



BUZZ POINTS

Revanth Reddy Orders Cleanliness Drive Across 3 Corporations



BUZZ POINTS

RO Water Plant Inaugurated at Uppal Govt School

PAGE 04

Commercial Shops Sealed Over Property Tax Dues in Kompally

PAGE 04

KCR Birthday Celebrations Held at OU



PAGE 04

OU Arts College Team Wins KCR Cup 2026



PAGE 04



Hyderabad Poised to Become Global Life Sciences Capital – Revanth Reddy

Hyderabad, February 17, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad is set to move beyond its status as a global vaccine hub to become a world-class life sciences capital, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said at the inauguration of BioAsia 2026 at HITEX on Tuesday. Addressing over 4,000 delegates from 500 leading companies in the life sciences ecosystem, the Chief Minister emphasized the city's potential to rival global innovation centres. "BioAsia has surpassed its name and could soon be recognised as Bio-World," the Chief Minister said, expressing confidence that the event, hosted in Hyderabad, could match the global significance of forums like the World Econom-

ic Forum in Davos. He stressed that Hyderabad's rise is underpinned by strong policy vision, a highly skilled workforce, and world-class educational institutions. Reddy highlighted Telangana's Next-Gen Life Sciences Policy, launched recently at Davos, and the state's expanding Genome Valley, the 1Bio research and innovation platform, and the accelerated Green Pharma City project as key pillars driving Hyderabad's growth in biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, and advanced healthcare. "Hyderabad is a preferred destination to set up Global Capability Centres (GCCs), build innovation engines, design molecules and drugs, manage clinical analytics, build AI platforms, and drive digital manu-

facturing," he said, noting that the state has attracted over Rs 73,000 crore in investments in life sciences over the last two years. The Chief Minister also lauded Hyderabad's emergence as a trusted, stable, and future-ready ecosystem, spanning bulk drugs, biologics, manufacturing, and innovation, with a vision to move up the global value chain. He acknowledged the presence of prominent thought and business leaders from pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, vaccines, and healthcare sectors, emphasizing the city's role as a global hub for research, design, and advanced manufacturing. During the event, the Chief Minister presented the Genome Valley Excellence Award to Prof. Bruce Levine, re-

nown professor from the University of Pennsylvania, recognising his contributions to biomedical research. Telangana IT & Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, who inaugurated the conference alongside the Chief Minister, reiterated the State's commitment to fostering innovation, talent development, and investment opportunities in the life sciences sector. With record participation and global attention, BioAsia 2026 highlighted Hyderabad's ambition to become a next-generation life sciences destination, reflecting Telangana's strategy to integrate policy, investment, and innovation for sustained growth in biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, and healthcare.



KTR Honors KCR on Telangana Birthday Celebrations

Hyderabad, February 17, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Bhavan witnessed grand celebrations as the state marked Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao's (KCR) birthday. The event saw a strong turnout of party leaders, members, and supporters, with K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) leading the tributes and highlighting the historic journey of Telangana's statehood under his father's leadership.

Speaking at the event, KTR reflected on the early days of the Telangana movement, emphasizing KCR's extraordinary courage and vision. "When KCR first raised the flag for Telangana, he faced three major political forces—the TDP, the Congress with over a century of legacy, and the BJP. He had no media power, no financial backing, no muscle support, yet his unwavering commitment to justice for Telangana

propelled him forward," KTR said. He recalled the 14-year struggle that eventually led to the creation of Telangana, praising the sacrifices, leadership, and participation of the people. "For ten years, KCR has governed Telangana exceptionally. Arun Jaitley once remarked that leaders are either great agitators or great administrators. KCR is both—a tireless agitator for statehood and a visionary administrator shaping its progress," KTR noted.

Addressing critics and opposition voices, KTR defended his father's legacy, stressing that only those who have experienced the hardships of the Telangana movement understand its significance. "Those who endured hunger strikes, police assaults, and jail terms for the cause understand what it means to fight for one's identity and self-respect. Opportunists cannot comprehend this struggle," he said.

KTR also paid tribute to Telangana's historic heroes, including Komaram Bheem, Sarmakka-Saralama, and others whose courage laid the foundation of the state's pride and identity. He added, "KCR has never called himself the father of Telangana—the people honored him with that title for his vision, courage, and leadership." Concluding his address, KTR urged unity and continued support for KCR. "The greatest gift we can give him on his birthday is our collective strength. Let us march together, raise the pink flag high, and ensure Telangana thrives under his leadership. We pray for KCR's long life and good health, so he can continue guiding the state with vision and courage," he said. The celebrations across Telangana reflected pride, respect, and loyalty to KCR, recognizing his role as the architect of the state and the leader who continues to inspire its people.

Sridhar Babu Unveils 'Laboratory of the Future' Vision

Hyderabad, Feb 17 | TPN Bureau

Duddilla Sridhar Babu on Tuesday announced that the Telangana government aims to transform Hyderabad into a global innovation hub, describing the city as a future "Laboratory of the Future" for the Life Sciences sector.

Speaking at the inauguration of BioAsia 2026 at the Hyderabad International Trade Expositions (HITEX), the IT and Industries Minister outlined the state's ambitious roadmap to attract \$25 billion in investments and create five lakh jobs in Life Sciences by 2030.

The Minister said the newly unveiled Telangana Next-Gen Life Sciences Policy (2026-2030) is designed to position the state among the world's top three Life Sciences clusters by



the end of the decade. He noted that the policy focuses on strengthening innovation, research, and advanced manufacturing capabilities to keep pace with rapid global changes in healthcare and biotechnology.

Highlighting India's evolving role in the global health-

care ecosystem, Sridhar Babu said the country is increasingly seen not just as a production hub for pharmaceuticals and vaccines but as a source of cutting-edge scientific innovation. Telangana, he said, is aligning its strategy to move from a manufacturing-led ecosystem to one driven by re-

search, discovery, and next-generation technologies.

He pointed out that Hyderabad has gained global recognition as the only Indian city featured in the CBRE Global Life Sciences Atlas 2025, alongside established global hubs such as Boston, San Francisco, Beijing, and Tokyo. This recognition, he said, reflects the city's strong research base, skilled workforce, and robust industrial infrastructure.

The Minister also highlighted efforts to build a future-ready talent pipeline through initiatives such as the Telangana School of Life Sciences and the Young India Skills University. These institutions are offering specialised training in emerging areas including mRNA technology, gene editing, and AI-driven drug discovery.

In addition, the government

has introduced a dedicated policy to promote Hyderabad as a major destination for medical tourism, further strengthening the healthcare ecosystem and creating new economic opportunities.

Inviting global investors, research organisations, and technology companies to partner with the state, Sridhar Babu said Telangana offers significant opportunities in AI-enabled drug discovery, biologics manufacturing automation, precision medicine, computational biology, and Bio-Manufacturing 4.0.

