



BUZZ POINTS

Gold and Silver Rebound Ahead of Fed Minutes, Investors Turn Cautious



BUZZ POINTS

N. Uttam Kumar Reddy Urges Fast-Tracking of Irrigation Works



PAGE 02

Indiramma Houses for All Eligible Poor: Ponnani



PAGE 02

Ramzan Greetings Convey Message of Harmony: Mahesh Kumar Goud

PAGE 03

Immediate Polls Sought in Secunderabad Cantonment

PAGE 04

Revanth Reddy Outlines Green Growth Vision at Mumbai Climate Week

Mumbai, Feb 18, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy presented the state's long-term development roadmap at Mumbai Climate Week, linking economic expansion with environmental sustainability and calling energy the "real currency" of future growth.

Beginning his address with a historical perspective, he said understanding India's 2047 vision requires revisiting 1947. Between 1950 and 1990, he noted, the country prioritised education and irrigation, building institutions from village schools to premier centres such as IITs, IISc, and IIMs, while constructing major dams that helped achieve food security and improve life expectancy.

Reflecting on the 1991-2020 reform era, the Chief Minister said liberalisation, privatisation, and globalisation transformed India into a services powerhouse driven by telecom and software growth. However, he observed that manufacturing opportunities were not fully realised, a lesson that is shaping present policy priorities, especially after the Covid period.

Highlighting the im-



portance of energy, Reddy said Telangana currently consumes an average of 16,610 megawatts per day, with peak demand expected to cross 19,000 megawatts this year and potentially exceed 34,000 megawatts by 2034 as the state targets a one-trillion-dollar economy. Nearly a quarter of the state's energy mix — about 25 percent — already comes from green sources, he added.

The Chief Minister reiterated Telangana's economic targets of expanding from a 200-billion-dollar state GDP to one trillion dollars by 2034 and three trillion dollars by 2047. He outlined key pillars of growth including economy, environment, education and skills, energy, employment, entrepreneurship, and

wealth creation.

Explaining the state's spatial strategy, he said the development framework is organised into three zones — CURE, PURE, and RARE. Hyderabad has been designated the Core Urban Region Economy (CURE), while the surrounding belt between the Outer Ring Road and Regional Ring Road is planned as a manufacturing-focused PURE zone powered by green energy to position Telangana as a "China+1" alternative.

Reddy described climate change as a pressing challenge, noting that governments must balance growth, investments, and job creation with sustainability. He highlighted measures such as tax exemptions for electric vehicles, expansion of electric pub-

lic transport, retrofitting autorickshaws, and the expansion of Hyderabad Metro from 71 km to over 200 km.

He also pointed to initiatives including Musi river rejuvenation, lake restoration, strengthening water and energy grids, and the creation of HYDRAA, a dedicated environmental enforcement body. The city aims to achieve net-zero emissions by 2034 and will soon conduct a comprehensive carbon footprint audit, he said.

Concluding, the Chief Minister stressed that every unit of green energy contributes to the well-being of the state, the country, and the planet, calling for a manufacturing revival powered by clean energy to drive inclusive and sustainable growth.

KTR Condemns Arrest of Balaka Suman, Demands Immediate Release

Hyderabad | 18 Feb 2026 — TPN Bureau

K. T. Rama Rao, Working President of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi, strongly condemned the arrest of former MLA Balaka Suman, describing it as illegal and politically motivated. He demanded that Suman be released immediately and alleged that the arrest reflects what he termed as an attempt to silence opposition voices.

In a statement, KTR said that arresting a Dalit leader who has been vocal for the rights of marginalized communities without prior notice was undemocratic. He accused the state government led by A. Revanth Reddy of resorting to intimidation tactics. According to him, the arrest demonstrated what he called the government's intolerance toward criticism and dissent.

KTR alleged that the election process in Kyathanpally was influenced by ministerial interference and pres-

sure on officials, which he termed unconstitutional. He said returning officers and police, who are expected to remain neutral, were allegedly acting under political influence, a trend he warned could weaken democratic institutions. He further claimed that despite a clear mandate in favor of BRS, attempts were made to undermine the verdict through coercive tactics.

Criticizing the police, KTR alleged that the law-enforcement machinery had been reduced to functioning like a "private force" for the ruling party. He said cases were filed against Suman and party leaders for questioning alleged irregularities in the municipal election process. The BRS leader also warned that continued harassment of party leaders and workers would have political consequences, asserting that those responsible would be held accountable in the future.

KTR further accused the ruling party of engaging in what he called "capture politics," alleging that similar incidents had occurred in places like Thorru, Jangaon, and Zaheerabad. He expressed concern over reports of attacks on a Dalit woman public representative in Jangaon and questioned the ability of authorities to protect elected representatives and ordinary citizens alike. Calling for immediate intervention, KTR urged the State Election Commission and the Governor to order a comprehensive probe into the alleged irregularities during the municipal elections. He also demanded action against police officials accused of acting beyond the law. Concluding his remarks, KTR said that arrests and detentions would not deter the party's struggle. He reiterated that BRS would continue its fight through democratic means until justice is ensured and Balaka Suman, along with detained party workers, is released unconditionally.

Sridhar Babu Says Life Sciences Key to Telangana's \$3-Trillion Vision

Hyderabad | February 18 | TPN Bureau

D. Sridhar Babu said the life sciences sector will be a cornerstone of Telangana's ambition to build a \$3-trillion economy by 2047, underscoring the government's focus on innovation-driven growth and global partnerships.

Speaking at the valedictory session of Bio-Asia 2026 held at HITEC, the IT and Industries Minister stated that the "Telangana Rising 2047" vision aims to significantly enhance the State's contribution to India's GDP, targeting a 10% share. He noted that the roadmap was prepared through extensive consultations with citizens, industry experts, and policymakers.

During a fireside chat titled "Telangana Rising 2047: Building a World-Class Life Sciences Ecosystem," the Minister outlined the State's strategy to position itself as a global hub for biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, and medical innovation. He highlighted that since December 2023, Telangana has attracted investments worth 73,360 crore in the life sciences sector, generating close to one lakh jobs and reinforcing the sector's role as a major economic engine.

Detailing policy initiatives, he referred to the Telangana Next-Gen Life Sciences Policy



(2026-2030), the proposed Telangana Life Sciences School, and the OneBio Incubator. He also spoke about the continued expansion of Genome Valley and the development of Pharma Villages, along with world-class infrastructure supported by international collaborations and a skilled workforce.

The Minister pointed out that Telangana hosts more than 2,000 life sciences companies and has emerged as a dominant player in India's pharmaceutical landscape. The State contributes nearly one-third of the country's pharmaceutical production and about one-fifth of total pharma exports, reflecting its strong industrial ecosystem.

He revealed that several global firms — including Sanofi, Opella, Vaxxinova Animal Health, Tredence, and Rx Propellant — expressed interest in investing in the State during the summit. In addition, special roundtable discussions with

experts from the United Kingdom, New Zealand, South Korea, Australia, and Japan explored collaboration opportunities and emerging sectoral challenges.

Talks were also held with the World Economic Forum on strengthening India's bioeconomy, with Telangana expected to play a leading role. A comprehensive roadmap is currently being prepared to guide future growth.

BioAsia 2026 saw participation from 4,394 delegates, including representatives of Fortune 500 companies, and hosted more than 4,000 business-to-business meetings aimed at fostering partnerships and investments.

Concluding his address, Sridhar Babu emphasised that the government views life sciences not only as an economic driver but also as a sector with deep social impact, calling on industry leaders to collaborate with Telangana in shaping an innovation-led future.

Governance on Buddha-Ambedkar Path: Bhatti

Hyderabad, Feb 18, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka on Tuesday said the state government is steering its governance along the philosophical path shown by Gautama Buddha and B. R. Ambedkar, asserting that their ideology offers enduring solutions to contemporary social challenges.

He was speaking at a gathering of Buddhist monks from Thailand and India who are undertaking a padayatra for world peace. The interaction took place at Ambedkar Smriti Vanam near Necklace Road in Hyderabad.

Bhatti Vikramarka said the government believes that the values of compassion, equality,



and social justice advocated by Buddha and Ambedkar remain highly relevant in addressing modern-day issues. He added that governance inspired by these ideals ensures inclusive development and harmony in society.

The Deputy Chief Minister noted that the state is giving special emphasis to the development of Buddha Vanam near Nagarjuna Sagar, describing it as a prestigious initiative.

Funds have been allocated for the project, and oversight responsibilities have been entrusted to officials to ensure its comprehensive development as both a spiritual and tourism destination.

Describing Buddha Vanam as a serene and inspiring place, he said the site offers mental peace and has been equipped with facilities for monks, pilgrims, and visitors. He highlighted the government's intention to promote it as a major international Buddhist tourism centre.

Referring to the Babasaheb Ambedkar Centre at Necklace Road, Bhatti said the venue stands as a symbol of social justice and constitutional values. He noted that special arrangements are being made there to showcase Ambedkar's life, message, and contributions so that

future generations can draw inspiration from his vision. He stressed the importance of understanding the Constitution and the principles of equality it embodies.

The Deputy Chief Minister also informed that around 70 Buddhist monks from Thailand and 30 monks from India began their peace march on February 2 from Kalaburagi in Karnataka. The padayatra will continue until March 1, culminating at Buddha Vanam near Nagarjuna Sagar.

Labour Minister Vivek Venkataswamy, Buddha Vanam Project OSD Mallepalli Laxmaiah, and former Chief Secretary Kaki Madhav Rao were among those present at the event, which highlighted the state's emphasis on cultural harmony and spiritual heritage.

Govt Ready to Resolve Power Employees' Issues: Bhatti Vikramarka

Hyderabad, Feb 18, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka on Tuesday said the state government is fully prepared to address the concerns of electricity employees and ensure their welfare through continuous engagement with unions and associations.

He was speaking after releasing the SC and ST Electricity Employees' Diary at Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Praja Bhavan in Hyderabad. The programme was attended by MLAs Vemula Veeresham and Dr. Kavvampalli Satyanarayana, former MLC Rajeshwar, Association Founder and Secretary General Matangi Srinivas, Working Secretary P. M. Raju, and leaders representing employee unions from GENCO,

TRANSCO, NPDCCL, and SPDCL.

Interacting with union representatives, the Deputy Chief Minister said the government values the role played by electricity employees in maintaining essential services across the state. He noted that reservations provided under the Constitution framed by B. R. Ambedkar have enabled SC and ST communities to secure opportunities in public employment, strengthening inclusivity in governance.

Congratulating leaders who run associations to protect employees' rights, Vikramarka assured that the "people's government" would step in whenever any difficulties arise. He said that since coming to power, the administration has been making sincere efforts to resolve

long-pending employee issues through dialogue and policy support.

The Deputy Chief Minister contrasted the current approach with that of the previous government, stating that employees' concerns did not receive adequate attention earlier. He said the present administration, under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, is prioritising employee welfare and maintaining open channels of communication with unions.

Vikramarka emphasised that the government follows a democratic approach in dealing with employee matters, listening to their suggestions rather than imposing decisions. He reiterated that whenever unions bring forward problems, the government is committed to examining



them and working toward practical solutions.

Reaffirming the administration's commitment, the Deputy Chief Minister said the government will continue to take proactive steps to address employees' grievances and strengthen the functioning of the

power sector.

The diary release event concluded with employee representatives expressing appreciation for the government's assurances and reiterating their willingness to work collaboratively to improve services and workplace conditions.

Vakiti Srihari Unveils 2026 Diary of Staff Union



Hyderabad, Feb 18, 2026 | TPN Bureau
State Minister Vakiti Srihari on Tuesday unveiled the 2026 diary of the Telangana Paddy Industrial Development Cooperative Federation Staff Workers' Union at the Ministers' Quarters in Hyderabad. The event brought together union leaders and staff members, marking the beginning of the union's annual activities for the year.

Extending his greetings on the occasion, the minister congratulated the union members for their continued service in strengthening the state's dairy and paddy-related industries. He appreciated their role in supporting farmers and ensuring smooth functioning of cooperative institutions across Telangana.

During the interaction, union representatives invited the minister to visit the Mega Dairy facility located at Raviryala. Responding positively, Srihari assured them that he would schedule a visit soon to review operations and interact with staff and farmers associated with the facility.

The union also placed several key demands before the minister. Members urged the government to allocate budgetary provisions to provide an incentive of ₹4 to farmers, stating that such support would boost morale and productivity. They further requested the clearance of pending bills to ensure financial stability for workers and cooperative operations.

Speaking at the gathering, the minister emphasized that the government remains committed to the welfare of farmers, employees, and cooperative institutions. He noted that strengthening the dairy and paddy sectors is essential for rural livelihoods and overall agricultural growth in the state. Srihari assured the delegation that their concerns would be examined and taken up with the relevant departments.

The programme saw the presence of prominent union office-bearers, including State President S. Yadagiri, Working President Ashok Kumar, General Secretary Bal Prasad, and Treasurer Nikhil. Executive members Anand, Sridhar, Raju, Eshwar, Satish, Karim, and Sharath also attended the event along with other staff representatives.

The newly released diary is expected to serve as an organisational guide for the union, helping coordinate activities, meetings, and welfare initiatives throughout the year. Union leaders expressed satisfaction over the minister's assurances and reiterated their commitment to working closely with the government to advance the interests of farmers and staff.

The event highlighted continued cooperation between the state administration and workers' unions, reflecting a shared focus on strengthening the cooperative sector and supporting agricultural development in Telangana.

Indiramma Houses for All Eligible Poor: Ponnam



Hyderabad, Feb 18, 2026 | TPN Bureau
Telangana Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Wednesday said the government is committed to providing Indiramma houses to every eligible poor family in Hyderabad district, stressing that transparency will be maintained throughout the selection and allocation process.

The minister made the remarks while chairing a review meeting at the Secretariat, where discussions focused on beneficiary identification under the Indiramma housing scheme and the progress of pending double-bedroom housing projects. The meeting was attended by Minority Welfare Minister Mohammed Azharuddin, Rajya Sabha MP Anil Kumar Yadav, legislators, and senior officials.

Addressing the meeting, Prabhakar said the government's objective is to ensure that every eligible family receives a house under the Indiramma scheme. He noted that under the L1 category, around 4,800 beneficiaries who own house sites would receive financial support for constructing double-bedroom houses.

He further explained that under the L2 category, more than 4.22 lakh applications have been received from across constituencies in Hyderabad district. The government is exploring the possibility of acquiring land

within the city to construct multi-storey Indiramma housing complexes ranging from G+5 to G+10 floors to accommodate eligible beneficiaries, he said.

The minister also directed officials to expedite the completion of pending double-bedroom housing works and ensure that completed units are handed over to beneficiaries without delay. He sought detailed information on vacancies, beneficiary lists, and progress of ongoing projects, emphasising time-bound implementation.

