



BUZZ POINTS

Upcoming IPOs Set to Hit the Market Next Week



HYDERABAD | VOL-1 | ISSUE-75 | 20th FEBRUARY 2026 | FRIDAY | PAGES 12 | PRICE: ₹ 5 | PUBLISHED FROM: VIJAYAWADA • HYDERABAD • DELHI • BENGALURU

BUZZ POINTS

Bandi Sanjay Claims List of 'Corrupt' Ministers, IAS Officers Ready



PAGE 02

Indonesia Proposes Hyderabad-Jakarta Tech Skills Corridor



PAGE 02

Telangana Showcases AI Investment Opportunities at USIBC Round Table

PAGE 03

TX Hospitals Opens 5th Branch in Miyapur

PAGE 04

Telangana Governor Inaugurates AIU Central Zone Vice Chancellors' Meet

Hyderabad, February 19 | TPN Bureau

The Hon'ble Governor of Telangana, Shri Jishnu Dev Varma, attended the inauguration of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) Central Zone Vice Chancellors' Meet 2025-26 as the Chief Guest, held at the historic Tagore Auditorium, Osmania University, Hyderabad. The event brought together Vice Chancellors, deans, and academic leaders from across the Central Zone to deliberate on key challenges and opportunities in higher education.

Addressing the distinguished gathering, the Governor highlighted the pivotal role that universities play in shaping a knowledge-driven society. He emphasized that higher education institutions are not only centers of learning but also incubators for innovation, research, and holistic development. Shri Varma underscored the need for universities to cultivate creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills among students to prepare them for a rapidly evolving global landscape.

Shri Varma also stressed the importance of academic collaboration and inter-institutional partnerships to



enhance institutional excellence. He noted that aligning universities' research agendas and educational strategies with national priorities is critical for strengthening India's higher education ecosystem. The Governor further called upon academic leaders to ensure that curricula are relevant, inclusive, and geared towards fostering innovation while preserving cultural and ethical values.

The AIU Central Zone Meet serves as a platform for Vice Chancellors and administrators to engage in meaningful dialogue on policy frameworks, governance, and best practices in higher education. Discussions at the meet are expected to focus on

areas such as curriculum reform, faculty development, research collaboration, internationalization, and leveraging technology for enhanced learning outcomes. Organizers noted that the meet is part of AIU's broader initiative to facilitate knowledge exchange among Central Zone universities, encouraging collaborative projects and research partnerships that can contribute to national development goals. Participants also highlighted the role of universities in driving regional development, fostering entrepreneurship, and bridging the gap between academic research and societal needs.

Shri Varma's address was met with appreciation from the academic community for emphasizing the transformative potential of higher education and the responsibilities of universities in nation-building. The gathering concluded with a call for collective action to advance institutional excellence, nurture talent, and strengthen the role of Indian universities in the global education landscape. The meet reinforced the significance of collaboration, innovation, and strategic planning in higher education, setting a roadmap for the Central Zone universities to contribute meaningfully to India's vision of a knowledge-driven, research-oriented society.

Revanth reddy Meets Congress High Command to Discuss 'Telangana Rising 2047' Vision

New Delhi, February 19, 2026 | TPN Bureau

With a renewed determination to fast-track Telangana's development, Chief Minister Shri A. Revanth Reddy met the national leadership of the Congress party in New Delhi, accompanied by cabinet colleagues and senior state leaders.

The delegation held courtesy meetings with Shri Mallikarjun Kharge, President of the Indian National Congress and Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, and Shri Rahul Gandhi, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha. The discussions focused on the State's long-term strategic vision, "Telangana Rising 2047", and the roadmap for achieving inclusive growth over the coming decades.

During the meetings, Chief Minister Reddy elaborated on key governance priorities, the implementation of critical promises, policy decisions, and structural reforms. The delegation

highlighted developmental progress, citizen-centric outreach initiatives, and the government's unwavering commitment to social justice, equality, and inclusive growth.

The Chief Minister also briefed the national leadership on the revolutionary measures undertaken since December 2023 under the Indiramma Praja Prabhutwam scheme to empower women, farmers, and youth across Telangana. He emphasized the widespread public support the Congress government has received from all regions, districts, urban and rural areas, and various sections of society, reflecting the administration's people-focused approach.

The discussions underscored the government's dedication to ensuring equitable development, strengthening institutional frameworks, and delivering on promises that impact citizens' daily lives.

The guidance and mentorship provided by the national leaders were acknowledged as a source of inspiration that will reinforce Telangana's commitment to achieving comprehensive, balanced, and sustainable growth. Chief Minister Reddy expressed optimism that the insights gained during these high-level deliberations would help Telangana consolidate its progress while maintaining a strong focus on social empowerment, economic advancement, and inclusive development. He reaffirmed the state's resolve to accelerate its growth trajectory, ensuring that all citizens benefit from the government's vision and programmes.

The meetings concluded on a note of shared commitment between the state and national leadership, emphasizing strategic collaboration, policy alignment, and joint efforts to realize the ambitious 'Telangana Rising 2047' goals. This engagement signals Telangana's proactive approach to leveraging both state and national support for a transformative development agenda that aims to position the state as a model of inclusive growth and social justice in the years ahead.

AI Safety Not a Barrier but Driver of Innovation: Sridhar Babu



New Delhi, February 19 | TPN Bureau

Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Telangana's Minister for IT and Industries, said the state government views artificial intelligence safety as a catalyst for innovation rather than a constraint, describing it as the "aerodynamics of the 21st century." He delivered the remarks during a keynote address to global strategic advisory firms, including Al-Bright Stonebridge Group, and AI policy experts in the national capital.

The minister cautioned that rapid technological expansion without adequate safeguards may deliver short-term gains but could erode public trust if risks are not managed. Quoting renowned investor Warren Buffett, he noted that reputation takes decades to build but can be lost in minutes, adding that AI today stands at a similarly critical juncture. Drawing par-



allels with the aviation industry, he said early safety standards ultimately enabled growth rather than restricting it, and AI must follow the same path.

Highlighting Telangana's growth trajectory, Sridhar Babu said technology professionals have driven more than half of Hyderabad's \$80-billion economy. He compared the state's current phase to the transformation of Shenzhen, which evolved from a small fishing settlement into a global economic powerhouse. Telangana, he said, is undergoing a similar transformation powered by technology, with ambitions to build a \$1 trillion economy by 2035 and \$3 trillion by 2047.

Outlining key initiatives, the minister said the government is taking AI to the grassroots while keeping sustainability at the core of its strategy. Plans include developing an expansive AI City and establishing "Bharat Future City," envisioned as India's first net-zero ur-

ban hub. He also highlighted the creation of the sovereign AI hub AIKAM and the Telangana Data Exchange, which provides large public datasets to support innovation and research.

According to the minister, the Integrated Digital Services Platform will deliver more than 300 government services to millions of citizens by 2027, reinforcing the state's push toward digital governance. He added that large-scale investments are being channelled into future-ready infrastructure, including the rejuvenation of the Musi River and expansion of skills education.

Sridhar Babu said Telangana is actively shaping AI safety standards rather than waiting for global frameworks, positioning itself as a leader among Global South regions. He concluded that the state's vision is to make technology ubiquitous, seamless, and above all safe—"as essential and invisible as the air we breathe."

Bhatti Vikramarka Invites Revanth Reddy to Son's Wedding

New Delhi, February 19 | TPN Bureau

Bhatti Vikramarka, Deputy Chief Minister of Telangana, along with his family, met Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy at the Chief Minister's camp office in New Delhi and formally invited him to the wedding of his son, Surya Vikramaditya.

The meeting took place in a cordial atmosphere, with the Deputy Chief Minister extending a personal invitation to the Chief Minister on behalf of his family. The interaction reflected the close working relationship among the state's top leadership, with brief discussions also taking place on ongoing engagements in the national capital.

According to sources, the wedding of Surya Vikramaditya is scheduled to be held on



March 5 in Hyderabad. Preparations for the ceremony are underway, with family members and well-wishers making arrangements for the occasion.

Bhatti Vikramarka expressed his gratitude to the Chief Minister for taking time from his

schedule to meet the family and accept the invitation. Revanth Reddy conveyed his best wishes to the groom and the family, assuring that he would attend the ceremony if his official commitments permit.

The invitation meeting comes as several state leaders are cur-

rently in New Delhi for official engagements, and such interactions are being viewed as opportunities for both formal and personal exchanges. Political observers note that personal milestones and family events often bring leaders together beyond administrative discussions, reinforcing camaraderie within the leadership.

The upcoming wedding is expected to be attended by prominent political leaders, officials, and well-wishers from across the state. With arrangements progressing in Hyderabad, the family is preparing to host the ceremony on a grand yet traditional note.

The Deputy Chief Minister's office said further details regarding the event schedule and venue would be shared closer to the date, while extending warm invitations to friends, colleagues, and associates to bless the couple on their special day.

Balka Suman Sent to 14-Day Remand in Attack Case

Adilabad, February 19 | TPN Bureau

Balkha Suman, former MLA and BRS leader, has been remanded to 14 days of judicial custody in connection with the alleged attack on the convoy of Minister Vivek Venkataswamy. Following the court's order, he was shifted to Adilabad jail.

According to the remand report submitted by police before the First Class Additional Junior Civil Judge, Balkha Suman has been named as Accused No. 1 in the case. Along with him, Moola Rajireddy (A-2), Domakonda Anil (A-4), and Mamidi Lakshmi Kant (A-8) were arrested. Several others, including Godisela Rajaramesh (A-

3), Gajula Chandrakiran (A-5), Medipalli Sampath (A-6), Gogula Ravinder Reddy (A-7), and Bandari Suribabu (A-9), are reportedly absconding.

Police told the court that Balkha Suman faces a total of 11 cases, citing his alleged criminal history as a key reason for seeking remand. Investigators argued that if the accused were not taken into custody, there was a likelihood of further offences and a potential threat to public order. The remand report also stated that the case involves individuals with political backgrounds, which could complicate the investigation.

Officials expressed concern that the accused might attempt to influence witnesses or tamper with evidence if released. They maintained

that custodial measures were necessary to ensure a fair and unhindered investigation. Based on these submissions, the court granted 14 days of remand.

The case relates to an alleged attack on the minister's convoy, which triggered political tension and led to heightened security and investigation efforts. Police are continuing their search for the remaining accused while gathering further evidence related to the incident.

Legal experts note that remand reports typically outline the prosecution's preliminary grounds for custody and do not constitute a determination of guilt. Meanwhile, the development has drawn attention across political circles, with reactions expected



from party leaders as the investigation progresses. Authorities said further action will depend on the progress of the probe and the apprehen-

sion of the absconding suspects. The case is likely to remain under close watch as both legal proceedings and the police investigation continue in the coming weeks.

Bandi Sanjay Claims List of 'Corrupt' Ministers, IAS Officers Ready



Hyderabad, February 19 | TPN Bureau

Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Union Minister of State and senior BJP leader, has claimed that a comprehensive list of allegedly corrupt ministers and IAS officers in Telangana has been prepared and will be revealed at an appropriate time. His remarks have added fresh momentum to the ongoing political exchanges in the state.

Addressing the media, Sanjay alleged that several individuals holding key positions in the administration were involved in serious irregularities and misuse of authority. He said his party had gathered detailed information on multiple instances of alleged corruption and wrongdoing, asserting that the evidence would be made public after completing internal reviews.

The BJP leader stated that the party is committed to exposing corruption and ensuring accountability in governance. According to him, the alleged activities include financial improprieties, abuse of official positions, and violations of administrative norms. He emphasized that the disclosures, once made, would spark a major political debate and bring transparency issues to the forefront.

Sanjay also said that the list was compiled based on inputs from various sources and thorough assessments. He maintained that the BJP would pursue the

matter through both political and legal channels if required. The minister reiterated that his party's objective is to highlight governance lapses and push for systemic reforms to ensure clean administration.

The statement comes at a time when political tensions in Telangana remain high, with opposition parties intensifying their criticism of the government on issues related to transparency and public accountability. Sanjay asserted that the BJP would continue to raise concerns on behalf of the public and keep pressure on the ruling establishment to respond to the allegations.

He further said that corruption allegations are not merely political rhetoric but reflect growing public concern over governance standards. Stressing the need for stronger oversight mechanisms, he called for greater vigilance and institutional accountability to prevent misuse of power.

Political observers believe the claim could lead to heightened confrontation between the ruling party and the opposition in the coming days. With expectations building around the promised disclosures, the issue is likely to remain a focal point in Telangana's political discourse, potentially shaping debates on governance and transparency in the near future.

Arvind Urges 'Covert Agents' to Quit BJP



Hyderabad, February 19 | TPN Bureau

Dharampuri Arvind, Member of Parliament and senior leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), stirred political debate on Thursday by calling on alleged "covert agents" within the party to step aside, asserting that internal discipline and ideological clarity were essential ahead of upcoming political challenges.

Addressing the media, Arvind said the party must remain focused on its core principles and warned that individuals working against the organisation's interests would not be tolerated. He emphasised that the BJP's strength lies in its cadre-based structure and collective commitment, adding that any internal sabotage could undermine public trust.

The MP noted that party workers across Telangana had been striving to strengthen grassroots outreach and expand the BJP's organisational footprint. In this context, he said, unity and transparency were crucial to maintaining momentum. "Those who are not aligned with the party's vision should voluntarily step aside," he remarked, underlining the need for cohesion at all levels.

Arvind also highlighted the party's recent efforts to engage with voters on governance issues, welfare initiatives, and develop-

ment priorities. He said the BJP remained committed to presenting itself as a credible alternative in the state by focusing on accountability and policy-driven politics.

Political observers view the remarks as significant, coming at a time when parties are intensifying internal reviews and strategising for future electoral contests. While Arvind did not name any individuals, his comments are expected to trigger discussions within party circles regarding organisational discipline and loyalty.

The BJP leadership in the state has repeatedly stressed the importance of strengthening booth-level networks and expanding membership, with senior leaders calling for greater coordination among party units. Arvind reiterated that the party's growth depended on the dedication of its grassroots workers and urged them to stay focused on public service.

As political activity gathers pace in Telangana, statements such as these signal a period of introspection within parties as they seek to consolidate support and present a united front. Arvind concluded by expressing confidence that the BJP would emerge stronger through internal clarity and renewed commitment from its ranks.

KTR Urges CM Revanth Reddy to Allocate Funds for Pending Guarantees and Promises in 2026-27 Budget

Hyderabad, February 19 | TPN Bureau

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President Kalvakuntla Taraka Rama Rao (KTR) has written a public letter to Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, urging the government to allocate funds in the upcoming 2026-27 state budget for promises made by the Congress during the 2023 Assembly elections.

KTR highlighted that despite almost half of the Congress government's term having passed, 95% of the election promises remain pending. The letter emphasises that the 2026-27 budget should prioritize fulfilling these commitments, particularly the six guarantees and 420 promises announced in the Congress manifesto. KTR specifically called for adequate budget allocations for women, senior citizens, students, youth, and farmers. He noted that promises such as the pension increase for senior citizens and widows, financial support under Mahalaxmi schemes for women, Rythu Bandhu payments to farmers, and aid for contract and casual laborers remain largely unimplemented. The BRS leader also stressed the need to release pending funds for education schemes, vocational support, and welfare for auto drivers and unemployed youth. He warned that failing to allocate the



necessary funds in this budget would result in public pressure on the government. "If promises and guarantees are ignored again, the Congress government risks being held accountable by the people of Telangana," KTR stated.

The letter also pointed out that during the Congress manifesto release in 2023, high-profile leaders including Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi had overseen the announcement of guarantees, followed by distribution of guarantee cards to households. However, implementation of these promises has been minimal, leaving thousands of beneficiaries without the support they were promised.

KTR urged the Chief Minister to act responsibly and ensure that every allocation is made with transparency, in line with the commitments to marginalized communities, including SCs, STs, BCs, minorities, and other disadvantaged groups. He emphasized that the 2026-27 budget should reflect the Congress government's accountability to the people and restore faith in public governance.

The BRS Working President concluded the letter by reminding the government of its constitutional and moral responsibility to implement electoral promises, warning that failure to do so would invite scrutiny and public disapproval.

Indonesia Proposes Hyderabad-Jakarta Tech Skills Corridor

New Delhi, February 19 | TPN Bureau

Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Telangana's Minister for IT and Industries, has welcomed Indonesia's proposal to establish a Hyderabad-Jakarta Technology Skills Development Corridor aimed at facilitating the exchange of technological talent and strengthening digital cooperation.

The proposal was discussed during a meeting between the minister and a high-level Indonesian delegation led by Nezar Patria, Vice Minister for Communications and Digital Affairs, on the sidelines of the India AI Impact Summit 2026 held at Bharat Mandapam on Thursday.