He said the government is committed to fostering international collaborations and building a dynamic innovation environment that will drive the next phase of Life Sciences growth, positioning Hyderabad at the forefront of global scientific advancement.



Immadi Ravi Granted Bail in iBomma Piracy Case

Hyderabad, Feb 17 | TPN Bureau

Immadi Ravi, popularly known as "iBomma Ravi," has been granted conditional bail by the Telangana High Court in connection with the widely discussed iBomma movie piracy case, offering temporary relief while the investigation continues.

Ravi was arrested last year following allegations that he played a key role in running an online platform that illegally streamed newly released films. The case drew significant attention across the Telugu film industry, with producers and distributors expressing concern over heavy financial losses due to piracy. Authorities alleged that the platform enabled unauthorized access to films in multiple languages, often within hours of theatrical release. While granting bail, the court imposed several conditions to ensure his cooperation with the ongoing probe. Ravi has been directed to surrender his passport and has been barred from leaving the country without prior permission. Investigating agencies have also been given liberty to summon him for questioning whenever required, indicating that the inquiry is still underway. The case has reignited debate on digital piracy and its impact on the entertainment ecosystem. Industry stakeholders have repeatedly called for stronger enforcement and stricter legal deterrents, arguing that piracy affects theatrical revenues, OTT deals, and the livelihoods of thousands of workers. At the same time, the case highlights the broader challenge of regulating online content distribution in an increasingly digital landscape. Legal experts point out that bail does not comment on the merits of the case but ensures the accused's presence during trial while protecting individual rights. Investigators are expected to continue examining digital evidence, financial transactions, and other materials linked to the alleged operations. With Ravi now out on bail, the case moves into its next legal phase, and its outcome is likely to be closely watched as a potential precedent for future anti-piracy actions. If you want, I can also create a shorter brief or multiple headline options.

Prathyusha Death Case: Supreme Court Orders Surrender of Accused

New Delhi, Feb 17 | TPN Bureau

In a significant development in the long-pending death case of actress Prathyusha, the Supreme Court of India on Tuesday upheld the conviction of the accused, Gudipalli Siddhartha Reddy, and directed him to surrender within four weeks.

The case, which created a major sensation in the Telugu states over two decades ago, reached its final stage after Siddhartha Reddy challenged the jail sentence awarded by the High Court. Dismissing

his petition, the apex court affirmed the punishment previously confirmed by the Telangana High Court, bringing closure to a prolonged legal battle.

While delivering the verdict, the court also expressed dissatisfaction over the manner in which the post-mortem examination had been conducted, observing that the procedure was not carried out properly. However, the court maintained that the evidence on record supported the earlier findings regarding the circumstances of the death.

According to case details, Prathyusha and Siddhartha

Reddy were known to each other since their intermediate studies in Hyderabad. After completing her education, Prathyusha entered the film industry, while Siddhartha Reddy pursued engineering. On the evening of February 23, 2002, both were admitted to a private hospital after allegedly consuming a soft drink mixed with pesticide. Prathyusha passed away the following day, while Siddhartha Reddy recovered and was discharged later.

Medical reports concluded that her death was caused by organophosphate poisoning and found no evidence of sex-

ual assault or suffocation. Based on the investigation, the Central Bureau of Investigation filed charges under Sections 306 (abetment of suicide) and 309 (attempt to suicide).

A metropolitan sessions court in Hyderabad initially sentenced Siddhartha Reddy to five years of rigorous imprisonment in 2004, which was later reduced to two years by the High Court in 2011, along with an enhanced fine. Appeals filed by both the accused and the actress's mother were heard by the Supreme Court, which has now upheld the conviction and ordered the accused to surrender.



The ruling effectively brings the decades-old case closer to its legal conclusion, marking a crucial moment in one of the most widely followed cases in the Telugu film industry.

Revanth Reddy Reviews Data Centre Push

Hyderabad, Feb 17 | TPN Bureau

A. Revanth Reddy on Tuesday directed officials to study the incentives offered by other states for data centre projects and explore competitive measures to attract investments into Telangana.

The Chief Minister chaired a review meeting at the state secretariat to assess progress on proposals from companies that have come forward to establish data centres in the state, fo-

cus on land allocation, infrastructure readiness, and policy support.

During the meeting, he stressed the need for a rational and transparent approach in allocating land for data centre projects. Officials briefed him on ongoing land acquisition efforts in different locations for setting up digital infrastructure and allied facilities. Revanth Reddy sought details on timelines, availability of utilities, and coordination

among departments to ensure faster project execution.

Emphasizing the importance of balancing industrial growth with farmers' interests, the Chief Minister instructed officials to adopt a liberal approach while determining compensation for land acquisition. He said farmers should be consulted directly and compensation packages finalized only after ensuring their satisfaction.

Pointing out that com-

panies investing thousands of crores typically spend only a small portion on land compared to overall project costs, he said timely provision of land and basic infrastructure would help investors complete projects quickly and bring economic benefits to the state.

The Chief Minister noted that the rapid growth of the digital economy makes data centres critical infrastructure and said Telangana should position it-

self as a preferred destination by offering a supportive ecosystem. He asked officials to examine best practices from other states, particularly in areas such as incentives, power supply reliability, and connectivity.

Senior officials including Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao, Chief Minister's Special Secretary Ajit Reddy, IT Department Principal Secretary Sanjay Kumar, Energy Department Special Chief Secretary

Naveen Mittal, and Future City Development Authority Commissioner Shashank attended the meeting and presented updates on ongoing initiatives.

The government believes that a proactive policy approach, coupled with investor-friendly land allotment and infrastructure support, will accelerate the growth of the data centre ecosystem in Telangana and strengthen its position as a leading technology hub.



Bhatti Vikramarka Unveils Tech Upgrades for CM Cup

Hyderabad, Feb 17 | TPN Bureau

Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu on Tuesday underscored the importance of technological innovation in strengthening grassroots sports, stating that the second phase of the CM Cup 2025-26 marks a significant step toward building a modern, player-friendly ecosystem for athletes across Telangana.

The Deputy Chief Minister launched the CM's Cup Games Agentic AI Call Centre and the "Nilamani" mobile application at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Secretariat. The initiative is being implemented under the aegis of the Telangana Sports Authority to streamline information access and improve communication with participants.

State Sports Minister Vakiti Srihari, Sports Authority Chairman Shivasena Reddy, and Managing Director Dr. Soni Baladevi attended the launch ceremony alongside senior officials and stakeholders from the sports department.

Addressing the gathering, Bhatti Vikramarka said the CM Cup has been designed to identify and nurture hidden sporting talent, particularly from rural areas that often lack access to



professional training and exposure. He described the tournament as a major platform to channel the energy of youth into constructive pursuits, helping them stay away from harmful habits while fostering discipline and teamwork through sports.