Discussions also covered land acquisition for Indiramma model colonies in slum areas, completion of incomplete housing units, and allocation of finished houses. Ministers and legislators reviewed constituency-wise requirements and gathered feedback from public representatives to streamline execution.

Senior officials, including GHMC Commissioner R. V. Karan, District Collector Harichandana Dasari, housing department representatives, and revenue officials, participated in the meeting.

Reiterating the government's commitment to inclusive housing, Prabhakar said the administration would take all necessary steps to ensure that the benefits of the scheme reach deserving families and improve living conditions for the urban poor in the state capital.

Education & Healthcare Top Priority: Bhatti Vikramarka

Hyderabad | February 18, 2026 – TPN Bureau

Bhatti Vikramarka Malu said the state government is placing the highest priority on education and healthcare and is ready to allocate all necessary funds to ensure the best outcomes in these sectors. He was speaking during a series of pre-budget review meetings held at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Secretariat on Wednesday.

The meetings covered key departments including Minority Welfare, BC Welfare, Transport, Irrigation, Civil Supplies, Roads & Buildings, and Cinematography. Ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, Ponnam Prabhakar, Adhuri Laxman Kumar, and Mohammed Azharuddin also participated.

During the Minority Welfare review, the Deputy CM directed officials to prepare budget proposals with clear priorities and strong financial discipline. He instructed that pending bills related to welfare hostels and gurukuls be cleared quickly and ordered that repairs to hostel buildings be taken up on a war footing. Officials were also asked to ensure continuous monitoring of welfare institutions, including regular inspections and overnight stays where possible to assess facilities.

Highlighting reforms in education infrastructure, he said the government is



establishing Young India Integrated Schools with world-class standards to promote inclusive learning. He also ordered the immediate rollout of biometric attendance systems linked to a central monitoring facility and suggested installing solar power systems on hostel buildings to reduce costs and generate revenue.

The Deputy CM said diet and cosmetic charges for

hostel students have already been enhanced and instructed authorities to continue clearing dues on a quarterly basis. He added that Ambedkar Knowledge Centres will be set up at constituency headquarters to support students preparing for competitive exams, with online classes delivered by top educators nationwide, aiming to create a national model.

In the irrigation review,

the focus was on crop diversification to address challenges arising from excessive paddy cultivation. The government plans to promote oil palm and pulses while improving storage capacity for farm produce.

He further announced that road infrastructure works exceeding ₹1 lakh crore are underway across the state, including major connectivity corridors and regional road networks.

The Deputy CM also asked the Cinematography Department to design plans for continuous cultural activities throughout the year, especially in Hyderabad.

Senior bureaucrats from finance, irrigation, civil supplies, and welfare departments attended the meetings, reflecting the government's push for coordinated planning ahead of the budget.

Police Bias Alleged, Cases Against Balaka Suman Must Be Withdrawn: Vaddiraju

Hyderabad | 18 Feb 2026 – TPN Bureau

Vaddiraju Ravichandra, Rajya Sabha MP and Deputy Leader of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi Parliamentary Party, has alleged that the police in Telangana are acting in favor of the ruling party, thereby weakening democratic values in the state. In a strongly worded statement, he criticized what he described as partisan functioning of law-enforcement agencies and expressed concern over the erosion of institutional neutrality.

The MP condemned the arrest of former MP and ex-government whip Balaka Suman, stating that the cases filed against him were fabricated and politically motivated. According to Ravichandra, Suman has been consistently questioning the policies and decisions of the state government, which he claimed led to retaliatory action. He alleged that targeting opposition leaders through police

action reflects intolerance toward dissent and undermines democratic functioning.

Ravichandra further said that police forces, whose primary responsibility is to maintain law and order, should remain impartial and independent. However, he alleged that recent developments indicate a trend where agencies are acting to please those in power rather than upholding the rule of law. Such actions, he warned, could damage public confidence in governance and democratic institutions.

The MP also asserted that the BRS cadre would not be intimidated by what he termed as threats, harassment, arrests, and the filing of false cases. He said the party would continue to fight democratically against what it views as injustice and misuse of power. Stressing the importance of political plurality, he noted that a healthy democracy depends on the ability of op-



position voices to function without fear.

Ravichandra appealed to Director General of Police Shivadhar Reddy to ensure fairness and professionalism in handling the matter. He urged the police leadership to review the cases

against Balaka Suman and withdraw them if found baseless, calling for a transparent and unbiased approach.

Concluding his statement, Ravichandra emphasized that safeguarding democratic norms and in-

stitutional independence is essential for maintaining public trust. He said the government must ensure that governance remains accountable and that law-enforcement agencies function strictly within constitutional principles.

N. Uttam Kumar Reddy Urges Fast-Tracking of Irrigation Works



Hyderabad | February 18, 2026 – TPN Bureau

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Wednesday directed officials across the state to make maximum use of the crucial summer construction window from February to June to accelerate ongoing irrigation projects and ensure their completion before the onset of the

monsoon. He emphasized that land acquisition, a critical component for project execution, should be completed on a war footing to avoid delays.

The Minister reviewed the progress of irrigation works in Nalgonda district at Mellacheruvu while participating in various official programmes. Stressing urgency, he called for round-

the-clock operations at key project sites so that construction advances swiftly without compromising quality standards. He noted that once the monsoon begins, backwater effects from the Krishna River at Pulichintala Project often hamper work, making the dry months the most productive period for execution.

To maintain momentum,

the Minister announced that progress review meetings will be conducted every ten days in the combined Nalgonda district with the participation of district collectors. He asked officials to report bottlenecks directly to him to ensure swift resolution. Uttam Kumar Reddy expressed satisfaction with the irrigation sector's performance over the past two years, stating that irrigated area, water utilisation, paddy cultivation, and procurement levels have all reached record highs in the region. He attributed these gains partly to consistent inflows that have kept the Nagarjuna Sagar Dam well supplied.

The Minister reiterated that there should be no funding constraints for land acquisition and instructed revenue authorities to expedite the process while ensuring timely compensation to farmers who part with their land for projects. He stressed that speedy acquisition is vital for completing irrigation infrastructure on schedule.

Focusing on equitable water distribution, Uttam

Kumar Reddy said priority should be given to ensuring irrigation for tail-end ayacut areas under the Nagarjuna Sagar Left Canal. He recommended adopting the 'Warabandi' rotation system to guarantee that water reaches every acre.

He also directed officials to simultaneously complete power substations required for lift irrigation schemes and to coordinate closely with TRANSCO for timely commissioning. Key projects reviewed included the Mutyala Branch Canal Lift, Jawahar Janpahad Lift Scheme, Bettethanda Lift Scheme, Nakkagudem Lift Scheme, Rajeev Gandhi Lift Scheme, Redla Kunta Lift Scheme, and Rajiv Shanti Nagar Lift Scheme, which together aim to expand irrigation coverage across tens of thousands of acres.

The Minister concluded that strict monitoring, timely land acquisition, and efficient coordination among departments will be crucial to meeting project timelines and strengthening irrigation capacity across the region.

Ramzan Greetings Convey Message of Harmony: Mahesh Kumar Goud



Hyderabad, Feb 18 | TPN Bureau
Mahesh Kumar Goud, President of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) and Member of Legislative Council, extended heartfelt greetings to the Muslim community on the commencement of the holy month of Ramzan, emphasizing the spirit of unity, compassion, and social harmony that the festival represents.

He said preserving secular values and mutual respect is a shared responsibility of every citizen. According to him, festivals like Ramzan reinforce the spirit of inclusiveness and remind people of the importance of coexistence in a diverse society. Reaffirming the party's stance, he stated that the Indian National Congress has consistently worked toward the welfare and empowerment of minorities.

Release Balaka Suman Immediately: Harish Rao



Hyderabad | 18 Feb 2026 - TPN Bureau
Former minister and Deputy Floor Leader T. Harish Rao demanded the immediate release of former MLA and Dalit leader Balaka Suman, strongly condemning his arrest in Kyathanpalli. He alleged that Suman was detained for opposing what he described as undemocratic and arrogant actions by the Congress.

where results were hung, alleging attempts to influence opposition representatives and overturn public verdicts. Citing incidents from multiple municipalities, he said they indicate a pattern of ignoring democratic values. Referring to an incident in Jangaon, he alleged that a Dalit woman councillor was attacked after extending support to BRS, claiming that officials and police failed to intervene despite witnessing the episode.

Anil Alleges BJP, BRS Obstructed BC Reservations

Hyderabad, Feb 18, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Mineral Development Corporation Chairman Iravatri Anil on Tuesday accused the BJP and BRS of attempting to block Backward Classes (BC) reservations, asserting that the Congress government remains committed to social justice and equitable representation.

Addressing the media in Hyderabad, Anil said the Congress had promised 42 percent reservations for BCs through the Kamareddy Declaration and had taken concrete steps to implement the commitment. He stated that a bill was introduced in the Assembly and sent to the Governor, but alleged that the Centre stalled the process.

The chairman specifically accused Bandi Sanjay Kumar and G. Kishan Reddy of obstructing BC reservations. He alleged that while BJP leaders publicly demanded reservations, they simultaneously pursued legal challenges against them.

Anil claimed that despite resistance from the BJP and the BRS, the state ensured strong representation for BCs in municipal elections, implementing up to 61 percent reservations. He added that this exceeded the quotas suggested by the Election Commission and reflected the government's commitment to empowering backward communities.

Highlighting representa-



tion across party structures, he said BC leaders were given a majority of District Congress Committee president posts and received more than 42 percent of tickets in panchayat elections, where many emerged victorious. He also noted that in parliamentary segments such as Warangal, Peddapalli, Mahabubnagar, and Nizamabad, over 90 percent of seats were

allotted to SC, ST, and BC candidates. Comparing the current administration with the previous Bharat Rashtra Samithi government, Anil said that earlier only four mayor posts out of 13 corporations went to BC leaders, whereas the present government allocated four BC mayors in seven corporations. He further alleged incon-

sistencies in the BJP's stance, questioning how the party fielded a Muslim candidate in a BC-reserved ward in Karimnagar while opposing the inclusion of Muslims in BC quotas. In a strongly worded remark, Anil urged BJP leaders to stop "politicising" the reservation issue. He also made controversial historical claims criticising Vinay-

ak Damodar Savarkar and Syama Prasad Mukherjee, accusing them of actions that, according to him, harmed the freedom movement. The remarks are likely to intensify political exchanges between the ruling Congress and opposition parties as debates over BC reservations continue to dominate Telangana's political discourse.

Vivekananda Criticises CM Over Hyderabad Development, Civic Governance

Hyderabad, Feb 18, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Assembly BRS Whip K. P. Vivekananda on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, accusing him of failing to deliver on municipal governance and development in Hyderabad.

Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, Vivekananda criticised the Chief Minister's recent review meeting on the municipal department, alleging that the government has not taken meaningful steps to address civic issues in the city. He said the administration has fallen short both in governance and in understanding the needs of residents during its tenure so far.

The BRS leader claimed that despite frequent reviews and announcements, the Congress government has not executed major development works in Hyderabad. He alleged that infrastructure projects such as the second phase of metro expansion have not progressed and accused the government of sidelining proposals approved during the tenure of



former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao. Vivekananda also questioned the government's approach to urban initiatives, including the Musi riverfront plans and civic improvement drives, saying they were announced with fanfare but lacked follow-

through. He further alleged that city planning decisions, including proposals related to the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, were being taken without adequate clarity. Praising BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao, he said significant infrastruc-

ture such as link roads, bridges, and underpasses were built during the previous administration, which, according to him, helped raise the city's profile. In contrast, he claimed the current government is focusing more on revenue collection than on public services.

The BRS leader also criticised housing initiatives, alleging that promised new housing projects had not materialised and that previously constructed double-bedroom houses were being showcased under new schemes. He further accused the government of politicising civic issues and acting with an eye on upcoming elections. Referring to recent local body developments, Vivekananda alleged that the ruling party was misusing administrative machinery during municipal processes and said the BRS would continue to highlight these issues. He asserted that the party had received a strong vote share in recent local elections and expressed confidence that the public would "teach the Congress a lesson" whenever Greater Hyderabad polls are held. The remarks reflect escalating political exchanges between the ruling Congress and the opposition BRS over urban governance and development priorities in the state capital.

Stern Action Likely Over Dharani Irregularities: Ponguleti

Hyderabad, Feb 18, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Revenue, Housing and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy on Wednesday said the government will take strict action over alleged irregularities linked to the Dharani land portal, asserting that every violation will be thoroughly investigated.

Speaking after a high-level review meeting at the Secretariat in Hyderabad, the minister said the Dharani issue appeared deeper and more complex, comparing it to a situation where "pulling one thread reveals a larger web." He alleged that a system meant to safeguard citizens' property had been misused by certain individuals in the previous administration for personal gain. The minister said a high-level committee probing alleged manipulation of stamp duty and registration charges through loopholes in the portal has uncovered several startling findings. According to him, the irregularities



were not merely technical glitches but the result of systemic lapses deliberately embedded in the platform's functioning. He noted that during an earlier security audit, deficiencies were reportedly identified but not rectified, and a favourable report was submitted. The committee's preliminary findings indi-

cated that the portal design allowed scope for human interference, suspicious land transaction data was made inaccessible, and certain login credentials — which should have been securely preserved — were deleted. Ponguleti said the investigation also revealed that a forensic audit had not included a comprehensive code

audit, prompting the government to immediately order a detailed review of the portal's source code. He added that entrusting the portal's maintenance to a foreign firm had contributed to operational complications. Acting on the directions of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the minister said the government would deal firmly

with those who siphoned off stamp duty and registration revenues, stressing that no one involved would be spared and that all dues owed to the state would be recovered. He said the committee's recommendations would guide corrective measures and ensure such lapses do not recur. Officials were instructed to develop a more transparent and citizen-friendly land management platform, tentatively referred to as "Bhu Bharati," with safeguards to minimise manual intervention. Reiterating the government's commitment to protecting landowners' rights, the minister said forensic audits already conducted in districts such as Sircilla and Siddipet would be extended to other districts. Senior officials, including Revenue Secretary Lokesh Kumar, CMRF officials, senior police and registration department officers, and members of the high-level committee, attended the meeting.

Immediate Polls Sought in Secunderabad Cantonment

Secunderabad Cantonment, Feb 18: Eatala Rajender, Member of Parliament from Malkajgiri, called for the immediate conduct of elections in the Secunderabad Cantonment, stressing that a democratically elected governing body is essential to address long-pending civic issues in the area.

The MP attended the oath-taking ceremony of Cantonment Board member Banuk Narmada Mallikarjun and used the occasion to reiterate the need for restoring elected representation in the cantonment. He argued that without public representatives, residents continue to face administrative hurdles and delays in resolving everyday problems.