According to officials, the discussions focused on expanding collaboration between Telangana and Indonesia across several areas, including skill development, talent identification, technology innovation, and strengthening ties between startup ecosystems. The proposed

corridor is expected to create structured pathways for knowledge exchange, training programmes, and joint initiatives between institutions and industry stakeholders in both regions.

During the meeting, Patria requested Telangana to take a leading role in operationalising the corridor and sought technical assistance in implementing Indonesia's National Digital Roadmap. The Indonesian delegation also invited the state to share its expertise in nurturing emerging enterprises and building a robust startup ecosystem, citing Telangana's rapid growth in the technology sector.

Responding positively, Sridhar Babu assured that Telangana would extend full cooperation to support Indonesia's digital transformation journey. He said the state is open to partnering in areas such as technology talent alignment, ethical artificial intelligence, digital gov-

ernance, and policy frameworks that enable innovation while ensuring responsible use of technology.

The minister noted that closer engagement between Telangana's IT ecosystem and Indonesia's digital initiatives would create new opportunities for businesses, startups, and professionals in both regions. He added that such collaboration would also enhance the global visibility of Telangana's technology capabilities and reinforce its position as an emerging hub for innovation.

Officials said the dialogue marked a significant step toward deeper bilateral cooperation in the digital domain, with both sides expressing interest in exploring institutional partnerships, joint training programmes, and knowledge-sharing platforms. Further consultations are expected to take place to finalise the framework and timelines for the proposed technology corridor.



Ramachander Rao Slams Kavitha Over Remarks on BJP



Hyderabad, February 19 | TPN Bureau

N. Ramchander Rao, senior leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), launched a sharp attack on K. Kavitha, BRS MLC, over her recent remarks targeting the party, accusing her of making politically moti-

vated and misleading statements.

Addressing the media, Ramchander Rao said Kavitha's comments were an attempt to divert public attention from what he described as pressing issues and governance failures. He alleged that instead of engaging in

constructive political discourse, the BRS leadership was resorting to baseless allegations against the BJP to gain political mileage.

The BJP leader asserted that his party remains focused on issues of public interest and accountability. He said the BJP has con-

sistently highlighted concerns related to governance, transparency, and development in Telangana, and would continue to do so despite criticism from rival parties. According to him, attempts to portray the BJP negatively would not succeed as the party's grassroots presence and public support were steadily increasing.

Ramchander Rao further stated that Kavitha's remarks reflected political frustration rather than factual criticism. He said the BJP was open to healthy debate on policies and governance but would strongly counter what he termed as misinformation. Emphasising the need for responsible political communication, he urged leaders to focus on public welfare rather than engaging in personal or partisan attacks.

The comments come amid heightened political exchanges between the BJP and BRS in Telangana, with leaders from both sides frequently trading ac-

cusations on governance, development, and political strategy. Observers note that such statements indicate intensifying political competition as parties seek to consolidate their support base and shape public perception.

Rao reiterated that the BJP's priority remains strengthening organisational outreach and presenting itself as a credible alternative in the state. He said the party would continue to raise issues concerning citizens and hold the government accountable through democratic means.

The latest remarks are expected to further escalate the political rhetoric between the two parties, with responses likely from BRS leaders in the coming days. As the political discourse sharpens, the exchange underscores the increasingly competitive landscape in Telangana politics, where parties are positioning themselves to influence public opinion and set the narrative on governance and accountability.

Telangana Assembly Leaders Raise Concerns Over Governance and Electoral Conduct



Hyderabad, February 19 | TPN Bureau

Senior Telangana political leaders have expressed serious concerns over alleged violations of constitutional norms and administrative misconduct by the Congress government in the state. Former MLA Gandra Venkataramana Reddy stated that attempts were being made to manipulate electoral outcomes despite lacking majority support, calling it an affront to democratic principles.

Reddy alleged that Minister Vivek, despite not having sufficient numbers, influenced officials through undue pressure, leading to delays in elections. "Even without majority strength, the Congress attempted to secure wins through intimidation. Officials should not act under pressure but uphold the law," he said.

Highlighting the proactive role of the Telangana government under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Reddy emphasized that constitutional processes were functioning properly in the state. "The Chief Minister and ministers are working diligently, unlike the central operations where the cabinet remains stationed in Delhi," he added, questioning whether central authorities were reviewing state electoral data or other election results,

such as Kerala.

BRS leader Kama Mallesh criticized Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy's attempts to gain political favor with the Chief Minister, cautioning that holding power should not justify arbitrary behavior. "Even in municipalities where Congress lacked majority, they won chairmanships through irregular methods. In Janagama, a winning councillor was reportedly kidnapped by Congress workers and only released after intervention," he said.

Leaders underscored the need for officials to act responsibly and respect constitutional mandates. "The Chief Minister is not a businessman; he comes from a farmer family. Ministers should implement programs like Rythu Bandhu properly instead of retreating from responsibilities. Officials must serve the public, not act obsequiously for personal gain," Mallesh noted.

The leaders also warned against attempts to disguise misconduct, stating that the public would not tolerate deceitful practices. They urged all government functionaries to ensure transparency, follow proper procedures, and respect voters' mandate to maintain democratic integrity in Telangana.

Telangana Showcases AI Investment Opportunities at USIBC Round Table



New Delhi, February 19 | TPN Bureau

Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Telangana's Minister for IT and Industries, said the state is emerging as a major innovation hub in artificial intelligence, offering wide-ranging opportunities for American investors. He made the remarks while delivering a keynote address at a round table with representatives of the US India Business Council (USIBC) held in the national capital as part of the India AI Impact Summit 2026.

The minister highlighted that Telangana has positioned itself as a dynamic platform for cutting-edge AI innovation, supported by world-class infrastructure and a strong technology ecosystem. These strengths, he said, are creating new avenues for global partnerships and investments, particularly from leading US technology companies.

Sridhar Babu noted that the state government is actively promoting public-private partnerships with global tech giants to accelerate innovation and scale emerging technologies. He emphasized that forward-looking and stable policy frameworks introduced by the government have become a strong foundation for AI research and development.

He also pointed to the state's growing use of artificial intelligence in governance, including real-time monitoring of public services to improve ef-

iciency and transparency. According to the minister, such initiatives are helping Telangana build a responsive and technology-driven administration.

Highlighting sectoral priorities, he said the government has established innovation centres focusing on healthcare, agriculture, education, and urban development. These initiatives, he added, are playing a key role in positioning Telangana among the front-runners in the AI domain.

Reiterating the state's long-term vision, Sridhar Babu said Telangana is being developed as one of the world's most significant destinations for AI innovation. "Our goal is to compete with the fast-moving global technology landscape and create an ecosystem that nurtures innovation and talent," he said.

The minister further announced that the upcoming state budget will place strong emphasis on building future-ready infrastructure for AI. Plans include setting up an AI University, dedicated AI hubs, and expanding a skilled talent pool to meet industry needs.

The round table concluded with discussions on strengthening collaboration between Telangana and US businesses, with both sides expressing optimism about deeper engagement in the rapidly evolving AI sector.

Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy Slams Harish Rao Over Telangana Governance

Bhuvanagiri, February 19 | TPN Bureau

Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, Member of Parliament from Bhuvanagiri, launched a sharp critique of Telangana Minister Harish Rao, accusing him of failing to address governance and party responsibilities effectively. Speaking on the sidelines of recent municipal elections, Reddy said Rao's repeated assertions of self-rule, existence, and self-respect are "empty rhetoric" and do not resonate with the people of Telangana.

Reddy pointed to the Congress party's electoral performance, claiming that in two recent elections, the ruling Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) secured "zero wins," highlighting the public's preference for Congress over BRS. "The people do not care for petty statements and theatrics under the guise of letters or announcements," he said, adding that Rao's commentary lacks substance and organizational insight.

Addressing the issue of administrative delays, Reddy noted that cabinet meetings at the state headquarters in Delhi had not occurred as scheduled, with the next meeting now set for the 23rd at the Telangana Secretariat. He criticized



the ruling party for effectively running a "farmhouse administration," with party leaders remaining secluded instead of engaging with the public or legislative processes.

Reddy emphasized that Congress, under the leadership of Sonia Gandhi, played a pivotal role in the formation of Telangana and has consistently upheld the state's dignity and self-respect. "In the past ten

years, the KCR family has hoarded power and resources, neglecting public welfare. Governance has suffered, and pending funds for critical projects remain blocked," he said, referencing matching grants and development projects left unimplemented under BRS rule.

He also criticized Harish Rao and other party leaders for misleading the public and delivering "confused

messages" regarding state issues. Reddy asserted that only Congress has the experience and institutional capacity to safeguard Telangana's political and administrative stability.

Reddy cited examples of Congress leaders, including CM Revanth Reddy, actively engaging with the central government in Delhi to secure funds and address pending projects, contrasting this proactive approach

with the ruling party's lack of engagement. He concluded by urging BRS leaders to introspect on their administrative failures and stop confusing the people with baseless rhetoric.

The remarks underline growing tension between Telangana's ruling party and opposition as municipal election results continue to influence political narratives ahead of larger state and national elections.

Harish Rao Condemns Alleged Police Atrocities on BRS Leaders in Kyathanpalli



Adilabad/Kyathanpalli, February 19 | TPN Bureau

Former Minister and BRS

Deputy Floor Leader Harish Rao has strongly condemned the Telangana Con-

gress government over what he described as "undemocratic actions" during recent municipal elections, including the alleged mistreatment of Dalit and tribal women councillors.

Speaking after visiting former MLA Balk Suman in Adilabad Central Jail, Rao criticized the government for allegedly arresting Suman and other BRS activists and transferring them 200 kilometers away from their jurisdictions, calling it "malicious and unjust." Rao stated that the arrests were made despite multiple police stations, including those in Peddapalli and Asifabad, being available to detain them closer to home.

Rao accused Minister Vivek of overseeing misconduct, alleging that in Kyathanpalli, Congress-backed councillors physically intimidated women councillors from Dalit and tribal communities in full view of officials, while po-

lice failed to intervene. "Even when assaults occurred, the minister, in his official capacity, did not take action. It is shameful that elections were delayed and the public mandate ignored," he said.

He also pointed out discrepancies in law enforcement, noting that violent acts by Congress councillors or property damage caused by opposition members received no police action, while BRS leaders faced "illegal cases" and physical threats at police stations. Rao criticized attempts to manipulate chairperson elections despite clear public majorities, emphasizing that BRS won 14 of 22 seats in Kyathanpalli and that the coalition with CPI reflects the people's choice.

Rao further called out Rahul Gandhi, questioning why national Congress leaders remained silent while Telangana's government allegedly undermined

democratic processes. He demanded that the Governor and Election Commission take immediate action against officials who violated constitutional norms during the elections.

"Power is not permanent. The BRS will return to power, and those responsible for targeting our leaders and councillors will be held accountable," Rao warned. He reiterated that the government's attempts to subvert democracy through police complicity and intimidation would not be tolerated, and that legal and political consequences would follow.

The BRS leader urged authorities to respect the constitution and uphold democracy, emphasizing that citizens' votes must be honored and public officials must act impartially. "Those who have abused their power under the guise of authority will face the consequences when BRS returns to office," Rao concluded.

BRS Legislative Party Pays Tribute to Chatrapthi Shivaji Maharaj, Condemns Balk Suman Arrest



Telangana, February 19 | TPN Bureau

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Legislative Party marked the birth anniversary of legendary Maratha warrior and founder of the Hindu Empire, Chatrapthi Shivaji Maharaj, with ceremonial tributes at the Telangana Legislative Assembly. Led by the party's floor leader, Sirikonda Madhusudhana Chary, members of the assembly garlanded Shivaji Maharaj's statue and paid floral respects, emphasizing the need for Telangana's youth to draw inspiration from his courage, leadership, and valor.

During the event, the BRS Legislative Party strongly condemned the recent arrest of former legislator Balk Suman. The party described the detention as a "malicious act" and criticized the Congress government for allegedly undermining public mandate during the recent municipal elections in Kyathanpalli, Mancheriali district. According to BRS members, the Congress administration resorted to heavy-handed measures, disregarding the will of the people and interfering in local governance processes.

The BRS Legislative Party demanded the immediate withdrawal of cases against Balk Suman and his uncondi-

tional release, stating that his arrest violated democratic norms and public trust. Party leaders also criticized the Congress leadership, including Rahul Gandhi, for failing to address incidents of alleged violence in Kyathanpalli, claiming that local Congress leaders had harassed residents while police acted in favor of the ruling party.

"The actions of the Congress government are an affront to public mandate and constitutional governance. Arresting Balk Suman, who is fighting to uphold democratic values, is inhumane," said the BRS Legislative Party. The party highlighted that despite winning numerous municipal seats, BRS candidates were allegedly denied chairmanship positions through administrative and procedural manipulations.

Separately, BRS legislators convened under the leadership of Sirikonda Madhusudhana Chary to review the assembly's procedures and discuss departmental matters in preparation for the upcoming budget session. Participants included senior legislators such as L. Ramana, Dasoju Shrivani, Deshpati Srinivas, Tata Madhusudhana, Vani Devi, Koti Reddy, Naveen Reddy, and Goret Venkanna.

The meeting emphasized the importance of adhering to assembly protocols and ensuring that departmental discussions are conducted efficiently, reflecting the party's commitment to transparency and structured governance while continuing to uphold public interests and democratic norms.

Dasoju Sravan Condemns 'Bulldozer Rule' Against Dalits in Warangal

Warangal, February 19 | TPN Bureau

Telangana MLC Dr. Dasoju Sravan has strongly criticized the state government's attempts to demolish homes of long-standing Dalit families in Cherabanda Raju Nagar Colony near Bhadrakali Temple in Warangal city, calling the move "barbaric and inhuman." The affected families have been residing there for nearly 60-70 years.

On Wednesday, Dr. Sravan, along with former Chief Whip Dasayam Vinay Bhaskar and the BRS Party Legal Cell, met the Chairman of the Telangana State Human Rights Commission (HRC), Justice Shameem Akther, and submitted a formal complaint regarding the government's actions.

Dr. Sravan stated that, even before the public had recovered from recent attacks on tribals in Lagacharla, the authorities are attempting to forcibly seize and demolish Dalit homes in the name of "development," "projects," and "model roads," without following due process or issuing prior notices. He described these measures as a clear example of a "bulldozer rule."

The MLC condemned threats to cut drinking water and electricity connections to force families to vacate their homes. "Children are unable to attend schools due to lack of basic amenities. This is deeply unfortunate and unacceptable," he said.

He also criticized the authorities for failing to respond to representations submitted by the victims to



the District Collector and Commissioner. Finally, the Human Rights Commission intervened, with Chairman Justice Shameem Akther observing that the issue constitutes a constitutional violation and assuring that immediate directions would be issued. The HRC has scheduled a review of implementation on March 9.

"Is this people's governance? Is this the Constitution? Is this the Right to Life?" Dr. Sravan questioned. He emphasized that the government has no right to demolish homes of the poor and that forcibly disconnecting basic utilities constitutes authoritarianism, not democracy.

The MLC appealed to Dalit and tribal organizations across Telangana to unite and resist such unconstitutional actions, urging that the government be held accountable to prevent repetition of such incidents.

Dr. Sravan further demanded that the Collector and relevant officials fully implement the HRC's directives, ensuring the protection of Dalits' rights and dignity.

Shivaji Jayanti Celebrated with Fervour in Sanath Nagar

Secunderabad, February 19 | TPN Bureau

Former minister and Sanath Nagar MLA Talasani Srinivas Yadav paid rich tributes to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, describing him as a valiant warrior who fought heroically for the nation, during the 396th birth anniversary celebrations held across several localities in the constituency on Wednesday.

Participating in multiple commemorative programmes across divisions, the MLA said Shivaji Maharaj's courage, leadership and patriotism continue to inspire generations, especially the youth. He emphasized that remembering such historical icons strengthens national pride and social unity.

Celebrations Across Divisions

In the Bansilalpet division, Talasani attended events organised at Jabbar Complex under the aegis of his followers, at Flora Hotel in New Boiguda by the Jai Bhavani Shivaji Friends Association, and at Balayya Basti. He offered prayers at Shivaji Maharaj's statue



and interacted with local leaders and organisers. Several party functionaries and community representatives were present at the programmes.

Later, in the Ramgopalpet division, the MLA participated in a grand Shivaji Jayanti event at General

Bazaar. After performing special prayers to the statue, organisers felicitated him and presented a memento. Former corporators, local leaders and members of community groups took part in the celebrations.

