions," he said, hinting at the film's strong emotional core.

Producer Venkat R Papadippu clarified that there was no official directive forcing a title change, but discussions with the censor authorities made it clear that the earlier title could not be used. After considering multiple alternatives, the team unanimously finalized Nawab Cafe. He expressed hope that audiences and the media would extend the same

support to the new title as well.

Director Pramod Harsha shared that the story is inspired by incidents he has personally witnessed and experienced. He reiterated that the title change was made in full respect of censor rules and urged the media to help take Nawab Cafe to a wider audience.

Heroine Teju Ashwini, making her debut with this film, said that content ultimately matters more than the title. She expressed optimism that audiences would embrace the film and called the journey a test of faith that has strengthened the team's resolve.

With music by Prashanth R Vihari, cinematography by Kranti Varl, and a strong supporting cast including Rajkumar Kasireddy and Chaitanya Krishna, Nawab Cafe is poised to offer an emotionally engaging cinematic experience when it hits theatres on February 20.

## Anil Ravipudi Breaks Silence on Rumours Surrounding His Upcoming Film Projects

Tollywood director Anil Ravipudi has addressed swirling rumours about his upcoming film ventures, especially speculation linking him to certain high-profile projects. The filmmaker, known for delivering consistent box office successes, recently spoke to the media while promoting his current work, offering clarity on his involvement and expectations as rumours circulate.



At the centre of recent chatter has been the much-talked-about Tamil film Jana Nayagan, starring Vijay, which some fans speculated might be a remake of Ravipudi's acclaimed Telugu film Bhagavanth Kesari. Instead of fueling speculation, Ravipudi maintained a diplomatic stance, saying he hasn't seen the final version and that it's best to treat Jana Nayagan as Vijay's own project until the film releases. He stressed the importance of judging the movie on its own merit, rather than labelling it a remake before audiences get a chance to watch it. His measured response reflects a professional courtesy toward fellow filmmakers and avoids unnecessary comparisons before audiences have seen the final product.

Ravipudi's remarks also come amid the success of his recent films. Having delivered multiple hits at the box office, he continues to be one of Telugu cinema's most bankable directors.

While he remains grounded despite his track record, he also emphasises the importance of clear communication when addressing rumours—especially those that link him to projects he isn't directly part of or details that aren't yet confirmed.

Beyond addressing rumours, Ravipudi's recent public interactions show his active engagement with the industry and his peers. Whether commenting playfully at events or offering thoughtful takes during press meets, he appears committed to staying connected with both media and fans without over-hyping unverified reports.

Meanwhile, Ravipudi's

slate remains busy. He continues to develop new ideas and collaborations, riding the momentum of his recent successes and keeping audiences intrigued about his next moves. By responding to speculation with clarity rather than dismissal, he reinforces his reputation as a seasoned filmmaker who balances creativity with professionalism—even when faced with rampant internet buzz.

With fans eagerly awaiting updates on his future projects, Ravipudi's balanced approach to rumours sets a tone of respect for cinema and audiences alike, while keeping the focus on the work itself rather than unverified hearsay.

## Ravi Babu Completes Shooting of Razor, Power-Packed Glimpse Unveiled

Actor and filmmaker Ravi Babu has completed the shooting of his upcoming Telugu film Razor, and the makers have released an intense glimpse that has created strong buzz among movie lovers. Known for his bold choices and unconventional storytelling, Ravi Babu appears in a fierce and raw avatar in this action-packed project, which promises to be a gritty cinematic experience.

The recently released glimpse gives a clear indication that Razor will be high on violence, intensity, and dark emotions. Ravi Babu is seen in an aggressive mode, delivering brutal action with striking visuals. The glimpse establishes the film's hard-hitting tone and suggests that the story revolves around harsh realities, justice, and revenge. The tagline and visuals together hint that the film will explore a darker side of human na-

ture, staying true to its title.

Razor marks another ambitious venture for Ravi Babu, who is not only playing the lead role but also directing the film. Over the years, he has carved a niche for himself by experimenting with different genres and presenting stories that stand apart from mainstream cinema. With Razor, he seems to be pushing boundaries further by attempting a raw action thriller that is expected to be unlike anything he has done before.

The film is backed by a strong technical team that aims to elevate the intense narrative with striking cinematography, impactful background score, and realistic action sequences. The visuals showcased in the glimpse indicate a gritty color palette and a grounded treatment, adding to the realism of the film. The action choreography appears to be designed to



feel brutal and organic rather than stylized, enhancing the overall impact.

With the shooting now wrapped up, Razor has entered the post-production phase. The team is currently working on editing, sound design, and music, with plans to deliver a technically polished and emotionally charged film. The mak-

ers are expected to announce the release date soon, and expectations are that the film will hit theatres later this year.

The glimpse has already sparked curiosity and discussions among fans and film circles, with many praising Ravi Babu's intense transformation and daring approach. Given his reputation for presenting

thought-provoking and unconventional cinema, Razor is being seen as one of the most intriguing upcoming Telugu films.

As anticipation builds, audiences are eager to see how Ravi Babu blends raw action with storytelling depth in Razor, which promises to be a bold and uncompromising cinematic experience.