Rajender noted that elections in cantonment areas across the country have remained pending, leading to growing demands for transparent and accountable governance. He said Secunderabad is not an isolated case, and similar concerns are being raised in several states where residents seek a greater voice in local administration.



Congratulating Banuk Narmada Mallikarjun on receiving a second extension in her tenure, the MP appreciated her efforts in staying connected with residents and addressing their concerns. However, he emphasized that nominated members alone cannot substitute a fully elected

board, adding that only representatives chosen by the people can effectively reflect the needs of every ward.

Highlighting misconceptions, Rajender said cantonments should not be viewed solely as military zones. Thousands of civilians reside in these areas

and deserve the same civic rights, infrastructure, and services as citizens in other urban localities. He pointed out that issues such as deteriorating roads, inadequate infrastructure, and housing-related problems have remained unresolved for years.

The BJP leader also cau-

tioned against unilateral decision-making by authorities without consulting public representatives, stating that such practices undermine democratic principles. He called for comprehensive discussions across all divisions of the cantonment to identify key issues and take them up with both state and central governments for resolution.

Reaffirming his commitment, Rajender said his party would continue to advocate for the rights of cantonment residents and push for timely elections nationwide to ensure accountable governance. "Officials may come and go, but public representatives remain answerable to the people. We will continue to stand with residents and work toward solving every issue they face," he said.

The demand adds momentum to the broader call for restoring democratic processes in cantonment administrations, with political leaders and citizen groups increasingly pressing for a clear election timeline.

ACB Raids Continue in Quthbullapur Zone



Quthbullapur | February 18 | TPN Bureau

Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) officials conducted surprise inspections at the Dundigal Circle office under the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Quthbullapur Zone on Tuesday, intensifying scrutiny over alleged irregularities. The sudden raids created a buzz locally as officials reportedly sealed office doors and carried out searches while ensuring staff remained inside the premises during the operation.

The inspections were led by Gangasani Sridhar, City Range-2 DSP, who supervised simultaneous checks across multiple sections of the circle office. Officials questioned staff members, including Deputy Commissioner Venkatesh Naik, as part of the inquiry.

Records Seized, Focus on Town Planning

According to sources, the ACB focused particularly on the Town Planning wing following complaints related to building permissions issued recently. Officers examined files, digital records, and documentation pertaining to approvals, while also questioning computer operators and administrative staff. Several key documents were reportedly taken into custody

for further investigation. Speaking during the inspection, DSP Sridhar said the raids were carried out based on multiple complaints received against the department. He noted that the team arrived early to secure records and indicated that the search could continue late into the evening if required.

Back-to-Back Raids Trigger Alert

The latest action comes a day after ACB teams conducted similar inspections at the Chintal Circle office, leading to heightened alertness among officials and employees across other circles in the Quthbullapur GHMC zone. Around 15 to 20 officials were said to be part of the operation.

While the exact nature of the alleged irregularities is yet to be disclosed, the raids signal increased vigilance over urban planning approvals and administrative processes. Further details are expected once the scrutiny of seized documents is completed and the investigation progresses.

The developments have sparked widespread discussion among civic staff and local residents, with many awaiting clarity on the outcome of the ACB's findings.

Advanced Sports Medicine Helps Kabaddi Star Nandini Make Comeback



Secunderabad | February 18 | TPN Bureau

A remarkable medical recovery story unfolded at KIMS Sunshine Hospital, where kabaddi player Ramavath Nandini was felicitated after successfully returning to competitive sport follow-

ing serious knee injuries. Speaking on the occasion, senior orthopaedic specialist AV Gurava Reddy said that under the leadership of Narendra Modi, sports have been receiving increasing priority in India, and modern sports medicine is help-

ing injured athletes resume their careers with confidence. He noted that the Sunshine Bone and Joint Institute continues to focus on providing advanced treatment and rehabilitation support to sportspersons.

Nandini's career faced a

major setback in 2022 when she suffered an ACL ligament tear in her right knee, forcing her to step away from competition. She consulted Dr. B. Chandrasekhar, Director of Shoulder and Sports Surgery at KIMS Sunshine Hospital. Following ACL reconstruction surgery and rehabilitation, she returned to the field within months.

However, in 2024, she sustained another injury to the same knee, this time damaging the meniscus. A timely surgical intervention and structured rehabilitation under Dr. Chandrasekhar's team enabled her to recover fully and resume training within three months. Her perseverance and determination have now earned her selection to represent Telangana in the 72nd Senior National Women's Kabaddi Championship, marking a strong comeback on the national stage.

To honour her resilience and fighting spirit, Nandini was felicitated at the hospital in a ceremony led by Dr. Gurava Reddy. He emphasised that proper treatment under expert supervision ensures that sports injuries do not necessarily end an athlete's career and called for greater awareness about injury prevention and sports rehabilitation.

The event was attended by former kabaddi player and police officer Venugopal, sports physiotherapists, and representatives from sports associations and academies, who shared their experiences and highlighted the importance of specialised sports medicine.

Officials said Hyderabad, already known as a pharma and technology hub, has the potential to emerge as a major centre for sports arthroscopy and rehabilitation as well.

Global Industry Partnership Summit at Malla Reddy University



Quthbullapur | February 18

Malla Reddy University, located at Maisammaguda on the outskirts of Hyderabad, will host a Global Industry Partnership Summit on February 20 from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM, marking a significant step toward strengthening its international collaborations.

University Vice-Chancellor VSK Reddy announced the event in the presence of directors Shalini Reddy and Preeti Reddy, President Bhadra Reddy, and Registrar Srinivasa Rao.

According to university officials, the summit will witness the signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with nearly 200 reputed companies from across the globe, along with discussions on academic-industry collaboration and innovation. The initiative aims to enhance global exposure for students and align academic programs with evolving industry requirements.

The Vice-Chancellor noted that the university, recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC), offers undergraduate, postgraduate,

and doctoral programs with a focus on skill development, creativity, and industry-oriented learning. The summit is expected to play a key role in strengthening strategic partnerships with international technology and IT organizations.

Representatives from leading global firms such as Apple Inc., Amazon, Google, IBM, Oracle Corporation, and Tech Mahindra are expected to participate, university director Preeti Reddy said.

Organizers expressed confidence that the Global Industry Partnership Summit will serve as a major platform to strengthen the education-industry ecosystem and create new opportunities for students through global collaborations.

Founder Chairman CH Malla Reddy, Secretary CH Mahender Reddy, along with senior academic and administrative officials, faculty members, and staff are set to attend the event, highlighting the university's push toward global engagement and innovation-driven growth.

Free Homeopathy Medical Camp Held at Rajendranagar



Osmania University | February 18 | TPN Bureau

A free homeopathy medical camp was organised at Rajendranagar under the aegis of Guru Nanak Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital, aiming to provide accessible healthcare services to local residents. The initiative witnessed encouraging participation from the public, who benefited from free consultations, health check-ups, and distribution of medicines.

The camp was inaugurated by Gaddam Ravikumar, senior Congress leader from Uppal, who attended as the chief guest. Addressing the gathering, he appreciated the college and hospital management for organising the camp in the Rajendranagar area and emphasised the importance of such outreach programmes in improving community health. He urged residents to make full use of the free services and to prioritise preventive healthcare.

Medical teams conducted examinations for various common ailments and provided appropriate homeopathic treatment and medicines at no cost. The organisers said the objective was not only to treat immediate health concerns but also to spread awareness about the benefits of homeopathy and the importance of regular

medical check-ups.

Faculty members and students from Guru Nanak Institutions Technical Campus actively participated in the camp. Among those present were Dr. S. Shivakumar (Assistant Professor), Dr. Uda Devi (Assistant Professor), Dr. Shivananda Swami (Assistant Professor), and Dr. V. Rekha (Associate Professor), along with pharmacy and homeopathy students who assisted in patient registration, basic screening, and medicine distribution.

Organisers noted that such camps help bridge the gap between medical institutions and the community, especially for economically weaker sections who may not have easy access to healthcare facilities. The event also served as a practical learning opportunity for students, allowing them to gain hands-on experience while serving the public.

Local residents expressed gratitude to the organisers for bringing free medical services to their doorstep and hoped that similar camps would be conducted regularly. The programme concluded with a call for continued community participation and awareness to promote healthier lifestyles through accessible and affordable healthcare initiatives.

Suraram Market Shift Brings Major Traffic Relief



Quthbullapur | February 18 | TPN Bureau

In a significant relief to commuters, authorities have resolved the long-standing traffic congestion caused by the weekly market held on the main road leading to Suraram village. For years, the weekend market resulted in massive traffic snarls, with hundreds of vehicles stranded for hours, causing inconvenience to residents, passengers, and motorists.

Following repeated complaints from locals, traffic officials responded swiftly to address the issue. Narasimha Rao, Traffic Circle Inspector of Jeedimetla, along with Venkata Reddy, initiated immediate measures to relocate the weekly market to a nearby open space in Tirumala Colony. The move has effectively cleared the bottleneck on the main road, ensuring smoother traffic flow and significantly reducing travel delays.

Motorists and daily commuters expressed satisfaction over the quick intervention, stating that the decision has made travel safer and more convenient. Many residents appreciated the prompt action taken by the traffic police, noting that the solution came soon after the issue was formally brought to their attention.

In recognition of the efforts, environmentalist and social activist Kola Ravinder Mudiraj felicitated CI Narasimha Rao by presenting a shawl and a sapling, symbolising appreciation as well as a commitment to sustainability.

During the interaction, locals also highlighted similar congestion concerns near Saibaba Nagar Colony and requested guidance on preventing traffic disruptions in that area. They further urged officials to promote eco-friendly practices in the weekly market by reducing the use of plastic covers and encouraging vendors to adopt sustainable alternatives. Awareness announcements through public address systems were also suggested to educate traders and visitors about environmental responsibility.

Speaking on the occasion, Ravinder Mudiraj called on citizens to work collectively toward protecting the environment, stressing that small steps such as reducing plastic usage can make a meaningful difference.

Local residents including Gopal Reddy, Venu, Krishna, and Vicky, among others, participated in the programme and welcomed the authorities' proactive approach.

The relocation of the Suraram weekly market is now being seen as a practical example of how timely administrative action and community cooperation can together resolve urban civic issues efficiently.

Kabaddi Event in Makthal Must Be a Grand Festival :Minister Vakiti Srihari

Makthal, Feb 18, 2026 | TPN Bureau

State Minister Vakiti Srihari has called for the upcoming Chief Minister's Cup state-level kabaddi tournament in Makthal to be organised on a grand scale, describing it as a celebration that should make the entire state proud.

The minister conducted a teleconference with public representatives, the district additional collector, and senior officials to review preparations for the event scheduled from February 20 to 24. He instructed officials to treat the tournament as a prestigious occasion and ensure seamless coordination among all departments.

Srihari emphasized that the competitions, being held as part of the CM Cup-2026, should set a benchmark for other states in terms of organisation and hospitality. He directed officials to focus on stadium arrangements, accommodation, and logistical support so that the event reflects the sporting spirit and administrative efficiency of Telangana.

Highlighting the scale of participation, the minister noted that athletes from all 33 districts will be attending



and said it is the administration's responsibility to ensure they face no inconvenience. Adequate accommodation, transport, and other facilities must be arranged to provide a comfortable experience for participants, he added.

The minister also instructed the education department to encourage students from government schools and residential institutions to attend and participate, aiming to promote sports culture and inspire young talent. He

stressed that fostering sportsmanship among youth is essential for holistic development.

Srihari further stated that elected representatives and officials must work together closely to make the tournament a success. He

asked police, sports, sanitation, municipal, and electricity departments to maintain constant coordination with district authorities to ensure smooth conduct throughout the five-day event.

He also mentioned that MLAs, MLAs, and MPs from the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district will attend as guests, and arrangements should be made to receive them with due protocol. Public representatives, he said, should take the event as a challenge and collaborate with officials to deliver a memorable tournament.

The teleconference was attended by the district additional collector, senior officials, the district sports officer, electricity and municipal commissioners, tahsildars, MP-DOs, and Makthal Municipal Chairperson Vakiti Manasa Hanmanthulu, among others.

The upcoming tournament is expected to draw significant public interest, with authorities gearing up to showcase Makthal as a hub for sporting excellence while reinforcing the state's commitment to promoting rural sports and youth engagement.

Koushik Reddy Says Khairatabad By-Election Inevitable



Hyderabad | February 18, 2026 – TPN Bureau

Padi Koushik Reddy asserted that a by-election in Khairatabad has become inevitable and urged the Assembly Speaker to safeguard constitutional principles while deciding on the disqualification plea against Danam Nagesh. Speaking to the media at the Assembly premises, the MLA said he had submitted all documentary evidence and remains confident that a decision will be taken in accordance with the law.

Explaining the sequence of events, Koushik Reddy said he was asked to appear at 11 a.m. but was called inside around noon, after which he underwent nearly five to six hours of questioning. He alleged that several questions were repeated multiple times, including queries about whether the scarf worn by Danam carried the Congress party's hand symbol. He clarified that the scarf in question was a tricolour one associated with the Congress and reiterated that Danam had earlier contested as a Congress candidate.

The MLA said he furnished documentary proof, including the party's officially announced list of parliamentary candidates, to substantiate his claims. He maintained that the evidence clearly

establishes grounds for disqualification and expressed hope that the Speaker would take a fair and impartial decision. According to him, if the disqualification is confirmed, a by-poll in Khairatabad would be unavoidable.

Koushik Reddy also raised concerns over restrictions on media access within the Assembly, alleging that removing signage related to media coverage reflects an attempt to limit transparency. He stressed that legislative proceedings should remain open to public scrutiny to maintain trust in democratic institutions.

Referring to the broader political context, he mentioned Rahul Gandhi and said leaders across parties must remain committed to constitutional values. He also criticised remarks allegedly attributed to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on party defections, urging political leaders to exercise restraint in their language.

Concluding his remarks, Koushik Reddy said the issue goes beyond partisan politics and touches upon democratic accountability. He reiterated that he has placed all facts before the authorities and that the final outcome now rests with the Speaker's decision, which he hopes will reinforce faith in constitutional governance.

Municipal Body Must Focus on Solving Public Issues: Nirmala Jaggareddy



Sadasivapet | 18 Feb 2026 – TPN Bureau

Nirmala Jaggareddy, Chairperson of the Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation, emphasized that the newly formed municipal leadership should work with a clear focus on resolving public grievances and accelerating urban development. She was speaking at the oath-taking and charge-assumption ceremony of the new municipal leadership in Sadasivapet.

At the ceremony, Municipal Anjamma Satyanarayana assumed charge as Municipal Chairperson, while Renuka Chiru took charge as Vice Chairperson. Nirmala Jaggareddy attended the event as the chief guest and felicitated the newly elected councillors, congratulating them on their victory and encouraging them to serve the public with dedication.