In the Sanath Nagar division, a function was organ-

ised at Zakh Colony by the Shivaji Nagar Welfare Youth Association. Talasani performed rituals and paid floral tributes before being honoured by the organisers. He reiterated that Shivaji Maharaj's life stands as a symbol of bravery, administrative vision

and commitment to people's welfare.

Rally in Ameerpet

Marking the occasion, a rally was also conducted in the Ameerpet division from the Tahsilardar office to the municipal grounds on DK Road. The MLA joined the procession, climbed onto the ceremonial chariot carrying Shivaji Maharaj's idol, and performed prayers. Organisers later felicitated him in recognition of his participation.

Across the constituency, the celebrations witnessed enthusiastic participation from youth, community organisations and party leaders, with cultural programmes and tributes highlighting Shivaji Maharaj's legacy.

Talasani said the widespread participation reflected the deep respect people hold for the Maratha ruler and called upon citizens to imbibe his ideals of courage, discipline and dedication to society. He added that such commemorations not only honour history but also inspire collective progress and unity.

Congress Leader Protests Over Persistent Drainage Overflow



Secunderabad, February 19 | TPN Bureau

Bansilalpet Division Congress president Aita Chiranjeevi staged a protest by sitting beside overflowing drainage water at Padmarao Nagar, alleging official apathy and a "double standard" in addressing civic issues in the Sanath Nagar constituency.

The protest took place on the main road behind Gandhi Hospital near KFC, where foul-smelling sewage has reportedly been flowing for nearly a decade, causing severe inconvenience to pedestrians and motorists. Chiranjeevi said commuters have been facing unbearable conditions due to the persistent overflow, with stagnant wastewater spreading across the busy stretch daily.

He criticised officials of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation and Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, accusing them of ignoring repeated complaints. According to him, the problem remained unresolved during the previous Bharat Rashtra Samithi government and continues to trouble residents despite assurances.

Chiranjeevi noted that as part of ongoing development works under the present administration, a drainage project worth 45 lakh was recently inaugurated by the local MLA. However, he expressed disappointment that even after 20 days, work has not commenced on the ground. He alleged that despite multiple representations, officials have

failed to provide a clear timeline and are citing lack of budget allocation as the reason for the delay.

The Congress leader said he initially believed claims of financial constraints were political propaganda by BRS leaders, but added that it was surprising to see officials echoing similar statements. He accused certain authorities of favouring BRS legislators and leaders instead of acting in public interest, and demanded immediate intervention to resolve the issue.

Chiranjeevi further stated that he would bring the matter to the notice of in-charge minister Ponnampalabharathi and seek strict action against officials responsible for the delay. He stressed that development initiatives under the Congress government should not be hindered by administrative negligence.

Local residents who gathered at the protest site voiced frustration over the unhygienic conditions, saying the stagnant sewage poses serious health risks, especially to children and elderly people living nearby.

Demanding urgent action, Chiranjeevi urged authorities to immediately begin the sanctioned works and provide a permanent solution to the long-standing drainage problem.

Party leaders R. Krishna, Gunti Shyam, Nasreen, Shahida Begum, Deepika Sai, Sandeep and S.K. Ayub also participated in the protest, expressing solidarity with the residents and calling for swift civic response.

Sajjanar Warns Public Against Fake Websites



Hyderabad, February 19 | TPN Bureau

Senior police official V. C. Sajjanar has issued a fresh alert cautioning citizens about the rising menace of fake websites, warning that cybercriminals are increasingly exploiting search engine rankings to trap unsuspecting users.

With people relying heavily on search engines for information, he said fraudsters are taking advantage of this habit by creating phishing websites that closely resemble official government portals, banking platforms and popular service providers. Users who assume that top search

results are always genuine risk falling prey to scams, he cautioned, urging the public to remain vigilant while browsing online.

New Tactics by Cybercriminals

According to the advisory, scammers are using advanced techniques such as

Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) and paid advertisements to push fraudulent websites to the top of search results. These links often appear with small labels such as "Sponsored" or "Ad," making them easy to overlook.

Once users click on these fake sites, they are prompted to enter sensitive details including login credentials, passwords, debit or credit card numbers, CVV codes and one-time passwords. Fraudsters then use this information to siphon money from bank accounts within minutes.

Officials also warned that beyond financial losses, victims face the risk of identity theft, where criminals may misuse stolen personal data to obtain loans or commit other offences in the victim's name.

Police Advisory to Stay Safe

Police urged citizens to carefully verify website URLs before entering any personal information, noting that fake websites often have minor spelling differences from genuine ones. Users are advised to directly type the official website address into the browser instead of relying solely on search results.

They also recommended exercising extra caution before clicking on links marked "Sponsored" or "Ad." In case of suspected fraud, victims should immediately contact the National Cyber Crime Helpline at 1930 or lodge a complaint on the official portal.

Emphasising that awareness is the strongest defence, Sajjanar said public vigilance is crucial to staying safe in the digital world as cybercriminals continue to evolve their tactics.

Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti Celebrated with Fervour in Kompally



Quthbullapur, February 19 | TPN Bureau

Grand celebrations were held in Kompally Circle on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, with community members and leaders paying rich tributes to the legendary warrior king.

The festivities were organised under the aegis of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Youth Association at Pochammagadda, drawing large participation from residents and local leaders. Eatala Rajender, Member of Parliament from Malkajgiri, attended the programme as the chief guest.

During the event, Rajender and other dignitaries garlanded the statue of Shivaji Maharaj and paid floral tributes, remembering his contributions to nationhood, self-respect, and protection of dharma. Commemorative programmes were also conducted at various localities including Jayadarshini Enclave and Ayyappa Colony in Kompally and Dulapally areas, where participants reflected on the life and ideals of the Maratha ruler.

Speakers at the gatherings highlighted that Shivaji Maharaj symbolised patriotism, courage, and leadership, and said his life continues to inspire generations. They

urged the youth to imbibe his values of unity, discipline, and service to society, emphasising that such ideals remain relevant in strengthening social harmony and national pride.

Several BJP leaders and local representatives participated in the celebrations, including Medchal Urban district vice president Adireddy Rajireddy, Kompally Circle BJP president Satish Sagar, council member Janardhan Reddy, Quthbullapur Assembly co-convenor Shivaji Raju, and OBC vice president Ashok, among others. Local leaders and volunteers also took part in organising cultural and commemorative activities throughout the day.

Members of the celebrations committee and community volunteers actively coordinated the programmes, ensuring participation from residents across neighbourhoods. Cultural events, tribute meetings, and community interactions marked the occasion, creating a festive and reverential atmosphere.

The celebrations concluded with a call for collective efforts to uphold the ideals of courage, justice, and social responsibility exemplified by Shivaji Maharaj, with organisers expressing gratitude to all participants for making the event a success.

TX Hospitals Opens 5th Branch in Miyapur



Hyderabad, February 19 | TPN Bureau

TX Hospitals marked a significant milestone with the grand inauguration of its fifth branch in Miyapur, expanding its footprint in the city with a focus on ethical, high-quality, and advanced healthcare services.

The inauguration ceremony began with traditional rituals, including a homam and special prayers, followed by ribbon-cutting and lamp-lighting. The new facility was formally opened in the presence of noted actor Babu Mohan, actress Samyuktha Menon, and actor Akhil Uddemari, along with doctors, invited guests, and dignitaries.

The Miyapur centre has been established as a multi-specialty facility equipped with modern infrastructure, advanced diagnostic technology, and systematic clinical protocols. Hospital management stated that the unit is being developed as a centre of excellence in key specialties, with plans to introduce advanced robotic surgery services in the future.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Dr. Keertikar Reddy, Managing Director Dr. Deepak Raju, Executive Director Ravindra Reddy, and COO Dr. Srikanth Vonnala reaffirmed the organisation's

commitment to delivering patient-centric and quality-driven healthcare. They emphasised that the new branch reflects the group's vision of making advanced medical care more accessible to communities.

Senior management members, including Panduranga Reddy, Navya Vani, Dr. Ravi Kiran, and Janardhan, said the new facility would significantly enhance access to specialised healthcare services for residents of Miyapur and surrounding areas. They noted that the hospital is designed to provide comprehensive treatment under one roof, combining technology with experienced medical professionals.

Consultants, local media representatives, and digital influencers attended the inauguration, highlighting the growing interest in the hospital's expansion. The event also provided an overview of the services and facilities available at the new centre.

With five branches now operating in Hyderabad, TX Hospitals continues to strengthen its presence in the healthcare sector, positioning itself as a trusted provider known for clinical expertise, modern infrastructure, and a strong service-oriented approach.

Toddler Dies After Fall at Kompally Construction Site

Quthbullapur, February 19 | TPN Bureau

A tragic incident occurred at a construction site in Kompally under the limits of the Pet Basheerabad Police Station, where a four-year-old girl died after falling from the fifth floor of an under-construction building on Thursday morning.

According to police officials, the accident took place at the Om Sri Galaxy construction premises, where several labourers and their families are residing in temporary camps. The deceased child has been identified as Kabya Verma, daughter of Pradeep (32), a daily wage worker originally from Uttar Pradesh and currently living in Uma Maheshwara Colony in Kompally.

Police said the incident happened around 9:30 am when the child's mother Uma and mason Monu were engaged in cleaning work on the fifth floor of the building. During this time, Kabya reportedly walked into an adjacent room and moved towards the balcony area. Believing there was protective glass, the child is said to have attempted to hold onto the edge, but accidentally slipped and fell from the height.

Workers at the site rushed to her aid and immediately shifted the critically injured child to a nearby hospital for emergency treatment. However, doctors declared her brought dead on arrival, confirming that she had suffered severe injuries due to the fall. The sudden loss left fellow workers and family members in deep shock and grief, casting a pall of gloom over the labour camp.

Police officials stated that a case has been registered and an investigation is underway to ascertain the exact circumstances leading to the acci-



dent. Authorities are also examining whether adequate safety measures were in place at the construction site, including barricading of open areas and child-safety precautions, as several families with children were staying on the premises.

Preliminary inquiries suggest that the absence of protective barriers near the balcony may have contributed to the mishap, though officials said a detailed inspection will determine any lapses in safety compliance by the builders or contractors.

The incident has once again raised concerns over safety standards at construction sites where workers' families live in temporary shelters, often without proper protective infrastructure. Police said further action will be taken based on the findings of the investigation, while local authorities are expected to review safety protocols to prevent similar tragedies in the future.

Atmakur Chosen as Model Solar Village

Hanamkonda, February 19 | TPN Bureau

Atmakur village in Hanamkonda district has been selected as a model solar village under a key initiative aimed at accelerating renewable energy adoption and promoting sustainable rural development. The project is part of broader efforts to expand clean energy usage at the grassroots level and reduce reliance on conventional power sources.

Officials said the selection of Atmakur is intended to demonstrate how solar energy can be effectively integrated into everyday rural life. The initiative will focus on installing solar infrastructure across households, public institutions and agricultural operations, creating a comprehensive ecosystem powered by renewable energy.

As part of the project, rooftop solar panels are expected to be set up on homes and government buildings, while solar-powered streetlights will be installed to improve energy efficiency and public safety. Farmers in the village will also be encouraged to adopt solar-based solutions for irrigation and other farm activities, which could significantly reduce electricity expenses and improve reliability of power



supply.

Authorities believe the model village concept will not only help cut energy costs for residents but also create awareness about the environmental benefits of clean energy. By reducing carbon emissions and promoting sustainable practices, the initiative aims to position Atmakur as a benchmark for future

solar projects in other districts.

Local representatives welcomed the decision, saying the programme is likely to generate employment opportunities during the installation and maintenance of solar systems. They added that awareness drives and training sessions would be conducted to help villagers understand

how to use and maintain solar equipment effectively.

Officials noted that community participation will be crucial for the success of the initiative, with residents expected to play an active role in adopting and maintaining solar infrastructure. The project will be closely monitored to assess its impact on energy

consumption patterns, cost savings and overall quality of life in the village.

Once completed, the Atmakur model solar village is expected to serve as a replicable template for other regions, supporting the state's long-term vision of expanding renewable energy capacity and building a greener, more resilient rural economy.

AIIMS Bibinagar Works Must Finish by 2026: MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy

Bhongir (Bhuvanagiri), February 19 | TPN Bureau

Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, Member of Parliament from Bhuvanagiri, has directed officials to ensure that all construction works at AIIMS Bibinagar are completed by 2026 so that full-fledged medical services can be made available to the public within the stipulated timeline.

The MP issued the directive while chairing a high-level review meeting held at the AIIMS campus on Thursday. During the meeting, he expressed serious displeasure over the persistent delays in the construction of hospital buildings, noting that the project is already running nearly two years behind schedule. He questioned contractors and consultants over the reasons for the prolonged delay and warned that further slippages would not be tolerated.

Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy stressed that the works must strictly adhere to the revised construction calendar and be completed within the deadline. He in-



structed agencies to deploy additional manpower and speed up execution by running round-the-clock shifts if necessary. Emphasising accountability, he asked officials to closely monitor progress and submit periodic updates to avoid fur-

ther setbacks.

The MP also called for an expansion of healthcare services keeping in mind the growing needs of patients from surrounding regions. Highlighting the shortage of dialysis facilities, he said the existing two

dialysis machines are inadequate to meet demand and ordered the immediate procurement and installation of 25 additional units. He further directed authorities to submit a comprehensive report detailing requirements for medical equip-

ment, infrastructure, and service expansion.

On employment, the MP made strong remarks regarding recruitment policies at AIIMS. He demanded that at least 25 percent of all jobs created at the institute be reserved for local candidates. According to him, priority for local youth is essential to ensure equitable development and to provide meaningful employment opportunities in the region.

"Local unemployed youth must get their rightful share in AIIMS jobs. We will not compromise until justice is ensured," he asserted, adding that he would continue to follow up with authorities until the demand is implemented.

The review concluded with instructions to all departments to coordinate closely and accelerate progress so that the premier healthcare institution becomes fully operational within the targeted timeframe, significantly improving access to advanced medical care for people across the region.

GHMC Reorganisation Faces Legal Challenge



Hyderabad, Feb. 19 | TPN Bureau

The proposed reorganisation of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has come under judicial scrutiny after a writ petition challenging the move was admitted by the Telangana High Court. The case raises questions over the legality and timing of the government's decision to restructure the civic body into multiple municipal corporations.

A two-judge bench headed by Chief Justice Apareesh Kumar Singh and Justice G.M. Mohiuddin took up the petition filed by Daram Guruva Reddy, who has questioned the constitutional validity of the state government's order to divide the existing GHMC. The proposed restructuring envisages the creation of three separate entities — Cyberabad Municipal Corporation, Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation and a redefined GHMC — as part of an administrative overhaul aimed at improving governance and service delivery.

According to the petitioner, the Government Order issued on February 11, 2026, violates the jurisdictional freeze currently in force for the upcoming Census exercise. He argued that the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India had directed that no administrative or territorial changes be carried out after December 31, 2025, to maintain uniformity during census opera-

tions. Any alteration of municipal boundaries during this period, he contended, could disrupt census processes and contravene binding central guidelines.

The petition further alleges that the decision is arbitrary and violates constitutional provisions, including the right to equality. It claims the reorganisation lacks sufficient legal backing and was undertaken without due consideration of statutory restrictions imposed during the census freeze period.

After hearing preliminary arguments, the High Court issued notices to both the Central and State governments, directing them to file their counter-affidavits within three weeks. The matter has been adjourned for further hearing, and the court's eventual ruling is expected to have significant implications for urban governance in the Hyderabad metropolitan region.

The proposed bifurcation has sparked debate among policymakers, civic experts and political stakeholders, with supporters arguing that smaller municipal units could improve administrative efficiency, while critics warn of potential legal and logistical complications. As the legal proceedings unfold, the future administrative structure of Hyderabad's civic governance remains uncertain, pending judicial review.

Kadiyam Srihari Questions 'Telangana Sentiment Politics'



Hyderabad, February 19 | TPN Bureau

Station Ghanpur MLA Kadiyam Srihari on Thursday launched a sharp attack on K. Chandrashekar Rao, questioning why the former chief minister was not engaging directly with the public despite projecting himself as the "father of Telangana."

Speaking to the media, Srihari alleged that Rao has not been responding to pressing public issues and criticised what he described as continued reliance on Telangana sentiment for political gains. He said the people expect accountability and transparency rather than emotional appeals.

The MLA also made serious allegations against members of Rao's family, claiming they were involved in multiple irregularities and facing legal cases. He criticised the handling of major infrastructure projects, particularly the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project, alleging that it had put a heavy financial burden on the state.

Srihari questioned the source of the family's wealth, asking whether their assets, allegedly worth thousands of crores, were earned through legitimate

means. He further remarked that even after losing power, the leadership had not shed what he termed as arrogance.