He revealed that the competitions witnessed massive participation, with nearly 4.5 lakh sportspersons taking part at various levels — from village and mandal to assembly constituency and district stages. Out of these, around 22,000 athletes have qualified for the state-level competitions, highlighting the scale and reach

of the initiative.

The Deputy Chief Minister also welcomed the introduction of the AI-enabled 24/7 call centre integrated with the Nilamani app, which will provide real-time updates, schedules, and support services to players. He noted that such digital tools will make sports administration more transparent, efficient, and accessible, especially for athletes from remote regions.

Officials said the CM Cup competitions are being conducted across 44 sports disciplines in 12 districts, making it one of the largest grassroots sporting initiatives in the state. The govern-

ment aims to create a strong pipeline of talent that can eventually represent Telangana at national and international levels.

Bhatti Vikramarka expressed confidence that the tournament would not only strengthen rural sports infrastructure but also inspire a new generation of athletes. He wished the participants success and said the initiative would help produce future champions while reinforcing the state's commitment to inclusive sports development.

Senior officials from the sports authority and other departments were present at the event.

Harish Rao Hails KCR as Torchbearer of Telangana



Hyderabad, February 17, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Former minister and Deputy Floor Leader Harish Rao took to social media to pay tribute to Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) on his birthday, calling him the "torchbearer of Telangana" and a symbol of the state's decades-long struggle for identity and self-respect.

In a heartfelt tweet, Rao described the three letters "KCR" as the clarion call of Telangana's war cry for justice and the echo of generations' aspirations. "KCR represents the

spirit of the movement and is the eternal sunrise in the hearts of Telangana's people," he wrote.

Rao praised KCR not only as a leader but as a movement, a visionary, and a transformative force who guided Telangana from the early days of struggle to the realization of statehood. "He walked every step with unwavering determination, instilling self-confidence in suppressed hearts and countering the conspiracies of dominant powers. His persistence, wisdom, commitment, and courage liberated Telangana

from decades of injustice," Rao stated.

Highlighting KCR's personal influence, Rao noted, "For me, KCR is not just an uncle; he is my everything. As my mentor, he has blessed me with love, guided my political journey, and instilled values that shaped me into a public servant."

He further acknowledged KCR's dual role as both a movement leader and a developmental pioneer, writing that his birthday is a celebration for all Telangana citizens. Rao prayed for KCR's long life and good health and

hoped that his leadership continues to guide the state for decades to come.

Closing the tribute, Rao extended "heartfelt birthday wishes to our beloved leader KCR, who inspires unparalleled faith and motivation among the people of Telangana."

This message comes amid widespread celebrations of KCR's birthday across Telangana, reflecting on his historical role in state formation, governance initiatives, and enduring influence on the region's political and cultural landscape.

Sarpanches Key to Village Progress: Seethakka

Mulugu, Feb 17 | TPN Bureau

Danam Nagender Anasuya Seethakka, Minister for Panchayat Raj, Rural Development, and Women & Child Welfare, emphasized that the prosperity of the state depends on the development of its villages, highlighting the crucial role of sarpanches in grassroots governance. She also called for intensified efforts to eradicate child marriages and ensure inclusive rural growth. The Minister was speaking on Tuesday at the R&B Guest House in Mulugu district, where she attended as the chief guest at the inauguration of a five-day training programme for newly elected sarpanches from Mulugu, Venkatapur, Mallampalli, and Govindaraoth mandals. The programme aims to equip local leaders with administrative knowledge and governance skills. Before the formal session, Seethakka inspected stalls set up at the venue showcasing vermicompost preparation and wet-and-dry waste management practices, underscoring the importance of sustainable sanitation initiatives at the village level. She

later distributed Kalyana Lakshmi cheques to 75 beneficiaries from Mulugu and Mallampalli mandals. Addressing the gathering, the Minister said villages are the backbone of the nation and their progress depends largely on the leadership and commitment of sarpanches. She stressed that newly elected representatives must have a clear understanding of the Panchayat Raj Act and discharge their duties with a service-oriented approach, acting as both administrators and public servants. Seethakka urged local bodies to ensure that women become economically empowered and that funds received from the central and state governments are utilized for works benefiting the entire community. She advised that gram sabhas be conducted regularly under the supervision of local governing bodies to plan and monitor development activities.

Highlighting employment generation, she asked officials to increase participation under the rural employment guarantee scheme and ensure that the benefits reach eligible households. The Minister announced that



around 500 crore has been sanctioned for the effective functioning of gram panchayats across the state. She further revealed that special survey teams are being deployed statewide to assess infrastructure needs in all gram panchayats. Sarpanches will also be entrusted with additional responsibilities such as identifying the poorest households, promoting women's self-help groups, preparing local development plans, and working actively toward the elimination of child marriages.

Seethakka directed officials to provide comprehensive orientation to participants during the five-day training, covering the Panchayat Raj Act, roles and responsibilities of sarpanches, and best practices in rural governance. District Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Sampath Rao, Library Organisation Chairman Bhanoth Ravichandra, Market Committee Chairman Rega Kalyani, District Panchayat officials, and other representatives attended the programme.

Konda Surekha Highlights FCRI's Role in Green Growth

Mulugu, Feb 17 | TPN Bureau

Konda Surekha on Tuesday said the Forest College and Research Institute has become a key pillar of Telangana's environmental progress, as the institution celebrated its 10th anniversary in Mulugu.

The State Forests, Environment and Endowments Minister attended the decennial celebrations as chief guest and planted a sapling on the campus along with senior forest officials, including Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Dr. C. Suvarna. Students also showcased and presented products made from forest resources as part of the event. The programme began with a ceremonial lamp lighting by RTI Chief Commissioner G. Chandrasekhar Reddy and other officials. Addressing the gathering, the Minister said that in just a decade, the institute has evolved into an important centre for forestry education and research, contributing significantly to conservation efforts, climate resilience, and biodiversity protection.

Surekha praised the institution for its pro-



gress in academic standards, research initiatives, and infrastructure development. She asked the management to submit proposals for filling vacant faculty posts, appointing senior professors, and strengthening facilities, assuring that the government would examine them positively. Encouraging students to aim high, she advised them to prepare for competitive examinations and explore the wide range of opportunities available in forestry and environmental sciences. Outstanding students were felicitated during the celebrations. RTI Chief Commissioner

Chandrasekhar Reddy suggested revisiting admission criteria for B.Sc. Forestry to balance weightage between Intermediate marks and EAPCET ranks. He also recommended implementing the Career Advancement Scheme for faculty and setting up a high-level committee to guide administrative and academic reforms. PCCF Dr. C. Suvarna said the institute, established in 2016, has gained national recognition and expanded from a B.Sc. (Hons) Forestry programme to include postgraduate and doctoral courses aligned with national standards. She noted that students have achieved

success in competitive examinations including civil services and forestry services. Dean Krishna presented the institute's progress report, stating that more than 300 students have graduated and over 35 research projects have been completed so far. He sought government support for faculty strengthening, infrastructure upgrades, and enhanced student stipends. Faculty members, students, alumni, and forest department officials participated in the celebrations, marking a milestone in the institute's journey toward advancing forestry education and research in Telangana.