Addressing the gathering, she stated that municipal administrations play a crucial role in addressing everyday civic issues such as sanitation, drinking water, infrastructure, and welfare services. She advised the new leadership to prioritize people's needs, ensure transparency in governance, and utilize development funds effectively to transform the town. According to her, coordinated efforts between elected representatives and officials would help deliver visible progress and improve living standards.

Following the ceremony, Nirmala Jaggareddy participated in several development activities across the Sadasivapet mandal. She visited Maddikunta, Yatgadda Sangham, and Tangedupalli villages, where she interacted with local residents and reviewed ongoing welfare initiatives. At Yatgadda Sangham, she attended the housewarming ceremony of newly constructed Indiramma houses and congratulated the beneficiaries, stating that housing initiatives play a key role in improving the quality of life for economically weaker sections.

In Maddikunta village, she took part in housewarming ceremonies for Indiramma housing beneficiaries and later performed the groundbreaking ceremony for a new school compound wall, highlighting the importance of strengthening educational infrastructure. She also conducted a similar foundation ceremony for a school compound in Tangedupalli village, noting that safe and well-maintained school environments are essential for students' growth.

Local leaders, including community representatives and sarpanches, participated in the events. The visits reflected the government's focus on grassroots development and welfare delivery. Concluding her remarks, Nirmala Jaggareddy urged the municipal council to maintain close coordination with residents and remain accessible to the public, reiterating that responsive governance and efficient implementation of development programs are key to building a progressive and inclusive urban community.

Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy Reacts to Municipal Poll Results



Hyderabad | February 18 | TPN Bureau

Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy said the results of the recent municipal elections have increased the responsibility on the Congress party and its leadership, stressing the need for introspection in constituencies where the party faced setbacks.

Speaking at Gandhi Bhavan, he acknowledged that the party lost in two municipalities within his parliamentary constituency — Cherial and Thirumalagiri. He noted that a lack of coordination between local leaders and party workers contributed significantly to the defeats. According to him, the disconnect at the grassroots level created organisational weaknesses that affected the party's performance.

He said some local leaders behaved like "covert elements," indirectly harming the party's prospects. To address the issue, he announced that a detailed review would be conducted along with PCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud and AICC in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan. Coordinators from the two municipal areas will participate in the review process, and a comprehensive report will be prepared to identify the real reasons behind the losses.

Kiran Kumar Reddy emphasized that strict action would be taken against anyone found responsible for the defeat in Thirumalagiri, asserting that corrective measures are essential to

strengthen the party. He expressed confidence that such steps would help rebuild organisational unity and improve future electoral performance.

Targeting the opposition, he launched a sharp attack on former Chief Minister KCR, comparing him to a poet who, he alleged, remained disconnected from the realities of people's problems. He claimed that instead of directly engaging in politics, KCR has stayed away from active public life, leaving leadership responsibilities to others.

He further stated that the Congress has been gaining public support consistently and predicted that the party would remain in power in Telangana for the next decade. He expressed confidence that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy would continue to lead the state for ten years, citing growing trust among voters.

Criticising BRS leaders, he said their influence is now largely limited to social media campaigns and does not reflect ground-level public sentiment. He added that the party's poor performance in key municipal and corporation elections indicates a shift in political momentum in favour of Congress.

He concluded by reiterating that the Congress leadership is committed to strengthening party structure at every level and ensuring better coordination ahead of future elections.

Police Permissions Mandatory for Shivaji Jayanti Rallies: SP Akhil Mahajan

Adilabad District | February 18, 2026 – TPN Bureau

Akhil Mahajan, Superintendent of Police of Adilabad district, has announced that prior police permission is mandatory for all rallies and public gatherings in connection with Shivaji Jayanti celebrations across the district.

The SP stated that Section 30 of the Police Act is currently in force district-wide, making it compulsory for organizers to obtain advance approvals before conducting any rally, procession, or public meeting. He emphasized that these measures are intended to maintain law and order, prevent traffic disruptions, and ensure public safety during the celebrations.

According to the police advisory, bike rallies will not be allowed without official permission. Organizers have been asked to submit details of routes and timings in advance so that adequate security and traffic arrangements can be put in place. The SP also clarified that DJ systems and high-decibel sound equipment are strictly prohibited in rallies to prevent noise pollution and avoid accidents caused by excessive sound levels.



In addition, participants have been warned not to display swords, knives, or any weapons during processions, as such acts may create panic among the public and will attract legal action. Police officials also cautioned against posting photos or videos on social media that depict weapons or

create fear, stating that strict action will be taken against violators.

The advisory further noted that the use of color-spraying machines, confetti cannons, or Holi-type colors during rallies is not permitted. Authorities stressed that these restrictions are part of preventive measures to avoid untoward incidents and ensure that celebrations are conducted peacefully.

The SP urged organizers to cooperate with law enforcement and hold events in a calm and disciplined manner. He also warned that raising slogans that insult or provoke other communities would be treated as a legal offense and dealt with strictly. Police have appealed to citizens to celebrate Shivaji Jayanti responsibly while adhering to guidelines, ensuring that the festive atmosphere is maintained without disturbing public order.

AI-Enabled Soldiers and the Future of South Asian Warfare

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the AI Impact Summit in New Delhi, the message went far beyond technological celebration. It signaled India's intention to position itself at the forefront of artificial intelligence development — not only for economic transformation but also for national security. Among all sectors likely to be reshaped by AI, none will experience a more profound transformation than warfare. For India, China and Pakistan — three nuclear-armed neighbors with complex histories and unresolved disputes — AI is poised to redefine the character, speed and risks of military conflict.

This is not simply another technological upgrade. Artificial intelligence represents a structural shift in how wars are fought and decisions are made. Traditional battle cycles that once relied on human deliberation over hours or days can now be compressed into seconds. Data gathered from satellites, drones, radar systems, and cyber networks can be processed instantly, producing actionable insights in real time. In future crises, the side that can analyze and act faster may hold a decisive advantage.

Major global powers have already begun embedding AI into their defense ecosystems. The United States is integrating AI into joint command systems that connect land, sea, air, space and cyber domains into a unified operational network. Autonomous systems, drone swarms and machine-driven logistics platforms are becoming central to military planning. China, meanwhile, has declared intelligent warfare as a strategic objective. Its military modernization strategy emphasizes predictive logistics, AI-guided surveillance, autonomous platforms and decision-support tools designed to compress response times and overwhelm adversaries. Even mid-sized military powers are experimenting with AI-driven targeting systems and battlefield analytics.

Across these varied approaches lies a common theme: AI multiplies force without proportionately increasing manpower. It accelerates the decision cycle, enhances precision and improves coordination across domains. Rather than replacing soldiers entirely, AI aug-



ments them — turning data into a battlefield asset as valuable as firepower.

For India, AI offers both opportunity and urgency. The country's armed forces operate across diverse and challenging terrains — from the Himalayan border with China to the western frontier with Pakistan and the vast maritime space of the Indian Ocean. Managing such varied operational theaters requires rapid information synthesis and seamless coordination. AI has the potential to provide exactly that.

Historically, India's military modernization has faced obstacles: lengthy procurement cycles, dependence on imported platforms, and bureaucratic complexity. AI presents a rare chance to leapfrog some of these structural limitations. Instead of relying solely on large, expensive hardware acquisitions, India can embed intelligence into existing systems. Legacy aircraft, armored vehicles and naval platforms can be upgraded with AI-driven threat detection and predictive maintenance tools, extending their operational life while enhancing capability.

Drone swarms represent another transformative possibility. Low-cost autonomous drones, operating

in coordinated formations, can saturate enemy defenses, conduct surveillance and perform precision strikes with reduced risk to human personnel. In a high-altitude conflict scenario along the Line of Actual Control with China, AI-enabled surveillance systems could monitor troop movements and logistical buildup in near real time. On the western border, smart sensor networks combined with machine-learning algorithms could enhance infiltration detection and counter-terror operations.

Yet AI's transformative power extends beyond kinetic warfare. Logistics — often described as the backbone of military strength — stands to benefit enormously. Machine learning systems can analyze historical data to predict equipment failures, optimize inventory distribution and anticipate supply requirements. In remote high-altitude deployments, where resupply is difficult and costly, predictive logistics could prevent shortages before they occur. AI-enabled maintenance systems can identify faults in vehicles and aircraft before breakdowns happen, reducing downtime and improving readiness.

As India moves toward integrated theatre commands — designed

to improve coordination between the Army, Navy and Air Force — AI can act as the connective tissue binding them together. Unified data platforms supported by artificial intelligence can ensure that information flows seamlessly across services, enabling synchronized responses to fast-moving crises. In a simultaneous two-front contingency involving China and Pakistan, such integration could be critical.

At the tactical level, the concept of the "AI-enabled soldier" is already emerging. Soldiers equipped with smart sensors, augmented reality systems and AI-assisted communication tools could receive real-time updates about terrain, threats and friendly positions. Computer vision systems can assist in identifying hostile activity, reducing cognitive burden and minimizing errors. Decision-support algorithms can provide commanders with multiple scenario simulations, outlining likely outcomes before orders are issued.

However, the rise of AI in warfare also raises profound ethical and strategic questions. The deployment of autonomous weapons systems challenges traditional frameworks of accountability. If an AI-assisted targeting system makes

a flawed recommendation, who bears responsibility — the programmer, the commander, or the political leadership? Moreover, in a crisis between nuclear-armed states, the acceleration of decision cycles may increase the risk of miscalculation. When machines operate at speeds beyond human comprehension, escalation could occur before diplomatic channels have time to intervene.

Cyber warfare adds another layer of complexity. AI systems themselves can become targets. Adversaries may attempt to corrupt data inputs, manipulate algorithms or launch cyberattacks designed to disable intelligent systems. Ensuring resilience, transparency and human oversight will therefore be critical components of any military AI doctrine.

India's policy landscape reflects both ambition and caution. Efforts to foster defense innovation, promote indigenous technology development and collaborate with private industry are gaining momentum. The country possesses a vibrant civilian AI ecosystem, strong software capabilities and a growing startup culture. Aligning these strengths with defense requirements could accelerate capability development. Yet institution-

al inertia, inter-service competition and procurement delays remain significant hurdles.

Ultimately, the integration of AI into military structures is not a question of if, but when and how. For India, the stakes are particularly high. Its strategic environment is defined by contested borders, regional rivalries and rapid technological change. China's accelerated military modernization and Pakistan's evolving strategic posture create a dynamic security landscape. In such an environment, technological stagnation carries risks.

However, technological adoption must be balanced with doctrinal clarity and ethical safeguards. AI should enhance human judgment, not replace it. Maintaining meaningful human control over critical decisions — especially those involving the use of lethal force — will be essential to preserving accountability and preventing unintended escalation.

The future battlefield in South Asia may look very different from the conflicts of the past. Instead of mass troop mobilizations alone, crises could involve cyber disruptions, autonomous drone swarms, AI-driven misinformation campaigns and rapid precision strikes guided by algorithms. Decision windows may shrink dramatically. Information superiority may become as decisive as territorial control.

The algorithm of war is already being written. For India, the challenge lies in ensuring that it is not merely reacting to technological shifts driven by others but actively shaping them. Investments in research, talent, doctrine and institutional reform will determine whether AI becomes a force multiplier that strengthens deterrence — or a destabilizing accelerant in an already volatile region.

In the coming decade, artificial intelligence will not simply influence military power; it will redefine it. The countries that successfully integrate machine intelligence with human strategic wisdom will shape the balance of power in the twenty-first century. For South Asia, the age of AI-enabled soldiers has begun — and its consequences will reverberate far beyond the battlefield.

India's AI Moment: Moving Beyond the US-China Technology Rivalry

For much of the past decade, global conversations around artificial intelligence have been framed as a contest between two superpowers — the United States and China. This binary narrative suggests that the future of AI innovation, governance and strategic influence will be shaped almost exclusively by Washington and Beijing. Yet this framing overlooks an emerging and increasingly consequential player: India.

India's AI impact is not defined by rivalry but by scale, diversity and democratic complexity. As the world's most populous country, a major digital economy and a rising geopolitical power, India is uniquely positioned to influence how artificial intelligence evolves — not merely as a market or battleground for competing models, but as an architect of an alternative path.

Unlike the United States, where AI growth is largely driven by private technology giants, or China, where state-directed industrial policy plays a central role, India's approach blends state vision with a vibrant private sector and a massive grassroots digital ecosystem. This hybrid model may prove particularly relevant for the Global South, where countries seek AI systems that reflect local realities rather than imported templates.

India's digital public infrastructure offers a compelling example of this distinct approach. Over the past decade, platforms built around digital identity, payments and public service delivery have transformed governance and financial inclusion. These systems have demonstrated that technology can be deployed at scale

in a democratic setting while remaining relatively affordable and interoperable. As AI becomes layered onto these digital foundations, India has the opportunity to show how machine intelligence can enhance welfare delivery, agricultural productivity, healthcare access and education without reinforcing authoritarian surveillance models.

The timing is significant. Artificial intelligence is transitioning from experimental technology to core economic infrastructure. It is reshaping supply chains, financial services, manufacturing, defense and climate adaptation strategies. Countries that embed AI across sectors will gain productivity advantages and strategic leverage. Those that lag may face widening development gaps.

India enters this phase with several structural advantages. It has one of the world's largest pools of technology professionals, a dynamic startup ecosystem and a vast internal market generating enormous volumes of data. Data, often described as the fuel for AI systems, is abundant in India due to its scale and rapid digitization. At the same time, its democratic framework ensures that debates about privacy, regulation and accountability are robust and public.

This combination of scale and pluralism gives India the potential to influence global AI governance norms. While the US-China competition often focuses on technological supremacy, India can position itself as a champion of inclusive and ethical AI. It can advocate for standards that balance innovation with safeguards, ensuring that AI systems are transparent, accountable and



aligned with societal values.

Moreover, India's geopolitical position enhances its leverage. It maintains strategic partnerships with Western democracies while also engaging with emerging economies across Asia, Africa and Latin America. This diplomatic flexibility allows India to serve as a bridge between advanced industrial economies and developing nations. In international forums discussing AI regulation, data flows and digital sovereignty, India's voice carries weight precisely because it does not fit neatly into the US-China rivalry.

Economic considerations further reinforce India's importance. Artificial intelligence is expected to contribute trillions of dollars to global GDP in the coming decades. For India, AI could accelerate

its ambition to become a multi-trillion-dollar economy by enhancing productivity in agriculture, optimizing logistics, strengthening small and medium enterprises and enabling smarter urban planning. AI-driven analytics can improve crop yields, predict weather risks and reduce supply chain inefficiencies — critical factors for a country where agriculture still supports a large share of the population.

In healthcare, AI applications can assist in early disease detection, telemedicine diagnostics and resource allocation. For rural populations with limited access to specialists, AI-powered tools may narrow service gaps. Similarly, in education, adaptive learning platforms can tailor instruction to individual students, helping address disparities in

learning outcomes across regions.