Taking aim at both the Bharat Rashtra Samithi and the Bharatiya Janata Party, the Congress leader accused them of obstructing Telangana's development and engaging in divisive politics. He said the state now needs constructive governance focused on growth and welfare rather than political rhetoric.

Srihari reiterated that the public is increasingly looking for issue-based politics and urged opposition parties to play a responsible role in addressing people's concerns. He added that the government remains committed to development initiatives and will continue to prioritise public welfare programmes across the state.

His remarks come amid intensifying political exchanges in Telangana, with leaders trading accusations over governance, development projects and financial management, signalling a continuing war of words between ruling and opposition parties.

Grand Celebrations of Chatrapthi Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti at Saraswati Shishumandir



Adilabad, February 19 | TPN Bureau

Saraswati Shishumandir School in Ichoda Mandal, Adilabad district, celebrated the birth anniversary of the legendary Maratha warrior and founder of the Hindu Empire, Chatrapthi Shivaji Maharaj, with grandeur and enthusiasm. The school organized special ceremonies to honor the valor, leadership, and vision of Shivaji Maharaj.

Students and teachers paid tribute by garlanding the statue of Chatrapthi Shivaji Maharaj and offering floral respects. Principal Acharya Marathi Santosh Kumar addressed the gathering, highlighting Shivaji Maharaj's greatness and his unwavering commitment to establishing a Hindu kingdom. He described how Shivaji Maharaj fearlessly fought enemies, inspiring generations through his courage and strategic brilliance in battle. The principal urged students to emu-

late Shivaji Maharaj's bravery, devotion to duty, and dedication to the Hindu heritage, emphasizing the importance of preserving Indian values and cultural pride. "His courage, leadership, and patriotism continue to serve as guiding examples for all of us," he said.

Teachers including Usharani, Bharati, Sujata, Manjula, and Shankar, along with the students, actively participated in the celebrations. The event featured storytelling and discussions about Shivaji Maharaj's contributions, his strategies in warfare, and his role in inspiring unity and pride among the people.

The celebration at Saraswati Shishumandir served not only as a tribute to a historic warrior but also as a lesson in courage, leadership, and the importance of upholding Indian cultural values among the younger generation.

High Court Hears CM Revanth Reddy's Quash Petition

Hyderabad, February 19 | TPN Bureau

A. Revanth Reddy, Chief Minister of Telangana, appeared before the Telangana High Court through legal counsel as the court heard his quash petition seeking dismissal of two criminal cases registered against him in 2023.

The cases were filed at the Bhupalpally and Mogullapalli police stations following a complaint lodged by former BRS MLA Gandra Venkataramana Reddy. In his complaint, the former legislator alleged that Revanth Reddy made serious allegations against him during public meetings, leading to the registration of two separate cases.

Revanth Reddy subsequently approached the High Court seeking to have both cases quashed, arguing that the charges lacked legal merit. During the hearing, the court granted him exemption from personal appearance before the Bhupalpally trial court in connection with the cases, providing interim relief.

Counsel representing Gandra sought additional time to file a counter affidavit responding to the quash petition. Accepting the re-



quest, the High Court adjourned the matter and posted the next hearing after three weeks.

Legal observers note that quash petitions are commonly filed to challenge the validity of criminal proceedings at an early stage, and the court's decision to grant exemption from personal appearance is typically aimed at ensuring procedural convenience while the legal issues are examined.

The development comes amid ongoing political activity in the state, with the case drawing attention due to the high-profile nature of the individuals involved. Further proceedings will depend on the submissions made by both sides when the matter is taken up again.

Court officials said the case will be listed for hearing after the stipulated period, when the bench will consider the counter and determine the next course of action.

Tim Cook's Leadership Is Testing Apple's Shine

The global success story of Apple has long been tied to its image as one of the world's most admired and valuable brands. For over a decade, it has retained a dominant position in brand rankings, symbolizing innovation, premium quality, and customer loyalty. Yet, under the leadership of Tim Cook, questions are increasingly being raised about whether some strategic decisions are quietly chipping away at that polished reputation.

This critique does not come from a place of failure—far from it. Apple remains enormously profitable and influential. However, the concern is that its leadership may be making choices that, while beneficial in the short term, could have long-term consequences for its brand identity and values.

A Strong Brand Facing Subtle Erosion

Apple's brand has always stood for more than just products. It has represented a philosophy—privacy, sustainability, and a certain ethical positioning in the tech industry. These ideals helped distinguish it from competitors and built deep trust among consumers.

However, critics argue that recent decisions suggest a shift away from those principles. One notable issue is the company's approach to environmental responsibility. Reports indicate that Apple has scaled back incentives that previously encouraged executives to prioritize environmental impact in their decision-making.

This change may seem technical or internal, but it signals something deeper. When environmental goals are no longer tied to leadership accountability, it raises doubts about how seriously those commitments are taken. For a company that has marketed itself as environmentally conscious, such moves risk undermining credibility.

Profit Versus Principles

Under Tim Cook, Apple has excelled operationally. The company has expanded its supply chains, strengthened its services business, and maintained high margins. Cook's strengths lie in efficiency, logistics, and global strategy—areas where he has arguably surpassed even his predecessor, Steve Jobs.

But this operational excellence has come with trade-offs. Critics suggest that Apple is increasingly behaving like a conventional cor-



porate giant rather than a values-driven innovator. Decisions appear more focused on maximizing revenue and maintaining dominance than on preserving the distinct ethos that once defined the company.

This tension between profit and principle is not unique to Apple, but it is more noticeable because of the company's carefully cultivated image. When a brand promises to "think different," any move that appears ordinary—or worse, contradictory—stands out sharply.

The Risk of Brand Damage

Brand value is not just about financial performance; it is also about perception. Apple's strength lies in the emotional connection it has built with its users. If that connection weakens, even slightly, the long-term impact could be significant.

For instance, if consumers begin to see Apple as less committed

to privacy or sustainability, it may lose one of its key differentiators. In a competitive tech landscape, where rivals are constantly improving their products, brand trust becomes even more crucial.

The concern is not that Apple is failing today, but that it may be slowly eroding the very qualities that made it exceptional. These changes are subtle, which makes them more dangerous—they can accumulate over time without triggering immediate alarm.

Leadership Style: Stability Over Vision?

Tim Cook's leadership style is markedly different from that of Steve Jobs. Where Jobs was known for bold vision and product intuition, Cook is recognized for discipline and execution. This shift has brought stability and consistent growth, but it has also changed how Apple is perceived.

Cook's approach has turned Apple into a highly efficient machine,

capable of delivering predictable results. However, some argue that this comes at the cost of daring innovation and strong moral positioning. The company still produces high-quality products, but it no longer feels as disruptive or revolutionary as it once did.

This raises a broader question: can a company maintain its original identity as it grows larger and more complex? Apple's current trajectory suggests that scale and efficiency may be taking precedence over the ideals that once defined it.

Balancing Growth and Responsibility

To be fair, Apple operates in an extremely challenging environment. It faces pressure from governments, regulators, investors, and competitors across the globe. Balancing these demands while maintaining profitability is no easy task.

Moreover, many of Apple's decisions can be justified from a business standpoint. Reducing certain incentives or adjusting strategies may help the company remain competitive and adaptable. But the issue is not whether these decisions make sense financially—it is whether they align with the company's stated values.

In today's world, consumers are increasingly attentive to corporate behavior. They expect companies to act responsibly, not just profitably. For Apple, this expectation is even higher because of its brand positioning.

A Turning Point for Apple

Apple stands at a critical juncture. It is still one of the most powerful and respected companies in the world, but its future reputation will depend on the choices it makes now.

If it continues to prioritize efficiency and profit at the expense of its core principles, it risks becoming

just another large corporation—successful, but no longer special. On the other hand, if it reaffirms its commitment to values like sustainability and user trust, it can strengthen its position as a leader not just in technology, but in corporate responsibility.

Tim Cook's leadership has undeniably taken Apple to new financial heights. The challenge now is to ensure that this success does not come at the cost of the company's soul.

Conclusion

The criticism of Tim Cook is not about incompetence—it is about direction. Apple is still thriving, but the concern is that it may be drifting away from what made it iconic.

In the end, the question is simple yet profound: can Apple remain Apple under its current path? The answer will determine not just its market position, but its legacy in the tech world.

Trump's Iran Strategy: Power Without a Clear Endgame

The evolving tensions between the United States and Iran have once again drawn global attention to Washington's approach under Donald Trump. While the administration has projected strength through military build-up and aggressive rhetoric, a closer look suggests a troubling possibility: there may be no coherent long-term plan guiding these actions.

This critique is not about America's capability—it is about clarity of purpose. The United States has the means to act decisively, but the central question remains: what exactly is it trying to achieve in Iran?

A Strategy Built on Pressure, Not Direction

At first glance, the current approach appears familiar. Trump has revived elements of a "maximum pressure" doctrine—tightening sanctions, issuing threats, and keeping military options on the table. This strategy is designed to force Iran into submission, particularly over its nuclear ambitions.

However, pressure alone does not constitute a strategy. It is a tool, not an objective. The concern is that Washington seems focused on coercion without clearly defining the desired political outcome.

Is the goal regime change? A revised nuclear deal? Regional containment? Or simply deterrence?

The ambiguity is striking—and potentially dangerous.

Military Power Without Political Clarity

The United States has demonstrated its readiness for escalation, reinforcing its presence in the Middle East and signaling that it is prepared for confrontation if necessary.

At the same time, Trump has issued stark warnings about possible strikes if Iran does not comply with U.S. demands.

Yet, despite this show of force, there is no clearly articulated roadmap for what comes next. Even if military action were to succeed tactically—through targeted strikes or limited operations—the strategic outcome remains uncertain.

History has repeatedly shown that military victories do not automatically translate into stable political solutions. Without a defined endgame, such actions risk creating more instability rather than resolving it.

Diplomacy and Threats: A Contradictory Mix

Complicating matters further is the administration's simultaneous reliance on diplomacy. While threatening military action, the U.S. has also engaged in indirect talks with Iran, seeking a new nuclear agreement.

This dual-track approach—talking while threatening—can be effective if carefully managed. However, in this case, it appears inconsistent. The lack of a unified strategy raises doubts about whether



diplomacy is being pursued as a genuine solution or merely as a complement to pressure tactics.

Such contradictions can weaken credibility, making it harder for adversaries and allies alike to understand U.S. intentions.

The Regime Change Question

One of the most critical uncertainties is whether the United States is implicitly aiming for regime change in Iran.

There are signals pointing in that direction. Trump has previously suggested that a change in Iran's leadership

could be beneficial, and some voices have openly supported such an outcome.

But regime change is not a simple objective—it is a complex and risky undertaking. It raises immediate questions:

- What would replace the current system?
- Who would govern Iran afterward?
- How would stability be ensured in a volatile region?

These questions remain largely unanswered, reinforcing the perception that there is no fully developed plan.

Iran's Response: Defiance and Leverage

Iran, for its part, has shown a mix of resistance and strategic signaling. It has continued its nuclear activities while engaging in negotiations, and it has demonstrated its ability to influence regional dynamics.

A key example is its position around the Strait of Hormuz, a critical route for global oil shipments. Control and influence over this passage give Iran significant geopolitical leverage.

Iran's approach appears more consistent: resist pressure, maintain leverage, and negotiate from a position of strength. In contrast, the U.S. approach seems reactive, shift-

ing between escalation and engagement without a clearly defined trajectory.

The Risks of an Undefined Endgame

The absence of a clear plan carries serious risks.

First, it increases the likelihood of miscalculation. Military build-ups and aggressive rhetoric can escalate tensions rapidly, especially in a region already fraught with conflict.

Second, it undermines alliances. Partners in the region may support strong action against Iran, but they also need clarity about U.S. intentions. Without it, coordination becomes more difficult.

Third, it weakens deterrence. A strategy that appears inconsistent or undefined may embolden adversaries rather than restrain them.

A Pattern of Tactical Wins, Strategic Uncertainty

Trump's approach to foreign policy has often emphasized bold, immediate actions—sanctions, threats, and high-stakes negotiations. This style can produce short-term gains, such as bringing adversaries to the negotiating table.

However, the Iran situation highlights a recurring issue: tactical moves are not always supported by long-term strategic planning.

Previous actions have reshaped the geopolitical landscape but have also contributed to cycles of escalation without resolving the underlying conflict.

What a Real Plan Would Require

A coherent Iran strategy would need several key elements:

- **Clear Objectives:** Defining whether the goal is containment, negotiation, or transformation
- **Consistent Policy:** Aligning military, diplomatic, and economic tools toward a single outcome
- **Regional Coordination:** Working closely with allies to ensure stability and shared goals
- **Post-Conflict Planning:** Preparing for the consequences of any major action

Without these components, policy risks becoming reactive rather than strategic.

Conclusion

The core argument is not that the United States lacks power—it is that it may lack direction.

Under Donald Trump, the approach toward Iran combines pressure, threats, and negotiation. But without a clearly defined endgame, these elements do not add up to a comprehensive strategy.

In geopolitics, intent matters as much as capability. And in the case of Iran, the absence of a real plan could prove more consequential than any single decision.

The stakes are high—not just for the United States and Iran, but for the stability of the entire Middle East.

India Pushes for 'Democratised AI' Doctrine After Global Summit

India is preparing to advocate a new global framework for artificial intelligence that focuses on accessibility, inclusion, and shared technological benefits. Following discussions at the AI Impact Summit 2026, the country is promoting a "democratised AI" doctrine aimed at ensuring that advanced technologies are not controlled by a select few but are available to a wider global population.

This initiative stems from growing concerns that AI capabilities are increasingly concentrated among a handful of developed nations and large technology corporations. Indian policymakers believe such concentration risks deepening global inequality and limiting innovation. By pushing for democratisation, India aims to shift the global narrative toward equitable access and collaborative progress.

The proposed doctrine emphasises the need to expand AI access across developing countries, startups, and public institutions. The idea is to ensure that AI is used to address real-world challenges in sectors such as healthcare, education, agriculture, and governance. By making these technologies more accessible, India hopes to unlock their potential to improve everyday life on a global scale.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has strongly supported a human-centric approach to AI. He has stressed that technolo-



gy should empower people rather than replace them and must be developed with safeguards around safety, trust, and inclusivity. This philosophy aligns with the broader goal of ensuring AI serves the public good instead of being driven solely by commercial interests.

India is also positioning itself as a key player in shaping global AI governance. Acting as a bridge between advanced economies and developing nations, it is advocating for frameworks that promote fairness and shared growth. The country's leadership role in hosting international discussions highlights its ambi-

tion to influence the future direction of AI policy worldwide.

A major component of the democratised AI vision is the creation of shared resources, including open datasets, collaborative platforms, and interoperable systems. Such measures could reduce entry barriers for smaller players and encourage innovation beyond traditional tech hubs.

Infrastructure development is another priority. India plans to significantly expand its computing capacity, recognising that access to high-performance computing is critical for AI advancement. At the same time, efforts are being

made to build a skilled workforce through education and training, ensuring broader participation in the AI economy.

Despite its promise, the approach faces challenges, including concerns around data privacy, security, and global regulatory alignment. However, India remains committed to advancing this inclusive vision.

The democratised AI doctrine signals a broader effort to shape the future of technology in a way that is both innovative and equitable, ensuring that the benefits of AI are shared across societies rather than concentrated in a few hands.

Supriya Sule Seeks Security for Rohit Pawar After Ajit Pawar's Death in Plane Crash

In the aftermath of a tragic plane crash that claimed the life of senior Maharashtra leader Ajit Pawar, concerns over the safety of his family have intensified. His sister and prominent Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Supriya Sule has formally requested enhanced security for her nephew Rohit Pawar, citing potential risks following the shocking incident.

Ajit Pawar, a key political figure in Maharashtra, died in a sudden and devastating plane crash that sent shockwaves through the state's political landscape. His unexpected demise has not only created a leadership vacuum but also raised concerns about the safety of those close to him, especially family members actively involved in politics.

Supriya Sule, who has been vocal about the emotional and political impact of the tragedy, has now taken a proactive step by appealing to authorities for additional protection for Rohit Pawar. Rohit, a rising



leader in Maharashtra politics and an MLA, has been increasingly visible in public life, making him potentially vulnerable in the current tense environment.

In her request, Sule highlighted that the tragic circumstances surrounding Ajit Pawar's death have created unease and uncertainty. While there is no official confirmation of any direct threat,

she stressed that precautionary measures are necessary to ensure Rohit Pawar's safety. The appeal reflects broader concerns within political circles about security risks faced by public figures and their families during sensitive times.

Rohit Pawar, known for his active engagement with youth and grassroots initiatives, has been gaining prominence

within the party. His growing influence and public outreach make him a significant political figure, further underlining the need for adequate security arrangements.