KCR's Birthday Marks Telangana's Triumph, Says Harish Rao

Hyderabad, February 17, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Telangana's former minister and Deputy Floor Leader, Harish Rao, lauded Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) during the birthday celebrations held at Telangana Bhavan, describing the occasion as not just a personal milestone, but the birth of a movement that shaped the state's destiny. Addressing the gathering, Harish Rao emphasized, "Today is not just the birthday of a leader, it is the anniversary of a struggle. The winds of freedom and pride that our people breathe today exist because of KCR's vision and

leadership." Recalling the state's formative years, Rao highlighted the hurdles Telangana faced. "When justice faltered and despair dominated, KCR emerged as a guiding force. At a time when the word 'Telangana' was banned in the Assembly, and our region was denied its due recognition, he stood firm against injustice. Presidential orders, bureaucratic loopholes, and political agreements were manipulated, yet KCR pursued the cause tirelessly," he said.

Harish Rao pointed out that despite numerous activists and leaders advocating for Telangana, it was KCR's unwavering de-



termination that ultimately secured statehood. "KCR sacrificed personal positions—be it MLA, Deputy Speaker, or Union Minister—forsaking titles and power for the

greater goal of Telangana. His courage and resilience are unparalleled in history."

He also recalled KCR's steadfastness during the NIMS hunger strike, noting how even under medical advisories to relent, KCR refused to yield. "He declared, 'It's either Telangana's victory or my last march,' demonstrating the unshakable resolve that led to the state's formation," Rao added.

Beyond the struggle for statehood, Harish Rao credited KCR's governance and developmental initiatives, citing Mission Kakatiya, Mission Bhagiratha, and the Kaleshwaram project as examples of visionary

leadership that brought tangible benefits to Telangana's people. Welfare schemes for elderly citizens, support for women's marriages, and rural electrification projects reflect KCR's enduring commitment to inclusive development.

Rao concluded by urging the people to unite in support of KCR's continued leadership. "KCR is not only a movement leader but also a historic statesman. His birthday is a celebration for all Telangana citizens. With collective prayers and support, we look forward to seeing him continue as Chief Minister, guiding the state to greater heights."

KCR Birthday Marked by Planting 10,000 Mangroves in Sundarbans

Hyderabad, February 17, 2026 | TPN Bureau

On the occasion of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao's (KCR) 72nd birthday, a major environmental initiative was undertaken in the Sundarbans, with 10,000 mangrove saplings planted across the delta region formed by the Ganga, Brahmaputra, and Meghna rivers. The program, led by former Rajya Sabha member Joginapalli Santosh Kumar, involved local communities, students, and youth volunteers, emphasizing KCR's enduring commitment to environmental protection.

KCR, widely recognized as the architect of Telangana's statehood, is also celebrated as a visionary leader dedicated to sustainable development. Under his guidance, Telangana's "Haritha Haram" program has transformed the state into a green model for India. The initiative has already resulted in millions of trees being planted across the state, pro-



moting biodiversity, replenishing groundwater, and mitigating climate risks.

Harish Rao, former minister and Deputy Floor Leader, highlighted KCR's environmental contributions, stating, "Beyond statehood, KCR has ensured Telangana sets a national example in ecological conservation. His leadership has turned plantations into a movement, inspiring people of all ages to care for the environment."

The Sundarbans plantation marks a continuation of Telangana's green movement beyond its borders. The mangroves play a critical role in protecting the coastline from

storms, curbing soil erosion, and safeguarding local biodiversity. With cyclones and unpredictable weather patterns such as ILA, Amphan, Yaas, and Sitrang affecting the delta, these mangroves are vital for ecological resilience.

KCR's birthday celebrations, thus, symbolically connect his personal milestone with a larger mission of environmental stewardship. The program not only strengthens the mangrove forests but also raises awareness among the next generation about the importance of coastal ecosystems.

Since its launch in 2018, the Haritha Har-

am movement and associated initiatives like the Green India Challenge have engaged youth, private organizations, and communities nationwide, planting over 195 million saplings and rejuvenating more than 20,000 water bodies. The Sundarbans initiative aims to replicate this impact, extending the green legacy to ecologically sensitive regions beyond Telangana.

By linking KCR's birthday to tangible conservation efforts, organizers underscore his dual legacy as both a state-builder and an environmental pioneer, inspiring a culture of ecological responsibility and national pride.

BRS Alleges Police Harassment After MP Vaddiraju Evicted from Party Office

Telangana, February 17, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has accused the Telangana police of harassment and overreach after Rajya Sabha MP and BRS Parliamentary Party Deputy Leader Vaddiraju Ravichandra was forcibly removed from the Torur party office on Tuesday. The incident has sparked allegations of partiality and raised concerns over the impartiality of law enforcement during the ongoing municipal elections.

According to BRS sources, MP Ravichandra was addressing party workers inside the office when a Deputy ASP, accompanied by a police team, entered the premises and compelled him to leave. Supporters of the MP were also physically escorted out, with officers reportedly using excessive force to clear the office. The MP and his team were moved through the surrounding streets, preventing them from continuing their internal discussions or engaging



with party activists.

BRS leaders claim that such actions are part of a wider pattern of harassment against the party, particularly during municipal election campaigning. "Police have been persistently following BRS members, creating difficulties for our workers and election agents. In multiple locations, officers have obstructed our party's efforts to select chairpersons and vice-chairpersons," a senior BRS official said.

The party has alleged that these actions indicate bias in favor of the ruling party, with law enforcement intervening in ways that disrupt opposition activities.

The incident has prompted calls from BRS for immediate accountability and for police to ensure neutrality and fairness throughout the election process.

Observers note that tensions often rise between political parties and police during elections, but incidents involving the physical removal of elected representatives or senior party leaders are unusual and can escalate political friction. The BRS has emphasized that its members have the right to conduct internal meetings and organize election-related activities without interference.

No official statement has yet been issued by the Telangana police regarding the incident. Meanwhile, opposition leaders and analysts are closely monitoring the situation, warning that continued reports of harassment could affect public perception of electoral fairness.

The BRS has vowed to continue its election preparations and maintain communication with its workers despite the incident. Party officials also called for the enforcement of election guidelines that protect opposition parties and ensure that municipal elections are conducted in a free, fair, and unbiased manner.

Revanth Reddy Stresses Urban Cleanliness Drive

Hyderabad, Feb 17 | TPN Bureau

A. Revanth Reddy directed officials to give top priority to sanitation across major urban local bodies, warning that negligence in civic duties would not be tolerated. The Chief Minister issued the instructions during a comprehensive review of municipal administration and urban development held at the state secretariat on Tuesday.