Yet ambition must be accompanied by caution. The rapid integration of AI also raises significant concerns: algorithmic bias, data privacy risks, job displacement and the concentration of power in large technology platforms. India must craft regulatory frameworks that encourage innovation while safeguarding citizens' rights. Overregulation could stifle startups and deter investment; underregulation could erode trust and exacerbate inequality.

Workforce transformation presents another challenge. As automation reshapes industries, India will need to invest heavily in skilling and reskilling programs. The demographic dividend that currently supports economic

growth could turn into a liability if technological change outpaces employment generation. Preparing the workforce for AI-augmented jobs — rather than purely manual roles — will be essential.

India's AI strategy must also account for strategic security implications. Artificial intelligence is increasingly intertwined with cybersecurity, defense modernization and information warfare. Building indigenous capabilities reduces dependence on foreign suppliers and strengthens resilience against technological coercion. In an era where digital infrastructure can become a geopolitical pressure point, technological self-reliance carries strategic value.

However, India's strength lies not only in self-reliance but also in collaboration. Partnerships with global research institutions, technology firms and multilateral organizations can accelerate innovation. Joint research initiatives, open-source collaborations and shared ethical standards can prevent fragmentation of the global AI ecosystem. India's emphasis on openness and interoperability can help prevent the emergence of rigid technological blocs.

Crucially, India's narrative around AI extends beyond power politics. It centers on development, inclusion and empowerment. While the US-China rivalry often emphasizes dominance and strategic competition, India can redefine the conversation around societal benefit. By focusing on applications that directly improve livelihoods — from digital payments to climate resilience — India can demonstrate that AI is not merely a

tool of superpower rivalry but a catalyst for human development.

This reframing matters. Many developing countries view the US-China binary as distant from their own priorities. They seek practical solutions to local challenges, not alignment in a technological cold war. India's experience in deploying digital systems at scale within a democratic and diverse society may offer lessons that resonate more broadly.

The coming decade will likely see intensifying competition in AI research, semiconductor manufacturing, cloud infrastructure and data governance. But global influence will not be determined solely by who builds the most advanced models. It will also depend on who shapes the rules, builds trust and demonstrates inclusive applications.

India stands at a pivotal moment. It can remain a secondary arena where larger powers compete, or it can assert itself as an independent force shaping the trajectory of artificial intelligence. The foundations — demographic scale, digital infrastructure, technical talent and diplomatic reach — are already in place.

Moving beyond the US-China binary does not mean ignoring global rivalries. Rather, it means recognizing that technological futures are not predetermined by two capitals alone. India's AI impact lies in its ability to chart a distinct course — one that blends innovation with inclusion, strategic ambition with democratic accountability.

If it succeeds, India will not simply participate in the AI revolution. It will help define it.

RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat Urges Hindu Families to Consider Having at Least Three Children

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Chief Mohan Bhagwat has publicly suggested that Hindu families should consider having at least three children to help maintain demographic balance and secure the future of the community. His remarks have reignited debate about population trends, cultural identity and government policies related to family planning.

Speaking at a major event attended by RSS workers and supporters, Bhagwat emphasised what he described as the importance of population growth among Hindus in India. He argued that as demographic patterns shift, communities should be mindful of long-term cultural and social dynamics. According to him, lower birth rates observed in some sections of Indian society could have implications for both community representation and the broader fabric of Indian society.

Bhagwat's call comes against the backdrop of declining fertility rates across India in recent years. As education levels rise and access to health care improves, couples are increasingly opting for smaller families. India's overall fertility rate has been gradually dropping toward replacement levels, a trend seen in many parts of the world. This shift has led to widespread discussions about the balance between family planning, economic development and population stability.

In his address, Bhagwat expressed concern that if Hindu families do not maintain ade-



quate birth rates, it could eventually affect demographic composition. He urged families to think about future generations and the need to ensure that the community continues to thrive. His message was framed around cultural resilience and what he characterised as preserving the vibrancy of Hindu society.

The RSS chief also linked population considerations with national strength and social cohesion. He suggested that a balanced demographic profile would contribute positively to the country's progress and unity. However, he stopped short of advocating any compulsory measures or government intervention, instead framing his appeal as advisory and rooted in individual choice.

Reactions to Bhagwat's comments have been mixed. Supporters welcomed his emphasis on family and cultural continuity, seeing it as a reaffirmation of traditional values and community identity. Critics, however, have raised concerns about encouraging larger families in the absence of robust discussions on women's health, economic pressures and environmental sustainability. Some analysts argue that population decisions should be left to individual families and shaped by broader socio-economic considerations rather than community appeals.

Demographers have also weighed in, noting that India's demographic trajectory is already shifting due to urbanisation, increased female work-

force participation and greater access to contraception and education. While some regions and communities may have higher fertility rates, the overall national trend shows a move toward smaller household sizes.

Public debate is likely to continue in the coming weeks as Bhagwat's remarks draw attention to questions about population policy, cultural priorities and the role of civil society voices in shaping national conversations. Whether his message will influence family planning choices on the ground remains to be seen. Nonetheless, the discussion underscores the complex intersections of identity, demographics and national discourse in contemporary India.

Supreme Court Adjourns Hearing on ED's Plea Over I-PAC Raids

The Supreme Court of India has adjourned the hearing on a petition filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) concerning alleged obstruction during raids conducted at the offices of political consultancy firm I-PAC and the residence of its director. The case has triggered a significant legal and political dispute between the central agency and the West Bengal government.

The matter stems from search operations carried out in Kolkata in January as part of a money-laundering investigation linked to an alleged coal pilferage scam. The ED has claimed that its officials faced interference and obstruction from state authorities during the raids, which, according to the agency, disrupted the investigation process. The ED has sought further legal remedies, including a probe into the alleged conduct of state officials.

During the hearing, lawyers representing the ED argued that officers were prevented from carrying out their duties effectively and that crucial ma-



terials may have been compromised during the incident. They maintained that the agency was acting within its legal mandate and that any interference undermines the rule of law.

On the other hand, counsel appearing for the state authorities disputed the ED's claims, asserting that the central agency's actions were excessive and that allegations of obstruction were exaggerated. They argued that state officials were

carrying out their responsibilities in accordance with the law and denied any deliberate attempt to hinder the investigation.

The bench, comprising Justices P.K. Mishra and K.V. Viswanathan, deferred the matter to allow both sides to file additional documents and responses. The court is expected to take up the case again in March after further submissions are placed on record.

Earlier, the Supreme Court

had taken note of the seriousness of the allegations and issued notices to concerned parties. It also directed that relevant electronic records and CCTV footage from the raid locations be preserved to ensure a fair review of events. In addition, certain proceedings initiated against ED officials were temporarily stayed pending further examination.

The case raises broader questions about the relationship between central investigative agencies and state governments, particularly in politically sensitive matters. It touches upon issues of federal balance, jurisdiction and the scope of authority granted to agencies such as the ED.

As the legal battle continues, the Supreme Court's eventual ruling is likely to clarify the boundaries between state authorities and central agencies during investigations. The outcome could have significant implications for how such operations are conducted in the future, especially in cases involving high political stakes.

Kiren Rijiju Calls Rahul Gandhi "Most Dangerous" for India's Security

Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju has launched a sharp political attack on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, calling him the "most dangerous person for India's security." The remarks mark a significant escalation in rhetoric between the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the opposition Congress.

Rijiju alleged that Gandhi's actions and statements, both within Parliament and during his interactions abroad, harm India's image and national interests. He accused the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha of associating with individuals and groups that he claimed are not aligned with the country's interests. According to Rijiju, such engagements send the wrong message internationally and undermine India's standing.

The minister also criticised Gandhi's conduct in Parliament, describing it as irresponsible for someone holding a senior constitutional position. Rijiju argued that protests, confrontational tac-



tics and dramatic gestures inside and outside the House diminish the dignity of parliamentary proceedings. He maintained that the Leader of the Opposition is expected to uphold decorum while raising issues.

A major point of contention has been Gandhi's recent attempts to raise sensitive allegations involving the Prime Minister in Parliament. Rijiju dismissed these claims as baseless and accused Gandhi

of making statements without sufficient evidence. He suggested that repeated allegations without substantiation could create confusion and erode public trust.

The remarks come amid heightened tensions between the government and the opposition over a range of issues, including foreign policy, economic management and national security. The political atmosphere has grown increasingly confrontational,

with leaders on both sides trading strong accusations in public forums.

In response to government criticism, Rahul Gandhi has continued to question the administration's handling of key national matters, asserting that raising concerns is part of the opposition's democratic responsibility. Congress leaders have defended his statements, arguing that scrutiny of the government strengthens democratic accountability.

The episode underscores how national security has become a central theme in political discourse. By framing disagreements in terms of patriotism and security, both sides are attempting to shape public perception ahead of future electoral contests.

As the debate unfolds, the sharp exchange highlights the deepening divide between the ruling party and the opposition. Whether the rhetoric cools or intensifies further will likely depend on developments inside Parliament and the broader political climate in the months ahead.

Google CEO Sundar Pichai Arrives in India for AI Summit, Says "Nice to Be Back"



Google's Chief Executive Officer Sundar Pichai has arrived in India to participate in the India AI Impact Summit, underscoring the country's growing importance in the global technology landscape. On landing, Pichai expressed enthusiasm about returning to India, saying it felt "nice to be back," and highlighted the opportunity to engage with innovators, policymakers and tech leaders during the summit.

Pichai's visit comes at a key moment in India's push to become a leading hub for artificial intelligence development. The India AI Impact Summit brings together global CEOs, government officials, researchers and startup founders to discuss AI innovation, regulation and applications that can benefit society. India's focus on harnessing AI for public good — including health, education, agriculture and governance — has drawn attention from major global tech companies, and Google has been an active partner in several such initiatives.

During his brief remarks after arrival, Pichai noted that technology and AI have the potential to address re-

al-world challenges at scale. He also spoke about the importance of responsible AI, emphasising that advancements in the field must be guided by safety, fairness and inclusivity. His comments resonated with the summit's broader themes, which include ethical AI frameworks and collaborative research.

Google has already been deepening its engagement in India across multiple fronts. The company has invested in local infrastructure, supported digital skills training and partnered with startups and academia. Its products and services are widely used across the country, and Pichai's visit is expected to strengthen those ties further.

In conversations with Indian leaders, Pichai is likely to discuss areas of mutual interest such as cloud computing, digital inclusion, developer support and investments in innovation. The summit provides a platform not only for showcasing technological breakthroughs but also for exploring how global and local AI ecosystems can work together to solve pressing

challenges. Pichai's presence at the event reflects broader trends in the technology industry, where global firms are increasingly recognising India as a key market for growth, talent and innovation. With its vast population of digital users, expanding startup ecosystem and policy focus on emerging technologies, India poses both opportunities and responsibilities for global tech leaders.

As the summit unfolds, Pichai is expected to meet with government officials, industry peers and members of India's tech community. His participation highlights the importance of dialogue between technology companies and policymakers in shaping the future of AI — not just in India, but around the world.

In saying it was "nice to be back," Pichai also signalled a personal connection to India, a market he has visited numerous times throughout his career. His comments and engagement at the summit underscore Google's ongoing commitment to India's digital transformation journey and its role in shaping AI for broad societal impact.

Rajya Sabha Polls on March 16 as 37 Seats Fall Vacant Across 10 States



The Election Commission of India has announced that biennial elections to fill 37 vacant seats in the Rajya Sabha will be held on March 16, 2026. These elections are being conducted as the terms of several sitting members are set to expire in April 2026, creating vacancies that must be filled to maintain the strength of the Upper House of Parliament.

The election process will begin with the issuance of notifications on February 26. The nomination period will follow, allowing candidates to file their papers in early March. After scrutiny and finalisation of nominations, polling will take place from 9 am to 4 pm on March 16. Counting of votes will be conducted later the same day, and the entire process is expected to conclude before the end of March.

The 37 seats are spread across 10 states. Maharashtra has the highest number of seats falling vacant, followed by Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Bihar. Other

states where members are retiring include Odisha, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Telangana and Himachal Pradesh. These vacancies arise as part of the Rajya Sabha's staggered retirement system, under which one-third of members retire every two years.

Unlike the Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha is a permanent body and is not subject to dissolution. Members serve six-year terms, and regular biennial elections ensure continuity in the functioning of Parliament's Upper House. The system helps preserve institutional stability while allowing periodic renewal of representation.

Rajya Sabha members are elected by the elected members of State Legislative Assemblies through a system of proportional representation using the single transferable vote. As a result, the outcome in each state largely depends on the strength of political parties in the respective state assemblies. Parties with a majority or

strong presence in state legislatures typically have an advantage in securing seats.

The upcoming elections are expected to draw political attention, as changes in party representation could influence the legislative dynamics of the Upper House. The Rajya Sabha plays a critical role in reviewing and passing legislation, debating national issues and representing the interests of states in the federal structure.

With several prominent members set to retire, parties are likely to field key leaders and strategists to strengthen their parliamentary presence. Although these elections are indirect and not voted on by the general public, they remain significant in shaping the balance of power in Parliament.

The March 16 polls therefore mark an important democratic exercise, ensuring continuity in governance while reflecting evolving political equations across India's states.

US-Iran Tensions Intensify: How Close Are Trump and Khamenei to Open Conflict?

Tensions between the United States and Iran have escalated sharply, raising fresh concerns about the possibility of a direct military confrontation. At the center of this standoff are U.S. President Donald Trump and Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, whose hardened rhetoric and strategic moves have amplified fears of a wider regional crisis.

In recent weeks, Washington has significantly reinforced its military presence in the Middle East. Aircraft carrier strike groups, advanced fighter jets and additional defense assets have been deployed to the region. The move signals a posture of deterrence but also demonstrates that the United States is prepared for rapid escalation if necessary. American officials have maintained that the buildup is aimed at safeguarding regional stability and protecting U.S. interests amid concerns over Iran's nuclear ambitions and missile capabilities.

Tehran, meanwhile, has responded with its own show of resolve. Iran's military has conducted exercises near critical maritime chokepoints, showcasing its ability to disrupt shipping routes if tensions boil over. Iranian leadership has adopted defiant language, warning that any attack would trigger a strong and far-reaching response. The tone from Tehran reflects both



domestic political pressures and a broader strategy of deterrence aimed at dissuading Washington from military action.

The Strait of Hormuz remains a focal point in this standoff. As a vital artery for global oil shipments, any disruption in the area could have immediate economic consequences worldwide. The presence of naval forces from both sides in and around the Gulf adds to the fragility of the situation. Even a miscalculation or isolated incident could spiral into a broader confrontation.