Authorities are expected to review the request and assess the threat perception before making a decision. Security provisions for politicians in India are typically determined based on intelligence inputs and perceived risks, and such appeals are not uncommon following major incidents.

The tragic loss of Ajit Pawar has deeply affected not just his family but also the political ecosystem in Maharashtra. As the state continues to process the impact of this incident, the focus remains on ensuring stability and safeguarding those who may be at risk.

Supriya Sule's appeal underscores the importance of vigilance and preventive measures in uncertain times, especially when public figures and their families may face unforeseen dangers.

Mamata Banerjee Slams PM Modi Over 'Swami' Reference to Ramakrishna

Mamata Banerjee has sharply criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his tribute to 19th-century mystic Ramakrishna Paramahansa, triggering a fresh political row.

The controversy began after the Prime Minister shared a message marking the saint's birth anniversary. In his post, he referred to Ramakrishna using the prefix "Swami," praising his teachings and spiritual legacy.

Mamata Banerjee objected strongly to this usage, calling it culturally inappropriate and historically inaccurate. She argued that Ramakrishna is traditionally revered as "Thakur," a term that reflects deep spiritual reverence in Bengal. According to her, the title "Swami" is typically used for his monastic disciples, not for the saint himself.

Expressing her disapproval publicly, Banerjee said the use of such a prefix showed a lack of understanding of Bengal's cultural and spiritual traditions. She urged the Prime Minister to avoid altering established forms of respect associated with revered figures.

She further explained the traditional structure within the Ramakrishna movement, noting that Ramakrishna is regarded as "Thakur," while his disciples, including Swami Vivekananda, are ad-



dressed with the title "Swami." Changing this convention, she suggested, distorts long-standing cultural practices.

The issue quickly gained political traction, with leaders and commentators weighing in on the debate. Supporters of Banerjee echoed concerns about preserving cultural authenticity, while others viewed the controversy as part of ongoing political tensions between the central government and opposition leaders.

The episode highlights how even symbolic gestures, such as tribute messages, can spark significant debate in India's politically and culturally sensitive landscape. It also underscores the importance attached to religious titles and traditions, particularly when associated with widely revered figures.

As discussions continue, the incident reflects the broader intersection of politics, culture, and identity, where even small linguistic choices can lead to larger national conversations.

DMDK Signals Openness to DMK Alliance Ahead of Tamil Nadu Elections

The Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK), founded by late actor-turned-politician Vijayakanth, has hinted at a possible alliance with the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) for the upcoming Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, marking a potential shift in the state's political landscape.

Senior leaders of DMDK have indicated that the party remains open to discussions with various political players, including the DMK, as it explores strategies to strengthen its position in the state. While no formal agreement has been finalized, the signals suggest a pragmatic approach by DMDK as it seeks to regain political relevance after a period of electoral setbacks.

The DMK, led by Chief Minister M. K. Stalin, has been consolidating its alliances in preparation for the elections. An alliance with DMDK could potentially expand its voter base, particularly among supporters who continue to revere Vijayakanth's legacy.

DMDK, once a significant force in Tamil Nadu politics, has struggled to maintain its earlier momentum in recent years. The party's leadership appears keen to rebuild its influence by aligning with a stronger political partner. Political observers believe that joining hands with the DMK could provide DMDK with a



renewed platform and better electoral prospects.

However, the possibility of such an alliance also raises questions about ideological compatibility and seat-sharing arrangements. Negotiations, if they proceed, are expected to focus on these critical aspects. Both parties will need to strike a balance between political strategy and grassroots expectations.

The development has sparked discussions among political analysts, with some viewing it as a strategic move that could reshape alliances in Tamil Nadu. Others remain cautious, noting that alliance talks in the state often involve complex negotiations and last-minute changes.

As the election approaches, the focus will remain on whether these initial signals translate into a formal partnership. For now, DMDK's openness to aligning with the DMK underscores the dynamic nature of Tamil Nadu politics, where alliances continue to evolve in response to changing political realities.

Fake Video Row: PIB Debunks Claim About Mohan Bhagwat's 'Army Saffronisation' Remark



A viral video alleging that Mohan Bhagwat urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to "saffronise" the Indian Army has been officially dismissed as fake, with authorities confirming that the clip was digitally manipulated.

The controversy began after a short video circulated widely on social media platforms. The clip appeared to show the RSS chief making controversial remarks about restructuring the Indian Army along ideological lines. The video quickly triggered political reactions and public debate, raising concerns about the integrity of institutions and the spread of misinformation.

However, India's official fact-checking agency stepped in to examine the authenticity of the claim. The Press Information Bureau (PIB) clarified that the video was not genuine and had been altered using advanced digital techniques. According to the findings, the visuals were taken from

a real public speech delivered by Bhagwat, but the audio had been tampered with and replaced.

Investigations revealed that the voice in the viral clip was likely generated using artificial intelligence. Fact-checkers noted that the speech in the original footage did not contain any references to the Indian Army or any call for "saffronisation." Instead, the doctored version inserted fabricated statements to create a misleading narrative.

Further analysis confirmed that the manipulated video reused footage from an event held in late 2025, where Bhagwat had addressed issues unrelated to the claims being circulated. The altered audio track was superimposed onto the original visuals, making the clip appear authentic at first glance.

Officials described the incident as part of a broader trend of misinformation driven by deepfake technology. The use of AI-generated audio and video has made it

increasingly difficult for viewers to distinguish between real and fabricated content. Authorities warned that such content can inflame tensions and mislead the public if not verified.

The PIB urged citizens to exercise caution while sharing unverified videos online and emphasized the importance of relying on credible sources. It also highlighted the growing need for digital literacy as deepfake technology becomes more sophisticated and accessible.

The episode underscores the risks posed by manipulated media in an era where information spreads rapidly across platforms. While the viral clip created temporary outrage, fact-checking efforts helped clarify the truth and prevent further escalation.

As technology evolves, experts believe that combating misinformation will require a combination of public awareness, stronger verification systems, and responsible social media usage.

Priyanka Gandhi's Assam Visit Sparks Buzz After 'PM Blessing' Video Goes Viral



Priyanka Gandhi Vadra began her two-day visit to Assam with a temple stop that unexpectedly grabbed national attention after a video of an ascetic blessing her went viral on social media.

Arriving in Guwahati, the Congress leader headed straight to the revered Kamakhya Temple to offer prayers. The visit is part of the party's preparations for the upcoming 2026 Assam Assembly elections, where she plays a key organisational role in candidate selection and campaign strategy.

However, what drew widespread attention was a brief interaction during her temple visit. A Naga sadhu approached her and placed his hand on her head as a gesture of blessing. In a moment captured on video, he remarked that she would one day become Prime Minister.

The unexpected comment appeared to catch Priyanka Gandhi off guard. She responded with a smile and moved on, but the clip

quickly spread across social media platforms, triggering discussions and reactions from users across the country.

Despite the viral moment, the visit carries significant political importance. As the Screening Committee Chairperson, Gandhi is responsible for evaluating potential candidates and strengthening the party's grassroots presence in the state. After offering prayers, she proceeded to party meetings in Guwahati, where she is scheduled to interact with senior leaders and workers.

Her itinerary includes discussions with members of district and block-level committees, as well as interactions with representatives from affiliated wings such as youth and women's groups. These engagements are aimed at energising the party base and improving coordination ahead of the elections.

The Congress party has been working to regain political ground in Assam, and Gandhi's visit is seen as

a crucial step in that effort. Building a strong organisational network and identifying competitive candidates are key priorities as the party looks to challenge its rivals in the state.

Meanwhile, the viral video has added an unexpected layer of public attention to the trip. While the blessing itself was informal and not part of any official messaging, its symbolic tone has sparked conversations online.

The incident also reflects how quickly moments from political visits—especially those involving religious or cultural settings—can gain traction in the digital age. Even brief interactions can become widely discussed, sometimes overshadowing the primary purpose of a visit.

As Priyanka Gandhi continues her engagements in Assam, the focus remains on political strategy and election readiness. Yet, the viral blessing has ensured that her visit is being talked about far beyond the immediate political context.

Prince Andrew Arrested Over Epstein Links, Sends Shockwaves Through British Royal Family

In a stunning development, Prince Andrew, the younger brother of King Charles III, has reportedly been arrested as part of an investigation linked to disgraced financier Jeffrey Epstein. The incident has reignited global attention on a long-running controversy that has shadowed the royal family for years.

Arrest and Ongoing Probe

Authorities detained Andrew at his residence in Norfolk, where he had been living following his withdrawal from royal duties. Law enforcement officials have indicated that the arrest is tied to allegations of misconduct in public office, a serious charge under UK law.

Investigators are examining whether Andrew may have improperly shared confidential or sensitive information during his tenure as a UK trade envoy. Reports suggest that the probe involves reviewing documents, communications, and international evidence connected to Epstein's network.

Search operations were also carried out at multiple properties, signaling the scale and seriousness of the investigation.

Nature of the Allegations
The case is reportedly based on newly surfaced records that suggest Andrew may have had deeper involvement with Epstein than previously understood. These materials allegedly include communications that raise concerns about the misuse of official position and access.

The central question investigators are pursuing is whether Andrew breached public trust while representing the UK abroad. Misconduct in public office carries significant legal consequences if proven.

Authorities have emphasized that the inquiry is ongoing and complex, involving multiple jurisdictions and extensive documentation.



A Controversy Years in the Making

Andrew's association with Epstein has long been a source of public scrutiny and criticism. Epstein, who was convicted of sex-related offenses, maintained relationships with several influential figures across the world.

Andrew has repeatedly denied wrongdoing. However, his public image suffered a major blow following a widely criticized television interview in 2019, which led to intense backlash.

In 2022, he reached a financial settlement in a civil case related to allegations connected to Epstein, though he did not admit liability. The controversy ultimately forced him to step away from official royal duties.

Fall From Royal Standing

Even before this latest development, Andrew's role within the monarchy had been significantly reduced. He had already lost military titles and

royal patronages, and he ceased representing the royal family in any official capacity.

Efforts by King Charles III to modernize and protect the monarchy's image had further distanced Andrew from royal life. His relocation away from prominent royal residences symbolized his diminished standing within the institution.

Public Reaction and Institutional Pressure

The arrest has triggered strong reactions across the UK and beyond. Many see it as a test of whether the legal system will treat powerful individuals the same as ordinary citizens.

Public discourse has focused on accountability, transparency, and the broader implications for institutions traditionally seen as above scrutiny. The case has also revived debates about privilege and responsibility within elite circles.

Buckingham Palace has remained largely silent on the specifics of the case but is expected to monitor develop-

ments closely.

What Lies Ahead

Andrew remains under investigation as authorities continue to gather and assess evidence. The next phase could involve formal charges, further questioning, or potential court proceedings, depending on the outcome of the inquiry.

Given the international scope of Epstein's connections, cooperation between multiple agencies may play a crucial role in determining the direction of the case.

A Critical Moment for the Monarchy

This episode represents one of the most serious legal challenges involving a senior royal in modern British history. Beyond its legal implications, it poses a broader challenge to the reputation and credibility of the monarchy.

As events unfold, the case is likely to have lasting consequences—not only for Prince Andrew but also for how the royal institution is perceived in an era increasingly defined by demands for accountability and transparency.

US Deploys Massive Air Power in Middle East Amid Rising Iran Tensions



A significant military buildup by the United States Armed Forces in the Middle East has heightened global attention, as advanced fighter jets and naval assets are rapidly positioned near Iran. The move signals a sharp escalation in strategic readiness amid ongoing tensions in the region.

Large-Scale Air Deployment

At the core of this buildup are cutting-edge aircraft such as the F-22 Raptor and the F-35 Lightning II. These jets, known for their stealth capabilities and advanced combat systems, have been deployed alongside other fighter aircraft and support units.

The scale of the operation is notable, with dozens of aircraft moved into key locations within a short period. These deployments are supported by aerial refueling systems and logistical networks, enabling sustained missions if required.

In addition to air power, naval forces have also been reinforced, including aircraft carriers and warships positioned strategically to enhance operational reach.

Strategic Context

The deployment comes during a period of heightened friction between the United States and Iran. Disagreements over security issues and Iran's nuclear ambitions have kept relations strained.

While diplomatic channels remain open, the military buildup reflects a parallel strategy—maintaining pressure while keeping options open in case negotiations fail.

A Powerful Signal

The presence of stealth aircraft like the F-22 and F-35 sends a strong message. These jets are designed for precision strikes, intelligence gathering, and operating in contested environments with minimal detection.

Their deployment suggests that the US is prepared for a wide range of scenarios, from deterrence to potential military action. However, officials have not indicated any immediate plans for conflict.

Iran's Reaction

In response, Iran has stepped up its own military preparedness. Exercises and strategic maneuvers have been conducted, particularly

around critical waterways such as the Strait of Hormuz, a vital route for global oil shipments.

Iranian authorities have warned against external pressure, emphasizing their readiness to defend national interests if necessary.

Global Concerns Rise

The situation has drawn concern from across the international community. The Middle East plays a crucial role in global energy supply, and any escalation could have widespread economic consequences.

There are also fears of unintended conflict, where miscalculations or minor incidents could rapidly spiral into a larger confrontation.

A Delicate Moment

With advanced aircraft deployed, naval forces on standby, and tensions running high, the region remains on edge. The current buildup underscores both the seriousness of the situation and the fragile balance between deterrence and diplomacy.

What happens next will depend on whether ongoing efforts can ease tensions—or whether the situation moves closer to open conflict.

Outrage in US After MAGA Leader's Remarks on Hanuman Statue

A controversy has erupted in the United States after comments made by MAGA figure Carlos Turcios about a Hindu religious statue sparked widespread backlash and debate over cultural sensitivity.

The issue began when Turcios publicly criticized a large statue of Hanuman located in the US, referring to it in derogatory terms. His remarks, which included calling it a "third-world alien" structure, quickly drew sharp reactions from various communities, particularly Hindu groups who viewed the statement as offensive and disrespectful.

The statue, installed in the state of Texas, is a prominent cultural and religious landmark. It represents devotion, strength, and unity for followers of Hinduism and stands as a symbol of the growing diversity within American society. For many, such monuments also reflect the contributions of immigrant communities in shaping the cultural landscape



of the country.

Turcios' comments triggered a wave of criticism on social media, with many users condemning what they saw as intolerance toward non-Western cultures and religions. Community leaders and activists argued that such rhetoric risks deepening divisions and fostering misunderstanding in an already polarized environment.

Supporters of religious harmony emphasized that the United States has long prided

itself on being a multicultural society where people of different beliefs coexist peacefully. They stressed that respecting religious symbols—regardless of one's personal views—is essential to maintaining social cohesion.

At the same time, the incident has reignited discussions around free speech. While some defended Turcios' right to express his opinions, others argued that freedom of expression should not be used to justify language that could

be perceived as hateful or demeaning.

The controversy also drew attention to broader issues surrounding immigration, identity, and cultural acceptance. As the US becomes increasingly diverse, such incidents highlight the challenges of balancing differing perspectives while ensuring mutual respect.

For many observers, the backlash against Turcios' remarks signals a growing awareness and sensitivity toward cultural and religious representation. It also underscores the importance of dialogue in addressing misunderstandings and promoting inclusivity.

Ultimately, the episode serves as a reminder of the delicate balance between free speech and respect in a diverse society. As reactions continue, it reflects a larger conversation about how communities can coexist while honoring each other's beliefs and traditions.

Ghost Employee Scam: Indian-Origin Man Accused Of Duping US Firm Of \$1.2 Million

A major fraud case in the United States has brought attention to how a so-called "ghost employee" scheme enabled an Indian-origin man to allegedly siphon off more than \$1.2 million from a company. The incident has raised serious concerns about loopholes in corporate hiring and payroll systems.

At the centre of the case is Karan Gupta, who is accused of masterminding the operation with the help of an associate. The scheme involved placing an individual on a company's payroll who either did minimal work or whose role was manipulated to appear legitimate while funds were diverted.

According to investigators, Gupta persuaded a friend to secure employment at a US-based firm. While the individual appeared to be a regular employee on record, a portion of the salary was allegedly redirected back to Gupta. Over time, these payments accumulated into a substantial sum, eventually exceeding \$1.2 million.



The fraud reportedly went unnoticed for a long period, highlighting gaps in internal monitoring and verification processes. In many modern workplaces—especially those with remote or hybrid setups—companies rely heavily on digital systems, making it easier for such schemes to slip through if oversight is weak.

The operation depended on trust and limited scrutiny. By using a real employee as part of the plan, the arrangement

avoided immediate suspicion. On paper, everything appeared normal, but behind the scenes, funds were being misused.