The review focused on improving cleanliness in the jurisdictions of the Greater Hyderabad, Cyberabad, and Malkajgiri municipal corporations. The Chief Minister said he would personally conduct surprise inspections and made it clear that any lapses, including visible garbage accumulation, would invite strict action. He instructed municipal commissioners to undertake early morning field visits starting at 6 a.m. to closely monitor sanitation efforts on the ground.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister also reviewed the policy framework for increasing advertisement revenue for urban local bodies. He directed of-



officials to explore measures to enhance income through improved regulation and modern infrastructure such as smart poles at major junctions and public spaces. These smart poles could integrate electric and communication cables, CCTV cameras, and advertising panels, he suggested.

Expressing concern that large numbers of advertisement boards are visible across the city but revenue generation remains below expectations, Revanth Reddy asked officials to study best practices from other metropolitan cities such as Mumbai, Ahmedabad, and Bengaluru. He called for strict action against advertisers causing revenue leakages and recommended reserving 10 percent of adver-

tisement space for government and welfare campaign publicity.

The Chief Minister further instructed officials to examine the feasibility of establishing multi-level parking facilities, including on private lands, to ease traffic congestion. He specifically asked for a detailed study on the potential for multi-level parking near key stretches such as Necklace Road. Additionally, he suggested evaluating the feasibility of skywalks and modern market infrastructure to improve urban mobility and public convenience.

To improve urban infrastructure management, the Chief Minister directed that a unified system be adopted for streetlight maintenance across all municipalities and ur-

ban local bodies in the state. He also asked officials to compile detailed data on parks within municipal limits and prioritize their development and maintenance.

Revanth Reddy announced that a one-day orientation programme would soon be organized for newly elected mayors, deputy mayors, chairpersons, and deputy chairpersons to brief them on urban development priorities and governance responsibilities. He said he would personally attend the session to interact with the newly elected representatives.

Senior officials, including government advisors and municipal commissioners, attended the review meeting.

Indiramma Housing Push Gains Pace in CORE Region

Hyderabad, Feb 17, 2026:

The Telangana government has accelerated plans to implement the Indiramma housing scheme across the CORE (Core Urban Region Economy) limits covering Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy district, Sangareddy district, and Medchal-Malkajgiri district, with beneficiary selection targeted for completion by the end of March.

Revenue, Housing and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy announced that the government has formally initiated steps to roll out Indiramma houses in urban areas, focusing on improving living conditions for the urban poor. He said the beneficiary identification process is being taken up on a war footing to ensure timely implementation.

The minister chaired a high-level review meeting at the Secretariat along with district in-charge ministers Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Ponnampaluri Prabhakar, and Minority Welfare Minister Mohammed Azharuddin, where officials dis-



cussed land acquisition, construction of Indiramma model colonies in slums, completion of pending double-bedroom houses, and allotment of finished units.

Officials informed the ministers that many urban poor families prefer to stay near their existing localities as relocating them far from the city affects livelihoods. A recent field survey revealed that of about 42,000 houses built in distant areas earlier, only around half are currently occupied. Authorities also flagged the presence of ineligible and bogus beneficiaries in several locations.

Taking these factors

into account and in line with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's vision, the government is considering constructing multi-storey Indiramma housing blocks—ranging from five to ten floors—closer to existing habitations so that beneficiaries do not face livelihood disruptions. A final decision is expected after discussion in the upcoming Cabinet meeting.

Ministers directed collectors and municipal commissioners to identify suitable land parcels and submit detailed reports within ten days, including the number of potential beneficiaries and housing capacity. Special focus has been placed

on the CORE region to ensure faster rollout.

In addition, officials were instructed to issue sanction letters by the end of this month to nearly 28,000 beneficiaries who already own house sites within three municipal corporations. Pending and incomplete double-bedroom units are also to be allotted by March-end, with financial assistance provided to help beneficiaries complete construction.

The government is also drafting an affordable housing policy for middle-class families between the Regional Ring Road (RRR) and Outer Ring Road (ORR), with site identification underway in four locations.

Revanth Reddy Orders Cleanliness Drive Across 3 Corporations

Hyderabad, Feb 17 | TPN Bureau
 A. Revanth Reddy has directed officials to give top priority to sanitation in the three major municipal corporations — Hyderabad, Cyberabad, and Malkajgiri — warning that strict action will be taken against any official found negligent in maintaining cleanliness.

The Chief Minister issued the directions while reviewing the functioning of the Municipal Administration and Urban Development departments at the State Secretariat on

Tuesday. He instructed commissioners of the three civic bodies to conduct field visits daily at 6 a.m. to assess ground realities and ensure timely garbage clearance.

During the meeting, Revanth Reddy reviewed the policy aimed at increasing revenue from advertisement boards and suggested several measures to strengthen collections. Officials discussed installing smart poles at major intersections and other locations to integrate electric and communication cables, CCTV cameras, and ad-



vertisement panels. The Chief Minister also ordered a detailed study on the feasibility of multi-level parking facilities across the city, including on private lands and along the Necklace Road. He ques-

tioned officials about the gap between the large number of advertisement hoardings in the city and the relatively low revenue generated, and asked them to examine models followed in Mumbai, Ahmedabad, and Bengaluru.

He directed authorities to take stringent action against advertisers causing revenue leakages and suggested reserving 10 percent of advertising space for government programmes and welfare schemes. After reviewing a presentation on revenue generation

through public-private partnership models, he offered further suggestions to improve efficiency.

Focusing on urban infrastructure management, Revanth Reddy instructed officials to adopt a unified system for streetlight maintenance across all cities and towns in the state. He also emphasised the need to develop parks within the three corporations and asked officials to compile comprehensive data on park assets.

The Chief Minister further directed that a one-day training pro-

gramme be organised soon for newly elected mayors, deputy mayors, chairpersons, and deputy chairpersons. The session will focus on urban development strategies and governance priorities, and he said he would personally attend the meeting.

Senior officials, including government advisors and municipal commissioners, were present at the review meeting. The government expects the measures to improve civic services, strengthen urban infrastructure, and enhance municipal revenues.

RO Water Plant Inaugurated at Uppal Govt School

Uppal, Feb 17:
 In a move aimed at ensuring safe drinking water for students, senior BRS leader Puduri Jitender Reddy facilitated the installation of a 500-litre capacity RO water plant at the Zilla Parishad High School and Government Degree College in Uppal.

The facility was inaugurated on Tuesday by Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy and BRS Malkajgiri Parliament in-charge Ragidi Lakshma Reddy. The initiative was undertaken as part of community service activities marking the birthday of former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao.