Diplomatic channels have not entirely closed, but progress has been limited. Efforts

to revive talks over Iran's nuclear program have faced repeated setbacks. The United States continues to push for stricter limitations, while Iran insists on its sovereign right to pursue peaceful nuclear development. Mutual distrust, compounded by previous breakdowns in agreements, has made compromise difficult.

Domestic politics further complicate the picture. In the United States, a tough stance on Iran has been a recurring theme in political messaging. In Iran, resistance to perceived foreign pressure is deeply embedded in national identity and political discourse. Both leaderships must navigate in-

ternal expectations while managing international risks.

Despite the heightened rhetoric and military signaling, a full-scale war is not inevitable. The costs of open conflict would be immense for both sides and could destabilize the broader Middle East. Many analysts believe that both Washington and Tehran prefer strategic posturing over direct confrontation.

For now, the situation remains tense but contained. Whether it tips into open conflict will depend on diplomacy, restraint and the ability of both sides to avoid miscalculation in an already volatile region.

Canada Quietly Removes Over 2,500 Indians in 2025: What It Signals



Canada has significantly increased immigration enforcement in 2025, with more than 2,500 Indian nationals removed from the country so far this year. The figure places Indians among the largest groups affected by deportation and removal actions, reflecting a broader tightening of immigration rules and compliance measures.

The removals are part of a wider push by Canadian authorities to strengthen enforcement and maintain what officials describe as the integrity of the immigration system. The Canada Border Services Agency issues different types of removal orders, including departure orders, exclusion orders and deportation orders, depending on the circumstances of each case. Individuals may be removed for reasons ranging from visa overstays and non-compliance with immigration conditions to rejected refugee claims or criminal violations.

Indian nationals form a substantial share of Canada's international student and temporary worker population. In recent years, Canada has been a preferred destination for Indian students seeking higher education

and long-term settlement opportunities. However, increased scrutiny of visa applications, tighter documentation requirements and stricter enforcement of stay conditions have made compliance more critical than ever.

A significant driver behind the removals appears to be cases where refugee claims were rejected or applicants failed to follow required legal procedures. Once an application is denied and appeal options are exhausted, individuals may face mandatory removal if they do not leave voluntarily. Authorities have accelerated processing and enforcement in such cases.

The rise in removals also reflects a broader shift in Canada's immigration policy environment. Facing domestic pressures over housing shortages, job competition and strain on public services, policymakers have moved toward balancing high immigration targets with stronger enforcement mechanisms. While Canada continues to welcome skilled migrants and students, it has made clear that compliance with immigration rules will be strictly monitored.

For Indian nationals currently in Canada, the message is clear: maintaining valid visa status, adhering to study or work permit conditions and responding promptly to immigration notices are essential. Legal experts have advised individuals to remain aware of their documentation timelines and to seek professional guidance if facing potential status issues.

Despite the increase in removals, Canada remains committed to immigration as a pillar of its economic growth strategy. The country continues to rely on international talent to fill labor gaps and support long-term demographic stability. However, the current enforcement trend suggests that while opportunities remain, the margin for non-compliance has narrowed significantly.

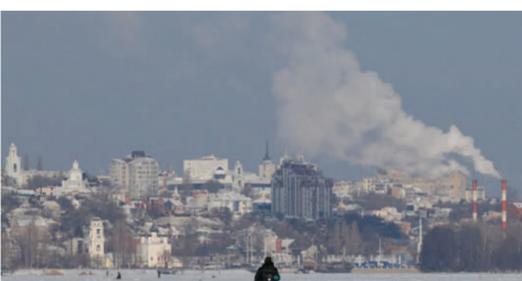
The development may also influence migration patterns and future applications from India, potentially leading to more cautious and carefully documented submissions. As bilateral ties between India and Canada evolve, immigration compliance is likely to remain an important and closely watched issue.

Four Years of War Reshape Life in the Russian City of Voronezh

Voronezh, a city of about one million people in western Russia, now feels closer to the realities of war than many other parts of the country. Although it lies roughly 500 kilometres south of Moscow, it is nearer to the front lines of the conflict in Ukraine than to the Russian capital. Over the four years since Russia launched its full-scale offensive, everyday life in this city has been transformed by the war in ways large and small.

One of the most visible changes in Voronezh is the presence of military equipment and weaponry. Anti-aircraft systems sit camouflaged along the roads leading out of the city, a constant reminder of the threat posed by aerial attacks. The sound of air raid sirens has become part of daily life, and many residents say the noise of explosions and drone activity leaves them on edge, interrupted in their routines, and acutely aware of the conflict that lies beyond their city limits.

Propaganda and military recruitment have also seeped into the urban landscape. Large posters urging young people to enlist with the army



are everywhere, often overshadowing cultural or commercial advertisements that once dominated public spaces. Recruiting centres now offer significant financial incentives, promising sums equivalent to years of average regional earnings in exchange for enlistment. This has helped Russia sustain troop numbers despite reports of heavy casualties, even as incentives draw criticism for commodifying military service.

Public art and memorials have shifted in tone, too. Murals honouring soldiers who have died in the fighting now adorn city walls. These tributes reflect an official narrative that elevates military ser-

vice and sacrifice. At the same time, such imagery also serves to normalise the idea of war among civilians, blending patriotism with everyday civic life.

Yet not everyone in Voronezh embraces this narrative. Amid the official posters and patriotic murals, there are subtle acts of resistance. One local artist has been placing small plaques with messages advocating peace on buildings and walls, drawing on historical motifs meant to remind people of past generations' yearning for harmony. While most of these peace symbols have been removed, one remains on a street aptly named "Peace Street," serving as a

quiet reminder of alternative perspectives within the city.

For many residents, the war is far more personal. Families are grappling with uncertainty about loved ones who have gone missing or been killed in action, a painful reality that underscores the human cost of the conflict. Some residents talk about the psychological toll of living under constant threat — from the sound of drones overhead to the knowledge that one person in the city was killed in an attack just last month.

Voronezh's transformation illustrates how a prolonged conflict can ripple outward from the battlefield, changing life in cities once removed from direct fighting. From the posters lining its streets to the weaponry lurking on its outskirts, the imprint of four years of war is evident in both the physical landscape and the minds of its people. Despite official efforts to promote enlistment and national unity, signs of dissent and longing for peace persist, reminding observers that even in wartime, public sentiment is not monolithic.

Sweden Praises India's AI Push, Calls PM Modi's Vision a Force for Global Good

Sweden's Deputy Prime Minister Ebba Busch has lauded India's ambitious push in artificial intelligence, saying Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for AI is aimed at serving the "greater good" and positioning the technology as a tool for inclusive global development. Her remarks came during her visit to New Delhi, where global leaders, policymakers and technology experts gathered to discuss the future of artificial intelligence and international cooperation.

Busch highlighted India's growing influence in the global technology landscape and described the country's AI strategy as forward-looking and responsible. She emphasized that artificial intelligence must not only drive economic growth but also promote societal welfare, innovation and international collaboration. According to her, India's approach reflects a commitment to ensuring that AI benefits humanity broadly rather than being limited to commercial or geopolitical gains.

Sweden, known for its strong innovation ecosystem and advanced research capabilities, sees significant potential for



deeper collaboration with India in emerging technologies. Busch noted that the two countries already share strong ties in science, trade and industry, and artificial intelligence presents a natural extension of that partnership. She expressed confidence that closer cooperation between Swedish and Indian firms, researchers and policymakers could unlock new opportunities in sectors such as healthcare, green technology and digital infrastructure.

A key theme of her address was the importance of striking the right balance between reg-

ulation and innovation. While acknowledging that AI safety and ethical frameworks are crucial, she cautioned against overly restrictive rules that might hinder progress. In her view, regulatory systems must evolve alongside technological advancements to encourage innovation while protecting citizens and maintaining trust.

The Deputy Prime Minister also placed India's AI ambitions within a broader strategic and economic context. She pointed to expanding economic ties between India and Europe, suggesting that technology cooperation can serve as a

cornerstone of deeper engagement. With digital transformation reshaping industries worldwide, she stressed that partnerships grounded in shared democratic values can help shape responsible global standards for AI deployment.

Beyond economic cooperation, Busch underscored the need for international collaboration in addressing global challenges. She indicated that emerging technologies like artificial intelligence can play a vital role in tackling issues such as climate change, healthcare accessibility and sustainable development.

Her remarks reflect growing international recognition of India's role in shaping the global AI narrative. With its vast digital ecosystem, strong talent base and expanding innovation landscape, India is increasingly seen as a key player in defining how artificial intelligence is developed and governed.

As discussions on AI continue to evolve, Sweden's endorsement highlights the momentum behind India's efforts to position itself not just as a technology adopter, but as a global leader shaping a responsible and inclusive AI future.

Indian-Origin Sikh Nurse Allegedly Assaulted and Racially Abused at Australian Gym



A 22-year-old Indian-origin Sikh nurse has alleged that he was physically attacked and racially abused after finishing a workout at a gym in Corio, a suburb of Geelong in Victoria, Australia. The incident has left him injured and emotionally shaken, raising concerns about racially motivated violence.

According to the nurse, the confrontation began while he was exercising late in the evening. He claimed that three men started harassing him inside the gym. Although he initially tried to ignore the remarks and complete his workout, the situation escalated when he stepped outside the premises. The same group was allegedly waiting for him.

A video from the scene, which has circulated on social media, shows one of the men hurling racial slurs at the young nurse, including calling him an "Indian dog," along with other profanities. Moments later, he was allegedly struck in the face, causing his nose to bleed.

Emergency services were called to the scene, and the nurse was taken to a hospital for treatment. He report-

edly spent the night under medical observation. Doctors have advised him to consult a specialist, and there is a possibility that he may require surgery depending on further examination. He is expected to take time off work for about a week as he recovers from the physical injuries.

Beyond the physical harm, the emotional toll has been significant. The nurse said that while he had previously experienced occasional racial comments, this was the first time such abuse had turned violent. He described feeling traumatised and unsafe following the incident. The attack has also left him reconsidering whether he feels comfortable returning to the same gym or maintaining his usual routine.

The alleged attackers reportedly fled the area in a grey sedan shortly after the assault. Authorities are understood to be investigating the matter, although detailed updates regarding arrests or charges have not yet been made public.

The incident has drawn attention within the local community and among

members of the Indian diaspora in Australia. Australia is home to a large and growing Indian-origin population, many of whom work in sectors such as healthcare, education, and technology. While most communities coexist peacefully, episodes of racial abuse and violence periodically spark debate about discrimination and social cohesion.

Community advocates have emphasised the importance of reporting hate crimes and ensuring accountability for those responsible. They stress that racially motivated harassment and violence have no place in a multicultural society. The case has once again highlighted the need for vigilance, stronger preventive measures, and continued dialogue around inclusion and safety.

As investigations continue, the young nurse's experience has become a reminder of the personal and societal costs of intolerance. Supporters hope that swift action will not only bring justice in this case but also reinforce the message that discrimination and violence will not be tolerated.

Gold and Silver Rebound Ahead of Fed Minutes, Investors Turn Cautious



Gold and silver prices recovered in the commodity markets as investors positioned themselves ahead of the release of the U.S. Federal Reserve's meeting minutes. After recent weakness, both precious metals regained ground, supported by renewed safe-haven demand and expectations surrounding future interest rate moves.

Gold rebounded after slipping to a short-term low in previous sessions. Bargain buying emerged as traders viewed the decline as an opportunity to enter at lower levels. The yellow metal strengthened in global markets, reflecting cautious optimism and anticipation of potential signals from the Federal Reserve about the direction of monetary policy. Silver also climbed sharply, outperforming gold during the recovery phase and reflecting stronger volatility typical of the metal.

Market participants are closely watching the Fed minutes for clues about policymakers' outlook on inflation,

economic growth and the path of interest rates. Any indication of a softer or more dovish stance could provide further support to bullion prices. Precious metals typically benefit when interest rates are expected to decline, as lower yields reduce the opportunity cost of holding non-interest-bearing assets like gold and silver.

Recent economic data from the United States has painted a mixed picture, contributing to uncertainty in financial markets. Fluctuations in inflation figures, employment data and consumer spending have made it difficult for investors to confidently predict the Fed's next move. This uncertainty has translated into volatility in commodity prices, including precious metals.

The U.S. dollar's movement has also influenced gold and silver. A stronger dollar tends to weigh on bullion prices by making them more expensive for buyers using other currencies. Conversely, any signs of

dollar weakness often provide support to gold and silver, enhancing their appeal as alternative stores of value.

Analysts suggest that in the near term, precious metals could remain in a consolidation phase as markets digest the central bank's commentary. However, the broader trend continues to depend on interest rate expectations and global economic developments. Geopolitical tensions and macroeconomic risks may also keep safe-haven demand intact.

Overall, the rebound in gold and silver highlights investor caution and sensitivity to policy signals. With the Fed minutes expected to clarify the central bank's thinking, traders are likely to remain alert to any shifts in tone that could influence market direction. Whether the rally extends or faces resistance will largely depend on how the minutes shape expectations about the future course of U.S. monetary policy.

Strong Rally: Sensex Rises Over 280 Points, Nifty Above 25,800 as Markets End Higher

Indian stock markets extended their recent upward momentum, with key indices closing higher in volatile trading on Wednesday. The BSE Sensex jumped by more than 280 points, while the NSE Nifty50 crossed the 25,800 mark, marking a positive finish for the third session in a row.

The market opened with gains but trimmed them early on as some selling pressure emerged. However, renewed buying interest later in the day helped both benchmark indices recover and close near their session highs. Broader market sentiment turned upbeat as buying picked up across most sectors, except for information technology, which lagged behind and moderated overall gains.

At the session's close, the Sensex registered a notable rise, and the Nifty50 ended comfortably above 25,800. Midcap and small-cap indices also participated in the rally, recording healthy gains and outperforming the headline indices. This broad participation suggested that investor confidence is improving beyond just the large-cap stocks.



Sector-wise, most segments finished in positive territory. Metal, FMCG and PSU bank stocks were among the top performers, providing strong support to the market trend. Private banks, realty, auto and energy-related stocks also contributed to the rally with moderate gains. In contrast, IT stocks declined, reflecting ongoing concerns and profit booking in this segment.

On the individual stock front, several heavyweight

names delivered solid performances. Companies in steel, consumer goods and financial services saw strong buying interest. A few mid-cap and small-cap stocks reacted positively to corporate developments, including merger approvals and large contract wins, which lifted their share prices significantly.

Market participants also noted that domestic institutional investors continued to support the

equity market, helping stabilize volatility and sustain buying interest despite mixed global cues. This steady inflow has been a key factor underpinning the market's resilience in recent sessions.

However, analysts pointed out that without fresh triggers or strong global cues, markets may remain in a consolidation phase around current levels. The ongoing divergence between sectors — with cyclical stocks outperform-

ing and technology lagging — could influence near-term trends.