Authorities uncovered the scheme during a review of financial and employment records, which revealed inconsistencies between payroll data and actual work output. Legal action has since been initiated against those involved.

This case underscores the growing risks associated with

remote hiring and decentralized work environments. As companies expand globally and adopt flexible work models, ensuring that employees are genuine and actively contributing has become increasingly challenging.

Experts say the incident highlights the importance of strong internal controls. Regular audits, strict identity verification, and performance tracking can help prevent such frauds. Companies are also being urged to avoid over-reliance on referrals or informal trust when hiring employees.

Beyond its financial impact, the case also illustrates how personal relationships can be exploited for illegal gain. The involvement of a trusted associate played a key role in executing the fraud and delaying its detection.

Ultimately, the scam serves as a warning for businesses to strengthen their systems and remain vigilant. Even a seemingly simple scheme can lead to massive losses if proper checks and balances are not in place.

Kim Jong Un Drives Nuclear-Capable Rocket Launcher in Show of Power



In a bold display of military strength, Kim Jong Un was seen personally driving a nuclear-capable rocket launcher in Pyongyang, underlining the country's growing emphasis on advanced weaponry and strategic deterrence.

Images released by state media showed Kim behind the wheel of a large mobile launcher, inspecting rows of sophisticated military equipment. The vehicle is believed to be part of a new class of multiple rocket launch systems designed with the potential to carry nuclear payloads, marking a significant step in North Korea's military development.

The act of personally driving the launcher is symbolic. It reflected Kim's direct involvement in the country's defense programs and projected an image of control and confidence. Such displays are often carefully staged to send both domestic and international messages about leadership strength and technological progress.

The timing of this demon-

stration is particularly important, as it comes ahead of a major political gathering of the ruling party. Events like these are typically used to highlight achievements, reinforce internal unity, and outline future policy directions. Showcasing advanced weapons at such a moment signals a continued commitment to strengthening military capabilities.

These rocket systems are considered more advanced than traditional artillery. With improved precision and mobility, they are harder to detect and intercept, increasing their strategic value. Their potential nuclear capability also raises concerns about how they might be used in a conflict scenario.

The development and display of such weapons are likely to heighten tensions in the region. North Korea's military activities have long been a source of concern for neighboring countries and global powers, particularly as the nation continues to expand its nuclear arsenal. For North Korea, howev-

er, these advancements are framed as essential for national security. The leadership has consistently emphasized the importance of strong defense systems to deter external threats and maintain sovereignty.

Kim's public appearance in this role also serves a domestic purpose. It reinforces his image as a hands-on leader closely connected to the country's military strength. By associating himself directly with advanced weaponry, he strengthens internal narratives of resilience and progress.

This latest display fits into a broader pattern of military assertiveness. Over the years, North Korea has unveiled new missile systems, conducted tests, and invested heavily in modernizing its armed forces.

As tensions remain high, such demonstrations are closely watched around the world. They not only reflect North Korea's current capabilities but also hint at its future ambitions in an increasingly uncertain global security environment.

Upcoming IPOs Set to Hit the Market Next Week



India's primary market is gearing up for fresh activity, with several companies preparing to launch their initial public offerings (IPOs) in the coming week. Among the most closely watched issues are those of Clean Max Enviro Energy Solutions, PNGS Reva Diamond Jewellery, and Gaudium IVF & Women Health, each representing different sectors and offering investors varied opportunities.

Strong Pipeline Across Sectors

The upcoming IPO wave reflects a diverse mix of industries, including renewable energy, healthcare, and jewellery retail. Together, these companies aim to raise thousands of crores, signaling continued momentum in the primary market despite mixed investor sentiment in recent months.

The presence of businesses from unrelated sectors highlights how companies across the economy are turning to public markets to fund expansion, reduce debt, or strengthen their financial position.

Clean Max Enviro Energy Solutions IPO

One of the largest offerings among the upcoming issues is from Clean Max Enviro Energy Solutions. The company plans to raise a substantial amount through a combination of fresh issue and offer-for-sale.

The IPO is expected to open earlier in the week and is positioned as a major fundraising exercise in the renewable energy space. The company focuses on providing clean energy solutions to commercial and industrial clients, aligning with the growing global push toward sustainability and decarbonisation.

A significant portion of the funds raised will be used to repay existing borrowings, while the rest will go toward general corporate purposes. Its scale and sector relevance make it one of the most anti-

ipated IPOs in this batch.

PNGS Reva Diamond Jewellery IPO

PNGS Reva Diamond Jewellery is set to launch a ₹380 crore IPO, which will be entirely a fresh issue of shares. The price band has been fixed between ₹367 and ₹386 per share, with the issue opening mid-week and closing shortly after.

The company operates in the retail jewellery segment, offering a wide range of diamond-studded and precious metal jewellery. It currently has a presence across multiple cities through a mix of exclusive and partner-operated stores.

The primary objective of the IPO is expansion. A large portion of the funds will be used to open new stores, while a smaller share will go toward marketing and brand promotion. The remaining funds will be allocated for general corporate needs.

Investor interest appears moderate, with grey market trends indicating limited but positive listing expectations. This suggests cautious optimism rather than strong speculative demand.

Gaudium IVF & Women Health IPO

Another notable offering comes from Gaudium IVF & Women Health, which operates in the healthcare sector, particularly in fertility and women's health services. The company aims to raise a smaller amount compared to the other two but still represents a niche and growing segment.

The IPO is expected to include both a fresh issue and an offer-for-sale component. With increasing awareness and demand for fertility treatments in India, the company is positioned in a sector that has seen steady growth.

The funds raised are likely to support expansion and operational improvements, helping the company scale its services across more regions.

Market Sentiment and GMP Trends

Grey market premiums (GMPs) for these IPOs suggest modest expectations. PNGS Reva Diamond Jewellery has seen premiums indicating potential listing gains of around 5%, while Clean Max Enviro's GMP reflects even more conservative expectations.

This indicates that while investors are interested, they are not overly aggressive. The broader IPO market in 2026 has shown signs of moderation, with listing gains becoming less predictable compared to earlier bullish phases.

What This Means for Investors

The upcoming IPOs present a mix of opportunities depending on investor preference:

- Those interested in sustainability and long-term growth may look at Clean Max Enviro.
- Investors seeking exposure to consumer retail may consider PNGS Reva.
- Those focused on healthcare and niche services might explore Gaudium IVF.

However, the relatively subdued grey market signals suggest that investors are being more selective. Factors such as company fundamentals, valuation, and growth prospects are likely to play a bigger role than short-term listing gains.

Conclusion

The next week is set to be active for India's primary market, with multiple IPOs opening across sectors. While the scale and diversity of offerings are encouraging, the tempered investor sentiment indicates a more mature and cautious market environment.

Rather than chasing quick profits, investors appear to be focusing on long-term value, making this IPO cycle a more balanced and fundamentally driven phase for the market.

Markets Snap 3-Day Rally as Sensex Plunges Over 1,200 Points, Nifty Slips Below 25,500

Indian equity markets witnessed a sharp downturn, breaking their recent winning streak as heavy selling pressure dragged benchmark indices significantly lower. The decline reflected a mix of global uncertainties, sectoral weakness, and investor caution after recent gains.

The BSE Sensex plunged by more than 1,200 points to close near 82,498, while the Nifty 50 dropped around 365 points, ending below the crucial 25,500 mark. The fall marked the end of a three-day rally and signaled a shift in market sentiment toward caution.

Broad-Based Selling Across Sectors

The sell-off was widespread, with most sectoral indices ending in the red. Information technology stocks were among the biggest losers, reflecting concerns over global economic conditions and demand outlook. Financial stocks also faced pressure, contributing heavily to the decline in benchmark indices.

Other sectors such as metals, auto, and FMCG stocks also witnessed selling, indicating that the weakness was not limited to a single segment but spread across the broader market.

Global Cues Weigh on Sentiment

One of the key drivers behind the market fall was negative global sentiment. Investors remained wary due to uncertainty around interest rates in major economies, particularly the United States. Strong



economic data abroad has raised concerns that central banks may delay rate cuts, keeping borrowing costs higher for longer.

This has led to cautious behavior among global investors, especially in emerging markets like India, where foreign portfolio investments play a crucial role in market movements. When global conditions turn uncertain, these investors often reduce exposure to riskier assets, triggering sell-offs.

Profit Booking After Recent Gains

Another major factor behind the decline was profit booking. After a steady rise over the previous sessions, many investors chose to lock in gains, leading to increased selling pressure.

Such corrections are common after short rallies, as traders and institutional investors rebalance

their portfolios. The recent upward movement had pushed several stocks to higher valuations, prompting some participants to exit positions and secure profits.

Weakness in Key Stocks

Heavyweight stocks across sectors contributed significantly to the fall. Large-cap companies, especially in IT and banking, saw notable declines, dragging the indices lower. Because benchmark indices are heavily influenced by a few large stocks, even moderate declines in these companies can lead to sharp index movements. This was evident in the day's trading, where losses in key constituents amplified the overall market fall.

Investor Caution Ahead of Key Triggers

Market participants are also adopting a wait-and-watch approach ahead of

important domestic and global triggers. These include upcoming economic data, policy decisions by central banks, and corporate earnings announcements.

Uncertainty around these factors often leads to reduced risk-taking, with investors preferring to stay on the sidelines until there is more clarity.

Volatility Likely to Persist

The recent decline highlights the ongoing volatility in the markets. While the broader trend may remain influenced by long-term growth prospects, short-term movements are likely to be driven by global cues, interest rate expectations, and investor sentiment.

Market experts believe that such corrections are a natural part of the market cycle and help in stabilizing valuations. However, they also caution that

volatility may continue in the near term.

Outlook for Investors

Despite the sharp fall, the overall outlook for the Indian market remains tied to macroeconomic fundamentals, corporate performance, and global developments.

Investors are advised to remain cautious and avoid panic selling during such corrections. Instead, a disciplined approach focusing on fundamentally strong stocks and long-term investment strategies may help navigate volatile phases.

In conclusion, the sharp drop in the markets reflects a combination of global uncertainty, profit booking, and sectoral weakness. While short-term fluctuations may continue, long-term investors may view such dips as opportunities, provided they remain selective and mindful of risks.

Swiggy Shuts Down 'Snacc' as 10-Minute Delivery Model Faces Reality Check



India's quick-commerce boom promised lightning-fast deliveries and a transformation in how people access food. However, the challenges of sustaining such speed-driven services are becoming increasingly evident. In a significant move, Swiggy has shut down its rapid food delivery service, Snacc, signaling that ultra-fast delivery may not be as viable as once imagined.

Snacc was introduced to cater to urban consumers seeking instant gratification, offering snacks, beverages, and ready-to-eat meals within minutes. The idea aligned with the growing demand for con-

venience, particularly in metropolitan areas. Yet, despite initial traction, the service struggled to achieve long-term sustainability.

The core issue lies in the economics of ultra-fast delivery. Meeting a 10-15 minute timeline requires a highly dense network of dark stores, efficient logistics systems, and a large number of delivery personnel ready at all times. These factors significantly drive up operational costs. On the other hand, customers are often unwilling to pay higher fees for such speed, creating a mismatch between expenses and

revenue.

The segment has also become highly competitive. Multiple companies entered the quick-delivery space, each trying to offer faster services than the other. This led to aggressive expansion and heavy discounting, which, while attracting customers, further strained profit margins. Over time, it became clear that scaling this model sustainably would be difficult.

Another challenge is the nature of demand. Unlike groceries or daily essentials, snack and quick-food orders are often impulsive and inconsistent. This makes it harder for companies to predict demand and efficiently allocate resources. Maintaining infrastructure for peak performance even during low-demand periods adds to inefficiencies.

Additionally, concerns around delivery timelines and rider safety have influenced how companies approach speed. Extremely short delivery promises can put pressure on deliv-

ery partners, leading to operational and ethical challenges. As a result, companies have started rethinking their approach to ultra-fast delivery.

For Swiggy, shutting down Snacc appears to be a strategic decision aimed at focusing on more sustainable business areas. The company is likely prioritizing services that offer better long-term profitability and stability rather than continuing to invest in a high-cost, low-margin model.

The broader quick-commerce industry is also undergoing a shift. While fast delivery remains an attractive concept, companies are now being pushed to demonstrate profitability rather than just rapid growth. The focus is gradually moving toward efficiency, better unit economics, and long-term customer retention.

Consumer demand for convenience is not going away. However, the way companies meet that demand is evolving. Instead of promising extreme de-

livery speeds, businesses may adopt more practical timelines that balance customer expectations with operational feasibility.

The closure of Snacc reflects a larger lesson for the startup ecosystem: innovation alone is not enough—sustainability matters. While the idea of 10-minute delivery captured attention and drove growth, it also exposed the limitations of a model built on high costs and thin margins.

Going forward, companies like Swiggy are expected to refine their strategies, improve logistics, and explore models that combine speed with efficiency. The emphasis is shifting from being the fastest to being the most reliable and sustainable.

In many ways, this move marks a turning point in India's quick-commerce journey. The race is no longer just about delivering faster, but about building a business that can endure in the long run.

IPO Market Loses Steam in 2026 as Listing Gains Shrink

India's initial public offering (IPO) market, which witnessed a strong run in recent years, has entered 2026 on a more subdued note. While companies continue to prepare for public listings, investor enthusiasm has cooled, largely due to moderate listing gains and growing caution around valuations.

At the start of the year, only a limited number of IPOs have reached the market, and their performance has been underwhelming. Most newly listed stocks have either debuted below their issue price or delivered only marginal returns. Only a few exceptions have managed to generate notable gains, highlighting the uneven sentiment among investors.

This marks a clear shift from the earlier IPO boom, when in-

vestors often saw quick and substantial profits on listing day. Over time, those gains have declined, and by 2026, the trend has become more pronounced. Investors are no longer approaching IPOs purely as short-term opportunities.

A major reason for this shift is the correction in market expectations. During the previous boom phase, many companies were priced aggressively, leaving limited scope for upside after listing. Now, investors are becoming more selective and are focusing on company fundamentals rather than hype. This change is also forcing issuers to adopt more realistic pricing strategies.

The broader market environment is also playing a role. On-

going volatility and global uncertainties have made investors cautious. Instead of rushing into new offerings, many are choosing to wait for clarity or are redirecting their investments into more stable options.

Despite the subdued sentiment, the pipeline of upcoming IPOs remains strong. A large number of companies are planning to go public, and the total value of these potential listings is expected to be significant. This indicates that businesses still see public markets as an attractive avenue for raising capital.

However, strong supply does not automatically ensure strong demand. Investors are now more disciplined and are less willing to overlook high valuations or weak financial

performance. They are increasingly prioritizing profitability, sustainable growth, and transparent business models before investing.

This shift may ultimately benefit the market in the long run. A cooling phase helps reduce speculative behavior and encourages higher-quality listings. Companies are now under greater pressure to demonstrate strong governance and credible growth prospects.

The SME IPO segment is also reflecting similar trends. After mixed outcomes in recent periods, expectations have become more grounded. Many listings have delivered only modest gains or even discounts, prompting both issuers and investors to recalibrate their approach.

Importantly, the moderation in listing gains does not necessarily signal a weak IPO market. Instead, it indicates a transition toward a more mature and balanced environment. Investors are gradually shifting their focus from quick profits to long-term value creation. For retail investors, this change calls for a more cautious strategy. Simply subscribing to IPOs for listing-day gains is no longer a dependable approach. Evaluating fundamentals, industry outlook, and valuations has become essential.

For companies, the message is equally clear. High valuations without strong financial backing are unlikely to attract sustained interest. Businesses need to present solid growth



stories and demonstrate their ability to deliver consistent returns.

Looking ahead, the IPO market in 2026 is expected to remain active but more selective. Companies with strong fundamentals are likely to attract investor interest, while weaker

offerings may struggle.

Overall, the current phase represents a reset rather than a decline. The IPO market is evolving into a more disciplined ecosystem where both investors and companies operate with greater caution and realism.

₹4 Lakh for Kindergarten? Viral Post Sparks Debate on Rising Education Costs



A recent social media post by Aviral Bhatnagar, an alumnus of IIT Bombay, has ignited a widespread debate about the soaring cost of early education in India. His reaction to an unusually high kindergarten fee structure has resonated with thousands online, highlighting growing concerns about affordability in the education sector.

The controversy began when Bhatnagar shared that his cousin's daughter, enrolled in an Upper Kindergarten (UKG) class at a private school in Mumbai, was paying nearly ₹4 lakh annually. What made the revelation even more striking was his comparison: the amount was roughly half of what he had paid for his entire four-year engineering degree.