School authorities and local officials appreciated the effort, noting that access to clean drinking water is essential for students' health and well-being. Mandal Education Officer Rama Rao, Principal Ashok, and other staff members attended the programme and thanked the organisers for supporting the institution. They expressed hope that similar initiatives would continue to im-



prove basic facilities in government schools. Speakers at the event highlighted that such contributions play an important role in strengthening public education infrastructure, particularly in urban government institutions where student strength is high. They also encouraged continued collaboration between public representatives, community leaders, and educational institutions to address local needs.

Later, grand celebrations were held at the Uppal vegetable market to mark the birthday of K. Chan-

Commercial Shops Sealed Over Property Tax Dues in Kompally



Quthbullapur, Feb 17: Municipal authorities initiated strict enforcement measures against property tax defaulters in Kompally Circle-56, sealing two commercial establishments in the Subhash Nagar area for non-payment of dues despite repeated notices.

According to officials, the action was taken after shop owners failed to clear pending property taxes even after multiple reminders. As per municipal regulations, enforcement teams proceeded to seal the premises to ensure com-



pliance and to send a strong message to other defaulters.

Deputy Commissioner N. Krishna Reddy said that municipal taxes are vital for maintaining urban infrastructure and essential civic services. He noted that revenue generated through property tax supports sanitation drives, road maintenance, street lighting, and other public amenities that directly impact residents' quality of life.

He urged property owners with pending dues to clear them immediately to avoid similar enforcement actions. The administration has made it clear that non-compliance, even after prior warnings, will invite strict measures, including sealing of properties and legal proceedings wherever necessary.

Officials reiterated that the civic body had issued advance notices to the concerned shop owners, giving them adequate time to settle the dues. However, as there was no response, authorities were left with no option but to proceed with the seizures in accordance with the rules.

Assistant Municipal Commissioner C. H. Srinivas Goud, along with bill collectors and municipal staff, participated in the inspection and enforcement drive. The team also reviewed other pending tax cases in the circle and identified additional properties with significant arrears for follow-up action.

The municipal administration emphasized that such drives will continue across the circle to improve tax com-

KCR Birthday Celebrations Held at OU

Osmania University, Feb 17:
 Grand celebrations were held on the campus to mark the birthday of former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao. The programme was organised under the leadership of BRSV State General Secretary Motapothula Ramesh Goud, with participation from party student leaders and university students.

As part of the celebrations, competitive exam

preparation books were distributed to students, aiming to support their academic and career aspirations. The initiative was welcomed by students, who appreciated the effort to provide useful educational resources.

Speaking on the occasion, Ramesh Goud described KCR's birthday as a "festival day" for supporters. He said that the Telangana state, achieved through a long struggle, witnessed sig-

nificant progress across sectors during KCR's tenure and earned recognition at the national level. He credited the former Chief Minister's leadership for strengthening infrastructure, welfare programmes, and opportunities for youth.

He also conveyed heartfelt birthday wishes on behalf of BRSV and OU students, praying for KCR's good health and long life. Party members reiterated

their commitment to continue working in line with his vision for the development of Telangana and the welfare of students.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from BRSV activists and students, creating a festive atmosphere on the campus. Organisers said similar student-focused activities would be taken up in the future to encourage education and career development among youth.



ACB Raids Quthbullapur Zonal Office Over Bribery Allegations

Quthbullapur, Feb 17 | TPN Bureau:
 Officials of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) conducted surprise inspections at the Quthbullapur Zonal Office on Tuesday following allegations that a tax inspector demanded a bribe of 1 lakh. The operation was carried out at the office's meeting hall in Chintal as part of an ongoing inquiry.

According to officials, the probe is focused on tax inspector Waheed, who is currently posted in the Chintal circle. A team led by Rangareddy ACB DSP Anand Kumar questioned the official and examined documents as part of the investigation. Preliminary information suggests

that the allegations relate to Waheed's earlier tenure in the Gajularamaram circle. He is accused of demanding 1 lakh from a resident for allocating a house number and completing mutation and tax registration procedures. It is further alleged that he had accepted part of the amount in advance and was pressuring the complainant to pay the remaining sum.

Following the complaint, ACB officials reportedly collected initial evidence before carrying out the raids. During the search, officers scrutinised files, official records, and digital data to verify the claims. Sources indicated that investigators are examining



whether proper procedures were followed and if any irregular financial transactions took place. The inspection created a buzz among staff and visitors at the zonal office, with officials restricting access to certain sections while the inquiry was underway. Authorities emphasised that the investigation is still in progress and that conclusions will be drawn only after a detailed review of all

material evidence.

ACB officials reiterated that strict action would be taken if the allegations are substantiated, in line with anti-corruption laws and departmental rules. They also encouraged citizens to report instances of bribery or harassment, assuring that complaints would be handled confidentially. Further details, including whether a formal case will be registered, are expected to be announced after the inquiry is completed. For now, the focus remains on analysing the collected records and statements to establish the facts surrounding the alleged demand for a bribe.

OU Arts College Team Wins KCR Cup 2026

Osmania University, Feb 17 | TPN Bureau:
 The KCR Cup 2026 state-level cricket tournament concluded with the OU Arts College team emerging as champions. The tournament was organised to mark the birthday of former Telangana Chief Minister and BRS chief K. Chandrashekar Rao. The final match, held on the university campus, witnessed a spirited contest between the Arts College and Science College teams. Delivering an impressive performance, the Arts College side secured a convincing victory over their rivals to lift the trophy. The tournament was



conducted under the leadership of BRSV State Secretary Kompelli Naresh, who played a key role in organising the event. The prize distribution ceremony took place at the Arts College premises, where BRSV State President Gellu Srinivas, Vice President Tunga

Balu, along with other leaders, attended as chief guests. The winners, OU Arts College team, were presented with the trophy and a cash prize of 20,000, while the runner-up Science College team received a cup and 10,000. Speakers at the event congratulated the

players for their sporting spirit and encouraged students to actively participate in sports alongside academics.

Organisers appreciated Kompelli Naresh for successfully conducting the tournament and said such events help nurture sports culture among youth. Several BRS and BRSV leaders, student representatives, and supporters were present, creating an energetic atmosphere on the campus. The KCR Cup, organisers said, will continue to be held in the coming years to encourage young talent and promote healthy competition among students across the state.

400 Kg Wheat Portrait Honours KCR Beyond

Moradabad / Feb 17 | TPN Bureau:

In an extraordinary display of admiration that transcended state borders, supporters of former Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao created a massive portrait using nearly 400 kilograms of wheat to mark his birthday. The unique tribute, organised in Moradabad city of Uttar Pradesh, has drawn significant attention both online and offline, with many praising the creativity and symbolism behind the gesture.

The initiative was spearheaded by BRSV leader and Kompally resident Ravan Kol Saikiran Goud, who coordinated with local artists and volunteers to bring the idea to life. The organisers said the tribute was meant to reflect KCR's long-standing association with farmer welfare and agricultural development, which they believe remains a defining aspect of his political

legacy.