Overall, the extended rally and broad-based buying reflect continued investor optimism about the Indian growth story, even as certain pockets of the market experience profit booking. The market's ability to absorb sectoral pressure while maintaining higher levels suggests a cautiously constructive outlook among traders and investors.

Can Courts Fill the Gap If U.S. Regulators Fail to Hold Auditors Accountable?

In recent years, concerns have grown over whether auditors of major companies in the United States are being held to account effectively for mistakes, oversights or failures to spot fraud. Traditionally, regulatory bodies such as federal oversight boards and securities commissions have played the central role in policing auditors. But with regulatory scrutiny appearing to weaken in some quarters, attention is increasingly turning to the courts to see if judicial action can fill the void.

Auditors serve as a key safeguard in financial markets, tasked with independently examining companies' books and ensuring that financial statements accurately reflect the health of a business. Their role is crucial because investors, lenders and other stakeholders rely heavily on audit reports when making decisions. When auditors fail to detect fraud or significant errors, the consequences can be dramatic — eroding investor confidence and causing significant losses.

However, accountability for auditors is complicated by legal protections and the way relationships are structured. Auditors are typically hired by the company being audited, not by shareholders or investors directly. This creates a legal hurdle when investors seek to sue auditors for negligence. Under U.S. law, plaintiffs often must prove a specific



kind of legal relationship or "privity" to hold auditors accountable. Courts have sometimes been reluctant to expand this concept, making it hard for investors to prevail. Despite these challenges, recent courtroom decisions have shown mixed outcomes. In some cases, judges have broadened the definition of legal relationships, allowing investor suits to proceed

even without strict contractual ties. In others, courts have rejected claims against auditors on grounds that disputed accounting judgments do not constitute factual misstatements. These divergent outcomes suggest that the judiciary is becoming an increasingly important arena for disputes over auditor responsibility.

The shifting balance

between regulatory enforcement and judicial action has broader implications for market trust. If regulatory bodies take a step back from rigorous enforcement, courts may be forced to play a larger role in policing auditors. But courts are not designed as regulatory agencies; their decisions hinge on legal standards and precedents rather than proactive oversight. This means that litigation may only address issues after harm has occurred, rather than preventing misconduct in the first place.

Ultimately, a robust accountability framework for auditors likely requires both strong regulatory enforcement and a legal system willing to hold professionals responsible when they fail in their duties. If regulators retreat from enforcement, the courts may become a key backstop — but relying on litigation alone may not provide sufficient deterrence to protect investors and maintain confidence in the financial reporting system.

Clean Max Says Falling Tariffs Won't Hurt Returns as IPO Nears



Clean Max Enviro Energy Solutions, a renewable energy company preparing to launch its initial public offering, says that although power tariffs are trending downward in the industry, its business model still delivers solid returns for investors. The firm's leadership has emphasized that strong unit economics and careful financial planning remain at the core of its strategy, even as pricing pressure rises.

The IPO, which is scheduled to open soon, marks a milestone for the company as it transitions from private to public ownership. Management says the decision to go public reflects its growth to a scale where a broader base of shareholders is appropriate. Rather than timing the market, the company focused on reaching key performance milestones before offering shares to the public.

A significant part of the IPO proceeds will go toward reducing debt. Clean Max already has a lower net debt com-

pared with many peers in the renewable energy sector, and management believes that using fresh capital to cut borrowings will improve its financial strength and lower interest costs. This is expected to leave more internal cash available to fund future capacity expansion without relying excessively on external borrowings.

Clean Max has reported a return to profitability in its most recent financial year after two years of losses. Management says that while reported profit figures are important, cash profitability and return on equity are more telling indicators of business health. On a cash basis, the company has been generating strong returns and continues to deliver high gross margins due to the nature of renewable energy generation.

Tariff compression is a feature of the renewable power market as capital costs decline, meaning newer power purchase agreements

generally reflect lower unit prices than older ones. However, Clean Max argues that this does not weaken returns for existing assets because tariffs are locked in at the time of contract signing and are tied to the cost of building the asset. As a result, equity recovery times remain attractive, often within a few years for recent projects.

Diversification of customers is another strength highlighted by the company. With hundreds of clients across different sectors, no single customer accounts for a disproportionate share of revenue, reducing concentration risk.

Leadership also addressed concerns about pledged promoter shares, explaining that most pledged shares will be released post-IPO as part of ongoing debt reduction efforts. Overall, the company is positioning itself as a renewable energy provider with stable economics capable of delivering consistent returns even as the broader tariff environment evolves.

Wall Street Searches for a Bottom as S&P 500 Tests Key Support

Wall Street struggled for direction as major U.S. stock indexes hovered near critical technical levels, with the S&P 500 retesting long-term support that many traders view as a make-or-break point for the market's next move. After a period of choppy trading marked by economic uncertainty and mixed earnings results, investors are now trying to gauge whether recent weakness signals a deeper correction or simply a pause before renewed gains.

The S&P 500, viewed by many as the broadest barometer of U.S. equity health, has dipped toward a historically important support zone. This level has acted as a floor during previous pullbacks, encouraging buyers to step in and stabilize prices. But the repeated tests of this area have raised questions about the market's resilience. If the support holds, analysts believe it could pave the way for a recovery. If it breaks decisively, however, stocks could be vulnerable to further declines.

In recent sessions, trad-



ing activity has reflected the uncertainty gripping markets. Bullish and bearish forces have battled for control, leading to tight ranges and frequent reversals. While some sectors have shown strength, others have lagged, contributing to the uneven performance. Growth-oriented technology stocks, in particular, have faced pressure from rising yields and concerns about future

profitability, while more defensive areas such as consumer staples and utilities have shown relative stability. Investor attention remains focused on a series of economic indicators due for release later this week. Data on inflation, consumer spending and labor markets could provide fresh insights into the strength of the U.S. economy and influence ex-

pectations for future monetary policy decisions. Traders are especially sensitive to signs that inflation pressures may be easing or intensifying, as this could alter the Federal Reserve's stance on interest rates — a key driver of equity market sentiment.

Earnings reports also continue to add complexity to the market picture. A mix of positive and disap-

pointing corporate results has made it difficult for investors to draw clear conclusions about broader corporate health. While some companies have exceeded expectations with strong revenue and profit growth, others have tempered outlooks or missed forecasts, reinforcing the sense of uneven economic momentum. Despite the challenges, market participants are monitoring technical indicators for clues about the next directional move. A rally from this support area could signal renewed confidence and attract fresh capital into equities. Conversely, a breakdown below key levels may prompt increased selling as traders adjust risk positions.

Ultimately, the current market environment reflects a tug-of-war between optimism about long-term growth prospects and caution in the face of economic ambiguity. As Wall Street hunts for a bottom, investors will be watching closely for signs that the broader market has found footing or is poised to test lower ground.

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 Inuit 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 height 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.

Pakistan Hockey Captain Ammad Shakeel Butt on Lessons from Australia Tour and World League

Pakistan men's hockey captain Ammad Shakeel Butt has reflected on his team's performance during a challenging stretch that included the Men's FIH Pro League and other international matches, offering insights into what went wrong and what must change going forward.

Butt, one of Pakistan's most promising young players, spoke candidly about the team's reckoning after a series of disappointing results. Pakistan — a nation with a deep and historic connection to field hockey — has long been seeking to regain its footing among the sport's elite. Recent years, however, have seen mixed performances in global tournaments, with the Pro League results underscoring some of the structural and tactical issues the team faces.

The Pro League campaign exposed several weaknesses in both defence and attack. Pakistan struggled with consistency, often conceding early goals and finding it difficult to mount sustained pressure against top-tier opposition. The team's finishing was occasionally sharp, but link play and transition moments frequently broke down under pressure. Butt acknowledged that the team needs to work harder on basic game management, espe-



cially in high-intensity phases where possession counts.

Looking back, the captain emphasised that the tour to Australia was a valuable learning experience despite the results not going Pakistan's way. Facing world-class teams in strong hockey nations forced Pakistan to confront tactical gaps and conditioning shortfalls that may have gone unnoticed against lesser opponents. Butt stressed that such exposure, while tough, is crucial if Pakistan hopes to climb the world rankings and compete at major events like the Olympics and World Cup.

Butt also pointed to the importance of team unity

and mental resilience. In games where Pakistan fell behind early, the side often looked disjointed and reactive rather than proactive. Coaches and senior players have since emphasised the need to build a psychological edge that allows the team to stay competitive even when matches swing against them. To this end, fitness, skill training and mental conditioning are being given greater emphasis in domestic and national camps.

The captain also shared his belief in the talent pool emerging within Pakistan hockey. Several young players have shown flashes of brilliance, contributing crucial goals or

defensive stands in recent matches. Butt noted that blending youth with experience will be key to Pakistan's evolution — and that patience, combined with strategic planning, is essential.

Off the field, preparations are underway to revisit coaching structures and support systems. Pakistan's hockey administration has been under pressure from fans and pundits to create a more sustainable development framework. This includes better exposure tours, improved training infrastructure and more competitive domestic leagues that can nurture talent consistently.

Butt has remained opti-

mistic about the road ahead. "We know where we need to improve," he said in a recent interview. "Every loss teaches us something. The goal now is to take those lessons and build a team that can make our nation proud."

While Pakistan's recent results may not satisfy traditional expectations, the captain's honest assessment reflects a broader understanding that rebuilding is a process. With renewed focus on fundamentals, mental strength and tactical clarity, Pakistan hockey aims to return to the world's top tiers — a journey that will require time, commitment and belief from players, coaches and fans alike.

Vinicius Jr. Racially Abused During Champions League Match Between Real Madrid and Benfica



Brazilian football star Vinicius Junior was allegedly subjected to a racist slur by supporters during a high-profile Champions League match between Real Madrid and Benfica. The incident occurred in the stands when the game was taking place, drawing immediate attention from players, officials and fans alike.

The moment sparked outrage across social media and the global football community after audio and video clips began circulating showing a sup-

porter directing the slur at Vinicius. The Brazilian winger, known for his electrifying play and prominence on both club and international stages, did not react visibly on the pitch but was reportedly aware of the abuse. Teammates and opponents alike were said to be shocked by the behaviour of a section of the crowd.

Real Madrid issued a strong statement condemning the incident, reiterating the club's longstanding opposition to racism in all forms. The

club emphasised that football should be a sport that unites people of all backgrounds and that discriminatory conduct has no place in stadiums. Fans, pundits and former players also voiced support for Vinicius, calling for swift action from governing bodies.

The incident has reignited an ongoing discussion in European football about how effectively racism is being addressed. Despite repeated public campaigns by UEFA, FIFA and other organisations

to stamp out discrimination, racist incidents — particularly targeting players of African and Afro-Latin descent — have persisted in various leagues and international competitions.

Vinicius himself has been a high-profile target of racist abuse in the past, including during matches in Spain's domestic league. On each occasion, both domestic and international football authorities have pledged investigations and sanctions against offenders. However, critics argue that measures taken so far have been insufficient to deter repeat behaviour.

Several supporters' groups and anti-racism organisations condemned the abuse, urging that individuals identified as responsible be banned from stadiums and that clubs face significant consequences for failing to curb racist behaviour among their fans. There are also calls for enhanced education campaigns to promote inclusivity and respect within football culture.

UEFA and competition

organisers are expected to review the incident and determine whether disciplinary action is warranted against the club whose supporters were involved. Potential sanctions could include fines, partial stadium closures or point deductions depending on the severity and recurrence of offences.

The spotlight on this episode highlights the broader challenge facing global sport: balancing passionate fan culture with respect and dignity for all players. As elite competitions like the Champions League continue to showcase football's diversity and global appeal, incidents like this serve as painful reminders that more work remains to be done.

Supporters of Vinicius and proponents of anti-racism initiatives maintain that collective pressure on football authorities, clubs and fan communities is essential to ensure that discriminatory conduct is not tolerated and that stadiums remain welcoming and safe for everyone.

South Africa Cruise to Victory Over UAE in T20 World Cup Match

South Africa continued their excellent run in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, defeating the United Arab Emirates by six wickets in a Group D match played in New Delhi. The Proteas maintained their unbeaten record in the group stage and secured a place in the Super 8s with this comprehensive win.

The UAE batted first after winning the toss, posting a modest total of 122 for 6 in their allotted 20 overs. Young UAE batter Alishan Sharafu provided the backbone of the innings with a gritty 45, but early dismissals and disciplined bowling from the South African attack restricted the total. South African pacer Corbin Bosch stood out with excellent figures, picking up key wickets to break the UAE's momentum.

Chasing 123 to win, South Africa made light work of the target. A brisk start in the powerplay set

the tone, and despite losing skipper Aiden Markram early, the Proteas found momentum through strong contributions in the middle order. Ryan Rickelton and Dewald Brevis played crucial roles with quick scoring, both striking rapidly to keep the required run rate in check. Their partnership helped South Africa reach the target comfortably in just 13.2 overs, leaving 40 balls to spare.

The victory marked South Africa's fourth straight win in the tournament, underlining their credentials as one of the sides to watch. Their unbeaten run in Group D ensured a smooth progression into the Super 8s, where they will face tougher challenges from higher-ranked teams in the next stage of the competition. South Africa's bowlers and batsmen alike have shown good depth and balance, giving them confidence going forward.



For the UAE, the match ended their Super 8 hopes, but there were positives to take from the encounter. Sharafu's innings showed promise, and the team demonstrated fighting spirit against a strong South African side. Their bowlers had moments of control, although they were unable to contain the Proteas' aggressive bat-

ting at crucial stages.

With the group stage wrapped up, South Africa now prepare for their Super 8 opener against hosts India in Ahmedabad, a clash that will test their title aspirations. As for the UAE, the experience gained in the World Cup adds valuable exposure for a developing cricket nation.

Overall, it was a dominant performance from South Africa and another step in their journey toward the later stages of the T20 World Cup. Their combination of effective bowling and explosive batting continues to make them a formidable contender in the tournament.

Sunil Gavaskar's Unsolicited Advice to Abhishek Sharma After Two Ducks at T20 World Cup

Former India captain and batting legend Sunil Gavaskar has publicly offered advice to young Indian cricketer Abhishek Sharma following a rough start to his ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 campaign. Abhishek, who was expected to bring explosive batting to India's top order, was dismissed for a duck in back-to-back matches — a rare and disappointing start in a high-profile tournament.

Gavaskar, known for his candid views and deep knowledge of the game, was quick to comment on the situation. In media interactions, he suggested that while Abhishek has immense talent, the youngster may benefit from a slight adjustment in approach and mindset. According to him, the early dismissals should be treated as learning experiences rather than sources of panic. He emphasised the importance of mental resilience, adaptability and game awareness — qualities that separate promising players from consistent match-winners.