This stark contrast quickly captured public attention. For many, it underscored a troubling reality—education costs, even at the most basic levels, are rising at an alarming pace.

Bhatnagar described this phenomenon as a form of “hidden inflation,” suggesting that while traditional economic indicators may not fully capture it, families are increasingly feeling the burden. His comment also pointed toward a possible future solution, proposing that artificial intelligence-driven tutors might one day make education more accessible and affordable.

The post soon went viral, drawing significant engagement and sparking a heated discussion on social media. Many users expressed shock and frustration, questioning how preschool education could command such high fees. Several pointed out that early education, which was once considered relatively affordable, is now becoming a luxury for many families.

Some users argued that the issue reflects deeper structural problems within the system. They claimed that sectors like education, healthcare, and even weddings have become highly commercialized, making them inaccessible for the average household. Others criticized the state of public institutions, suggesting that declining quality in government schools has in-

directly pushed parents toward expensive private options.

However, not everyone agreed with this perspective. A section of users viewed the situation differently, arguing that such high fees are often linked to lifestyle choices rather than necessity. According to them, premium schools cater to affluent families who are willing to pay more for perceived quality, brand value, and additional facilities. In this view, the rising costs are less about inflation and more about market demand and social status.

Some even suggested alternative approaches, such as homeschooling or choosing more affordable schools, emphasizing that parents still have options if they are willing to look beyond elite institutions.

The discussion also raised broader questions about inequality in education. As private schools continue to increase fees, access to quality education may become increasingly divided along economic lines. This could have long-term implications for social mobility and equal opportunity.

Amid this debate, Bhatnagar's mention of AI tutors added another dimension. With rapid advancements in technology, many believe that personalized, AI-driven learning tools could disrupt traditional education models. Such tools might offer high-quality instruction at a fraction of current costs, potentially bridging the gap between affordability and quality.

While this vision remains speculative, it reflects a growing belief that technology could play a key role in reshaping education in the future.

Ultimately, the viral post has done more than just highlight a shocking fee figure. It has opened up an important conversation about the direction of education in India—one that touches on affordability, accessibility, and the evolving role of technology.

As costs continue to rise, the question remains: will education become increasingly exclusive, or will innovation help make it accessible once again?

Why Finnish PhD Graduates Receive a Hat and Sword



In Finland, earning a PhD is not just an academic milestone—it is marked by a unique and symbolic tradition involving a top hat and a sword. This centuries-old custom reflects the country's deep respect for scholarship, knowledge, and intellectual responsibility.

At Finnish universities, doctoral graduates participate in a formal ceremony known as a “doctoral conferment.” During this event, they are awarded a black top hat, often called a “doctoral hat,” which signifies academic freedom and the status of a scholar. The hat is a visible representation of the intellectual independence that comes with achieving the highest level of education.

Alongside the hat, many graduates also receive—or more accurately, gain the right to acquire—a ceremonial sword. This sword carries a powerful symbolic meaning: it represents the graduate's commitment to defend truth, knowledge, and ethical values. Rooted in traditions dating back to the 19th century, the sword embodies the idea that scholars must stand up for what is right and contribute responsibly to society.

The sword is not merely decorative.

It reflects the historical belief that education equips individuals with the tools to “fight” ignorance and misinformation—not through force, but through reason, evidence, and critical thinking. In this sense, the sword becomes a metaphor for intellectual courage.

The tradition is particularly prominent at institutions like the University of Helsinki, where the conferment ceremony is a grand and formal affair. Graduates dress in elegant attire, wear their doctoral hats, and carry their swords during processions and celebrations. These ceremonies often include speeches, music, and rituals that highlight the importance of academic achievement.

Interestingly, not all graduates automatically receive the sword; many choose to purchase it themselves. Despite this, it remains a cherished symbol of accomplishment and pride.

Finland's doctoral traditions stand out globally for their blend of ceremony and symbolism. By combining the top hat and sword, the country emphasizes that education is not just about acquiring knowledge, but also about upholding truth, integrity, and responsibility in the wider world.

“I Belong Here Now”: A Traveller's Emotional Goodbye to Goa



A foreign traveller's heartfelt farewell to Goa has struck a deep emotional chord online, capturing the essence of what makes the coastal Indian state so special. After spending two months exploring its landscapes, culture, and people, the traveller—identified as Fran—shared a moving message that resonated with thousands.

Fran documented his journey through a video posted on social media, reflecting on his time in Goa and the profound impact it had on him. What began as a temporary visit evolved into an experience that reshaped his feelings about India, leaving him with a sense of belonging that he hadn't anticipated.

In his farewell message, Fran expressed that leaving Goa did not feel like a final goodbye. Instead, it felt more like a pause in an ongoing relationship. He described his stay as transformative, noting that the connections he made and the warmth he experienced went far beyond what he had expected from a short trip.

During his time in Goa, Fran encountered people who left a lasting impression on him. He spoke about how strangers quickly turned into friends and, in some cases, even felt like family. This sense of community played a major role in shaping his experience, making his departure all the more emotional.

What stood out most to him was not just the scenic beauty or the well-known tourist attractions, but the spirit of the people. He observed that the locals offered a unique perspective on India—one that emphasized openness, kindness, and a relaxed way of life. This, he said, changed how he viewed the country as a whole.

Fran admitted that he arrived as an outsider but gradually began to feel like he belonged. The emotional connection he developed with Goa made him question the idea of temporary travel. By the end of his stay, the place no longer felt foreign—it felt like home.

His reflections highlighted that travel is not

only about visiting new destinations but also about personal transformation. For Fran, Goa became more than just a stop on a journey; it became a place that influenced his outlook, values, and emotional world.

In his message, he also shared a desire to return. He made it clear that his connection to Goa was not fleeting and that he intended to come back, not just as a visitor but as someone who wants to contribute positively. He mentioned hopes of engaging in meaningful activities, including helping local communities and animals.

The emotional tone of his farewell was captured in his words, where he emphasized that Goa changed something within him. He reflected on how the experience was shaped by feelings rather than just sights or activities. The atmosphere, the relationships, and the everyday moments all combined to create something deeply meaningful.

The video quickly gained attention online,

drawing thousands of views and a flood of comments. Many viewers appreciated how authentically Fran portrayed his experience. Locals, in particular, responded warmly, expressing gratitude for the way he represented their home.

Several commenters noted that his words perfectly captured what makes Goa unique. Some shared their own similar experiences, saying that the state had affected them in the same way. Others invited him to return, assuring him that he would always be welcome.

For many, Fran's story reflected a broader truth about travel in India—that the country's impact often goes beyond its physical attractions. Visitors frequently find themselves touched by the people, culture, and emotional depth of their experiences.

Goa, in particular, has long been known for its ability to leave a lasting impression. Its blend of cultural diversity, laid-back lifestyle, and strong sense of community creates an environment where visitors can feel

both relaxed and connected. Fran's story is a testament to that enduring appeal.

His journey also highlights how travel can bridge cultural gaps. Despite coming from a different background, Fran found common ground with the people he met. This connection transcended language, nationality, and other differences, reinforcing the idea that human experiences are often universal.

In the end, Fran's goodbye was not marked by sadness alone but also by gratitude and hope. While he acknowledged the difficulty of leaving, he also celebrated what he had gained—a deeper understanding of a place and a stronger sense of connection to the world.

His message serves as a reminder that sometimes, the most meaningful journeys are the ones that change us from within. For Fran, Goa was not just a destination—it became a part of who he is.

And as he said in his farewell, this was not truly a goodbye, but simply a promise to return.

“Safe, Welcoming And Diverse”: Australian Vlogger Urges Tourists To See The Real India

A viral video by an Australian travel vlogger has captured widespread attention online, offering a refreshing perspective on India and challenging long-held stereotypes about the country. Through his experiences, the creator highlights why he believes India is not only safe to visit but also incredibly diverse and worth exploring in depth.

The vlogger, who has been travelling across India as part of a global journey, shared his thoughts after spending considerable time interacting with locals, visiting different regions, and immersing himself in everyday life. His central message is simple: India is often misunderstood, and many of the fears surrounding travel in the country are exaggerated.

One of the key points he emphasized is safety. Contrary to common perceptions, he explained that he felt comfortable during his travels. While acknowledging that every country has its challenges, he noted that India should not be judged solely based on negative portrayals often seen online or in the media. His own experiences suggested that, with basic precautions, travelling in India can be both safe and enjoyable.

Beyond safety, the vlogger focused heavily on India's diversity—some-



thing he believes sets the country apart from most destinations. From landscapes and languages to food and traditions, he described India as a place where every region offers a completely different experience. This richness, he suggested, is often overlooked by tourists who limit their visits to a few well-known cities.

He encouraged travellers to step beyond typical tourist circuits and explore lesser-known destinations. According to him, doing a bit of research and venturing beyond popular urban hubs can reveal a side of India that is far more authentic and rewarding.

Another highlight of his journey has been the warmth of Indian hospitality. The vlogger shared multiple instances where

locals went out of their way to help him—whether by offering food, guiding him through unfamiliar areas, or simply welcoming him into their daily lives. He described this generosity as something unique and deeply memorable, reinforcing his positive view of the country.

He also spoke about how social media often distorts reality. Many viral travel videos, he pointed out, focus disproportionately on poverty or chaos, creating a one-sided narrative that does not reflect the full picture. While he did not deny that such issues exist, he stressed that they represent only a fraction of what India has to offer.

Instead, he urged viewers to approach travel with an open mind and to

form their own opinions. By doing so, he believes more people would discover the country's cultural richness, historical depth, and everyday vibrancy.

Food was another aspect he praised enthusiastically. From street meals to more formal dining, he found Indian cuisine to be consistently flavorful and diverse, adding to the overall travel experience. For him, the culinary journey was just as important as the destinations themselves.

The video quickly resonated with audiences online, many of whom appreciated the balanced and positive portrayal. In the comments, users thanked him for showing a side of India that often goes unnoticed and for countering negative stereotypes with genuine experiences.

At a broader level, the vlogger's message reflects a growing trend among international travellers who are redefining how India is perceived globally. Rather than focusing solely on its challenges, they are highlighting its strengths—its people, culture, and diversity.

Ultimately, the video serves as both an invitation and a reminder: India, as the vlogger puts it, cannot be understood through a single narrative. It is a country of contrasts, where complexity is part of its identity.

For those willing to look beyond assumptions, his message is clear: India is not just a destination—it is an experience—safe, diverse, and deeply rewarding.

West Indies End Group Stage On High With Convincing Win Over Italy

The West Indies cricket team signed off their group-stage campaign in the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup with a commanding 42-run victory over Italy, showcasing their strength and depth as they head into the next phase of the tournament. The match highlighted the Caribbean side's all-round superiority, combining explosive batting with disciplined bowling to outclass a spirited Italian unit.

Batting first, West Indies put up an imposing total after a confident start from their top order. The innings was built on aggressive stroke play and smart partnerships, allowing them to maintain a strong run rate throughout. Their batters looked in control from the outset, taking advantage of scoring opportunities while keeping the pressure on Italy's bowlers.

A key feature of the innings was the ability of West Indies players to accelerate at crucial moments. Even when Italy attempted to slow things down with tight overs, the West Indies lineup responded with timely boundaries. The middle-order contributed significantly, ensuring that the momentum never dipped. By the end of their innings, they had posted a challenging total that placed Italy under considerable pressure.

Italy, playing in their debut T20 World Cup cam-



paigned, showed determination but struggled to keep up with the required run rate during the chase. Their innings began cautiously, as they tried to preserve wickets early on. However, the mounting scoreboard pressure forced them to take risks, which led to regular dismissals.

West Indies bowlers executed their plans effectively, maintaining disciplined lines and lengths. They mixed pace variations with sharp field placements, making it difficult for Italian batters to find gaps. The bowlers capitalized on every mistake, steadily reducing Italy's chances of pulling off an upset.

Despite the loss, Italy

displayed moments of promise. Their participation in the tournament itself marked a significant milestone for the team, reflecting their progress on the international stage. A few individual performances hinted at their potential, but they were unable to string together a complete performance against a seasoned West Indies side.

The fielding effort from West Indies also stood out. Sharp catches and agile ground fielding added to Italy's woes, ensuring that no easy runs were conceded. The team's intensity in the field underlined their determination to finish the group stage on a positive note.

This victory not only

boosted West Indies' confidence but also reinforced their status as strong contenders in the tournament. Their balanced performance with both bat and ball suggests that they are peaking at the right time. With experienced players stepping up and younger talents contributing, the team appears well-prepared for the challenges ahead.

For Italy, the match served as a valuable learning experience. Competing against a top-tier side like West Indies provided insights into the level required to succeed at the highest stage. While their campaign may not have yielded many wins, the exposure gained will be crucial for their devel-

opment in international cricket.

As the tournament progresses, West Indies will look to carry forward this momentum into the knockout stages. Their ability to dominate in all departments makes them a formidable opponent for any team. Meanwhile, Italy can take pride in their journey and use this experience as a foundation for future tournaments.

In the end, the match was a clear demonstration of West Indies' class and consistency. Their comprehensive win ensured a strong finish to the group stage, setting the tone for what promises to be an exciting run in the latter stages of the competition.

Pakistan Great Reveals Backlash Over Suggestion To Drop Babar Azam



A revealing statement from former Pakistan cricketer Mohammad Yousuf has brought attention to internal tensions within the national team, particularly regarding star batter Babar Azam.

Yousuf disclosed that he faced strong opposition after suggesting that Babar be rested during a difficult phase in his form. According to him, the recommendation—made purely on cricketing grounds—was met with resistance from within the system, eventually forcing him to step down from his role.

He explained that his suggestion was based on performance concerns and the need to maintain team balance. At the time, Babar was going through a lean patch, struggling to deliver impactful performances. Yousuf believed that giving him a break could help both the player and the team.

However, the reaction to this idea was far from supportive. Yousuf revealed that many individuals within the setup opposed the move, leading to an uncomfortable environment where his viewpoint was not accepted. He described how the situation escalated to the point where he felt compelled to resign.

The episode highlights the challenges of making tough decisions in a cricketing environment where senior players carry significant influence. Babar Azam, regarded as one of Pakistan's premier batters, commands immense respect and fan following, making any sugges-

tion to drop or rest him highly sensitive.

This situation reflects a broader issue in team management, where balancing performance-based decisions with player reputation can be difficult. Selectors and coaches often face pressure when dealing with established stars, especially during high-stakes tournaments.

At the same time, such decisions are not uncommon in professional cricket. Even the best players experience dips in form, and temporary changes are sometimes necessary to maintain overall team performance.

Despite the controversy, many still believe in Babar's ability to return to form. His track record and consistency over the years suggest that he has the capability to overcome setbacks and deliver strong performances.

Yousuf's comments have sparked debate about whether teams should prioritize reputation or current form when making selection decisions. They also underline the importance of open communication and a supportive environment within the team structure.

As Pakistan continues its campaign, the focus will remain on performance and unity. Whether this episode leads to changes in approach, Babar Azam, remains an isolated incident, it has certainly highlighted the complexities involved in managing top-level cricket teams.

Pakistan Hockey Turmoil: Federation Chief Resigns Amid Financial Crisis Controversy



Pakistan's hockey administration has been thrown into fresh turmoil after the head of the national federation stepped down following widespread criticism over the team's financial struggles during an overseas tour. The resignation comes in the wake of shocking reports that players were forced to take on menial tasks, including washing dishes, due to a lack of

funds.

The controversy erupted when details surfaced about the national team's dire financial condition while participating in an international event. Reports claimed that inadequate planning and poor financial management left players without proper support, forcing them to manage basic daily needs on their own. The situation quickly sparked out-

rage among fans, former players, and the broader sporting community, who viewed it as a humiliating episode for a country with a proud hockey legacy.

Amid mounting pressure, the federation chief announced his resignation, acknowledging the growing criticism and the need for accountability. In his statement, he referred to the country's top leadership, suggesting

that broader institutional challenges and lack of consistent support had contributed to the crisis. However, many observers argue that internal mismanagement within the federation played a central role in the debacle.

The incident has once again highlighted the deep-rooted issues plaguing Pakistan's national sport. Once a dominant force in international hockey, the country has struggled for years with declining performance, administrative instability, and chronic funding shortages. Critics say that repeated governance failures have not only affected results on the field but have also damaged the morale and dignity of players.

Former athletes and analysts have called for urgent structural reforms, emphasizing the need for transparency, professional management, and sustainable financial planning. They stress that without meaningful changes, such incidents will continue to undermine the sport's revival efforts.

Meanwhile, players have expressed disappointment over the situation, noting that representing the country should not come with such hardships. Many have urged authorities to prioritize athlete welfare and ensure that basic facilities and support systems are in place during international assignments.