Wheat, a staple crop symbolising prosperity and the agrarian economy, was deliberately chosen as the medium for the artwork. Volunteers carefully spread and arranged the grains on an open ground, forming a detailed and lifelike portrait that could be viewed from a distance. The process took nearly two days of continuous effort, requiring precision and teamwork to achieve the final visual impact.

The portrait was designed and executed by noted artist Jaddur Arts Javed, who is known for creating large-scale images using unconventional materials. His meticulous arrangement of wheat grains resulted in a striking depiction that quickly became a talking point among visitors and on social media platforms.

Speaking at the unveiling, organisers described the tribute as a heartfelt expression of gratitude toward a leader they



credit with prioritising irrigation projects, farmer support schemes, and rural development initiatives. They said hosting the tribute outside Telangana symbolised the

broader recognition and admiration KCR commands in different parts of the country.

The installation attracted locals, art enthusiasts, and political ob-

servers, many of whom captured photographs and shared them widely online. Within hours, visuals of the wheat portrait began circulating across social media, with users applauding the innovative concept and the effort behind it.

Observers say such creative tributes highlight how political leaders often inspire cultural expressions that blend art, symbolism, and public sentiment. Beyond its visual appeal, the wheat portrait has sparked conversations about the role of agriculture in political narratives and the emotional connection supporters maintain with leaders they admire.

As the images continue to trend, the Moradabad tribute stands out as one of the most distinctive birthday honours this year, underscoring how admiration can travel far beyond geographical boundaries and manifest in imaginative ways.

Tight Contest Leaves Errabelli Emotional in Thoruru



Thoruru, Feb 17:

Senior leader Errabelli Dayakar Rao turned emotional after the Bharat Rashtra Samithi failed to retain control of the Thoruru Municipality, a setback that underscored the unpredictability of local body politics. The former minister expressed deep concern over how he would respond to party workers who had campaigned tirelessly for the civic polls.

In the 16-ward municipality, the BRS initially appeared to have the upper hand, winning nine wards compared to seven secured by the Indian National Congress. However, the balance of power shifted dramatically after ex-officio votes were counted. The additional votes took the Congress tally to nine, effectively erasing the BRS advantage and resulting in a deadlock between the two parties.

With both sides locked at equal strength, election officials resorted to a lottery to decide the chairperson — a procedure permitted under municipal rules when numbers remained tied. The draw ultimately favoured Congress candidate Shrivani, who was declared chairperson. The outcome triggered immediate protests from BRS leaders and cadres, who described the result as a blow after a closely fought contest. Alleging irregularities regarding the validity of one ex-officio vote, Dayakar Rao staged a protest along with supporters. Police intervened to prevent tensions from escalating and detained the leader before shifting him to a nearby police station. The brief detention added to the charged political atmosphere surrounding the results.

Speaking to reporters later, Dayakar Rao appeared visibly moved and questioned whether he should continue in politics following the defeat. He said the outcome was especially painful given the intense efforts of grassroots workers who had worked day and night during the campaign. Despite the disappointment, he noted that the party leadership would soon review the developments and decide on the next course of action. The Thoruru episode highlights how razor-thin margins, procedural provisions, and statutory voting rights can decisively shape local governance outcomes. It also reflects the high stakes attached to municipal bodies, where even a single vote — or chance draw — can alter political equations and influence grassroots power dynamics.

Congress Sweeps Telangana Municipal Polls



Hyderabad, Feb 17 | TPN Bureau

The Indian National Congress registered a resounding victory in the municipal elections held across Telangana, winning control of a significant majority of urban local bodies and reinforcing its political momentum in the state. Party leaders said the results reflected a strong endorsement of the government's governance and welfare agenda, with the party reportedly securing close to 90

percent of municipalities statewide.

In the aftermath of the victory, a delegation of senior leaders met Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to congratulate him on the outcome. The leaders described the mandate as a clear sign of public confidence in the administration's policies and development initiatives.

Among those who called on the Chief Minister were State Minister Vakiti Srihari, Nagarkurnool Member of

Parliament Dr. Mallu Ravi, Wanaparthy MLA Thudi Megha Reddy, Nagarkurnool MLA Kuchukulla Rajesh Reddy, and State Sports Authority Chairman and Wanaparthy District Congress President Shivasena Reddy. They conveyed their appreciation for the leadership provided by the Chief Minister and highlighted the party's strong performance in the Nagarkurnool parliamentary segment, where it secured several municipalities.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister congratulated the leaders for their coordinated efforts and grassroots outreach that contributed to the sweeping victory. He emphasized that the electoral success should translate into tangible improvements in urban governance and civic services. Stressing the importance of inclusive development, he directed party representatives and local leaders to focus on strengthening municipal infrastructure, en-

hancing public service delivery, and ensuring transparency in administration.

The Chief Minister also assured the delegation that the state government would extend all necessary support to municipalities to accelerate development works and address urban challenges. He noted that the verdict brings with it a responsibility to meet public expectations and sustain the momentum of welfare and infrastructure programs.

Expressing gratitude to voters, Congress leaders said the mandate was a reflection of people's trust in the party's vision. They reiterated their commitment to implementing development and welfare schemes more effectively and pledged to work closely with local bodies to ensure visible progress in towns and cities across the state. Political observers say the outcome could further strengthen the Congress's position in Telangana's evolving political landscape, setting the tone for upcoming electoral contests.

Sajjanar Issues Stern Warning Over Drug Offering Incident



Sajjanar Issues Stern Warning Over Drug Offering Incident

Hyderabad, Feb 17 | TPN Bureau

A controversy broke out after a video allegedly showing youths offering a narcotic substance in a religious setting went viral, prompting a strong response from V C Sajjanar, Commissioner of the Hyderabad City Police. The incident has sparked widespread criticism and renewed concerns over misuse of social media during religious occasions.

According to police officials, the video surfaced online during festive celebrations and quickly drew public outrage. Authorities said the visuals appeared to show two individuals presenting what looked like a prohibited substance as an offering, an act that many viewed as disrespectful and insensitive to religious sentiments. The clip spread rapidly across platforms, leading to calls for strict action.

Reacting to the incident, Sajjanar condemned the act and emphasized that such behavior would not be tolerated under any circumstances. He stated that festivals are meant to promote devotion, discipline, and cultural values, and any attempt to misuse them for publicity or shock value would invite legal consequences. He also warned that offences involving narcotic substances are treated seriously under the law and can lead to severe punishment.

Police teams moved swiftly to identify those involved, and a case was registered soon after the video came to their attention. Officials confirmed that the individuals were traced and taken into custody for questioning. Investigators are now examining whether the act was premeditated and if others played a role in recording or circulating the footage.