Abhishek's first two outings in the tournament did not go as planned. Brought into the batting line-up to provide quick runs and momentum, he was dismissed without scoring on both occasions. The dismissals came at crucial phases, and while India still won both matches, Abhishek's personal contributions were minimal. In T20 cricket, where confidence and rhythm are key, such setbacks can affect a young player's mindset.

Gavaskar's advice, however, was not critical in tone but constructive. He reminded fans and pundits that early struggles are not unusual for emerging players, especially in pressure-packed events like the World Cup. "When you are talented, you will get opportunities," he said, "but how you respond to adversity defines your character." His message was clear: stay



positive, focus on basics and not be weighed down by statistics or expectations.

Former players and coaches have echoed similar sentiments privately, noting that Abhishek's natural game suits T20 cricket but that he needs to manage risk better early in his innings. T20 batting requires a balance between aggression and shot selection, and a few tweaks in approach could help him translate potential into performance.

The Indian team management, for its part, has expressed support for Abhishek and confidence in his ability to bounce back. They pointed out that selection in the World Cup squad reflects faith in his capabilities and that a couple of low scores do not diminish his value to the team.

Fans on social media have been divided — some urging patience and encouragement, others calling for tactical changes in the batting order. However, the overall sentiment remains hopeful, with many believing that Abhishek has the skillset to recover and make impactful contributions as the tournament progresses.

As India moves deeper into the World Cup, all eyes will be on Abhishek to see whether he can translate Gavaskar's advice into runs. The early setbacks have certainly tested him, but with experience, support and self-belief, he still has ample opportunity to turn his campaign around and prove his worth on cricket's biggest stage.

Glenn McGrath Says Australia's "Aura" Has Faded After T20 World Cup Exit



Former Australian fast bowling great Glenn McGrath has delivered a sharp critique of Australia's underwhelming campaign at the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup, stating that the once-intimidating aura surrounding the Australian cricket team is no longer present. His remarks follow Australia's early exit from the tournament — a result that has triggered widespread debate back home.

Australia entered the competition as one of the strong contenders, but their campaign quickly unravelled. Injuries to key fast bowlers such as Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood, along with the absence of experienced names in the T20 setup, left the side short on firepower. Inconsistent performances compounded the problem, with unexpected defeats proving costly in a tightly contested group.

McGrath suggested that in earlier years, Australia carried a psychological edge — opponents often felt beaten before stepping onto the field. According to him, that dominance and fear factor have diminished. He noted that rival teams now approach matches against Australia with greater belief and confidence, reflecting a shift in global T20 dynamics.

A significant part of McGrath's criticism centred on team selection and balance. He questioned some of the choices made by the selectors, particularly the preference for certain all-round options over experienced batters. The former pacer implied that recent form and clarity of role should have weighed more

heavily in selection decisions, especially in a high-stakes tournament like the World Cup.

Australia's bowling attack, traditionally their strength, lacked its usual bite. Without their frontline pace trio operating at full capacity, the team struggled to control matches during crucial phases. Meanwhile, the batting unit failed to deliver consistent performances, with collapses and misfiring middle-order displays hurting their chances of building momentum.

The early elimination was sealed after results elsewhere in the group went against them, confirming one of Australia's most disappointing T20 World Cup outings in recent memory. The exit has prompted broader reflection on Australia's white-ball strategy, squad depth and transition planning.

McGrath's comments reflect a wider sentiment within Australian cricket circles — that the team is at a crossroads. While the talent pool remains strong, the challenge lies in rebuilding confidence, refining tactics and rediscovering the competitive edge that once defined Australian sides across formats.

The debate now shifts to the future. With major ICC tournaments on the horizon, Australia will need to reassess combinations, manage player workloads and invest in emerging talent to restore their standing. Whether the "aura" can be rebuilt remains to be seen, but the message from one of Australia's greatest bowlers is clear: reputation alone is no longer enough in modern T20 cricket.

Mahesh Vitta's "Uthutha Heroes" Set for Theatrical Release on February 27

Hyderabad - Producer Dheeraj Mogilineni, known for his content-driven hits like Ambajipeta Marriage Band and The Girlfriend, is all set to bring another family entertainer with "Summer Holidays", scheduled for a grand release on May 1, 2026. Fresh off the success of his recent blockbuster Couple Friendly, Dheeraj Mogilineni is returning to cinemas with a film that promises to be a delightful treat for audiences of all ages.

"Summer Holidays" is a children-centric entertainer, weaving nostalgia, laughter, and heartfelt emotions into a story designed to resonate with both young viewers and adults. The film stars Master Rohan Roy, acclaimed for his roles in the 90's Middle Class Biopic series and Bhartha Mahasayulaku Wignyapathi, alongside child artist Arun, who has impressed audiences with performances in films such as 35-Chinna Katha Kaadu. Both actors are expected to bring charm and authenticity to their roles, capturing the essence of childhood innocence and adventure.

The film is directed by debutant Srikar, who is making an impressive entry into cinema with a story that balances humor, nostalgia, and emotional moments. The technical team includes Sinjith Yerramilli as music composer, known for his work in Little Hearts, and DOP Sai



Prakash, who has lent his visual expertise to films like Tillu and Tillu Square. Their combined efforts are expected to create a vibrant and immersive cinematic experience, highlighting the joy, curiosity, and wonder of summer vacations.

Produced under the banner of Dheeraj Mogilineni Entertainments, the project has received full backing from the producer, who expressed confidence in the film's content and the potential to become a family favorite. The team also promises high production values, engaging storytelling, and a wholesome cinematic experience that connects with audiences

across age groups. With its grand release planned for the beginning of May, "Summer Holidays" is positioning itself as a must-watch film of the season, appealing to families, children, and nostalgic viewers alike. The film's combination of talented young actors, a passionate debut director, and an experienced technical crew aims to create a memorable movie experience that celebrates childhood, friendship, and the joy of summer adventures.

As anticipation builds, audiences are gearing up to welcome this heartwarming entertainer, and the countdown to May 1, 2026, has officially begun.

Director Sailesh Kolanu Pledges Organs, Advocates for Life-Saving Cause



Hyderabad - Renowned filmmaker Sailesh Kolanu, known for his impactful storytelling, has taken a powerful step in support of a noble cause by pledging his organs at a recent Organ Donation Drive. The director, widely recognized for his contributions to Indian cinema, has urged the public to consider organ donation as a meaningful way to save lives.

Speaking about his decision on social media, Kolanu described organ donation as "one of the most selfless things a human being can do." By pledging his organs, he hopes to inspire more individuals to consider this life-saving act and contribute to the welfare of those in need.

In his message, he emphasized the importance of having open conversations with family members about one's intentions. "It is essential to discuss your decision with your loved

ones," Kolanu stated, highlighting that clear communication ensures that the donor's wishes are respected and honored when the time comes.

Organ donation continues to be a vital issue in India, with thousands of patients awaiting life-saving transplants every year. Public figures like Kolanu play a significant role in raising awareness and breaking misconceptions surrounding the process. By leading by example, he is setting a precedent for social responsibility in the entertainment industry and beyond.

The drive, which took place recently, brought together several participants committed to contributing to society by pledging their organs. Organ donation not only saves lives but also provides hope to families grappling with critical illnesses, making such

campaigns instrumental in fostering a culture of empathy and altruism.

Kolanu's decision resonates deeply with the public, encouraging fans and followers to reflect on the impact of organ donation. With his influential platform and thoughtful advocacy, the director is helping to bring much-needed attention to a cause that has the potential to transform lives.

As awareness grows, more individuals are likely to follow in Kolanu's footsteps, embracing organ donation as a meaningful and selfless act. His message underscores the belief that small acts of generosity can leave lasting legacies and truly make a difference in the world.

Director Sailesh Kolanu's pledge serves as a reminder that cinema's influence extends beyond the screen, inspiring people to take real-life actions that save lives and uplift communities.

Dheeraj Mogilineni's "Summer Holidays" Set for Grand Release on May 1, 2026

Hyderabad - Producer Dheeraj Mogilineni, known for his content-driven hits like Ambajipeta Marriage Band and The Girlfriend, is all set to bring another family entertainer with "Summer Holidays", scheduled for a grand release on May 1, 2026. Fresh off the success of his recent blockbuster Couple Friendly, Dheeraj Mogilineni is returning to cinemas with a film that promises to be a delightful treat for audiences of all ages.

"Summer Holidays" is a children-centric entertainer, weaving nostalgia, laughter, and heartfelt emotions into a story designed to resonate with both young viewers and adults. The film stars Master Rohan Roy, acclaimed for his roles in the 90's Middle Class Biopic series and Bhartha Mahasayulaku Wignyapathi, alongside child artist Arun, who has impressed audiences with performances in films such as 35-Chinna Katha Kaadu. Both actors are expected to bring charm and authenticity to their roles, capturing the essence of childhood innocence and adventure.

The film is directed by debutant Srikar, who is making an impressive entry into cinema with a story that balances humor, nostalgia, and emotional moments. The technical team includes Sinjith Yerramilli as music composer, known for his work in Little Hearts, and DOP Sai Prakash, who has lent his visual expertise to films like Tillu and Tillu Square. Their combined efforts are expected to create a vibrant and immersive cinematic experience, highlight



ing the joy, curiosity, and wonder of summer vacations.

Produced under the banner of Dheeraj Mogilineni Entertainments, the project has received full backing from the producer, who expressed confidence in the film's content and the potential to become a family favorite. The team also promises high production values, engaging storytelling,

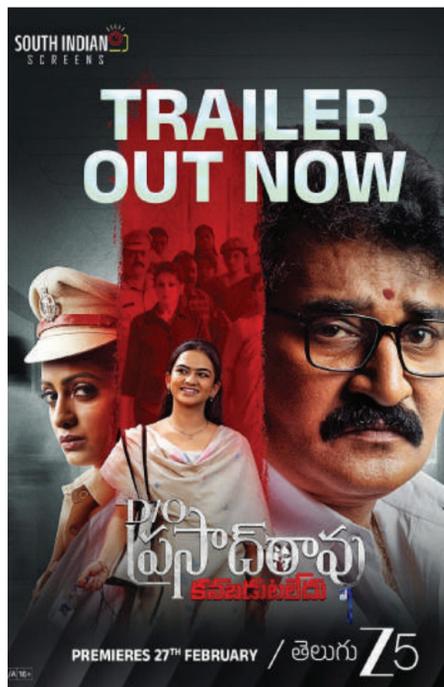
and a wholesome cinematic experience that connects with audiences across age groups.

With its grand release planned for the beginning of May, "Summer Holidays" is positioning itself as a must-watch film of the season, appealing to families, children, and nostalgic viewers alike. The film's combination of talented young actors, a passion-

ate debut director, and an experienced technical crew aims to create a memorable movie experience that celebrates childhood, friendship, and the joy of summer adventures.

As anticipation builds, audiences are gearing up to welcome this heartwarming entertainer, and the countdown to May 1, 2026, has officially begun.

Emotional Crime Thriller D/O Prasad Rao Kanabadutaledhu Trailer Out



The makers of D/O Prasad Rao Kanabadutaledhu have released an intense and emotionally charged trailer, offering a gripping preview of the crime thriller ahead of its premiere on ZEE5 on February 27. Directed by Krishna Poluru and produced by K. V. Sri Ram under the banner South India Screens, the series blends emotional depth with investigative suspense.

The trailer begins on a warm and intimate note, highlighting the affectionate bond between a father and daughter. Rajiv Kanakala plays Prasad Rao, a loving father whose life is thrown into turmoil when his daughter Swathi suddenly disappears. This emotional foundation quickly transitions into a tense search, setting the tone for a mystery driven as much by feelings as by facts.

Swathi, portrayed by Vasanthika, remains a strong emotional presence despite her absence, with glimpses of her dreams and relationships deepening the sense of loss. As the investigation unfolds, Uday Bhanu appears as Investigation Officer Rebecca Joseph, bringing intensity and authority to the narrative. The trailer hints at hidden truths and overlooked clues, raising questions about whether Swathi's disappearance is tied to her hostel life, workplace, or someone close to her.

Supporting performances from Gayatri Bhargavi, Hima Bindu, and Sri Ram Venkat add layers to the story's emotional and investigative arcs, suggesting a complex web of relationships.

The screenplay by Krishna Poluru is designed to build suspense gradually while staying

rooted in emotional realism, with dialogues by Maidala Shruti enhancing authenticity. The background score composed by Sri Ram Madhury underscores both tension and sentiment, while editing by Chandrashekar G. V keeps the narrative tight and engaging. Cinematographer Ram K Mahesh visually reinforces the series' mood of unease and emotional fragility.

More than a conventional crime story, the series explores parental love, uncertainty, and resilience in the face of loss. With its blend of psychological depth and suspense, D/O Prasad Rao Kanabadutaledhu aims to deliver an emotionally compelling viewing experience while continuing ZEE5's push toward ambitious regional originals.

The series will stream exclusively on ZEE5 starting February 27.

"Couple Friendly" Crosses ₹5.42 Crore Worldwide in Just 3 Days

Hyderabad - The romantic entertainer "Couple Friendly", starring Santosh Shobhan and Manasa Varanasi, is creating waves at the box office with a remarkable performance in its opening weekend. Released in Telugu and Tamil, the film has grossed an impressive 5.42 crore worldwide within the first three days, establishing itself as a commercial success and a crowd favourite.

Directed by Ashwin Chandrasekhar, "Couple Friendly" is a heartwarming love story that has resonated with audiences of all ages. The film's charming narrative, coupled with strong performances by the lead actors, has contributed significantly to its early box office triumph. Fans and critics alike have praised the film for its engaging storyline, relatable characters, and light-hearted romantic elements.

The film has also received appreciation from prominent stars such as Rebel Star Prabhas and Siddhu Jonnalagadda, adding to its visibility and credibility in the industry. The promotional tour undertaken by the cast and crew has further boosted the film's reach, creating buzz among audiences in multiple regions.

"Couple Friendly" is presented by UV Creations and produced under the banner of UV Concepts, with Ajay Kumar Raju P. serving as co-producer. Passionate producer and distributor Dheeraj Mogilineni has overseen the film's release in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, ensuring strong regional presence. The collaborative efforts of the production and distribution teams have played a key role in the film's smooth rollout and early success.

The technical team be-

hind the film has also been widely appreciated. Dinesh Purushothaman handled cinematography, capturing the vibrant visuals of the story, while Ganesh Shiva provided crisp editing. The film's music, composed by Aditya Ravindran, adds depth to the narrative, enhancing the emotional and romantic beats of the story. Michael BFA handled the art direction, creating authentic and visually appealing sets, and S.S. Varma served as executive producer, ensuring a cohesive production process.

With its promising start, "Couple Friendly" is poised to continue its box office run and strengthen its position as one of the notable romantic entertainers of the year. Audiences are responding enthusiastically to the film, making it a must-watch for lovers of heartfelt, feel-good cinema.