The resignation marks yet another chapter in the ongoing crisis within Pakistan hockey. While it may serve as a step toward accountability, the larger challenge remains addressing the systemic problems that have long hindered the sport's progress. Until those issues are resolved, concerns about mismanagement and neglect are likely to persist.

Heated Exchange Between Pakistan Captain and Coach Sparks Controversy



A tense moment during the T20 World Cup 2026 has drawn widespread attention after a heated exchange between Salman Ali Agha and head coach Mike Hesson went viral, raising questions about the atmosphere within the Pakistan camp.

The incident took place during a group-stage match, where cameras captured an animated discussion between the captain and coach in the dugout. The exchange appeared to occur shortly after Agha's dismissal, with emotions clearly running high. His visible frustration, including an aggressive reaction, suggested a disagreement over decisions made during the game.

While the exact cause of the argument remains unclear, it is widely believed to be related to tactical choices, possibly involving batting order or in-game strategy. In high-pressure matches, such disagreements are not unusual, but the public nature of this exchange has intensified scrutiny.

The presence of senior player Babar Azam during the incident added to the attention, as he was seen nearby while the situation unfolded. The moment quickly spread across social media, sparking debate among fans and analysts about team unity and leadership.

Despite the controversy, Pakistan went on to win the match, which helped maintain their position in the tournament. However, the episode has overshadowed the victory

to some extent, shifting focus toward internal dynamics rather than on-field performance.

Such incidents highlight the intense pressure of international tournaments, where every decision can have significant consequences. Captains and coaches are expected to work closely, but differences in opinion can emerge, especially during crucial moments of a match.

At the same time, not all disagreements indicate deeper issues. Competitive teams often have strong personalities, and passionate exchanges can sometimes reflect a shared desire to win rather than conflict. The key lies in how teams manage these moments and maintain cohesion moving forward.

The lack of an official response from team management has added to speculation. Without clarification, discussions continue about whether the argument was a one-off incident or a sign of underlying tensions.

As the tournament progresses, Pakistan's performance and team chemistry will be closely watched. Their ability to stay focused and united could play a crucial role in determining how far they go.

For now, the incident serves as a reminder that beyond skills and strategy, cricket is also shaped by emotions and human dynamics—factors that can sometimes take center stage even in the biggest competitions.

Harmanpreet Kaur Becomes Most-Capped Player In Women's International Cricket

Indian captain Harmanpreet Kaur has created history by becoming the most-capped player in women's international cricket, marking a significant milestone in an already illustrious career.

The landmark moment came when she stepped onto the field for her latest international appearance, surpassing the previous record held by Suzie Bates. This achievement reflects not just her longevity in the game but also her consistency and importance to the Indian team over the years.

Harmanpreet's journey has been defined by determination and impactful performances. Since making her debut, she has evolved into one of India's most dependable players, known for her aggressive batting and ability to deliver in high-pressure situations. Her match-winning knocks and fearless approach

have made her a key figure in India's success across formats.

Beyond her individual performances, her leadership has played a crucial role in shaping the Indian women's cricket team. As captain, she has guided the team through important tournaments and helped build a competitive and confident unit. Her presence on the field often inspires teammates to raise their level of performance.

One of the defining aspects of Harmanpreet's career is her adaptability. She has remained a vital part of the team in Tests, One Day Internationals, and T20 Internationals—an achievement that highlights her versatility and cricketing intelligence. In an era where many players specialize in a single format, her ability to contribute across all formats sets her apart.

Her record also symbol-



izes the growth of women's cricket, both in India and globally. Over the years, the sport has gained increased recognition, better infrastructure, and a larger fan base. Players like Harmanpreet have been instrumental in driving this change, inspiring young athletes to pursue cricket professionally.

The milestone has been

widely celebrated by fans and the cricketing community, with many praising her dedication and commitment. Reaching such a record requires not only talent but also discipline, fitness, and the ability to perform consistently over a long period.

Looking ahead, Harmanpreet Kaur continues to be a central figure in Indian cricket. With her ex-

perience and leadership, she is expected to play a key role in future tournaments and guide the next generation of players.

Her achievement as the most-capped player is not just a personal milestone but also a moment of pride for Indian cricket, highlighting how far the women's game has come and the bright future that lies ahead.

'Hey Balwanth' Set to Be a Major Hit

Hyderabad, February 19 – The team of the upcoming Telugu entertainer Hey Balwanth exuded confidence at the release press meet held ahead of the film's premiere. Produced by B. Narendra Reddy under Trishul Visionary Studios and presented by Nandipati Entertainment and Bannivas Works, the film is directed by Gopi Achar and features Suhas, Shivani Nagaram, senior actor Naresh, and anchor Sravanthi in key roles. The movie is scheduled to release on February 20.

Producer Vamsi Nandipati shared his excitement about the project, stating, "We are releasing Hey Balwanth across more than 650 screens. Our confidence comes from the strong story, engaging emotions, and wholesome entertainment the film offers. We have already begun paid premieres from Thursday evening, covering all regions. Audiences don't need to spend a month preparing to watch this movie—just three hours in the theater will give them an unforgettable experience. We are confident it will be a hit."

Senior actor Naresh praised the film's mass appeal, saying, "Hey Bhagavan' has now transformed into Hey Balwanth with even greater impact. The film is releasing in over 300 theaters overseas, and houseful shows have already begun there. Industry peers have called it a blockbuster, and early media responses have been highly positive. This is a fresh, family-oriented entertainer for Telugu cinema. The cast has performed brilliantly, and Gopi is a director with a strong vision. With Vam-



si Nandipati backing the project, success is guaranteed."

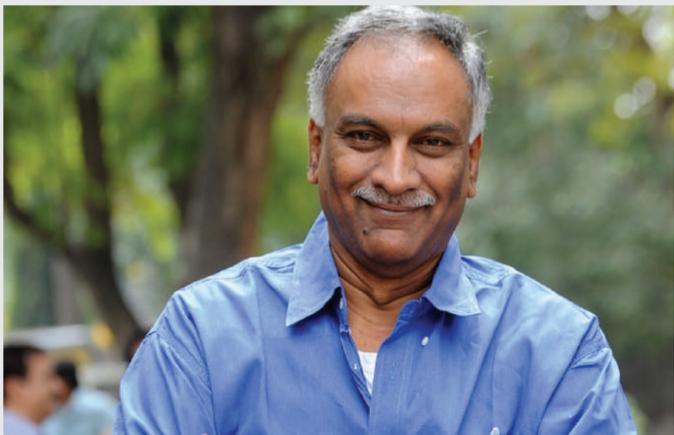
Hero Suhas expressed gratitude to the team and highlighted the personal commitment behind the film, stating, "The premieres began on February 19, and this is my biggest release and success so far. I approached this film with the mindset of delivering value for every rupee spent by audiences. I can guarantee that Hey Balwanth is like Suhas 2.0—it will impress everyone and leave a lasting impact."

The press meet reflected the team's optimism and excitement for the film's theatrical run. With a mix of comedy,

emotion, and entertainment, Hey Balwanth aims to cater to family audiences while offering memorable cinematic moments. The collaboration of a successful producer-director duo, a talented ensemble cast, and an engaging storyline has set high expectations among audiences and industry insiders alike.

With the paid premieres already generating buzz and the film hitting screens across India and overseas on February 20, Hey Balwanth is being positioned as a major Telugu cinema release of the year, promising laughter, excitement, and a wholesome theater experience.

Bharadwaja to Head Gaddar Awards Jury



Hyderabad, Feb 19: Veteran filmmaker and producer Thammareddy Bharadwaja has been appointed as the chairman of the Special Awards jury for the prestigious Gaddar Awards, signaling a key development in the selection process for one of Telangana's most prominent film honours. The appointment was confirmed through official orders issued by the Government of Telangana, replacing veteran director K. Raghavendra Rao, who previously served as the jury head. The change is seen as part of the government's effort to bring renewed perspective and credibility to the awards process, particularly for the special recognition categories.

Bharadwaja, known for his decades-long association with the Telugu film industry as a producer, director, and commentator, is widely respected for his outspoken views on cinema and in-

dustry issues. His leadership is expected to guide the jury in selecting recipients for honours that recognise lifetime achievements, technical excellence, and contributions that have shaped Telugu cinema's cultural landscape.

Instituted in memory of revolutionary balladeer Gaddar, the awards aim to celebrate cinematic excellence while highlighting films that reflect social consciousness and regional identity. Over the years, the Gaddar Awards have emerged as a significant platform for acknowledging both mainstream successes and meaningful storytelling, reinforcing Telangana's commitment to promoting its film industry.

Officials indicate that the Special Awards jury under Bharadwaja will evaluate a wide spectrum of contributions, including artists, technicians, and filmmakers who have made a lasting impact. The panel's recom-

mendations will play a crucial role in shaping the final list of honorees, adding prestige to the recognition process.

The upcoming edition of the awards is expected to honour films released during the previous calendar year, with the ceremony likely to be held during the festive Ugadi season. Industry circles have welcomed Bharadwaja's appointment, expressing optimism that his experience and independent voice will ensure a fair and balanced selection.

As preparations gather pace, the Gaddar Awards continue to strengthen their position as a major state recognition for cinematic talent. With Bharadwaja at the helm of the Special Awards jury, the forthcoming ceremony is anticipated to spotlight excellence across generations, celebrating the evolving spirit of Telugu cinema while paying tribute to its enduring legacy.

Second Single Promo Sparks Buzz for Ustaad Bhagat Singh

The makers of Ustaad Bhagat Singh have unveiled the promo of the film's second single, generating fresh excitement among fans and film circles. The promotional clip, released on social media, offers a glimpse into what promises to be a high-energy number designed to elevate the film's mass appeal.

The song, titled "Aura of Ustaad," showcases Pawan Kalyan in a stylish and commanding avatar, reinforcing the larger-than-life tone that the film has been building through its promotional campaign. The visuals hint at a celebratory track packed with vibrant choreography, energetic beats, and hero-centric moments that are expected to resonate strongly with audiences in theatres.

Directed by Harish Shankar, the project marks the much-anticipated reunion of the actor and director after their previous blockbuster collaboration, a factor that has significantly heightened expectations around the film. From the initial posters to song updates, every promotional release has consistently drawn strong engagement online, indicating robust pre-release momentum.

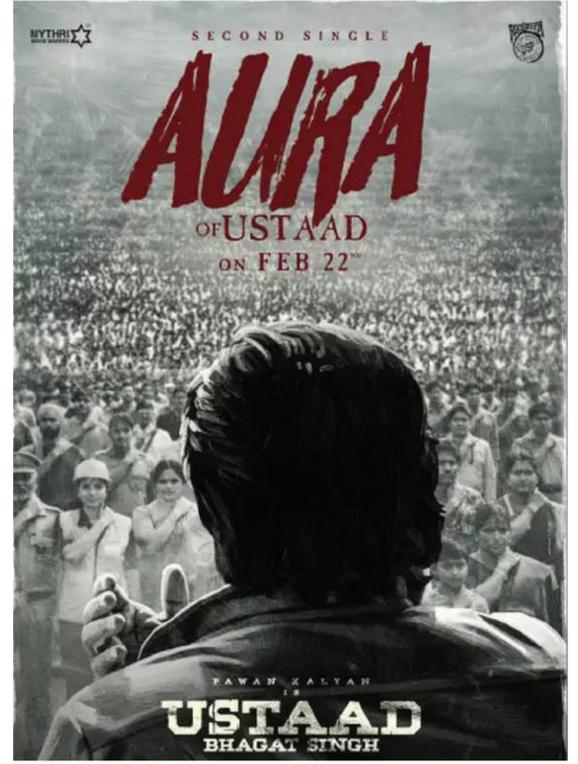
The film's music is composed

by Devi Sri Prasad, known for delivering chart-topping soundtracks for star-driven entertainers. Industry observers believe the second single will play a key role in strengthening the film's musical appeal and building further hype ahead of release.

Produced by Mythri Movie Makers, the film is expected to blend action, drama, and commercial elements, with Pawan Kalyan reportedly appearing in a powerful role crafted to appeal to both fans and general audiences. The team has been strategically rolling out updates, keeping the film in constant public conversation.

The full version of "Aura of Ustaad" is set to release soon, and expectations are high that the track will trend widely upon launch. With anticipation steadily building, the film is shaping up to be one of the most awaited Telugu releases, as fans eagerly await more promotional material in the run-up to its theatrical debut.

As the buzz continues to grow, the second single promo has successfully amplified excitement, reaffirmed the film's strong pre-release presence and setting the stage for a grand musical rollout in the coming days.



Love Song "Oosulaade" from Son Of Wins Hearts



Hyderabad, February 19 – The love song "Oosulaade" from the upcoming Telugu film Son Of,

starring Sai Simhadri, has garnered an overwhelming response from audiences. Produced un-

der the Sai Simhadri Cinema banner, the movie sees Sai Simhadri donning the dual roles of

hero and producer. Directed by Battula Satish, Son Of is slated for release on February 27.

The recently released track "Oosulaade" beautifully captures the love and chemistry between the hero and heroine, resonating with listeners across the board. Meera Raj plays the female lead, while senior actor Vinod Kumar appears in a pivotal role. The song's soulful composition and romantic lyrics have struck a chord with fans.

Music for the film is composed by Rishi M, while the lyrics for "Oosulaade" are penned by Bhaskarabhatla. The song is brought to life by the voices of Aditya and Sameera Bharadwaj, creating a melodious and soothing listening experience. Following the positive reception of the movie teaser and title track, the new release has continued the wave of excitement, further raising anticipation for the film's theatrical release.

Sai Simhadri, who is also producing the film, expressed confidence that Son Of will resonate with audiences, saying the movie has been crafted to highlight the emotional bonding between a father and son. This heartfelt theme, com-

bined with strong performances, is expected to create a meaningful cinematic experience for viewers.

The technical team behind Son Of adds depth and finesse to the film. Cinematography is handled by V.R.K. Naidu, while editing is by Amanath. Art direction by Battula Sahith Kumar and choreography by Raj Paidi ensure that the film is visually engaging and entertaining. The audio is released through Aditya Music, giving fans easy access to the tracks. Alongside Sai Simhadri, Meera Raj, and Vinod Kumar, the film also features Vasu Inturi and other supporting actors, contributing to the movie's overall charm. With a combination of melodious music, strong emotional storytelling, and a talented cast, Son Of is positioning itself as a promising entertainer for the audience this February.

With just days to go for its release, the makers are optimistic that the love song "Oosulaade" and other tracks from Son Of will create a strong connection with viewers, making the film one of the most awaited Telugu releases of the season.

Hebah Patel Joins High-Octane Action Entertainer Miracle

Hyderabad, February 19 – The upcoming action-packed film Miracle, directed by Prabhas Nimmala, is gearing up for its next schedule, with popular actress Hebah Patel set to join the team. Produced by Ramesh Eggidi, Srikanth Mogadasu, and Chander Goud under the Saida Family Entertainment banner, the film has already wrapped up two successful shooting schedules. The third schedule is slated to begin on February 24 in and around Hyderabad.

Hebah Patel's addition to the cast is expected to bring glamour and star power to the project. Randheer Bheesu plays the lead hero, supported by senior actors Sriram and Suresh in significant roles. Naiduendra is being introduced as the main antagonist, while senior journalist Dheeraj Appaji will portray a forensic officer. The film also features an exten-

sive supporting cast, including Janardhan, Yogi Katre, Vijay Surya, Imtiaz, Saibaba, Dil Ramesh, Jhansi, Suryanarayana, Sridhar, Srikanth, Shiva, Amani, Haimavathi, Navya (Ammu), Sameer Datta, Anushree, Bezawada Mastan, R. Kumar, and others.

Producers of the film emphasized that Prabhas Nimmala, known for his work on Satya Gang and Fighter Shiva, is confident that Miracle will live up to its name. The combination of high-voltage action sequences, powerful performances from senior actors, and Hebah Patel's screen presence are expected to make the film a major highlight of the year.

On the technical front, Nimmala has overseen the story, screenplay, dialogues, music, and direction, giving the film a cohesive creative vision. Cinematography is han-

dled by Surender Reddy, editing by Vishwanath, fight choreography by Srinu, and lyrics are written by Rambabu Gosala. Dheeraj Appaji is managing the film's publicity and promotions.

With its third schedule about to kick off, the makers are confident that Miracle will deliver an engaging mix of action, drama, and entertainment for the audience. Industry insiders are already predicting that the combination of Randheer Bheesu's dynamic performance, Hebah Patel's glamour, and Nimmala's direction will make Miracle a must-watch action entertainer.

As the excitement builds, fans can look forward to seeing some high-energy sequences and gripping storytelling that promise to make Miracle a memorable cinematic experience.