The episode has triggered a broader discussion on responsible behavior online,

particularly during religious events that draw large public participation. Authorities reiterated that social media should not be used to create provocative or offensive content and urged citizens to respect cultural and spiritual practices.

Officials further stated that enhanced monitoring will continue during major celebrations to prevent similar incidents. Community leaders have also appealed for restraint and sensitivity, noting that actions intended for online attention can have serious legal and social repercussions.

Police said the investigation is ongoing and additional details will be released once inquiries are complete. The incident stands as a cautionary example of how irresponsible actions can quickly escalate into legal trouble and public backlash, with law enforcement reaffirming its commitment to maintaining public order and respect for traditions.

Hyderabad Police Arrest 23 Illegal Foreign Nationals

Hyderabad, Feb 17 | TPN Bureau

In a significant enforcement drive, the Hyderabad Police arrested 23 foreign nationals who were allegedly staying in the city without valid travel documents or with visa violations, officials said on Tuesday. The coordinated operation was carried out across multiple localities following intelligence inputs about irregular stays and suspicious activities.

According to police officials, the detained individuals belong to different countries and were found residing in various rented accommodations without proper authorization. Some were reportedly overstaying their visas, while others were suspected of working or engaging in activities not permitted under the terms of their entry into India. Authorities said the crackdown is part of ongoing efforts to monitor foreign nationals and ensure compliance with immigration laws.

Police teams conducted simultaneous inspec-

tions at several locations, verifying passports, visas, and other identification documents. During the verification process, discrepancies were noticed in travel records, prompting further questioning. Officials confirmed that all 23 individuals were taken into custody and are being processed as per legal procedures.

Sources indicated that the police are also coordinating with immigration authorities and relevant embassies to verify the identities and backgrounds of those detained. Depending on the findings, the individuals may face legal action, fines, deportation, or blacklisting from re-entering the country.

Senior officers emphasized that the operation was not targeted at any specific community but aimed at strengthening law enforcement and ensuring public safety. They added that regular verification drives would continue in the coming weeks, particularly in areas with a high concentration of



foreign residents, to prevent misuse of visas and maintain accurate records. The police urged landlords and property managers to strictly follow tenant verification procedures, especially when renting to foreign nationals, and to

promptly inform local authorities about new occupants. Citizens were also encouraged to report suspicious or unauthorized stays to help authorities act swiftly.

Officials reiterated that Hyderabad remains a welcoming global city

but stressed that adherence to immigration rules is essential for maintaining security and orderly administration. Further details about the case are expected after the completion of formal investigations.

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

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

The Rise of Organised Digital Campaigning

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

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

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

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

Deepfakes and the Spread of Deception

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

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

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

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

Impostors and External Influence

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



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

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

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

Post-Election Disinformation and Public Distrust

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

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

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

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

Media Imitation and the Crisis of Credibility

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

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

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

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

The Broader Democratic Implications

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

The consequences extend

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

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

Regulation Versus Free Expression

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

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

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

Building Digital Resilience

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

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

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

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

A Digital Turning Point

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

internal rivalry so much as complementary operational focus.

Priyanka Gandhi's Leadership Role in Assam

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

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

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

socio-political dynamics of Assam.

Rahul Gandhi and the Strategy in Kerala

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Internal Party Reactions and Public Perception

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

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

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

What the Elections Could Mean for Congress's Future

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

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

Both roles also have implications for Rahul and Priyanka

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

Conclusion: A Unified Party with Dual Leaders on the Ground

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

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

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

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

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

Judges Warn Against Uncritical AI Dependence

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

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



stand subtleties of law or context specific implications.

AI vs. Human Judgment: A Central Concern

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

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

domains.

Court's Call for Responsible Use

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

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

Implications for Legal Practice in India

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

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

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

The Broader Debate on AI Use in Justice

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

In India, a country with a vast and complex legal landscape, the court's emphasis on human judgment serves as a reminder that technological tools should support — not replace — human expertise, especially in matters where fundamental rights and legal interpretations are at stake.

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



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

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

Key Areas of Cooperation Under the New Partnership

The upgraded partnership signals expanded collaboration in several critical domains:

- Defence and Security: Both nations reaf-

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

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

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

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

tual ambitions to address global challenges collectively.

Strategic and Global Impact

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

Background of the Case

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

Second Missed Appearance

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

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

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

Enforcement Directorate's Response

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

Officials emphasise that cooperation with investiga-

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

What Lies Ahead

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

nation within opposition ranks and possibly adjustments to parliamentary conventions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Earlier reports had suggested significant deterior-

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

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

US-Iran Nuclear Talks Resume Amid Sharp Rhetoric from Khamenei

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

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

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



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

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

clear activities are peaceful in nature.

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

quately address security concerns.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Defence cooperation is another significant focus area. India and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Champion of Equality and Opportunity

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

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

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

Historic Presidential Campaigns

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

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

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

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

Enduring Legacy

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

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

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



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

Promoter Share Sale Announcement

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

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

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

Market Reaction and Stock Performance

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

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

Investor Sentiment and Outlook

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

the growing enterprise AI and advanced analytics space.

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

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

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

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

Hazoor Multi Projects Shares Rise After Winning New NHAI Toll Contract



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

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

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

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

presence in highway operations and maintenance.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

US Markets and Economy Facing Unprecedented Combination of Conditions



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sectoral Highlights

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

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

The broader market mirrored the positive sentiment. Midcap and smallcap



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

Technical Outlook

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

Investor Sentiment

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Internet personality and WWE star Logan Paul has once again made headlines — this time for selling one of the rarest Pokémon trading cards in existence for a staggering \$16.5 million. The sale has set a new world record for the most expensive trading card ever sold.

The prized collectible is the ultra-rare Pokémon Trading Card Game "Pikachu Illustrator" card, widely considered the holy grail among Pokémon collectors. Only a handful of these cards are known to exist, making them extraordinarily valuable. Paul's copy was graded a perfect PSA 10, indicating pristine condition — a key factor behind its enormous price tag.

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

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

substantial profit from the deal.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

juries were reported.

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

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

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

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

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

torically sensitive areas.

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

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

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



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

siastic involvement.

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

Dressed in a traditional

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

Clips circulating online

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

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

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

to the traditions than some locals themselves.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The video was shared with a caption highlight-

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

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

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



his commitment to education extends beyond this single viral moment.

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

support.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

folded well short of the target.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

The Freestyle Chess World Championship permits participants to con-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

As the situation continues to unfold, supporters



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Reactions from Fans and Experts

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

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

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

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

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

Nithya Menen Turns Producer, Launches Keyuri Productions



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

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

production.

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

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

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

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

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

Paathirathri Heads to OTT After Theatrical Run



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Seyon Teaser Buzz on Sivakarthikeyan’s Birthday

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

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

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

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

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



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

For Sivakarthikeyan, the project represents another important mile-

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

With its festive release

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